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### **National security intrinsically linked to economy: COAS**

RAWALPINDI: Sequel to discussions and seminars on 'Interplay of economy and security,' a concluding session of stakeholders hosted by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) was held at Army Auditorium.

The government economic team and businessmen of the country participated. The COAS apprised participants about improved internal security environment of the country which has enabled space for increased economic activity. "The COAS said that accessibility and responsiveness of government economic team to business community and displayed understanding between public and private institutions is good sign for intended positive trajectory in economic activity," a press release issued on Thursday said.

The COAS said that national security is intrinsically linked to economy while prosperity is function of balance in security needs and economic growth. The COAS said that the aim of various discussions and seminars was to bring stakeholders to one platform to formulate recommendations for a synergistic way forward.

The government economic team apprised business community about initiatives being introduced by the government to facilitate businesses and the encouraging results of stabilization efforts on national economy.

Businessmen shared their suggestions with the government team to further improve environment for ease of doing business and assured that they would cooperate in implementation of government reforms and also play their part by paying taxes and investing in a socially and economically responsible manner.

The COAS thanked all the participants for purposeful utilization of the joint forum by stakeholders for discussions and seminars leading to formulation of policy recommendations for subsequent processes and implementation.