

KP Governor's Rule: PM Takes Allies Into Confidence



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tuesday, said the federal cabinet had decided to take constitutional measures under Articles 232 and 234 of the Constitution through mutual consultation to address the situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

During a meeting with a parliamentary delegation comprising representatives of Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) and Pakistan Muslim League (PML-Zia), the prime minister said an impartial technocratic advisory council had been established to assist the governor in improving law and order, strengthening the economy and eliminating terrorism in the province, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

PM Shehbaz Sharif took the delegation into confidence regarding the situation in KP and explained the reasons behind the federal government's decisions. He said the conduct of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government in the province and its failure to adopt an unequivocal stance against terrorism had posed risks to Pakistan's growing economy.

The prime minister said the provincial government had neither clearly condemned terrorism nor taken effective action against terrorist groups.

Referring to the sacrifices of security personnel, he said numerous members of the Pakistan Armed Forces, security forces and police had laid down their lives over the past several years while defending the country.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the federal government had provided more than Rs800 billion to KP under the National Finance Commission (NFC) arrangements to support efforts against terrorism.

However, he said, the provincial government had failed to take effective measures to strengthen the capacity of its Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and establish Safe City projects to improve its counterterrorism capabilities.

The prime minister also criticized the PTI and the provincial government over their performance during the past 13 years, alleging that they had failed to deliver adequately in public welfare and protect the lives and property of citizens.

The parliamentary delegation expressed its support for the federal government amid the prevailing situation and appreciated the prime minister's leadership during what it described as difficult circumstances.

The delegation also said the people of KP had remained deprived of adequate development in health, education and infrastructure during the PTI's tenure in the province.

It expressed confidence that, with the federal government's cooperation, development and prosperity in KP would advance in line with other parts of the country.

The delegation included BAP President and Federal Minister Khalid Magsi, former Senate chairman Sadiq Sanjani, senators Manzoor Kakar, Abdul Qadir Baloch, Dinesh Kumar and Samina Mumtaz Zehri; PML-Q President and Federal Minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain; and representatives of the IPP and PML-Zia.

Separately, a delegation of the MQM-P, led by Federal Minister for Education Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Tuesday to discuss the country's overall political situation.

During the meeting, the prime minister briefed the delegation on the situation in KP,

saying that a difficult decision had to be made in the best interests of the province's people.

He said the government had made every possible effort to avoid taking such an extreme step and had engaged in negotiations with an open mind. However, he added, the other side had failed to respond positively to the government's efforts.

The prime minister expressed concern over escalating terrorist attacks in KP, stating that civilians and security personnel were being targeted while the provincial government had failed to openly condemn terrorist groups. He further alleged that the long march was part of a conspiracy aimed at undermining the country's improving economic situation.

The MQM-P delegation assured the prime minister of its full support for the government's decisions concerning KP.

Moreover, Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said the government had been left with no option but to impose emergency and governor's rule in KP after efforts to resolve the situation through dialogue failed, stressing that restoring peace, improving law and order and accelerating development in the province were its top priorities.

Addressing the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) parliamentary party meeting here, the prime minister said the decision had been taken after consultations with allied parties and in view of the deteriorating security situation and the need to protect the country's development trajectory.

The prime minister said an advisory council has been constituted comprising experts and professionals to help improve governance and address the province's pressing challenges.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the foremost objective was to restore peace and eliminate terrorism, while strengthening the police and the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), improving their capacity and establishing Safe City projects.

Meanwhile, a joint session of Parliament has been summoned for Thursday, October 15, at 11am, well-placed sources said. The joint session is likely to approve the imposition of governor's rule in KP, the sources added. They said that PPP will vote in favour of the resolution. **NEWS DESK**

Govt again invites Achakzai to for talks at Speaker's chamber

The government has once again invited Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Mahmood Khan Achakzai to come to the Speaker's Chamber for a meeting.

Federal Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said that the National Assembly Speaker is equal to the government and opposition, adding that Sardar Ayaz Sadiq is impartial.

'Big mistake'

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Tuesday questioned the "removal" of the elected Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and termed reports of Chief Minister Sohail Afridi being in custody a "very big mistake". Gohar questioned whether a sitting chief minister had ever been arrested in such a manner. "Is this how a chief minister is removed? Is this how an elected government is brought down?" the PTI chairman questioned.

Petition filed for recovery of Afridi

A constitutional petition seeking the recovery of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi has been filed in the Peshawar High Court (PHC) by his brother Muhammad Asim here Tuesday.

Nasir Abbas calls for meeting with Imran

Senate Opposition Leader Allama Nasir Abbas has once again called for a meeting with PTI founder Imran Khan to discuss solutions to the country's problems and explore political reconciliation. Addressing in the Senate, Allama Abbas said he would urge Imran Khan to work together for political harmony, adding that ego and arrogance were dangerous obstacles to dialogue. Nasir Abbas criticized the government's approach to protests, warning that its actions could increase unrest and terrorism. **NEWS DESK**

Multan train derailment kills 7, injures several

Seven people were killed and several others were injured when the Peshawar-bound Rehman Baba Express derailed near Sher Shah Railway Station in Multan district on Tuesday, officials said.

Pakistan Railways (PR) Chief Executive Officer Muhammad Hafeezullah confirmed the death toll to media, adding that more than 40 had been injured.

According to an initial investigation report by the PR, the derailment was likely caused by a fault in a passenger coach. Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi has appointed the federal government inspector of railways (FGIR) as the inquiry officer.

Meanwhile, a replacement train for the Rehman Baba Express, carrying more than 500 passengers, departed from Sher Shah Railway Station.

Speaking to the media later, the railways minister acknowledged that it was his responsibility to ensure safe journeys for passengers. Asked whether he would resign, the minister said: "Have some patience. We need to investigate the incident first, and those responsible will be held accountable. In fact, I was just on a call with the prime minister. We are trying to prevent such incidents and making efforts to that end. Giving up and running away is not in our nature." **NEWS DESK**



42 arrested over unrest, vandalism in Bara

Police arrested 42 people allegedly involved in vandalism and unrest at Bara Chowk in Khyber district, including 25 Afghan nationals reportedly residing illegally in Pakistan, Adviser on Information to the KP Consultative Council Samar Bilour said.

In a statement, she said police took timely action to control the

She expressed concern over a message attributed to the banned Fitna al-Khawarij in support of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

In a statement, Samar Bilour questioned why an internationally recognised banned terrorist organisation was so concerned about the ouster of the PTI government that it was issuing statements against the constitutional change.

"Isn't it alarming that an internationally recognised and defunct terrorist organisation is so worried about the ouster of the PTI government that it is issuing statements against the constitutional change? It looks like they were quite comfortable during the previous government's time," she remarked.

Separately, Bilour on Tuesday rejected a social media statement attributed to retired Lieutenant General Nigar Johar Khan about the alleged discontinuation of the Sehat Card programme.

She said certain elements were spreading misleading information about the health initiative. She also declared fake a notification circulating on social media about the termination of Professor Dr Noshervan Barki.

Samar Bilour said the provincial government would not resort to political victimisation and would continue to prioritise public service and transparency. **NEWS DESK**

situation and restore order in the area.

According to the information provided, the incident involved damage to public and government property. Some individuals allegedly led by Abdul Ghani Afridi, Iqbal Afridi and Shahid Khattak reportedly attempted to create unrest at Bara Chowk.

The statement said police arrested the suspects allegedly involved in the incident and brought the situation under control.

However, the number of arrests, the extent of the damage and the nationality and immigration status of those detained could not be independently verified.

Authorities said they would continue legal action against those involved in vandalism, disturbing public order and challenging the writ of the state.

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Sindh CM eyes China tie-up for water, infrastructure

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Muneer Ali Shah has invited Chinese companies to invest in the province's water, agriculture and infrastructure sectors, seeking cooperation on the construction of a 100-kilometre K-IV pipeline for Karachi, the rehabilitation of Sukkur Barrage and the development of climate-resilient crop varieties.

During a visit to HBSZ Company in Wuhan's Hanyang district, the chief minister discussed the K-IV pipeline project and inspected gates being manufactured for the rehabilitation and modernisation of Sukkur Barrage. Officials said HBSZ had expressed willingness to undertake construction of the 100km pipeline, while Mr Shah directed that work on the project be initiated at the earliest.

The chief minister was briefed on progress under the Sukkur Barrage

be transported from China to Pakistan.

Each of the large gates weighs more than 50 tonnes, officials said.

HBSZ is also fabricating 110 canal gates for Sukkur Barrage. During the 2026 closure period, civil works and repairs to the internal components of 27 canal gates were completed, while six gauge wells were constructed and handed over to the relevant authorities.

Dredging and excavation work has been completed in all areas except the tail channel, where work will be carried out during the next working season. The gate fabrication workshop building has also been completed.

"Sukkur Barrage is extremely important to me. It is the economic lifeline of Sindh," Mr Shah said, adding that its formal rehabilitation after 90 years had significantly improved water flows.

Launched on Feb 24, 2023, the Sukkur Barrage

Improvement Project, being implemented by a joint venture of China Road and Bridge Corporation and HBSZ. Of the barrage's 54 river gates, 44 and their operating systems have been replaced and made functional, while civil repair work at the sites has also been completed. The remaining 10 gates have been prepared and will soon

project is scheduled for completion by June 30, 2027. It is being financed by the World Bank, the federal government and the Sindh government. Rehabilitation work at Guddu Barrage is also under way as part of the Sindh Barrages Improvement Project.

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Government cuts petrol price by Rs 2.71, diesel by Rs 0.03 per litre

The federal government on Tuesday reduced the price of petrol by Rs2.71 to Rs392.66 per litre, while cutting the price of high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs0.03 to Rs396.82 per litre, effective for Wednesday, October 14, 2026. The revised prices will remain effective for October 14. The Petroleum Division said the change was necessitated by global developments, including movements in Platts rates, premiums and incidentals. **NEWS DESK**

National



Memon sees new economic avenues for Sindh through Shanghai moot

World



Gen Z takes to the streets against Modi

Money



IMF warns government of 9.9% inflation, growth slowdown in 2027

Sports



Australia take victory in first Test over South Africa

Glamour



Gigi Hadid doubles down on denim with Liu Jo edit

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KP emergency for unified anti-terror policy: Govt

NATIONAL

DTM

Memon sees new economic avenues for Sindh through Shanghai moot

Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, has said that the investment conference in China will create new opportunities for Sindh's economy, employment, and industrial development.

The investment conference to be held in Shanghai will promote investment, industrial development, and economic activities in the province. In a statement, Senior Minister Memon said that the Shanghai conference would focus on highlighting investment opportunities in Sindh and strengthening business ties with Chinese investors.

He said that Sindh has vast potential in natural resources, energy, agriculture, minerals, transport, infra-

structure, and industrial development. Providing Chinese investors with investment opportunities in these sectors would increase the province's productive capacity.

Memon said that this would also help establish new industries, expand existing industrial units, create new employment opportunities, and promote local businesses. The objective of the Shanghai Investment Conference is to present Sindh's economic potential to global investors and explore new avenues for mutual cooperation. Chinese investment would create opportunities for the transfer of modern technology, industrial expertise, advanced production methods, and international business experience to Sindh.

He said that partnerships with Chinese investors could play an important role in developing Sindh's natural resources, industrial zones, and trade links. The Shanghai Investment Conference would establish effective ties with Chinese investors and pave the way for practical investment.

NEWS DESK



Hashmi stresses stronger education ties in Muslim world

Governor of Sindh Nehal Hashmi on Tuesday met heads of universities from Muslim countries and international educationists at Governor House to discuss strengthening academic cooperation, research collaboration and educational ties across the Muslim world.

Consul General of Oman and other diplomatic personalities were also present at the meeting.

The Governor said that promoting educational cooperation, research and academic linkages among universities in Muslim countries was the need of the hour. He emphasized that significant progress in higher education could be achieved by sharing experiences, expertise and research. He stressed the need to further strengthen effective and coordinated links between

Pakistani universities and institutions of higher learning across the Muslim world. Speaking on the occasion, Mufti Abdul Rahim said that the participation of delegations from 34 Muslim countries in the two-day international summit organized by Al-Ghazali University was an honour for Pakistan.

He said the summit featured comprehensive discussions on challenges facing the Muslim world, future threats and other important issues. He added that committees had been formed to address key matters and expressed hope that their efforts would yield positive results soon. Mufti Abdul Rahim also welcomed the indication by the Vice Chancellor of Al-Azhar University to offer scholarships to Pakistani students.

Former Egyptian Minister and Professor Dr. Sami Al-Sharif, Secretary-General of the Association of Islamic Universities, praised Pakistan's hospitality and emphasized the need for greater educational cooperation and the development of a joint education policy among Muslim countries. He said that Pakistan's nuclear capability was also a source of encouragement for other countries in the Muslim world.

Professor Dr. Sami Al-Sharif called for collective efforts to reform educational policies and further strengthen cooperation among universities in Muslim countries. The meeting also discussed ways to promote higher education, expand research collaboration and strengthen international academic links across the Muslim world.

Representatives of universities from Egypt, Malaysia, Türkiye, Lebanon, Yemen, Brunei Darussalam, Somalia, Mauritania, Libya, Jordan and other countries attended the meeting. Representatives of Cairo University, Egypt, the International Islamic University Malaysia and other international universities were also present.

NEWS DESK



World Heart Day seminar highlights need for early prevention

Speakers at a World Heart Day seminar at the University of Karachi stressed the need for early prevention, regular health screenings, and collective efforts by the concerned authorities, medical professionals, and the public to reduce the burden of cardiovascular diseases in Pakistan.

The seminar was jointly organised by the Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA), the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi, Pharmaco, and the YESS Society of Pakistan. It was attended by physicians, surgeons, scientific experts, faculty members, and students.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Raza Shah, Director of ICCBS, emphasised that cardiovascular diseases remained a major public health challenge in Pakistan and worldwide. He called for coordinated efforts by the concerned authorities and responsible citizens to address the growing burden of heart disease.

Prof. Shah highlighted the importance of scientific research and the knowledge gained through clinical

trials in understanding cardiovascular health. He also responded to students' questions about maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle.

Dr. Salman Ghauri of PIMA highlighted the importance of community participation and the role of non-governmental organisations in promoting public health. He said that PIMA had been contributing to community welfare through its services and urged people to take collective responsibility for one another's health.

Dr. Khawar Kazmi, Consultant Cardiologist and Head of the Department of Preventive Cardiology at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD), discussed findings from data collected in connection with World Heart Day 2025.

He highlighted the importance of monitoring key health indicators, including body mass index (BMI), blood pressure, waist circumference, cholesterol, and blood glucose levels, urging people to remain aware of these measures.

Dr. Tahir Saghir, Director of the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, underscored the importance of



President Zardari calls for EU cooperation for Pakistani professionals

President Asif Ali Zardari, Tuesday, called for greater opportunities for legal migration of Pakistani workers and professionals in Europe, stressing that Pakistan's sustained efforts to curb irregular migration should be matched by expanded legal pathways, skills-based mobility and structured cooperation with the European Union.

The president expressed these views during a meeting with Magnus Brunner, European Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The meeting focused on Pakistan-EU relations, cooperation on migration management, efforts to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and opportunities to facilitate legal migration. President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release. The president said Pakistan attaches great importance to its broad-based cooperation with the European Union and remains committed to implementing the Pakistan-EU Strategic Engagement Plan.

He highlighted Pakistan's cooperation with the EU in curbing irregular migration, noting that Pakistan continued to implement the EU Readmission Agreement and had readmitted more than 30,000 individuals over the years.

He said Pakistan remains committed to combating human trafficking and irregular migration through stronger legislation, institutional capacity, border controls and international cooperation.

Referring to the progress made in reducing irregular migration, the president noted that, according to EU figures, irregular migration from Pakistan reduced by 64% in the last eighteen months, making Pakistan the only country in the region to achieve such a reduction.

He said this progress reflected Pakistan's

sustained efforts and underlined the importance of expanding safe and legal avenues for migration.

European Union Ambassador to Pakistan Raimundas Karoblis, Director, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, Henrik Nielsen; and Cabinet Member of Commissioner Brunner, Grigoris Delavekouras accompanied the Commissioner.

Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi; Minister of State for Interior and Narcotics Control, Muhammad Talal Chaudhry; Senator Sherry Rehman, Senator Saleem Mandiwalla and former federal minister

dialogue, expected to take place in Brussels early next year, would advance this cooperation.

President Zardari also welcomed the expansion of the EU Talent Partnerships framework and called for greater opportunities for skilled workers and professionals, including through circular migration.

He said Pakistan is ready to work with the EU on a structured mechanism to match its workforce with European labour-market requirements and expressed the hope that the EU would consider establishing a European Legal Gateway Office in Pakistan, given the



Naveed Qamar also attended the meeting.

The meeting was informed that Pakistan has sought the European Union's assistance in strengthening the capacity of the Pakistan Coast Guards and the Federal Investigation Agency to enhance efforts to combat irregular migration and migrant smuggling.

The president emphasised that legal migration pathways are essential to providing safe opportunities for workers and reducing reliance on smuggling networks.

He highlighted the Pakistan-EU Migration and Mobility Dialogue as a useful framework for matching Pakistan's human-resource potential with European labour-market needs and expressed the hope that the next round of

existing Talent Partnership and the country's efforts to curb irregular migration.

He said Pakistan and the EU have a broad-based relationship spanning political dialogue, trade, development cooperation and other areas of mutual interest. He expressed confidence that continued engagement would strengthen mutual understanding and help advance practical cooperation on migration and mobility.

Commissioner Magnus Brunner appreciated Pakistan's role in maintaining regional balance and said Pakistan has done an amazing job in this regard. He also commended Pakistan's efforts to prevent irregular migrants from undertaking dangerous journeys that cost many of them their lives.

NEWS DESK

Five bodies found in Iqrar-ul-Hassan locked apartment

The bodies of five members of a family, including two young girls, were found in a locked apartment in Gulshan-e-Falaknaz within the jurisdiction of Bin Qasim police station on Tuesday, police said.

According to police, the deceased were identified as Shahzaib, aged around 30-32, his wife Saba, aged 28-30, his sister Shumaila, aged 20-22, and his two daughters, Ayzal, aged 4-5, and Arya, aged 3-4.

The bodies were recovered from an apartment on the ground floor.

A crime scene unit was called to the spot, while further investigation into the incident was underway. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Javed Alam Odho has sought a detailed report from the DIGP East.

The IGP directed the concerned officers to conduct a transparent and impartial investigation into all aspects of the incident and determine the actual causes of the deaths.

He ordered immediate measures to collect evidence from the crime scene, conduct forensic examinations and fulfill all necessary legal requirements to establish the facts and investigate any possible criminal involvement.

The IGP also directed the officers

concerned to keep him regularly informed about the progress of the investigation and ensure that all findings were based on facts.

Two motorcyclists killed in separate traffic accidents in Karachi

Two motorcyclists were killed in separate traffic accidents in different areas of Karachi, on Tuesday. According to initial reports, the first incident occurred in the Manghopir area when a speeding tanker hit a motorcyclist, killing him on the spot. In the second incident, a rashly driven truck struck a motorcyclist in the Cattle Colony area, resulting in his death at the scene. Rescue teams reached the sites following reports of the accidents and shifted the bodies to nearby hospitals.

Authorities have launched investigations into both incidents to determine the exact circumstances surrounding the accidents.

Five injured in clash:

At least five people were injured in a clash at a house near the Baldia Ittehad Town area of Karachi, according to police sources quoted by TV channels.

According to initial reports, the clash erupted after an exchange of heated words, during which the individuals allegedly used weapons and clubs against each other. Police and rescue teams rushed to the scene after receiving information about the incident and shifted the injured to a nearby hospital for medical treatment.

Police have launched an investigation to determine the exact cause of the clash.

NEWS DESK

Iqrar-ul-Hassan, head of the Awam Raj Tehreek and a renowned anchorperson, was transferred to Karachi after being arrested from Lahore's DHA area and produced before a local court.

The court handed him over to the National Cyber Crimes Investigation Agency (NCCIA) on a four-day remand. According to reports, significant constitutional and legal proceedings concerning the arrest and investigation of Awam Raj Tehreek chief Iqrar-ul-Hassan took place before the Judicial Magistrate 1 East Court in Karachi.

The NCCIA investigation team produced him at the City Court under tight security.

It has been reported that a formal FIR was registered against Iqrar-ul-Hassan at the NCCIA under Case No. 101/2026. During the hearing, associates of renowned lawyer Mian Ali Ashfaq Advocate appeared on Iqrar-ul-Hassan's behalf and participated in the legal proceedings. During the court proceedings, NCCIA officials requested the suspect's physical remand for further investigation and the submission of evidence.

After hearing all arguments, the court approved the agency's request and handed Iqrar-ul-Hassan over to the NCCIA on a four-day remand. Immediately after the court order, the NCCIA team transferred Iqrar-ul-Hassan back to the cell.



prevention and early detection, noting that timely action could help reduce the risk of cardiovascular complications. He encouraged students, faculty members, and community representatives to adopt healthy habits and manage stress.

Prof. Dr. Bashir Hanif, a founding member of the Tabba Heart Institute, discussed differences in cardiovascular risk between South Asian and Western populations.

He emphasised the importance of addressing heart disease risks from an early age, particularly in South Asian communities, where cardiovascular disease can develop at comparatively younger ages. He urged students to take preventive measures early in life.

Prof. Mansoor Ahmed, Consultant Cardiologist, also urged students to prioritise their health, particularly by maintaining healthy sleep patterns and adopting preventive habits. He emphasised that prevention was preferable to relying on medication after health problems had developed.

NEWS DESK

NATIONAL



Vawda says law and order situation warranted emergency

Senator Faisal Vawda has said that imposing an emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had become inevitable due to the alarming law and order situation in the province.

Addressing a press conference at the Islamabad Press Club on Tuesday, Vawda said the decision to impose an emergency in KP was in the interest of the province's people. He criticised the provincial government, claiming that a particular mindset had remained in power in KP for 13 years and had brought widespread destruction to the province.

He said the province belonged to its people and was not anyone's personal property. Vawda criticised the 13 years of PTI rule in the province,

adding that it had resulted in widespread destruction. Vawda said security personnel continued to lose their lives in terrorist attacks and argued that such sacrifices could not be allowed to continue while those in power acted arbitrarily. He called on the public to stand against terrorism and urged support for efforts to eliminate the threat. He also said those who disrespected Pakistan's national anthem and flag should be held accountable.

The senator claimed that around 7,500 people, including Pakistan Army personnel and police officers, had sacrificed their lives in the fight against terrorism. Referring to the province's new administrative setup, Vawda said Governor Faisal Karim Kundi would face questions over the government's performance, adding that there was no room for failure. He also called for open support for the field marshal in eradicating terrorism from the region. Vawda said the purpose of the emergency was to ensure the protection of people's lives and property, adding that results should begin to become visible within 60 days. He said public support would increasingly depend on performance rather than political slogans. **INP**

Pakistan, EU agree to boost cooperation on migration, border security

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday met European Commissioner for Home Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner to discuss cooperation on migration, border management and legal employment opportunities, following a 64 percent decline in illegal migration from Pakistan to Europe.

The two leaders also held delegation-level talks during the meeting, where Brunner appreciated Pakistan's measures against illegal migration and acknowledged the performance of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). Brunner said the 64 percent reduction in illegal migration to Europe, achieved through Pakistan's effective measures, was commendable. He also praised the FIA for demonstrating professional capabilities despite limited resources. He said the decline in illegal migration would help open pathways for legal migration. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said Pakistan had adopted a zero-tolerance policy against illegal migration. He added that after reducing illegal migration by 64 percent, Pakistan's next target was to eliminate it completely.

Naqvi said Pakistan and the European Union needed to work together to end illegal migration. He described the issue as a highly serious global challenge. During the meeting, both sides discussed promoting legal migration between Pakistan and the European Union and expanding opportunities for skilled workers. They agreed to increase cooperation to strengthen border security and promote legal immigration. Both sides also decided to further strengthen collaboration in migration, institutional cooperation and border management. The two sides also agreed to work together on the European Union's Eastern Corridor Initiative to eliminate illegal migration. **NEWS DESK**



Baker stresses awareness on breast cancer

Ms Natalie A. Baker, Chargé d'Affaires of the United States, has highlighted the importance of public awareness and early diagnosis in combating breast cancer, saying timely detection can significantly improve treatment outcomes and help save lives.

Urging women to seek timely medical advice and remain vigilant about warning signs, Ms Baker said awareness was the first step towards fighting breast cancer and preventing the disease from becoming life-threatening. Talking to the media on the sidelines of a breast cancer awareness event at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), she said the disease affected women across the world, underscoring the need for sustained awareness campaigns and improved access to screening and healthcare services. She expressed concern that young girls and women in Pakistan were also being affected by breast cancer, stressing the importance of educating people about its symptoms, risk factors and available treatment options.

Ms Baker said awareness initiatives played a vital role in encouraging women to recognize warning signs and consult healthcare professionals without delay. She emphasized that coordinated efforts by healthcare professionals, institutions and communities were essential to strengthening breast cancer awareness, promoting early diagnosis and protecting women's health. She added that sustained awareness initiatives and timely medical intervention were crucial to improving health outcomes and ensuring a healthier future for coming generations. **NEWS DESK**



Registration opens for CM IT Programme

The Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) has opened candidate registration for the Chief Minister IT Internship Program (CMITIP), aimed at strengthening Punjab's IT sector by connecting talented graduates with IT companies, providing on-site experience, and creating new employment opportunities.

Under the CMITIP, more than 4,000 shortlisted candidates will be placed in more than 350 leading IT companies across the province, where they will gain practical experience, enhance their technical skills, and build strong professional portfolios. The four-month internship will offer a monthly stipend of PKR 50,000 per intern.

Commenting on the initiative, PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf said that the initiative reflects our commitment to empower young people by connecting talented IT graduates with industry. He added that the initiative would help expand employment opportunities for graduates while contributing to the growth of Punjab's digital economy. To be eligible, applicants must hold a degree in Information Technology, Computer Science or a relevant discipline completed within the last four years. **NEWS DESK**

Ahsan calls for investment in human development for poverty reduction

The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) on Tuesday inaugurated a two-day international conference on inclusive and resilient economic empowerment and growth in Islamabad, bringing together federal ministers, international delegates, development partners and poverty reduction experts to explore sustainable solutions to poverty, strengthen livelihoods and promote inclusive economic growth under the theme "Poverty to Prosperity".

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Syed Imran Ahmad Shah, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar, Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training Wajha Qamar, and Chairperson, Benazir Income Support Programme Senator Rubina Khalid attended the inaugural session along with other dignitaries.

Addressing the conference while representing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that poverty reduction required sustained investment in human development, education, healthcare and skills.

He said poverty extended beyond income deprivation to unequal access to opportunities and essential services, calling for greater investment in human capital, empowerment of women and youth, and support for less-developed regions, particularly Balochistan.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar appreciated PPAF's sustained efforts to combat poverty and improve the economic prospects of disadvantaged communities.

He highlighted the importance of grassroots initiatives that translate support into tangible livelihood opportunities, enabling people to build businesses, improve living standards and achieve economic self-reliance.

Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi said Pakistan's economic progress depended on bringing marginalized communities into the mainstream of development and turning their skills and potential into productive opportunities.

He emphasized that cultural heritage also encompassed traditional skills, crafts and knowledge that could generate livelihoods, calling for better market access for artisans and expanded economic opportunities for women and youth.



He also appreciated Syed Imran Ahmad Shah and his team for their efforts to alleviate poverty.

Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training Wajha Qamar strongly appreciated PPAF's efforts to alleviate poverty, empower disadvantaged communities and create sustainable livelihood opportunities.

She acknowledged the organisation's contribution to inclusive development and congratulated the recipients of the Media Excellence Awards for their contributions and role in highlighting poverty-related challenges.

Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Syed Imran Ahmad Shah said sustainable poverty reduction required linking social protection with livelihoods, vocational skills, access to finance and markets, and resilience against economic and climate-related shocks.

He said the true measure of poverty alleviation was whether families could sustain their livelihoods and withstand setbacks such as floods, illness or loss of income. He highlighted the role of institutions, including the Benazir Income Support Programme, PPAF and Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, in supporting vulnerable communities and helping families achieve lasting economic independence.

PPAF Chief Executive Officer Nadir Gul Barech said the organisation was working across 157 districts through 164 partner organisations, supporting more than 171,000 community institutions representing 2.67 million households, with women accounting for 63 per cent of their membership.

He said Pakistan's poverty rate had risen to 28.9 per cent in 2024-25 from 21.9 per cent in 2018-19. Under the National Poverty Graduation Programme, 83.6 per cent of participating households had crossed the basic poverty threshold by 2025, while 57.7 per cent had reached a higher benchmark, he added.

Barech said PPAF had disbursed 3.69 million interest-free loans since 2014, with 57 per cent going to women and a reported repayment rate of 98 per cent. He said the conference would focus on poverty graduation, enterprise development, financial inclusion, support for small businesses, youth opportunities and green growth.

The inaugural session concluded with a panel discussion hosted by senior journalist Talat Hussain, bringing together participants to discuss poverty alleviation, inclusive growth and sustainable economic empowerment.

The exhibition gallery featured businesses and livelihood initiatives supported by PPAF programmes.

Federal Minister Syed Imran Ahmad Shah visited the stalls, interacted with entrepreneurs about their ventures and appreciated their efforts to build sustainable livelihoods and strengthen their families' economic security.

PPAF also presented Media Excellence Awards to more than 30 media representatives from different organisations. Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) journalists Maryam Shah and Farhat Fatima were among the recipients. **NEWS DESK**

Several flights from Lahore cancelled amid Gulf tensions

Several flights from Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport to Gulf destinations were cancelled on Tuesday amid tensions involving Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries, according to airport sources.

The cancelled flights included a private airline's flight XY318 to Riyadh, Saudi Arabian Airlines flight SV743 and flight RX676, airport sources said.

A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight, PK725, bound for Dammam was also cancelled, while the departure of Airblue flight G9 855 to Ras Al Khaimah was called off, according to the sources.

The cancellations could cause inconvenience for passengers travelling to the affected destinations.

Passengers have been advised to check the latest status of their flights with their respective airlines before leaving for the airport to avoid unnecessary delays. The reasons behind the cancellations have not yet been officially confirmed, and further details were awaited. **INP**

Lahore world's most polluted city



Lahore has ranked first among the world's most polluted cities, with an overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of 199.

Air quality readings across several parts of the city showed significantly higher pollution levels. The AQI at the CERF Office in Gulberg was recorded at 300, while Kahna Nau reported 244 and Burki Road recorded 224. Model Town registered an AQI of 220, while DHA Phase 6 recorded a reading of 201.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Meteorological Department has forecast a possibility of rainfall in Lahore today and tomorrow, raising the prospect of changing weather conditions across the city.

The minimum temperature is expected to remain around 22 degrees Celsius, while the maximum could reach 31 degrees Celsius. The current temperature was recorded at 25 degrees Celsius.

According to meteorological data, wind speed in the city was recorded at five kilometres per hour.

Residents are advised to remain mindful of local air quality conditions, particularly in areas where pollution readings are elevated. **INP**

UNICEF, WHO welcome Pakistan's anemia reduction plan

UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday welcomed Pakistan's National Anemia Reduction Plan (2025-2030), which aims to reduce anemia among women and adolescent girls by 50 per cent by 2030.

Jennifer Melton, Deputy Country Representative of UNICEF, commended the federal and provincial governments, academia and development partners for advancing the national initiative, stressing that coordinated, multisectoral interventions and stronger health systems were essential to addressing anemia and reaching vulnerable and underserved communities.

She noted that anemia affected approximately two in five women of reproductive age and more than half of adolescent girls and young children, undermining their health, education,

productivity and economic growth. She reaffirmed UNICEF's commitment to supporting the government in implementing the plan.

Dr Ellen Thom, WHO Country Representative, congratulated the government and its partners on the initiative, highlighting the serious implications of anemia for maternal health.

She noted that anemia was a major contributing factor to postpartum hemorrhage, a significant cause of maternal deaths in Pakistan. She said the national plan would contribute to global targets for reducing anemia among women of reproductive age and reaffirmed WHO's commitment to supporting evidence-based interventions and adopting global best practices to WHO's needs.

The plan envisages reducing anemia among women and adolescent girls by 50 per cent by 2030 through measures including strengthening maternal nutrition, expanding iron and folic acid supplementation, improving screening and treatment, ensuring reliable supplies of essential commodities, and establishing robust data and accountability systems.

Provincial ownership, predictable financing and stronger frontline services were identified as critical to its effective implementation.

Addressing the launch ceremony, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal called for the establishment of dedicated task forces in all provinces to urgently address anemia and child stunting, stressing that Pakistan must translate its understanding of development challenges into effective action and measurable results. He said identifying problems was not enough, as the real test of governance lay in implementing solutions that improved people's lives.

He emphasized that tackling anemia and stunting required sustained political commitment, coordinated national action and effective implementation at the provincial and local levels.

"Pakistan's future depends on the health, education and quality of life of its people. Investing in the health and development of women, girls and children is essential for building our human capital and achieving sustainable economic

growth," he said.

The minister stressed the need to expand social-sector programmes and devolve greater administrative and financial authority to district and local governments, observing that highly centralized systems could not adequately address grassroots challenges without bringing decision-making, monitoring and accountability closer to communities.

Highlighting early childhood development, he said the first five years of a child's life were critical for physical, cognitive and emotional development.

Children growing up today would shape Pakistan in 2047, making investment in their nutrition, health, learning and well-being a national development priority.

He appreciated the plan's comprehensive, evidence-based approach, describing anemia not merely as a medical concern but also as a major human capital and economic development challenge.

He called for coordinated action across health, nutrition, education, social protection, food systems, and water, sanitation and hygiene to address its underlying causes. **NEWS DESK**

EDITORIAL



Harvard scholarship fraud and Laiba's life

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has reportedly arrested two suspects in an alleged Rs9.3 million fraud involving a fake Harvard University scholarship offered to Laiba Ijaz, a 24-year-old gold medalist from the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), who was found dead in Islamabad on October 9. The principal suspect, Muhammad Noman, was reportedly arrested from the H-13 and Golra Mor areas of the capital. Investigators allege that he posed as a government official and convinced Laiba that her admission and scholarship arrangements were genuine. A woman, Fatima Sarwar, was also arrested for allegedly acting as an overseas education consultant and providing fake admission and scholarship documents. Two other women have reportedly been detained for questioning. According to the available account, Laiba and her family paid Rs9.3 million after being promised an opportunity to study at Harvard. Around Rs2.9 million was transferred through a bank, while the rest was paid in cash. The family allegedly sold property and jewellery to arrange the money before discovering that the documents were fake.

The case raises serious questions about the safeguards available to students seeking higher education abroad and the ability of fraudsters to exploit their ambitions. Laiba's death makes a thorough and impartial investigation particularly important. However, the circumstances of her death remain under investigation, and no direct link between the alleged fraud and her death should be assumed without evidence. The FIA's Anti-Human Trafficking Circle has reportedly registered a case and is examining digital communications, financial records and possible links to other alleged fraud and blackmail cases. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has reportedly assured the bereaved family that efforts would be made to recover the money and take legal action against those found responsible. The investigation must establish how the alleged fraud was carried out, where the money went and whether more people were involved. At the same time, students and families should verify admission and scholarship offers directly with universities and avoid making large payments without reliable documentary proof. The authorities must ensure that the case is pursued on the basis of evidence and that those responsible, if found guilty, are held accountable.

Militant commander's surrender in Balochistan

Former militant commander Noor Khan Bugti has surrendered to Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti in Sui, along with 60 people, including his associates and family members, who laid down their arms and pledged allegiance to Pakistan. The surrender took place on Sunday at Pakistan House during an open public forum convened by the chief minister. The development was announced in a press release issued by the Chief Minister's Secretariat on Monday. According to the statement, Noor Khan Bugti had remained in hiding in the mountains for nearly two decades and was allegedly involved in several militant activities. He and his family are expected to settle in Sui. Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said peace was a shared responsibility and stressed that violence could not provide a lasting solution to disputes. He urged young people to reject militancy and take part in constructive activities for the progress of Balochistan and Pakistan.

The surrender is a welcome development in a province that has faced a long period of violence and insecurity. Every decision to abandon armed struggle and return to civilian life offers an opportunity to reduce violence and build peace. The participation of family members and associates also gives the development wider importance, although the government has not provided a detailed breakdown of the 60 people or the weapons surrendered. The government has described the surrender as part of its efforts to bring people involved in militancy back into the national mainstream. However, such steps must lead to lasting change rather than remain limited to public ceremonies. The authorities should ensure that those who renounce violence receive clear guidance on returning to civilian life, while any legal proceedings are handled according to the law. The government must also continue to address the wider problems that affect peace in Balochistan, including limited economic opportunities, weak public services and a lack of trust between communities and state institutions. Security measures remain necessary, but lasting peace requires more than the surrender of armed groups.

Democracy Works — When We Defend It

From secretaries of state to county clerks in Wisconsin, board of election members in Georgia, supervisors of elections in Florida, and thousands of volunteer poll workers nationwide, election defenders are already working around the clock to protect the freedom to vote. They're pushing back against demands for our private voter data, resisting federal overreach, safeguarding ballots, and helping voters make plans to vote - whether by mail, drop box, in person during early voting, or at a polling location on Election Day.

I spent years as a local election official - I can assure you that election administrators nationwide are breathing a collective sigh of relief. The administration's attempt to rewrite election rules was wrong, and I applaud those state and local officials who rejected political pressure and sued to uphold the law on behalf of voters.

With less than a month before the midterm elections, attempts by President Trump and his administration to keep certain Americans from voting will likely continue.

Voting is how we get an equal say in the decisions that impact our lives, regardless of race, disability, zip code, language, or income. That's why we need to ensure that every eligible voter can cast their ballot free from fear, intimidation, or unnecessary barriers.

Anti-democratic forces might dominate the headlines, but they have not dominated the outcomes. That's important.

In the past month, whistleblowers courageously revealed that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) may be instructing agents to break laws, and potentially "ensnare eligible voters," in order to find alleged "proof of mass non-citizen voting" shown in studies to be exceedingly rare, CNN reports.

In Michigan, an effort to get a "show your papers" measure on the November ballot failed to garner enough signatures. The Department of Justice lost 25 consecutive court cases in their quest to obtain private voter information.

Even Supreme Court blocked the Trump administration's attempt to stifle vote-by-mail nationwide by preventing the U.S. Postal Service from implementing a rule that would have disenfranchised millions of voters.

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From courtroom victories to successes in state and local communities, these recent wins are not isolated. They are victories for democracy, for the freedom to vote, and for election officials who work tirelessly to make sure our elections run smoothly. They prove democracy can withstand relentless attacks.

And they tell a bigger story: democracy works when people are willing to defend it by showing up to vote.

Winning for democracy means continuing through the midterms with clear eyes on the multiple attempts to upend the election. These attempts could include deploying federal law enforcement to polling locations and election offices, seizing ballots or voting machines, and further gerrymandering in the future.

From secretaries of state to county clerks in Wisconsin, board of election members in Georgia, supervisors of elections in Florida, and thousands of volunteer poll workers nationwide, election defenders are already working around the clock to protect the freedom to vote. They're pushing back against demands for our private voter data, resisting federal overreach, safeguarding ballots, and helping voters make plans to vote - whether by mail, drop box, in person during early voting, or at a polling location on Election Day.

This work is not just about ballots and election procedures. It's about ensuring that every eligible voter can fully participate in our democracy. We cannot sit down. We cannot give up.

As election defenders, voters, and community advocates in this great experiment, we can help ensure free and democratic elections by staying the course. Here's how:

Visit your local elections office for voting information. Vote-by-mail remains a reliable way to vote. Early voting remains available. Voters should choose the method that works best for their lives and make a plan to vote as early as possible.

Promote or participate in upcoming days of action, including National Voter Education Week (October 5-9), Election Hero Day (October 20), and Vote Early Day (October 24).

Make a plan to vote with your friends and family.

Our democracy is strongest when voters can fully participate. Our elections are strongest when election officials can do their jobs free from political interference. And our future is strongest when Americans believe that their voice matters.

The fight to protect free and democratic elections has always mattered. What happens next is up to us. Let's keep the momentum going.



NICHOLAS MARTINEZ

Dr. Nicholas Martinez is Executive Vice President for Policy & Analytics at All Voting Is Local.



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

Sea surface temperatures have spiked to record levels in the tropical Pacific this fall, a sign that the pattern continues to strengthen. In the region where the El Niño trend is typically measured, temperatures are 6.1 degrees Fahrenheit higher than normal. In its latest update, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency said the pattern was strengthening and that there was a 90% chance of a "very strong event" this fall and winter, with a 75% chance of becoming a historic event larger than any El Niño since 1950.

I have been open about feeling a little exhausted and despairing of late (if by open, one means publishing an essay about it on the Sunday oped page of the Times). Part of it is the ever-growing sense that AI is out-of-control (listen to Ezra Klein's interview with David Robinson yesterday) and part of it is the psychic toll of the daily dispatches from our nation's leader (today: anyone who doesn't use the "highly accepted new and more accurate term Super Intelligence is THE ENEMY.") And much of it is the news from the physical world.

I'm going to start with that hard scientific update today, but I promise

I'm not going to end there-the arc of this short essay is going to tend towards the more hopeful. Because there are ways to fight, and this is the moment to be doing it, and because if you're like me you need some of that spirit right now.

Anyway, to begin with the tough stuff: New data today makes ever clearer this is going to be an historic El Niño-as Evan Bush reports

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Sascha Pare provided more details: The sea surface temperature in a key section of the central equatorial Pacific Ocean has now surpassed all previous temperatures on record for this region, exceeding 86 degrees Fahrenheit (30 degrees Celsius) for the first time, according to preliminary data released Monday (Oct. 5).

Specifically, these temperatures occurred in the Niño 3.4 region, located between 5 degrees north and 5 degrees south latitude, and 120 degrees west and 170 degrees west longitude.

If you want a look, here's a temperature graph from elsewhere in the Pacific. The red line is this year. It's unlike anything we've ever seen before.

UNICEF said Tuesday that they expect 347 million children in nearly 100 countries will be exposed to flooding or drought.

"For children, El Niño is far more than a weather pattern. It can mean increased displacement, malnutrition, water shortages, and disease outbreaks. Children are also at risk of schools closing, while families could experience added financial hardship," Catherine Russell, who heads the agency, said.

The Climate Impact Lab at the University of Chicago is now predicting that heat alone-never mind the floods and storms-could

kill 451,000 people over the course of a year

"The estimate of 451,000 people is such a large number that it can be numbing, but it is made up of parents and children, grandparents and neighbours, people going to work, caring for families, and living their lives," said Michael Greenstone, co-founder of the Climate Impact Lab and a professor at the University of Chicago, who co-authored the report.

Meanwhile, the World Food Programme has estimated that about 50 million people will be pushed into acute hunger as El Niño cuts harvests around the world.

These kinds of effects are already being felt: the worst air in the world today is in Singapore and Malaysia because much of a drought-stricken

Indonesia is on fire

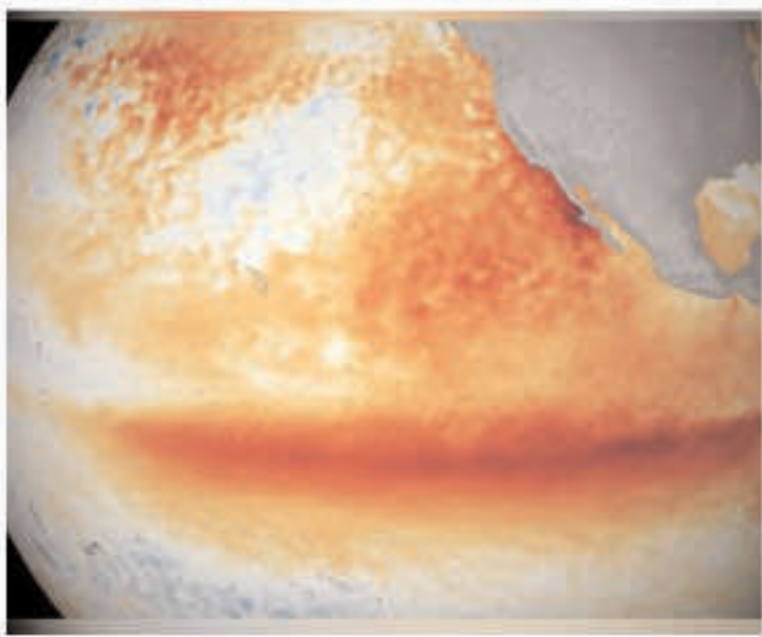
Swaths of Southeast Asia have been clouded in choking smog in recent weeks as Indonesia battles one of its worst wildfire seasons in years. The uncontrolled blazes stem from the long-running use of slash-and-burn agricultural practices, but fire conditions have been exacerbated by an intensifying El Niño that's parching the landscape.

The number of hotspots last month was the highest since 2015, when a regional haze emergency caused widespread disruptions and diplomatic tensions, according to the Forestry Ministry's fire-monitoring platform SiPongi.

And of course it's not just humans that are affected. Active fires cover half the habitat of critically endangered orangutans across the region. Frya Bisambah reports that

Rescuers in Indonesia are finding orangutans with burns, severe thirst and breathing problems as fires destroy their forest homes. Some mothers have escaped with babies still clinging to them.

This kind of damage is endemic of course-a new study this week found that the world's largest penguin colony has declined by two-thirds since 2011 because "human-driven heating has pushed up winter temperatures on and around the Antarctic peninsula to 5C above preindustrial levels, one of the fastest rises in the world." I've been to this colony, before its collapse; it guts me to think of its demise, just as it guts me to see pictures this week from Guatemala where record rains from El Niño have led to land collapse destroying homes.



OPINION

DTM



QUETTA: A vendor displays tracksuits on the footpath of Jinnah Road to attract customers. BP

Türkiye & Pakistan: Comparison of Protests and Response (Part I)

Pakistan's state was also actively seeking to prosecute people who attacked designated military facilities. The prosecution of some civilians before military courts was a particularly controversial development. The Supreme Court record reported that the decision came on the back of a meeting of the Corps Commanders on 15 May, a meeting of the National Security Committee on 16 May, the endorsement of the federal cabinet on 19 May, and a resolution in the National Assembly on 22 May

Both events, on 15 July 2016 in Türkiye and 9 May 2023 in Pakistan, were significant political crises in which governments' legitimacy was severely challenged and, subsequently, broad state responses were directed at individuals and political actors perceived to be close to the crisis. At first glance, the two episodes seem similar due to mass arrests, limitations on political freedom, high polarization of the public, high involvement of law enforcement institutions, and the subsequent legal proceedings against numerous individuals. Both responses have been primarily along the lines of safeguarding constitutional order, public security, and national stability. However, caution must be taken when making the comparison. In July 2016, there was an attempted military coup in Türkiye, and in May 2023, there was political unrest and violent protests in Pakistan after the arrest of the former prime minister, Imran Khan. The incident in Turkey was a coordinated coup attempt by some members of the army to take control of the state, even storming the Parliament and other important institutions. The Pakistani incident, however, was of the supporters of a political party protesting violently with attacks on government and military-related installations. Still, it was not an attempted seizure of governmental power by an organized military faction. A comparison is therefore more useful when focusing on the reaction of the states to political violence when it is perceived as a threat to constitutional and institutional order, on the use of extraordinary legal mechanisms, and on how states' relations with political opposition are affected after the occurrence of such crises. Elements of the Turkish armed forces tried to change the elected government on the night of 15-16 July 2016. The military had taken up strategic positions in airports, bridges, etc., and fighter aircraft and helicopters were attacking state institutions. The Turkish Grand National Assembly was bombed, and the headquarters of some state institutions were attacked. Over 250 people were killed and thousands more injured in the attempted coup.



AZHAR ALI
Azhar Ali holds a master's degree in Development Studies and has over 15 years of experience in the development sector

authorities, instead, mainly appealed to the already existing criminal, anti-terrorism and public-order legislation. The Pakistani government reported to the UN mechanisms that 430 criminal cases were filed in the aftermath of the violence across jurisdictions. The Pakistani military has also been summoned to help put out the chaos. This is significant because the deployment of the armed forces cannot be read as an indication that the military institution was directing the entire political response. The formal response was one of civilian governments, police, prosecutors, courts, and other state institutions, as well as the application of military assistance to the maintenance of public order. From Individual Criminal Responsibility to Wider Institutional Purges. A major distinction between the two cases has to do with the scope and breadth of the response that followed. In Türkiye, the post-coup response quickly transcended the scope of those accused of being involved in the coup. The government deemed the Gülen movement the organization behind the attempted coup and started a broader assault on those it believed related to it. The impact was felt across the state machine. As of early 2018, over 150,000 people

had been arrested, and around 78,000 individuals had been charged with a terrorism offense. Over 110,000 public officials had lost their jobs, such as judges, prosecutors, teachers, police, academics, and others. The judiciary was severely impacted. According to the European Court of Human Rights, 2,735 judges and prosecutors were suspended right after the attempted coup, thousands more were removed. This had changed the Turkish response, from a limited targeting of those who tried to make a coup, to a wider institutional restructuring and political-security consolidation programme. International institutions then expressed grave doubts on the proportionality and collective nature of such measures. The European Commission said the level of dismissals, arrests and detentions exceeded what was easily defensible as a current security threat and that judicial review and procedural protections were of concern. Pakistan's reply was big but narrow at the institutional level. The number of people arrested after the May violence - which included PTI activists and political leaders - was in the thousands. By 20 May, over 4,000 people had been detained, and the government prosecuted people under criminal, anti-terrorism and public order laws, Human Rights Watch reported.

Pakistan's state was also actively seeking to prosecute people who attacked designated military facilities. The prosecution of some civilians before military courts was a particularly controversial development. The Supreme Court record reported that the decision came on the back of a meeting of the Corps Commanders on 15 May, a meeting of the National Security Committee on 16 May, the endorsement of the federal cabinet on 19 May, and a resolution in the National Assembly on 22 May. That's the sequence that shows that it was not a single institution that responded to this but many state institutions. The Role of Political Institutions. Another significant comparison is the behavior of political institutions toward the reaction. Parliament in Türkiye had a symbolic and institutional presence at the time of the coup. As the building was under attack, members from the major political parties were in Parliament. The four main parliamentary parties issued a joint statement condemning the coup attempt and the legitimacy of the elected legislature. This was a unique occasion of institutional unity across the parties. But political pluralism was not to be the legacy of the immediate aftermath of the coup. In the years that followed, anti-government activists, the media, academics, and civil society groups were subjected to the general security apparatus set in place after the coup. Concern was then voiced in the European Parliament about the arrest of opposition lawmakers and the undermining of parliamentary oversight.

The Pakistani military has also been summoned to help put out the chaos. This is significant because the deployment of the armed forces cannot be read as an indication that the military institution was directing the entire political response. The formal response was one of civilian governments, police, prosecutors, courts, and other state institutions, as well as the application of military assistance to the maintenance of public order.

The Nature of These Two Crises The political reaction was exceptionally widespread. Both the governing Justice and Development Party (AKP) and the Republican People's Party (CHP), the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), and the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) publicly denounced the coup attempt. Parliament met during the crisis, and a joint declaration was issued, defending the constitutional order. The situation that led to the crisis in Pakistan on 9 May 2023 was far different. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan was arrested in a corruption case. When he was arrested, people protested nationwide. Some protests turned violent, in which protesters attacked police, set fires to public property, and entered sensitive military and government installations. The government then made thousands of arrests and started criminal investigations. So, the first threat appraisal was very different. The state in Türkiye faced an armed challenge to the government. In Pakistan, the State faced a politically organized protest, which quickly turned violent and attacked State property. The State's Immediate Response Although the nature of the crises varied, one thing was clear: both had led to a quick response from state machinery. In Turkey, the authorities started to immediately launch criminal investigations against those who are suspected of being involved in the coup. On 16 July, prosecutors started their investigations, and the judicial authorities acted quickly against judges, prosecutors, military personnel, and others who were suspected to be affiliated with the coup's perpetrators, as the Turkish government had determined. A state of emergency was then declared by the Turkish government on 21st July 2016. The emergency decrees gave the government a wide range of powers to dismiss public officials, to shut down organizations and to limit certain rights. The emergency regime remained in place until July 2018. Pakistan has not termed a national state of emergency on 9 May. Provincial and federal

Letters To The EDITOR

The Hazara community's contribution

Sir, I am writing to you to express my views on the historical importance and achievements of the Hazara community. Hazaras have a long history in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran, with a large part of their population living in central Afghanistan. Their cultural traditions, historical background and geographical links with the ancient Silk Road have contributed to the region's social and economic development. Bamian and Balkh have long held strategic importance because of their location along routes connecting South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East. The Hazara community has also made valuable contributions to education, business, sports and politics. Despite facing various challenges, its members continue to work for progress and a better future. Their achievements deserve recognition at both national and regional levels. Greater opportunities in education, employment and business can help the community realise its potential and contribute further to society. Preserving Hazara history and culture is equally important, as it forms part of the wider heritage of the region. Promoting equal rights, social inclusion and respect for cultural diversity will help ensure that future generations can continue this legacy. ZULFIQAR ALI Quetta

Viral videos must not come at the cost of wildlife

Visiting zoological gardens can help children, young people and families understand the importance of wildlife conservation and animal care. Zoos provide opportunities to learn about different species, their habits and their role in nature. They can also encourage people to treat animals with kindness and respect. Animals and birds share this world with humans and deserve proper care. Unfortunately, some people forget this responsibility when they encounter wildlife in unusual places. A recent incident on Lahore's Canal Road, where two ostriches were seen running along a busy road, raised serious concerns about public behaviour towards animals. Videos of the frightened birds circulated on social media as people tried to film and photograph them. Instead of allowing the birds to move to safety, some people appeared more interested in recording the unusual sight. Reports indicated that one ostrich died after a person attempted to grab it by the neck. The whereabouts of the second bird also raised concerns. Such incidents show the dangers of disturbing frightened animals. Wildlife may behave unpredictably when scared, and chasing or handling it without proper training can put both animals and people at risk. The incident also raises questions about how authorities respond when wild or unfamiliar animals appear on busy roads in large cities. Quick action is necessary to protect the animals, prevent traffic accidents and ensure public safety. People should be taught not to chase, touch, crowd or attempt to capture unfamiliar animals.

instead, they should keep a safe distance and immediately inform the relevant wildlife or rescue authorities. Government departments, schools and non-governmental organisations should launch public awareness campaigns on wildlife protection. Social media users must also understand that capturing a viral video is never more important than an animal's life. MUHAMMAD HUZAFIA Lahore

Parveen Shakir's literary legacy

Sir, I am writing to you to express my views on the lasting contribution of Parveen Shakir to Urdu literature. She was one of Pakistan's most celebrated female poets, whose work continues to attract readers, especially young people. Born in 1952, she published her first poetry collection, *Khushboo*, at the age of 24 and later built a successful career in the civil service. She also taught English literature and earned several higher qualifications, including a degree from Harvard University. Through her poetry, Shakir explored love, separation, motherhood, professional life and the challenges women face in a male-dominated society. Her work also addressed social and political issues, showing that her literary interests went beyond romance. At a time when women poets had limited opportunities, she established a distinct identity through her talent and professional achievements. Her death in a car accident in December 1994 was a great loss to Urdu literature. ELAHI NAEEM Lahore

Protecting snow leopards

Sir, I am writing to you to express my concern over the threats facing snow leopards and the need to protect these rare animals. Found in the high mountains of Pakistan, including the Hindu Kush and Karakoram ranges, snow leopards play an important role in maintaining the ecological balance of their habitat. As top predators, they help regulate the populations of other animals and contribute to a healthy mountain ecosystem. However, poaching, habitat loss and conflicts with local communities threaten their survival. Their mountain habitats also form part of the natural systems that store and supply water to communities living downstream. Protecting these animals is therefore important for both wildlife and people. In Pakistan, conservation organizations, local communities and government agencies are working to raise awareness and protect snow leopards. Such efforts should be strengthened through public education, effective law enforcement and community participation. People living in mountain villages need support to protect their livestock without harming wildlife. Awareness campaigns in cities are also necessary to help the public understand the importance of biodiversity. Snow leopards are often called the ghosts of the mountains because of their elusive nature. Their survival depends on our willingness to protect their habitats and prevent human activities from threatening their future. MUHAMMAD QASIM Lahore

Trump's Invasion of Iran Could Cost You Thousands

Local governments also feel the squeeze. Higher fuel prices make it more expensive to operate school buses, garbage trucks, construction equipment, fire trucks, police cars, and other vehicles and machinery. So far this year, our local and state governments have had to pay over \$1.98 billion extra for fuel because of the Iran War, and we expect that figure to top \$3.35 billion by the close of the year.

Affordability is getting worse, especially if you have to drive to work or anywhere else. By late September, the total cost of the higher gas and diesel prices triggered by President Trump's war against Iran exceeded \$103 billion, according to my organization's analysis of the federal government's energy data. And those higher prices aren't showing any sign of slowing. If current trends hold, the price tag by the end of this year will approach \$180 billion. For the average household, that comes out to \$750 extra so far, and that figure is on pace to top \$1,300 by year's end. For a family of four with two drivers, those costs are even higher, topping \$1,000 already and slated to be over \$1,700 by the end of the year if the war continues. Our interactive tool, online at <http://irran-war-fuel-cost>, lets you punch in your region and household size to get a sense of how much your family's costs are rising. To be clear, this isn't the cost of the weapons and soldiers fighting the war, which the Pentagon estimates to be around \$44 billion. This is the high-

er cost you're paying to fill up your gas tank and to buy products that cost more to move. In a normal year, fall is when drivers get some reprieve at the pump. As summer travel winds down, demand for gas falls, and prices should fall too. But not in 2026. According to AAA, Americans have never paid this much for gas at this time of year. The national average gas price is \$4.47 per gallon as of this writing, and a growing number of states are seeing average prices top \$5 per gallon. Equally troubling is the sky-high price of diesel fuel, which has hit record highs this year and now stands at \$6.45 per gallon. When diesel prices rise, the cost of making and shipping products rises too. While most of us don't buy diesel fuel ourselves, this raises the cost of everything else, bumping up the high rate of inflation we've already been seeing. These soaring fuel costs hurt businesses, local governments, and families. Businesses have had to shell out \$48 billion extra for motor fuel this year, mostly on diesel, because of the Iran War.

Local governments also feel the squeeze. Higher fuel prices make it more expensive to oper-

These expenses come on top of other new costs for households like rising interest rates, the



AMY HANAUER
Amy Hanauer is the Executive Director at the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy



ate school buses, garbage trucks, construction equipment, fire trucks, police cars, and other vehicles and machinery. So far this year, our local and state governments have had to pay over \$1.98 billion extra for fuel because of the Iran War, and we expect that figure to top \$3.35 billion by the close of the year. This expense, of course, ultimately falls on local taxpayers.

Trump administration's widespread tariffs on products you buy every day, and high healthcare prices, made worse by cuts to government programs like food assistance and Obamacare. If life feels more expensive today, that's because it is. The higher price you're paying for gas because of the Iran War isn't the whole reason for that. But it sure doesn't help.

NATIONAL

DTM

Pakistan urges global support for Syria's economic recovery, stability



where sectarian dashes between Druze and Bedouin armed groups have taken place, will be addressed through dialogue, with full respect for Syria's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Pakistani envoy also stressed the need for sustained humanitarian assistance to address the needs of the Syrian people.

Sustained vigilance was required to the threat posed by Da'esh and other terrorist groups, including foreign terrorist fighters, he said and backed Syria's counter-terrorism efforts, consolidation of security and strengthening of national institutions.

At the same time, Ambassador Jadoon said continued Israeli military actions threaten to undermine Syria efforts to consolidate peace and recovery.

"These illegal actions are not only flagrant violations of international law and Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity; they are also profoundly counterproductive to the prospects for regional peace and stability," he said, adding, "They must cease."

"We reiterate our call for Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Syrian territory and full respect for the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement; the occupied Syrian Golan remains Syrian territory under international law, and Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 338 and 497." The Syrian leadership is wisely navigating the country's challenges amidst a complex regional situation, Ambassador Jadoon said in conclusion.

Briefing the Security Council, Claudio Cordone, Deputy Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Syria, stressed that economic recovery is essential to Syria's transition and stability.

"Success will ultimately be measured by tangible improvements in people's daily lives," he said. Welcoming sanctions relief, he urged international partners to translate political goodwill into financing, technical assistance and concrete projects.

Turning to security, Cordone warned that recent communal violence exposed deep grievances, with local disputes quickly acquiring sectarian dimensions. He welcomed a Government initiative to combat hate speech.

Meanwhile, Israeli military activities in southern Syria continue, including shootings and detentions, with 49 people reportedly remaining in Israeli custody, it was pointed out. Reiterating calls to respect the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement, he stressed that diplomacy remains the only path to agreed security arrangements.

In Sweida, Cordone said that reduced violence and improved road access stood in contrast to political deadlock and humanitarian concerns, including the education of more than 14,000 students and the return of displaced families. "A durable resolution in Sweida

requires a Syrian-Syrian dialogue," he stressed.

Welcoming institutional reforms, including the abolition of the Assad-era Counter-Terrorism Court, Cordone underscored the need for impartial accountability and reaffirmed support for a Syrian-led transition.

Colombia: Ahead of next month's tenth anniversary of the signing of Colombia's 2016 Peace Agreement, Pakistan has urged all armed actors in the South American country to renounce violence and completely respect national laws during a UN Security Council meeting that focused on the Colombian peace process.

"Security concerns remain a challenge and threaten to upend the gains across various facets of this Peace Plan," Acting Pakistan permanent representative, Ambassador Usman Jadoon, told the 15-member Council on Monday.

"Targeting of Colombian security forces by armed gangs, ex-combatants, social leaders and human rights defenders is reprehensible and condemnable," he added.

Colombia's conflict began in the 1960s, when political marginalization and unequal land access sparked a conflagration that lasted decades, and led to the inception of armed groups, including the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP). That period saw rebels, paramilitaries and criminal networks killing and displacing millions.

Negotiations initiated in 2012 led to the Peace Agreement in 2016, which formally ended half a century of civil strife between the Government and the largest rebel group, and provided for FARC-EP disarmament and reintegration, rural reform, political participation and transitional justice. The United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia was established in 2016 by the Security Council to verify the Agreement's implementation.

In his remarks, Ambassador Jadoon highlighted that a balanced, sustainable, and inclusive approach centered on the Colombian people remains the absolute key to enduring peace.

He welcomed Colombia's new government, led by President Abelardo de la Espriella, and Foreign Minister Omar Bula Escobar, extending condolences for the structural losses from the devastating August earthquake.

Ambassador Jadoon reiterated that the 2016 Peace Agreement remains a decisive framework allowing the Colombian people to live with dignity and free from fear.

He praised the government's commitment to "governing from and for the regions" to boost security and state presence.

The Pakistani envoy expressed its intent to engage constructively with the Colombian delegation and other Council members to support the upcoming mandate renewal of the UN Verification Mission. **NEWS DESK**

Dar vows support for global disaster risk reduction

Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, Tuesday, reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast commitment to global efforts aimed at mitigating disaster risk, vulnerability and socio-economic losses.

He urged the international community to strengthen cooperation, technology transfer, and financing mechanisms to enable developing countries to mitigate and adapt to the accelerating impacts of climate change.

In a message on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, the DPM/FM stressed that reducing disaster risk is essential not only for humanitarian reasons but also for achieving and sustaining progress under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In recent years, he said Pakistan has endured the devastating impacts of climate-induced disasters, including recurring floods, accelerating glacial melt, droughts, heatwaves, and rising water stress. Intense rainfall over recent monsoon seasons, which resulted in the loss of lives and livelihoods, highlighted the disproportionate climate burden that Pakistan continued to bear despite contributing less than one percent of global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, he added.

Dar said these experiences had strengthened their resolve to focus on proactive, technology-driven, and inclusive disaster risk management.

"Guided by the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2025-2030, the Government of Pakistan is pursuing a multi-hazard approach that emphasizes prevention, preparedness, and resilience-building at the national and sub-national levels. Concrete actions, such as establishing strong national systems and introducing shock-responsive social protection initiatives, are being undertaken in this regard," the Foreign Office Spokesperson, in a press release, quoted the DPM/FM as saying.

Aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), he further underlined that their policies prioritized strengthening early warning systems, integrating risk reduction into development planning, and leveraging innovation and technology to better anticipate and manage emerging risks.

As disaster risk management in shared river basins is inherently a transboundary challenge, its effectiveness depends on cooperation among riparian states, adherence to international law, and full respect for treaties and agreements in force, he maintained.

He also reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity with all nations in the collective responsibility to build a safer, more resilient, and sustainable world. **NEWS DESK**

Man who raped, murdered minor girl killed in encounter

A suspect who allegedly raped and killed a 12-year-old girl in Rawalpindi's Khayaban-e-Sir Syed area was killed during an alleged CCD encounter.

According to details, the body of the 12-year-old girl was recovered from the house of suspect Mumraiz Khan in Dhoke Najo, Khayaban-e-Sir Syed, on 8 October.

Mumraiz Khan, the victim's maternal uncle, was wanted by police in a case registered under serious charges including kidnapping, rape and murder. Police officials said CCTV footage showing the suspect with the victim also emerged during the investigation.

The main suspect was killed during an alleged encounter with a CCD team, after which police completed the constitutional and legal proceedings and investigative evidence related to the incident. **INP**

Pakistan has called on the international community to provide sustained support for Syria's reconstruction and economic recovery for the country's political transition and stability.

"A country that has witnessed years of conflict is steadily reclaiming its rightful place in the region and the wider international community," Acting Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, Usman Jadoon, told the UN Security Council on Monday during a monthly meeting on political and humanitarian developments in Syria.

"Today," he added, "amid the challenges of recovery and reconstruction, there is a renewed sense of hope in Syria."

Syria has undergone major political and social shifts since a popular uprising ousted President Bashar Al-Assad in late 2024. The country's new leader, Ahmed al-Sharaa, has engaged more closely with the international community and promised accountability for past atrocity crimes, while undertaking significant government reforms.

Noting its renewed diplomatic engagement, restoration of national institutions and gradual revival of economic activity, the Pakistani envoy said these were encouraging signs of a new chapter in Syria's history.

"Pakistan shares in this optimism," Ambassador Jadoon said, referring also to the growing Islamabad-Damascus fraternal ties.

Underlining that Syria's unity and diversity were mutually reinforcing, he welcomed the progress in engagement with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the Kurdish-led military alliance in Syria, hoping that outstanding challenges, including the situation in Sweida,

Aqeel Malik meets Turkish president, justice ministers

Minister of State for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and held bilateral meetings with the justice ministers of Türkiye and Azerbaijan during the International Justice Summit 2026 in Istanbul.

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice on Tuesday, the summit brought together senior officials, policymakers, legal experts and judicial professionals from various countries to discuss strengthening justice systems, promoting the rule of law and advancing legal reforms. President Erdogan addressed participants on the final day of the summit, where Barrister Aqeel Malik also met him on the sidelines.

The minister of state participated in a panel discussion titled "Migration, Sharing of Responsibility and Human Dignity," highlighting Pakistan's position on refugee protection, humanitarian assistance, equitable international responsibility-sharing and addressing the root causes of forced displacement.

During a bilateral meeting with Turkish Justice Minister Akin Gürel, the two sides discussed expanding cooperation in justice, legal reforms, judicial cooperation and institutional capacity-building. They reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening existing cooperation and deepening institutional ties between Pakistan and Türkiye. Malik also met Azerbaijani Justice Minister Farid Ahmedov to discuss opportunities for greater cooperation in justice, legal reforms, judicial cooperation and institutional capacity-building. Both sides expressed their commitment to expanding bilateral collaboration. **NEWS DESK**



CM Bugti sets target to train 25,000 Balochistan youth by next year

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Tuesday chaired 11th board meeting of Balochistan Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (B-TEVTA) and directs to make a compressive plan for providing technical training in various fields to 25,000 youth across the province by next year.

Additionally, a decision was made to fast-track the program aimed at upskilling 30,000 youth and sending them abroad for employment. The meeting reviewed ongoing initiatives to promote technical education, enhance the professional capabilities of the youth, and create employment opportunities.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti inaugurated an 'Institute Registration Portal' designed to boost the capacity of technical education and make the registration and monitoring systems for institutions more effective.

This portal will facilitate the registration of technical training institutes and help improve the system for monitoring their performance.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that fostering a conducive environment is essential for providing employment opportunities to the youth.

He emphasized that promoting technical education and skills development is indispensable for steering the youth toward economic self-reliance and added that technical training should be provided in alignment with modern standards and market demands, enabling the youth to secure employment, both locally and internationally, thereby improving their families' economic conditions and



playing an effective role in the country's development.

The Chief Minister directed relevant officials to formulate a comprehensive strategy to integrate 25,000 youth who would complete their technical training by next year into the national and global economies.

He emphasized the need to align training programs with actual employment requirements, ensuring that youth are not merely trained but are practically connected to job opportunities.

The meeting also stressed accelerating progress on the program to equip 30,000 youth with skills in various sectors and send them abroad for employment.

The Chief Minister said that transforming the potential of the youth into employable skills for both domestic and international markets is a critical need of the hour, to achieve this, the performance of technical training institutes must be improved, training standards ensured, and effective coordination fostered among relevant agencies.

The meeting also reviewed the slow pace in achieving the targets of the Chief Minister's Youth Skills Development Program.

It was reported that action has been initiated against those responsible for delays in program implementation and negligence in meeting the set targets.

The Chief Minister directed that the implementation of technical training projects be expedited and that the performance of relevant institutions be regularly monitored to ensure the achievement of established goals. **NEWS DESK**

Pakistan, Malaysia vow to deepen trade, education ties

High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan Dato Mohammad Azhar bin Mazlan on Tuesday called for enhanced trade, investment, educational and tourism cooperation between Pakistan and Malaysia, saying the two countries could further strengthen their longstanding bilateral relations through collaboration in multiple sectors.

Addressing a "Meet the Press" programme at the National Press Club (NPC), he said the two countries enjoyed longstanding brotherly relations, underpinned by shared cultural values, religious affinities and people-to-people contacts. He said Pakistan and Malaysia had maintained diplomatic relations since 1957, shortly after Malaysia's independence, and elevated their relationship to a Strategic Partnership in March 2019 to broaden cooperation in defence, trade, energy, telecommunications and the halal sector.

He described Pakistan as an important market for

Malaysian palm oil and highlighted an ongoing joint venture between Pakistani and Malaysian companies for edible oil refining at Port Qasim, Karachi.

Emphasizing the importance of educational cooperation, he said Malaysia was keen to attract more Pakistani students to its universities, which offered internationally recognised qualifications and an educational environment compatible with their cultural values.

He said Pakistan ranked among the top five countries of origin for international students in Malaysia. Highlighting defence cooperation, the High Commissioner referred to the longstanding military ties between the two countries and said a joint committee on defence cooperation was scheduled to meet during the week.

He also highlighted opportunities for expanding tourism cooperation, noting that thousands of Malaysian tourists visited Pakistan last year, many of them travelling

to the country's northern areas.

He said Malaysia had extended its "Visit Malaysia" campaign through 2027 as part of its efforts to promote tourism and attract international visitors.

The High Commissioner also highlighted the Malaysia Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), which has provided training opportunities to participants from 189 countries, including Pakistan. He expressed hope for greater trade and investment between the two countries and invited Pakistani media representatives to attend a business engagement scheduled to be hosted by the Malaysian High Commission later in the week.

Emphasizing the role of the media, he said responsible journalism was essential for national development, warning that fake news and irresponsible reporting could damage a country's reputation. He urged media practitioners to ensure accurate and responsible reporting

to keep the public informed.

Earlier, NPC Secretary Furqan Rao welcomed the High Commissioner and appreciated his efforts to strengthen bilateral relations. He said bilateral trade between the two countries was worth around \$1.5 billion and highlighted Malaysia's role in providing educational opportunities to Pakistani students. Rao also proposed cooperation between the NPC and Malaysian media organisations, including journalist associations and press clubs, through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to facilitate professional exchanges and strengthen media collaboration.

NPC President Razzak Sial delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the High Commissioner for visiting the press club and interacting with journalists. He expressed hope for enhanced cooperation between the two countries to further strengthen bilateral ties. **NEWS DESK**

NATIONAL

DTM

Makkah pact aims to promote peace, not against any country: Zardari

President Asif Ali Zardari, Tuesday, expressed confidence that the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, signed by Pakistan, Turkiye and Saudi Arabia on 7 August 2026, would strengthen regional peace and stability through defensive cooperation guided by the principles of the UN Charter and international law.

Lieutenant General (Rtd.) Nauman Mahmood, the first Secretary General pursuant to Makkah Joint Defence Agreement called on the president at Aiwan-e-Sadr. He will lead the General Secretariat of the



Alliance being established at Riyadh. Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi was also present during the meeting. President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release. The president underscored that the Accord is purely defensive in nature and not directed against any country; nor it constituted the formation of a new bloc. He emphasized that Pakistan remained committed to the peaceful resolution of conflicts and enhanced regional and multilateral cooperation to address emerging challenges. PM calls for more legal migration pathways for Pakistani workers: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tuesday, underscored the importance Pakistan attaches to its partnership with the

European Union and reaffirmed its commitment to further strengthening cooperation across all pillars of the Pak-EU Strategic Engagement Plan.

He expressed these views during a meeting with European Union Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner who called on him.

The meeting focused on strengthening Pakistan-EU cooperation in the areas of migration and mobility, one of the eight pillars of the Pakistan-EU Strategic Engagement Plan 2019. PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Welcoming Commissioner Brunner on his first visit to Pakistan, the prime minister highlighted Pakistan's sustained efforts to curb irregular migration and combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking through legislative reforms, institutional strengthening, effective enforcement, and international cooperation.

He emphasized that efforts to address

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Tuesday that the federal cabinet "rightly decided" last week that the process of political reconciliation with the opposition PTI was over.

He was addressing a Senate session following the imposition of governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and emergency in 12 of its districts, for which the Centre had cited the provincial government's "deliberate disengagement" from the fight against terrorism.

Regarding the collapsed negotiations between the federal government and PTI earlier this month, the deputy premier stressed that the PPP and PML-N had both made efforts to reach a point of understanding with the PTI, but failed.

"They said they would talk about it, then consulted with their chief minister, and after that, virtually, they refused," he said.

He added, "Political reconciliation can be secured when other things are... equal. Other things have gone in a very bad, very wrong direction in this country and particularly in the province."

Addressing the session, DPM Dar stressed that "everybody has the right to get elected" but that it mattered where you "take" the government.

He noted that he himself had been among those who supported the granting of an extra one per cent of the gross pool to KP during the National Finance Commission (NFC) negotiations, so that it could "prepare itself for the war against terror". "Rs 800 billion has gone in this," he said, questioning where this money had been spent in the

province, including on a Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) or in funding for law enforcement agencies (LEAs), or even the establishment of a forensic lab.

While stressing that "we are all Pakistanis" and shared the same loyalties, Dar urged reflection on the state of the country and especially the province.

Regarding arguments that terrorism was also prevalent in Balochistan, he highlighted that the Balochistan government was "fully on board" with fighting terrorism. The deputy premier added that when Maulana Fazlur Rahman of the JUL-F came to play his part in breaking the dead lock in negotiations, "things had gone far beyond". He said that he had told Rahman that the matter would be presented in the Cabinet and that the results of this would be shared with him. "His proposal was presented to the Cabinet, but the Cabinet asked: 'How long will this go on?'" Dar said. "The CM (chief minister) is sometimes in Sindh, sometimes Punjab, and now they are mobilising people."

He also claimed that there was proof KP's resources were being used by the PTI's private account and not the provincial account.

"We are all common citizens of this country," he said. "For 13 years, we have seen this ruin happening. 'I think the Cabinet rightly decided... the political reconciliation is over.'"

Separately, Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi on Tuesday informed the Senate that the federal government had acted in accordance with the Constitution and was not responsible for the failure of talks with the Pakistani Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Responding to points raised by Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Raja Nasir Abbas, the minister asked him to identify any specific constitutional provision that had been violated.

Mohsin Naqvi said the talks at Parliament House had begun with

the issue of terrorism. He said Asad Qaiser had expressed willingness to cooperate, but the government had asked the PTI to consult the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government before reaching an agreement. He said the government had requested the KP chief minister to join the negotiations so that he could make decisions on security matters.

The minister said the government wanted to prevent the loss of even a single life and could not continue to see police officers and security personnel being killed while the provincial government did not stand with it.

Mohsin Naqvi said the government had accepted six proposed changes despite a disagreement over paragraph four. He said the opposition later conveyed that PTI leader Mursad Saeed would respond to the proposals.

The minister said the government had evidence of contacts and financial transactions between terrorists and some PTI members. Counterterrorism was the government's sole agenda in the talks, he added. He said permission had been granted to record a meeting with the PTI founder on Barrister Gohar Ali Khan's mobile phone, and the demands made during the meeting had been accepted.

However, the opposition said the recording would be made the following day, he added.

Mohsin Naqvi said the government had itself invited the opposition to talks and wanted peace to prevail while negotiations continued. He said some PTI leaders had taken a wrong step and reiterated that the government was not responsible for the failure of the talks. PTI-backed lawmakers protest: The



Pakistani Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backed lawmakers protested against the imposition of emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the National Assembly session after Speaker Ayaz Sadiq barred the opposition leaders from delivering political speeches.

The speaker reminded the PTI lawmakers that Chaudhry Mahmood Bashir Virk, who had been their colleague for two and a half years, had passed away last month, saying the house should pay tribute to the deceased rather than engage in politics.

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said the assembly session was usually adjourned to offer prayers following the death of a member. He added that "the funeral of this house" had already taken place on October 11.

Rejecting the PTI's demand, the speaker said the parliamentary tradition could not be abandoned and that the house was paying tribute to Virk. The speaker added that government had offered big deal during the negotiation but the opposition was not ready for it.

Separately, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 (Ordinance No. V of 2026) was laid before the Senate on Tuesday. Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah Khan laid the ordinance before the Senate in accordance with clause (2) of Article 89 of the Constitution. NEWS DESK

PTI seeks production orders for 9 'detained' MNAs

The PTI requested the National Assembly speaker to issue production orders for its nine "detained" MNAs ahead of NA and Senate sessions on Tuesday.

In a letter to NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, Chief Whip Amir Dogar claimed that the nine MNAs were "currently detained" and requested him to issue production orders for them to enable them to attend the 30th session.

The lawmakers comprised Haji Imtiaz Ahmad Choudhry (77-68), Muhammad Jamal Ahsan Khan (NA-89), Mian Ghous Muhammad (77-170), Sanaullah Khan Mastikhel (N7-91), Dawar Khan Kundi (NA-43), Junaid Akbar (NA-09), Arjad Ali Khan (NA-02), Fazal Muhammad Khan (77-25) and Adil Khan Bazai (NA-262).

"As the speaker of the National

Assembly, the impartiality of your esteemed office requires that production orders be issued for all detained members, irrespective of their political affiliation, to ensure that no constituency remains unrepresented during the proceedings of the House," the letter read.

It requested Sadiq to issue the production orders under Rule 108 of the 2007 Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly. When the NA session began at around 7pm, Speaker Sadiq administered the oath of membership to PML-N's Malik Munir Iqbal Channar, who won the Bahawalpur polls last month held to fill the seat of his late father Malik Muhammad Iqbal

Channar. Lawmakers then offered prayers for late MNA Chaudhry Mahmood Bashir Virk, who died last month after a prolonged illness.

As MNAs from various parties took their turns to recall the services of Virk, there was slight commotion, which prompted the speaker to urge PTI Chairman Gohar Ali Khan to respect the late MNA. Gohar remarked that sessions are usually adjourned after prayers for a deceased member. Referring to the governor's rule in KP, he said the "funeral of this house was also held on Oct 11".

"We tried to give you very much in dialogue, but you (PTI) were not ready to take what we had offered," the speaker replied, then switched off Gohar's mic.

The speaker said political discussion will not be allowed today, but tomorrow (Wednesday). PPP's Syed Naveed Qamar also urged the PTI chairman to acknowledge the services of Virk, who had stood by the



Constitution. He said the PTI could raise its issues later as well.

Lawmakers then continued to pay tribute to Virk, with Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal among those who highlighted his professional life.

President Asif Ali Zardari had summoned the sessions after he and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif agreed on it during their weekend meeting on the country's political and security situation. The sessions also follow the imposition of governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and emergency in 12 of its districts, for which the Centre cited the PTI-led provincial government's "deliberate disengagement" from the fight against terrorism. NEWS DESK

Sri Lanka deny Pakistan T20I series whitewash

Skipper Kusal Mendis led from the front to enable Sri Lanka deny Pakistan whitewash when they crafted an eight-wicket win over the hosts in the third and final T20I on Tuesday. Despite the loss Green-shirts sealed the series 2-1.

At the Pind Stadium in Rawalpindi Mendis struck an unbeaten 87 off 48 balls as Sri Lanka chased the 169-run target in 17.1 overs after losing two wickets.

Earlier, Sahibzada Farhan hit a superb 76 to propel Pakistan to 168-8 in the allotted 20 overs.

After losing Lahiru Udara (1) cheaply Mendis took the centre stage and catapulted his side to a great win following two back-to-back losses. Mendis, who brought in his fifty off 33 balls, smashed four sixes and nine fours in his excellent unbeaten knock. He added 59 runs off 41 balls for the second wicket stand with Sineth Jayawardena who fell for 26-ball 38, striking five fours and two sixes. Mendis then shared 98 runs for the third wicket unbroken partnership with Kamindu Mendis to make his side home safely.

Kamindu hit 40 not out off 27 balls with four fours. Mohammad Imran and Anafat Minhas got one wicket each. After being put into bat first Farhan found himself in tough situation as wickets kept falling at regular intervals at the other end. However he stood like a rock and took his team to a fighting total in the end.

He brought in his 13th fifty of his career off 34 balls and hammered seven fours and three sixes in his 47-ball knock. He added 66 runs off 37 balls for the seventh-wicket stand with Anafat Minhas who chipped in with brilliant 20-ball 34 not out, hammering two sixes and two fours.

Dasun Shanaka was the pick of the Sri Lanka's bowlers who claimed 3-31 in his quota of four overs. Eshan Malinge, who ripped through Pakistan's top order, captured 2-38 in his four overs. Nuwan Thushara got 2-38 in four. After being invited to bat first Fakhar Zaman and Sahibzada Farhan provided a brisk start to Pakistan, scoring 34 off 19 balls.

Medium-pacer Eshan Malinge provided breakthrough to Sri Lanka when he removed Fakhar Zaman (12) and inform Masz Sadeqat (0) in a single over to put his team ahead. Fakhar, who wanted to hit it hard, but only edged it to third man fiddler Lahiru Udara.

He struck one six and one four from seven balls.

Masaz, who had hit fifties in his previous two games, was held at mid-off by Chamindu Wickramasinghe. Sri Lanka kept Pakistan under check. Leg-spinner Vijayakanthi Vijayakanthi then got rid of Hasan Nawaz (16), held excellently at long-on boundary to leave the hosts at 67-3 in the ninth over. Hasan smashed two fours from 17 balls. Dasun Shanaka then sent Khawaja Nafay (3) back, who handed an easy catch to the backward point fielder when he came down the wicket but failed to middle it. Shanaka then had Mohammad Imran Randhawe (6) and Abdul Samad (15) in quick succession to leave Pakistan gasping at 107-6 in the 15th over. Samad smacked two fours and a six from ten balls. However Farhan and Anafat then did well to boost the total. Pakistan made four changes, bringing in Sulayman Moqim, Abdul Samad, Razaullah and Anafat Minhas. Shadab Khan, Saim Ayub, Nazeem Shah and Abrar Ahmed were rested. On October 9 Pakistan defeated Sri Lanka by four wickets when they chased the 183-run target with seven balls to spare. In the second clash on October 9 Pakistan downed Sri Lanka by 82 runs to seal series. Now from October 18 Pakistan will host ODI tri-series, also involving England to kick-start their preparations for the next year's World Cup which will be hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. NEWS DESK

Sindh CM eyes China tie-up for water, infrastructure

Continued from Page 1

Qingfa Hesheng Agriculture: The chief minister also held a meeting with Qingfa Hesheng Agriculture Development Co. Ltd, a Wuhan-based high-tech seed company, and invited it to expand cooperation with Sindh in developing high-yield and climate-resilient crop varieties, strengthening local seed production and transferring modern agricultural technology.

During the meeting with the company's Chairman Wang Shicai and senior representatives, Mr Shah discussed joint research, technology transfer, farmer training and the development of modern seed-production systems suited to Sindh's agricultural conditions.

He said Sindh had significant potential to increase agricultural productivity through improved seed varieties, modern technology and scientific farming practices. He proposed cooperation in developing crops adapted to the province's challenges, including extreme heat, water shortages, floods and changing weather patterns.

The company briefed the chief minister on its expertise in the research, production and international trade of hybrid crop and vegetable seeds, including rice, rapeseed, maize, cotton, watermelon, radish, pepper and pak-choi. Its hybrid rice varieties have reportedly achieved yield increases of between 20 and 30 per cent in relevant trials.

Qingfa Hesheng, an ISO9001-certified high-tech seed company, has research cooperation with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and operates seed-testing laboratories and demonstration farms.

Mr Shah proposed establishing joint research facilities in Sindh to develop and test seed varieties before their wider multiplication and distribution among farmers. He also stressed the importance of developing

local seed multiplication and production through public-private partnerships to reduce dependence on imported varieties.

The meeting also covered the company's work in Pakistan, including local research and development of crop varieties. Qingfa Hesheng has collaborated with Pakistani partners, including Cerus Seeds, and signed agreements with the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council for the introduction of molecular seed-identification technology aimed at tackling counterfeit seeds and protecting intellectual property.

The chief minister said such technology could improve the quality and traceability of seeds available to farmers in Sindh. He invited the company to work with provincial agriculture institutions, research organizations and private-sector partners on seed testing, farmer training, technology transfer and applied agricultural research.

He said cooperation could also be extended to high-value agriculture, agro-processing and export-oriented production, creating new opportunities for farmers in domestic and international markets while promoting sustainability and climate resilience.

During the visit, Mr Shah also met Pakistani agricultural scientist Dr Ahmad Ali, who holds a PhD in seed development and is currently working with Qingfa Hesheng. The chief minister honoured him with a Sindh cap and appreciated his achievement in working with an internationally recognised company.

The chief minister was accompanied by provincial ministers Sharjeel Memon and Jam Khan Shora, Special Assistant to the CM Syed Qasim Naveed, PSC Agha Wasif, Planning and Development Chairman Najam Shah, Investment Secretary Raja Khuram Shahzad, Transport Secretary Asad Zaman and Agriculture Secretary Zaman Narejo. NEWS DESK

BACKPAGE

DTM

KP emergency for unified anti-terror policy: Govt

Says emergency in KP imposed under Constitution amid rising terrorism as there's no room for two counterterrorism policies in one country

Federal ministers on Tuesday defended the imposition of emergency rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saying the move was taken under the Constitution in response to rising terrorism and the failure of efforts to reach an agreement with the provincial government on a joint counterterrorism strategy.

Addressing a news conference for foreign media representatives, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar and Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said the federal government had made repeated attempts to secure cooperation from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-led provincial government, but the talks failed to produce a final agreement.

"One country cannot have two policies on terrorism," the ministers said, arguing that federal and provincial authorities needed to coordinate their efforts to address the security situation.

During the talks between the government and opposition last week, the PTI had insisted that counterterrorism measures in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should be based on a joint agreement between federal and provincial governments, involving consultation with political parties in the provincial assembly.

While "committed" to eliminating terrorism, PTI had opposed "collateral damage" like civilian deaths and displacement, and "blind operations". They had advocated for policies supported by local communities, based on ground intelligence, and incorporating recommendations from a KP Assembly jirga. This had conflicted with the government's demand for the provincial government to own unilateral federal actions.

On imposition of emergency, Azam Tarar said President Asif Ali Zardari had imposed emergency rule under Articles 232 and 234 of the Constitution on the prime minister's advice. He said the provisions provided a constitutional mechanism for dealing with extraordinary circumstances and that the decision was driven by security concerns rather than political considerations.

The law minister cited official figures showing 2,911 terrorist incidents in KP between 2021 and 2024, saying the number had subsequently risen to around 8,600, an increase of nearly 200%. He said the figures had been shared with the federal government and the Prime Minister's Office by various state institutions. However, the briefing did not clarify the full duration of the later period or provide a detailed breakdown of the figures.

He said security personnel, police, government employees, religious scholars and civilians had been targeted in attacks, adding that an effective response required coordination and

information-sharing among relevant institutions.

The minister said the federal government had also pursued political negotiations to resolve differences with the KP government. A committee involving representatives of the PTI, Pakistan Peoples Party and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz had been formed, with the National Assembly speaker facilitating the talks. Although progress had been made on several issues, the negotiations failed to reach a final agreement, he said.

The information minister said the federal government had not sought to restrict the PTI's political march or other political demands, but argued that differences over counterterrorism policy could undermine national security.

He said Islamabad had urged Afghanistan's interim government through diplomatic channels to prevent its territory from being used against Pakistan and to eliminate safe havens for militant groups. He also alleged that the KP government's position on Afghanistan had complicated efforts to reach a common strategy.

Attaullah presented figures that he said showed 3,774 terrorist incidents in KP in 2025 and 2,857 up to September 2026. He said the incidents resulted in 3,512 deaths in 2025 and 2,775 deaths during the first nine months of 2026. He also claimed that terrorism-related fatalities and attacks targeting police had increased significantly, including a 168% rise in attacks on police personnel between March 2024 and September 2026. The briefing did not provide a detailed methodology for these comparisons.

The information minister questioned whether sufficient steps had been taken to strengthen the provincial Counter Terrorism Department, install surveillance cameras under Safe City projects, establish a forensic laboratory and equip police with modern technology. He said vehicle registration systems could also help investigators trace vehicles used in attacks.

He further alleged that illegal trade and cross-border smuggling involving minerals, timber, tobacco, gold and precious stones had provided financial or other support to militant groups.

Attaullah said the federal government had also established a new administrative and development framework for 12 districts of KP, to be called the Area Representative and Development Council. He said the structure would include a chairperson, vice-chairperson, members and a spokesperson, with Additional Chief Secretary Yahya Akhunzada serving as administrator.

The proposed framework would also involve police, law-enforcement agencies and officials dealing with counter-narcotics, legal affairs, tribal matters and human rights. The minister said its composition would take regional, tribal and gender representation into account.

The ministers said the emergency measures were intended to improve security and service delivery in the province. Their defence of the decision came amid political differences between the federal government and the PTI-led administration over responsibility for the worsening security situation and the approach to counterterrorism. **NEWS DESK**

Govt to announce wheat price after provincial consultations

PM says it's necessary to determine correct price of wheat before sowing so that farmers can receive appropriate compensation

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tuesday, termed agriculture as the backbone of the national economy, said it has the potential to steer Pakistan's economy on the path of development in a short span of time. The prime minister chaired the first meeting of the National Agriculture and Food Security Council (NAFSC).

The prime minister observed that the livestock sector also possessed vast potential to increase national exports and the government was taking steps to increase Pakistan's halal meat exports. He said that the federal government would pro-

vide all kinds of cooperation to the provinces for agricultural development, adding that providing farmers with low-cost fertilizer, quality seeds, modern machinery and equipment and technical capabilities for the better use of water was a top priority. The prime minister expressed his satisfaction at the availability of wheat to meet domestic requirements and warned that no leniency would be shown to those hoarding wheat.

He further stressed that ensuring a fair price for farmers' crops, especially small and medium-scale farmers, is a priority, adding that it was necessary to determine the correct price of wheat before sowing so that farmers received appropriate compensation for their hard work.

"We want farmers to get the right price for wheat and consumers to avail of affordable wheat. The decision regarding the price of wheat will be made in consultation with the provinces," the press release quoted him as saying.



During the meeting, the prime minister lauded Chief Minister of Punjab for taking commendable steps such as farmers' development, aquaculture, shrimp farming, and providing direct subsidies to farmers through the Kisan Card.

He also appreciated the chief minister Sindh for his hard work for the development of farmers and providing them with facilities. During the meeting,

the chief minister Punjab and the Sindh Minister for Food highlighted the steps taken by their respective provincial governments for the development of farmers in their respective provinces. During the meeting, briefings were also given on the steps taken for agricultural development in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan. **NEWS DESK**

Pakistan-EU deal after 64% drop in illegal crossings

EU migration commissioner praises Pakistan's crackdown on human smuggling, border controls
The two sides also agree to pursue legal employment pathways for skilled Pakistani nationals

Pakistan and the European Union agreed on Tuesday to strengthen cooperation against illegal migration and expand legal employment opportunities for skilled workers, as a senior EU official praised Islamabad's efforts to reduce irregular migration to Europe by 64 percent.

The agreement came during talks between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and European Commissioner for Home Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner in Islamabad, amid growing cooperation between Pakistan and European authorities to dismantle human smuggling networks, strengthen border controls and create safer migration pathways.

"Pakistan's effective measures have resulted in a commendable 64 percent reduction in illegal migration to Europe," Brunner said, according to a statement issued by the interior ministry following the meeting.

The European commissioner praised the FIA for demonstrating professionalism despite limited resources and said efforts to reduce

irregular migration could help expand opportunities for people seeking to travel and work abroad legally. "Reducing illegal migration will open up pathways for legal migration," he said.

Pakistan has stepped up action against human smuggling networks following a series of deadly migrant boat disasters in recent years involving Pakistani nationals attempting to reach Europe through North Africa and the Mediterranean.

The government has also tightened checks at international airports, where immigration officials have increasingly scrutinized passengers suspected of using tourist, work or religious travel arrangements to reach third countries before attempting onward journeys to Europe.

The measures have prompted concerns about legitimate travellers being prevented from boarding flights, although the FIA maintains that its screening procedures are intended to identify suspected human smuggling and document fraud rather than restrict lawful travel.

Naqvi said Pakistan had adopted a zero-tolerance policy against illegal migration and wanted to build on the reported reduction in irregular departures.

"Following the 64 percent reduction in illegal migration, our next target is to

eliminate it completely," the minister said.

He called for closer coordination with European authorities, describing irregular migration as a serious international challenge requiring joint action.

"Pakistan and the European Union need to work together to completely eliminate illegal migration," Naqvi said.

During the meeting, which also included delegation-level talks, the two sides discussed expanding opportunities for skilled Pakistani workers to migrate legally to EU member states.

The discussions come as Pakistan seeks greater access to European labor markets through regulated employment schemes, while the EU aims to reduce irregular arrivals by strengthening cooperation with countries of origin and transit.

The two sides agreed to enhance collaboration on immigration management, border security and institutional capacity, including cooperation under the EU's Eastern Corridor initiative, which seeks to address migrant smuggling along routes linking Asia and Europe.

Officials also discussed increasing cooperation to strengthen the operational capacity of the Pakistan Coast Guards.

Brunner assured Pakistan of support for its efforts to tackle irregular migration, according to the statement. **NEWS DESK**



Fatah-2 missile test successful



Pakistan Army on Tuesday conducted successful test launch of Hypersonic Ballistic Missile, Fatah-2 Extended Range (ER).

The weapon system is equipped with advanced navigation and state of the art avionics, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

It is capable of engaging targets with high precision and defeating enemy's Missile Defence Systems due to its unique trajectory and maneuverability features. Fatah-2 ER with its extended range will further enhance Army's reach and capability of engag-

ing deep targets.

"Today's launch was witnessed by Commander Army Rocket Force Command (Comd ARFC), senior officers from Pakistan Army and committed scientists and engineers.

Commander ARFC appreciated the dedication and technical prowess of scientists and engineers," the news release said.

The President, Prime Minister and Chief of Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces and Services Chiefs congratulated the scientists and engineers on successful test launch of Extended Range version of Fatah-2 weapon system. **APP**

SC deplores violence over woman's refusal to marry

Rejects plea to commute death sentence in murder over marriage refusal

The Supreme Court has ruled that murdering a woman for rejecting a marriage proposal is a grave offence and that her refusal cannot justify the killing or serve as a mitigating factor for reducing the sentence.

The court dismissed a review petition filed by Muhammad Kamran, who was sentenced to death for murdering Maimoona Shaheen, and upheld his death sentence.

A three-member bench comprising Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar, Justice Salahuddin Panhwar and Justice Ishaq Ibrahim announced the verdict after hearing the case.

In its judgment, the court observed that every woman has the fundamental right to accept or reject a marriage proposal according to her own wishes, and taking her life merely for refusing a proposal could not be justified under any circumstances. Marriage is a relationship based on the mutual consent of two individuals, and neither a man a family nor society has the right to impose its will on a woman, it added.

The court held that treating a woman's refusal as provocation or a ground for reduc-

ing punishment would endorse the notion that her will is subordinate to a man's desires. Anger, resentment or emotional distress cannot justify reducing the sentence for a serious crime such as murder, it observed.

According to the judgment, Kamran shot and killed Maimoona Shaheen at her home after she and her family rejected his marriage proposal, as stated by the prosecution. The trial court sentenced him to death under Section 302(b) of the Pakistan Penal Code and ordered compensation. The high court and subsequently the Supreme Court upheld the sentence.

In his review petition, the convict argued that he had spent nearly 14 years in prison and requested that his death sentence be commuted to life imprisonment. The Supreme Court, however, clarified that the time already spent in custody was not, by itself, sufficient grounds for commuting a death sentence, noting that death and life imprisonment carry different legal consequences.

The judgment stated that, under the principle of life expectancy, commuting a death sentence to life imprisonment required at least 25 years of imprisonment, additional compelling mitigating circumstances and a crime that was not of an exceptionally grave nature. The court noted

that Kamran was arrested on September 5, 2012, and had served approximately 14 years in prison, making him ineligible for relief under this principle.

The Supreme Court also addressed social attitudes underlying violence against women and forced marriages, observing that a woman's consent could not be disregarded in the name of honour, family traditions, ego or emotions.

Referring to practices such as ghag, swars and watta satta, the court observed that attitudes treating women as commodities were among the underlying causes of violence against them.

The judgment further stated that Islam requires a woman's free consent for marriage and recognises her right to choose her spouse. Pakistan, as a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), is also committed to recognising women's right to freely choose their spouses.

The court concluded that no legally acceptable grounds existed for reducing Kamran's sentence and that he had failed to identify any apparent legal error or defect in the earlier judgment warranting review. It accordingly dismissed the petition and maintained his death sentence. **NEWS DESK**

GLAMOURDTMUR

Gigi Hadid doubles down on denim with Liu Jo edit

Supermodel Gigi Hadid is collaborating with Italian fashion label Liu Jo on "The Gigi Hadid Edit," a denim-heavy curation of the label's offerings just after other high-end brands signalled a shift toward the casual fabric at Paris Fashion Week.

The move comes one month after Hadid launched her own brand's first-ever denim collection. Hadid's label, Guest in Residence, is known for its cashmere apparel, and September's release marked the brand's first move beyond knitwear. Guest in Residence introduced its debut women's denim collection for Fall 2026, developed with US denim designer Benjamin Talley Smith, whose previous collaborations include Khaite, Madewell and Rag & Bone, according to WWD. The debut range comprises four jean silhouettes: the Traveler, a high-waisted wide-leg style; the Everyday, a relaxed straight-leg cut; the Weekender, a tapered design with a raw hem; and the Workday, a carpenter-inspired jean. "Denim has always been at the heart of how I dress — it's what I live in alongside cashmere; that combination has become my uniform," Hadid told the publication in August. Denim is reclaiming its place in high fashion, with designers reimagining the everyday fabric for spring/summer 2027. At Paris Fashion Week, which just wrapped up, Anne Studios experimented with glossy, plastic-like coatings, while Mabieres Focelles embraced croc-embossed finishes and exaggerated fraying. NEWS DESK

RFK Jr's Son Weds Pop Star In 3-Day Rio Blowout

Conor Kennedy has tied the knot! The son of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Mary Richardson Kennedy married Brazilian pop star Giulia Be in a three-day celebration in Rio de Janeiro over the

week-end, according to Vogue.

On Friday, Oct. 9, the couple began their multi-day ceremony by heading up to Christ the Redeemer for a blessing. The following day, they held their religious wedding at a historic church in the heart of the city, after which they hosted a reception at a historic mansion in the Jardim Botânico.

Prior to the ceremony, Giulia, 27, told Vogue that, when it came to finding the perfect dress for the couple's blessing ceremony, she couldn't contain how excited she was for everyone to finally see the Calvin Klein gown.

"This has been such a journey," she said. "I'm so obsessed with it. It's the perfect dress, and it fits so perfectly."

Describing the dress as a "dream come true," Giulia decided on a sleek white slip with an open back, sheer opera-length gloves and a silk shawl to lay around her neck. And once she found the perfect fit, the only worry was getting the dress to Brazil. "They said British Airways is pretty good about wedding dresses," she told the outlet. "If you tell them, 'I have my wedding dress with me. They'll be like, 'Oh my God!'"

When it came to her second custom wedding gown, Giulia chose a look with a long veil, a bohemian cape jacket with lace bell sleeves and an elegant version of a sweetheart neckline. NEWS DESK

Supermodel Gigi Hadid is collaborating with Italian fashion label Liu Jo on "The Gigi Hadid Edit," a denim-heavy curation of the label's offerings just after other high-end brands signalled a shift toward the casual fabric at Paris Fashion Week. The move comes one month after Hadid launched her own brand's first-ever denim collection.

Garfield & Barbaro's Red Hot Date Night For 'Artificial'

Andrew Garfield and Monica Barbaro are stepping out for a rare date night. On Sunday, Oct. 11, the couple appeared at a screening of their new movie Artificial during the 70th BFI London Film Festival.

Garfield, 43, opted for an olive-green jacket with a matching button-down shirt underneath, which he teamed with black trousers. He wore his long hair tucked behind his ears and also added a pair of wire-framed glasses.

Barbaro, 36, sparkled in a shimmering blue midi dress by Christian Dior, Paris Texas pumps and Ananya jewelry. Her brunette locks were styled into soft waves and she kept her accessories minimal.

The stars both appear in Neon's new biographical drama Artificial, in which Garfield plays OpenAI CEO Sam Altman.

Artificial follows a period of days in November 2023 in which Altman was fired by OpenAI's board after it determined "that he was not consistently candid in his communications with the board, hindering its ability to exercise its responsibilities," in an announcement the company made at the time. NEWS DESK

Adam Devine's Wrinkly Vow To Wife

Adam Devine and Chloe Bridges are celebrating five years of marriage. In honor of their fifth wedding anniversary on Friday, Oct. 9, the couple posted sweet tributes to each other on social media.

The comedian and actor continued, "Love you @chloebridges here's to 60 more! I plan on getting disgustingly wrinkly with you!" The actress married the Pitch Perfect star in Mexico on Oct. 9, 2021, about seven years after they met on a flight in late 2014 on their way to film the 2015 horror-comedy movie The Final Girls. The couple appeared to go on a romantic getaway to celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary, as Bridges posted a video on her Instagram Stories on Sunday, Oct. 11, of Devine saying, "Happy fifth anniversary, hun," before popping a bottle of champagne in their beachfront hotel room.

The two are parents to 2-year-old son Beau, who they welcomed in February 2024. Devine told PEOPLE of parenthood in March 2025, "Every day is like a new adventure." NEWS DESK

Ella Langley Has No Regrets After Canceling Show

Ella Langley has spoken out after she canceled a concert at the last minute due to a security threat. On Friday, Oct. 9, the country singer, 27, abruptly canceled a planned performance at Tulsa, Okla.'s BOK Center, just hours before it was set to begin.

Langley's team cited a "serious security threat involving the safety of fans, venue personnel and the artist."

During her concert at the United Supermarkets Arena in Lubbock, Texas, the following day, the "Choosin' Texas" musician addressed the incident, telling the crowd at her Saturday, Oct. 10, show, per video shared online, "When it comes to keeping you safe and making sure that this show is a safe place for us to come and enjoy our music, then it will happen. But the second it feels like it will not, I'm not doing it."

"I would have made yesterday's decision 10 billion times over — and I'd do it tomorrow, and I'd do it the next day — because, while I'm grateful to get to do what I do, it's not the most important thing in this life," Langley continued. NEWS DESK

MONEY

Pakistan eyes Asian bonds, wants IMF alternative

Pakistan on Tuesday called for reforms to the international financial system to make it more responsive to developing economies and ensure fairer representation in global financial institutions, as its finance minister outlined plans to diversify funding through Asian bond markets and eventually reduce reliance on International Monetary Fund (IMF) assistance.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb made the appeal at a meeting of the Group of 24 (G-24) finance ministers and central bank governors in Bangkok, where he is currently visiting to attend the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank from Oct. 12-18.

The G-24, a grouping of developing economies from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, coordinates their positions on international monetary and development finance issues, particularly in discussions with the IMF and World Bank.

"The Finance Minister outlined three priorities for the G-24 focused on restoring development as the central objective of the international financial system, making the Bretton Woods institutions more representative and responsive, and building a development-oriented international financial architecture," the Finance Division said in a statement issued on Tuesday.

Aurangzeb, who addressed the meeting as the G-24's first vice-chair, also called for timely financial support for countries undertaking difficult economic reforms while confronting external shocks beyond their control, according to the statement.

He highlighted the challenges facing developing economies, including fragmentation disrupting trade and investment, climate shocks eroding development gains,

restrictive financial conditions and widening financing gaps.

The minister stressed that reforms to the international financial architecture must keep pace with these challenges, particularly as developing countries struggle to sustain growth and manage debt amid increasingly volatile global economic conditions.

Pakistan is set to assume the G-24 chairmanship, giving Islamabad a greater role in coordinating developing countries' positions on global financial governance at a time when many face mounting debt burdens and limited access to affordable financing.

Aurangzeb appreciated Nigeria's leadership of the grouping and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening its collective influence and ensuring that the concerns of the Global South translate into concrete outcomes.

DIVERSIFYING FINANCING

In a separate interview with Nikkei Asia published on Tuesday, Aurangzeb said Pakistan was looking to diversify its external financing sources, including through further

issuance of yuan-denominated panda bonds and potentially tapping Japan's market for yen-denominated samurai bonds.

Pakistan issued its first panda bond worth 1.75 billion yuan (\$261 million) in May as part of a broader 7.2 billion yuan program, with partial guarantees from the Asian Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Aurangzeb said the inaugural issuance would not be a "one-time issuance" and that Pakistan intended to "keep going back and be a repeat issuer," describing China as the "second largest and deepest capital market in the world."

"We do not want to increase the quantum of our external debt," he told Nikkei Asia, while expressing interest in expanding Pakistan's access to international capital markets.

On the possibility of issuing samurai bonds in Japan, the minister said the option "would make sense," but cautioned that further assessment was needed.

"We need to do more homework," he said.

The minister also expressed confidence in Pakistan's ongoing IMF-backed reforms, saying the country would eventually graduate from the Fund's assistance once international investors were convinced it no longer needed emergency financial support.

"We're in good shape with respect to the

program itself, which in turn helps us with our discussions with rating agencies and investors," Aurangzeb told Nikkei Asia.

Pakistan would graduate from IMF assistance once the "rest of the world becomes convinced that we don't need the lender of last resort," he added.



Pakistan has made progress in rebuilding foreign exchange reserves, containing inflation and restoring investor confidence under the IMF-backed reforms, though its economy remains vulnerable to external shocks, particularly higher energy prices and disruptions to international trade. **NEWS DESK**

IMF warns government of 9.9% inflation, growth slowdown in 2027

Pakistan's inflation rate is projected to rise to 9.9% in 2027, while economic growth is expected to ease to 3.5%, according to data released by the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) World Economic Outlook (WEO) released on Tuesday.

The IMF data showed inflation at 7.1% in 2026, up from 4.5% in 2025. Pakistan's gross domestic product (GDP) growth is projected at 3.6% in 2026, compared with 3.2% in 2025, before moderating to 3.5% in 2027.

According to the WEO, Pakistan's current account balance is projected to remain flat in 2026 before slipping into a deficit equivalent to 1% of GDP in 2027, compared with a surplus of 0.5% of GDP in 2025.

Moreover, the country's



unemployment rate is forecast to decline to 6.9% in 2026 and 6.5% in 2027, from 7.1% in 2025, the data showed.

As per the report, global growth is projected to slow to 3.1% in 2026 and rebound to 3.4% in 2027. Global headline inflation is projected to rise notably to 4.7% in 2026 before easing to 4.1% in 2027.

The outlook noted that the global economy is again proving resilient, but unevenly so and with rapidly narrowing margins of adjustment in the near term.

"Activity in the first half of 2026 held up better than expected despite the dragging war in the Middle East and continuing strains from trade tensions."

"The technology cycle has provided a demand impulse, driven by strong investment in artificial intelligence (AI)."

"The interaction of these forces—geopolitics and technology—has produced a split global economy: Favourable terms of trade or technology-related exports and investment give some countries a cushion, whereas

others face higher import bills and weaker demand."

"Use of buffers and adaptability have helped economies weather the negative shocks so far. Flexible supply responses, rerouting of shipments, inventory drawdowns, fiscal support measures, and lower energy intensity than in previous decades have helped contain the hit to activity from the war."

According to the outlook, energy-importing economies outside the technology value chain face the most difficult outlook. But the margins of adjustment that helped resilience are not limitless, and risks are skewed to the downside.

Further escalation in conflicts, a reassessment of expectations surrounding AI, renewed trade tensions, and fiscal vulnerabilities could weaken growth. On the upside, stronger momentum in AI investment and productivity gains from AI or a sustained easing of geopolitical and trade tensions could strengthen growth, read the report. **NEWS DESK**

PSX loses over 347 more points

The benchmark KSE-100 index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bearish trend on Tuesday, losing 347.97 points, a negative change of 0.21 percent, to close at 164,776.44 points against 165,124.41 points recorded in the previous trading session.

The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 383,746 million shares, compared to 362,954 million shares traded in the previous session, while the traded value decreased to Rs13,104 billion from Rs14,507 billion.

Market capitalisation declined to Rs18,325 trillion from Rs18,359 trillion recorded a day earlier.

Out of 500 companies that traded in the ready market, 223 posted gains, 226 suffered losses, while 51 remained unchanged, reflecting a bearish trend in the market.

LSE Financial (R) led the volume chart with 32,283 million shares, followed by Waves Home App with 21,848 million shares and WorldCall Telecom with 19,528 million shares.

Among the top gainers, Khairpur Sugar Mills Limited advanced by Rs66.97 to close at Rs886.99, while Fatah Industries Limited surged by Rs34.89 to settle at Rs383.83.

On the losing side, Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited declined by Rs235.50 to close at Rs25,027.00, while PIA Holding Company Limited B fell by Rs200.00 to Rs14,000.00.

In the futures (DFC) market, turnover stood at 106,801 million shares with a traded value of Rs8,948 billion, compared with 97,870 million shares worth Rs7,623 billion in the previous session. Of the 326 companies traded in the DFC market, 148 advanced, 170 declined, and 8 remained unchanged. **NEWS DESK**

Satellite internet policy in final stages: Shaza

Pakistan targets 60% tower fiber connectivity, reports sharp decline in mobile Internet gender gap

Pakistan is in the final stages of completing regulations for low-Earth-orbit (LEO) satellite Internet services, its information technology minister said on Tuesday, as the government seeks to attract international operators and expand digital connectivity to support economic growth and improve access to essential services.

The announcement comes as Pakistan pursues a broader digital transformation strategy aimed at improving Internet access, strengthening telecommunications infrastructure and bringing underserved communities online.

The government hopes satellite-based services will help extend broadband connectivity to remote areas where conventional fiber and mobile networks

Pakistan Finalizing LEO Satellite Internet Regulations

Govt seeks to attract international operators like Starlink as part of broader digital transformation



have limited reach.

"We're in the final phases of finalizing the regulations around LEO satellites," Information Technology Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja said at an Asia-Pacific Telecommunity symposium in Islamabad.

Referring to the proposed Fixed Satellite Services (FSS) licensing framework, she said: "The FSS framework is almost complete and we're looking at once again that how can we make sure that anyone who wants to participate in

Pakistan in this particular domain comes in seamlessly without friction and it makes a business case to be here in Pakistan."

The minister said the government was working with relevant regulatory authorities to complete consultations and create an environment conducive to investment in satellite Internet services.

The regulations have been under development for some time. In August, the government told parliament that draft satellite communications regulations had

been prepared and that the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) had developed the FSS licensing framework, which was expected to be presented to the federal cabinet.

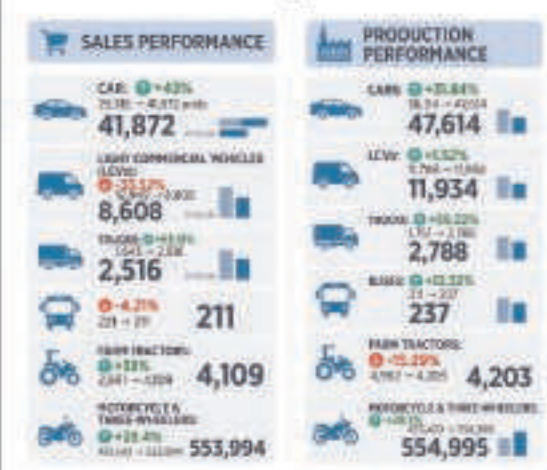
Global satellite operators, including Starlink, a satellite Internet service operated by Elon Musk's SpaceX, have previously expressed interest in entering Pakistan's market. However, operators must meet the country's regulatory and licensing requirements before launching commercial services.

Khawaja said digital connectivity had become essential not only for economic prosperity but also for education, health care, disaster response and national security, making investment in resilient and affordable networks a development priority.

"Today when we talk about connectivity it is no more a question of privilege for a few," she said.

"Digital connectivity means access to education, means access to health, means survival in disasters. Our digital connectivity today means national economic growth and it translates all the way into our national security." **NEWS DESK**

Auto sales surge 43% in Q1 FY27



Car sales and production in the country witnessed an increase of 43 and 31.84 percent respectively during the first quarter of the current fiscal year 2026-27 as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

During July-September 2026-27, as many as 41,872 cars were sold against the sale of 29,318 units while car production increased from 36,114 units to 47,614 units, according to a data released by the Pakistan Automobile Manufacturers Association (PAMA) on Tuesday.

Among other vehicle categories, Light Commercial vehicles (LCVs) sales witnessed a sharp decrease of 33.52 percent, declining to 8,608 units from 12,949 units during the corresponding quarter last year.

Truck sales increased by 53.13 percent to 2,516 units from 1,643 units while the sale of buses witnessed a nominal decline of 4.21 percent to 211 units from 221 units.

Farm Tractors sales rose by 38 percent to 4,109 units from 2,981 units, while motorcycle and Three-wheelers sales stood at 553,994 units compared with 431,542 units last year.

On the production side, LCVs output increased by 1.52 percent, rising to 11,934 units from 11,798 units during the quarter under review.

Production of Trucks also increased by 59.22 percent to 2,788 units from 1,751 units while Buses rose by 237 units from 157 units showing an increase of 12.32 percent.

Farm Tractors production decreased by 15.29 percent to 4,203 units from 4,962 units while the production of motorcycle and three-wheelers surged to 554,995 units from 433,405 units. **NEWS DESK**

Jam Kamal pitches pharma exports to Ethiopia



Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Tuesday called for expediting regulatory approvals for Pakistani pharmaceutical companies seeking access to the Ethiopian market, as Pakistan and Ethiopia discussed measures to expand bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation.

The discussions took place during a meeting between the minister and Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan

Dr. Omer Hussein Oba, who called on him at his office here, said a news release.

Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Industries Rana Ihsaan Afzal, Federal Secretary for Commerce Jawad Paul and senior Ministry officials also attended the meeting.

The minister highlighted Pakistan's growing pharmaceutical industry and its potential to expand exports to African markets.

He stressed that timely regulatory approvals and transparent procedures were essential to building confidence among Pakistani exporters and strengthening commercial ties with Ethiopia.

He emphasized the need for close coordination among regulatory authorities, diplomatic missions and

trade officials to address pending issues and facilitate market access. Jam Kamal also called for stronger business-to-business engagement, remove trade barriers and identify practical opportunities to increase bilateral trade.

The Ethiopian ambassador informed the minister that he had taken up the pending pharmaceutical registration issues with the relevant Ethiopian health authorities and received positive assurances regarding their early resolution.

Secretary Commerce Jawad Paul stressed the importance of expediting the proposed visit of the Ethiopian technical team to Pakistan for the necessary inspection and evaluation of pharmaceutical companies. **NEWS DESK**

WORLD

Kashish Rawat traveled to New Delhi on Saturday to protest. She did not tell her parents she was going.

When the 22-year-old economics student arrived in the Indian capital, she encountered a city transformed. Metal barricades choked the streets as police moved against young demonstrators, beating some, dragging others into buses and chasing away the rest. Protesters filmed the police violence on their phones, and the videos quickly went viral on social media.



Gen Z takes to the streets against Modi

meant to keep crowds of mostly young Indians from gathering to demonstrate against a purge of voter lists they say favors Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party. It did not deter Rawat, who stayed on the streets until evening, keeping out of the reach of police officers. "We are not going anywhere. We will come back again

and make our voices heard," she said. Protests led by India's "Cockroach" youth movement intensified earlier this month over an ongoing review of voter lists that's already removed more than 130 million names since last year. Critics say the campaign is politically motivated and threatens to disenfranchise millions more. They have demanded the resignation of election chief Gyanesh Kumar. The Election Commission says the exercise is needed to remove duplicate and ineligible entries. Modi has not publicly commented on the protests. Some of his party leaders have

dismissed the demonstrators as "anarchists" and suggested, without offering evidence, that they are backed by foreign powers. The dispute has struck at the heart of Indian democracy: the right to vote. It is also testing whether a generation raised under Modi, who has been prime minister for more than 12 years, can turn its growing disillusionment into a sustained challenge to his Hindu nationalist government. "I don't see him as almighty," Rawat said of Modi. "I see him as someone who we have elected. So I don't understand the reason why we should be scared of questioning that guy." India's democratic institutions have come under growing pressure under Modi, with critics accusing his government of weakening checks on executive power, curbing dissent and targeting religious minorities, particularly Muslims. Press freedom groups have also raised concerns about pressure on independent media. The government rejects the accusations, saying its institutions remain robust and law enforcement targets violations of the law, not dissent. But for many young Indians, the institutions they grew up trusting are falling short of their promise. They see a political culture hostile to dissent, where challenging those in power can result in harm. The voter list dispute has sharpened those frustrations, giving a generation's discontent a common cause. AP

FBI raid on Trump foe sparks fury!

US federal agents searched the Washington home of Democratic congresswoman Ilhan Omar on Monday as part of what officials said was a criminal investigation, marking a dramatic escalation in President Donald Trump's confrontation with the outspoken lawmaker. Omar said she was "ok" following the operation but accused the administration of targeting political opponents just three weeks before she seeks re-election in the November 3 midterms. The early morning search — described by Trump's "border czar" Tom Homan as part of a longstanding probe — was conducted by agents from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the investigative arm of US immigration enforcement. "Make no mistake: this is an attempt to target political enemies and weaponize federal law enforcement," Omar wrote on X. "For ten years, Trump has targeted me with baseless lies and smear campaigns. This is just the latest escalation in his campaign of political intimidation." The operation also sparked a furious backlash from Democrats who accused Trump of abusing government powers to pursue his political opponents. Fox News reported that the search was linked to a criminal fraud investigation concerning immigration paperwork submitted on behalf of the Somali-born congresswoman by her late father when she was a child. The president was asked about Omar hours after the operation and said she was being investigated "very carefully." "I've always found her to be totally crooked personally, but that has nothing to do with me. I think she's a terrible person, just a complainer. She comes from a country that is a non-country," he told reporters at the White House. The Justice Department confirmed in a statement Monday that agents had carried out a "judicially authorized search warrant" in the Washington area, but officials did not identify Omar or disclose the nature of the probe. "This enforcement action is part of an ongoing federal criminal investigation," prosecutors added. Omar, 44, is a leftist Democrat and fierce critic of Trump, particularly his administration's sweeping crackdown on immigration. The Republican president has repeatedly clashed with Omar, who came to the United States from Somalia as a child and has frequently been the target of his political attacks. Top House Democrat Hakeem Jeffries and his leadership team called the search "deeply disturbing" and raised questions about "the continued corrupt weaponization of the federal government against Donald Trump's adversaries." Minnesota's Democratic Governor Tim Walz accused Trump of "abusing his power to go after political opponents weeks before an election." Republican congresswoman Nancy Mace, meanwhile, said Omar should be stripped of her US citizenship and deported if fraud was proven. AP



MI5 says Iran threat to military sites growing

Iran is trying to hit military sites in the UK and the suspected plot to attack a US-run military air base in September is 'not unique,' the head of Britain's MI5 spy agency said Tuesday. Ken McCallum, who leads the UK's domestic security service, said Tehran is seeking to intensify its attacks in Britain beyond the traditional targets of Iranians opposed to the Islamic authorities. That has included arson and sabotage attacks on Jewish sites that Britain says were carried out

by Iranian proxies. McCallum said another 'major shift this year has been Iranian ambitions to come at harder targets, like military sites.' The incident at RAF Fairford 'is not unique. There have been other examples, not just in the UK but around the world,'

McCallum said. McCallum delivered a speech outlining major threats to the UK as detectives investigate a suspected terror plot against the US-run base in western England, which has been used to bomb Iran during this year's war. Scores of residents were evacuated from their homes near the base on Sept. 27 as a s armed

police officers and army bomb-disposal experts swarmed the rural area. Police later said they had found a quantity of an accelerant - gasoline - in three vans at the site, but no explosives. British authorities have linked Tehran to the incident, which led the US to pull its bombers from RAF Fairford. Prime Minister Andy Burnham said Monday that the apparent plot was "almost certainly" directed by Iran's Revolutionary Guard. Seven men in their 20s have been arrested and released on bail under investigation. Iran has denied involvement, although it has previously said that it considers any base used to attack its territory a legitimate target. AP

Man stabs at least 8 people in South Korean mall

A man stabbed at least eight people at a shopping mall in the South Korean city of Incheon, police and fire officials said Tuesday. Incheon's Namdong District Police Station detained a 59-year-old suspect whom they say attacked shoppers as he moved through the mall before bystanders subdued him. It wasn't immediately clear why he carried out the attacks. The injured were taken to nearby hospitals, including one woman in her 20s who underwent surgery after arriving in cardiac arrest, Incheon's fire department said. The department didn't immediately provide details on the severity of the other injuries. South Korea's Yonhap news agency quoted a witness as saying the suspect appeared to have knives strapped to both hands. The witness said the man began stabbing people at a discount store on the mall's basement level and continued attacking others as he moved up an escalator before being subdued by several people. AP



Two ships hit as drones attack off Bulgaria: PM

Two ships have been struck off the coast of Bulgaria, one in a drone attack, Prime Minister Rumen Radev said Tuesday, a week after a similar incident. Radev wrote on social media that a Ukraine-owned cargo ship was "hit by three aerial drones", and shortly after another ship was hit and sank. He said he intended to summon the Russian ambassador over the "unacceptable" attacks. "We lack solid, clear evidence to level accusations against any specific party; however... logic suggests the outcome works to the advantage of the Russian Federation," he wrote. Radev identified the first vessel as the Malta-flagged cargo ship Chelsea 3 and said all 15 crew members — seven Ukrainians and eight Azerbaijanis — had been rescued. He said a second vessel was "struck" and one crew member had been rescued, but he gave no further details of the incident. Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga directly blamed Russia for the attacks, denouncing what he called Moscow's "deliberate disregard for civilian lives and maritime security in the Black Sea." "The Black Sea is a lifeline for global food security. Russia is attacking it to weaponize hunger and hold the world hostage," he posted on X. Last week, two commercial vessels were hit in the Black Sea off Bulgaria in an attack widely blamed on Russia, though Bulgaria said the circumstances were unclear. AP



Third parties, independents fight midterms — and the US system

Three's a crowd in US elections where in next month's midterms assorted outliers ranging from Libertarians to Greens will try vainly to break the Democratic-Republican grip on the system. Hundreds of third-party candidates are standing in the November 3 contest for the House of Representatives and Senate. But to the growing frustration of voters wanting to disrupt the status quo they have no chance of beating the Democrats and Republicans. "Why am I standing? I ask myself that every morning," admits Tim Sharran, who is running as an Independent for Virginia's 8th District seat in the House. "I don't feel I belong in the Democratic Party, nor in the Republican Party. So I thought, let's

have a go at shaking it up. "I come with a business background, so I believe in solutions and collaboration across the spectrum." Sharran, 62, spent \$40,000 on his push to gather the 1,000 verified signatures required to get on the ballot for the midterms. He relies on friends for logistical support in his one-man campaign under the slogan

"Government that works. Politics that doesn't get in the way." "Actually running for office has been fun and engaging," he said. "If you met me in a bar a year ago, I'd have opinions, but when you have to think through policy positions, it's a lot harder because there's always trade-offs, which has been an interesting exercise." A record high 45 percent of US adults identified as independent in

a Gallup survey released this year, pointing to growing dissatisfaction at the Republican and Democratic parties that have had a stranglehold on power since the 1850s. Young people are much less likely to identify with either of the main two parties, the survey found, citing 56 percent of Gen Zers saying they were independent. For Dianne Blais, standing for Congress as a Green Party candidate is not about winning but about continuing her work as a volunteer that ranges from serving in school positions to fostering children. "I'm so unhappy and upset about what's happening in this country, and this is one thing I know how to do," said Blais, who has run for the Greens before. She first joined the party to promote rail transport to ease road congestion, and now describes herself as primarily a peace activist, criticizing both Democratic former president Joe Biden and Republican President Donald Trump for failing to halt wars worldwide. AP



SPORTS



Australia take victory in first Test over South Africa

Australia have taken a 1-0 series lead over South Africa after Josh Hazlewood's career-best haul bowled them to a 214-run victory over the Proteas in Durban.

After Matt Renshaw's runs set the game up for Australia, Hazlewood's six wickets had South Africa all out after lunch on day five for 206 in pursuit of 421.

The seamer's 6-49 came in a typically relentless display, breaking South Africa's resistance after they survived the first 110 minutes without loss on Tuesday.

After the Proteas resumed at 4-102 and initially displayed a stoic

resolve, Hazlewood was ultimately the match breaker, getting Wiaan Mulder caught down legside soon before lunch.

He then bowled Marco Jansen with the wobble seam and had Simon Harmer caught behind with a brute of a ball after the break as the Proteas fell away.

The 35-year-old's five-wicket haul was the 15th of his career, as he overtook Brett Lee into eighth spot on Australia's all-time wicket-taking list on 311.

"He gets a lot of wraps for how consistent he is, but I think that under-sells him a bit," Australia's

captain Pat Cummins said of Hazlewood.

"You can bowl him any time. With the new ball - class. With the older ball, he gets it reversing. Gets the speed gun up a bit. Just a captain's dream." Aiden Markram had provided the major resistance for the Proteas, but when he was caught behind for 75 off 54, South Africa's demise was inevitable in the battle of the world's two top-ranked nations.

Renshaw also took 2-30 with his off-spinners, with his first two Test wickets backing up the 190 and 82 he scored with the bat in this Test. He was named player of the match.

Those scores were the two highest of any player from either team, setting up Australia's first-innings 390 after they had slipped to 6-124 on the opening day.

Renshaw's second-innings knock was also crucial, given it allowed Australia to push for a day-four declaration at 6-314.

The other main feature of Australia's win was their fielding. It was evident again on Tuesday, with Alex Carey's catch diving low to his right to remove Mulder the circuit breaker for the Proteas.

Steve Smith followed it up four balls later, with a smart take at slip to a ball that came hard off Kyle Vermeyn's bat from Renshaw's bowling. NEWS DESK

Swiatek Fights for WTA Finals Spot

Iga Swiatek has played at every edition of the WTA Finals since 2021, but with the Pole running out of time to claim a place at this year's season-ending tournament she knows the importance of going deep at her few remaining events.

The six-time major champion has won only one tournament this year at the Canadian Open in August and failed to advance beyond the quarter-final stage at all four Grand Slams.

The 25-year-old, who won the WTA Finals in 2023, is 10th in the qualifying table for the November 8-15 tournament at Indian Wells with only four of the eight spots still up for grabs.

She sits on 3,799 points, 111 behind Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk in 9th place. Karolina Muchova, on 4,615 points, is the lowest-ranked player not to have sealed qualification.

"Obviously I'm aware of the situation and it would be great to get into the Finals, for sure it's our goal," Swiatek told reporters on Monday ahead of the Wuhan Open.

"It's the first time I've faced a situation like that, to get into the Finals."

"It's a challenge, but I feel like it's a positive one and I'm really motivated ... There are still a few tournaments ahead." Swiatek said she had made some positive changes to her game under coach Francisco Roig, whom she appointed in April after parting ways with Wim Fissette.

"I needed to change some stuff, and Francisco has a really great idea for my game, and I feel like we're developing my game on the practice court quite a lot, and it's been good progress," she added.

"The US Open swing, for sure, was the most positive part of the season, so that shows that I'm going in the right direction." REUTERS



Venezia Axe Stroppa After 0 Points in 6 Games

Venezia fired coach Giovanni Stroppa on Tuesday after six defeats in as many Serie A matches. The news came the day after a 3-1 loss at Atalanta. Stroppa was appointed as Venezia coach in June 2025 and the 58-year-old led the team to promotion to the top flight as Serie B champion. However, Venezia has picked up zero points in six matches, conceding 16 goals and scoring just five.

A new coach was not immediately named but whoever is appointed will face a baptism of fire as Venezia plays Napoli, Inter Milan and Como in three of its next four matches. It is the fourth coaching change in Serie A this season after Paolo Vanoli replaced Fabio Grosso at Fiorentina, Raffaele Palladino took over from Domenico Tedesco at Bologna and Alberto Gilardino replaced Carlos Cuesta at Parma. AP



Teen Sensation Rew Earns England T20 Call-Up

England have handed teenager Thomas Rew his first international call-up for next month's T20 series against Australia, with uncapped seamer Eddie Jack also included. Somerset wicket-keeper-batter Rew, who has leapfrogged older brother James in the pecking order, would become just the third 18-year-old to play men's international cricket for England if he features in the first three games of the five-match contest Down Under.

Rahan Ahmed holds the record as the country's youngest player in all three formats, with Brian Close the only other to feature before his 19th birthday when he took the field in 1949.

Rew captained his country at the Under-19 World Cup in February and impressed management last winter when scoring 55 not out against Ben Stokes' Test team during the ill-fated Ashes warm-up against England Lions in Perth. Hampshire prospect Jack also featured in that game and has been on the selection radar for a couple of years.

The pair have slender CVs to lean on - Rew with a single half-century in 18 T20s, while 21-year-old Jack has just eight wickets in seven outings - but, with the next 20-over

World Cup not taking place until late 2028, England have taken the opportunity to look to the future. Neither will be involved in the three ODIs which kick off the tour Down Under, following on from the team's tri-series against Pakistan. Opener Ben Duckett drops out after the first trip, with his place going to the fit-again Jacob Bethell, who has been missing with a knee problem since July.

Spinners James Coles and Mason Crane also depart after Pakistan given the change in conditions, while Jofra Archer returns for the ODIs following a period of rest. Coles rejoins the squad for the T20 leg, while the pace group of Archer, Gus Atkinson, Sonny Baker and Josh Tongue are all rotated out. Captain Harry Brook's seam options will be Surrey-bound Henry Crocombe, who has yet to make his international debut but seems destined for a sharp rise after being handed a two-year contract, Jamie Overton, Jack, all-rounder Sam Curran and left-arm Luke Wood. PA MEDIA



Ronaldo Scores in Al-Nassr Win

Cristiano Ronaldo scored Al-Nassr's second goal as the Saudi Pro League champions overcame an hour-long security delay to beat Uzbekistan's Neftchi 3-1 in the AFC Champions League Elite on Monday.

Kick-off was delayed after Saudi Arabia's Civil Defence issued a safety warning 15 minutes before the scheduled start time in Riyadh, which has been targeted by missiles fired from Yemen-based Houthis in recent days.

Postecoglou's side shook off the interruption to go in front through Angelo in the 33rd minute with a deflected strike before Ronaldo doubled the lead nine minutes later.



old struck after Sadio Mane delivered a looping cross from the left that Aiman Yehya directed into Ronaldo's path with his chest and the Portuguese forward lashed the ball into the bottom corner with a shot on the turn.

Al-Nassr pulled one back for Neftchi six minutes into the second half but Ikromjon Alibaev's red card for a foul on Mohamed Simakan in the 65th minute and an own goal by Anvarjon Gofurov 13 minutes later sealed the win for Al-Nassr.

Meanwhile, defending champions Al-Ahli scored twice in the second half to pick up their first win of the new campaign as Marino Pusic's side beat Al-Wasl from the United Arab Emirates 3-1.

Roger Ibanez put Al-Ahli ahead with a 20th minute head-

er but Pedro Malheiro levelled in the third minute of first-half stoppage time.

Goals from Trincão and Feras Al-Bikan in the 58th and 91st minutes respectively moved Al-Ahli onto four points from their opening two matches.

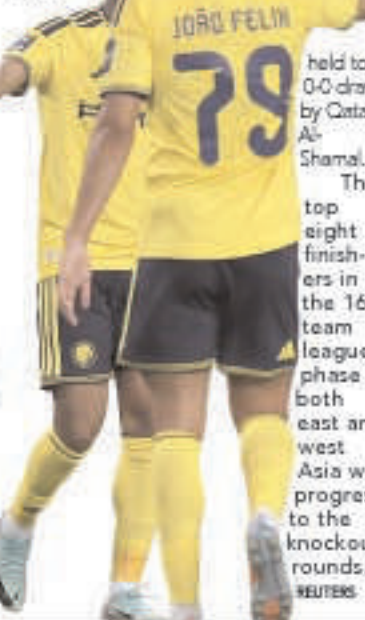
"We created also in the first half but in the second half we made our goals and I think that was the difference," said Trincão.

"Physically we were a little bit better and that was the key to changing the game," Houssine Rahimi scored twice as Al-Ain defeated Air Force Club 4-1 in Basra, while Hossain Goudarzi's 60th minute goal earned Iran's Esteghlal a 2-1 win over Al-Gharafa.

A last minute penalty from Dostonbek Khamdamov salvaged a 1-1 draw for Pakhtakor against Brendan Rodgers' Al-Qadisiyah in Tashkent while Tractor from Iran were held to a 0-0 draw by Qatar's Al-Shamal.



The top eight finishers in the 16-team league phase in both east and west Asia will progress to the knockout rounds.



F1 Eyes Africa Return in 2030s

Rwanda will host Africa's first Formula One Grand Prix since 1993 in "the early 2030s" after the circuit announced a decade-long deal with the country on Tuesday.

The East African nation has been chasing a Grand Prix race for years, having already used football, basketball and other sports to enhance its image and attract investment.

President Paul Kagame formally announced the bid when Rwanda hosted a gathering of the FIA in December 2024.

The last time an F1 race was held in Africa was the 33rd South African Grand Prix, won by Alain Prost 33 years ago.

The first African Grand Prix in Rwanda will take place "once a new purpose-built circuit in Bugesera, Rwanda, has been completed", F1 said in a statement.

"Today is a landmark moment for Formula One," F1 president Stefano Domenicali added.

"With Rwanda joining the calendar from the next decade, our sport will race in every inhabited continent, bringing the world championship closer than ever to fans around the globe."

"Africa has always been part of Formula One's future, and from the beginning we were determined to return in the right way, with the right partner, a long-term commitment and a clear vision for creating meaningful impact." A landlocked country still widely associated with a horrific genocide in 1994, Rwanda has used sports to revamp its image, attract tourists and impress investors with its organisational efficiency.

It has spent lavishly on football sponsorship deals with clubs including Arsenal and Paris Saint-Germain, partnered with the NBA to be the main hub of its African basketball league, and

hosted last year's cycling world championships. Critics have called this "sports-washing" - using glitzy events to distract from accusations of serious human rights abuses, including a brutal crackdown on any opposition or dissent. AP

