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QUETTA VOICE

Rs415bn N-25 Expressway Project to Improve Karachi-Quetta Connectivity: Aleem Khan

**Muhammad Faizan
Aslam Khan:**

The Rs415 billion Karachi-Quetta-Chaman Expressway (N-25) project will improve connectivity between major cities, reduce travel time and facilitate trade with Balochistan, Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan said.

He made the remarks during a meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail in Islamabad, where they reviewed the proposed NHA road and infrastructure projects in Balochistan, including the N-25 Pakistan Expressway and Zhob Bypass.

Aleem Khan said the Karachi-Quetta-Chaman Pakistan Expressway would become an important commercial and trade corridor, strengthening road connectivity between Balochistan and other parts of the country.

He said the N-25 project was being developed according to modern transportation requirements and would make journeys between Karachi and Quetta easier and more efficient.

The federal minister said the government was taking steps to ensure the completion of National Highway Authority (NHA) projects in Balochistan, particularly schemes aimed at improving major highways and regional connectivity.

Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail appreciated the NHA's focus on Balochistan's road infrastructure and



Photos of Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jafar Khan Mandokhail and Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan

thanked the communications ministry for its attention to the N-25 highway project.

He said the NHA was

performing valuable services for Balochistan and stressed the importance of completing major communication projects

to support economic and trade activities in the province.

The meeting also discussed the Zhob Bypass and

other proposed communications and road development projects in Balochistan.

The Federal Secretary for

Communications and Chairman of the National Highway Authority also attended the meeting.

Balochistan Assembly Passes Resolution Against Sadiq Umrani's Remarks



Photo of Provincial Assembly

NEWS DESK:

QUETTA: A joint condemnation resolution against Balochistan Provincial Minister Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani was presented in the Balochistan Assembly on Wednesday, demanding that his remarks made during the August 31 session be removed from the official assembly record.

Provincial Minister Ali Madad Jattak presented the resolution, which was also

backed by Ministers Ziaullah Langau, Noor Muhammad Dummer and Bakht Kakar.

MPAs Barkat Rind, Asfandyar Kakar, Hadiya Nawaz and Farah Azeem Shah were among the other lawmakers listed as movers of the resolution.

The resolution condemned the language used by Mir Sadiq Umrani during his speech and said his remarks had hurt the sentiments of the people of Balochistan.

Speaking on the floor of the house, Ali Madad Jattak

said that Mir Sadiq Umrani had stated that 235 people from Balochistan had been called to Islamabad and allegedly humiliated. Jattak also criticized Umrani over what he described as contradictory statements, saying that the party's parliamentary leader should maintain consistency in his position.

The lawmakers called for the controversial remarks made during the August 31 Balochistan Assembly session to be expunged from the proceedings.

Record 1,013kg Ice Seized in Gadani in Balochistan's Biggest Anti-Narcotics Operation

NEWS DESK:

The Excise and Anti-Narcotics Department Balochistan has seized a record 1,013 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine (ice) worth an estimated Rs74.19 billion in the international market during a major operation in Gadani.

The seizure, described by the department as its largest-ever drug bust, was carried out by the

The enforcement operation was supervised by Director General Excise and Anti-Narcotics (South Zone) Muhammad Zaman.

Previous Major Drug Seizures

The Gadani operation follows several significant seizures conducted by the Excise Department along Balochistan's coastal routes over the past two years.

In one major operation, authorities confiscated 425kg of ice,

ported the seizure of 10,000 units of foreign alcohol, valued at approximately Rs18.5 million, while separate coastal enforcement operations resulted in the recovery of 3,717 and 750 units of foreign liquor and beer.

Rs133.56 Billion Loss Reported for Drug Networks

According to the Excise Department, its operations over the



South Zone Excise and Anti-Narcotics teams as part of an ongoing crackdown on drug trafficking along Balochistan's coastal belt.

According to the department, the seized contraband comprised one tonne and 13 kilograms of ice, dealing a major financial blow to suspected transnational drug trafficking networks.

The operation was conducted under the direction of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, with special instructions from Excise Secretary Zafar Ali Bukhari.

20kg of hashish and 5,076 units of foreign liquor and beer, with the department estimating their international street value at around Rs31.35 billion.

Another large-scale counter-narcotics operation resulted in the recovery of 200kg of ice,

600kg of hashish and 8,000 units of foreign alcohol, with an estimated international market value of approximately Rs28 billion.

The seized drugs and alcohol were later destroyed during an event marking World Drug Day.

The department also re-

ported the seizure of 10,000 units of foreign alcohol, valued at approximately Rs18.5 million, while separate coastal enforcement operations resulted in the recovery of 3,717 and 750 units of foreign liquor and beer.

The department estimates that these seizures have caused financial losses of more than Rs133.56 billion to drug trafficking networks.

Director General Muhammad Zaman said the department would continue its zero-tolerance policy against drug trafficking, with a particular focus on preventing narcotics from reaching young people and strengthening security along Balochistan's coastal routes.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Mothers: The Real Strength Behind Every Nation

By Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi:
Motherhood remains one of the most powerful and transformative forces in human civilization. Across cultures, religions, and nations, mothers symbolize love, sacrifice, resilience, and unconditional support. On International Mother's Day, the world reflects on the extraordinary role mothers play in shaping families, strengthening societies, and building nations.

A mother is a child's first teacher and lifelong guide. Before formal education begins, it is the mother who introduces values such as kindness, discipline, compassion, honesty, and respect. The moral foundation of every society is first built within homes, where mothers nurture the character and emotional well-being of future generations. Their influence extends far beyond family life and directly impacts the social, cultural, and national fabric of a country.

In today's fast-changing world, where societies face growing social divisions, emotional stress, and moral uncertainty, the importance of mothers has become even more significant. Mothers are not merely caregivers; they are the guardians of social values and the backbone of stable communities.

No nation can achieve sustainable peace, development,



or prosperity without strong families, and strong families are built by empowered and respected mothers.

In Pakistan, motherhood holds deep cultural, religious, and emotional significance. From an early age, children are taught the timeless principle that paradise lies beneath the feet of mothers. This teaching reflects the immense respect Islam and Pakistani traditions place on maternal sacrifice and care.

Across the country, countless mothers dedicate their lives to securing a better fu-

ture for their children, often placing the needs, education, and comfort of their families above their own dreams and ambitions.

The mothers of Pakistan have consistently demonstrated courage and resilience during some of the nation's most difficult moments.

Whether during natural disasters, economic hardships, or times of conflict, mothers remained the emotional strength of their families and communities. The mothers of soldiers and martyrs deserve particular recognition for their extraordinary sacrifices. Their patience, dignity,

and unwavering courage remind us that patriotism is first nurtured within homes before it is witnessed on battlefields.

In Balochistan, motherhood reflects a unique story of endurance and resilience. Women in many remote and underserved areas continue to face serious challenges, including limited access to healthcare, education, and basic facilities.

Despite these hardships, mothers across the province continue to raise their children with dignity, strength, and hope. Their determination and sacrifices deserve

acknowledgment not only on Mother's Day but throughout the entire year.

The way a society treats its mothers often reflects its moral and social condition. Respecting mothers should not be limited to symbolic celebrations, flowers, or speeches once a year. Genuine respect requires practical action.

It means ensuring quality healthcare for women, better educational opportunities for girls, maternity protections in workplaces, financial security for families, and safe environments where women can thrive with dignity.

There is also an urgent need to recognize the emotional and invisible labor carried by mothers. In countless households, mothers work tirelessly from morning until night without recognition or appreciation. Their sacrifices are often overlooked simply because they are made quietly and consistently. Yet behind nearly every successful individual stands a mother who sacrificed her comfort, sleep, ambitions, and personal well-being for the future of her children.

Modern research increasingly highlights that emotional and

mental well-being begins within the home. Children raised in stable and loving environments are more likely to become responsible, confident, and compassionate citizens. Mothers play a central role in creating that environment. Their guidance during uncertainty, patience during hardship, and prayers during difficult times leave lifelong impacts on their children's character and future.

At the same time, motherhood should never become synonymous with exhaustion or isolation. Families and communities must actively support mothers and share responsibilities within households. Raising children and managing family life should not remain the burden of women alone. A truly progressive society is one where mothers receive emotional, social, and institutional support alongside respect and appreciation.

International Mother's Day also serves as a reminder to remember mothers who are no longer with us. Their teachings, sacrifices, and prayers continue to guide our lives long after their departure. Many people realize the true value of a mother only after losing her presence. This occasion encourages individuals to express gratitude, love, and care while they still have the opportunity.

In an age dominated by technology and digital communication, family structures and human relationships are rapidly changing. Despite these transformations, the warmth, sincerity, and emotional security provided by a mother remain irreplaceable. No institution, technology, or social system can substitute the comfort and strength that a mother gives to her children.

As the world celebrates International Mother's Day, societies must move beyond ceremonial messages and seriously reflect on their responsibilities toward mothers. Respect for mothers should be visible in public policies, social attitudes, and everyday behavior.

Children must be taught from an early age to honor their mothers not only through words but through actions, by listening to them, supporting them in old age, and standing beside them during difficult moments.

The true strength of nations does not emerge solely from economic growth, military power, or political systems. It begins within homes, where mothers nurture honesty, resilience, compassion, faith, and humanity in future generations. Every successful civilization has been built upon the sacrifices of mothers whose names may never appear in history books, yet whose influence shapes the destiny of nations.

Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan Recognised for Driving Governance Reforms in Balochistan

By Sheikh Abdul Razaq:
QUETTA: The role of an efficient bureaucracy remains central to effective governance, particularly in provinces facing complex administrative and developmental challenges. In Balochistan, the recent recognition of Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, by the provincial cabinet and Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti during the provincial budget session has highlighted the significance of strong institutional leadership in advancing governance reforms.

Governance experts argue that while elected governments provide policy direction, successful implementation depends largely on a capable and professional civil service.

In Balochistan, where issues such as vast geography, infrastructure gaps, developmental disparities, and security concerns continue to pose challenges, an effective administrative framework is essential for sustainable progress.

Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, widely regarded as an experienced and competent civil servant, has played a pivotal role in enhancing interdepartmental coordination, strengthening administrative efficiency, and supporting the provin-



cial government's reform agenda.

His tenure has coincided with renewed efforts by the Balochistan government to promote

institutional reforms, fiscal discipline, transparency, and performance-based governance. Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has consistently

emphasized the importance of governance reforms, institutional strengthening, and improved public service delivery.

Analysts believe that translating these policy objectives into tangible outcomes requires a bureaucracy capable of aligning admin-

istrative priorities with the government's development vision.

The formulation of the provincial budget served as a key example

of this collaborative governance model.

Modern budget-making extends beyond financial accounting and reflects a government's development priorities, fiscal management strategy, and long-term planning objectives.

Effective budget preparation requires strong interdepartmental coordination, data-driven decision-making, and prudent allocation of resources.

The acknowledgment extended to Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan by both the provincial cabinet and the Chief Minister on the floor of the Balochistan Assembly reflects a broader recognition of the critical role played by the civil service in ensuring policy implementation and institutional continuity.

Observers note that such recognition promotes a culture of merit, professionalism, and accountability within the public sector, encouraging civil servants to maintain high standards of public service. Balochistan's unique governance landscape demands administrative foresight, continuity, and strategic leadership.

Effective oversight of development projects, monitoring mechanisms, departmental coordination, and accountability systems remains vital for achieving sustainable development goals across the province.

Experts maintain that institutional reforms are ultimately measured by their implementation. Strong institutions are built through consistent leadership, professionalism, and efficient governance practices. Public officials who uphold these principles contribute significantly to strengthening government institutions and enhancing administrative performance.

The recognition accorded to Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan underscores the growing importance of a professional and responsive civil service in supporting Balochistan's development agenda.

It also sends a positive message throughout the bureaucracy that dedication, competence, and commitment to public service continue to be valued.

As Balochistan advances towards improved governance and sustainable development, the partnership between political leadership and an effective administrative structure will remain essential.

The province's long-term progress will depend not only on visionary policies but also on the institutional capacity required to implement them successfully.

BEEF CEO Khalid Mandokhail Calls for Greater Awareness of Road Safety and Traffic Rules in Quetta

National Highways and Motorway Police Conducts Road Safety Awareness Session for BEEF Employees

QUETTA: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEEF), Khalid Mandokhail, has emphasized that protecting human lives and promoting awareness of safe travel practices should be among the top priorities of every responsible institution.

Speaking at a special Road Safety Awareness Session organized by the National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP), West Zone Balochistan, for BEEF officers and employees at the BEEF office in Quetta, the BEEF CEO stressed the importance of road safety awareness in preventing traffic accidents.

Khalid Mandokhail said that strict compliance with traffic laws and responsible driving can play a key role in reducing road accidents and protecting precious human lives. He termed public awareness regarding road safety and safe travelling practices a pressing need in today's society.



During the session, officers from the National Highways and Motorway Police provided participants with comprehensive guidance on traffic laws, safe driving practices, precautionary measures during travel, and responsible road usage. The participants showed keen interest in the awareness session and described the information shared by the NHMP officials as highly useful, practical, and relevant to their daily travel needs.

The BEEF CEO appreciated the National Highways and Motorway Police, West Zone Balochistan, for organizing the informative and effective road safety awareness program for BEEF employees. He also praised the professional services of the NHMP and its continued efforts to promote road safety and responsible driving practices.

The session concluded with an exchange of commemorative shields and souvenirs between the Balochistan Education Endowment Fund and the National Highways and Motorway Police, West Zone Balochistan.

Ziarat Valley Development Authority Governing Body Reviews Tourism and Infrastructure Development

QUETTA: The third meeting of the Governing Body of the Ziarat Valley Development Authority (ZVDA) was held at the Committee Room of the Planning and Development Department, Government of Balochistan, under the chairmanship of Provincial Minister for Commodity Management Department and Chairman Balochistan Food Authority Haji Noor Muhammad Durrani.

Members of the ZVDA Governing Body and relevant officials attended the meeting. The meeting held detailed discussions on various important matters concerning the Ziarat Valley Development Authority, including regional development, promotion of tourism, improvement of basic infrastructure and provision of better public facilities.

Speaking at the meeting, Provincial Minister Haji Noor Muhammad Durrani said Ziarat is one of Balochistan's important tourist destinations and is blessed with natural beauty. He said providing high-quality facilities to tourists and local residents while preserving the area's natural beauty and character was among the government's priorities.



He said effective measures would be taken through the Ziarat Valley Development Authority to ensure proper planning and sustainable development of the area. The Provincial Minister directed the concerned authorities to prioritize quality, transparency and public interest in all development projects related to Ziarat.

He also stressed the need for an effective strategy to ensure that the government would continue utilizing available resources and taking practical measures to make Ziarat more developed, attractive and sustainable, while ensuring sustainable growth and improved facilities for residents and visitors.

development initiatives were completed within the stipulated timeframe.

The meeting also reviewed key development matters in Ziarat and discussed the authority's future roadmap. Relevant officials briefed the Provincial Minister on various issues and ongoing initiatives.

Haji Noor Muhammad Durrani said the development of Ziarat was important not only for the local population but also for promoting tourism across Balochistan.

He reaffirmed that the government would continue utilizing available resources and taking practical measures to make Ziarat more developed, attractive and sustainable, while ensuring sustainable growth and improved facilities for residents and visitors.

DC Duki Reviews Progress on District Complex and Duki-Chamalang Road Projects

DUKI: Deputy Commissioner Duki Fazal ur Rehman Kabdani, accompanied by Commander 87 Wing Colonel Shahid Bilal, conducted a detailed inspection of the District Complex and the progress of the

Wing Colonel Shahid Bilal, inspected the Duki-Chamalang Road. They visited different sections of the road and reviewed ongoing construction activities and the progress of the



ing constructed under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the construction activities of various government offices, the quality and pace of work, and the overall progress of the project.

He directed the concerned authorities and construction agencies to accelerate the work and take effective measures to ensure that all stages of construction were completed within the stipulated timeframe. Later, Deputy Commissioner Fazal ur Rehman Kabdani, along with Commander 87

project. The Deputy Commissioner also obtained updates from the concerned officials regarding the work being carried out on the road.

On the occasion, Fazal ur Rehman Kabdani stressed that no compromise would be made on the quality of development projects and directed officials to ensure continuous monitoring of construction activities. He said development projects were of vital importance for public convenience and the overall progress of the area, making their timely completion a priority for the government and district administration.

to prescribed standards and timelines so that citizens could benefit from these important initiatives at the earliest.

He made it clear that the district administration would continue to closely monitor the progress of development projects and that unnecessary delays or negligence regarding quality would not be tolerated.

Fazal ur Rehman Kabdani said improved infrastructure not only provides better transportation and administrative facilities to the public but also plays an important role in the economic and social development of the area.

Loralai Municipal Committee Intensifies Cleaning and Drainage Operations Across City

LORALAI: On the special directives of Municipal Committee Chairman Muhammad Tahir Nasir and Chief Officer Mohibullah Baloch, practical measures are underway to further improve cleanliness and the drainage system across Loralai city.

As part of the ongoing efforts, extensive cleaning of drains is being carried out in Sadar Bazar, Bagh Bazar and Kakri Masjid Road, as well as other major roads and commercial areas under the supervision of the Baran Zone supervisor.

Attention is being given to ensuring smooth water flow through the drains and preventing wastewater from accumulating on roads and in markets during rainfall and other occasions.

Chairman Muhammad Tahir Nasir and Chief Officer Mohibullah Baloch said providing citizens with a clean, healthy and pleasant environment is the municipality's top priority among the top priorities of the Municipal Committee.

They said a phased cleanliness campaign would continue in different parts of the city, while all available resources are being utilized to improve the drainage system and ensure better municipal services.

The municipal authorities appealed to citizens but a shared responsibility of every citizen. They said public cooperation is essential to making Loralai a cleaner, more beautiful and healthier city.



Evening BS Classes for Female Students Set to Resume at Usta Muhammad Girls Degree College

USTA MUHAMMAD: programme had been halted because remuneration payments to teaching staff had not been made. The situation had raised concern that female students' access to higher education

could be disrupted.

After detailed deliberations, the meeting decided that a formal letter would be sent to Secretary Colleges and Higher Education, Muhammad Hashim Ghulzi.

Balochistan Women Development Adviser Calls for Stronger Measures to Protect Women's Rights

QUETTA: Adviser to the Chief Minister Balochistan for the Women Development Department Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi held a meeting with AK Police (Gender) Israr Ahmed Umrani on Thursday to discuss women's protection, promotion of their rights, prevention of gender-based violence and institutional support for women across the province. The meeting focused on issues faced by women, promoting gender sensitivity within the police system and further strengthening institutional cooperation to ensure the effective and prompt resolution of complaints related to women.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi said providing women with a safe, dignified and conducive environment was among the priorities of the Government of Balochistan.



She emphasized that preventing violence, harassment and other gender-based crimes against women requires not only effective enforcement of the law but also coordinated cooperation between the police and other relevant institutions.

The adviser said institutions dealing with women's issues must

move beyond a merely reactive approach and develop a proactive, gender-sensitive and survivor-centered system that understands the needs of affected women. She said strengthening gender-sensitivity capacity among the police and other relevant institutions would increase women's confidence in public institutions and help ensure timely access to justice.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi said the Women Development Department would continue working with relevant institutions to promote women's protection, legal awareness, economic empowerment and fundamental rights.

She stressed that creating a safe environment for women was a shared responsibility requiring effective coordination among government departments, law enforcement agencies and civil society.

AIG Police (Gender) Israr Ahmed Umrani briefed the adviser on police initiatives aimed at protecting women and preventing gender-based violence. Both sides agreed to further expand cooperation between the Police Department and the Women Development Department in this regard.

The meeting also discussed various measures for women's protection, awareness programmes, institutional coordination and a future joint action plan aimed at strengthening mechanisms for safeguarding women's rights and improving their access to support and justice.

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A large number of women entrepreneurs participated in the programme and expressed keen interest in using digital tools to promote and expand their businesses.

In his closing remarks, President Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry Haji Muhammad Ayub Mariani highlighted the importance of such training programmes in enhancing the capacity of women entrepreneurs and helping them adapt to modern business requirements.

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Holds Digital Literacy Programme for Women Entrepreneurs in Quetta

QUETTA: The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Quetta organized a digital literacy programme for women entrepreneurs at the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry, aimed at equipping businesswomen with modern digital skills and practical knowledge to expand their businesses and access new markets.

The programme focused on introducing women entrepreneurs to modern digital tools, promoting online businesses and providing practical guidance on using digital platforms to reach wider local and international markets.

In his opening remarks, Asif Aro, Assistant Director TDAP



Quetta, highlighted the growing importance of digital technology and stressed the need for women entrepreneurs to benefit from modern digital tools.

He said TDAP was working across the country to enhance the capacity of women entrepreneurs and help them develop their businesses to meet export-oriented standards.

The training session was conducted by Ms. Hareem, who provided participants with practical guidance on the effective use of mobile phones and other digital tools, online marketing, business promotion through social media, effective digital presentation of products, reaching customers and expanding commercial activities through online platforms.

Participants were also given hands-on guidance on how to use digital resources with limited investment to showcase their products and services to a wider customer base and benefit from business opportunities in both domestic and international markets.

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The Assistant Director Local Government Solicitor invites sealed percentage bid tender based on complete schedule of rate 2026. Government of Balochistan amended up-to date from interested contractor 1 time for the work listed below: Earned Money 3% & Total limit 20 June 2027.

Sl No Name of Schemes EAmount
01 CONSTRUCTION OF Q.TAND GYNAE 40,000,000/-
WARD WITH EQUIPMENTS AND DHQ
HOSPITAL DISTRICT SCAHATARY
PSDF# 3437 22026 3223 (2026-27)
TSE-2627691165763

Prerequisites shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: (a) the bidder must have completed 03 assignments of similar nature of work in last 3 years. (b) Turnover of at least PKR 30 Hundred Thousands in last three years showing financial capacity of the firm. (c) Registration with relevant taxation departments. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Cash Deposit or Bank Guarantee of amount specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned. The Tender Fee 1500 One thousand five hundred rupees (included) in the name of Assistant Director Local Government Solicitor, in the shape of green chit form deposited in head of C-03870 SP-7012 in original must be accompanied along with technical proposal, upon payment (non refundable). (The NET & Bidding Document can also be downloaded from eip.gov.pk on the day of publication of NT to 23 September, 2026 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The tenders must be submitted on or before 23 September, 2026 at 10:00 AM at the office of the undersigned. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on 11:00 AM on 23 September, 2026 at the office of the Assistant Director Local Government Solicitor. Phone No: 0306051115

The participants were informed that admissions to the new session of the evening BS

Assistant Director Local Government Solicitor
DPP/PRO No. 1191035-2026
G.O. No. 1191035-2026
G.O. No. 1191035-2026

Security forces kill 15 terrorists trying to cross into Pakistan through Afghan border: ISPR

NEWS DESK: Security forces have killed 15 terrorists who were trying to infiltrate into Pakistan through its border with Afghanistan, the military's media affairs wing said on Thursday.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the terrorists had tried to cross into Pakistan's North Waziristan district on the night between August 31 and September 1.

Their movement, however, was detected by security forces, the statement said, adding that the troops "responded professionally and with patience to engage them".

"As a result of precise and skillful engagement that lasted for 36 hours, 15 khawarij belonging to India-sponsored Fima-al-Khawarij" were killed, the statement added.

The state uses the term Fima-al-Khawarij for the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). ISPR said that during the sanitisation operation after the killing, large quantities of weapons and ammunition were recovered from the slain terrorists.

This further "exposed the nefarious designs of khawarij and their facilitators seeking to disrupt peace and stability in the country," the military's media wing said.

It said the incident along the Pakistan-Af-

ghanistan border once again vindicated Pakistan's "persistent stance regarding the subject failure of the Afghan Taliban regime to deny the use of Afghan soil as a base for terrorist organisation under their patronage for cross-border terrorism".

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid tribute to the security forces for foiling an infiltration attempt near the Pak-Afghan border in North Waziristan, state-run

statement issued by the Presidency. The resolve of the security forces to defend the borders of the beloved homeland and protect peace and stability is commendable," the president was quoted as saying.

"No permission will



PTV reported.

"The security forces, demonstrating utmost professional skill, patience and courage, have reduced the impure intentions of the terrorists to dust," he said in a statement.

He said the Azm-i-Istehkam campaign against terrorism would continue with full force and determination until the menace of terrorism was uprooted from the country, according to the statement.

President Asif Ali Zardari also paid tribute to the security forces for their successful operation, according to a

statement issued by the Presidency.

The resolve of the security forces to defend the borders of the beloved homeland and protect peace and stability is commendable," the president was quoted as saying.

"No permission will

be granted to terrorist elements operating under foreign patronage to spread unrest in Pakistan," he added.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid tribute to the security forces for foiling the infiltration attempt, saying they had reduced the enemy's "nefarious intentions to dust", according to a statement issued by his ministry.

The latest action comes as Islamabad continues to stress that the Afghan Taliban put an end to the use of Afghanistan soil by terrorists, particularly for attacks in Pakistan.

The award cannot extinguish or otherwise alter India's obligations under a Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) ruling upholding the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) which does not absolve it of its treaty obligations, insisting that Islamabad retained "all diplomatic and non-diplomatic options" to ensure implementation of the award.

Foreign Office spokesman Tahir Andrabi said India could not invoke international law when convenient and discard it when the outcome did not suit New Delhi, urging it to return to full compliance with the 1960 water-sharing agreement.

"India's rejection of

PM Shehbaz approves establishment of Trade Facilitation Board to streamline cross-border trade

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday approved the establishment of a Trade Facilitation Board, to be chaired by him, aimed at streamlining trade processes and addressing non-tariff barriers to cross-border commerce.

The prime minister also called for the simplification of transportation, clearance and other procedures for importers and exporters at ports, directing that "maximum possible facilitation" be provided to the business community.

The meeting was informed that the board would prepare a roadmap to promote trade, formulate a Trade Facilitation Index and devise a mechanism to monitor progress.

PM Shehbaz directed the relevant authorities to work on an "emergency basis" to enhance the capacity of the country's ports and ordered the formation of working groups to oversee the process.

He said these groups would focus on increasing port capacity,

improving coordination among relevant departments, ensuring compliance with the regulatory framework, facilitating pre-arrival clearance and promoting the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in international trade.

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for submitting Goods Declarations before the arrival of vessels was being expanded. The measure is expected to speed up clearance procedures.

Food Security and Research Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain, Commerce Minister Jam

Kamal Khan, Economic Affairs Minister Ahmad Khan

Chemina, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Maritime Affairs Minister Javed Anwar Chaudhry, Ad-

viser to the PM for In-

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A day earlier, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan instructed their governments to prepare an action plan to raise bilateral trade to \$200 million, as the two countries sought to move their economic partnership to a "qualitatively new" level.

Before that, leaders of the 10 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states on Tuesday adopted the "Bishkek Declaration", setting out plans to deepen cooperation on security, trade and tech-

nology as the organisation marked its 25th anniversary, with Pakistan taking over as chair to host the next meeting of the SCO Cooperation Heads of State in 2027.

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Pakistan says it retains all options on Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

NEWS DESK: Pakistan on Wednesday warned India that its rejection of a Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) ruling upholding the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) would not absolve it of its treaty obligations, insisting that Islamabad retained "all diplomatic and non-diplomatic options" to ensure implementation of the award.

Foreign Office spokesman Tahir Andrabi said India could not invoke international law when convenient and discard it when the outcome did not suit New Delhi, urging it to return to full compliance with the 1960 water-sharing agreement.

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No thaw until Kabul acts against terrorists: FO

NEWS DESK: Despite recent diplomatic developments suggesting a renewed push to ease tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan, the Foreign Office on Wednesday remained firm that meaningful progress in relations would depend on the Taliban taking concrete and verifiable action against the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other terrorist groups operating from Afghan territory.

At his final weekly media briefing before he is succeeded by Sajid Haider Khan, FO spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said Islamabad welcomed China's continuing engagement, but that external facilitation could not substitute for action by Kabul against terrorist infrastructure.

"Pakistan appreciates China's constructive and sustained engagement on the issues of Afghanistan," he said, adding that Islamabad had "seen families away from areas border-

gaged for constructive dialogue on the subject of Afghanistan".

Progress, however, would depend on "the Afghan Taliban regime taking concrete and verifiable action against TTP, BHA, and other terrorist organisations operating from their soil into Pakistan".

His remarks came amid renewed diplomatic activity, including Chinese Special Envoy Yue Xiaobang's visit to Islamabad to revive the Urumqi process aimed at preventing further escalation, and an invitation to Afghan ambassador Sardar Shakeb to speak at the National Defence University.

Islamabad, however, sees little proof that the Taliban have moved beyond containing TTP activities.

The latest UN Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team report noted that the Taliban had relocated around 2,000 TTP fighters and their families away from areas border-

ing Pakistan, and that Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada had warned the group against attacks on Pakistan — but also that the TTP continued as the group escalated attacks and expanded its organisational structure.

For Islamabad, relocating terrorists does not amount to dismantling the command, training and logistical networks that remain at the centre of its concerns.

Mr Andrabi also downplayed recent visits of the Afghan envoy's NDU speech as a sign of improving ties. "Envoys visit academic institutions. This is not unusual," he said. "Such interaction is no yardstick for measuring bilateral relations between the two sides."

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