

Parliament endorses emergency in KP

House passes motion by 214-56 despite protests

A joint sitting of Parliament on Thursday gave its approval to the Centre's imposition of emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa amid a strong protest from the opposition.

The joint session had been summoned to discuss separate resolutions on the imposition of emergency and governor's rule in KP, where the opposition's PTI was in power.

During the session, which was addressed by both members of the treasury and opposition benches, the government justified its decision while the PTI lambasted the Centre and the allegations levelled against the party.

The Centre took the measures on Oct 11, citing the provincial government's "deliberate disengagement" from the fight against terrorism. The move followed weeks of political tensions between the Centre and the PTI - as well as negotiations to bridge their differences - after the latter announced a long march to Islamabad to demand the release of its jailed founder, Imran Khan.

During Thursday's joint sitting, opposition members turned up carrying placards inscribed with slogans, such as "emergency na manzoor (emergency is unacceptable)".

PM Shehbaz, who attended part of the session, shook hands with opposition leaders of both the Senate and the NA, pictures and footage showed.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry tabled the two proclamations and separate resolutions regarding the emergency and governor's rule.

After hours-long debate, NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq put the two resolutions to a vote, while opposition members chanted "emergency unacceptable".

The resolutions approving emergency and governor's rule were then passed.

At the outset of the proceedings, Chaudhry also presented a motion under Rule 232 of the Parliament (Joint Sitting) Rules 1973 to suspend certain sub-rules so he could move the resolutions.

As loud noises echoed and opposition members chanted "emergency na manzoor", the speaker again put the motion to a vote by asking the members to stand up, which was then adopted with 214-56 votes.

Subsequently, Chaudhry moved two resolutions before the joint sitting - one for approving the Proclamation of Emergency under Article 232 and the second for the proclamation of governor's rule under Article 234.

Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar then opened the discussion on the two resolutions and said members of the treasury benches were ready to reply to any query raised by the opposition.

The joint sitting also offered prayers for the lives lost, mostly of children, in a roof collapse in Peshawar.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday said the federal government had continued negotiations with the opposition and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government until the last moment in an effort to resolve outstanding issues and avoid the imposition of emergency and governor's rule.

Speaking during the joint sitting of Parliament, he urged lawmakers from both sides who had participated in the negotiations to verify the facts, saying the federal government had neither walked out of the talks nor imposed any unreasonable deadline on the other side.

Continued on Page 7

School roof collapse kills 35 in Peshawar

50+ injured; School owner arrested; Investigation committee formed



The roof of a private school collapsed in Peshawar on Thursday, killing at least 34 children and a teacher and injuring more than 50 other people in the deadliest incident of its kind in the country, authorities and a hospital official said.

The children killed or injured at Al-Khair school were between 6 and 12 years old, while the oldest was 14, Lady Reading Hospital spokesperson Mohammad Asim said. Some of the injured were in critical condition, he said. The hospital declared an emergency as medical staff treated the wounded.

Hours after the collapse in Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, emergency services spokesperson Bilal Faizi said that everyone trapped beneath the rubble had been pulled out and crews had cleared debris.

He told The Associated Press that the roofs of two classrooms collapsed when second- and third-grade children were in them with their teachers. Faizi said ambulances and disaster management personnel arrived from a

nearby facility within five minutes of being alerted.

Nearly 100 rescuers eventually joined the operation, he said. Panicked, grieving parents were trying to help when crews arrived, Faizi said. He credited the rapid evacuation with saving at least 40 lives. More than a dozen children suffered minor injuries, he said.

Hundreds of mourners later gathered at Rehman Baba cemetery for mass funeral prayers as grief gripped the neighborhood and announcements echoed from mosque loudspeakers, urging residents to join in prayers for those killed.

Residents said most of the children killed lived in the Dir Colony neighborhood, where the school is located, leaving them unsure which bereaved family to visit first to offer condolences.

Mahwish Zaman, an injured teacher speaking from a hospital bed, said the school had an estimated 1,200 students enrolled in nursery through fifth grade. She told The Associated Press that she was in her classroom when the roof collapsed and felt as if the sky had fallen. She regained consciousness in the hospital.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Gov. Faizal Karim Kundi expressed sorrow over the collapse and sought a report from the relevant authorities about the cause. He directed officials to provide the best possible medical care to the

injured children.

According to witnesses, residents were among the first to reach the school in a congested neighborhood in central Peshawar. Rescue workers arrived within minutes of being alerted, according to accounts from the scene.

Peshawar police chief Saeed Ahmed said that the school's owner had been arrested. He said that the building was structurally weak. However, following his arrest, the owner, Mohammad Khan, blamed this week's rains for weakening one of the roofs, according to police, who said the investigation was still underway.

The provincial government said a committee had been formed to investigate the cause of the roof collapse of the three-story building.

The provincial government spokeswoman, Samar Haroon Bilour, praised rescue workers for their swift response.

In Islamabad, President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed sorrow over the deaths and offered condolences to the bereaved families in separate statements.

"The entire nation shares the grief of the affected families in this hour of sorrow," Zardari said.

He also called for a comprehensive investigation into the collapse and stressed the need to ensure school buildings meet safety standards to prevent similar tragedies. AP

Pakistan records second-highest hunger score in South Asia

Pakistan was ranked at the 106th spot out of a total list of 122 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI), marking the second-highest score for the country in South Asia region and reflecting an alarming level of food insecurity and malnutrition.

The GHI is an annual report jointly published by global humanitarian organization Concern Worldwide, private aid organization Welthungerhilfe, and the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV). The index aims to measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels.

With a score of 25.5 on the GHI, Pakistan has a "serious level of hunger," the index said on its website. It added that the South Asian region has a regional GHI score of 23.5 while the global score is 18.1.

"In the 2026 Global Hunger Index, Pakistan ranks 106th out of 122 countries with sufficient data to calculate 2026 GHI scores," the index stated.

Only Afghanistan has a higher score than Pakistan in the South Asia region. Pakistan's neighbor was placed at number 108 on the list, with a score of 28.6 on the index.

Pakistan's score has fallen sharply from an alarming 36.2 on the index in 2000 to 25.5 in 2026, it said, showing "substantial long-term improvement."

The GHI said it calculates the score based on four components: undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting and child mortality. Undernourishment refers to the population with an insufficient calorie intake while child stunting refers to the number of children below the age of five whose height is low for their age.

Child wasting refers to the number of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height, while child mortality refers to the number of children who die before their fifth birthday, reflecting an unhealthy mix of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environment.

"Based on the values of the four indicators, the GHI score on a 100-point scale reflects the current hunger situation, where 0 is the best score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst score," the GHI says on its website.

The index said 16.1 percent of Pakistan's population is malnourished, while 33.6 percent of its children under five are stunted. The report said 9.8 percent of Pakistani children are wasted while 5.6 percent of the children in the country die before the age of five.

According to the World Food Programme (WFP), malnutrition remains a critical challenge in Pakistan, with 40 percent of the country's children under five stunted. The WFP has pointed out that food insecurity also persists across many districts of the country. It said that as per the latest Integrated

Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, 7.5 million people in Pakistan are in Phase 3 (crisis) or above, including 1.25 million experiencing critical levels of acute food insecurity. NEWS DESK



Sindh CM wins major Chinese investment deals

35 MoUs signed with Chinese companies; Chinese Investors Offered 10-year tax break; Special desk set up for Chinese investors



In a significant push to boost bilateral economic ties, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has stated that the recently concluded second Sindh Investment Conference in Shanghai, held after a 12-year hiatus, will usher in a new era of Chinese investment, job creation, and industrial modernisation in the province.

Addressing the media following the Shanghai conference, CM Murad Ali Shah highlighted that the 12-year gap was utilised effectively to prepare Sindh's infrastructure, policy framework, and workforce to absorb high-value international investments.

Highlighting the tangible outcomes of the visit, the Chief Minister announced that Sindh government entities and Chinese enterprises have signed 34 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), alongside numerous agreements between private-sector

business entities from both sides.

Focus on Tech, Energy, and Infrastructure

CM Murad Ali Shah emphasized that these MoUs are not merely symbolic but are backed by rigorous prior groundwork, ensuring their swift translation into operational projects. Major sectors identified for enhanced bilateral cooperation include Thar Coal utilization, Electric Vehicles (EVs) manufacturing and the establishment of charging stations, renewable energy (wind and solar), modern agriculture, and digital transformation.

Unveiling futuristic economic plans, the Chief Minister noted immense potential for cooperation in Artificial Intelligence (AI), large data processing, and the establishment of state-of-the-art data centres. Under the People's Information Technology Program, the province is already training

approximately 1,500 youths annually to meet the demands of the digital economy.

Favourable Ecosystem

Positioning Sindh as Pakistan's premier trade gateway, CM Murad Ali Shah pointed out that the province's strategic ports connect national and global markets seamlessly. To ease the doing of business, the Sindh Investment Department has established a dedicated China Desk and a Single Window Facility Centre. Furthermore, investors in Sindh's Special Economic Zones (SEZs) will enjoy attractive incentives, including a 10-year tax holiday and exemptions on import duties.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the robust legal and institutional framework provided by the Sindh government's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) unit,

Business

designed to safeguard and facilitate investments. He also proposed expanding cooperation between Sindh and China's Hubei province.

Mutual Growth and Regional Connectivity

Inviting Pakistani enterprises to also explore investment and learning opportunities in China, CM Murad Ali Shah remarked that current global dynamics present an opportune moment for Pakistan to capitalise on fresh investment frontiers.

"Shanghai transformed its economy by promoting investment, and Karachi is poised to scale new heights of development through a similar model," said CM Murad Ali Shah. "With our strategic geography, youthful workforce, and robust government facilitation, we are opening new doors of prosperity for Sindh and Pakistan. Insha'Allah, we will bring the best of Chinese investment home." NEWS DESK

National



Justice Munib Akhtar takes oath as CJP

World



Police seize robot after teen groped

Money



4 groups formed to boost marble exports

Sports



Comeback King! Naseem Ready to roar

Glamour



Imran Khan kicked out of India!

Back Page



Iran, Pakistan plan Baghdad consultations

NATIONAL

DTM

Murad woos Chinese investors at Shanghai conference

The Sindh government has showcased the province's investment potential at the Sindh Investment Conference in Shanghai, highlighting its strategic location, port infrastructure, skilled workforce and competitive labour costs.

The conference resulted in 34 government-to-government (G2G) and business-to-business (B2B) agreements and memoranda aimed at strengthening economic cooperation.

Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah presented the Dhabaji Special Economic Zone as a flagship opportunity for Chinese and international investors seeking a cost-effective base for manufacturing and export-oriented businesses.

The day-long event attracted around 400 delegates, including investors, business leaders and representatives of Chinese companies and financial institutions. Presentations, networking sessions and discussions covered investment opportunities in energy, minerals, agriculture, technology, manufacturing and logistics.

Shah said Sindh was ready to partner with Chinese investors seeking industrial scale, connectivity and government support. He stressed that the provincial government was committed to facilitating foreign investment and ensuring that agreements translated into practical projects.

"Sindh offers a cost-effective environment for investment that compares favourably with many countries around the world," he said. With a population of approximately 55.7 million, Sindh has a diversified economy spanning manufacturing, finance, agriculture, energy and natural resources. The province hosts Karachi, Pakistan's principal commercial and financial centre, and two major seaports, Karachi Port and Port Qasim.

Karachi Port handled approximately 53.95 million tonnes of cargo and 2.651 mil-

lion twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of containers during 2024-25, while its stated potential capacity exceeds 125 million tonnes. Port Qasim has 18 berths and an annual handling capacity of around 89 million tonnes, with road, motorway and railway links supporting industrial development.

Shah said these facilities, alongside Sindh's 350-kilometre coastline and access to markets in Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa, offered manufacturers opportunities to produce locally and export to regional and international markets.

Shah said Sindh's special economic zones offered incentives, including a 10-year income-tax exemption and duty-free imports of capital goods. The provincial Investment Department provides one-window facilitation to guide investors from initial enquiries through to production.

Agriculture, energy and minerals: Sindh also offers opportunities in agricultural processing, including rice, mango pulp, dates and red chillies. Shah said Chinese technology could help develop processing facilities, cold chains, packaging and export networks, increas-

direct local jobs.

China Three Gorges Corporation operates wind farms in Jhampir, while the Pakistan-China joint venture Service Long March Tyres, based in Noorabad, exports products to the United States and Brazil.

34 MoUs signed: The conference identified five priority areas for future cooperation: energy and minerals, electric vehicles and automotive manufacturing, digital transformation, agriculture and food processing, and logistics and trade.

Shah said every agreement would be assigned a focal person in



Special economic zones: The Dhabaji Special Economic Zone, a China-Pakistan Economic Corridor priority project covering approximately 1,530 acres in Thatta district, featured prominently at the conference.

Its proposed industrial clusters include automotive and auto parts, light engineering, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, consumer electronics, steel, textiles, construction materials and warehousing. Its proximity to Port Qasim is expected to strengthen its appeal to export-oriented manufacturers.

The conference also highlighted the 435-acre Education City Special Technology Zone, designed to attract investment in software services, data infrastructure, financial technology, agricultural technology, clean energy, biotechnology and electronics manufacturing.

ing the value of locally produced commodities.

He highlighted Thar's coal reserves and Sindh's estimated wind-energy potential of around 50,000 megawatts, alongside deposits of granite and other minerals. He encouraged investment in local processing and manufacturing to create value-added industries rather than relying on raw-material exports.

Existing Chinese investments were presented as examples of cooperation. Shanghai Electric's 1,320-megawatt Thar Block-I power plant has operated commercially since 2023. China Machinery Engineering Corporation is involved in the Thar Block-II coal mine, while the Port Qasim coal-fired power project represents an investment of approximately \$2.085 billion and has generated more than 5,000

the Sindh Investment Department and reviewed at the highest level of the provincial government.

"For us, the signing is the beginning of the work, not the end," he said, assuring investors that the safety and security of Chinese citizens, projects and investments remained a priority.

Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Syed Qasim Naveed also presented investment opportunities and outlined the province's investor-friendly environment. Existing investors shared their experiences to encourage further participation.

Concluding the conference, Shah invited Chinese and international investors to visit Sindh and explore opportunities firsthand, saying the province was ready for new partnerships and investment-led growth. **NEWS DESK**

Sharjeel Memon hails 34 MoUs at Shanghai investment conference

Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, has said that a large number of investors from Pakistan and China participated in the investment conference held in Shanghai by the Government of Sindh.

During the conference, investment opportunities in Sindh were highlighted, and a total of 34 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed in various sectors, including 10 agreements at the government-to-government (G2G) level and 24 agreements between business entities at the business-to-business (B2B) level.

In a video statement, Senior Minister Memon said that during the conference, Memorandums of Understanding were signed in various sectors to promote Pakistan-China business cooperation, including energy, coal, universities, and other important sectors. He said that Pakistan-China friend-

ship holds immense importance for Pakistan and the entire region, while economic cooperation between the two countries can play an important role in improving the economy and creating new opportunities for development.

Senior Minister Memon said that the Dhabaji Special Economic Zone, which is part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), offers important opportunities for Chinese investment, and Chinese investors have expressed interest in investing in the zone and establishing industrial units there. He said that industrial activities in Sindh would be promoted and new employment opportunities would be created. The establishment of industries would help reduce unemployment, strengthen the local economy, and reduce dependence on imports.

Memon said that the Government of Sindh is striving to promote industrial development in the province through the promotion of investment and business partnerships.

Progress made in various sectors has created prospects for further strengthening Pakistan-China economic relations. He said that the benefits of the conference would reach the public soon and that investment would lead to an increase in economic activities and employment opportunities across the province. **NEWS DESK**



Lyari achieves 100 robotic surgeries milestone

Spokesperson for the Government of Sindh, Nadir Gabol, on Thursday lauded the historic achievement of completing 100 successful robotic surgeries at Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical College (SMBBMC) in Lyari.

Commemorating the landmark celebration, he stated that transforming Lyari into a premier hub for cutting-edge medical technology is a direct realization of the people-centric vision of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Speaking on the milestone, Gabol emphasized that the availability of advanced robotic-assisted surgical procedures—completely free of cost in a historically underserved area like Lyari—marks a paradigm shift in public healthcare delivery.

"Today's celebration of 100 robotic surgeries at Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical College is a testament to our commitment that quality healthcare is a fundamental right, not a luxury reserved for the privileged," said Gabol. "Under the visionary leadership of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Lyari is now home to state-of-the-art medical facilities that rival the finest institutions in the world. We are no longer competing with the local private medical sector or with other provinces in Pakistan. In fact, the Sindh Government has gone international—we are now competing directly with world-class healthcare facilities in developed countries."

The Spokesperson noted that complex robotic procedures, which ordinarily cost

millions of rupees in private hospitals or require patients to travel abroad, are being performed seamlessly for the public in Lyari. He added that minimal-access robotic surgery not only ensures higher precision and lower risk for patients, but also drastically reduces recovery times, allowing working-class citizens to return to their lives faster.

Highlighting the foundational policy behind these medical advancements, Gabol pointed out that the Sindh Government's vision for healthcare reform is backed by unprecedented financial prioritization.

"Our resolve to revolutionize public health is not mere rhetoric; it is tangibly reflected in our fiscal priorities," Gabol stated. "By allocating more than 10 percent of the total provincial budget exclusively to the health sector, the Government of Sindh has ensured that our public hospitals are equipped with the latest global technology, modern infrastructure, and highly trained special lists. From robotic surgeries in Lyari to world-leading cardiac, trauma, and transplant networks across the province, Sindh has established a healthcare model that leads the region."

Nadir Gabol concluded by congratulating the surgeons, medical staff, and administration of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical College for their dedication and excellence, reiterating that the Government of Sindh will continue to expand advanced, free-of-cost tertiary healthcare facilities to every corner of the province. **NEWS DESK**

KU forms committee to develop brand book

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Karachi Professor Dr. Wasim Qazi has constituted a Brand Identity and Communication Committee tasked with preparing KU's first comprehensive Brand Book and Institutional Communication Framework.

This initiative aims to strengthen KU's institutional identity, ensure coherence across platforms, and align the University's communication with international standards.

According to the notification issued by Registrar Professor Dr. Imran Ahmad Siddiqui, the Committee will be convened by Syed Shamoos Haider, in Charge of the Department of Visual Studies. Other members include Murtaza Khalid, Wajih Siddiqui, and Muhammad Mehdi from Visual Studies, Dr. Nausheen Raza from Sociology, and Dr. Faizal Nazir from English.

The Committee has been directed to submit the draft Brand Book, along with an implementation plan and phased execution recommendations, to the KU VC Professor Dr. Wasim Qazi within ten days.

The Committee's responsibilities cover setting uniform standards for KU's logo, colors, typography, official documents, signage, websites and social media platforms, admissions campaigns, promotional materials, and official events such as convocations, seminars, and conferences, as well as acknowledging the contributions of alumni, philanthropists, corporate organizations, and industrial partners whose support strengthens scholarships, infrastructure, research, and student development.

It will also establish protocols for internal and external communication and devise a framework for acknowledging the contributions of alumni, philanthropists, corporate organizations, and industrial partners who support scholarships, infrastructure, research, and student development.

The notification highlights KU's commitment to consistency by entrusting the committee with developing standards not only for visual identity and communication but also for event branding and presentation, including convocations, seminars, and conferences. In addition, it commends the ongoing efforts of KU's departments and staff in rehabilitating infrastructure, improving facilities, and establishing scholarships, while stressing that the University's legacy, academic standing, research strengths, achievements, and institutional values must be reflected across all communication channels and campus environments. **NEWS DESK**



Hashmi seeks stronger trade ties with Korea

Governor Sindh Syed Nehal Hashmi visited the Consulate of South Korea, where he was received by Consul General Joocheon Kim and diplomatic staff. During the meeting, discussions focused on promoting bilateral trade, investment and industrial cooperation between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea.

Governor Sindh remarked that Pakistan could serve as an important trade gateway to the markets of Central Asia and Africa. He highlighted the significant potential for economic cooperation between Pakistan and Korea in agriculture, textiles, minerals, sporting goods and other sectors.

He emphasized that the government was committed to providing a favourable environment for foreign investors and assured that Korean companies would receive all possible support in pursuing investment opportunities in Pakistan.

Consul General Joocheon Kim stated that Korean companies were interested in investing in Pakistan, particularly in view of the considerable opportunities available in the manufacturing and energy sectors. He also underscored the importance of further strengthening economic ties between the two countries. The meeting also explored how a balanced tariff policy could help facilitate bilateral trade and encourage investment between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea. Governor Sindh noted that the growing popularity of Korean music, dramas, digital products and beauty products in Pakistan reflected the strengthening cultural connections between the two countries. **NEWS DESK**



Sindh plans expansion of Rescue 1122 network

Advisor to the Sindh Chief Minister on Rehabilitation Giyan Chand Essrani chaired a review meeting on the performance and progress of Sindh Emergency Rescue Services 1122, discussing measures to improve emergency response, expand rescue services, establish new stations, upgrade and maintain equipment, strengthen human resources and training, improve infrastructure and address pending projects.

During the meeting, Mr. Essrani directed officials to expedite measures to improve Rescue 1122's performance, expand emergency response services across Sindh, including Karachi, and accelerate the establishment of new rescue stations.

Secretary Rehabilitation Rafiq Mustafa Shaikh, Director General of Sindh Emergency Rescue Services 1122 Brig (ret'd) Wajid Sibghatullah Maher, Director Operations Dr. Abid Shaikh, Director Administration Sardar Shah and other relevant officials attended the meeting.

The meeting was informed that Rescue 1122's command and control centre received an average of 24,700 calls daily, with the annual volume reaching approximately 9.8 million. The average emergency response time was eight to 12 minutes, increasing to 20 to 22 minutes during peak traffic hours, while rescue motorcycles reached incident sites within an average of four to five minutes.

Since its inception, Rescue 1122 has provided more than 1.33 million medical emergency interventions. The service has also carried out 1,822 highway rescue operations, 740 water rescues, 5,264 fire response operations and 169 operations involving structural collapses, saving 5,238 lives.

During the 2025 floods, the service evacuated 1,529 people to safer locations and rescued 750 animals. The organisation currently has a fleet of 149 vehicles and a workforce of 1,723 personnel. Sindh has 15 highway rescue stations and 15 satellite stations.

A briefing on emergency services related to rabies cases revealed that between April 21 and Oct 14, 2026, Rescue 1122 received 136 calls, referred 86 people for anti-rabies vaccination, dispatched ambulances in 62 cases

and facilitated vaccination for 65 people.

The meeting was further informed that Rescue 1122 responded to 1,220 incidents between July and September 2026, compared with 961 incidents during the corresponding period last year.

Regarding training, officials said 1,290 training activities had been conducted between May 2023 and September 2026, with 49,808 participants. In addition, 1,972 fire safety audits were carried out between January and September 2026.

The meeting was informed that rescue stations in Matian, Sanghar and Naushahro Feroze were ready and would commence operations during the current year, while construction work was under way in Khaipur and Rohri.

Administrative, infrastructure and financial matters were also reviewed, including the disbursement of employees' salaries, expenditure utilisation reports and the annual procurement plan for the financial year 2026-27. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Essrani said the timely and effective provision of emergency assistance to the public was among the Sindh government's top priorities. He said all necessary measures would be taken to enhance Rescue 1122's operational capacity and further strengthen the emergency response system. **NEWS DESK**



NATIONAL

DTM

Dar defends KP emergency, says constitutional procedure followed



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Thursday defended the emergency proclamations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saying the Constitution clearly laid down the procedure and the government had followed it.

Speaking at a joint sitting of Parliament, he said Article 232 of the Constitution allowed the president to declare an emergency under specific circumstances.

Referring to the second proviso to Article 232(1), he said a proclamation issued by the president on his own had to be placed before both Houses of Parliament for approval within 10 days. He said the required constitutional procedure had been followed.

Dar also explained Article 234, saying a proclamation issued under this provision had to be placed before a joint sitting of Parliament and would remain in force for two

months. He said the joint sitting could extend the proclamation for further periods of up to two months at a time, but it could not remain in force for more than six months.

Referring to Articles 148 and 149, he said the Constitution required the federation to protect provinces against external aggression and internal disturbances. It also allowed the federal government to issue directions to prevent a serious threat to peace, public order or the country's economic life.

He urged lawmakers not to interpret constitutional provisions incorrectly for political purposes.

Dar said the government had tried to engage political parties and sought the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's cooperation in tackling terrorism.

He said proposals during negotiations included a meeting between the prime minister and opposition leaders, the formation of an all-party political committee, and steps to ensure pri-

oners' legal rights and access to medical treatment.

He said the federal cabinet had discussed the situation at length and that no one wanted to impose emergency measures. However, the government considered them necessary after efforts to reach an agreement failed.

The deputy prime minister also recalled efforts by Maulana Fazlur Rahman to revive the negotiations.

Dar said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had received an additional one per cent share from the federal divisible pool for counterterrorism, which he estimated at around Rs800 billion since 2010-11.

He questioned whether the provincial government had developed sufficient counterterrorism and forensic capabilities with these resources.

Dar urged political parties to work together to combat terrorism, saying the security challenge needed to be addressed before political reconciliation could move forward. **NEWS DESK**

KP people stood with state in fight against terrorism: Muqam

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam on Thursday said the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had stood with Pakistan and the state in the fight against terrorism despite losing family members and facing displacement, attacks and bomb blasts.

Speaking at a joint sitting of Parliament, he said the province had suffered heavily during years of militancy. He said many people had been forced to leave their homes, while civilians and security personnel had sacrificed their lives.

Amir Muqam recalled that other provinces had supported the people of KP during their displacement.

He said Punjab, under the "Khadim-e-Punjab" initiative, had sent around 100 trucks of assistance daily. He thanked the provinces for supporting the people of KP.

He said the people of the province had fought militants rather than supported them and had paid a heavy human, financial and political price.

Referring to the 2014 Army Public School attack, he said the tragedy had united the nation in the fight against terrorism. Muqam also said the PTI's call for a major protest in KP on October 11 had received little public response. The people of KP had rejected PTI, he added.

He said the people had shown that they stood with the state, Pakistan and the development of the province. He urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to visit Peshawar, listen to the people's concerns and assure them of the government's support. **NEWS DESK**



Pervaiz Ashraf urges parties to hold dialogue

Former prime minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Thursday urged political parties to promote dialogue and adopt a constructive approach to political differences, saying confrontational politics had caused losses to the country, its political system and democracy.

Speaking during a parliamentary debate on the imposition of governor's rule and emergency, he said such measures were constitutional matters, but democratic forces generally tried to avoid them. However, circumstances sometimes forced governments to take difficult decisions.

Recalling his tenure as prime minister, he said governor's rule had been imposed in Balochistan despite the provincial government being led by a chief minister from his own party.

He said the issue should also be viewed in the context of political attitudes and the failure to resolve differences through negotiations. "Politics is about dialogue and negotiations. A politician sits at the table, listens to others, presents his own point of view and tries to reach an understanding," he said, adding that refusing to engage with political opponents weakened the democratic process.

Ashraf said political parties should reflect on why negotiations often failed despite discussions on democracy, the Constitution and the country's future.

Referring to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), he said its confrontational approach during its time in power had contributed to political tensions. He recalled raising concerns in 2018 over the direction of the government and its approach towards parliamentary affairs.

He said political popularity should translate into benefits for the country, its people and the party itself.

A party's popularity alone was not enough if its political strategy resulted in setbacks for its own government and the democratic system, he added.

The former prime minister said political differences should not lead to a reduction in political space for any party, as restrictions on one party could ultimately affect the entire political system. Referring to a point raised by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, he said reducing political space for one party could also limit opportunities for other political forces. **NEWS DESK**



Govt made every effort to avert emergency in KP: Naqvi

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday said the federal government had continued negotiations with the opposition and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government until the last moment in an effort to resolve outstanding issues and avoid the imposition of emergency and governor's rule.

Speaking during the joint sitting of Parliament, he urged lawmakers from both sides who had participated in the negotiations to verify the facts, saying the federal government had neither walked out of the talks nor imposed any unreasonable deadline on the other side.

Naqvi said the federal delegation had waited for hours while the other side held consultations in a separate room. He added that the government had repeatedly engaged in dialogue and made efforts to move the process forward. Referring to a document containing the points discussed during the negotiations, the interior minister said the federal government had attempted to accommodate the other side's demands.

He stressed that the negotiations had never been a matter of ego for the federal government, as it remained willing to facilitate an agreement.

Naqvi also highlighted the federal government's efforts to address the financial concerns of the KP government, saying he had personally accompanied the provincial chief minister to meetings with the finance minister and the prime minister to resolve outstanding matters.

He said federal ministers, including Ahsan Iqbal, had participated in discussions aimed at addressing the province's financial concerns.

The interior minister said political differences between the government and the opposition were natural, but the facts surrounding the negotiations should not be misrepresented. He maintained that the federal government had continued its efforts until the final 24 hours, when it became apparent that the negotiations had failed.

Even then, he said, attempts had been made to prevent the situation from reaching that point.

Naqvi said the federal government had wanted the provincial leadership to work jointly with security forces to tackle terrorism. He questioned how an effective counterterrorism strategy could be implemented if political leaders were unwilling to stand alongside security

ty personnel for fear of political repercussions.

Emphasising the federal government's responsibility to combat terrorism, he said it would continue to fulfil that obligation.

Naqvi said the federal government had urged the provincial administration to take the lead in the fight against terrorism, as maintaining law and order was primarily the responsibility of the provincial government, with support from the army, Frontier Corps (FC) and other security agencies. He said the federal government had remained willing to extend all possible assistance and had not sought to evade its responsibilities.

The interior minister rejected suggestions that terrorism had been used for political purposes, saying counterterrorism had been the central focus of discussions between federal and provincial representatives.

Naqvi said efforts to engage the KP leadership had been underway well before September, including attempts to arrange meetings between opposition leaders and the prime minister to discuss the situation. He added that further efforts had been made after political leaders, including Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, called for dialogue and the prime minister agreed to pursue negotiations. Naqvi said the federal government had continued waiting for progress on a key point of the proposed understanding and made a final telephone call late at night, urging the other side to resolve the outstanding matter.

He said the federal government had not wanted to take the measures under discussion, but repeated attempts to reach an agreement had failed to produce the desired outcome. Naqvi said the federal government had made several concessions during negotiations with the opposition, including facilitating medical examinations and family visits to the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), but the process had failed to reach a successful conclusion. He said the government had held detailed discussions on health-related concerns and arranged briefings by doctors for opposition representatives, including Raja Nasir Abbas and other lawmakers.

Naqvi said the government had taken medical concerns seriously and facilitated hospital visits whenever health-related issues arose. He added that arrangements for family meetings had also been agreed.

He maintained that the government had demonstrated flexibility on several issues and remained willing to pursue political dialogue, but meaningful progress required cooperation and the implementation of commitments by all sides. Naqvi said the National Action Plan against terrorism had been approved by the PTI government and accepted by all political parties. Counterterrorism cooperation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he added, had been part of the proposed agreement. **NEWS DESK**



Sherry Rehman urges unity against terrorism

Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday called on political parties to unite against terrorism, saying terrorist incidents had increased by 195 per cent in two years in KP.

Speaking at a joint sitting of Parliament, she said the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had persuaded the government to hold talks with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

She praised Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and the PTI's federal team for taking part in the negotiations sincerely. She said the talks covered a written agreement, a joint declaration and confidence-building measures. Rehman said the PTI's leadership in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should have joined the talks, as any agreement on counterterrorism required the provincial government's involvement. She said the PPP was ready to sign the proposed agreement, but the provincial leadership did not support it.

The senator also called on the provincial government to strengthen the police and the Counter Terrorism Department.

She said no politician wanted an emergency to be imposed, but the security situation required a joint response.

Referring to a distance of 16 kilometres, she warned that the threat of terrorism was close and stressed the need for a unified national policy to tackle it. Rehman recalled the sacrifices made by the PPP in the fight against terrorism, including the deaths of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and party workers in terrorist attacks.

She said the PPP stood with the police and armed forces and urged political leaders to put national security ahead of their political differences. **NEWS DESK**



Constitutional requirements fulfilled for emergency in KP: Azam Tarar

Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar told a joint sitting of Parliament on Thursday that all constitutional and legal requirements for imposing an emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) had been fulfilled, describing the measure as a last resort in view of rising terrorist attacks and the deteriorating security situation in the province.

Speaking during the parliamentary proceedings, Tarar said the provincial governor had fulfilled his constitutional responsibilities and that the government had followed the prescribed legal procedure. He maintained that the Constitution provided a clear framework for imposing an emergency and required the proclamation to be presented before Parliament for approval within the stipulated period.

Defending the decision, the minister said the use of Articles 232 and 234 of the Constitution was not unprecedented, noting that similar constitutional provisions had been invoked in the past. He said the relevant provisions, including those shaped by amendments introduced in 2010, should be interpreted according to their precise wording and constitutional intent.

Tarar said the governor's letter outlining the security situation and the provincial government's response had already

been made public and discussed in the media. He added that the governor had also held a press conference and delivered a speech explaining that he had discharged his constitutional duty. The law minister said the decision followed a review of reports submitted by security agencies and a detailed assessment of the governor's communication. He noted that some information contained in the security reports was sensitive and could not be made public.

According to Tarar, President Asif Ali Zardari issued the emergency proclamation on the advice of the prime minister after reviewing the available information. Presenting figures to underline the gravity of the security situation, Tarar said 2,911 terrorist incidents had been reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa between 2021 and 2024.

He added that another 3,787 incidents were recorded between October 15, 2025, and October 9, 2026. Referring to attacks in Dera Ismail Khan, Bajaur and Tank, the minister paid tribute to religious scholars, police personnel, members of the armed forces and other officials who had lost their lives in the fight against terrorism.

He said the emergency measure was intended to protect citizens, restore law and order and address the province's security challenges. Tarar also raised concerns about the provincial government's capacity to investigate terrorist incidents and strengthen its Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and forensic facilities.

He noted that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had already been allocated an additional one per cent share from the fed-

eral divisible pool to help meet the costs of counterterrorism operations.

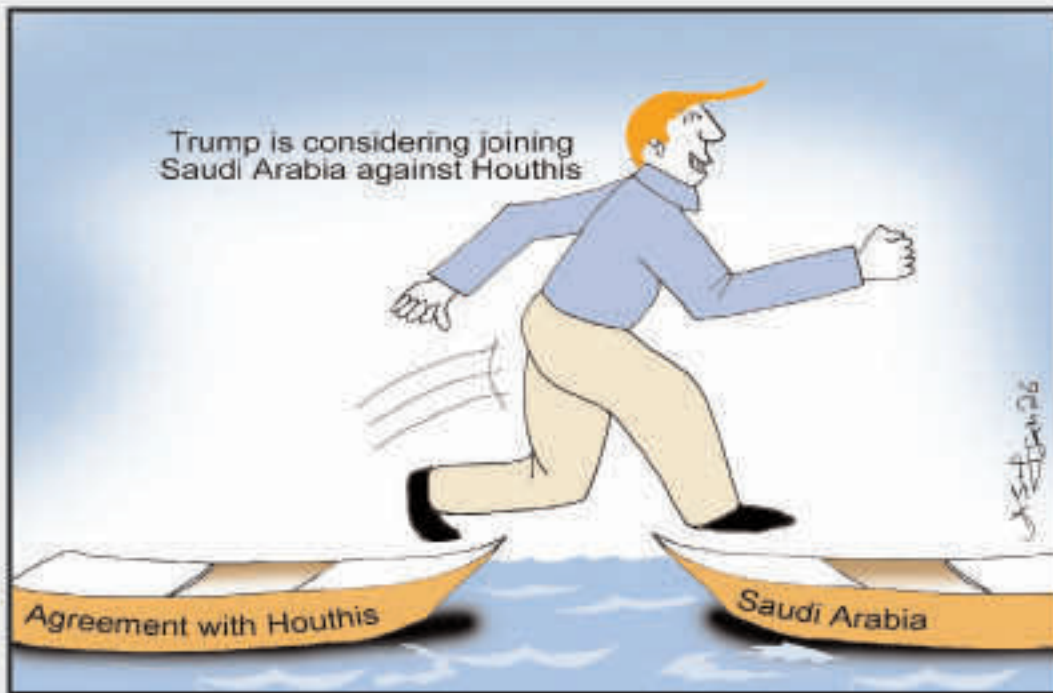
The minister's remarks highlighted the need to strengthen the province's investigative and forensic capabilities alongside security operations to effectively respond to the continuing threat of terrorism. Addressing objections raised during the parliamentary debate, Tarar said the Constitution prescribed a specific procedure for presenting an emergency proclamation before the relevant forum and obtaining its approval. Referring to previous constitutional cases, including proceedings before the Supreme Court, he said similar questions had been examined by the judiciary in the past. He urged lawmakers to consider the relevant constitutional provisions and judicial record carefully when discussing the matter.

Tarar stressed that the requirement to present a proclamation for approval should be interpreted in accordance with the exact language of the Constitution, rather than as a general obligation to debate every related document. He also cautioned lawmakers against making unnecessary statements on legal and constitutional questions, warning that their remarks could have legal consequences. The parliamentary debate comes amid heightened concerns over terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and questions surrounding the constitutional basis, scope and approval process for the emergency proclamation. **NEWS DESK**



EDITORIAL

DTM



Government must listen to opposition on KP

The federal government must listen to the opposition's demands for the immediate withdrawal of emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Ignoring these demands will only deepen political divisions at a time when the country needs unity to fight terrorism and restore public confidence in democratic institutions. At a meeting of opposition parliamentary parties at Parliament House on Tuesday, leaders criticised the removal of the elected provincial government, the arrests of political leaders and the imposition of emergency and governor's rule. The government may have its reasons for taking these steps, particularly in view of the security challenges facing the province. However, security concerns cannot become a reason to weaken democratic principles or silence political opponents. Extraordinary measures require clear constitutional grounds, public explanation and proper legal scrutiny. The opposition's demand deserves serious consideration. An elected government represents the people who voted for it. Removing it through exceptional measures raises questions about the value given to the public mandate. If the federal government believes its actions are necessary, it must explain its position openly and allow constitutional and legal processes to examine the decision.

There is also a need for consistency. Opposition leaders have questioned the different approaches towards Balochistan and KP. The government must explain why similar principles should not apply to both provinces. Equal treatment is essential for public trust in the federation. The reported efforts of JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman to promote dialogue also deserve recognition. Political negotiations must not be reduced to a formality in which decisions are taken before talks can produce results. Dialogue is meaningful only when all sides are willing to listen and make room for compromise. The federal government should engage the opposition, review the measures imposed in KP and develop a joint strategy against terrorism. The province must receive adequate resources to protect its people, while constitutional rights and elected representation remain protected.

Revival of \$1.2bn Saudi oil facility

Pakistan has asked Saudi Arabia to revive a \$1.2 billion annual oil financing facility that allows Islamabad to pay for oil after a one-year delay, as the government seeks to ease pressure on its foreign exchange reserves. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb discussed the request with Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) Chief Executive Officer Sultan Abdulrahman Al-Marshad on Tuesday on the sidelines of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund annual meetings in Thailand. The Ministry of Finance shared details of the meeting but did not mention the oil facility or disclose Saudi Arabia's response. However, people familiar with the discussions said the Kingdom was examining Pakistan's request. Aurangzeb also highlighted Pakistan's improving economic position and renewed access to international capital markets.

Saudi Arabia has remained an important source of financial support for Pakistan as the country struggles to meet its external financing needs. The Kingdom has separately provided \$3 billion in short-term financial assistance through the SFD and extended the facility for another three months in July. Since 2019, Saudi Arabia has also supported Pakistan through an oil financing arrangement that allows Islamabad to defer payments for one year. The latest facility, signed in February 2025, expired in April. Its revival would give Pakistan more time to arrange funds for oil imports and could reduce the immediate pressure on its foreign exchange reserves. It may also help the government manage its external payments without relying entirely on short-term borrowing. However, deferred payments do not remove the cost of oil imports; they only delay the date on which the money must be paid. Pakistan therefore needs to use such support carefully while improving its export earnings and managing its import bill. A longer-term arrangement could provide some relief, but it cannot replace lasting economic reforms. The government must also ensure that improved access to financing leads to greater economic stability rather than a continued dependence on external support. Saudi Arabia's response to the request will be important in determining how much relief Pakistan can secure in the coming months.

Counter-Terrorism, Crypto, Critical Minerals & the Price of Strategic Exceptionalism (Part-II)

Each can contribute to national wealth and strategic relevance. None can substitute for the fundamentals of a modern economy. Critical minerals can attract foreign investment-but only if investors trust the legal and regulatory environment. Crypto can create new financial opportunities-but only if regulation is credible and institutions are trustworthy. Counter-terrorism can make Pakistan strategically relevant-but security cooperation cannot permanently substitute for economic development.

Pakistan does not have to choose between security and democracy, between strategic interests and economic development, or between strong government and accountable government.

That deterioration has an economic price: capital becomes cautious, investors wait, businesses reduce exposure, entrepreneurs move capital elsewhere, skilled people leave, young professionals seek opportunities abroad, industrial capacity weakens, infrastructure deteriorates, and those who remain increasingly discover that political access can matter more than productivity. This is how political instability becomes economic instability. And economic instability eventually becomes a national security problem.

This cycle or phenomenon leads to a huge economic contradiction. Pakistan cannot become strategically powerful by weakening the foundations of its own strategic power - the national economy - the edifice upon which the country stands. The relationship is straightforward: political certainty produces economic resilience, which in turn produces strategic autonomy. If this process is reversed, the state is substantially affected negatively.

While economic dependence mounts on external sources, the state then becomes more vulnerable precisely when it believes it is becoming more strategically important by the mindless and senseless policies it follows. The energy policy illustrates this contradiction particularly clearly. An industrial economy cannot flourish with unreliable electricity, expensive gas, uncertain fuel supplies and poorly managed energy resources.

Industry requires predictable costs and predictable supply. The same principle applies to agriculture, transport, telecommunications and infrastructure. One cannot demand strategic autonomy while allowing the productive machinery that sustains that autonomy to collapse.

Why Mineral Wealth and Technology Require Sound Institutions

So we come to the question - when all else has failed, can the three Cs replace the economy and give us the governance and cohesion we are so much in need of? In this vein, what must be determined is: can counter-terrorism replace industrialisation? Can crypto replace exports? Can critical minerals replace a productive manufacturing sector? Of course not.

Bitcoin
Each can contribute to national wealth and strategic relevance. None can substitute for the fundamentals of a modern economy. Critical minerals can attract foreign investment-but only if investors trust the legal and regulatory environment. Crypto can create new financial opportunities-but only if regulation is credible and institutions are trustworthy. Counter-terrorism can make Pakistan strategically relevant-but security cooperation cannot permanently substitute for economic development.

A country cannot become prosperous simply by becoming useful to other countries. It must also become productive for itself. So what looms above the national economy is predominantly the investor's question - which is where the strategic paradox becomes most obvious. If Pakistan wants investment in minerals, technology, finance and infrastructure, it needs stronger institutions, greater transparency and greater predictability.

Strategic Relevance Without National Resilience

Yet if the pursuit of strategic objectives produces greater political control, weaker accountability and institutional uncertainty, it creates precisely the environment that sophisticated investors seek to avoid. A foreign investor looking at Pakistan's mineral wealth will not ask only, "What is beneath the ground?" He will

also ask, "Who owns it? Who grants the concession? Can the rules change? Are contracts enforceable? Are the courts independent? Can my investment be protected from political interference?" The same questions apply to digital finance, infrastructure and industry. Natural resources do not create prosperity by themselves. Institutions can only convert resources into prosperity.

Yet the people cannot become irrelevant in this equation. Perhaps the greatest danger is that the state begins to confuse its own strategic interests with the interests of the people. A state exists for its citizens, security exists to protect society, and the economy exists to provide livelihoods. Institutions exist to protect rights and regulate power. The Constitution exists to establish the rules by which the citizens are protected from an over-enthusiastic government allegedly representing them, while operating on some self-created doctrine of necessity.

If these relationships are reversed-if citizens become secondary to the requirements of the state-then national security begins to acquire a meaning very different from the security of the

nation. A country can possess missiles, minerals, intelligence agencies, strategic geography and international partnerships and still remain insecure if its people have lost confidence in their institutions. The ultimate source of national power is not the state alone; it is the confidence of its people in the state.

Silicon wafer
Thus, in the end, I would say, Pakistan, therefore, needs to ask a very fundamental question: can the three Cs make the country strategically relevant? It must ask: Can Pakistan become strategically indispensable to the outside world while making its own citizens economically and politically dispensable at home? If the answer were ever to become yes, that would represent a peculiar form of strategic success. The state might become increasingly valuable to foreign powers because of its geography, minerals, security role, and financial potential, while simultaneously becoming less valuable to the people whose taxes, labour, businesses, and sacrifices sustain it. That is not sustainable national power. It is strategic relevance without national resilience.

Pakistan does not have to choose between security and democracy, between strategic interests and economic development, or between strong government and accountable government. It needs all of them. The three Cs may indeed become important pillars of Pakistan's future. But they cannot become three excuses for exceptionalism. Counter-terrorism must not become a permanent state of emergency. Crypto must not become a substitute for economic reform. Critical minerals must not become an excuse for opaque control of national resources.

Perceived strategic necessity must never become a licence to place institutions, constitutional safeguards and citizens beneath the interests of those who happen to exercise power. The real measure of Pakistan's strategic success will therefore not be how much of the world needs Pakistan. It will be whether Pakistan can make itself strong enough that its own people no longer need to fear the state upon which they depend. That is the real strategic objective. Everything else-including the three Cs-is secondary to it.

"A parliament that had ceased to serve the purpose for which it existed had itself become the grievance. You have sat too long for any good you have been doing lately. You are no parliament. In the name of God, go."

Oliver Cromwell, 20th April, 1653.

The arc of the physical universe bends towards heat (Part III)

Thailand is the most prominent example. On paper, the country is a paragon of the gas market. Its economic boom in the 1980s and 1990s can largely be attributed to the opening up of domestic fields. Methane still provides almost two-thirds of electricity, a larger share than you'll see in gas-fueled giants like the US and Russia. In Shell's latest outlook, it's the most exciting prospect in emerging Asia, with LNG imports five times higher in 2040 than they are now.

Bangkok has other ideas. Under the government's latest power market plan, released in draft form earlier this month, renewable energy will increase to 50% from 20% of the grid within the next decade, before rising as high as 89% around 2050. A core reason for the shift? In the words of Energy Minister Akinet Promphan, to reduce reliance on "expensive and volatile spot LNG imports."

It's far from alone. Look at Bangladesh, Shell's second-ranked future growth market in the region. Its dependence on LNG has been pushing the economy to the brink in recent weeks, as we've written. The main plan for solving that crisis is to increase solar power generation and open up offshore gas exploration blocs to eke out the last drops from its domestic fields, according to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. "We will no longer be consumers of imported energy. We will be solar power producers," he told parliament earlier this month.

Other purported boomtowns aren't looking much better. The Philippines has been shifting toward using gas to backstop renewables rather than as the core of its power system, as once envisaged. In Vietnam, a huge, promised LNG fleet is looking increasingly stranded, with the gov-

ernment resisting developer demands for extraordinary purchase promises guaranteeing as much as 95% of their sales for up to 25 years.

The basic bottom line, Fickling says, is simple:

For most of the past decade, the most powerful argument against the march of zero-carbon electricity in favor of using gas as a compromise "bridge fuel" has centered on the energy trilemma - the idea that power sources must be both clean, cheap, and secure. For consumers of energy, it's not enough that a wind farm has low emissions: It also needs to be more affordable and available whenever it's needed.

Nowadays, LNG is failing on all three. It's never been clean, but these days it's not cheap, either: Just buying the gas for an existing plant can cost more than building a brand-new solar-plus-storage system from scratch. As for security, that argument fell apart

the moment Iranian drones closed off roughly a fifth of the global market, plunging Asian importers into blackouts and power rationing.

If you'd prefer a few anecdotes to go with your data, here's a cheerful one, from Fickling's Bloomberg colleague Javier Blas, a hard-nosed commodities guy, just wrote a column about why he'd finally bought an EV, and about the larger context. As he points out, The twin oil crises of 1973 and 1979 dramatically reduced the rate of global oil demand growth. Will the current shock do the same? It's early days, but the parallels are striking. As happened 50 years ago, today's crisis hit just when technological, policy and social trends were starting to bite into petroleum demand.

As it happens, there are other war-relat-

ed reasons to switch to EVs. The plucky Ukrainians have dined so many Russian refineries into bonfires that Muscovite motorists can't find fuel. As a result, they're snapping up Chinese electric cars.

Sergei Tselikov, Russia's leading auto industry expert, has owned more than 20 vehicles, including a Volvo, a Volkswagen and a Range Rover. All had gasoline engines.

But in July, as Ukrainian drone strikes against oil refineries left drivers across the country waiting for hours at gas stations, he bought a fully electric Chinese hatchback. He had to act quickly - the price of the car, made by Great Wall Motor, went up by about \$2,000 within days as demand surged.

"I tried to fill up one of my cars and drove around to five nearby gas stations," he said, referring to the poorer-quality fuels the government has allowed to be sold to address the shortages. "I was just too lazy to stand in line."

The great exception to all these trends, of course, is the U.S., run by an oil-crazed regime still living out a Beverly-Hill-billies vision of strength-through-crude. Unlike the 25 Asian countries that have outlined a strategy for transition to clean electricity, we're currently engaged in a battle against that transition. The next question for Americans is whether the permitting reform legislation that sprung suddenly to life last month is the right way forward or a blind alley-I offered some immediate analysis, and I'll do a deeper dive next week.

But there was some at least limited good news on DC front last week, as legal observers settled in to watch the oral arguments in *Suncor v. Boulder*, the Supreme Court case that tests whether there's a way to get relief from the oil companies for the damages caused by their product-damages that they knew about (and hid from the public). The analysts I talked with seemed at least cautiously optimistic-the hearing had gone as well as it could have, considering the night-wing pro-corporate makeup of the court. As Amy Howe reported at *ScotusBlog*,



BILL MCKIBBEN

Bill McKibben is the Schumann Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College



OPINION



RAWALPINDI: A shopkeeper displays handmade cotton quilts (razais) to attract customers at Imam Bara Road. ONLINE

Systems Thinking Is Becoming Expensive

There is nothing particularly new about this kind of thinking. Systems thinking predates computers by thousands of years because civilization itself is an exercise in coordinating interdependent systems. Cities, armies, trade routes, irrigation networks, governments, financial structures, construction projects, and industrial production all required people to reason about resources, constraints, dependencies, sequencing, risk, and failure long before anyone used the language of software architecture.

Agents are beginning to absorb entire workflows rather than individual tasks. Eventually, knowing how to operate AI will become ordinary professional literacy in much the same way that knowing how to search the internet, use office software, or work with digital communication stopped being a meaningful competitive advantage.

For decades, professional value was closely tied to execution. Careers were built around knowing how to write code, analyze data, produce a campaign, operate specialized software, design an interface, structure a report, configure infrastructure, or manage a complex workflow. Procedural knowledge mattered because access to it was limited, acquiring it required years, and turning that knowledge into output consumed time, specialists, and infrastructure. Companies paid for expertise partly because expertise was scarce and partly because execution itself was expensive.

AI is destroying the second part of that equation remarkably quickly. This does not make professional knowledge useless. It makes much of it cheap. When millions of people can access composable procedural knowledge almost instantly, knowing how to perform a defined task becomes less valuable as a differentiator. The same process happened repeatedly with technologies that lowered the cost of production, but generative AI is compressing several layers simultaneously: access to knowledge, interpretation, production, iteration, and increasingly execution itself. Agents are beginning to absorb entire workflows rather than individual tasks. Eventually, knowing how to operate AI will become ordinary professional literacy in much the same way that knowing how to search the internet, use office software, or work with digital communication stopped being a meaningful competitive advantage.

The scarce resource moves upward. Judgment, strategy, architecture. The important questions increasingly appear before execution begins. What problem is actually worth solving? What should be built, and why should it exist? Which systems have to interact? Where are the dependencies, incentives, bottlenecks, feedback loops, and failure points? What information should move between different parts of the organization? What should remain under human control? Which decisions can safely be delegated? How does one build infrastructure capable of surviving changing technologies instead of another isolated product dependent on today's tools?

AI can help answer fragments of these questions. It cannot remove the responsibility for assembling them into a coherent system. That distinction matters because AI dramatically increases leverage. One capable person can already perform work that previously required several disciplines. Research, analysis, prototyping, programming, visualization, documentation, communication, and testing are beginning to collapse into increasingly compact production loops. As autonomous agents improve, the number of operations that can be initiated and maintained by a small team will continue to rise. The economic attraction is obvious: fewer handoffs, lower production costs, faster iteration, and dramatically greater output per person.

But leverage amplifies the architecture behind it. A weak objective executed slowly creates a limited problem. A weak objective connected to autonomous systems can reproduce that problem thousands of times before anyone identifies the original mistake. A badly designed information architecture becomes more dangerous when AI can populate it continuously. A broken incentive becomes more destructive when automation scales the behavior it rewards. An incorrect assumption embedded in one employee's work may affect several decisions; the same assumption embedded in an automated decision system can quietly influence an entire organization.

Speed therefore changes the cost of bad thinking. It does not eliminate it.

This is where the current obsession with individual AI tools can become misleading. The market is flooded with discussions about which model writes better code, which agent performs research more effectively, which platform generates better images, and which workflow saves another twenty minutes. These questions are useful at the operational level, but tools are unstable. Models improve, interfaces disappear, companies consolidate, APIs change, capabilities become commodities, and yesterday's technical advantage becomes tomorrow's default feature.

Architecture survives longer than tools.

A company that understands its information flows, decision rights, dependencies, incentives, users, feedback mechanisms, and failure conditions can replace individual technologies without destroying the underlying system. A company organized around a collection of fashionable tools has the opposite problem: every technological shift forces it to reconsider what it is actually doing. The difference is structural. Technology should occupy positions inside an architecture. The architecture should not be an accidental consequence of whichever technologies happen to be available.

This changes the professional hierarchy as well. Production is becoming abundant while the ability to determine what should be produced remains constrained. The ability to connect technology, people, information, incentives, responsibility, infrastructure, and consequences into a coherent system becomes more valuable as the cost of individual execution collapses. Someone still has to understand why the components exist, how they affect one another, and what happens when one of them fails.

The strongest professionals in an AI-saturated environment therefore may not be those who know the largest number of tools. Tool knowledge depreciates too quickly. Their advantage will come from understanding systems deeply enough to replace tools without losing the logic of the operation. They will be able to move between disciplines because they understand relationships rather than merely procedures. They will know where automation creates leverage and where it creates unacceptable dependency. More importantly, they will recognize when a technically impressive solution is solving the wrong problem.

There is nothing particularly new about this kind of thinking. Systems thinking predates computers by thousands of years because civilization itself is an exercise in coordinating interdependent systems. Cities, armies, trade routes, irrigation networks, governments, financial structures, construction projects, and industrial production all required people to reason about resources, constraints, dependencies, sequencing, risk, and failure long before anyone used the language of software architecture.

The pyramids are an almost absurd reminder of this. We can stand in front of structures built thousands of years ago and still debate exactly how particular engineering, logistical, labor, and construction problems were solved. AI can process the available theories faster than any individual researcher. It can compare evidence, simulate possibilities, identify patterns, and retrieve enormous amounts of accumulated knowledge. What it cannot retrieve is an answer humanity itself does not possess. Computation expands our ability to work with knowledge; it does not magically convert unknown reality into known reality.



LEXX CHE

The writer is thinker, system builder

Letters To The EDITOR

Poor planning turns Murree snowfall into tragedy

Dear Sir,
I am writing to express my deep concern over the tragic deaths of tourists in Murree during heavy snowfall. Murree is one of Pakistan's most beautiful tourist destinations, attracting thousands of visitors who wish to enjoy its snow-covered hills and pleasant scenery. However, a trip meant for enjoyment can become a nightmare when proper arrangements are missing and authorities fail to respond to an emergency in time.

It is unfair to blame tourists alone for such tragedies. People visit tourist destinations with the expectation that the relevant authorities will take reasonable steps to ensure their safety. The administration must anticipate the risks associated with heavy snowfall, particularly when large numbers of visitors arrive in a short period. Traffic management, weather warnings, road clearance, emergency shelters and rescue services are essential during severe weather.

Reports of more than 20 deaths, including eight members of one family, make the tragedy even more painful. People who leave their homes for a family outing should not have to face life-threatening conditions because of inadequate planning. Authorities must investigate what went wrong, identify those responsible for any negligence and introduce measures to prevent similar incidents.

Murree is an important tourist destination, and its popularity should encourage better facilities rather than create additional risks. The government must ensure that tourists receive timely information about weather conditions and road closures. Emergency teams should also be prepared to respond quickly when conditions deteriorate.

The loss of innocent lives should serve as a serious warning to the authorities. Protecting tourists is not merely a matter of convenience; it is a responsibility that requires planning, coordination and accountability.

MUHAMMAD ZARIF

Female education in Balochistan needs urgent attention

Dear Sir,
I am writing to draw attention to the lack of educational opportunities for girls in Balochistan, particularly in rural and remote areas. Education is a basic right of every individual, yet many girls continue to face barriers that prevent them from attending school. The absence of nearby educational institutions, poverty, long travelling distances and inadequate facilities can make education difficult for families living in these areas.

Female education is essential for the social and economic development of any society. An educated woman can contribute to her family, support her children's learning and participate more effectively in community life. Women can serve as teachers, doctors, researchers, public servants and professionals in many other fields. Denying girls an education therefore limits not only their personal opportunities but also the progress of society as a whole.

Balochistan cannot achieve its full potential if a large number of girls are unable to receive a proper education. The government must give greater attention to areas where schools are scarce or inaccessible. More schools should be established in remote communities, while existing institutions must be provided with qualified teachers, classrooms, clean drinking water and other basic facilities.

Parents and local communities also have an important role to play in encouraging girls to continue their education. However, families cannot be expected to overcome every obstacle on their own. The state must ensure that schools are accessible, safe and affordable. Where distance is a major problem, suitable transport arrangements and other local solutions should be considered.

Female education must be treated as a priority rather than a secondary issue. Educating girls is an investment in a stronger, healthier and more prosperous Pakistan. The government should take practical steps to ensure that every girl in Balochistan has a fair opportunity to learn and build a better future.

MAHNAZ M.B.

For the next six months the upcoming U.S. presidential election will probably be the main focus of discussion for both the media and Main Street. A lot depends on the outcome, but a good outcome is hard to imagine; only shades of bad. Sanders is the only candidate with a sound energy and climate policy, but he has a vanishingly small chance of actually becoming the next president. Clinton is the odds-on favorite; she has the backing of Wall Street, the Washington foreign policy establishment, and the military-industrial complex.

On the surface, things appear normal. The status quo of life in America circa 2016 isn't to everyone's liking, but at least the system is still working after a fashion. The price of oil is going up a bit; that means the cost of driving is also creeping higher, but steeper prices provide a little welcome relief for an oil industry otherwise teetering on the brink of financial ruin. There are tiresomely long lines at airports, but that means people have the wherewithal to pay for plane tickets. Most people are disgusted with the presumptive U.S. presidential candidates, but at least the machine of electoral politics is still marginally functioning. The stock market is up, unemployment is down. We're muddling through.

Or are we? Beneath the lid, a pot of trends is coming to a boil. If Carl Jung was right about the existence of a collective unconscious, it must be seething with nightmares right about now.

So far, 2016 is the hottest year in history. And not by just a smidgeon: every single month so far has set a record. This handy little animation has been making the rounds of environmental websites in the last couple of weeks; it shows a climate system that is shooting off the rails. Slow, linear change is giving way to self-reinforcing feedbacks and non-linear lurches. Last December (just 6 months ago), delegates to climate talks in Paris agreed to try to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees centigrade. Extend the temperature trend shown in that animation for just another few months and we may well be beyond that threshold. How long until we get to two degrees? Three?

Arctic sea ice this month is by far at the lowest extent ever recorded and temperatures in Siberia are rising four times faster than in the rest of the world, releasing enormous amounts of methane and carbon stored in permafrost.

In the energy world, the growth of unconventional oil and gas supplies appears to have postponed peak oil for a decade (conventional oil production flattened starting in 2005; all the supply

increase since then has come from tight oil, tar sands, heavy oil, and deepwater oil)—but at what cost? Unconventional oil production carries higher environmental risks, including increased greenhouse gas emissions per liter of finished fuel.



RICHARD HEINBERG

Richard Heinberg is the author of thirteen books

And it took massive investment to finance the surge in unconventional. If it hadn't been for easy-money central bank policies in the wake of the 2008 global financial crash, it's likely the fracking boom would have been an unnoticeable blip. A few years of sky-high oil prices were also necessary. But high prices weakened demand for oil, just as drillers flooded the market with wrong grades of crude in the wrong places at the wrong time. The result: an oil price crash (starting in mid-2014) and financial bloodletting within the industry.

We appear to be in a new era in which oil prices are either high enough to stimulate new supply, in which case they are also high enough to cripple the economy; or they are low enough to stimulate the economy, but also so low as to decimate the industry. There is no longer any tenable middle ground. Today's price of \$30 per barrel is high in historic terms, but still too low to allow the industry to recover from the past two years of staggering losses. The trouble is, the unconventional production binge required a lot of cash, and most of it was borrowed. According to data compiled by FactSet and Yahoo Finance, the U.S. energy sector is drowning in \$370 billion of debt, double the amount a decade ago. Just to make interest payments, energy companies shelled out \$16.7 billion in 2015—half of their total operating profit. And despite rebounding oil prices, the situation is getting worse, with over 86 percent of energy sector operating profits going to interest payments in the first quarter of

The Boiling Pot

2016. Unless prices zoom back past \$100 a barrel, the tens of billions of dollars in debt coming due between 2017 and 2020 will likely trigger a wave of defaults and bankruptcies.

That could spell serious trouble for an economy that has been on life support for eight years now. After the nearly catastrophic crash of 2008, low interest rates, bailouts, and quantitative easing succeeded in restoring a sense of economic normalcy, though at the cost of more financial bubbles (in housing, fracking, and tech) and increased economic inequality. But what will the wizards of finance do when things turn ugly again—as they inevitably will, sooner or later? Negative interest rates will prove more than a little unpopular with savers, and throwing trillions more at banks and investors won't help the masses afford to pay interest on their mounting debt or to buy more consumer goods.

A pressure cooker needs an escape valve, and this year politics is serving that function for the pressure cooker that American society has lately become. Bernie Sanders is giving voice to popular anger at increasing economic inequality, and at Wall Street's immunity from being held culpable for the 2008 crash and its continued predation on the rest of the economy. Donald Trump is a megaphone for the blind fury of the wage class at its ongoing destruction by globalization and immigration. There is a heavy scent of anti-establishmentarianism in the air; that leaves poor Hillary Clinton, the consummate establishment politician, trying desperately to sound like an outsider and a critic of the globalized, financialized governmental megamachine she has labored for decades to help build, manage, and sell to voters.

For the next six months the upcoming U.S. presidential election will probably be the main focus of discussion for both the media and Main Street. A lot depends on the outcome, but a good outcome is hard to imagine; only shades of bad. Sanders is the only candidate with a sound energy and climate policy, but he has a vanishingly small chance of actually becoming the next president. Clinton is the odds-on favorite; she has the backing of Wall Street, the Washington foreign policy establishment, and

the military-industrial complex. She would doubtless continue most of the current administration's domestic policies (including its confused and largely self-defeating climate and energy policies), but her stance toward Russia, China, and the Middle East would likely be far more combative—hardly what we need at a moment when global tensions are likely to be exacerbated by weakened economies.

But don't count Trump out. Riding on a tide of white working-class wrath, he has managed to surpass the expectations of all of his critics. While it is next to impossible to divine actual policy proposals from his muddled, self-aggrandizing speeches, he did manage to give broad hints at his energy and climate intentions in a talk in North Dakota last week, where he made it fairly clear that he just doesn't care about climate change, that he really likes fossil fuels (including coal), that he doesn't like wind or solar that much, and that he understands so little about the country's resource reserves and energy production statistics that he somehow thinks it is physically possible for the U.S. to become a significant net exporter of oil and gas. As to his likely foreign policies, your guess is as good as mine.

A Trump presidency could lead to a nearly unprecedented period of turmoil for the nation: blue states and red states would be at each other's throats. The fallout for relations with other countries are unknown, but the implications for climate and energy would clearly be horrific.

"Blowing off steam" is a phrase often used to describe the harmless pranks of teenagers, though it could also apply to a continent-destroying supervolcano. In the American political context, the scale of the impending steam and magma release is uncertain. But pressure is building and the available outlets are few.

Whoever the next president turns out to be, her or his term in office will likely coincide with another financial crash, which could well turn out to be much worse than the 2008 debacle. Social pressures from rising inequality and dashed expectations will build to explosive levels. And climate impacts may well take forms that even a Donald Trump cannot ignore.

Altogether, the next eight years are unlikely to be as safely corked and bottled as the last. They say crisis is opportunity. We may be facing more opportunities than we know what to do with; may we seize them skillfully?

NATIONAL

FCC disposes of plea seeking Sohail Afridi's disqualification

The Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) has disposed of a petition filed by Sher Afzal Marwat seeking to disqualify Sohail Afridi.

The ruling said that the plea had become ineffective in light of subsequent developments, including the imposition of emergency and Governor's Rule.

A two-member bench headed by Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan heard the case. Sher Afzal Marwat appeared before the court, while Sohail Afridi was represented by his counsel, Syed Ali Bukhari.

During the hearing, FCC Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan observed that the petition had become ineffective following the developments relating to emergency and Governor's Rule. He questioned whether the case could still be heard after the recent developments concerning the chief minister.

The chief justice remarked that proceedings on the petition could not move forward under the prevailing circumstances and noted that Sohail Afridi was not currently holding the office of chief minister.

Justice Baqar Najafi observed that emergency and Governor's Rule were separate issues, adding that the case against the chief minister was no longer a live issue. Marwat told the court that he wanted to challenge the imposition of emergency and Governor's Rule. He also requested a short adjournment in connection with the petition against Sohail Afridi.

Marwat argued that if Governor's Rule and the emergency were lifted in the future, Sohail Afridi could be restored to office. The chief justice observed that if the chief minister were reinstated in the future, the petitioner could file a miscellaneous application seeking restoration of the proceedings.

The court subsequently disposed of Marwat's petition after finding it ineffective in view of the prevailing circumstances. Earlier, Senator Faisal Vawda claimed that the disqualification process against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi has begun, predicting that he would be disqualified.

He said that if Governor Faisal Karim Kundi managed to deliver even five to 10 per cent of the expected results, the public would move towards the next phase on its own. Vawda said the advisory council included capable people, but their performance would be monitored closely. He added that members who failed to deliver within 180 days could also be replaced. **NEWS DESK**

The latest extension gives individuals, businesses and companies additional time to fulfil their tax obligations and file their returns. Businesses and trade bodies had urged the FBR to extend the deadline, citing difficulties faced by taxpayers in completing their returns within the prescribed time. They had called for additional time to facilitate compliance and enable taxpayers to fulfil their filing requirements. **NEWS DESK**

The FBR notification read:

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Thursday further extended the deadline for filing income tax returns for Tax Year 2026 to October 31, 2026, providing taxpayers additional two weeks to submit their returns.

The FBR had previously extended the deadline from September 30 to October 15. "This extension is being granted in view of the requests received from various trade bodies and tax bar associations," the FBR notification read.

The first snowfall of the winter season has begun at the scenic tourist destination of Naran in Mansehra district, prompting police to intensify efforts to guide and assist tourists and ensure their safety amid changing weather conditions.

SHO Naran Police Station Raja Sajid, along with a contingent of police personnel, is present in the area to provide guidance, assistance and necessary travel-related support to tourists visiting the popular valley. Mansehra Police are actively monitoring the situation to facilitate visitors and help ensure safe travel as temperatures drop and snowfall begins in the region.

Meanwhile, Babusar Top was closed to all types of traffic a couple of days ago following the season's first snowfall in the area. The closure was aimed at ensuring the safety of travellers amid adverse weather conditions and the potential risks associated with snow-covered roads and reduced visibility.

The snowfall marks the beginning of winter conditions in the upper reaches of the Kaghan Valley and surrounding mountainous areas, where weather conditions can change rapidly. Tourists travelling to Naran and other high-altitude destinations have been advised to remain cautious, follow police instructions and obtain the latest information about road conditions before beginning their journeys.

Mansehra Police have reiterated their commitment to protecting tourists and providing assistance throughout the tourist season, particularly in areas affected by snowfall and harsh weather. Visitors have been urged to prioritize safety and avoid travelling towards restricted routes or high-altitude areas where conditions may pose risks. **NEWS DESK**

The admission policy for MBBS and BDS programmes in public and private medical and dental colleges of Punjab for the 2026-27 academic session has been issued, with the University of Health Sciences (UHS), Lahore, designated as the admitting university to conduct the centralised admission process.

Under the policy announced here on Wednesday, the admission merit will be calculated with 50 per cent weightage for the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT), 40 per cent for FSc (Pre-Medical)/HSSC or equivalent, and 10 per cent for Matric/SSC or equivalent. Passing the MDCAT is mandatory for admission eligibility.

Candidates must have obtained at least 60 per cent marks in HSSC or an equivalent Grade 12 qualification recognised in Pakistan. They must have studied Biology and Chemistry as compulsory subjects, along with Physics or Mathematics as an elective subject. Candidates holding foreign qualifications must

submit an equivalence certificate issued by the Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC).

In accordance with the Pakistan Medical and Dental Undergraduate Education (Admissions, Curriculum, and Conduct) Policy and Regulations 2025, and the judgment of a six-member bench in a suo motu case dated April 4, 2023, no additional marks will be awarded for Hifz-e-Quran.

Applicants must submit their college preferences through the online admission portal. Candidates applying to private sector institutions may select any number of colleges, while those applying to public sector colleges must list all colleges in order of preference. Applications may be modified before the submission deadline; however, the number and order of preferences cannot be changed after the deadline.

The policy stipulates that a college not included in a candidate's preference list will not be considered for admission or upgradation. Students

admitted to private sector institutions may waive their right to upgradation at the time of joining, but the decision will be final and cannot subsequently be changed or withdrawn.

Candidates must submit separate applications for medical and dental programmes, as failure to apply for a particular programme will render them ineligible for admission to it. Selected candidates will be required to deposit the prescribed college fee within three working days of the display of the merit list.

The UHS will prepare college-wise selection lists according to candidates' merit and preferences through a fair digital system developed or procured by the university.

For public sector medical and dental colleges, excluding seats under overseas and foreign quotas, the annual tuition fee for MBBS and BDS programmes has been fixed at Rs50,000. Overseas Pakistanis selected against open-merit seats will pay the same tuition fee as Pakistani students. **APP**

Arrangements for Guru Nanak's 557th birth anniversary reviewed

The Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB), under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, on Thursday reviewed arrangements for the 557th birth anniversary celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism, at a high-level meeting held at the Board's headquarters.

The meeting was chaired by ETPB Secretary Nasir Mushtaq, while Chairman Qamar Zaman participated through video link. Senior officials from Rangers, Customs, Immigration, Rescue 1122 and Sui Gas, along with district police officers, deputy commissioners and representatives of relevant administrative departments, attended the meeting.

The participants reviewed arrangements for the security, accommodation, transportation, healthcare and other facilities for Sikh pilgrims arriving from India and other countries to participate in the annual religious celebrations.

Indian Sikh pilgrims are scheduled to arrive in Pakistan through the Wagah Border on November 22, where they will be accorded a warm welcome. The main ceremony marking the birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji will be held in Nankana Sahib on November 24.

Addressing the meeting, ETPB Chairman Qamar Zaman said freedom of religious worship and pilgrimage was a fundamental human and religious right. He said Pakistan would extend its traditional hospitality to Sikh

pilgrims from across the world, particularly those arriving from India, and ensure that they could perform their religious rituals in a peaceful and secure environment. He expressed confidence that all relevant institutions would extend their full cooperation to provide the pilgrims with the best possible facilities throughout their visit.

would be equipped with medical services and other essential amenities. Special arrangements would also be made to provide bottled mineral water to ensure access to clean drinking water.

Currency exchange facilities and telephone booths would be established to facilitate the pilgrims during their stay, he added. Mushtaq said

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NATIONAL

DTM

Imaan Mazari, Hadi Chattha to face trial at Adiala Jail

An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Thursday sought an explanation from police officials for failing to produce Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chattha in the barrier-removal case, while the police requested that their trial be conducted in jail.

Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra directed authorities to explain the reasons for the accused not being brought to court. The court later allowed Mazari and Chattha to appear through video link and adjourned the hearing until tomorrow, directing lawyers and witnesses to appear at Adiala Jail for the next hearing.

During the proceedings, defence counsel Aimal Khan Mandokhail and Riasat Ali Azad appeared before the court. Mandokhail submitted an affidavit detailing difficulties he said he had faced while meeting his clients at Adiala Jail.

Riasat Ali Azad told the court that Mandokhail had not been allowed to take the case record into the meeting, adding that although the meeting had taken place, an effective discussion about the case had not been possible.

Judge asked the defence what kind of arrangements it wanted and questioned jail authorities over the absence of a report explaining why the accused had not been produced. He warned that senior police officials could be summoned if no report was submitted. When the hearing resumed, the judge ordered SP Headquarters to appear within 15 minutes.

The court was informed that jail authorities had written to Islamabad Police seeking a vehicle to transport the accused, but police had responded that no vehicle or three constables were available. Appearing before the court, the SP said a large number of police personnel were deployed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and a high-level delegation was also present. She proposed holding the trial inside the jail.

The court was told that the SP's office had requested a jail trial, but a final decision had not yet been made. She sought two to three hours to update the court on the matter. Expressing displeasure, Judge said he had repeatedly directed authorities over several days to produce the accused and questioned why the police had not raised the issue earlier. The Chief Commissioner's Office subsequently issued the notification for the jail trial. The court adjourned the case until tomorrow directed lawyers and witnesses to appear at Adiala Jail for the next hearing. The case against Mazari and Chattha is registered at Aabpara Police Station. NEWS DESK



Shehbaz vows stronger support for farmers, food security

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed the government's commitment to modernising Pakistan's agriculture and food sectors through scientific research, technological innovation and improved support for farmers to strengthen national food security.

In his message on World Food Day, observed on October 16 under the theme "Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow," the prime minister said climate change, water scarcity, declining soil fertility, rising production costs and disruptions in food supply chains posed significant challenges to food security.

He stressed that innovation and modern technology were essential to

building resilient agricultural systems and meeting the nutritional needs of present and future generations.

The prime minister said the government was integrating scientific research and technological advancements with farmers' traditional knowledge and practical experience to improve agricultural productivity.

He highlighted the establishment of the National Agricultural and Food Security Council (NAFSC) to promote coordinated national efforts, including research into improved seeds, agricultural mechanisation, digital systems, efficient irrigation, and stronger links between farmers and markets. He added that the government was also prioritising affordable credit for smallholder farmers through engagement with private banks.

Emphasising that food security involved both the availability and nutritional quality of food, the prime minister said the

government was strengthening storage infrastructure and expanding agricultural processing facilities to reduce losses, enhance the value of produce and improve export opportunities.

He said better utilisation of Pakistan's agricultural resources, including crops, halal meat and fisheries, could help boost exports and reduce dependence on imports.

He urged provincial governments, farmers, researchers, the private sector, development partners and civil society to work together towards a strong, inclusive and sustainable food system. NEWS DESK



Parliament endorses emergency in KP

Continued from Page 1

Naqvi said the federal delegation had waited for hours while the other side held consultations in a separate room.

He added that the government had repeatedly engaged in dialogue and made efforts to move the process forward.

Referring to a document con-

taining the points discussed during the negotiations, the interior minister said the federal government had attempted to accommodate the other side's demands.

He questioned how an effective counterterrorism strategy could be implemented if political leaders were unwilling to stand alongside security personnel for fear of political repercussions.

Emphasising the federal government's responsibility to com-

bat terrorism, he said it would continue to fulfil that obligation.

Naqvi said the federal government had made several concessions during negotiations with the opposition, including facilitating medical examinations and family visits to the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), but the process had failed to reach a successful conclusion.

Separately, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister

Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday defended the emergency proclamations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saying the Constitution clearly laid down the procedure and the government had followed it.

He said the joint sitting could extend the proclamation for further periods of up to two months at a time, but it could not remain in force for more than six months. NEWS DESK

Justice Munib Akhtar takes oath as CJP

Justice Munib Akhtar, the Senior Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, took oath as Acting Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Pakistan Thursday.

The oath was administered by Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail in a simple and dignified ceremony held at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Justice Munib Akhtar shall act as Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Pakistan during the period, Justice



Yahya Afridi, Chief Justice of Pakistan, remains abroad on a private visit to the United Kingdom.

The ceremony was attended by Judges of the Supreme Court, Director General Federal Judicial Academy, Secretary Judicial Commission of Pakistan, Secretary Supreme Judicial Council and Law officers.

Registrar, Supreme Court, conducted the proceedings of the oath-taking ceremony. Officers and staff of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, were also present on the occasion. NEWS DESK

LHC seeks assistance in plea for under-16 social media ban

The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday summoned the Attorney General for Pakistan and the Advocate General Punjab for assistance in a petition seeking a ban on social media use by children under the age of 16.

Chief Justice Aalia Neelum issued the directions while hearing a petition filed by Alaiya Saleem, which highlighted the use of social media by children below the specified age.

The court directed the two law officers to appear on October 12 to assist it in the matter.

The petition stated that children under 16 were using social media in Pakistan, while no effective mechanism existed to prevent them from accessing such platforms. It further argued that excessive or inappropriate social media use was having adverse effects on children.

Citing international examples, the petitioner submitted that restrictions on social media use by children under 16 had been imposed in countries including Australia, Brazil and Italy. The petitioner urged the court to direct the relevant authorities to introduce a similar ban

in Pakistan to protect children from the potential harmful effects of social media.

Separately, the Lahore High Court directed the relevant government departments to formulate a policy on the sale of glasses equipped with hidden



cameras and submit a summary to the federal cabinet for approval. Chief Justice Aalia Neelum issued the directions while hearing a petition filed through Advocate Shehram Saqi, challenging the sale of glasses fitted with concealed cameras. The court was informed that all respondents, including the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and the Ministry of Commerce, had submitted their respective replies.

The chief justice directed all relevant departments to work together to develop a comprehensive policy addressing the issue and place it before the federal cabinet for consideration.

The court further ordered the authorities to submit a report on the progress made in this regard at the next hearing. The petition is scheduled for further hearing on November 11. NEWS DESK

Petrol price cut by Rs3.63/liter, diesel up by 31 paisas

The federal government has slashed the price of petrol by Rs3.63 per litre while increased that of high-speed diesel by 31 paisas for the next pricing period, according to an official notification.

The revised prices will take effect on Friday (October 16), offering some relief to consumers.

Petrol will now cost Rs390.23 per litre, down from Rs393.86, while high-speed diesel will rise to Rs396.96 per litre from Rs396.65. The revision comes a day after the government increased the



price of petrol by Rs 1.2 per litre, while decreased the price of diesel by 17 paisas per litre for October 15.

The Petroleum Division announced the adjustment following a review by the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) under the government's petroleum pricing mechanism.

According to the Petroleum Division, the revised ex-depot prices reflect movements in international markets. Changes in global product prices, Platts rates, premiums and other associated costs were taken into account when determining the new rates. NEWS DESK

China lauds Pakistan's economic progress

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, on Thursday, met with Minister of Finance of the People's Republic of China, Lan Fo'an, on the sidelines of the World Bank Group-IMF Annual Meetings 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand.

According to press release issued by finance ministry here, the meeting focused on strengthening bilateral financial cooperation, expanding access to international capital markets, and advancing regional economic collaboration.

During the meeting, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb highlighted Pakistan's progress towards macroeco-

nomics stability and expressed appreciation for China's longstanding support, particularly during challenging economic circumstances. The Chinese Finance Minister welcomed Pakistan's improving economic position and renewed access to global financial markets.

The two Ministers reviewed Pakistan's successful inaugural Panda Bond issuance, including regulatory support, credit enhancement from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), a competitive 2.5% coupon, and strong investor demand.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb reiterated Pakistan's intention to establish a sustained presence in the Chinese capital market as a repeat sovereign issuer. Discussions also covered Pakistan's return to the Eurobond market after four years and plans for further Panda Bond issuances under the approved RMB 7.2 billion programme, with continued AIIB support.

Both Ministers discussed Pakistan's chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), including preparations

for the forthcoming summit and the preceding SCO Finance Ministers' Meeting in Islamabad. Lan Fo'an expressed his intention to attend the ministerial meeting in Islamabad.

The two sides also exchanged views on the proposed establishment of the SCO Development Bank as an important initiative for regional financial cooperation. The Chinese side sought Pakistan's active participation in ongoing consultations and support for building consensus on the proposed institution. Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to advancing the establishment

of the bank.

The meeting also covered bilateral infrastructure cooperation, with the Chinese Finance Minister referring to progress towards consensus on proposed changes to the route of a China-Pakistan highway project.

On digital transformation and skills development, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb briefed his Chinese counterpart on Pakistan's engagement with Alibaba to advance digital transformation and artificial intelligence skills training.

He reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's commitment to implementing the cooperation framework and strengthening cooperation in these areas. NEWS DESK



BACKPAGE

Security forces gun down 10 terrorists

Over a 100 Afghans arrested during operations

Pakistan security forces killed five Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists during an intelligence-based operation in Balochistan's Washuk district.

In a statement, the military's media wing said the terrorists belonged to the Indian proxy group Fitna al-Hindustan.

The statement said security forces destroyed the terrorists' hideout during the operation. Weapons, ammunition and explosive materials were also recovered from the site, according to the ISPR. Earlier, Pakistan security forces killed seven terrorists in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said sources.

In Nok Kacha, Chagai district, security forces conducted a successful operation in which two terrorists were killed, the sources said.

In another intelligence-based operation in the Bara area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, five terrorists affiliated with Fitna al-Khawarij were killed, according to security sources.

Separately, security forces killed two terrorists during an intelligence-based operation near Paringabad in Mastung District under Operation Radd-ul-Fitna-3.

In a separate operation in Dasht and Turbat, security forces foiled attempts at human smuggling and arrested 104 Afghan nationals who were allegedly attempting to travel illegally to Iran and Europe, security sources said.

Moreover, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and district police killed three suspected terrorists during an intelligence-based operation in Sakhsadob area within the jurisdiction of Kanju Police Station in Swat early Thursday, while two others escaped.

According to a CTD press release, the operation followed credible intelligence that militants affiliated with the group of TTP commander Muzaffar alias Khalid were present in the Segram, Lalu Banda and adjoining mountainous areas to carry out terrorist activities. **NEWS DESK**



MIDDLE EAST ESCALATION

Iran, Pakistan plan Baghdad consultations

Dar contacts Egypt, Türkiye FMs by phone



civilian and energy infrastructure, raising fears of a wider regional confrontation. Pakistan, which has helped mediate

a g e n c y reported. T h e report did not specify whether

Araqchi would hold a separate bilateral meeting with Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar or identify the issues to be discussed.

Separately, Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar engaged his counterparts from Türkiye and Egypt on Thursday to discuss the situation in Palestine and regional developments, the foreign office said, stressing the need to support dialogue and diplomacy to resolve ongoing conflicts.

Pakistan has actively mediated between the US and Iran ever since their conflict began in February. Islamabad has also engaged regional partners Egypt and Türkiye in its efforts to seek a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

Pakistan, a key member of the OIC, has actively criticized Israel for its military operations in Gaza. Islamabad has repeatedly urged world powers to hold Israel accountable for alleged war crimes in occupied territories.

Dar spoke to Hakan Fidan, Türkiye's foreign minister, over the phone on Thursday to discuss

regional and international developments, including the situation in Gaza and Palestine.

"They also discussed the agenda and strategy of the forthcoming meeting of the OIC Council of Ministers, scheduled on 17-18 October in Iraq," Pakistan's foreign office said.

"They underscored the importance of close coordination in advancing common objectives through bilateral engagement and cooperation at multilateral fora."

Dar, who also serves as Pakistan's deputy premier, spoke separately to Dr. Badr Abdelatty, Egypt's foreign minister. The two leaders discussed the latest regional developments, and underscored that dialogue and diplomacy remain the only way forward to address all issues, the Pakistani foreign office said.

"They reaffirmed the resolve to continue supporting efforts to advance dialogue and de-escalation, and agreed to remain closely engaged on all matters of mutual interest," it added. **NEWS DESK**

Iran and Pakistan are expected to hold fresh consultations on regional peace efforts during an Islamic foreign ministers' meeting in Baghdad this weekend, Iranian state news agency IRNA reported on Thursday, amid escalating Middle East tensions.

The planned talks come as Iran-backed Houthi rebels intensify attacks on Saudi Arabia's

between Washington and Tehran, is also bound by a collective defense agreement with Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.

Diplomatic efforts to end the US-Iran war, which began with American and Israeli strikes on Iran in February, remain stalled over disagreements concerning the Strait of Hormuz and the terms of a broader settlement. The conflict has disrupted global energy supplies and increased pressure on regional economies.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi is scheduled to travel to Iraq on Saturday for the 52nd session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Council of Foreign Ministers, taking place on Oct. 17-18. Foreign ministers from Pakistan, Egypt and Türkiye are also expected to attend, according to IRNA.

"Fresh consultations among key regional players including Tehran and Islamabad will take place on the sidelines of the Baghdad meeting," the news

PTI tells IHC it has no control over Imran's X account

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan formally distanced the party from the official X account of PTI founding chairman.

Imran Khan, telling the Islamabad High Court that the party does not claim ownership or control of the account. The Islamabad High Court heard a petition filed by a citizen seeking the closure of Imran Khan's official X account.

Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir presided over the hearing, during which PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan appeared in person.

Imran Khan's lawyers Khalid Yousef Chaudhry and Shamsa Kiyani, along with NCCIA officials, were also present. During the hearing, Justice Arbab Muhammad

Tahir remarked to Barrister Gohar, "The court had not summoned you personally; sending a written response would have been sufficient."

In response, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan distanced himself and the party from Imran Khan's official X account, making it clear before the court that the party does not own or claim the account. Barrister Gohar requested additional time to submit a detailed written response, stating that the political and administrative circumstances had changed.

The judge accepted his request and directed that the party's position be submitted in writing. The court adjourned further proceedings in the case until 23rd November. **INP**



Pakistan targets 4% growth in FY27 as reforms gather pace: Aurangzeb

Pakistan expects its economy to grow around 4% in fiscal year 2026-27, supported by a recovery in industry and agriculture, as the government seeks to move beyond macroeconomic stabilisation towards sustainable, investment- and export-led growth, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said.

Speaking with Michael Kugelman of the Atlantic Council on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings 2026 in Bangkok, Aurangzeb said Pakistan's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 3.7% in FY26, compared with 3.2% in the preceding fiscal year.

He said the State Bank of Pakistan had projected growth in a range of 3.5% to 4.5% for the current fiscal year, citing a rebound in large-scale manufacturing and improving performance in agriculture, particularly livestock.

Aurangzeb said the government was closely monitoring the impact of the continuing conflict in the Middle East on inflation and economic growth, noting that external shocks had weighed on economic activity during the final quarter of the previous fiscal year.

He said Pakistan's twin deficits had declined from 12.5% of GDP to 2.6% over the past three years, while foreign exchange reserves had improved. The government

expected the current account balance to remain between zero and 1% of GDP, he added.

Aurangzeb said Pakistan wanted to avoid the boom-and-bust cycles of the past, when consumption-led growth increased import demand and eventually created balance-of-payments pressures.

"This time the focus is very much on sustainable," he said, describing investment- and export-led growth as essential to maintaining economic stability.

He said the government had introduced measures to improve export competitiveness, including reducing tax burdens on exporters, lowering the cost of imported raw materials and intermediate goods, and providing subsidised financing.

Pakistan's information technology export services generated \$4.6 billion in the previous fiscal year, and the government expected the figure to reach around \$5.5 billion in FY27, he said.

The finance minister said tax revenues had increased 40% over the past two fiscal years, while the tax-to-GDP ratio had risen to approximately 10.3% from below 9% when the government began its reform drive.

He attributed the improvement to stronger enforcement, digital monitoring, electronic invoicing and measures to reduce revenue leakages. **NEWS DESK**

No dialogue until Imran access: TTAP

TTAP calls for release of all detained PTI leaders

The Tehreek-e-Tahafuz-e-Azin Pakistan (TTAP) on Thursday announced it would suspend all negotiations with the government until Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan was allowed to meet his family and his doctors were granted access to him, declaring that "there will be no talks" until his health information was provided.

The announcement came a day after the National Assembly and Senate endorsed the imposition of an emergency in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), deepening the political standoff between the government and opposition despite recent attempts to reach an understanding through dialogue.

"Until a meeting with Imran is arranged and information about his health is provided, there will be no talks with the government," the alliance said in a statement shared on X after a meeting chaired by its chairman, Mahmood Khan Achakzai. It added that all authority to negotiate with the government would rest exclusively with Achakzai.

The alliance also demanded the release of Imran's sisters and access to him for his doctors, as

well as the immediate release of non-functional K-P Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, provincial

Senate on Wednesday approved the emergency proclamation for K-P by majority vote, following the federal government's decision

state, attacks by state institutions against political parties and sectarian violence. The alliance expressed support for the National Action Plan but called for the immediate implementation of a joint resolution passed by a peace jirga in the K-P Assembly, rather than the adoption of new policies.

In Balochistan, TTAP blamed the worsening security situation on what it called an unrepresentative provincial government and failed federal policies. It called for the province's problems to be resolved through dialogue with its people rather than the use of force.

The statement also expressed concern over the situation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, alleging that an "artificial system" had been imposed on its people and condemning what it said was the deprivation of internet access and basic necessities for five months.

The alliance said restrictions on judicial independence and the media had prompted it to approach international human rights organisations and the United Nations to highlight what it described as human rights violations and breaches of the Constitution in Pakistan. **NEWS DESK**



Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swati, PTI provincial president Junaid Akbar and all arrested members of the national and provincial assemblies and party leaders.

The statement strongly condemned the imposition of governor's rule and an emergency in K-P, describing the measures as "an attack on the Constitution and the public mandate". It demanded that the decisions be withdrawn immediately, adding that the alliance's constituent parties would challenge them in the Peshawar High Court.

The National Assembly and

impose the measure alongside governor's rule on October 11. The government has defended the move on security grounds, citing the province's deteriorating law and order situation and the need for greater coordination in counterterrorism efforts.

The alliance also called for the release of human rights lawyer Imran Mazari, her husband Hadi Chatha, Dr Mahrang Baloch and all political prisoners associated with the Baloch Yakjehti Committee.

It reiterated its opposition to all forms of terrorism, including violence against civilians by the

ECP turns down Punjab LG polls proposal

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday rejected the Punjab government's proposal for pushing local government polls to April next year.

Earlier this month, the electoral body proposed holding local government elections in Punjab on December 14 and sent a draft of the suggested schedule to the Punjab chief secretary for consultation.

However, the Punjab government on Wednesday proposed holding the elections in phases on April 4, 11 and 18, citing smog, dense fog and adverse winter weather conditions expected during December and

January.

On Thursday, the ECP rejected the government's request. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja.

According to the statement, the ECP termed the Punjab government's reply "unsatisfactory" and said a consultative process with the provincial government had been completed on Aug 20, in which the provincial government had agreed to holding local government elections in Punjab between Dec 15 and Jan 15, 2027.

"Now, the provincial government wants to change the

proposed time frame," the commission said.

The statement said that keeping in view its constitutional and legal responsibilities, the ECP had decided to hold local government elections in Punjab and issue the election schedule immediately. It directed its office to immediately present the draft election programme for Punjab for the commission's approval.

The ECP said it had asked the provincial government to provide list of officers to appoint as district returning officers, returning officers and assistant returning officers. Expressing disappointment over non-

provision of lists so far, it directed the provincial

government to provide the lists within a week. **NEWS DESK**



GLAMOURDTMUR

Meet The New Sense and Sensibility Sisters

Daisy Edgar-Jones just wanted to know who her Marianne was going to be.

After a lifetime of dreaming in Jane Austen - reading every novel and watching every adaptation she could get her hands on - she'd been cast as Elinor, the elder, more sensible Dashwood sister, in "Sense and Sensibility" (in theaters Friday).

If it wasn't an inevitability that she, as one of the bright young talents of her generation, would eventually get to be in an Austen adaptation, it might seem that way in retrospect. For English actors of a certain age, starring in one is almost a rite of passage. Ang Lee's 1995 version would earn Kate Winslet her first Oscar nomination and Emma Thompson her first screen-writing win. And this one was going to be special, having the distinction of being the

"So much of sisterhood is a shared history, a shared context, a knowledge of one another and so sort of acting across from Esmé, having such an image of her 17-year-old face, really helped," Edgar-Jones said.



first major "Sense and Sensibility" to be directed by a woman, Georgia Oakley.

And though it was also an inevitability that there would be a slew of handsome men in the mix, including George MacKay, Frank Dillane and Herbert Nordrum (it is the law in Austen adaptation-land, isn't it?), the relationship between the sisters was, Edgar-Jones said, "kind of everything." And the search for the more outwardly romantic Dashwood was ongoing.

"The film, as I saw it, would kind of live or die by the relationship between those two actors," said Oakley, who studied Austen in school. "It was quite a pressurized situation trying to find sisters that, to me, were believably sisters."

One of the names in the mix was Esmé Creed-Miles, who might not have come into the audition process with a deep Austen reverence, but who had something even better going for her.

AP

MGK Hits Back Over Megan 'Fumble' Claim

Machine Gun Kelly is setting the record straight after a viral post attributed to him claimed he regretted losing Megan Fox.

The rapper, whose real name is Colson Baker, responded to an X post shared on Monday, Oct. 12, that featured two recent photos of Fox in lingerie, a picture of the former couple together and an alleged screenshot of a tweet in which MGK supposedly expressed regret over their breakup.

NEWS DESK



Scarlett & Sam: 3rd Film, Same Spark



Scarlett Johansson is detailing how well she and Sam Rockwell work together ahead of the release of their new animated movie.

On Saturday, Oct. 10, Johansson, 41, caught up with PEOPLE at the London Film Festival premiere of Ray Gun, a new Netflix animated movie from filmmaker Brad Bird (The Incredibles) that is also Johansson and Rockwell's third time acting together. The new movie sees Rockwell, 57, voice a private investigator named Raymond Gunn in an alternative reality stylized like the 1930s. Rockwell's title character "is drawn into a case involving aliens, murder and a multimedia star named Venus Nova," whom Johansson voices, per an official logline. "Oh, I love Sam. I mean, he's one of my favorite actors, period," Johansson says on the red carpet.

NEWS DESK

Megan Moroney's Hilarious Tour Ban Revealed

There's no room for your ex at the Cloud 9 Tour.

In a dip premiering exclusively with PEOPLE, Megan Moroney sat down with ABC's Nightline at the Eventim Apollo in London back in September and she opened up about some house rules on her tour. "There's a part of the show where I say, 'Scream if you miss your ex!' And I'm always like, 'This is not a sign - don't call them,'" the "Tennessee Orange" singer, 29, says. "One of my fans was like, 'I'm going to call him.' I was like 'No!'" she continues. The "No Caller ID" singer admitted she called her ex after writing a song - and she doesn't "recommend doing that." The full episode will air at 12:35 a.m. ET on Wednesday, Oct. 14.

NEWS DESK



Kelly Feud Sends Dancing Bird Price to \$15M

The "Since U Been Gone" singer, 44, first expressed her disappointment with the store, Art of Play, in a post on X on Oct. 10.

At the time, she said she stopped by the store wanting a few things and "literally was looked at as if I couldn't afford it."

The Kelly Clarkson and Brooklyn store saga continues.

Days after Clarkson claimed she got the Pretty Woman treatment at a Brooklyn store, Adam Rubin, one of three owners, spoke to New York magazine on Tuesday, Oct. 13 to discuss their side of the story.

"This is an insane misunderstanding. Nothing happened in this shop to justify her scolding our shopkeeper on the way out, but I can let that go. You know, everybody has a bad day. But things changed when she used her platform to attack us," Rubin said of Clarkson.

The "Since U Been Gone" singer, 44, first expressed her disappointment with the store, Art of Play, in a post on X on Oct. 10. At the time, she said she stopped by the store wanting a few things and "literally was looked at as if I couldn't afford it."

In the post, Clarkson claimed that the salesperson offered to find her a comparable item and she likened her experience to that of Julia Roberts' in Pretty Woman. In the popular film, Roberts is treated rudely by a salesperson at a Beverly Hills clothing boutique.

NEWS DESK



Imran Khan Kicked Out Of India!



Authorities in India have ordered actor Imran Khan, nephew of Bollywood star Aamir Khan, to leave the country by 28 October after he participated in a protest, seeking electoral reforms.

An American citizen, Khan holds an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card, which allows people of Indian origin to visit and stay in the country. But an OCI cannot vote or contest elections.

"Imran Khan participated in the agitation at Mumbai's August Kranti Maidan, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar," police said in a statement on Thursday.

They said the Foreigners' Regional Registration Office (FRRO) had served Khan a notice for violating laws by protesting.

The actor, who's known for the 2008 hit romantic comedy Jaane Tu... Ye Jaane Na, has not commented on the notice yet. Khan first appeared as a child actor in popular films such as Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak in 1988 and Jo Jeetsa Wohi Sikander in 1992.

Since his debut as a lead actor in 2008, he has starred in a number of films like I Hate Luv Storys, Mere Brother Ki Dulhan and Delhi Belly.

The notice to leave the country comes as Khan returns to acting this year with the Netflix film Adhure Hum Adhure Tum after a hiatus of over a decade.

On 10 October, the actor participated in the protest called by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) - a wider GenZ-led movement that has been holding demonstrations for days seeking electoral reforms and the resignation of India's top election official over allegations of vote fraud. India's poll panel denies these charges.

"Imran Khan had participated in the agitation despite not being an Indian citizen," police said in their statement. The complaint against Khan was lodged by Kirti Somaiya, a leader of India's and the state's governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), who accused the actor of being "involved in a conspiracy to spread anarchy in India".

NEWS DESK

Mishi Khan slams dramas for stereotyping hijab-wearing women

Pakistani actress and television host Mishi Khan has criticised drama writers for portraying hijab-wearing women as oppressed and helpless while often presenting women in Western clothing as confident but morally questionable.

In a recent video shared on social media, Mishi questioned the recurring character stereotypes in Pakistani dramas. She argued that women who wear hijab are frequently depicted as frightened, powerless and dependent, while women dressed in Western outfits are often shown as rebellious or involved in activities such as clubbing.

Questioning the approach, Mishi asked why writers repeatedly portray women through such extreme contrasts. She said that a woman's clothing should not determine how her character, confidence or personal values are represented on screen.

The actress also highlighted how these portrayals can reinforce misleading assumptions about women from different backgrounds. Her remarks have brought renewed attention to the way female characters are written in Pakistan's television industry.

NEWS DESK



WORLD

DTM

Mother Of All Bombs Set For Iran: CNN

The US military has developed strike plans that could include using the GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb, also known as the "mother of all bombs", against Iranian energy infrastructure and nuclear sites if President Donald Trump orders renewed combat operations, CNN reported on Thursday citing US officials familiar with the matter.

The potential deployment of the largest non-nuclear bomb in the US arsenal would mark a significant escalation in the conflict, although officials familiar with military planning discussions told CNN questions remain over its effectiveness in achieving Washington's strategic objectives. **AP/REUTERS**

GBU-43/B MASSIVE ORDNANCE AIR BLAST

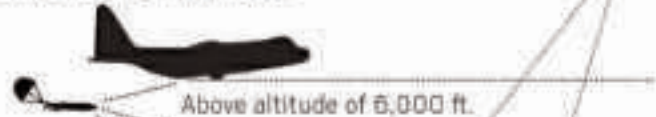
The Massive Ordnance Air Blast, or MOAB, also called the "mother of all bombs," is the most powerful non-nuclear bomb in the U.S. arsenal. In service since 2003, the bomb is designed to be dropped by a C-130 plane and guided by the plane's GPS system.



Weight: 21,600 lbs.
Height: 30 ft.
Explosive yield:
Equivalent to 11 tons

How it's released

Pulled out the back of a C-130 cargo aircraft by parachute



Above altitude of 6,000 ft.

Impact

- Detonation just above ground level
- Bomb creates mist of ammonium nitrate and powdered aluminum, then ignites it, producing a highly destructive blast
- Explosion sufficient to knock over tanks and kill any people within several hundred meters



■ After release, the bomb is guided by Global Positioning Satellites to detonate at a precise area

Sources: Tribune News Service, Reuters, Federation of American Scientists, U.S. Air Force, Air Force Armament Museum, Department of Defense

2003 test footage



Police Seize Robot After Teen Groped

German authorities opened an investigation into possible sexual harassment after a robot controlled by two young men touched the buttocks of a 16-year-old girl and made thrusting movements toward her, police said.

Police in the western city of Cologne responded after the incident overnight Saturday to Sunday in which the robot's suspected 16-year-old owner and a 19-year-old companion were said to have filmed the alleged assault.

They were said to have streamed the incident and commented on it online.

Cologne police spokesman Christoph Bermal said the two male teenagers have not been charged but are considered suspects, and investigators were examining whether the robot's movements were preprogrammed or controlled in real time.



Police were unfamiliar with this type of incident, he said. "We have not been aware of

this phenomenon so far," Bermal told The Associated Press, saying it was "new territory for us." **AP**

Brazil Says Yes To 4-Day Workweek!

Brazil's Senate approved a constitutional amendment Wednesday to reduce the country's maximum workweek from 44 to 40 hours without a salary cut, a move backed by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who hopes it will boost his standing against Flávio Bolsonaro in the Oct. 25 presidential runoff.

Lula is expected to sign the shorter workweek into law next week after the measure passed the Senate in two rounds of voting with the same result: 75 to 1 out of 81 members. The sole vote against it came from former Vice President Hamilton Mourao, who served under President Jair Bolsonaro.

Flávio Bolsonaro, who opposed the initiative until early this week, voted for it remotely as he campaigned in southern Brazil. Analysts and politicians say his allies in the Senate stopped blocking the popular move so he wouldn't be hurt in his neck-to-neck race against Lula.

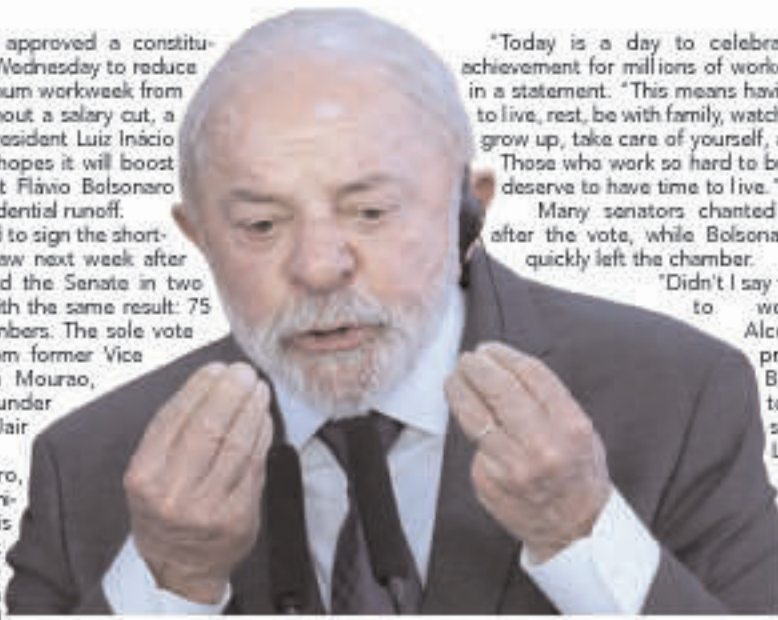
The amendment gives businesses 14 months to adopt the shorter workweek, which was a key sticking point in the negotiations. Many business leaders and lawmakers wanted the changes to be made gradually over 10 years. The constitutional amendment establishes a 40-hour weekly limit and two rest days without reducing pay. More than 37 million workers could benefit from the new rules, according to the government.

Brazil's president was quick to celebrate the decision.

"Today is a day to celebrate a historic achievement for millions of workers," Lula said in a statement. "This means having more time to live, rest, be with family, watch your children grow up, take care of yourself, and enjoy life. Those who work so hard to build Brazil also deserve to have time to live."

Many senators chanted Lula's name after the vote, while Bolsonaro supporters quickly left the chamber.

"Didn't I say this was going to work?" Davi Alcolumbre, the president of Brazil's Senate, told a leading senator of Lula's Workers' Party after the result. He timed the decision to take place between the first and the



second round of the election, which benefits the incumbent. Recent polls indicated widespread support for the measure, despite the opposition of many business owners. Many Bolsonaro allies said in their remarks they see the cost of living going up because of the new schedule. Lula has taken a number of steps in recent days to shore up support before the runoff, including new fuel tax cuts, the extension of existing subsidies, the pledge to pardon debts of more than 3.6 million small businesses with the federal government, the decision to block signal for cell-phones around prisons, and a boost in payments of a welfare program for university students. **AP**

Go Now! Musk Blasts Zelensky Over Satellite Spat

Tech billionaire Elon Musk called on Wednesday for Volodymyr Zelensky to "go" as Ukraine's leader, after insisting any disruption to the war-torn country's use of his satellite communications system was the fault of the US government, not his company.

The comments came as Kyiv raised doubts over US support for Ukraine in its war with Russia, accusing Washington this week of helping Moscow by failing to warn it of incoming missile strikes and hobbling Kyiv's military response through changes to the SpaceX-designed system it uses for communications.

"And so the slaughter continues," Musk wrote

on X. "Time for Zelensky to go."

Musk earlier said that "any limits on speed or usage" of his SpaceX company's Starshield systems were "decided by the US military and ultimately POTUS," referring to US President Donald Trump.

He drew a distinction between Starshield, which Ukraine relies on for battlefield communications, and the parallel Starlink civilian satellite system, which Kyiv also deploys but is not allowed to use for offensive operations.

Musk was responding to a post on X by Ukraine's former defense minister Mykhailo Fedorov, who said that "Starlink connectivity at speeds of up to 160 km/h is being restored," but that "removing Starshield's speed limit entirely is now critical for Ukraine's



defense."

Ukrainian defense officials have suggested Washington is behind slower speeds reported on some internet terminals that help the country's military hit Russian-occupied territory and operate interceptor drones.

Kyiv has also accused the United States of helping Russia by failing to warn it of incoming missile strikes, with the city hit by ballistic missiles for two nights in a row before air raid sirens could sound to warn residents to take cover.

A senior official in Kyiv also said that the United States had in recent days threatened to stop providing intelligence about Russian missile launches that Ukraine uses to thwart attacks -- which Trump has denied.

Trump, facing key midterm elections next month in which soaring fuel prices are a major issue, has blamed Ukrainian strikes on Russian oil refineries for the squeeze on supplies and increase in prices at the pump. **AP**

Predator Coach Gets 90 Years



A once prominent youth gymnastics coach was sentenced to 90 years in prison Wednesday for secretly recording his young female students undressing and using the bathroom at a Mississippi gym, in a case that rocked the sport.

U.S. District Judge Kristi Johnson gave the maximum sentence possible to Sean Gardner, ordering that he serve 30 years in prison for each of the three federal child pornography production charges to which he pleaded guilty. The sentence likely amounts to life in prison for Gardner, 39.

Gardner's arrest last summer by the FBI, first reported by The Associated Press, renewed questions about whether U.S. gymnastics authorities had done enough to protect athletes from sexual abuse at the hands of an influential coach.

Gardner pleaded guilty to placing a hidden camera in a bathroom at a gymnastics studio in Purvis, Mississippi, between

December 2017 and April 2018 to record his students. Investigators say he created videos showing close-up images of at least 10 minors naked or undressing, which they recovered from his computers years later while investigating claims that he sexually abused gymnasts in Iowa.

Several of his former students at Chow's Gymnastics and Dance Institute in West Des Moines, Iowa, have alleged to police and in civil lawsuits that he used his position to prey on them. The institute was founded by prominent coach Liang "Chow" Qiao, who is known for producing Olympic champions. **AP**

N. Korea Back With Sub Missile Test

North Korea performed its first underwater-launched missile tests in nearly three years on Wednesday, likely from an as-yet-deployed submarine that it says is designed to launch nuclear weapons.

The high-profile tests come as North Korea is dialing up weapons demonstrations in an apparent bid to pressure the United States to offer greater concessions if it wants a resumption of diplomacy.

The official Korean Central News Agency said Thursday the military tested two types of strategic cruise missiles in the country's eastern waters. It said the tests were aimed at assessing the readiness of North Korea's underwater combat systems and demonstrating the reliability of its nuclear deterrent.

KCNA didn't say what launch platform was used. But the agency's photos of the launch suggested the country mobilized the "Hero Kim Kun Ok" submarine that was unveiled in 2023 with great fanfare but drew outside skepticism about its claimed capabilities. If confirmed, Wednesday's missile launches were the first public weapons tests from that submarine, which implies North Korea began testing weapons systems for the vessel before its deployment in what would be a major threat to South Korea and the U.S., experts say.

North Korea for years has been developing various missiles designed to be fired from underwater, which was a worrying development for its rivals because such launches would be difficult to detect in advance. Before Wednesday's tests, all North Korean underwater launches were made from a 2,000-ton-class submarine with a single launch tube. Many experts call it a test platform rather than an operational submarine in active service. **AP**

SPORTS



Comeback King! Naseem Ready To Roar

Pakistan began their much-anticipated home international cricket season on Friday (9 October) at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium against Sri Lanka and fast bowler Naseem Shah took just five legitimate deliveries to bag the first scalp.

The right-arm pacer was in action for Pakistan after a gap of seven months and registered figures of three for 36 in his four overs.

Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium is also the venue where – playing just his fourth match for Pakistan in February 2020 – Naseem became the youngest bowler to take a hat-trick in Test cricket at the age of 16 years and 359 days as he ran through Bangladesh's batting.

Now when he is three months shy of his 24th birthday and has an experience of 93 international matches, in which he has taken 155 wickets, Naseem reflected on his early days at the top level in an interview with the PCB Digital, "You change a lot as a human being and a cricketer (as you age) with maturity levels and experience enhancing."

"You also learn a lot through ups and downs in the life. You do bowl express pace when you are young and now in the sport but now I think that you also need to have some sense in terms of what you are trying to do."

Naseem has been no stranger to

spend time on the sidelines due to injury in his seven-year career with the major miss being the ICC



Windies Star Hope Weighed Down By Awards

West Indies captain Shai Hope is worried he may have to fork out excess baggage fees after picking up his third Player of the Match award on their tour of India. The opener's unbeaten 102 in the fourth Twenty20 international on Wednesday set up a series-levelling win in Hyderabad. He also smashed a century in the second T20 in Ranchi.

Hope has been in sizzling form throughout the tour, hitting two hundreds in the earlier One-Day International leg.

And while he was pleased with his performances he said he was struggling to fit his awards in his luggage.

"To be honest, they are a bit heavy, and we have got to look at the luggage weight," he quipped after West Indies prevailed by 24 runs.

"I think we are going to have some problems going back home."

Hope said getting off to a good start in Hyderabad was key. "We got 50-plus opening partnership," he added. "So it was good for us to start innings and then obviously we got that foundation, you can express yourself a bit more in the middle period and then try to give the team the best finish as could be possible." Hope clobbered nine sixes in his 50-ball knock and drew the admiration of his opponents. REUTERS



Svitolina Storms Into Wuhan Quarters

Fifth-seeded Elina Svitolina broke Guo Hanyu's serve in the opening and final games of the match and beat the Chinese wild-card entry 6-1, 6-4 Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals at the Wuhan Open.

Svitolina lost in the quarterfinals at the China Open last week to eventual champion Zheng Qinwen.

Guo had her first career top-20 win in the first round of the WTA 1,000-level tournament in Wuhan, rallying from 6-1, 4-0 down and saving triple match point in the second-set tiebreaker to upset 12th-seeded Sorana Cirstea 1-6, 7-6 (6), 7-5. Guo, ranked 240th, trailed 5-3 in the third set. Wimbledon finalist and sixth-seeded Karolina Muchova lost 7-5, 6-3 to 11th-seeded Diana Shnaider in an earlier result. On Wednesday, top-seeded Aryna Sabalenka and second-seeded Jessica Pegula lost their second-round matches. It marked two straight losses for Sabalenka, who was beaten by Nikola Pietrangola in the third round at the China Open last week and had a bye in the opening round at Wuhan. AP



Haaland Saves City! Maresca's First Defeat

Manchester City's 4-2 defeat by Paris St Germain told only part of the story of Enzo Maresca's first loss as City boss, with his men staggering through the first half

before roaring back after the break.

Playing their first home game since 7an independent commission found them guilty of 114 breaches of Premier League financial rules, City were staring at a rout when a rampant PSG raced into a 3-0 lead with a first-half masterclass.

Then City woke up. Maresca's side tore into the visitors after halftime, pouring forward with an intensity and urgency that had been 7entirely absent in the opening 45 minutes.

Erling Haaland spearheaded the fight-back, scoring twice to become the fastest player to reach 60 Champions League goals, hitting the mark in just 60 7games, 20 quicker than Lionel Messi.

City kept coming. They finished with nearly twice as many shots as 7PSG and around three times as many touches in the opposition box, while recording a higher expected-goals figure at both halftime and fulltime. PSG, though, were more ruthless. "I think we start quite good until the first goal (from Desire 7Doue in the 13th minute) and then we concede the second one (Ousmane Dembele) after one minute. That 7created some bad feelings," Maresca told TNT Sports.

"Second half, we were much better and probably deserved something more."

City had 7arrived on the back of a 3-0 thrashing of Liverpool in the Premier League on Sunday and Maresca felt they generated enough chances to salvage something even after digging themselves a three-goal hole.

"Even with 3-0 in the first half, with the amount of chances we created in the second half, we deserved 7more," he said. "Luis (Enrique, PSG's 7manager) said at the end of the game that they were quite lucky today."

"You have to be clinical but not lose the balance," Maresca said. REUTERS



Palmeiras Edge Fluminense, One Foot In Final

Striker José López and Marlon Freitas each scored a goal on Wednesday to lead Palmeiras to a 2-1 away victory over Fluminense in an all-Brazilian match during the first leg of the Copa Libertadores semifinals.

"Flaco" López - who was selected by Argentina for the last World Cup - scored the first goal in the 45th minute, finishing off a counterattack, while Freitas secured the win with a low shot from inside the box in the 85th minute at Maracana Stadium.

Palmeiras, which reached the final four after defeating Liga de Quito on penalties, is appearing in the Copa Libertadores semifinals for the sixth time in seven years.

The Verdão, who were finalists last year, are now chasing their first title since 2020.

Wesley scored in the 94th minute for Fluminense, which won the tournament in 2023 and is playing for the third time in the final-four round, following previous runs in 2008 and three years ago.

The second leg will be played next Wednesday in Sao Paulo.

In the other semifinal matchup, Estudiantes de La Plata will face defending champion Flamengo in the first leg in Argentina on Thursday. AP



Atlanta United Too Hot For Montreal

Giuliano Galoppo had his first MLS goal and assist to back Lucas Hoyoos and Atlanta United cruised to a 3-0 victory over CF Montreal on Wednesday night.

Atlanta United (8-15-6) took a 1-0 lead in the 22nd minute when Miguel Almirón used assists from 21-year-old rookie defender Elias Báez and Galoppo to score his sixth goal of the season. Báez has five assists and Galoppo snagged his first in his fourth MLS appearance.

Galoppo scored in the 42nd minute, knocking in a deflection for a 2-0

time. Sébastien Breza saved but couldn't corral a shot by Almirón in the 60th minute and Breel Embolo banged in the rebound for his second goal in his first seven matches and a 3-0 advantage.

Hoyoos stopped two shots for Atlanta



United, earning his fourth clean sheet in his first 29 starts in the league. Breza totaled three saves for Montreal (6-17-6) in his 10th start of the season. Breza has 45 career starts with the club without a shutout. AP



Messi Magic! Inter Miami Into Playoffs



Rodrigo De Paul scored on an assist from Lionel Messi and Germán Berterame added a goal to send reigning champion Inter Miami back to the MLS playoffs with a 2-0 win over New York City FC on Wednesday night.

Luis Suárez also assisted for Inter Miami, which has

won back-to-back matches for the first time since July.

Miami missed the postseason when Messi arrived in 2023, but has reached the playoffs the past three seasons, losing in the first round to Atlanta United in 2024 then beating Vancouver last year to win the club's first MLS Cup.

Wednesday's victory came after Miami routed DC United 4-0 last Saturday on a pair of goals from Messi and Suárez, and it was the second league win for new coach Cristian "Kily" González, who took over Sept. 16. Berterame scored in the 20th for his eighth goal of the season. De Paul doubled Miami's lead right before the end of the first half. Dayne St. Clair denied Nicolás Fernández on a penalty in the final minute of the match for his second straight clean sheet. AP