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## Nation stands behind armed forces in fight against terrorism: Raja Pervez Ashraf

In his statement, Raja Pervez Ashraf strongly condemned the cowardly terrorist attack on Cadet College Wana, saying that the security forces foiled the terrorists' attempt to carry out another tragedy like the APS (Army Public School) attack.



## Targeting innocent people is unforgivable crime: Sarfraz Buzgi

Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Tuesday strongly condemned the suicide attack in Islamabad and said that targeting innocent people is an unforgivable crime. He expressed heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyrs, and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

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## Shadows in the Market of Peace

**I**n the global landscape, peace is a fundamental aspiration for societies worldwide. Achieving and maintaining peace is a complex process that involves multiple actors, institutions, and dynamics. Within the realm of peacebuilding and conflict resolution, the market of peace emerges as a significant arena where various stakeholders engage in activities aimed at promoting peace and preventing conflicts.

The market of peace encompasses a wide range of activities and initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of conflicts, building consensus, and promoting peaceful coexistence. This market involves a diverse set of actors, including governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society groups, and private sector entities. Each stakeholder plays a unique role in contributing to peacebuilding efforts.

Governments are key players in the market of peace, as they have the authority and resources to implement policies and programs that promote peace and stability. For instance, governments can engage in diplomatic efforts to mediate conflicts, provide humanitarian assistance to communities affected by violence and support peacebuilding initiatives at the national and international levels. Additionally, governments can allocate funding for peacebuilding projects and leverage their political influence to facilitate peace negotiations and reconciliation processes.

NGOs and civil society groups are vital actors in the market of peace, as they have grassroots connections and networks that enable them to mobilize communities, advocate for peace, and provide humanitarian assistance. These organizations engage in conflict prevention, peace education, and reconciliation activities that empower individuals and communities

to resolve conflicts peacefully. NGOs and civil society groups often work in partnership with governments and international organizations to implement peacebuilding programs and initiatives.

Furthermore, the instrumental of peace-building by powerful actors is another shadow that undermines the process of stability in region. In some cases, powerful states or international organizations geo-political interests, often at the expense of local ownership and inclusivity. This instrumental measures can lead to the imposition of peace agreements that do not address the underlying grievances of conflicting parties resulting in fragile and unsustainable peace processes.

**Ashfaq** The exclusion of marginalized voices and groups in peacebuilding processes is yet another shadow in the market of peace. Many peace initiatives are dominated by elites, political leaders, and international actors, marginalizing the perspectives or needs of women, youth and indigenous communities or other vulnerable populations. This exclusion perpetuates inequalities, injustices, and grievances that fuel conflicts making sustainable peace elusive.

The shadows in the market of peace highlight the complexity and challenges inherent in peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts. Addressing these shadows requires a concerted effort to promote transparency, accountability, inclusivity and a genuine commitment to peace at all levels of engagement. Recognizing and mitigating these shadows, stakeholders in the market of peace can enhance the effectiveness, legitimacy and sustainability of peacebuilding initiatives, ultimately contributing to a more peaceful and just world.

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