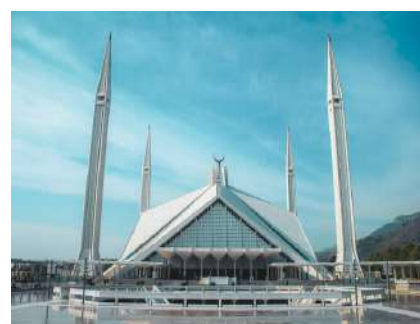




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Joint sitting of Parliament endorses emergency, governor's rule in KP amid Opp outcry



Dr Waheed M Khan

ISLAMABAD: A joint sitting of Parliament on Thursday gave its approval to the Centre's imposition of emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa amid a strong protest from the opposition.

The joint session had been summoned to discuss separate resolutions on the imposition of emergency and governor's rule in KP, where the opposition's PTI was in power.

During the session, which was addressed by both members of the treasury and opposition benches, the government justified its decision while the PTI lambasted the Centre and the allegations levelled against the party.

The Centre took the measures on Oct 11, citing the provincial government's "deliberate disengagement" from the fight against terrorism. The move followed weeks of political tensions between the Centre and the PTI — as well as

negotiations to bridge their differences — after the latter announced a long march to Islamabad to demand the release of its jailed founder, Imran Khan.

During Thursday's joint sitting, opposition members turned up carrying placards inscribed with slogans, such as "emergency na manzoor (emergency is unacceptable)".

PM Shehbaz, who attended part of the session, shook hands with opposition leaders of both the

Senate and the NA, pictures and footage showed.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry tabled the two proclamations and separate resolutions regarding the emergency and governor's rule.

After hours-long debate, NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq put the two resolutions to a vote, while opposition members chanted "emergency unacceptable". The resolutions approving emergency and governor's rule were then passed.

TTAP says 'there will be no talks' until meeting with Imran, health update

ANI

The Tehreek-e-Tahafuz-e-Aain Pakistan (TTAP) on Thursday announced it would suspend all negotiations with the government until Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan was allowed to meet his family and his doctors were granted access to him, declaring that "there will be no talks" until his health information was provided. The announcement came a day after the National Assembly and Senate endorsed the imposition of an emergency in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), deepening the political standoff between the government and opposition despite recent attempts to reach an understanding through dialogue. "Until a meeting with Imran is arranged and information about his health is provided, there will be no talks with the government," the alliance said in a statement shared on X after a meeting chaired by its chairman, Mahmood Khan Achakzai. It added that all authority to negotiate with the government would rest exclusively with Achakzai.

The alliance also demanded the release of Imran's sisters and access to him for his doctors, as well as the immediate release of non-functional K-P Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, provincial Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swati, PTI provincial president Junaid Akbar and all arrested members of the national and provincial assemblies and party leaders.

The statement strongly condemned the imposition of governor's rule and an emergency in K-P, describing the measures as "an attack on the Constitution and the public mandate". It demanded that the decisions be withdrawn immediately, adding that the alliance's constituent parties would challenge them in the Peshawar High Court.

The National Assembly and Senate on Wednesday approved the emergency proclamation for K-P by majority vote, following the federal government's decision to impose the measure alongside governor's rule on October 11. The government has defended the move on security grounds, citing the province's deteri-



orating law and order situation and the need for greater coordination in counter-terrorism efforts.

The alliance also called for the release of human rights lawyer Imaan Mazari, her husband Hadi Chatha, Dr Mahrang Baloch and all political prisoners associated with the Baloch Yakjehti Committee.

It reiterated its opposition to all forms of terrorism, including violence against civilians by the state, attacks by state institutions against political parties and sectarian violence. The alliance expressed support for the National Action Plan but called for the immediate implementation of a joint resolution passed by a peace jirga in the K-P Assembly, rather than the adoption of new policies.

On Balochistan, TTAP blamed the worsening security situation on what it called an unrepresentative provincial government and failed federal policies. It called for the province's problems to be resolved through dialogue with its people rather than the use of force.

The statement also expressed concern over the situation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, alleging that an "artificial system" had been imposed on its people and condemning what it said was the deprivation of internet access and basic necessities for five months.

The alliance said restrictions on judicial independence and the media had prompted it to approach international human rights organisations and the United Nations to highlight what it described as human rights violations and breaches of the Constitution in Pakistan.

A day earlier, Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari renewed call for dialogue in the National Assembly.



Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, met with IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings 2026 in Bangkok.

Naqvi says govt exhausted efforts to secure K-P's cooperation on terrorism

ANI

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday said the federal government had exhausted all efforts to secure the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) government's cooperation in combating terrorism and avoiding the imposition of emergency and governor's rule, maintaining that the decision had been taken reluctantly after months of unsuccessful engagement. Addressing a joint session of Parliament, Naqvi rejected opposition allegations that the government had used terrorism for political purposes, saying it had repeatedly attempted to bring the provincial administration on board to fight terrorism together. "We made every effort to bring their government on board so that they could fight shoulder to shoulder with us," he said. The interior minister said efforts to secure cooperation from the provincial leadership had begun long before the latest round of political negotiations. Referring to an Apex Committee meeting held in



Peshawar in February, Naqvi said he had attended alongside the Peshawar corps commander, while the K-P chief minister had hosted the meeting. He said considerable difficulties had been encountered in arranging the meeting, which aimed to establish a common position on counter-terrorism.

The plan was to agree on a joint approach and issue a press release stating that federal and provincial authorities would work together to combat terrorism, he added. Naqvi urged lawmakers to obtain and read the press release that was eventually issued, particularly its concluding remarks, to understand what had transpired. He recalled that security personnel had been martyred on the same day and that participants had learned of their deaths during the meeting.

He said the K-P chief minister had been persuaded through a formal request to attend the funeral prayers of the personnel. Naqvi claimed this was the last occasion on which the chief minister had attended the funeral prayers of a security official. Turning to the government's negotiations with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Naqvi acknowledged that members of the party's negotiating committee had expressed a clear commitment to combating terrorism.

At least 34 children, teacher die in Peshawar school roof collapse



ANI

PESHAWAR: At least 35 people, including 34 students and a female teacher, have been killed after the roof of a private school collapsed in Peshawar's Dir Colony on Thursday.

According to Rescue 1122, the incident occurred on College Road in Dir Colony, prompting an immediate rescue operation. The administration of Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) said that 33 bodies were brought to the hospital. Two bodies were shifted to Naseerullah Khan Babar Memorial Hospital in the provincial capital, it added. He said all the children were aged 13 or younger. An emergency was declared at the hospital, where medical staff were providing immediate treatment to the injured, some of whom were reported to be in critical condition. Hospital administration officials were present in the trauma unit as the injured received medical care.

Pakistan Army personnel were assisting rescue workers and other relief agencies in the operation. Teams were pulling children and school staff from the debris and shifting them to hospitals for treatment. Following the collapse, rescue and police teams were directed to use all available resources to assist those trapped beneath the rubble. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police Zulfiqar Hameed instructed the Peshawar CCPO to supervise rescue efforts and directed traffic police to establish a green corridor to facilitate the uninterrupted movement of ambulances. The provincial police chief expressed solidarity with the affected families during the tragedy. An initial report into the incident found that the school building was already in a dilapidated condition. According to the report, the roof of one classroom collapsed first, followed by the rest of the structure as crowds gathered at the site during rescue efforts.

Student's suicide case: Islamabad court grants interim bail to co-suspect

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka on Thursday granted interim bail until Oct 20 to a co-suspect in a case pertaining to the alleged suicide of a 20-year-old student, who was allegedly defrauded of millions. Laiba Ijaz, a student at International Islamic University, is said to have been defrauded of Rs5 million, which she had paid to move to the United States for further studies. An agent is said to have handed her the travel documents that were later found to be fake. The main suspect in the case has been arrested and remanded in police custody. On Thursday, a co-suspect, linked to the forgery, was granted bail against surety bonds worth Rs20,000. The co-suspect appeared before the court along with his counsel, who argued that his client was innocent and had been "deliberately" implicated in the case. After hearing the initial arguments, the court granted interim relief to the co-suspect and sought responses from the relevant parties before proceeding further on the matter of the bail.

Five terrorists killed in Balochistan's Washuk IBO: ISPR

ANI

Security forces killed five terrorists belonging to the Indian proxy, Fitna al-Hindustan, during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Washuk district of Balochistan, the military's media wing said on Thursday.

The federal government last year officially designated all terrorist groups operating in Balochistan as Fitna al-Hindustan, accusing India of sponsoring a proxy war through the outfits. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the operation was conducted on the night of October 12-13 following reports of the presence of terrorists belonging to what



the military described as the Indian proxy Fitna al-Hindustan. "During the conduct of the operation, a terrorist hideout was busted by security forces through swift and decisive action," ISPR said, adding that five

Indian-sponsored terrorists were neutralised. A cache of weapons, ammunition and explosives was also recovered during the operation, the statement added. ISPR said sanitisation operations were being conducted to eliminate any other Indian-sponsored terrorists found in the area. "Relentless counter-terrorism campaign under the Azm-e-Istehkam vision, as approved by the Federal Apex Committee on the National Action Plan by security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan, would continue at full pace to wipe out menace of foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism from the country" the statement concluded.



Islamabad - Former Prime Minister Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan is meeting with Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Iftikhar Gilani.

PM reaffirms Govt.’s commitment to rights, inclusion of PWDs

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif reiterated that the Government of Pakistan remained committed to promoting the rights and equal opportunities for special persons in accordance with the national resolve and in line with the global principles of inclusion, equality, and dignity.

The Government is committed to work in close coordination with provincial governments and all stakeholders to ensure provision of inclusive educational institutions, barrier-free workplaces, safe roads and footpaths, accessible public buildings and transportation, to facilitate equal participation of special persons, the prime minister said in a message on the observance of International White Cane Safety Day on October 15.

He further stressed that the entire society must join hands to work collectively and to remove physical, social, and institutional barriers that prevent special persons from realizing their full potential.

On behalf of the entire nation the prime minister extended heartfelt tribute to the courage, vitality and spirit of life of the visually impaired special persons, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

“The dedication and devotion of the families, societal support system, and special organizations working for the empowerment and inclusion of the visually impaired special persons deserve appreciation. International White Cane Safety Day, in fact honors the independence, mobility, confidence, and dignity of millions visually impaired special persons around the world,” he added.

The prime minister observed that the



White Cane is an enabling tool that serves as an essential means of independently participating in everyday life and to aspire greater achievements adding, the participation and achievements of visually impaired special persons in every field of life merit tremendous commendation.

“Pakistan is especially proud of the milestones achieved by all these special individuals especially including Ms. Saima Saleem, a career diplomat who has been representing Pakistan at the highest global diplomacy forum of United Nations,” he added.

The prime minister said the Day also provided an opportunity to encourage sense of responsibility and to galvanize passion of service to humanity at individual and societal level, adding the occasion certainly promoted greater awareness about the rights and needs of persons with visual impairment. He also appreciated the efforts of the Pakistan Association of the Blind and other organizations, institutions, and individuals who were devotedly working to advocate for the rights, safety, independence, and social inclusion of special persons.

ETPB Headquarters to review preparations for 557th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji

ANI

ISLAMABAD: A high-level coordination meeting was held at the Headquarters of the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) to review arrangements for the 557th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of the Sikh faith. The meeting was chaired by Secretary ETPB Nasir Mushtaq, said in a Press release issued here on Thursday.

Deputy Secretary Saadat Shehbaz Khan and Deputy Secretary Syed Faraz Abbas were also present. Senior officers and representatives of the Rangers, Customs, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sui Gas and other relevant departments, along with District Police Officers (DPOs), Deputy Commissioners, representatives of the Press Information Department (PID), and other administrative institutions of the concerned districts, attended the meeting. The meeting reviewed in detail the arrangements for Sikh pilgrims, including foolproof security, accommodation, Langar, transportation, medical facilities, provision of clean drinking water, uninterrupted electricity and gas supply, and other necessary facilities. Following the meeting, Secretary ETPB Nasir Mushtaq briefed media representatives and said that the Government of Pakistan is fully prepared to host Sikh pilgrims arriving from India and other parts of the world. Secretary Nasir Mushtaq stated that Sikh pilgrims would arrive in Pakistan through the Wagah Border on November 22 , where they would be warmly welcomed.

Murad assures Chinese investors of security, announces over two dozen MoUs

ANI

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday assured Chinese investors of the provincial government’s commitment to protecting Chinese nationals and their projects, saying a dedicated security unit had been established within the Sindh police and its capacity was being further strengthened. Addressing the Sindh Investment and Trade Conference in Shanghai, the chief minister said the provincial government was committed to deploying all necessary resources to ensure the safety of Chinese nationals and investments in Sindh.

“It is our government’s pledge to make sure that all resources are used to ensure the safety of Chinese people and of Chinese projects in Sindh,” he said.

CM Shah also expressed gratitude to the Chinese government for assisting in building the capacity of the provincial police to improve security arrangements.

The chief minister’s remarks came as he invited Chinese business leaders to explore investment opportunities in Sindh, announcing that more than two dozen memorandums of understanding (MoUs) would be signed across key sectors during

the conference. The proposed agreements would cover energy and minerals, electric vehicles and automobile manufacturing, digital transformation, food processing, logistics, warehousing and trade, underscoring the provincial government’s commitment to strengthening economic cooperation with China. “I’m glad to inform you that today more than two dozen memorandums of agreement will be signed across these sectors,” he said, adding that each agreement would be assigned a dedicated focal person in the Sindh Investment Department and reviewed at the highest level of the provincial government.

“For us, signing is just the beginning of the work and not the end,” he said, emphasising the need to translate investment commitments into tangible economic activity. CM Shah highlighted Sindh’s strategic location, economic base, natural resources, investment incentives and existing Chinese investments as key reasons for investors to consider the province. He described Karachi as Pakistan’s financial capital and a gateway for seaborne trade, connecting investors to markets across the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia. He also pointed to the presence of the State Bank of Pakistan and the Pakistan



Stock Exchange in Karachi, as well as Sindh’s young and increasingly skilled workforce. “Thar holds about 175 billion tonnes of lignite, one of the largest coal reserves in the world,” the chief minister said, adding that the province’s wind corridor had an estimated potential of around 50,000 megawatts.

He also highlighted Sindh’s agricultural production, including rice, cotton, wheat, sugarcane, fruits and dates.

Outlining the province’s investment framework, CM Shah said special economic zones offered incentives guaranteed by law, including a 10-year income tax

exemption and duty-free imports of capital goods. He also noted that Sindh was the first province in Pakistan to enact public-private partnership legislation.

Referring to a regional assessment cited during the conference, he said Sindh had been ranked sixth alongside sovereign countries, highlighting the province’s standing as an investment destination. The Sindh Investment Department, he added, offered one-window facilitation to investors, from initial enquiries to the commencement of production. The chief minister cited several Chinese enterprises already operating in the province as evidence of the potential for further cooperation. He said Shanghai Electric’s Thar Block-I project, featuring a 1,320-megawatt power plant, had been in commercial operation since 2023, supplying electricity to millions of homes using locally sourced coal. He also mentioned China Machinery Engineering Corporation’s operations at Thar Block-II and China Three Gorges Corporation’s wind farm at Jhimpir. CM Shah also highlighted the operations of Service Long March Tyres, a Pakistan-China joint venture based in Nooriabad, saying the company had begun exporting to the United States and Brazil.

Punjab farmers urged to adopt water saving irrigation

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Water experts have urged Punjab farmers to gradually shift from flood irrigation to more efficient methods, including drip and sprinkler systems, to conserve dwindling water resources and cope with erratic rainfall and rising temperatures driven by climate change, while improving existing irrigation practices to keep costs manageable. Flood irrigation, widely used across Pakistan, has an overall efficiency rate of less than 45 per cent, highlighting the need for better water management and gradual adoption of modern techniques. Dr. Ghulam Zakir Hassan Sial, Director of the Irrigation Research Institute (IRI), Punjab, said farmers should not abandon flood irrigation overnight but adopt more efficient practices in phases according to their financial capacity and crop requirements. Talking to Wealth Pakistan, he said flood irrigation had relatively low initial costs but, when poorly managed, could result in excessive water application, runoff, waterlogging and soil salinity. He recommended improving existing irrigation practices through laser land levelling, proper irrigation scheduling and furrow irrigation before investing in more expensive systems.

SSP Tharparkar Arif Aziz Visits Rescue 1122 Station at DHQ Hospital Mithi

Report: Nareender Kumar/ ANI

THARPARKAR-- SSP Tharparkar Arif Aziz visited the Rescue 1122 station at DHQ Hospital Mithi to review its performance and emergency response services.

Station In-charge Habibullah Rahmoon briefed the SSP on ambulance facilities, road accident management and rescue operations. Arif Aziz appreciated the team’s dedication and highlighted its vital role in providing emergency assistance in the remote region of Tharparkar.

The SSP also planted a sapling at the station as part of the tree plantation campaign and urged citizens to



contribute to a greener environment. The Rescue 1122 team reaffirmed its commitment to providing timely emergency assistance to the public.

ECP moves to schedule Punjab, cantonment local polls

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday decided to proceed with local government elections in Punjab and cantonment areas, directing its offices to immediately submit draft election programmes for approval, after expressing dissatisfaction with the Punjab government’s proposed delay and noting the failure to receive the required formal request for cantonment polls.

The decisions were taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja and attended by ECP members Nisar Ahmed Durrani, Babar Hassan Bharwana and Justice (retired) Ikramullah Khan, along with the Election Commission secretary and senior officials. The commission reviewed the Punjab government’s response, received on October 14, to its October 2 letter and draft election programme. The provincial government proposed holding local government elections in three phases in April 2027, citing dense fog and severe winter conditions in December, followed by the beginning of Ramazan in February.

The ECP, however, declared the response unsatisfactory, noting that consultations with the provincial government under Section 219(3) of the Elections Act had been completed on August 20, 2026. During the consultations, the provincial government had agreed to

hold local government elections in Punjab between December 15, 2026, and January 15, 2027. The commission observed that the provincial government was now seeking to change the previously agreed dates. Taking into account its constitutional and legal responsibilities, the ECP decided to proceed with the electoral process and directed its office to immediately submit the draft election programme for Punjab for approval. The commission also expressed disappointment over the provincial government’s failure to provide lists of officers for appointment as District Returning Officers, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers, despite an earlier request. It directed the provincial government to provide the required lists within one week to facilitate the election. Separately, the ECP decided to proceed with preparations for local government elections in cantonment areas, directing its office to immediately submit the election programme for approval. The commission was informed that a consultative meeting had been held on April 15, 2026, with the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Defence and the Director General of the Military Lands and Cantonments Department. During the meeting, the ECP had asked the Defence Ministry secretary to forward a summary to the federal government so that it could formally request the commission to conduct cantonment elections under Section 19(D) of the Cantonments Act, 1924.

FDI reviews immunization programme field findings

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI) has reviewed field findings from the first and second quarters of 2026 under Pakistan’s Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI). The focus was on strengthening programme implementation, accountability and the effective use of resources. The findings were presented by the EY Pakistan team, a Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance assurance provider, during a dissemination session chaired by FDI Director General Dr. Musa Khan.

Representatives of the FDI, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and other partner organizations attended the session to review key observations, discuss implementation challenges and identify areas requiring improvement. The discussions focused on translating field findings into practical measures to enhance programme performance, improve coordination among stakeholders and ensure greater transparency in the delivery of immunisation services. Addressing the participants, Dr. Musa Khan emphasized the need to convert the findings into actionable measures to address identified gaps and strengthen the overall effectiveness of the immunisation programme.

ICCI President Zikria Akbar Zia Vows to Protect Traders’ Rights Through Collective Efforts



BY: Hurish Shah FT :

ISLAMABAD -- Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia has reaffirmed the Chamber’s commitment to protecting traders’ legitimate rights through unity, effective engagement with authorities and practical solutions to business challenges.

He was speaking to a delegation of trade leaders from various sectors of Islamabad, led by All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran President

Mohammad Ajmal Baloch, which visited ICCI to congratulate its newly elected leadership.

Zikria Akbar Zia stressed that unity among traders and industrialists was essential to addressing common concerns, including electricity shortages, high power bills and disruptions to business activities. Expressing concern over the sealing of commercial outlets in Islamabad, he called for dialogue, consultation and lawful procedures, while ensuring respect for traders’ dignity.

Ajmal Baloch said recent measures

had disrupted commercial activities and stressed that the business community would jointly decide its future course of action in consultation with ICCI to safeguard traders’ interests. ICCI Senior Vice President Mohammad Ashfaq Chatha assured the delegation that the Chamber would raise traders’ concerns with the relevant authorities and work to promote ease of doing business. Vice President Mohammad Waqas Khan also appreciated Ajmal Baloch’s efforts to unite and represent the business community.

Education ministry, ALECSO and COMSTECH sign accord to strengthen academic, scientific ties

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) and the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) have signed a memorandum of understanding to expand academic, scientific and technological cooperation between Pakistan and Arab countries.

The agreement was signed at the COMSTECH Secretariat by Higher Education Commission Executive Director Prof Dr Zia Ul Haq on behalf of the federal education ministry, COMSTECH Coordinator General Prof Dr Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary and ALECSO Director General Prof Dr Mohamed Ould Amar.

Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training Wajihah Qamar attended the signing ceremony. Senior officials of the three organisations were also present.

Under the agreement, the parties will develop and implement joint educational and scientific programmes in science, technology and innovation. They will also col-

laborate in organising conferences, seminars, workshops, exhibitions and professional training courses at the national and international levels.

The memorandum provides for the establishment of ALECSO Chairs at selected Pakistani universities and stronger linkages between Arab research centres and universities, scientific institutions and research organisations in Pakistan. The three organisations will also explore scholarship and training opportunities for Pakistani students in Arab countries and for students from Arab countries in Pakistan. Exchanges of experts, academics and researchers, along with the sharing of methodologies, experience and good practices, form another component of the agreement.

Ms Qamar described the agreement as the beginning of a new phase in educational and scientific relations between Pakistan and the Arab world.

She said the partnership should translate into practical opportunities for students, teachers and researchers through scholarships, academic exchanges, professional training and collaborative research.

International academic partnerships, she said, were important for

equipping young people with modern skills and linking Pakistani universities with wider research and knowledge networks.

Prof Choudhary said COMSTECH would serve as a facilitating institution by connecting Pakistani universities and research centres with their counterparts in Arab countries and coordinating follow-up on agreed initiatives.

He said the agreement should not remain confined to a document and should instead lead to measurable programmes that directly benefit students, researchers and academic institutions.

Prof Amar said the memorandum provided a practical framework for bringing educational and scientific institutions in Pakistan and the Arab world closer together. He expressed the hope that it would result in sustained cooperation in education, culture, science and technology.

Prof Zia Ul Haq welcomed the initiative and said stronger institutional linkages could open new opportunities for universities, scientists and young researchers.

The parties agreed to identify priority projects and establish coordination arrangements for the implementation and review of activities under the agreement.

NIRM reviews surgical services to improve patient care

ANI

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine (NIRM), Islamabad, has reviewed the performance and operational requirements of its surgical departments to strengthen inter-departmental coordination, improve patient safety and enhance the quality of health-care services. The meeting was chaired by NIRM Executive Director Dr. Murtaza Haider Jaferi and attended by Director

Administration Dr. Fatima Mishal, Deputy Director Services Dr. Adnan Riaz and heads of various surgical departments. The participants included Dr. Muhammad Ayaz and Dr. Basharat Hussain from Orthopaedics, Dr. Hazrat Ullah Aurakzai, Head of Paediatric Surgery, Dr. Azmat Ullah, Head of ENT, Dr. Muhammad Saaqi, Head of Plastic Surgery, Dr. Aslam Sheikh, Head of Ophthalmology, and Dr. Fartash, Head of Urology.

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Opinion

3

Explore the Treasurer of Knowledge



By: Dr. Syed Azhar Hussain
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Published By: ANI News Agency

Pakistan has produced a distinguished group of doctors, engineers, educationists, scientists, and scholars whose intellectual achievements have brought honour and recognition to the country at the global level. Among these eminent personalities, Prof. Dr. Munawer Sultana Mirza holds a place of distinction. An accomplished educationist, scholar, researcher, and academic leader, she has devoted her career to the advancement of education, teacher education, research, and academic excellence. Her significant contributions have earned her numerous national and international accolades and have contributed greatly to the intellectual standing and recognition of Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. Munawer Sultana Mirza is a UNESCO Comenius Laureate and has represented the Asia-Pacific region on the ILO-UNESCO Committee on the Status of Teachers, reflecting the international recognition of her expertise and scholarly standing. Pakistan has had the privilege of benefiting from her distinguished services at the highest levels of academia, including her service as Vice Chancellor at the university level. She is also Professor Emeritus at the University of the Punjab, where her academic leadership, guidance, and intellectual contributions have been held in high esteem. Her outstanding services to higher education have also been recognised through her appointment as a National Distinguished Professor by the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

Prof. Dr. Mirza is the Founder and First Chairperson of the Accreditation Council for Teacher Education in Pakistan. In this pioneering role, she has played a significant role in promoting quality assurance, professional standards, accreditation, and academic excellence in teacher education. Her leadership has contributed to strengthening the institutional foundations of teacher preparation and advancing the quality of teacher education in Pakistan.

In recognition of her exceptional and meritorious services as an educationist, researcher, and academic leader, the Government of Pakistan has conferred upon her the prestigious "Izaz-e-Fazeelat" and "Fatma Jinnah" Medals. These national honours reflect her lifelong dedication to education and research and acknowledge her significant contributions in these fields.

Throughout her academic career, Prof. Dr. Mirza has conceived, undertaken, and successfully completed numerous research projects at the national and international levels. Her research has generated valuable knowledge, critical insights, and practical perspectives with significant implications for educational policy, planning, and practice. The findings of these projects provide useful intellectual and practical guidance for effective implementation and contribute to the promotion of quality education in Pakistan.

The year 2026 marks another significant chapter in her continuing scholarly journey. During this period, her intellectual contributions have provided valuable guidance and inspiration to academics, sociologists, anthropologists, policymakers, researchers, and intellectuals engaged in research and development across diverse fields of knowledge. Her continued scholarly engagement, willingness to share knowledge, and commitment to mentoring the academic community demonstrate the enduring influence of an academic leader whose contributions extend beyond disciplinary and institutional boundaries.

Adding another distinguished milestone to her scholarly legacy, Vanguard Books (Pvt) Ltd. has published her research-oriented book entitled Teacher Education in Pakistan: Precolonial Period to Present (ISBN: 978-969-402-723-4). The publication is a noteworthy contribution to the literature on teacher education and reflects her sustained commitment to scholarly pursuits, historical research, and critical inquiry.

With exceptional scholarly insight and a strong understanding of educational history, Prof. Dr. Munawer Sultana Mirza has brought to light the profound transformation of the indigenous educational system during the nineteenth century. Her scholarly work highlights the gradual decline of state patronage for education following the fall of the Mughal Empire and, more significantly, examines the far-reaching consequences of the educational policies introduced by the East India Company and later continued under direct British rule. She explains how these policies not only weakened the established indigenous institutions of learn-

ing but also gradually displaced a rich educational heritage that had developed over centuries.

In her detailed analysis, she observes: "The diminishing state support for education completely ceased with the end of the Mughal Era in 1857. The educational policies of the East India Company and those under direct British Rule further destroyed and dismantled the indigenous system and its good features." This observation reflects her deep understanding of the historical forces that reshaped the educational landscape of the subcontinent. Her examination goes beyond merely recounting historical events and encourages readers to critically reflect on the decline of indigenous educational traditions, institutional structures, intellectual practices, and values that once formed an important part of the region's educational heritage.

Prof. Dr. Mirza has succeeded in preserving an important chapter of educational history and bringing its enduring implications to the attention of contemporary scholars, educationists, policymakers, and intellectuals. Her work therefore represents not merely a historical account but also a significant scholarly effort to understand the roots, changes, and continuing challenges of education in the subcontinent. It serves as a reminder that an informed understanding of the past is essential for envisioning a more equitable, culturally responsive, and intellectually strong future for education in Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. Munawer Sultana Mirza also demonstrates considerable historical insight and analytical understanding in identifying the factors that contributed to the comparatively better quality of education in Madras. She observes: "The reason for better quality in Madras can be attributed to the long hold of the East India Company in Madras since the mid-eighteenth century." This observation is significant as it places educational development within its broader historical, administrative, and institutional context. It also reflects her approach to understanding educational change not as an isolated phenomenon, but as the result of interactions among political authority, institutional structures, administrative arrangements, and educational policies.

Equally important is her critical analysis of the persistent challenges in establishing and sustaining quality education in Pakistan. Examining the relationship between educational planning and policy implementation, she observes: "Unfortunately, the strategies developed under the Five-year Plans have remained short in realizing the recommendations of the Commission on National Education to introduce specialised tracks in School Education." This observation highlights a recurring issue in educational development: the gap between policy objectives and their translation into coherent, sustainable, and effectively implemented educational programmes. Her analysis therefore draws attention to the need for greater policy continuity, institutional capacity, effective implementation mechanisms, and better alignment between educational planning and national priorities.

The author also acknowledges the contribution of USAID to the restructuring of teacher education in Pakistan, noting: "USAID came to support the restructuring of the Teacher Education Programme at the national level through STEP and Pre-STEP in 2008." The inclusion of this aspect broadens the historical and analytical scope of the study by recognising the role of international development partnerships in shaping teacher education reforms. At the same time, the discussion highlights the importance of examining such interventions within the broader context of national educational policy, institutional development, professional preparation, and quality assurance.

A central argument emerging from the book is that the sustainable development and intellectual advancement of a nation are closely linked to the quality of its education system. Quality education, however, cannot be achieved without qualified, professionally competent, intellectually capable, and ethically committed teachers who are continuously developing their knowledge and skills. A teacher is not merely an implementer of the curriculum or a link between policy and the learner; rather, the teacher plays a central role in the educational process and in bringing meaningful change. Therefore, the professional preparation, continuous professional development, pedagogical competence, ethical values, and intellectual growth of teachers must remain at the heart of any meaningful strategy for educational transformation.

This proposition assumes even greater significance in the contemporary era of rapid technological change and the emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The

teacher of the future will be required not only to transmit knowledge but also to develop critical thinking, creativity, ethical reasoning, digital literacy, adaptability, collaboration, and the ability to navigate an increasingly complex knowledge society. Pakistani teachers, therefore, must continuously update their professional knowledge and pedagogical practices to respond effectively to the changing educational environment. The integration of technology and AI into education should complement, rather than diminish, the essential human, ethical, intellectual, and social dimensions of teaching and learning.

The book further advances an important national perspective by highlighting the need to learn from the rich intellectual and educational heritage of the region. The study of this distinguished work promises to make a meaningful contribution to the thinking of academics, educational planners, and policymakers seeking to shape a progressive, enlightened, and knowledge-driven future for Pakistan. One of the notable features of Prof. Dr. Munawer Sultana Mirza's scholarship is her ability to place the contemporary educational challenges of Pakistan within the broader historical context of the region's rich intellectual heritage.

In tracing this heritage, she draws attention to Taxila, one of the renowned ancient centres of learning in the region, and observes: "Taxila University was teaching nearly sixteen branches of knowledge, including Medicine, Painting, Sculpture, Astronomy and Veterinary Sciences." This historical reference is significant because it highlights the breadth, diversity, and interdisciplinary nature of knowledge that flourished in the region in ancient times. The intellectual tradition associated with Taxila reflects a culture in which scholarship, scientific inquiry, medicine, the arts, and different branches of knowledge were valued as important components of human development.

The significance of this legacy extends beyond historical remembrance. It provides an important basis for reflecting on the educational condition of Pakistan today. The contrast between the intellectual vibrancy of ancient centres of learning and the contemporary challenges facing the country's education system raises an important question: How can a land with such a rich tradition of scholarship reclaim and strengthen its intellectual potential in the twenty-first century? Prof. Dr. Mirza's work invites us to consider this question by viewing education not merely as a contemporary policy concern but also as a responsibility rooted in the intellectual heritage of the region.

The journey from Taxila to contemporary Pakistan is therefore not simply a passage through history; it represents a continuing quest for knowledge, educational excellence, and human development. The challenge before Pakistan today is to transform its rich intellectual heritage into a dynamic educational vision that can respond to the demands of the modern knowledge society. The spirit of inquiry that characterised the ancient centres of learning needs to be strengthened through contemporary institutions, quality teacher education, rigorous research, critical thinking, technological competence, and an educational culture that encourages creativity and innovation.

This historical continuity assumes even greater importance in the age of Artificial Intelligence, digital transformation, and rapidly changing knowledge systems. Pakistan cannot secure a meaningful place in the global knowledge economy without improving the quality of its education system and, above all, investing in the intellectual and professional development of its teachers. The teacher of today must not be limited to transmitting established knowledge but should also facilitate inquiry, innovation, ethical reasoning, creativity, and lifelong learning.

Thus, the intellectual journey presented in Prof. Dr. Mirza's book—from the ancient scholarly tradition of Taxila, through the transformations of the colonial period, to the contemporary challenges of teacher education—provides a useful framework for understanding Pakistan's educational past and its future direction. The legacy of Taxila should not remain merely a reminder of the past; it should inspire efforts to strengthen a culture of scholarship and educational excellence in Pakistan today. In this sense, the book establishes a meaningful connection between historical heritage and contemporary educational transformation, offering academia and policymakers valuable perspectives for developing an education system that respects the country's intellectual heritage while preparing it to meet the challenges of the future.

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir: Strengthening Pakistan's Defence and Global Standing Through Strategic Vision, Military Modernization and Resolute Leadership



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

The stature of a military leader is measured by the confidence he inspires, the preparedness he strengthens and the responsibility with which he exercises command. For Pakistan, situated in a demanding security environment, leadership must combine courage with judgment and resolve with restraint. Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's leadership deserves appreciation through this demanding lens: defending national sovereignty, preparing soldiers for changing warfare and strengthening Pakistan's engagement with influential international partners.

His elevation to field marshal in May 2025 marked an exceptional moment in Pakistan's military history. The government awarded the rank following the confrontation with India, citing his leadership in safeguarding national security. Syed Asim Munir described the honour as belonging to the armed forces and the nation. That acknowledgement matters: military achievement rests upon the collective service of officers, soldiers and supporting institutions.

The strongest argument in favour of his leadership lies in the connection between strategic ambition and practical preparation. Modern defence requires more than numerical strength. It demands intelligence, technological competence, coordination and the ability to adapt under pressure. A commander's responsibility is to ensure that bravery receives the support of effective training, reliable equipment and clear operational thinking.

This emphasis was evident during Exercise Steadfast Resolve in January 2026. According to the military's statement, reported by Associated Press of Pakistan, the

exercise incorporated drones, advanced surveillance, electronic warfare and modern command systems. Syed Asim Munir stressed innovation, indigenous capability and adaptation to technological change. These priorities offer a credible direction for an army seeking to maintain professional relevance in an increasingly complex security environment.

Such an approach deserves recognition because tomorrow's challenges cannot be addressed solely through yesterday's methods. Investment in training and technological understanding strengthens operational confidence. Encouraging domestic expertise can also support greater resilience. The value of this vision will ultimately be measured through sustained preparedness, effective implementation and the protection it delivers to Pakistan's citizens.

Internationally, Syed Asim Munir's visibility provides evidence of Pakistan's renewed strategic relevance. Reuters reported in April 2026 that he had played a prominent role in Pakistan's diplomatic outreach and its emergence as an intermediary between the United States and Iran. His engagements with American leadership illustrated the access Pakistan had secured during a consequential regional crisis. Such developments support a favourable assessment of his contribution to Pakistan's international standing, alongside the work of the government and diplomatic service.

Recognition from Saudi Arabia provides another concrete example. In December 2025, Syed Asim Munir received the King Abdulaziz Medal of the Excellent Class during a visit focused on defence cooperation and regional security. The award reflected the importance attached to Pakistan's military relationship with the kingdom. International honours cannot establish universal approval, but they do demonstrate recognition from significant partners.

An equally meaningful dimension of leadership is compassion

during national hardship. During the August 2025 floods, Syed Asim Munir visited affected areas and assured the Sikh community that damaged religious sites, including Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, would be restored. Radio Pakistan reported appreciation from Sikh community members for timely relief efforts. Protecting people and respecting their sacred places strengthens the moral authority of public service.

The musical tribute circulating online adds a cultural dimension to expressions of admiration for Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. Titled "Asim Munir Tu Aja" and credited by its publisher to Vicky Pindiwala, the YouTube upload presents a supportive portrayal of his leadership. The publisher associates the song with Jalandhar, India, suggesting a cross-border connection that, if independently verified, would offer a notable example of appreciation extending beyond national boundaries.

The Pakistan Army has earned international recognition through decades of dedicated service, professional excellence and sacrifice. Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's contribution lies in building upon this distinguished legacy through military modernisation, strategic engagement and a sustained emphasis on operational readiness. Recognising his leadership also means honouring the generations of officers and soldiers whose courage and commitment laid the foundations of the institution's enduring reputation.

The enduring promise of his vision lies in a Pakistan confident enough to defend itself, capable enough to adapt and responsible enough to pursue peace. Lasting military distinction grows through professionalism, constitutional responsibility, public trust and respect for human dignity. By advancing these standards, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir can strengthen both the army's international standing and its deepest obligation: ensuring that the people of Pakistan live with greater security, confidence and hope.

Governor's Rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: A Bitter Pill the State Could Not Avoid



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

The imposition of emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on October 11 has reopened an old constitutional debate about provincial autonomy and the centre's powers. Such a debate is legitimate, but it should be conducted with the country's history and the province's security situation in view.

Chapter 10 of the 1973 Constitution deals with emergency provisions. Article 232 covers war, external aggression or grave internal disturbance, while Article 234 applies when constitutional machinery fails in a province. On the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, President Asif Ali Zardari approved the measure, and the province's executive authority has passed to Governor Faisal Karim Kundi. The government cites rising terrorism, deteriorating law and order and threats to life and property. Emergency has also been declared in the former FATA and adjoining areas, with a special administrative approach for 12 affected districts.

Governor's rule is hardly new to Pakistan. The first instance came in Punjab in January 1949, under the Government of India Act 1935, when Governor Sir Francis Mudie took charge. Sindh saw such rule in 1951, 1988 and 1998, and Punjab again in 1973, 1975, 1999 and January 2013, the last after the Alamdar Road bombings killed over 100 members of the Hazara community. Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa experienced it in 1975, after the Peshawar University blast, and again in 1994 and 1999. The present measure is the fourth in the province's history.

Honesty requires admitting that many of these episodes were politically motivated, and some were plainly abusive, such as the dismissal of Balochistan's government in 1973. Each case rested on a different legal footing and must be judged on its own facts. What distinguishes the present case, the government argues, is that its stated ground is security, the same ground that justified the 2013 action in Balochistan after mass killings.

That argument deserves serious consideration. The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is a terrorist organisation with no claim to legitimacy or sympathy. Its violence, from the 2014 massacre at the Army Public School in Peshawar to countless attacks on soldiers, police and ordinary citizens, has cost Pakistan thousands of lives. Supporters of the measure contend that this militancy is no longer a purely provincial problem. An unchecked TTP and its allied groups, they say, threaten not only the province but the federal capital and the state itself. A national threat demands a coordinated national response, and a provincial government that obstructs it, or declines to join it, cannot be allowed to set the pace.

Here the record of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, (PTI) which has governed the province for years, comes under scrutiny. Its critics argue that the party's leadership was reluctant to take firm measures against the TTP, preferring ambiguity, political point-scoring and public posturing to genuine cooperation with the centre. Calls for dialogue, resistance to operations and a habit of blaming Islamabad for every failure, they say, created space in which militants regrouped, recruited and returned to

the districts they had once been driven from. In this reading, governor's rule is the consequence of that policy rather than its cause, and the federal government is not so much seizing authority as inheriting a crisis it was left no room to avoid.

The stakes extend well beyond the province. A militancy that settles along the border and grows unchecked does not stay there. It reaches the settled districts, then the major cities, and eventually the capital. A federal government that watched this unfold while formally respecting provincial boundaries would be failing in its most basic obligation.

No government welcomes the suspension of an elected provincial administration. It invites charges of authoritarianism and angers a province with a long memory of grievance against the centre. The people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have also paid the heaviest price in this war, in lives lost, homes destroyed and communities displaced, and they deserve to hear the reasons for this decision from their government, not just from its critics. Those who call the measure excessive must answer a harder question: what is the alternative when citizens are being killed and the elected leadership will not act?

The government has chosen to bear the political cost, and it must now earn the public's trust. If the measure is time-bound, exercised under constitutional oversight and followed by a prompt restoration of the elected government, it can be remembered as a necessary intervention rather than another entry on the long list of abuses. The federal government must restore peace swiftly, respect the constitutional limits of emergency powers and return authority to the people's representatives. The emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are, in the end, the price of a political choice made by the Pakistan





Islamabad: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets parliamentarians during the joint session of Parliament in Islamabad.

Foreign Secretary Asim Iftikhar Ahmad Calls on Senate Chairman Yousuf Raza Gilani

BY: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD --Foreign Secretary Asim Iftikhar Ahmad called on Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani at Parliament House on Thursday to discuss coordination between parliamentary diplomacy and formal diplomatic channels to advance Pakistan's foreign policy priorities and strengthen international partnerships.

Chairman Senate welcomed the Foreign Secretary and congratulated him on assuming his new responsibilities. He expressed confidence that his diplomatic experience would contribute to advancing Pakistan's foreign policy objectives and safeguarding national interests.

Gilani emphasised the importance of sustained diplomatic engagement, constructive dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation. He highlighted the role of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening bilateral relations, promoting political understanding and expanding international cooperation.

Referring to his recent bilateral



visits and participation in the 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Tanzania, Gilani said parliamentary engagements provide valuable opportunities to strengthen ties and discuss regional and international issues. He also highlighted his role as founding chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers Conference (ISC).

The meeting underscored the importance of coordination between the Senate and the Foreign Office in

strengthening Pakistan's diplomatic outreach and international partnerships. Foreign Secretary Asim Iftikhar Ahmad thanked the Senate Chairman for the warm welcome and acknowledged his contribution to projecting Pakistan's image internationally through parliamentary diplomacy. MNA Abdul Qadir Gilani, Secretary Senate Syed Hasnain Haider and Advisor to the Chairman Senate and Ambassador to the ISC Misbah Khar also attended the meeting.

Turkic World Emerging as a Major Tourism Destination in Eurasia, Uzbekistan

Report: ANI Correspondent:

UZBEKISTAN -- Tourism has become a strategic priority for Uzbekistan, promoting economic growth, cultural exchange and international cooperation. The country is strengthening tourism ties with member states of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) to develop a common regional tourism space.

A key initiative is the unified tourist route, "The Great Silk Road," linking historic destinations such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Baku, Almaty, Bishkek and Ankara. The



route highlights the region's rich cultural heritage, architecture, traditions and cuisine. Uzbekistan is also promoting tourism education, infrastructure

development, easier travel arrangements and digital services to improve the visitor experience. Joint initiatives aim to strengthen connectivity and encourage travel across Turkic countries.

According to the article, more than 6.15 million tourists from the OTS region visited member countries over the past year.

Uzbekistan has reaffirmed its commitment to expanding regional cooperation and promoting the Turkic world as an attractive and sustainable tourism destination in Eurasia.

DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem Holds Open Court, Orders Prompt Resolution of Public Complaints; Rewards PO Branch Team



Report: ANI

ISLAMABAD -- Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Islamabad Ali Waseem held an open court at his office, where he listened to citizens' complaints and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for their prompt resolution.

DIG Ali Waseem said resolving

public grievances on merit was a top priority of Islamabad Police. He added that citizens could directly approach the DIG Office's daily open court to submit their complaints without any recommendation or reference.

On the occasion, DIG Ali Waseem awarded cash prizes and certificates of appreciation to the In-Charge of

the PO Branch and his team in recognition of their outstanding professional performance.

He emphasised that recognising dedication, commitment and efficiency on merit encourages police personnel to improve their performance and enhances the quality of services provided to citizens.

Muhammad Afzal Khan Niazi Promoted to Principal (BPS-19), Assumes Charge at Islamabad Model School for Boys, Koral



BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD --Muhammad Afzal Khan Niazi has been promoted to Principal (BPS-19) and has assumed charge as Principal of Islamabad Model School for Boys, Koral, Islamabad.

His promotion and assumption of

charge have been warmly welcomed by school staff and members of the education community, who extended their congratulations and best wishes on his new responsibilities.

The education community expressed hope that his professional experience, leadership abilities and commitment to education would

contribute to improving academic standards, strengthening institutional performance and providing a supportive learning environment for students. The school staff and well-wishers wished Muhammad Afzal Khan Niazi success in his new role and further achievements in his professional career.

Parliamentary Joint Sitting Approves Emergency and Governor's Rule in KP by Majority Vote; 214 Members Support Motion, 56 Oppose

Report :Ahmed Shamsur Rehman/ ANI

ISLAMABAD -- A joint sitting of Parliament, chaired by National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on Thursday approved the proclamations of emergency and Governor's Rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by a majority vote, amid strong protests from opposition members.

The motion received 214 votes in favour and 56 against. The opposition, including SIC/PTI members, staged a protest, chanted slogans and tore copies of the agenda while opposing the measures.

During the debate, Law and Justice Minister Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar defended the emergency and Governor's Rule, saying the decisions had been taken within the constitutional framework as a last resort in view of the deteriorating law-and-order situation in the province. He said the measures did not amount to martial law and that the federal government had repeatedly attempted to engage the provincial government on security matters.

Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Mehmood Khan Achakzai strongly criticised the government, opposing Governor's Rule and calling for negotiations and respect for Parliament. He also raised concerns over alleged human rights violations, the treatment of political prisoners and the use of force against protesters.

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Senator Sherry Rehman called for a joint strategy between federal and provincial governments to address political and security challenges. She also criticised past decisions concerning the return of militants and claimed that terrorism in KP had increased significantly.

Senator Allama Raja Nasir Abbas criticised the government over what he described as the undermining of the public mandate and restrictions on elected representatives. He called for the release of detained political leaders and lawmakers, and urged the government to pursue negotiations to prevent further instability in KP and Balochistan.

Barrister Gohar Ali Khan rejected allegations that PTI or the KP government supported terrorism, insisting that counterterrorism efforts should not be politicised. He opposed the application of Articles 232, 234 and 245 in the province and



called on the government to substantiate its allegations against the provincial leadership.

Senator Syed Ali Zafar also opposed the emergency proclamation, arguing that the measures violated constitutional principles. He maintained that the fight against terrorism could not be won by undermining the Constitution and rejected the motion.

ANP leader Aimal Wali Khan recalled his party's sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and called for implementation of the National Action Plan. He opposed Governor's Rule, arguing that political and security challenges required effective action against militants and their alleged facilitators.

JUI Senator Kamran Murtaza questioned the constitutional grounds for imposing emergency and Governor's Rule, asking for the presidential proclamation's record and the governor's report. He also questioned why KP had been singled out when Balochistan faced serious security challenges.

PPP leader Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said exceptional circumstances could compel governments to take difficult decisions but cautioned against restricting PTI's political space. He called for renewed negotiations and a change in political attitudes to help restore normal governance.

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry described the emergency as a last resort rather than a political victory or defeat. He alleged that the KP government had failed to cooperate with the federal government on counterterrorism efforts and said the emergency would remain until terrorism was eliminated from the province.

Sindh Governor Nehal Hashmi Meets Korean Consul General to Boost Trade and Investment

Report: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI -- Sindh Governor Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi visited the Consulate of the Republic of Korea, where he met Consul General Joohoon Kim and diplomatic officials to discuss expanding bilateral trade, investment and industrial cooperation.

The Governor highlighted Pakistan's potential as a trade gateway to Central Asia and Africa, identifying agriculture, textiles, minerals and sporting goods as promising sectors for cooperation. He assured Korean investors of the government's support and commitment to providing a favourable investment environment.

Consul General Joohoon Kim expressed interest in investment opportunities in Pakistan, particularly in manufacturing and energy, and stressed the need to further strengthen economic ties between



the two countries.

The meeting also discussed balanced tariff policies to facilitate bilateral trade and encourage investment. Governor Nehal Hashmi noted that the popularity of Korean music, dramas, digital products and beauty products in

Pakistan reflected growing cultural ties between the two countries.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening trade, investment and industrial cooperation between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea.

Assistant Commissioner Umair Ashraf Launches Anti-Encroachment Drive in Mithi

Report: ANI Correspondent:

MITHI -- Assistant Commissioner Mithi Umair Ashraf has launched an anti-encroachment drive with a large police contingent to remove illegal structures and clear public spaces. The operation is underway along the route from Civil Hospital Mithi to the city's bus terminal, targeting unauthorised structures, pushcarts and goods placed outside shops. The drive aims to ease traffic congestion, improve pedestrian access and ensure the smooth movement of commuters by clearing roads and public spaces.



Senate Approves 'Dr.' Title for Legislative Drafting Director Azhar Siddique

Report: ANI

ISLAMABAD --The Senate Secretariat has approved the addition of the title "Dr." to the name of Azhar Siddique, Director of Legislative Drafting



at the Senate, following the completion of his PhD degree.

Under the

approval, he will officially be known as Dr. Azhar Siddique in government records. The Secretary of the Senate approved the change, and the Secretariat has issued a formal notification in this regard.