

Alvi vows to continue playing role of bridge

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LAHORE:

Former president and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader, Dr Arif Alvi, underscored the pivotal role of dialogue in resolving national issues, asserting that the essence of progress lies in persistent communication. Speaking alongside the PTI Punjab Information Secretary, Shaukat Basra, during a press conference on Sunday, Dr Alvi reiterated the imperative of engaging in constructive discourse, steadfastly rejecting the acceptance of failure. “The solution to problems lies within dialogue. We will continue our efforts to engage in dialogue. Failure only occurs when we concede to it,” he said. Dr Alvi underscored the necessity of engaging in discussions with former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan to steer the nation towards progress and prosperity. “Imran Khan has made significant sacrifices, including setting aside his ego for the

sake of democracy in our country. He is committed to dialogue for the betterment of Pakistan,” Dr Alvi stated, affirming his continuous efforts towards initiating talks. Highlighting the critical juncture Pakistan finds itself in, the former president stressed the imperative of national unity for economic recovery, stating, “The economy cannot be revitalised without a united nation.”

Expressing unwavering support for the armed forces, Dr Alvi lamented the strained relations between PTI and the establishment, advocating for reconciliation through dialogue and forgiveness on “both sides.” Warning against exacerbating tensions, Dr Alvi cautioned that failure to address the current impasse could lead to further deterioration. He criticised the disparity between the mandates of political figures and their treatment, referencing the imprisonment of PTI’s founder while others hold lesser mandates. Discussing media freedom, the PTI leader highlighted the role of social media in exposing injustices globally, while noting restrictions on social media in Pakistan. “Pakistan is the only country in the world where there is an embargo on social media. It is the social media which showed the world how much cruelty is being done in Gaza,” Alvi said. Welcoming a recent visit by a Saudi delegation, Dr Alvi anticipated economic benefits for Pakistan through increased investment. Regarding allegations of intelligence agencies’ interference in judicial affairs, Dr Alvi acknowledged ongoing grievances within the judiciary and urged for the preservation of its independence. Criticising the conduct of the Punjab

Police, Dr Alvi condemned reported instances of harassment and intrusion into citizens' homes.

PTI leader Shaukat Basra echoed Dr Alvi's sentiments, advocating for Imran Khan's release as a potential catalyst for improving PTI-establishment relations.