



Govt will resolve your issues and ensure your protection, Naqvi tells traders from KP and Balochistan



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IMF unlikely to approve fuel levy cut without revenue plan: Minister

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PM Shehbaz reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to further strengthen Azerbaijan ties

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to further strengthen the brotherly ties with Azerbaijan, recalling the high-level exchanges between the two countries over the past two and a half years.

The prime minister, talking to Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov, who paid a farewell call on him, expressed confidence that the strong foundation laid during the envoy's tenure would continue to guide the trajectory of bilateral ties in the years ahead.

The prime minister warmly acknowledged Ambassador Farhadov's dedicated efforts to strengthen the deep-rooted, brother-

ly relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan during his tenure.

He commended the Ambassador's contributions in expanding bilateral cooperation across political, trade, economic, defence, culture and people-to-people domains, including the launch of direct flights between the two countries.

Conveying his warm regards to President Ilham Aliyev, Prime Minister Shehbaz fondly recalled his numerous visits to Azerbaijan over the past two and a half years, as well as the visit of President Aliyev to Pakistan in July 2024. He also wished Ambassador Farhadov continued success in his future assignments. Ambassador Farhadov thanked the prime minister for the warmth.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, H.E Mr Khazar Farhadov, paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

At least 32 killed after coal mine explosion near Quetta; search under way for 2 miners

PEAK POINT



QUETTA: Rescue teams recovered 32 bodies overnight from two coal mines in the Sorange coalfield near Quetta after a methane gas explosion, while the search for two more miners was under way on Friday, an official told Dawn.

The explosion occurred on Thursday at a private coal mine in the Sorange coalfield, about 30 kilometres north-east of Quetta. The methane gas explosion triggered a fire, caused the mine to collapse, and affected another nearby mine.

Chief Inspector of Mines Balochistan Muhammad Atif told Dawn that 34 miners were inside the two mines when the explosion occurred.

"So far, 32 bodies have been recovered from both mines," he said. "The operation is continuing in the mine where the explosion took place to recover two miners."

Earlier, officials said the explosion occurred on Thursday afternoon when 24 miners were working about 4,000 feet underground in the first mine. Soon after the explosion, a fire broke out inside the mine, causing parts of the structure to collapse.

Perception being created that the situation in Balochistan is deteriorating: DG ISPR

PEAK POINT



RAWALPINDI: Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General (DG) Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said on Friday that deliberate attempts were being made to create a perception that the situation in Balochistan was deteriorating.

He made this remark while addressing a press conference focused on the overall security situation in the country, particularly Balochistan.

At the outset of the briefing, the military's spokesperson said 40,348 intelligence-based operations had been conducted this year so far, adding that the figure covered operations carried out by all security forces, including police, civil armed forces, intelligence agencies and the armed forces. Of these operations, most were carried out in Balochistan, with the number exceeding 31,000, he said.

The DG ISPR added that overall 3,145 terrorism incidents had taken place in the country in 2026, among which 1,971 were reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 1,148 from Balochistan and 26 from other parts of the country.

During this time, he continued, 2,084 individuals who were confirmed terrorists were killed. "This comes to an average of 10 terrorists being killed every day, which is the highest ratio ever," he added. Meanwhile, security forces were undertaking nearly 200 intelligence-based operations (IBO) per day.

Belarus military delegation meets Pakistan Navy Chief

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: A high-level military delegation from the Republic of Belarus, led by Chief of the General Staff and First Deputy Defence Minister Major General Pavel Muraveiko, called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at the Naval Headquarters in Islamabad on Friday.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Admiral Naveed Ashraf welcomed the visiting delegation and held discussions on matters of mutual professional interest, with a particular focus on enhancing bilateral defence cooperation.

During the meeting, the Naval Staff reaffirmed that Pakistan highly values its longstanding relations with Belarus and is keen to develop a long-term, multidimensional partnership between the two countries.

Major General Muraveiko appreciated the Pakistan Navy's commitment and contributions towards maintaining regional maritime security and acknowledged its professional role in promoting stability at sea. Both sides agreed to further strengthen and diversify.

Two law enforcers martyred in DI Khan ambush: Police

PEAK POINT

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Two policemen were martyred when unidentified armed men ambushed a police patrol in the Shah Alam Mor area of Daraban Kalan in Dera Ismail Khan district on Friday, police said. Regional Police Officer Ghulam Mubashir Mekan said the attack occurred within the limits of the Choudhwan police station when armed men opened fire on a police party returning from the site of a protest. Police said the incident followed the fatal shooting of a civilian.

Over 4,000 police personnel to be deployed for security during AJK Assembly elections in Rawalpindi division

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: More than 4,000 police personnel will be deployed to ensure fool-proof security arrangements for the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly elections, to be held on August 2 for the migrant seats of the Rawalpindi division, according to the regional police.

Polls in AJK are currently being held in three phases over security concerns, with the first set of polls held in Mirpur division on Monday. These include polls for the 12 legislative assembly seats reserved for refugees from Indian-occupied Kashmir.

A spokesman for Rawalpindi Regional Police Officer (RPO) Babar Sarfraz Alpa said that a foolproof security plan had been devised to ensure the

smooth conduct of the AJK Legislative Assembly elec-

tion of the Rawalpindi regional police," RPO Alpa

weapons would be closely monitored.



tions, with the deployment of 4,029 police personnel.

He said 175 polling stations had been set up for the elections in four constituencies of Rawalpindi Division: Attock, Jhelum, Chakwal and Murree. The polling stations had been categorised as 'A' (highly sensitive), 'B' (sensitive) and 'C' (normal).

"Providing voters with the right to vote in a safe environment is the top pri-

ority of the Rawalpindi regional police," RPO Alpa said. All available resources will be utilised to hold free, transparent and fair elections, while special surveillance and effective patrolling will be ensured at sensitive and highly sensitive polling stations, the RPO said.

He noted that strict implementation of the security plan would be ensured "at all costs" and that suspicious individuals, activities and illegal

The senior police official further said strict legal action would be taken against those violating election laws and the code of conduct, adding that full communication and effective coordination would be maintained with the district administration, Election Commission and other institutions. "Police officers will be present in the field themselves and monitor election security arrangements. Citizens should abide by the code of conduct and immediately report any suspicious activity to the police," the RPO said. 3,100 police personnel to be deployed in Rawalpindi district. The Rawalpindi district police have devised a security and traffic plan for the peaceful conduct of the AJK Assembly elections.

Balochistan CM offers dialogue, rehabilitation to militants willing to surrender

PEAK POINT

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti on Friday said the provincial government was willing to engage in political dialogue with opponents and offer rehabilitation to those willing to renounce violence, while warning that security forces would continue action against militants who refused to lay down arms.

The chief minister's remarks came against the backdrop of a surge in militant violence in Balochistan this year. In January, coordinated attacks across multiple districts martyred dozens of civilians and security personnel before security forces launched a large-scale counteroffensive operation against the insurgents and killed more than 100.

Addressing the passing-out parade of the Anti Terrorism Force's 20th basic training course in Quetta, the chief minister said, "The door of political discourse is open for all, even though some factions are guilty of bloodshed."





SPORTS



Muneeba-led Pakistan eye winning finish in Sri Lanka T20I Series



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan will look to end their Sri Lanka tour on a high when they take on the hosts in the opening match of the three-match Women's T20I series at the Rangiri Dambulla International Cricket Stadium today (Friday). Following a 2-1 defeat in the ODI series, Pakistan have shifted their focus to the shortest format, with experienced wicketkeeper-batter Muneeba Ali leading the side in the absence of regular captain Fatima Sana, who has departed for England to participate in The Hundred. The remaining two T20Is are scheduled for August 2 and 4 at the same venue.

Muneeba, Pakistan's first-ever women's T20I centurion and one of only two Pakistani women to score centuries in the format, will captain the national side for the second time in T20Is. She previously led Pakistan against Australia during the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 and also captained the team in an ODI against Zimbabwe earlier this year.

Pakistan entered the tour with an impressive victory in the ODI opener before Sri Lanka bounced back strongly to claim the series with successive eight-wicket wins. Both teams arrived in Dambulla earlier this week and completed an intensive training session on Thursday

ahead of the T20I opener. Pakistan have refreshed their squad with eight changes from the side that featured in the recent ICC Women's T20 World Cup. Promising youngsters Eman Naseer, Humna Bilal, Maham Anees, Momina Riasat, Najiba Alvi, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Umm-e-Hani and Waheeda Akhtar have been drafted into the squad, while batters Eman and Maham are in line to make their T20I debuts. Sri Lanka, meanwhile, have also introduced fresh faces, including Sanjana Kavindi, Chamudi Praboda and Rashmika Sewwandi, as they seek to maintain the momentum gained from their ODI series triumph. Looking ahead to the series, Muneeba expressed confidence in her youthful squad and stressed the importance of finishing the tour strongly. "We want to compete hard and return home with the series trophy," she said. "It is always an honour to captain Pakistan. We have several exciting young players eager to prove themselves, and this series provides a great opportunity for them to perform at the highest level." Acknowledging Sri Lanka's resilience, Muneeba added that Pakistan would rely on thorough preparation and disciplined execution to overcome the hosts in what promises to be another closely contested series.

PCB, franchises begin planning for HBL PSL 12 after successful season



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has begun preparations for the next edition of the HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) following a review meeting chaired by PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi with league management and franchise representatives. The meeting was attended by PSL Chief Executive Officer Salman Naseer, PCB Chief Financial Officer Javed Murtaza, PSL Director Usman Wahla and other officials. Franchise owners commended Mohsin Naqvi and the PCB team for successfully delivering HBL PSL 11 despite operational challenges. Participants reviewed the tournament's overall performance and discussed key planning areas for the upcoming season. It was agreed that dedicated workshops would soon be held to finalise the tournament window, playing conditions, direct player signings and retention policies. The meeting also evaluated the quality of cricket witnessed across all 44 matches of HBL PSL 11. Officials noted that the tournament achieved its highest-ever audience across television, digital streaming platforms and social media. Discussions also covered off-season and pre-season fan engagement initiatives. It was decided that the PSL, in partnership with all eight franchises, will introduce the league's official merchandise platform to strengthen fan interaction and expand the competition's commercial presence.

Fifa plan hit by senior adviser resigning, AFC opposition



PEAK POINT

DUBAI: The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) joined Uefa and CONCACAF in condemning world football's governing body Fifa's proposed private investment plan, saying on Friday they were alarmed it had reached the point a

"World Cup boycott has entered public discourse". A damaging blow to Fifa president Gianni Infantino came with the later resignation of a senior adviser Carlos Cordeiro, who issued an exhorting statement. "As a senior adviser to the Fifa presi-

dent, a former banker, and a lifelong football fan, I cannot stand by while Fifa considers selling a stake in the World Cup," wrote Cordeiro, a former head of the US Soccer Federation.

"Let me be clear: I had no involvement in this proposal, and I oppose it unequivocally."

"It is a bad deal for Fifa's member associations, a bad deal for football, and a bad deal for the long-term future of the game."

His resignation and the AFC statement came hours after Fifa vowed to press ahead with an "open and democratic" consultation on the plan.

The statement followed a pledge by Europe's governing body Uefa to boycott the World Cup if Fifa went ahead with its plan which set alarm bells ringing within the AFC. "The AFC stands in solidarity with Uefa and CONCACAF in expressing serious concerns over Fifa's proposal," the Kuala Lumpur-based body said in a statement.

Alex De Minaur beats Stefanos Tsitsipas to set up Hewitt clash in Washington



4 bodies found as search continues for climbers missing after Broad Peak avalanche

PEAK POINT

GILGIT: Four bodies were found on Friday as a search operation was underway to locate climbers who went missing on Broad Peak a day earlier after an avalanche struck around midday.

The Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) said that the 10-member team included six Nepalese climbers, a Pakistani, an Omani, an American and a climber from China. The climbers from Nepal were identified as renowned mountaineer Nirmal Purja, Pur Bahadur Gurung, Kili Pemba Sherpa, Nima Sherpa, Nawang Thindu Sherpa and Gyalu Sherpa. It identified the remaining climbers as Nadhira Ahmed Abdullah Al Harthy from Oman, Pakistani climber Sohail Sakhi, Wang Zhong from China and Mallory Geis from the United States. ACP President Major General Irfan Arshad told

Dawn on Friday that four bodies had been found. He identified two of the dead as Oman's Nadhira Ahmed Abdullah Al Harthy and Nepal's Pur Bahadur Gurung. In a statement issued earlier in the day, ACP Senior

remained in constant contact with the highest government authorities and relevant agencies to facilitate the rescue operation. "Every possible effort is being made to ensure that helicopter support and all available rescue resources are



Vice President Karrar Haidri said two Pakistan Army Aviation rescue helicopters, carrying rescue personnel and additional specialised equipment, had been dispatched to support the ongoing search and rescue operation. The statement said the ACP president, along with the club's senior leadership, mobilised at the earliest opportunity, subject to weather and operational conditions," it added. The club said it was closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with all relevant stakeholders while expressing solidarity with the climbers' families and the international mountaineering community.

PLTA launches Ali Embroidery Mills High-Performance Tennis Camp





Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation visits Zakat Foundation of America headquarters in Chicago

PEAK POINT

CHICAGO: Pakistan's Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Pir Syed Imran Ahmad Shah, visited the headquarters of the Zakat Foundation of America in Chicago along with Pakistan's Consul General in Chicago, Zaman Mehdi. Upon arrival, the Federal Minister was warmly received by the Foundation's Chief Executive Officer, Khalil Demir, Advisor Planning and Development Farukh Raza, and members of the Foundation's leadership team. During the visit, CEO Khalil Demir briefed the Federal Minister on the Foundation's global humanitarian initiatives. A documentary presentation highlighted

the organization's extensive work in more than 40 countries, including orphan sponsorship, emergency disaster relief, education for out-of-school children, access to clean drinking water, skills development, rehabilitation programs, and mental health services, among many other humanitarian initiatives. Federal Minister Pir Syed Imran Ahmad Shah expressed his gratitude to the Zakat Foundation of America for inviting him to participate in the upcoming Turkish Cultural Festival. He commended the Foundation's outstanding humanitarian contributions worldwide and particularly appreciated its significant welfare and development work in Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, the Federal



Minister outlined the achievements and ongoing initiatives of Pakistan's Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety. He stated that, under

the vision of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the Ministry is implementing a range of social protection programs aimed at improving the lives of vulnerable and underprivileged families across the country. He noted that institutions working under the Ministry—including the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA)—are playing a vital role in poverty reduction through financial assistance, vocational skills development, education, healthcare, and social welfare initiatives. The Federal Minister emphasized that the Government of Pakistan

remains committed to ensuring that quality healthcare, education, livelihood opportunities, and social protection services reach deserving citizens at their doorstep. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in the areas of poverty alleviation, human development, and social welfare in Pakistan. At the conclusion of the visit, Federal Minister Pir Syed Imran Ahmad Shah extended a formal invitation to Zakat Foundation of America CEO Khalil Demir to visit Pakistan. Prominent members of the Pakistani-American community in Chicago were also present on the occasion.

Islamabad Police recruitment enters fourth day as senior officers oversee multi-city testing

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The fourth day of the Islamabad Police Recruitment 2026 physical endurance and running tests continued on Friday under the close supervision of senior police officers at test centres in Islamabad, Karachi and Peshawar, with officials reviewing security, administrative arrangements and candidate facilitation to ensure a

transparent and merit-based recruitment process. An ICT Police spokesperson told APP that DG Safe City/DIG Traffic Muhammad Haroon Joiya visited the Police Lines Headquarters recruitment centre in Islamabad, where he inspected various stages of the physical endurance test and directed the officers concerned to ensure its smooth,

transparent and well-organised conduct. DIG Headquarters Muhammad Ateeq Tahir and DIG Islamabad Muhammad Jawad Tariq jointly supervised the ongoing physical endurance and running tests at the Police Lines Headquarters test centre. They reviewed security and overall administrative arrangements and directed

the staff to maintain strict merit, transparency and continuous monitoring throughout the recruitment process. Meanwhile, DIG Security Rana Umar Farooq monitored the recruitment exercise at the F-9 test centre, where physical endurance and running tests were in progress. He reviewed security arrangements, candidate facilitation and other admin-

istrative measures to ensure the smooth completion of every stage of the recruitment process. Outside the federal capital, SDPO Kohsar Nausherwan Ahsan Minhas supervised the ongoing physical and running tests at the Karachi recruitment centre, reviewing security and other arrangements while closely monitoring each stage of the testing process.

Islamabad Police officers also continued monitoring the recruitment process at the Peshawar test centre, where physical endurance and running tests were being conducted under strict supervision, with security and administrative arrangements being reviewed regularly to ensure an organised and transparent recruitment exercise.

Opinion & Editorial

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Karachi killings

Karachi has learnt to live with violence. It knows what it means to live under the shadow of extortion rackets and organised criminal syndicates. That is perhaps the city's greatest tragedy. The alleged abduction, torture and murder of 25-year-old entrepreneur Mir Raza Ali, owner of a dessert chain, and the fatal shooting of retired banker Samiuddin Rehmani inside his Azizabad home within days of each other are a damning indictment of the state's failure to protect its citizens. For years, Karachiites have been told that the city is safer, that crime is under control and that law enforcement has dismantled major criminal groups. Yet the headlines tell a different story. Authorities have become adept at chasing gunmen after they pull the trigger but far less effective at dismantling the criminal ecosystems that produce them. While individual suspects may occasionally be arrested, the criminal enterprises behind them continue to regenerate because the networks that finance, arm and protect them remain largely intact. That failure demands scrutiny. Such crimes are not committed in the shadows. They require planning, surveillance, logistics and the confidence that those responsible can evade capture. Such confidence does not emerge in a vacuum.

"Teacher and Student: A Generational Debt, An Eternal Love"

KHALID KHAN
Time's wheels had stopped turning. On the evening of 26 July 2026, within the grounds of District Council Public High School in Upper Dir, the air carried the fragrance of childhood, eyes held forty-year-old tears, and hearts bore a debt of gratitude that could never be fully repaid. This was no ordinary reunion — it was a living, throbbing, weeping, and smiling moment. Former students bowed their heads before their teachers, embraced them, let their eyes grow moist, and made a helpless attempt to return everything time had taken away: that first lesson, that first scolding, that first word of encouragement, and that hand placed on a falling shoulder saying, "Son, get up... become a human being." That day, the school grounds rang once again. The teachers and students had white hair and bent backs, yet the relationship between them remained exactly as it was — pure, enduring, and everlasting.

"The Dream That Became Reality"

Behind this historic event was a core committee that had stayed awake for nights, kept their eyes open, and burned their hearts to create a miracle. The most prominent names were: "Engineer Tariq Babar" President of the Alumni Association, the guiding spirit and backbone of the entire program. Gathering the retired teachers, coordinating their schedules, and running the whole event with unmatched discipline — all this was the result of his tireless effort. From welcoming guests at the gate to



the concluding moments, Tariq Babar was present everywhere, like a devoted son serving his elders.

"Professor Wajid Raz"

The visionary whose counsel formed the real foundation. He had said, "Bring the teachers back to the same school where they devoted their lives." He not only gave the idea but also beautifully designed the certificates, shields of honour, commemorative gifts, and invitation cards. His creative talent turned the event into a work of art.

"Sadiqullah (DSO)"

The very embodiment of warm-hearted enthusiasm. He took charge of gifts, hospitality, and all arrangements. His smiling face made it clear that this was not merely a program for him, but the greatest emotional moment of meeting his teachers.

"Sahibzada Mazharuddin"

Vice President, whose poetry added a literary glow to the occasion. His hard work and emotional speeches moved everyone.

"Mufti Nisar"

Who gave the atmosphere a

spiritual colour. His presence sanctified the event.

"Nigar Hussain"

The epitome of excellent hosting. The dinner arrangements, the beauty of the dishes, and the hospitality — all were the result of his attention.

"Shah Khalid Khan Hamdani"

Media In-charge, who took the event to the international level even from America. The shield awarded for his journalistic services was received by his children—Anabia, Haleema, and Fahad. Seeing the shield in those small hands, tears could not be held back — a scene that showed this respect is not limited to one generation but is passed down through generations.

"Zakirullah Safi, Inayatullah, Rashid Ahmed, Asif Iqbal, Asad Iqbal, Arshad Khan"

These companions stood shoulder to shoulder day and night in financial responsibilities, provision of materials, arrangements, and every small and big service. Without their hard work, this dream could never have become reality.

"The Lights That Never Dimmed"

At the beginning of the ceremony, special mention was made of the departed teachers who had passed to the next world: Respected Ustad Buzurg Ahmed Sahib, Ustad Habibullah Sahib, and Ustad Fazl Subhan Sahib. Special prayers were offered for them. A deep silence fell over the gathering. Students' eyes became wet. Their honorary shields were received by their sons. The scene moved every heart — it felt as if those elders were also present,

smiling and offering their blessings. Among the honoured teachers were Sahibzada Fazlullah Sahib (former Principal), Laiq Saeed Sahib, Pir Sher Alam, Fazl Rabbi, Najm ur Rahman, Irshad Shaheen, Shamsuddin Sahib, and more than 25 other respected teachers. When they entered through the gate, a strange silence enveloped the atmosphere. Flower garlands, traditional Dir caps, bouquets, and the students' applause — everything made hearts overflow. Sahibzada Fazlullah Sahib said in a trembling voice: "Those children who used to play in my hands are now sitting before me as doctors, engineers, journalists, and professors." The tears falling from his eyes drenched every heart. Every teacher expressed pride in the successes of their students. Mazharuddin Sahib's poetry, Gul Ahmed Sahib's ghazal, Fazl Arman's poem, and Suhail Sahib's naat gave the atmosphere both spiritual and emotional depth.

"The Moments That Settled in the Heart"

During the shield distribution, pride and tears appeared together on the teachers' faces. Students kissed each teacher's hand, embraced them, and refreshed old memories. In the evening, when teachers and students sat together at tables arranged in the grounds, it felt as if time had turned back. At the end, the teachers departed with prayers, and the students escorted them to their vehicles. Eyes were moist, but hearts carried a deep peace — the generational debt had been repaid, at least in part.

Governor KP, Azerbaijani envoy discuss expanding bilateral cooperation, investment



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday held a farewell meeting with Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov, and reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthening the longstanding brotherly ties between the two countries.

The Governor also hosted a luncheon in honour of the outgoing

ambassador.

During the meeting, Governor Kundi appreciated Ambassador Farhadov's services in promoting Pakistan-Azerbaijan relations, particularly in the fields of trade, economy, investment, defence, culture and people-to-people contacts.

He said Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoyed historic brotherly relations based on mutual trust, respect and shared values, adding that both coun-

tries should fully utilise the available opportunities to further expand bilateral cooperation.

The Governor termed Azerbaijan a sincere and trusted friend of Pakistan and thanked its government and people for supporting Pakistan during last year's Pakistan-India conflict. He said there was vast potential for enhancing cooperation in trade, investment, tourism and education, adding that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa offered immense investment opportunities in tourism, minerals, natural resources and other key sectors for Azerbaijani investors.

Ambassador Khazar Farhadov thanked Governor Kundi for the warm hospitality and said his diplomatic tenure in Pakistan had been memorable and rewarding.

He said the strong brotherly relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan were growing stronger with the passage of time, while the launch of direct flights.

Govt will resolve your issues and ensure your protection, Naqvi tells traders from KP and Balochistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has met a delegation of traders and industrialists from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan and assured them that the government would employ all available resources to resolve their issues and ensure their protection, the interior ministry said on Friday.

In a statement on X, the ministry said representatives from all chambers of commerce spoke about the security situation in their respective provinces and the challenges they were facing.

For his part, Naqvi briefed the delegation on the overall security situation in the country, particularly in KP and Balochistan, and the steps taken by the government in this regard, the statement added.

"He assured the business community of complete cooperation," it stated, further quoting Naqvi as saying: "The government will employ all available resources to resolve the

issues of traders and industrialists and ensure their protection."

He further said that he would soon visit Peshawar and Quetta and hold detailed meetings with the business community in the presence of senior government officials and representatives so that "a permanent and practical solution" for the challenges being faced by traders and industrialists could be worked out.

He further said, "The private sector plays a key role in stabilising the country's economy. Pakistan's progress lies in the progress of the business community. The government is with you and we will resolve all your legitimate issues."

Naqvi's meeting with members of the business community takes place against the backdrop of security challenges in KP and Balochistan. A monthly security assessment released in early June by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) said that after two consecutive months of improvement, Pakistan's security.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has met a delegation of traders and industrialists from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan.

PPP should respect people's mandate, says Amir Muqam

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Friday appreciated Kazakhstan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin, for his role in strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

During a farewell meeting, the two sides discussed cooperation in the information technology and telecommunications sectors and explored ways to further expand collaboration. Shaza lauds Kazakhstan envoy's role in strengthening Pakistan-Kazakhstan tech ties. Shaza Fatima praised Ambassador Kistafin's efforts.

IMF unlikely to approve fuel levy cut without revenue plan: Minister

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik has said any cut in the petroleum levy is unlikely to secure approval from the International Monetary Fund unless the government identifies an alternative revenue source to offset the loss.

Briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum, Malik said the levy currently charged on petrol and diesel was already lower than the level imposed during wartime, adding that "perhaps the IMF may agree" if Pakistan developed another revenue option.

His remarks came as lawmakers challenged the government's daily fuel pricing system, calling it a burden on consumers, while the minister defended it as a market-linked mechanism aimed at managing global price volatility.



The committee, which met with Senator Umer Farooq in the chair, also took strict notice of the absence of performance audits of oil rigs and directed the relevant authorities to submit the audit report within seven days.

Malik told the committee that the government had eliminated political interference in fuel pricing by authorising Ogra to independently set petroleum prices through a transparent mechanism.

Ogra chairman informed lawmakers that Pakistan's petrol and diesel prices are linked to Singapore market benchmarks.

Shaza lauds Kazakhstan envoy's role in strengthening Pakistan-Kazakhstan tech ties

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to promote Pakistan-Kazakhstan ties, particularly in the field of technology.

She said he had played an important role in enhancing cooperation and strengthening bilateral relations during his tenure. The minister acknowledged the ambassador's contributions and wished him success in his future assignments.

She also presented the Ambassador with a commemorative shield in recognition.

'Better not to take administrative units debate any further', says PPP after Naqvi's proposal

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), the main ally of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in the Centre, on Friday advised against taking the debate of new administrative units any further. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi a day earlier said Pakistan's existing governance system had collapsed and was no longer capable of addressing the country's challenges, calling for administrative reforms, including the creation of new administrative units. "The system we are living under has collapsed. Problems cannot be solved through it [...]" If this system continues, we will still be sitting here 10 years from now



discussing the same issues [...]" You have to move towards administrative units. Call them provinces or give them any other name," he told an event in Islamabad. He told journalists later that the efforts of the Chief of Army Staff and the Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir would not yield lasting results unless politicians worked together to reform Pakistan's governance.

Pakistan showcases Textile excellence at texworld New York city 2026

MAHPARA ZAMAN

NEW YORK: Pakistan marked a strong presence at Texworld New York City 2026, one of North America's leading international textile sourcing exhibitions, with the inauguration of the Pakistan Pavilion at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, New York. The Pakistan Pavilion was formally inaugurated by the Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, H.E. Mr. Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, in along with the Consul General of Pakistan in New York, Mr. Aamer Ahmed Atozai, and Trade & Investment Counsellor, Mr. Adnan Mahmood Awan. Organized by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) in collaboration with the Trade & Investment Wing of the Consulate General of Pakistan, New York, the Pavilion highlights Pakistan's growing capabilities in value-added textiles, apparel, leather products, sports goods, and home textiles. Addressing the participants,



Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh highlighted the vital role of Pakistan's textile sector in the national economy and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to promoting exports and strengthening commercial ties with the United States. Consul General Aamer Ahmed Atozai underscored Pakistan's reputation as a reliable sourcing destination and

reaffirmed the Consulate's commitment to facilitating business partnerships between Pakistan and the United States. Trade & Investment Counsellor Adnan Mahmood Awan said that Texworld New York City offers an important platform for Pakistani exporters to connect with international buyers and expand their presence in the U.S. mar-

ket. Five leading Pakistani companies are exhibiting under the Pakistan Pavilion, showcasing a diverse range of products, including home textiles, towels, apparel, leather garments, sportswear, gloves, and textile products. The participating companies are: A1 Infinity MRI Group Hometex Corporation Ruqi Sports Niza Sports Throughout the three-day exhibition, the Pakistani exhibitors will engage with buyers and industry stakeholders from across the United States and other international markets, promoting Pakistan's manufacturing excellence, innovation, and export potential. Pakistan's participation in Texworld New York City 2026 reflects the country's continued commitment to strengthening its presence in global textile markets and fostering long-term commercial partnerships with international buyers. The exhibition runs from July 29 to July 31, 2026, at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City.