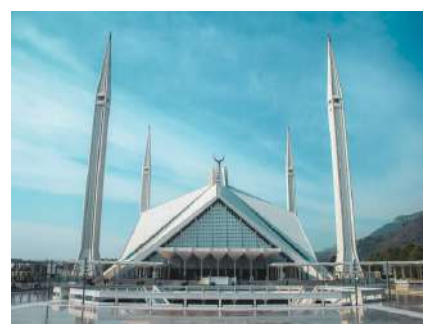


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PM says Centre had no choice but to impose Governor's Rule in KP



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday took the allies of the ruling PTI-N into confidence on the imposition of governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saying that the Centre made every effort to avoid this "extreme step".

The Centre on Sunday imposed governor's rule in KP and emergency in 12 of its districts, citing the provincial government's "deliberate disengagement" from the fight against terrorism. PM Shehbaz held a meeting with leaders of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), as well as a separate huddle with a

parliamentary delegation comprising representatives of PML-Q, Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party (IPP) and PML-Zia.

During the meeting with the MQM-P delegation led by Education Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, the two sides exchanged views on the country's overall and political situation, the PM Office (PMO) said.

The prime minister said the government had to take this "most difficult decision" in the interest of the people of KP. "We made every effort to avoid taking this extreme step in any way. We engaged in negotiations with an open heart, but did not receive a

positive response from the other side," he was quoted as saying.

The premier noted that rising terrorist attacks in KP were targeting ordinary citizens and security forces, while the provincial government "failed to openly raise its voice against terrorist groups".

PM Shehbaz also termed the PTI's long march a "conspiracy to destroy the country's improving economy".

According to PMO, the MQM-P delegation assured the prime minister of its full support for the government's decisions regarding KP.

On the MQM's side, the delegation included Health Minister Mustafa Kamal, Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti, Senator

Khalida Ateeq, MNA Farooq Sattar, Syed Waseem Hussain, Aasia Ishaque Siddiqui, Javed Hanif Khan, Muhammad Moeen Aamir Pirzada, Muhammad Iqbal Khan, Hassan Sabir, Sadiq Iftikhar, Arshad Abdullah Vohra, Syed Hafizuddin, Syed Aminul Haque, Khawaja Azharul Hassan, Ahmad Saleem Siddiqui, Farhan Chishti, Nighat Shakeel Khan, Sabheen Ghouri, Rana Ansar, Sofia Saeed Shah, and Sanjay Perwani.

In the second meeting with other parties, PM Shehbaz explained the reasons behind the federal government's decision to take constitutional measures, state-run APP reported.

Govt has 'credible evidence' that PTI was in touch with TTP, says information minister



ANI

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday claimed the federal government had "credible evidence" that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had been in contact with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), saying the government would present details of the alleged links at a later stage. "The government has credible evidence that PTI was in touch with the TTP. And very soon, we will be giving you evidence about the links that we have been able to uncover between the PTI and the TTP," said Tarar while addressing a press briefing for foreign correspondents alongside Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar. Tarar alleged that the provincial government had shown sympathy towards terrorist groups and had failed to provide adequate support to security personnel fighting them.

"How could a government, which is mandated to protect the lives of people and to maintain law and order in a province, be hand in glove with terrorists to promote terrorist activities?" he asked.

The information minister also accused the PTI leadership of promoting a narrative that undermined law enforcement agencies, saying it had the effect of empowering terrorist groups.

He paid tribute to members of the armed forces, police and other law enforcement agencies killed in the fight against terrorism, saying they had made sacrifices despite what he alleged was

insufficient support from the provincial government.

Tarar said the government had also observed a sharp rise in attacks targeting police personnel and installations.

He cited figures indicating that 3,774 terrorist incidents had been recorded in 2025 and 2,857 up to September 2026. He also said fatalities had increased from 267 in 2021 to 3,512 in 2025, while the figure for 2026 had reached 2,775 at the time of the briefing.

He further claimed that attacks targeting police had risen by 168 per cent and that 18 police installations had been targeted over the preceding two years. The information minister said the government believed the change in administration would help improve security and strengthen counter-terrorism operations.

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, meanwhile, accused the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-led provincial government of failing to tackle terrorism, alleging that its policies had enabled terrorist groups to operate and that there was a disconnect between the provincial administration and federal counter-terrorism efforts. He also alleged that there was evidence linking PTI with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), saying the government would present the evidence at a later stage. The information minister said the federal government's negotiations with PTI and the K-P government had focused on counter-terrorism rather than political demands.

Israeli actions in Syria 'counterproductive' to regional peace, Pakistan tells UN



ANI

Pakistan has condemned Israeli military operations in Syria as violations of international law and the country's sovereignty, calling on Israel to withdraw from all occupied Syrian territories and fully respect the 1974 disengagement agreement. Speaking at a United Nations Security Council briefing on the humanitarian and political situation in Syria, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Usman Jadoon, said Israeli actions were undermining prospects for peace and stability in the region. He said the occupied Syrian Golan Heights remained part of Syria under international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolutions 338 and 497. Jadoon reaffirmed Pakistan's support for Syria's political transition, national reconciliation and economic recovery, emphasising the need to preserve the country's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity. He welcomed the

Syrian government's efforts to pursue an inclusive political process, as well as progress in negotiations with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

The Pakistani envoy stressed that disputes in Sweida and other parts of Syria should be resolved through dialogue and peaceful means.

He said sustained international cooperation and humanitarian assistance were essential to rebuilding Syria, reviving its economy and meeting the basic needs of its population. Jadoon added that easing sanctions, increasing investment and expanding regional and international economic partnerships could help support the country's recovery. He also emphasised the need for continued vigilance against the Islamic State (IS) and other terrorist groups, including foreign fighters, and called for strengthening Syria's security institutions.

International concern has also grown over Israel's military activities in Syria. Last month, a United Nations commission investigating the situation in the country expressed concern over Israeli military operations in Syrian territory, warning that certain actions, including the detention of civilians, could amount to war crimes. In August, eight Israeli airstrikes were also reported at a military base in northwestern Syria.

Following the fall of Bashar al-Assad's government, Israel occupied additional areas in southwestern Syria and targeted heavy weapons and military equipment belonging to the Syrian army.

At least five killed, over 30 injured as Rehman Baba Express derails near Multan



ANI

MULTAN: At least five passengers were killed and more than 30 were injured when 14 coaches of the Karachi-to-Peshawar Rehman Baba Express derailed near Multan on Tuesday, Railway spokesperson for Multan Division Kaleem Akhtar said.

Akhtar said four bodies had so far been transported to Nishtar Hospital, while human remains found on the track had led authorities to initially report a fifth death. The body of two-year-old Shifa, daughter of Kamran, was also recovered.

"Rescue operations were underway at the accident site, while officials dispatched a relief train and a medical van from

Multan to assist passengers. Train traffic on both the up and down tracks was suspended after the accident, and Multan Division railway officials were on site," the spokesperson said.

According to Rescue 1122, teams have evacuated 53 passengers from the train, while an emergency has been declared at Nishtar Hospital in Multan. Train services passing through Multan have been disrupted following the accident, and an inquiry committee has been formed to determine its cause. According to the train's guard in charge, the driver felt a sudden jolt near Sher Shah, and several coaches derailed just seconds later. However, it is too early to determine whether the accident occurred due to a fault in the railway track or because a part of one of the coaches fell onto the track.

Meanwhile, some passengers alleged that the driver had been operating the train at excessive speed. According to them, they had asked the driver to reduce speed near Bahawalpur because passengers in the fourth and fifth coaches were experiencing severe jolts.

'Negotiations were a sham': Raja Nasir Abbas lambasts govt for pre-planning governor's rule

ANI

Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Allama Raja Nasir Abbas on Tuesday alleged that negotiations with the government were a sham, claiming that the decision on governor's rule in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa had already been made before the talks concluded. The federal government imposed an emergency and governor's rule in K-P on Sunday under Articles 232 and 234 of the Constitution. The government cited the deteriorating law and order situation and what it called a lack of support from the provincial administration in the fight against terrorism.

"The negotiations were a sham. You had already made up your mind," Abbas said, arguing that the opposition had shown flexibility by stepping back from its demand for a meeting with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan, while the government had refused to reconsider its position.



Speaking during a Senate session chaired by Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Abbas said the opposition wanted to meet Imran to seek his guidance in light of the prevailing global situation, adding that denying access to a detained

political leader raised questions about the government's commitment to political dialogue. "We are not being allowed to meet Imran Khan, who is a prisoner and the head of a political party," he said. Abbas maintained that the opposition had demonstrated a willingness to compromise during negotiations but alleged that the government had already decided on its course of action. He also criticised the reported move towards imposing governor's rule in K-P, warning that such measures could deepen political tensions and undermine efforts to restore peace in the province.

Questioning the message being conveyed to young people in K-P, the opposition leader said the authorities' actions suggested that political struggle and recourse to the judiciary carried little weight. He warned that pushing people away from democratic and political processes could increase frustration and potentially contribute to further instability and militancy.

Karachi court hands journalist Iqrarul Hassan to NCCIA on four-day physical remand

ANI

KARACHI: The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) on Tuesday produced journalist Iqrarul Hassan before the judicial magistrate (East) at Karachi's city court in a case of harming the state and national integrity through the dissemination of anti-state content on his social media platforms, handing him over to the NCCIA on a four-day physical remand. According to the First Information Report, the case was filed at the NCCIA by Inspector Muhammad Ali Khan under Sections 9, 10, 20, 24, and 26-A of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016. The FIR stated that Hassan, "through his personal social media accounts on the platforms X, Instagram and Facebook, is intentionally disseminating false, fabricated, anti-state and defamatory content with the object of instigating the general public against the state, its institutions and its functionaries." During the hearing, the court asked Hassan whether he had been subjected to torture, to which he replied that he had not been beaten. Asked whether he had a lawyer, he said he had not hired one yet.

Pakistan tests extended-range Fatah-2 hypersonic missile: ISPR

ANI

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's army has conducted a successful test launch of the extended-range version of its Fatah-2 missile system, with the military saying the weapon features advanced navigation, modern avionics and enhanced capabilities to engage targets at greater distances.

In a press release, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's media wing, said the test of the Fatah-2 Extended Range (ER) was conducted on Tuesday. The system is designed to strike targets with high precision, while its trajectory and manoeuvrability are intended to help it overcome



enemy missile defence systems. According to the ISPR, the Fatah-2 ER incorporates advanced navigation technology and state-of-the-art avionics to support its targeting capabilities. Its extended range is expected to increase the Pakistan Army's reach and capacity to engage targets deeper within an adversary's territory. The military also highlighted the missile's

distinctive trajectory and manoeuvrability, which it said would enhance its ability to penetrate opposing missile defence systems. The ISPR did not disclose the missile's precise range, the distance covered during the test or other technical details of the launch in its announcement. The launch was witnessed by the Commander of the Army Rocket Force Command (ARFC), senior Pakistan Army officers, and scientists and engineers involved in the weapon system's development. The ARFC commander praised the dedication and technical expertise of the scientists and engineers following the successful test, according to the military's statement.



H.E. Admiral Renato Rodrigues De Aguiar Freire, Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of Brazil called on Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif

PM reaffirms commitment to further strengthen Pak-EU cooperation

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tuesday, underscored the importance Pakistan attaches to its partnership with the European Union and reaffirmed its commitment to further strengthening cooperation across all pillars of the Pak-EU Strategic Engagement Plan.

He expressed these views during a meeting with European Union Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner who called on him. The meeting focused on strengthening Pakistan-EU cooperation in the areas of migration and mobility, one of the eight pillars of the Pakistan-EU Strategic Engagement Plan 2019, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Welcoming Commissioner Brunner on his first visit to Pakistan, the prime minister highlighted Pakistan's sustained efforts to curb irregular migration and combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking through legislative reforms, institutional strengthening, effective enforcement, and international cooperation. He emphasized



that efforts to address irregular migration should be complemented by practical opportunities for safe, orderly, and regular migration.

He noted that expanding legal pathways for Pakistani skilled workers and profes-

sionals would help meet the labour-market needs of European countries while reducing the vulnerability of prospective migrants to smuggling networks.

Commissioner Brunner appreciated the measures taken and the cooperation extended

by the Government of Pakistan. He expressed confidence that these efforts would contribute positively to the expansion of legal migration pathways and the promotion of mutually beneficial labour mobility between Pakistan and the European Union.

Naqvi, EU Commissioner agree to strengthen cooperation as illegal migration to Europe falls 64pc

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday met European Commissioner for Home Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner to discuss cooperation on migration, border management and legal employment opportunities, following a 64 percent decline in illegal migration from Pakistan to Europe.

The two leaders also held delegation-level talks during the meeting, where Brunner appreciated Pakistan's measures against illegal migration and acknowledged the performance of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

Brunner said the 64 percent reduction in illegal migration to Europe, achieved through Pakistan's effective measures, was commendable. He also praised the FIA for demonstrating professional capabilities despite limited resources.

He said the decline in illegal migration would help open pathways for legal migra-



tion.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said Pakistan had adopted a zero-tolerance policy against illegal migration. He added that after reducing illegal migration by 64 percent, Pakistan's next target was to eliminate it completely.

Naqvi said Pakistan and the European

Union needed to work together to end illegal migration. He described the issue as a highly serious global challenge. During the meeting, both sides discussed promoting legal migration between Pakistan and the European Union and expanding opportunities for skilled workers.

They agreed to increase cooperation to

strengthen border security and promote legal immigration. Both sides also decided to further strengthen collaboration in migration, institutional cooperation and border management.

The two sides also agreed to work together on the European Union's Eastern Corridor Initiative to eliminate illegal migration. The meeting further discussed expanding mutual cooperation to enhance the operational capacity of the Pakistan Coast Guards.

European Commissioner Magnus Brunner assured Pakistan of all possible cooperation in this regard.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary Interior, Special Secretary Interior, Additional Secretary Interior, Director General FIA, Inspector General Federal Constabulary, Director General National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), Director General Passports, Chief Commissioner Islamabad and other officials.

Natalie Baker stresses early detection to combat breast cancer

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Ms Natalie A. Baker, Chargé d'Affaires of the United States, has highlighted the importance of public awareness and early diagnosis in combating breast cancer, saying timely detection can significantly improve treatment outcomes and help save lives. Urging women to seek timely medical advice and remain vigilant about warning signs, Ms Baker said awareness was the first step towards fighting breast cancer and preventing the disease from becoming life-threatening.

Talking to the media on the sidelines of a breast cancer awareness event at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), she said the disease affected women across the world, underscoring the need for sustained awareness campaigns and improved access to screening and healthcare services. She expressed concern that young girls and women in Pakistan were also being affected by breast cancer, stressing the importance of educating people about its symptoms, risk factors and available treatment options. Ms Baker said awareness initiatives played a vital role in encouraging women to recognize warning signs and consult healthcare professionals without delay.

Masood calls for introducing education sector reforms

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Former provincial Education Minister Mian Imran Masood has urged for coordinated planning to ensure quality textbooks, effective teacher training and improved learning outcomes across the country.

Speaking at a media briefing on curriculum reforms on Tuesday, he said a clearly defined implementation timeline would provide schools, teachers and publishers with sufficient time to prepare for the transition, develop quality learning materials and align teaching methodologies with assessment systems. He suggested for the phased introduction of a common core curriculum by April 2028. He added a common curriculum framework and shared learning standards would facilitate students, particularly those relocating from one province to another, while promoting greater consistency and comparability in educational standards nationwide. Masood observed that despite the devolution of curriculum-related responsibilities to the provinces under the 18th Constitutional Amendment, a broad degree of curricular consistency had been maintained between 2010 and 2026. Highlighting the central role of curriculum in shaping educational outcomes, teacher preparedness and examination systems, he stressed that reforms should be introduced through careful planning, keeping in view the limited number of teaching days available during the academic year.

Senate Business Advisory Committee Reviews Legislative Agenda; Session to Continue Until October 30

Report: Hurish Shah FT:

ISLAMABAD -- Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani chaired a meeting of the Senate Business Advisory Committee at Parliament House on Tuesday to review the legislative agenda for the Senate's 364th session.

The committee reviewed proposed legislative business and agreed that the current session would continue until October 30, 2026. Members will also deliberate on important national and international matters during the session.

The meeting was attended by



Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Senator Raja Nasir Abbas, Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Senator Sherry Rehman, Senator Manzoor Ahmed, Senator Syed Ali Zafar, Senator Jan Muhammad, Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Senator Hidayat Ullah Khan, Parliamentary

Affairs Minister Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, and Secretary Senate Syed Hasnain Haider.

Secretary Senate Syed Hasnain Haider briefed the committee on the proposed legislative business and matters relating to proceedings of the House.

KP Residents to Get Relief Within 180 Days, Says Senator Faisal Vawda; Vows Action Against Terrorism

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Senator Faisal Vawda has said that the imposition of emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was necessary in the interest of the province's people due to the alarming law and order situation, expressing confidence that residents would receive relief within 180 days.

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club in Islamabad, Vawda criticised the province's 13-year performance, saying it had resulted in widespread destruction and stressing that effective measures were essential to eliminate terrorism and protect the public.

He strongly condemned any disrespect towards Pakistan's national flag and anthem, as well as negative remarks against security personnel who sacrificed their lives for the country. He said protecting the



nation and eliminating terrorism must remain the top priorities.

Vawda claimed that terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had increased by 195 per cent and called for accountability over the deteriorating security situation. He also stressed the need for action against terrorist groups operating from Afghan territory and raised concerns over the presence of Afghan nationals in the province.

The senator predicted that

results of the government's measures would begin to emerge within 60 days, while relief for the people would follow within 180 days. He added that the success of the current arrangements would depend on performance and that alternatives could be considered if required.

Clarifying his position on the country's territorial integrity, Vawda said neither Khyber Pakhtunkhwa nor Balochistan was heading towards separation. He maintained that the objective was to eliminate terrorism, restore peace and provide relief to the public.

Criticising political parties for relying on slogans, he said future decisions would be based on performance rather than political rhetoric. He also pledged action against economic terrorism and called for improvements in the country's governance system.

Commissioner Sibi Vows to Address Public Issues, Ensure Basic Facilities



Report: GNM :

SIBI -- Commissioner Sibi Division Irfanullah Khan has pledged to utilise all available resources and capabilities to fulfil his official responsibilities effectively, emphasising that providing basic facilities and safeguarding citizens' rights remain among his top priorities.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of journalists at his office. The delegation

included Mir Allah Dad Rind, President of the Working Journalist Media Group and Central General Secretary of the Balochistan Media Forum; Senior Vice President Allah Yar Domki; and Deputy General Secretary Nadeem Babar Mughal.

The commissioner urged journalists to identify public grievances related to gas, electricity, water, healthcare and other essential services so that timely action could be taken to resolve them.

He stressed the need to strengthen the role of relevant government departments in addressing public concerns, adding that issues highlighted by journalists would receive due attention and genuine public grievances would be referred to the concerned authorities for necessary action. Irfanullah Khan appreciated the role of journalists in highlighting public problems and assured them of the administration's cooperation on matters concerning public welfare.

Zakat Foundation of America CEO Halil Demir Visits Pakistan to Strengthen Humanitarian Partnerships

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Halil Demir, Chief Executive Officer of Zakat Foundation of America (ZFA), is visiting Pakistan to hold high-level meetings with United Nations agencies, diplomatic missions, government departments and federal ministries to strengthen humanitarian cooperation and promote sustainable development.

During the visit, discussions are focusing on potential joint initiatives in education, clean drinking water, orphan care, emergency relief, food security, youth empowerment and digital skills development.

The engagements aim to strengthen institutional partnerships, mobilise local and international resources, and improve coordination to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches vulnerable communities effectively and transparently.

The discussions are also expected to address long-term development priorities, including access to quality education, safe drinking water for underserved communities, support



for orphans and their families, food assistance for vulnerable households, and digital skills training to improve employment opportunities for young people.

The visit highlights the importance of collaboration between humanitarian organisations, government institutions and international partners in addressing Pakistan's social and humanitarian challenges. Such partnerships can help improve resource utilisation, minimise duplication of efforts and sustain development initiatives beyond immediate relief operations.

Zakat Foundation of America reaffirmed its commitment to serving vulnerable communities with dignity and pursuing strategic partnerships aimed at creating sustainable and lasting benefits for the people of Pakistan.

NCCIA keeps Eagle eye on AI misuse, books man over alleged threats to kill a friend

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Islamabad Circle has registered a case after an inquiry into allegations that a man expressed an intention to kill his former female friend and allegedly sought information about murder methods using artificial intelligence (AI) and digital platforms.

An NCCIA official told on Tuesday that the case was registered following an inquiry into the alleged threats and possible misuse of digital technology. According to

the First Information Report (FIR), the suspect allegedly attempted to obtain information and ideas about methods of committing murder. The official said the allegations were still under investigation and the facts would be established through the legal process. He said the matter had raised concerns about the misuse of AI tools and digital communication platforms for threats, intimidation and other unlawful activities. The NCCIA stressed that AI tools and online platforms should be used responsibly and must not be used to threaten individuals, spread fear or support criminal activities.

Equipping people with market-relevant skills key to eradicating poverty: Rubina

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, Tuesday, said that equipping people with market-relevant skills and expanding digital financial access are central to helping families move out of poverty for good.

She was speaking as a panelist at the International Conference on Inclusive and Resilient Economic Empowerment and Growth 2026, organized by the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) in collaboration with the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and

Social Safety, Paigham-e-Pakistan, and the Islamic Center of Excellence for Nation Cohesion and Outreach. Addressing the session titled "Scaling Poverty Graduation: Bridging Social Protection, Community Development, Economic Empowerment and Inclusive Human Development," the Chairperson highlighted the Benazir Hunarmand Programme as a key pillar of BISP's poverty graduation efforts. She explained that the programme builds human capital by training individuals in skills in demand in the market and connecting them with employment opportunities, paving the way for sustainable livelihoods. Senator

Rubina Khalid stressed that lasting progress requires close coordination among government departments and all relevant stakeholders. Such cooperation, she said, is essential to promote inclusive growth, widen economic opportunities, and improve the lives of marginalized communities. The Chairperson also spoke about BISP's newly introduced Digital Wallet for beneficiaries, describing it as a revolutionary step toward financial inclusion. She said the system offers beneficiaries convenient access to payments while ensuring greater transparency in the delivery of financial assistance.

Daily

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Opinion

3

Two years of sheer hell, and it is not finished

YOSSI MEKELBERG

At last, negotiators in Sharm El-Sheikh have agreed an end to this period of the most horrific bloodshed in the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since 1948. Albeit it will only be a long haul toward a return to normality. Yet aside from indulging in some cautious optimism, it is perhaps also time for some initial reflection within both societies. How did they get into such a catastrophic nightmare? Benjamin Netanyahu's recent triumphalist speeches and statements, often utterly contradictory, are the legacy of his long, much too long, time as Israeli prime minister. It is a legacy that will take years to overcome and rectify, not only for the Palestinians and others in the region, but also for Israel and its own people. Netanyahu's premiership is not over yet but is nearing its end; it is just a matter of time, and how much more damage he is prepared to inflict on everything and everyone within his orbit, until he exits the political stage for good. If anything should have hastened the end of his career, it was the utter failure to anticipate and prevent the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7,

2023, and his reported paralysis for the first few days that followed it as he realized that the greatest security failure in Israel's history had taken place on his watch. But neither he nor his lieutenants in this worst-ever government in Israeli history have been of a mind even to acknowledge their colossal failure, never mind apologize for it, do the decent thing by resigning, and subject themselves to the judgment of the people by calling a general election and establishing an independent inquiry into Oct. 7. At no previous point in Israel's history has the nation been so internally divided and so internationally isolated, as it stands accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity. It will take more than a single general election to rectify the damage caused by the increasingly reckless actions of this sixth Netanyahu government. It began its term in office by legitimizing the most abhorrent elements in Israeli politics, the ultranationalist-messianic groupings, resulting in an unabated attack on the very foundations of Israel's democracy. Moreover, to appease the settler elements in his government, the prime minister allowed settlements to expand and

settler violence to run rampant with impunity. This government has left Israeli society divided, battling not external enemies but those who are trying to destroy the soul of the country from within. It has also delivered to Israel's enemies a message of weakness, mixed with no hope for ending the occupation of Palestinian land, which proved to be a lethal combination. The events of Oct. 7 were horrific and inexcusable but they cannot justify, in any shape or form, Israel's appalling response. Great leaders bring out the best in their societies and make them better places to live. Populist leaders of Netanyahu's breed exploit the weaknesses, fears, and prejudice among their own people to create the worst possible version of their societies, thereby allowing them to control the narrative even as, in the case of the Israeli prime minister, the narrative keeps changing to suit personal needs. Unsurprisingly, the attack by Hamas traumatized Israelis, and some kind of response to it was inevitable and justified. But nothing can justify the nature of a response that has left more than 67,000 people dead, most of them

civilians and many of them children, and a territory of scorched earth, razed to the ground. The war in Gaza has raged for two years, not out of any strategic considerations but to ensure Netanyahu's political survival and prevent his corruption trial from concluding. In pursuit of this goal he has been prepared to prolong the war indefinitely, sacrificing the hostages and his soldiers, and ensuring that the self-proclaimed notion of the Israeli military the "most moral army in the world" rings more hollow than ever. This has all been said many times before, but when the war comes to an end, the question for Israelis will be how they will climb out of the deep, dark abyss. There is no magic formula for this, but part of the necessary soul searching must be to admit that there are trends within Israeli society that have weakened it as a liberal democracy, and that there has always been a tension, though not one that could not be resolved, between the concepts of being Jewish and being democratic. The occupation of Palestinian land and depriving its people of their political and human rights has not yet eroded the idea of

what Israel aspires to be. But the occupation and the daily oppression of Palestinians has led to the country being held captive by a small group of settlers: messianic, delusional extremists with autocratic tendencies who believe the answer to all security challenges lies in the use of force and force alone. The resultant conditions of constant insecurity have been exploited by a populist-opportunistic leader who has presented himself as a savior. As an initial part of the healing and reflection process, a state inquiry into the failures of Oct. 7 must be established. It must have the power to investigate all aspects of the events leading up to that disastrous day, and everything that followed, including all ministerial decisions. It must not tolerate any cover ups. Only when this groundwork allows the truth to emerge can Israel also begin to start asking itself how it allowed a government of extremists and incompetents to lead it into a war that was more about revenge and the political survival of a ruling coalition, than ensuring the failures of Oct. 7 can never happen again.

—Arab News

What if Israel breaks the ceasefire?

DR. DANIA KOLEILAT KHATIB

Israel and Hamas agreed to a ceasefire during talks with American, Turkish, Qatari, and Egyptian mediators. The first phase involves Israel stopping the bombing and withdrawing from Gaza to an agreed line. Hamas, in turn, will return all hostages within 72 hours of the agreement. The question we must ask ourselves now is what prevents Israel from resuming its bombing campaign once the hostages are returned? And what can Arab and Islamic countries do to prevent such a scenario, which some might say is probable? From the Hamas point of view, the hostages are the only card the group holds that provides leverage over Israel. It is also important to note that two years of war has greatly weakened the group. However, the situation on the ground pushed everyone to converge on US President Donald Trump's plan; Gaza was undergoing a genocide, people were starving, and an immediate solution was needed. There is little reason to believe that the ceasefire will successfully progress to the next phase, however. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu needed to accept the ceasefire because the pressure on his government was increasing, not only internationally but domestically as well, with the plight of the hostages providing fuel for opposition parties. However, we should not forget that during the past two ceasefire agreements, Israel recovered some of the hostages and then resumed its genocide. We have also to remember that once the war ends, Netanyahu will face accountability. There has been no proper investigation into the Hamas-led Oct. 7 attacks. Some news outlets have recently alleged that forces surrounding Gaza were ordered to stand down at the time. If this is true, and if Netanyahu really allowed all this to help him avoid his own domestic woes, what will happen to him? In addition to the potential repercussions of Oct. 7 there is the matter of the corruption charges he faces. There is also the issue of his fragile coalition government, which is torn between those who believe that Orthodox Jews, who currently are exempt from the national military service most Israelis are obliged to complete, should be conscripted and those who believe they should not. The war pushes all such issues into the background. Once he gets the hostages back, scoring a point against the opposition and appeasing the Israeli public, will he

resume the war in Gaza? Maybe. Maybe he will return to pounding the territory. Or maybe he will open another front in the West Bank. Or Lebanon. Or Iran. Whatever might happen, the most important thing right now is to make sure the ceasefire holds in Gaza, and to that end Trump is expected to maintain the pressure on Netanyahu to move beyond the first part of the agreement. When Trump was asked about this, he said the most important issue was to get the hostages home, and "then we will see." This, however, prompted a sense of deja vu; ceasefire agreements in November 2023 and January 2025 proved to be short-lived. In addition, pressure is not equivalent to guarantees. Israel can apply counterpressure to the US. It has a powerful political lobby working at full steam. This raises the question of what should Arab and Islamic countries be doing? What is their Plan B? What kind of pressure can they exert on Israel to ensure Netanyahu does not stray from the ceasefire? Turkiye has already said it will send forces to monitor the early stages of the truce. However, there are still no details about subsequent phases. Arabs and Muslims should heed the advice of Colombian President Gustavo Petro, who in a speech to the UN General Assembly last month, called for the creation of an international force in Gaza through the General Assembly Resolution 377, also known as the "Uniting for Peace" resolution. Israel should be made aware that if it does not comply with the peace plan and withdraw from Gaza, Arab and Islamic countries will push for action under Resolution 377, which potentially can override the power of veto held by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council by taking a resolution to the General Assembly for a vote on collective measures, including the use of armed force when necessary. There might be pushback to the suggestion. Israel might react to such a threat with cynicism. United for Peace had been effective in the past when backed by a superpower, either the Soviet Union or the US. Here, Arab countries might allude to China, which seeks to play a bigger role in the Middle East and was the mediator and the security guarantor for the Saudi-Iran deal. Would the US like to see its allies increasingly warm to China? Not really. Empty threats will not work. Arab and Islamic countries need to start organizing.

—Arab News

The Pakistan Army and Social Media: Understanding the Facts, Exposing False Claims and Countering Misleading Propaganda to Strengthen Public Trust and National Unity



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

A soldier's years of service can be misrepresented in seconds by a misleading video. A national tragedy can become material for an invented story before families have received reliable information. Social media gives citizens a powerful voice, but it also places a responsibility on everyone who shares a claim. When the Pakistan Army becomes the subject of online debate, evidence must guide judgment. Anger, popularity and repeated accusations cannot establish the truth. Supporting the Army against falsehood requires a clear distinction between criticism and misinformation. Citizens can question institutional decisions and seek accountability. Such questions should receive factual answers. However, fabricated quotations, unrelated footage and unsupported allegations mislead the public. Treating every question as hostility weakens public discussion; treating every accusation as proven damages reputations and trust. The August 2022 helicopter tragedy in Balochistan illustrates why verification matters. Reuters reported that six people, including Lieutenant General Sarfraz Ali, died when an Army helicopter crashed during a flood relief operation. Police confirmed that wreckage had been found on a mountain in Lasbela. This was a documented loss of military personnel serving during a civilian emergency. Their service deserves recognition grounded in the actual circumstances. Yet footage of a helicopter plunging into floodwaters circulated as though it showed that crash. AFP traced the video to reports from Afghanistan published in January 2022, months before the Balochistan tragedy. The

correction was straightforward: the footage did not show the Pakistani helicopter. A dramatic image and an Urdu caption could not overcome the evidence of its earlier origin. The same tragedy attracted an insurgent claim that the helicopter had been shot down. Reuters reported that the group provided no evidence and that its claim could not be independently verified. The military attributed the crash to bad weather. Responsible reporting must preserve that distinction: an unsupported claim is not an established fact, while an official explanation should be identified as such. Neither repetition nor political preference can replace verification. Another example emerged during the May 2025 India-Pakistan conflict. Geo Fact Check examined footage presented as Indian attacks on Sialkot and Rawalpindi. One clip actually showed a fire in Chile. Another showed a gas explosion in Mumbai. A third had appeared online in October 2023. These findings rebutted the specific claims attached to those videos. They did not mean that no attacks occurred; they meant that these clips were false evidence of them. The same standard must apply to material shared in Pakistan's favour. AFP found that videos supposedly showing aircraft being shot down during the conflict came from the game Arma 3. The game's developer confirmed the origin of the footage. Sharing such content to celebrate military success undermines credibility. Respect for the armed forces requires accurate reporting of their achievements. Invented evidence gives opponents an easy opportunity to discredit otherwise serious arguments. These examples reveal several ways misinformation works. Old footage receives a new location. An allegation loses its qualification as it travels. A computer simulation becomes a supposed battlefield recording. However, a false post alone does not prove an organised foreign campaign. Claims about who created or coordinated propa-

ganda also require evidence. We should challenge the falsehood without inventing another explanation. Citizens can help by asking simple questions before sharing. Who first published this? When and where was it recorded? Does the complete video support the caption? Have independent reporters confirmed it? Reverse image searches and searches for earlier uploads can expose recycled material. A screenshot of an official-looking statement should be checked against the institution's original publication. If verification is unavailable, withholding the post is a responsible choice. Institutions also have a duty to communicate clearly. Corrections should identify the disputed claim, present available evidence and explain what remains uncertain. Accessible briefings and timely updates can reduce confusion. Journalists and independent fact-checkers should be able to examine claims fairly. An institution strengthens its credibility when its explanations withstand scrutiny. The human consequences must remain central. False allegations can distress bereaved families, discredit relief work and deepen divisions between citizens and those who serve them. Public debate should recognise military sacrifice while preserving space for honest questions. Respect and accountability can reinforce each other when both rest on facts. Pakistan's strongest answer to misleading propaganda is a public that values evidence. We honour soldiers by describing their service truthfully. We protect national confidence by correcting falsehoods consistently, including those that flatter us. Before pressing "share," every citizen should ask: am I informing others, or merely passing on an emotion? That moment of care can prevent a lie from becoming someone else's certainty.

The great potential for North Africa in future global supply chains

HAFED AL-GHWELL

North Africa is undergoing a quiet yet profound economic realignment. The region, traditionally a crossroads of civilizations, is swiftly repositioning itself as a central hub for the next chapter of global industry, fueled by the worldwide demand for critical minerals. While sub-Saharan Africa dominates mineral production, accounting for 70 percent of the world's cobalt and significant shares of platinum and manganese, North Africa's power lies not in the volumes of its own reserves but in its unparalleled geographic and strategic positioning. It is an indispensable link between the mineral-rich south, the manufacturing and refining centers of Asia, and the insatiable consumer markets of Europe. Africa today is no longer a silent partner in global trade and critical minerals dialogue but an assertive architect of the continent's own resource destiny. The Democratic Republic of Congo's export bans on raw cobalt, and Zimbabwe's levies on unprocessed lithium, for instance, are some of the ways in which Africa is moving away from simple extraction to the creation of local value. Such strategic moves create a wealth of opportunities for North Africa that are likely to be harnessed via sophisticated economic gateways already being built in the region. Thus, with an estimated \$266 billion in critical mineral exports from Africa in 2024, and likely more than that in the future given accelerating demand, the logistical race to transport, process, and ship these resources is intensifying. At present, Morocco, Egypt, and Algeria are accelerating their strategic investments in an attempt to capture this flow. Morocco's Tanger Med port, for example, now one of the most advanced in Africa, is handling trade volumes that increasingly rival those of southern European hubs. Simultaneously, Egypt is transforming the Suez Canal Economic Zone into a magnet for foreign capital,

targeting a place in the global hydrogen market and capitalizing on its position as a maritime crossroads. Algeria, meanwhile, is linked to Mauritania's vast untapped potential for lithium, manganese, uranium, phosphates, and rare-earth elements via the Tindouf-Zouerate Highway infrastructure project. Algiers also remains the sole Mediterranean node of the Trans-Saharan Highway, which links six African countries that together represent more than a quarter of Africa's total gross domestic product and population. These developments are part of a wider infrastructure rush that includes projects such as the Trans-Maghreb highway, connecting Morocco to Egypt via Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya, as well as new road corridors designed to bind North Africa into a cohesive and efficient trade network ready for the demands of the economies of the future. This transformation has not gone unnoticed by global powers. The US depends entirely on imports of 12 critical minerals, and outsources more than half of its supplies for another 28. Washington perceives this reliance, particularly on China, as a structural weakness, driving a search for secure alliances. China, which processes 85 percent of the world's critical minerals and more than 90 percent of rare earths, is entrenching its influence through direct investments in projects such as lithium operations in Mali and copper ventures in Zambia, backed by decades of strategic engagement across 44 African countries. Saudi Arabia has committed \$10 billion to African mining over the next five years, while the UAE is channeling capital into port and processing assets in copper-rich Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In this contest, North Africa emerges as a strategic intersection, a zone in which all these external ambitions meet, providing access and opportunity without yet falling under the control of a single power.

—Arab News

Free Trade Agreements and Pakistan's Dying Industry



By: Rana Farooq Ashraf
Published By: ANI News Agency

Pakistan's industrial sector stands at a critical crossroads. On one side are soaring electricity and gas prices, expensive credit, heavy taxation and unpredictable government policies. On the other is growing pressure from imported products competing with locally manufactured goods. This raises a fundamental question: did Pakistan prepare its domestic industries for international competition before opening its markets through free trade agreements (FTAs)? Pakistan's free trade agreements with China, Malaysia and Sri Lanka, alongside its preferential trade arrangements with Türkiye, deserve a serious reassessment. The objective of such agreements is to expand market access, encourage investment, improve competitiveness and increase exports. However, when countries differ significantly in industrial capacity, technology, production costs and government support, equal trade concessions do not necessarily produce equal benefits. Manufacturers in more industrialised economies often enjoy advanced machinery, economies of scale, better infrastructure and easier access to finance. Pakistani manufacturers, meanwhile, struggle with expensive energy, high interest rates, taxation and frequent policy changes. Under these conditions, reducing import duties without strengthening domestic production can expose local businesses to competition they are not equipped to withstand. The contradiction lies at the heart of Pakistan's trade policy. We often treat access to imported goods as evidence of economic progress while failing to provide local manufacturers with the conditions needed to compete. The result can be greater pressure on

domestic production, limited investment in industrial expansion and fewer opportunities for employment. Would terminating these agreements automatically put Pakistan's industry back on its feet? Certainly not. Revising or withdrawing from poorly balanced trade arrangements may create room for domestic manufacturers, but it will not automatically reduce electricity prices, lower borrowing costs, modernise factories or resolve structural weaknesses. Protection alone cannot build a competitive industrial economy. Without improvements in productivity, consumers may simply face more expensive locally produced goods, while Pakistani exporters remain unable to compete internationally. This does not mean existing trade agreements should remain untouched. The government must conduct a comprehensive, evidence-based assessment of each agreement. It should examine the impact on imports, exports, domestic production, employment, investment and the trade balance. Where particular concessions have demonstrably harmed local industries, Pakistan should renegotiate the relevant terms, pursue appropriate trade safeguards and enforce import regulations effectively. Any suspension or termination should be considered in accordance with the agreement's provisions and the country's broader economic interests. Industrial revival, however, requires more than trade policy adjustments. Energy reform must become a national priority. The government needs a predictable framework for industrial electricity and gas prices, improved efficiency in the energy sector, and measures to reduce avoidable costs and losses. Manufacturers cannot make long-term investment decisions when energy costs remain unpredictable and production becomes financially unviable. Access to affordable financing is equally essential. Industrial credit should enable businesses to modernise machinery, adopt new technologies, improve productivity and

expand capacity. Taxation must be predictable and designed to encourage documented economic activity, investment and formal employment rather than placing an excessive burden on compliant businesses. Small and medium-sized enterprises deserve particular attention. These businesses can generate employment in engineering, textiles, packaging, auto parts, agricultural processing and numerous other sectors. Targeted financing, technical assistance, skills development and support for export marketing can help them become stronger participants in domestic and international supply chains. Public procurement should also give fair consideration to competitive Pakistani products that meet the required standards of quality, price and reliability. The human cost of industrial decline is even more serious. When a factory closes, the damage extends far beyond its owner. Workers lose their livelihoods, suppliers lose customers, transporters lose business and local markets suffer. Educated and skilled young Pakistanis increasingly look abroad for employment, while many others struggle to find work matching their qualifications. This is not merely an employment crisis; it is a loss of national productive capacity and human capital. Pakistan must therefore decide whether it wants to remain primarily a market for imported products or become an economy that manufactures, innovates and exports. Free trade should serve national economic interests, not leave domestic industry exposed without a credible strategy for competitiveness. Saving Pakistan's industry requires simultaneous reforms in trade policy, energy pricing, industrial financing, taxation, technology and skills development. Closing the doors to international competition is not a sustainable solution. The real achievement will be to build an industry strong enough to keep those doors open while standing firmly on its own feet.

President Zardari Calls for Expanded Legal Migration Opportunities for Pakistani Workers in Europe

Report: ANI Correspondent

ISLAMABAD -- President Asif Ali Zardari has called for expanded legal migration opportunities for Pakistani workers and professionals in Europe, stressing the need for skills-based mobility, structured cooperation with the European Union (EU) and safer pathways for overseas employment.

He expressed these views during a meeting with European Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner at Aiwan-e-Sadr. The discussions focused on Pakistan-EU relations, migration management, combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and facilitating legal migration.

President Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the Pakistan-EU Strategic Engagement Plan and highlighted the country's cooperation with the EU in curbing irregular migration. He said Pakistan had readmitted more than 30,000 individuals under the EU Readmission Agreement over the years.

Citing EU figures, the president said irregular migration from Pakistan had declined by 64 per cent over the preceding 18 months, reflecting sustained efforts to address the issue. He emphasised that these measures should be accompanied by expanded legal migration channels



for Pakistani workers and professionals.

The meeting was informed that Pakistan had sought EU assistance to strengthen the operational capacity of the Pakistan Coast Guards and the Federal Investigation Agency to combat irregular migration and migrant smuggling.

President Zardari highlighted the Pakistan-EU Migration and Mobility Dialogue as an important framework for aligning Pakistan's workforce with European labour-market needs. He expressed hope that the next round of talks, expected in Brussels early next year, would advance cooperation in this area.

Welcoming the expansion of the EU Talent Partnerships framework, he called for greater opportunities for skilled workers and professionals, including through circular migra-

tion. He also urged the EU to consider establishing a European Legal Gateway Office in Pakistan to facilitate legal migration.

Commissioner Magnus Brunner appreciated Pakistan's role in maintaining regional stability and commended its efforts to prevent irregular migrants from undertaking dangerous journeys.

EU Ambassador to Pakistan Raimundas Karoblis, Henrik Nielsen, Grigorios Delavekouras and Lukas Gassner accompanied the commissioner.

Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Minister of State Muhammad Talal Chaudhry, Senator Sherry Rehman, Senator Saleem Mandviwalla and former federal minister Naveed Qamar also attended the meeting.

Opposition Members Meet National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, Seek Production Orders for Detained MPs

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD-- Opposition members of the National Assembly met Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House on Tuesday evening and requested the issuance of production orders for detained members of the National Assembly.

The opposition delegation included Malik Amir Dogar, Ali Muhammad Khan, Umair Ahmad Niazi, Zain Hussain Qureshi and Syed Ali Raza Gilani.

During the meeting, the members urged the Speaker to issue production orders to facilitate the



attendance of the detained lawmakers in the National Assembly.

Malaysian High Commissioner Dato' Mohammad Azhar Bin Mazlan Calls for Stronger Pakistan-Malaysia Trade, Investment and Educational Ties

Report: Hurish Shah/FT :

ISLAMABAD: Malaysian High Commissioner to Pakistan H.E. Dato' Mohammad Azhar Bin Mazlan visited the National Press Club (NPC), Islamabad, and participated in its "Meet the Press" programme. He also planted a sapling on the club's lawn.

NPC President Abdul Razzaq Siyal, Secretary Dr. Furqan Rao and senior journalists welcomed the high commissioner. Siyal highlighted the longstanding brotherly relations between Pakistan and Malaysia and thanked the envoy for visiting the press club. Dr. Furqan Rao briefed him on the club's administrative structure, governing body, membership and facilities.

Addressing the programme, Dato' Mohammad Azhar Bin Mazlan said Pakistan and Malaysia wanted to translate their close political relations into stronger trade, investment and people-to-people contacts. He identified opportunities for cooperation in trade, education, tourism, artificial intelligence and the halal industry, adding that efforts were continuing to strengthen the strategic partnership established in 2019.

The high commissioner described Pakistan as an important partner in Malaysia's palm oil trade, placing it among Malaysia's fourth- or fifth-



largest partners in this sector. He also highlighted joint ventures between Pakistani and Malaysian companies in edible oil refining in Karachi and Port Qasim.

On education, he said approximately 5,000 Pakistani students were studying at Malaysian universities, while around 200,000 international students from across the world were enrolled in Malaysian institutions. He also highlighted opportunities for Pakistani students to pursue programmes linked to degrees recognised by universities in the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia.

Regarding defence cooperation, Dato' Mohammad Azhar Bin Mazlan said collaboration between the two countries was continuing, with defence cooperation committee meetings scheduled for the following two days. He also cited Field Marshal

Asim Munir's training at a Malaysian staff college in 2001 as an example of the longstanding defence relationship.

He said the close ties between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim were helping advance bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors.

On regional developments, the high commissioner condemned the attack on Saudi Arabia and expressed solidarity with its government and people. He also appreciated Pakistan's role in promoting regional peace, including through the Islamabad peace understanding, and said Malaysia valued Pakistan's efforts to advance peace and stability.

The visit concluded with a tour of various sections of the National Press Club.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Meets MQM Delegation, Receives Support on KP Decisions

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD-- Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday met a delegation of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), led by Convener and Federal Minister for Education Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, to discuss the country's overall political situation and developments in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

The delegation included Federal Minister for National Health Syed Mustafa Kamal, Senators Amir Waliuddin Chishti and Khalida Ateeb, and several members of the National Assembly.

Briefing the delegation on the situation in KP, the prime minister said the difficult decision concerning the province had been taken in the best interest of its people after efforts to resolve matters through negotiations failed to yield a positive response.

He expressed concern over increasing terrorist attacks targeting civilians and security forces, alleg-



ing that the provincial government had failed to openly condemn terrorist groups. He also described the planned long march as a conspiracy against the country's improving economy.

The MQM delegation assured the prime minister of its full support for the government's decisions regarding Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Deputy

Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tamar, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, and Prime Minister's Adviser on Political Affairs and Inter-Provincial Coordination Rana Sanaullah also attended the meeting.

Ishaq Dar Calls for Independent Regional Security Architecture to Counter Terrorism

Report: ANI

ISLAMABAD -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar has called for an independent regional security architecture to promote peace and stability, urging regional countries to take greater responsibility for their collective security.

He made these remarks while addressing an international conference titled "Pakistan's Evolving Counterterrorism Landscape: TTP, Cross-Border Threats and Regional Security," organised by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).

Ishaq Dar reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to combating terrorism, highlighting the country's immense human and economic sacrifices. Recalling his visits to Afghanistan and engagements with the Afghan Taliban authorities, he said Pakistan had consistently demanded visible, verifiable and irreversible action against the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other terrorist groups operating

from Afghan territory.

He urged the Afghan authorities to honour their counterterrorism commitments made in Doha and to Pakistan, stressing the need for stronger regional cooperation, intelligence-sharing and collective action against cross-border terrorism.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tamar highlighted Pakistan's sacrifices in the four-decade-long fight against terrorism, warning that the country's desire for peace should not be mistaken for weakness.

During three working sessions, diplomats, security experts and academics discussed militant sanctuaries in Afghanistan, the TTP and Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) threats, border management, intelligence cooperation and regional diplomatic engagement.

Former diplomats and international experts emphasised sustained dialogue with Afghanistan, effective border controls, lawful accountability, implementation of UN sanctions and stronger cooperation among

regional and international partners.

Major General Zahid Mehmood, Principal of the NUST Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, cited 225 militant attacks in Pakistan in September 2026, underscoring the urgency of coordinated counterterrorism efforts. Other speakers called for pragmatic international cooperation and greater recognition of Pakistan's sacrifices.

In his concluding remarks, ISSI Chairman of the Board of Governors Ambassador Khalid Mahmood stressed the need for a comprehensive counterterrorism framework to address threats posed by the TTP and BLA, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to regional peace, respect for sovereignty and collective action against terrorism.

The conference brought together senior policymakers, diplomats, security specialists and academics from Pakistan and abroad to discuss evolving regional security challenges and the need for sustained international cooperation against terrorism.

Oman's Foreign Minister Arrives in Islamabad for Official Visit, 8th Pak-Oman JMC

Report: ANI :

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of the Sultanate of Oman, His Excellency Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi, arrived in Islamabad on Tuesday for an official visit to Pakistan from October 13 to 14, 2026.

He was received at the airport by the Secretary of the Economic Affairs Division and the Additional Secretary (Middle East) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the visit, the Omani foreign minister will lead his country's delegation at the 8th Pakistan-Oman Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) meeting and hold bilateral talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator



Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

The visit is aimed at advancing bilateral engagement and provid-

ing an opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest between Pakistan and Oman.

Islamabad Positioned as Hub for Pakistan-China Industrial Cooperation: Zikria Zia

**Report: Hurish shah :

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia has called for enhanced Pakistan-China industrial cooperation through joint ventures, technology transfer and investment in manufacturing, describing industrialisation as essential for sustainable economic growth, exports and job creation.

He expressed these views while addressing a 13-member delegation of the Pakistan-China Business Forum (PCBF), led by Chief Patron Lieutenant General (Retd.) Abdul Qayyum and Co-Chairman Sheikh Ejaz Asghar.

Zikria Zia stressed the need for effective business matchmaking and sustained engagement to translate bilateral relations into practical economic outcomes. He proposed compiling a directory of Chinese companies and their products, establishing a product and technology display centre at ICCI, and setting up a dedicated facilitation desk for Chinese businesses in Islamabad.

Highlighting Islamabad's investment potential, he advocated establishing a new industrial estate spanning 8,000 acres or more, with Chinese companies invited to participate. The proposed project could attract investment in manufacturing, electric vehicles and emerging industries, alongside opportunities in waste management, recycling and waste-to-energy



projects.

The ICCI president also proposed organising a major Pakistan-China Expo in Islamabad in March 2027 to showcase products, promote investment and facilitate direct business-to-business partnerships ahead of upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) engagements.

Sheikh Ejaz Asghar, Co-Chairman of PCBF and Chairman of VOLTRIX Batteries, said the delegation was interested in investing in the proposed industrial estate and collaborating on a modern exhibition facility. He expressed readiness to pursue joint ventures with Pakistani businesses and highlighted opportunities in electric buses, electric vehicles, electrical equipment, manufacturing, distribution and technical training.

He said the group was seeking reliable Pakistani partners, sales networks and industrial facilities to establish long-term business opera-

tions. Earlier, Lieutenant General (Retd.) Abdul Qayyum highlighted initiatives to strengthen economic cooperation between Pakistan and China. PCBF Beijing President Wei Linzhao and Shengtang EV Bus Chairman Yuan Bangxiang also participated in the meeting.

Former ICCI presidents Mian Akram Farid and Mohammad Ejaz Abbasi emphasised the importance of expanding bilateral business ties through investment and private-sector collaboration.

ICCI Senior Vice President Mohammad Ashfaq Chatha, Vice President Mohammad Waqas Khan, executive members Iftikhar Anwar Sethi, Abbas Hashmi, Israr ul Haq, Syed Imran Bukhari, Malik Rashid Tufail, Abrar ul Haq, Bilal Sohail Siddiqui, Mohammad Arif and Sadaf Asim Abbasi, along with other business community members, also attended.



posed locations. The NADRA chairman reaffirmed the authority's commitment to improving public access to registration services and making the centres operational as early as possible. The proposed facilities are expected to help residents obtain

national identity cards and other registration services locally, reducing the need to travel to distant areas.

Pullain Baloch also handed over a copy of the letter to Panjgur District Council Chairman Abdul Malik Saleh, who thanked him for his efforts.