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## Bajaur Peace Talks Face Deadlock as CM Intervenes

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The seventh round of the Bajaur Peace Jirga ended without a breakthrough, as negotiations between the two sides stalled over a disputed clause. The talks, aimed at resolving tensions in the region, have now entered a critical phase with both parties maintaining firm positions on the matter in question.

According to Jirga member Sahibzada Haroonur Rasheed, the disagreement centres on a specific point that neither side is willing to compromise on. Speaking to the media, Rasheed confirmed the stalemate but stressed that efforts to find common ground are continuing.

Rasheed urged all parties to remain calm and exercise restraint while the peace process continues. He said the Jirga has appealed to both sides to ensure that civilians are not affected should any confrontation occur.

The Bajaur Peace Jirga, a traditional tribal conflict-resolution forum, has been mediating between the two groups in a bid to prevent further unrest. However, the lack of agreement in this round has raised concerns that the dispute could prolong instability in the area.

In a significant move to advance the talks, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has summoned members of the Jirga to the Chief Minister's House in Peshawar. The meeting, scheduled for Saturday, August 9, is expected to focus on breaking the deadlock and finding a mutually acceptable solution.

Officials believe the Chief Minister's direct involvement could help bridge the gap between the parties. Sources familiar with the matter say Gandapur is keen to see an early resolution to prevent further tensions and restore normalcy in Bajaur.

The jirga system, deeply rooted in tribal traditions, has long served as a key mechanism for dispute resolution in Pakistan's tribal districts. However, some elders have expressed concerns that political actors may be attempting to undermine its credibility for their own agendas.

Local residents and community leaders have called for patience and unity during this sensitive stage of negotiations. They emphasise that maintaining peace in Bajaur is in the best interest of all stakeholders, warning that any breakdown in talks could have far-reaching consequences for the region's stability.

The outcome of the Peshawar meeting will likely determine the next phase of the peace process. For now, hopes rest on renewed dialogue and compromise to end the stalemate and secure lasting peace in Bajaur.