Naqvi pays tribute to Kashmir Martyrs, reaffirms Pakistan's support for Kashmir cause

Pakistan assumes OIC Women's Conference chairmanship for next two years: Tarar

AJK elections to be held as scheduled: Amir Muqam

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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

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PM Shehbaz meets Qatari leader Sheikh Tamim, condoles death of ex-emir Sheikh Hamad

PEAK POINT

QATAR: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday met Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and offered his condolences on the passing of his father and former emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani.

Sheikh Tamim received PM Shehbaz at Lusail Palace in Doha, where the latter extended his condolences on Sheikh Hamad's demise, a statement released by the Qatari leader's office said.

PM Shehbaz, who reached Qatar on a one-day visit earlier on Monday, was accompanied by PML-N President Nawaz Sharif. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Information Minister Attaullah Tarar also accompanied him.

The premier returned to Pakistan later in the evening after concluding his visit, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

A PMO statement said PM Shehbaz was in Doha to "personally convey condolences on behalf of the people and government of Pakistan to the leadership and people of the state of Qatar on the passing away of Sheikh Hamad". In his meeting with Sheikh Tamim, PM Shehbaz "conveyed heartfelt condolences on the sad demise" of Sheikh Hamad and "paid rich tribute to the late Father Amir's visionary leadership, statesmanship, and enduring contributions to Qatar's remarkable transformation as well as to regional peace, stability, and development", the PMO said. It added that PM Shehbaz.

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif along with former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif visits Lusail Palace in Doha to offer condolences to Amir of Qatar H.E Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on the demise of Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani.

Middle East rocked by heaviest attacks since US-Iran April ceasefire

PEAK POINT

DUBAI: The Middle East has been rocked by US and Iranian attacks of a scale unseen since an April ceasefire, as fighting over the strategic Strait of Hormuz threatened to derail efforts to permanently end the war. As the US attacks on Iran continued on Monday, Tehran said it would stop complying with a framework agreement signed in June to halt the fighting if Washington failed to meet its commitments. It also responded with attacks of its own targeting Gulf nations, with the powerful Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) announcing new strikes on Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait and Oman. "There is no doubt that this document is in crisis," foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding. "Each time that the other party has failed to meet its obligations, we did not uphold ours," he added. "We will continue to act in this manner." He nonetheless added that Tehran was continuing talks with mediators from Qatar, Pakistan and Oman in an effort to prevent any further escalation. The US Central Command (Centcom) said its forces had completed their latest barrage, which began overnight.

US launches fresh strikes on Iran, Tehran targets American assets in Gulf states in flareup over Hormuz

PEAK POINT

NEW YORK: The United States struck Iran on Monday for a second day running, drawing Tehran's reprisals against US allies in the Gulf as the foes battle over the status of the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

The flare-up is the latest to undermine an interim agreement between Washington and Tehran aimed at ending their war, which has caused global economic shockwaves since it began in late February.

The latest salvo by US forces began at 2100 GMT on Sunday, Central Command (Centcom) said on X. The fresh strikes came less than 24 hours after a previous wave in which the US Centcom said 140 Iranian military targets were hit.

In a subsequent post, Centcom said it had completed a new wave of "offensive strikes" against Iran, hitting "dozens of targets at multiple locations with precision munitions to degrade Iran's ability to continue attacking international shipping flowing through the Strait of Hormuz".

"Centcom forces struck Iranian military air-defence systems, coastal radar sites, missile and drone capabilities, and small boats using US fighter aircraft, naval vessels, one-way attack aerial drones, and one-way attack sea drones for the first time," it added. The Centcom reiterated its assertion that Iran did not control Hormuz and US forces "are postured and prepared to ensure that freedom of navigation remains available to commercial shipping despite.

Al-Qadir Trust case: Imran, Bushra challenge SC registrar's refusal to entertain their petitions

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Imran Khan and his spouse, Bushra Bibi, challenged in the Supreme Court on Monday the registrar's decision to return a set of petitions that contested the high court's refusal to suspend their sentences in the £190 million Al-Qadir Trust case. Imran and Bushra Bibi were convicted and sentenced in January 2025 in the corruption case, in which an accountability court found them guilty of obtaining billions of rupees and land worth hundreds of kanals from a real estate firm for legalising Rs50bn that was identified and returned to the country by the UK during the previous PTI government. The court verdict had said that funds from foreign bank accounts, previously frozen by the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA), were repatriated to settle the liabilities of Bahria Town instead of being added to the national kitty. The court had found that Imran, when he was the prime minister, gave a nod to a confidential deed.

Karachi doctor killed as robbers snatch Rs2.5m near Teen Talwar

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: A 28-year-old doctor was killed during an exchange of fire involving suspected robbers and a bank security guard near Teen Talwar in Karachi, South SSP Mahzoor Ali said on Monday. He said the victim, identified as Akash, had withdrawn cash from a bank and was heading to another bank in a car with his father and cousin. As the vehicle stopped near the bank, the suspects arrived from behind. According to the SSP, the bank's security guard believed the car's occupants were robbers and opened fire.

8 more terrorists killed during ongoing Operation Shaban in Balochistan: state media

PEAK POINT

BALOCHISTAN: Security forces have killed another eight terrorists during the ongoing Operation Shaban in Balochistan, following which the total number of terrorists killed in the operation reached 79, state broadcaster Radio Pakistan reported on Monday, citing security sources.

Operation Shaban is being jointly carried out across the province by the army, Frontier Corps (FC) and Balochistan Police following the terrorist July 7 attack in the Mangi Dam area, in which 27 police personnel were martyred.

Security forces are targeting the terrorists through both aerial and ground operations, the Radio Pakistan report said.

It further quoted security sources as saying that a total of 117 terrorists had been killed during

Operation Shaban and other intelligence-based operations in Balochistan since July 5.

Separately, a statement shared on the interior ministry's X account said Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi commended the army and Balochistan FC and police for killing five more terrorists. "He commended the professional capabilities of the security forces in carrying out effective ground and aerial operations," the statement added. The statement quoted him as saying that "the fight will continue until the elimination of Fitna-al-Hindustan terrorists".

The government uses the term Fitna-al-Hindustan to refer to groups in Balochistan it accuses of being sponsored by India to execute terrorist attacks on Pakistani soil.

Naqvi said those seeking to undermine peace in Balochistan were being brought to justice and asserted that the entire nation stood firmly alongside the country's security forces in the fight against terrorism.

"Those responsible for shedding the blood of innocent people in Balochistan deserve no leniency," he said.

He added that the killing of 114 terrorists in Operation Shaban and other intelligence-based operations so far "reflects the high level of preparedness, professionalism, and operational readiness of Pakistan's security forces". Last week, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the country's civil and military leadership had taken a "mutual and singular decision" to end terrorism after multiple major terrorist incidents in Balochistan.

CDF Munir arrives in Turkiye on 2-day official visit: state media

PEAK POINT

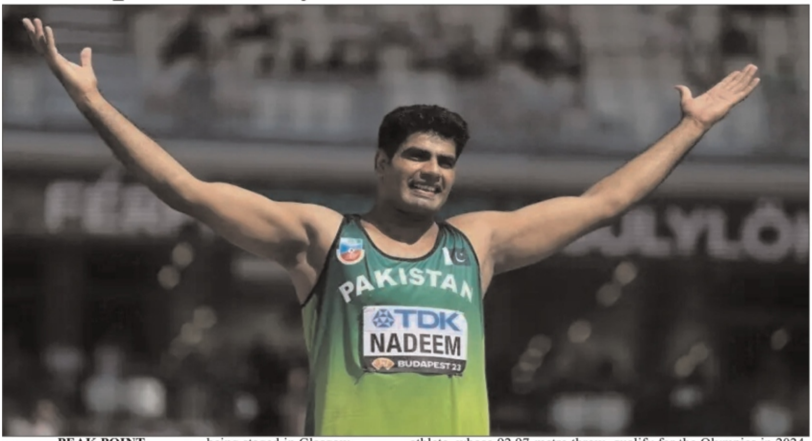
TURKIYE: Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir on Monday arrived in Turkiye on a two-day official visit, state media reported. Citing security sources, state-run Radio Pakistan reported that CDF Munir received a "warm welcome" upon his arrival in Turkiye. During the visit, the CDF will hold "important" meetings with Turkiye's military and political leadership, the security sources added.

State-run Pakistan TV and APP also reported CDF Munir's arrival in Turkiye and his expected meetings with the Turkish military and political leadership.\ Last month, General Metin Tokel, commander of the Turkish Land Forces.

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

SPORTS

Olympic gold medallist Arshad Nadeem seeks to repeat history at Commonwealth Games



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan's Olympic gold medallist Arshad Nadeem is determined to repeat history at the Commonwealth Games starting later this month.

The 29-year-old Arshad, who won the javelin throw gold medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham with a record throw of 90.18 metres, leaves for Switzerland on Monday to participate in an international contest prior to the July 23-Aug 2 Commonwealth Games being staged in Glasgow.

Speaking after his final training session at the Punjab Stadium in Lahore on Sunday, Arshad said that he had prepared well for the Commonwealth Games.

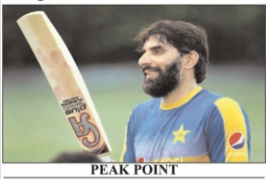
"I am going to feature in an event in Switzerland before a major competition like the Commonwealth Games. I participate in an event before any big contest, which gives me an idea about my strength and preparation [for the forthcoming major event]," the Mian Channu-born athlete, whose 92.97-metre throw at Paris 2024 remains an Olympic as well as Asian record, said.

Recalling the memories of the 2022 Commonwealth Games, the star athlete said, "Four years after I broke the Commonwealth Games record in 2022, I remain in the same position. There is also pressure [on me] that I have been the champion for four years and now I will need to again do well [to retain the title]."

Arshad, who became the first-ever Pakistan athlete to directly qualify for the Olympics in 2024, said the competition in Glasgow would be tough.

"[Recently], Sri Lankan javelin thrower Rumesh Tharanga made an impressive throw of 86.57 metres at the Ostrava Golden Spike meet. So, I strongly feel that the competition in Glasgow will be tough this time [too] but I am prepared for it," he said. "There is always pressure while entering the field, only then that pressure has to be controlled."

Discipline and consistency key to long-term success: Misbah



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq has urged aspiring cricketers to place discipline and consistency at the heart of their development, insisting that natural talent alone is not enough to build a successful international career. Speaking during the fourth episode of Straight Drive with Salman Butt, Misbah said Pakistan has never lacked gifted cricketers, but sustained success depends on commitment, professionalism and maintaining high standards on and off the field. "Talent may open the door, but discipline and consistency keep you there," Misbah said. "A successful player follows the right routine every day, whether it involves training, fitness, practice or diet. Those who repeat positive habits consistently are the ones who continue to improve and perform at the highest level." The former skipper, who also serves as a member of the men's national selection committee and batting consultant at the NCA, stressed the importance of four-day cricket in producing technically accomplished and mentally resilient players. According to Misbah, the longer format strengthens defensive technique, concentration, physical endurance, tactical awareness and decision-making while also helping batters improve against quality spin bowling through extended time at the crease.

Omar Khalid makes history with Sindh Open Golf Championship win

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Amateur golfer Omar Khalid created history by becoming the first amateur player to win the overall Sindh Open Golf Championship title, finishing ahead of multiple professional players. Khalid produced a superb performance over the 54-hole championship, finishing at seven-under par to top both the overall and amateur standings. His remarkable display saw him finish two strokes ahead of leading professional Minhaj Maqsood.

Despite missing out on the overall title, Maqsood emerged as the winner of the professional category with a score of five-under par, while Matloob Ahmed secured second place among the professionals at four-under par.

In the amateur category, Sharan Ali Khan finished second, while Syed Rayan Ahmed claimed third place. The latest achievement adds to an already remarkable career for the young golfer, who has repeatedly broken new ground for Pakistan.

At the age of 16, Omar became the youngest player to win the Pakistan National Amateur Golf Championship before later rising to become the country's youngest-ever No. 1 amateur golfer.

His success has also extended beyond Pakistan. Omar remains the only Pakistani golfer to win a professional tournament in the United States after capturing the Fendrich Open title in Evansville, Indiana. He claimed the trophy with a 14-under-par aggregate over 36 holes, following outstanding rounds of 61 and 65.

Currently competing in NCAA Division I collegiate golf in the United States, Omar recently became the first Pakistani golfer to earn NCAA All-Conference honours after securing a podium finish at the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) Men's Golf Championship in Illinois.

Shariz stars in Seafarers' thrilling KNCB Pro Series victory

England ready for Argentina test as 60-year dream nears

Yamal aims to steal Mbappe's World Cup thunder in semi-final showdown

PEAK POINT

ARLINGTON: Lamine Yamal is hoping to emulate Kylian Mbappe by winning the World Cup as a teenager, but first his Spain side will have to get the better of France and their superstar captain in Tuesday's semi-final.

When Mbappe scored in France's win over Croatia in the deciding match of the 2018 tournament, he was just 19 years and 207 days old. He therefore became only the second teenager to score in a World Cup final after a 17-year-old Pele in 1958.

Mbappe's love affair with the World Cup began then, while this is Yamal's first experience of the competition. He has already had his big breakthrough in a major tournament, however — Yamal's stunning goal in the Euro 2024 semi-final against Mbappe's France helped Spain to a 2-1 victory.

That came four days before he turned 17. His birthday was the day before the final. Spain beat England, and Yamal was named young player of the tournament.

This time his 19th birth-

day comes on the eve of the semi-final in Arlington.

Such a young player with his best years to come. But he is clearly eager to leave a firm mark on this World Cup.

Perhaps too eager, having at one point been a doubt for the tournament after missing the end of the season with Barcelona due to a hamstring injury.

"I was afraid it might be serious and, above all, that even if it wasn't serious, I could suffer a setback and end up missing the World Cup," Yamal admitted in late May. After coming off the bench in Spain's opening 0-0 draw with Cape Verde, Yamal started against Saudi Arabia and scored before being replaced at half-time in a 4-0 victory.

He has started every game since, without adding to that solitary goal — that might be getting to him.

Lawmakers question Rs154bn textile imports, Rs62bn tea record and movement of Rs300m confiscated goods

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: Billions of rupees in imported goods entered Pakistan under tax exemptions, but senators now want to know whether the goods were really used where they were supposed to be used.They also want answers about confiscated goods worth around Rs300 million that were allegedly moved from a government warehouse to a private place.The questions were raised during a Senate sub-committee meeting chaired by Senator Saifullah Abro.The meeting focused on tax evasion and the way Customs and FBR officials handle goods taken into government custody.The committee was told that textile goods worth Rs154 billion had entered the country under tax exemptions.But pay orders worth only Rs5.9 billion had so far been encashed.This means nearly Rs145 billion is still being checked or disputed.Some businessmen went to the Peshawar High Court and obtained stay orders.The court told the FBR to hear their side before taking further action.Still, committee members said the amount was too large to ignore.Senator Saifullah Abro asked how textile goods worth Rs154 billion could have been used in FATA.He pointed out that the federal government already provides around Rs100 billion every year to the region.He said tax exemptions should help local people and industry, not become a way to avoid taxes.The FBR also gave the committee figures for cases reported during the past six months.The ghee sector had 26 cases involving Rs57.586 billion.The steel sector had eight cases worth Rs7.517 billion.The textile sector had 11 cases involving Rs5.920 billion.The plastic sector had three cases worth Rs1.267 billion.The food sector had 15 cases involving Rs1.259 billion.These figures worried committee members because they showed that several major industries were under investigation.A key part of the discussion involved consumption certificates.These certificates are supposed to prove that tax-free goods were used in the approved factory or region.Senators asked whether these certificates were real, correct and properly checked.Senator Dilawar Khan questioned certificates issued to the ghee and steel sectors.He asked whether the FBR had ever audited them and whether any official had been punished for issuing a false or incorrect certificate.Senator Talha Mahmood raised another question.He said tea worth Rs62 billion had reportedly been imported, but the related consumption certificates were not shown in the record presented to the committee.The senators said this gap could not be ignored.The committee also discussed goods seized by Customs.Senator Dilawar Khan alleged that confiscated goods worth Rs300 million had been moved from a government warehouse to a private facility.He claimed that a security official responsible for watching the goods may have been involved.The allegation is still being investigated and no final finding has been announced.FIA officials said notices had been sent to officers from the commissioner level down to inspectors.The names of officials facing investigation were also presented to the committee.An FBR fact-finding official said the goods had been moved because there was not enough space in the government warehouse.Committee members did not accept the explanation easily.They said the goods had earlier been kept in one government location, so moving them to a private facility appeared suspicious.Senator Saifullah Abro said the FBR must first identify who was responsible.He warned that if the department failed to act, the case would be handed over to the FIA.He said no officer was above the law and Parliament had the right to investigate corruption, theft and loss of public money.The FBR told the committee that it could not share the private tax record of individual companies because of Section 216 of the Income Tax Ordinance. However, officials said they could provide combined figures for an entire industry.The committee ordered the FBR to find a legal way to share useful information with Parliament while protecting private taxpayer records.It also asked for complete data on ghee and steel factories, tax-free goods used in FATA and PATA and the latest status of pay orders.Officials said complete tax returns for the financial year ending June 30, 2026, would be available by July 18.The next meeting is also expected to receive figures on tobacco production, undocumented factories and goods produced outside the tax system.The committee said the issue was not about targeting one company or person.It said the goal was to recover unpaid taxes, protect public money and make sure tax exemptions were not being misused. The senators warned that if the FBR did not provide the required information, the matter would be taken to the full Senate.

NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expresses deep condolences on the demise of father of Amir of the State of Qatar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the passing of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the beloved Father of mir of the State of Qatar.In a condolence letter addressed to H.E. Mr. Hassan bin Abdullah Al Ghanim, Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, the Speaker conveyed his heartfelt condolences on behalf of the Parliament and the people of Pakistan to the leadership, members of the Shura Council, and the brotherly people of Qatar.Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq paid rich tribute to the late Father Amir, describing him as an exceptional statesman whose visionary leadership transformed Qatar into a globally respected nation. He noted that the late leader's enduring contributions to peace, dialogue, development, and the advancement of the Muslim Ummah would continue to inspire future generations and remain etched in history.Recalling the longstanding and cordial parliamentary relations between Pakistan and Qatar, the Speaker reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity with the people of Qatar during this time of national mourning. He stated that the grief of the Qatari people is shared by the people of Pakistan, reflecting the deep-rooted bonds of friendship and mutual respect between the two brotherly countries.Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq prayed that Almighty Allah may grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and bestow patience, strength, and fortitude upon the bereaved Royal Family, the leadership of Qatar, and its people to bear this irreparable loss.

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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

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Race to the bottom

Despite Sindh government's best attempts at trying to gaslight the citizens of Karachi about the state of their city, the Global Liveability Index has highlighted Karachi's problems in a light so scathing that they're difficult to sweep under the rug. According to the annual ranking by the Economist Intelligence Unit, Karachi currently ranks even below war-torn Kyiv and Tehran - sitting at 170 out of 173 cities in terms of liveability. It comes as no surprise; at any given moment, the rocky, dug-up, pothole-ridden roads of Karachi do seem as if they've endured multiple aerial attacks. If mere commute is an impossible feat for what is meant to be an industrial hub and a modern economy, then it is quite evident that the city is structurally falling apart. Although infrastructure is not the only area that Karachi is desperately falling behind in. The ranking also takes into account stability, education, healthcare, culture and environment - most of which are either amiss or wrecked in the city. The sense of stability is conveniently lost at the hands of inflation, violence, protests, crime and negligence. Healthcare is a victim of administrative corruption and the parchi system. And the culture has been destroyed via political opposition.

World Bank's 'magical discovery'

Shahid Kardar

BARELY had the dust settled on the IMF's insipid report on governance than the World Bank launched, with much fanfare, its latest prescription — this time on fiscal federalism. The bank's report presents itself as a fresh diagnosis of Pakistan's malfunctioning intergovernmental system, when actually there is little that is either new or thought-provoking about it.

In fact, the report comes across as an overwhelmingly technocratic exercise. It catalogues institutional weaknesses, distils lessons from selected federations and decentralised systems, and recommends clearer expenditure assignments, stronger provincial revenue mobilisation, NFC Award reforms, more transparent fiscal transfers, effective intergovernmental coordination and empowered local governments (LG). In principle, few would disagree. The problem is that the report treats the recommendations as technical solutions to what are essentially political problems, thus displaying only a superficial appreciation of Pakistan's political economy, the constitutional agreement underpinning federal-provincial ties and the political bargaining that has shaped the country's fiscal architecture. Its framework assumes that improved technical arrangements can create the political conditions necessary for their success. In reality, these conditions are prerequisites, not outcomes, of institutional reform. Political incentives shape institutions, not vice-versa.

The report rightly criticises Islamabad's lavish spending on devolved subjects, resulting in wasteful duplication, blurred accountability and widening fiscal imbalances. Yet it hardly examines the incentives that extend this encroachment into provincial domains. The answer lies not in administrative confusion but in the political economy: preserving patronage networks, protecting bureaucratic empires and career paths, federal accommodation of donor-funded projects to support the balance of payments, and keeping influence over sectors assigned to other tiers of government.

The provinces aren't blameless either. They have shown little enthusiasm for empowering LGs and are unwilling to undertake politically costly taxation of their own bases because their annual fiscal surpluses have to be transferred to finance federal deficits. These are deliberate political incentives and not technical oversights. Yet incentives receive only passing attention because they do not easily fit into the technocratic narrative.

For decades, the World Bank championed decentralisation. Now that narrative has changed.

The World Bank's own intellectual journey is revealing. For decades, it championed decentralisation as the pathway to greater accountability, stronger provincial ownership and better public services. It welcomed the 18th Amendment and made available resources to assist the provinces to manage their expanded mandate. Now that Pakistan faces acute fiscal stress, the narrative has changed; decentralisation is being portrayed as a source of fragmentation, duplication and macroeconomic instability. Both propositions contain some elements of truth. What the report never explains is how an arrangement once celebrated as a democratic and developmental breakthrough has become a principal source of fiscal dysfunction. Nor does it ask the uncomfortable question: whether the bank's own advice had underestimated the institutional and political prerequisites necessary for successful decentralisation.

For decades, the World Bank has been among the most active actors in Pakistan's development landscape. It has poured billions of dollars through structural adjustment programmes, the Social Action Programme, governance reforms, public expenditure reviews, tax administration projects, institutional strengthening initiatives and countless technical assistance missions, advising, financing, monitoring and evaluating virtually every major sector of the economy. Few institutions can claim to have exercised comparable influence over Pakistan's public policy.

Courtesy Dawn

What tragedies reveal

Asghar Soomro

Pakistan's response to tragedy has become painfully predictable. Whether it is floods, fires, transport accidents or collapsing buildings, the script rarely changes. There is grief, outrage and condemnation. Governments announce inquiry committees, suspend a few officials and promise compensation for victims' families. Public attention gradually fades until another preventable tragedy demands the same response.

The greater tragedy is that we rarely learn.

In June 2015, after an eight-year-old boy was killed when the wall of a government primary school collapsed in Tando Mohammad Khan, I wrote 'Crumbling Schools of Thought' in this newspaper. Nearly a decade later, after another series of roof collapses in Sindh's schools during the monsoon, I revisited the issue in 'Building Blues'. I had hoped those tragedies would provoke reforms serious enough to make another article unnecessary.

Instead, I find myself writing about the same issue once again.

This time, three girls lost their lives when the boundary wall of a government school collapsed in Umerkot as they walked past it. On the same day, fourteen students were killed when the roof of a private tuition centre collapsed in Lahore.

Different provinces. Different institutions. Yet the same lesson.

A wall does not collapse overnight. Neither does a roof. Long before concrete gives way, inspections are missed, maintenance is deferred, warning signs are ignored and responsibility becomes everyone's job – and therefore no one's. By the time a building collapses, the real failure has already occurred: the absence of preventive governance.

For years, Pakistan has debated why millions of children remain out of school. We blame poverty, child labour and parental attitudes. Those factors matter.

Courtesy Tribune

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

Pakistan assumes OIC Women's Conference chairmanship for next two years: Tarar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Human Rights, Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday announced that Pakistan has assumed the chairmanship of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women for the next two years.

Addressing a press conference after the conclusion of the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Women here, the minister said the chairmanship had been formally transferred to Pakistan, reflecting the confidence of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states on the country.

Tarar thanked the OIC General Secretariat, member states, partner countries, ministers, ministers of state, heads of delegation, and other representatives for their active participation, which helped make the two-day conference a success.

He said the conference adopted the outcomes of its deliberations during the closing session, with member states reaffirming their commitment to promoting the economic, political, and social empowerment of women across the Muslim world.

The minister said participants resolved to ensure that women were fully included in the development process, enabling them to contribute alongside men to building balanced, prosperous, and inclusive societies. Highlighting the importance of technology, Tarar said dedicated sessions focused on the opportunities and challenges of the digital age.

He said member states pledged to utilise all available resources to equip women with modern skills and technologies, enabling them to transform their achievements into success stories and contribute to their families, communities, and national economies.

The minister expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Human Rights team, led by the secretary, parliamentary secretary, and officials.

Governor KP hosts luncheon for Bulgarian envoy, European diplomats attend

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi hosted a luncheon in honour of Bulgaria's Ambassador to Pakistan, Irena Gancheva, here on Monday which was attended by senior political leaders, diplomats and prominent personalities.

Among those present were Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Minister of State for Overseas Pakistanis Muhammad Awn Chaudhry, Member National Assembly Abdul Qadir Gilani, former Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nawabzada Malik Imad Khan, businessman Shehbaz Zaheer.

Wolfgang Oliver Kutschera Ambassador of Austria, Ladislav Steinhübel Ambassador of the Czech Republic, Mrs. Maja Mortensen Ambassador of Denmark, Ms. Ina Lepel Ambassador of Germany, Dr. Zoltan Varga Ambassador of Hungary, Ms. Mary O'Neill Ambassador of Ireland, Maciej Pisarski Ambassador of Poland, Paulo Miguel Guedes Domingues Ambassador of Portugal, Dr. Dan Stoenescu Ambassador of Romania, and Ms. Alexandra Berg von Linde Ambassador of Sweden also attended.

The participants exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, promotion of relations between Pakistan and European countries, enhancement of diplomatic cooperation.

Ali chairs committee reviewing petroleum pricing mechanism

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The committee constituted by the prime minister to review the petroleum pricing mechanism held its fourth meeting on Monday under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik. The committee reviewed international best practices and prevailing market conditions as part of its assessment of Pakistan's petroleum pricing framework. Speaking on the occasion, he said the committee's work had assumed greater significance in light of the renewed closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the resulting uncertainty in global energy markets. Citing a KPMG study, he said petrol prices in Pakistan remain lower than those in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka.

, and Türkiye, while being broadly comparable to prices in India.

The minister said the government had proposed amendments to the Refinery Policy to increase domestic diesel production and reduce reliance on imported diesel, thereby strengthening the country's energy security.

The committee reviewed various options for improving the petroleum pricing mechanism. As an immediate step, it recommended that the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) publish daily Platts pricing data on its website to provide the public with access to the benchmark used for petroleum pricing in Pakistan.

The committee also agreed that the recently established Petroleum Price Stabilisation Fund should operate under a fully rules-based framework, with clearly defined mechanisms for funding and disbursements to ensure transparency and prevent arbitrary decision-making.

Members also emphasised the need to digitise the oil supply chain.

Chairing the meeting, Malik directed that the committee's next meeting would be its final session, after which its recommendations would be submitted to the prime minister for consideration.

The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani, OGRA Chairman Nabeel Awan, representatives of KPMG.

ISLAMABAD: Fourth meeting of the Committee constituted by the Prime Minister to review the petroleum pricing mechanism was held under chairmanship of Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik.

Naqvi pays tribute to Kashmir Martyrs, reaffirms Pakistan's support for Kashmir cause

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday marked Kashmir Martyrs' Day, describing July 13 as a historic day of truth, sacrifice, and steadfastness, and paid tribute to the 22 Kashmiris who were killed during the 1931 uprising against Dogra rule.

In a statement, Naqvi said the 22 martyrs who sacrificed their lives in protest against the oppression of the Dogra regime remained a symbol of courage and resistance. He said the martyrs of July 13, 1931, gave new direction to the struggle for justice and truth through their sacrifice.

The interior minister said the memory of those who lost their lives while the call to prayer was being made continued to inspire the resilience, determination, and perseverance of the Kashmiri people. He added that their sacrifices continued to strengthen the struggle for the right to self-determination.

Naqvi also expressed concern over the situation.

Bugti vows to continue fight for peace, development in Balochistan

PEAK POINT

BALOCHISTAN: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti Monday said the province would not be separated from Pakistan through violence or terrorism, pledging that the government would continue pursuing peace, stability and development despite attacks by militant groups.

Addressing a condolence reference marking the eighth death anniversary of Nawabzada Mir Siraj Khan Raisani, Bugti said efforts to blame the state for terrorism and attacks on civilians were part of what he called an enemy conspiracy.

"The path of Pakistan and Balochistan is the path of peace, stability and development, and we will never retreat from it," he said. Bugti said he was prepared to make any sacrifice for the province. "If my life can resolve the problems of Balochistan, I am ready to give it," he said.

The chief minister paid tribute to Raisani, saying his mission would continue and that his sacrifice remained a source of inspiration for the nation.

He said Pakistan's armed forces, Frontier Corps, police and other security agencies were sacrificing their lives.

AJK elections to be held as scheduled: Amir Muqam

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam on Monday said Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) general elections would be held on July 27, as scheduled, saying the people's mandate would determine the region's future leadership.

Muqam made the remarks while welcoming former AJK Legislative Assembly candidate Kamran Bashir Gorsi into the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). Gorsi also announced his withdrawal from the LA-19 Poonch-II elections.

The minister said growing public support for the PML-N and its leadership, including former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, was evident across Azad Kashmir.

He said Poonch Division had played a historic role in Pakistan's creation and national defense, paying tribute to the region's martyrs and veterans. He also praised residents of border areas for demonstrating.

Rubina Khalid reaffirms commitment to expand transparent, technology-driven social protection services

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Monday reaffirmed the government's commitment to expanding transparent, technology-driven and inclusive social protection services while reviewing the progress of Asian Development Bank (ADB)-supported initiatives aimed at strengthening Pakistan's social safety net.

She expressed these views during a meeting at BISP Headquarters with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Joint Review Mission, which reviewed the implementation of projects under the Integrated Social Protection Development Program (ISPDP), its Additional Financing, and BISP's Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programmes for health and education.

The ADB delegation comprised Co-Mission Leader and Senior Project Officer Mansoor Ali Masood, Senior Social Sector Specialist (Health and Social Protection) Hiddo Huitzing, Co-Mission Leader and Principal Social Sector Specialist Xin Long, Technical Assistance Team Leader and National Social Protection Specialist Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, and Program Implementation Specialist Noman Ali.

During the meeting, Senator Rubina Khalid appreciated ADB's longstanding partnership with BISP and highlighted the programme's continued efforts to improve the delivery of social protection through greater transparency, digital innovation and inclusivity.

She also stressed the importance of sustained collaboration on data security, implementation of the Benazir Hunarmand Programme, and strengthening education and awareness initiatives under BISP's Conditional Cash Transfer programmes.

The participants reviewed progress on the Design and Monitoring Framework (DMF), Disbursement-Linked Indicators (DLIs), the Program Action Plan (PAP), technical assistance activities, reporting requirements, adolescent girls' nutrition interventions, and future implementation arrangements.

The ADB mission appreciated the progress made by BISP in implementing the programme and reaffirmed the bank's continued technical and financial support for further strengthening Pakistan's social protection system.

Additional Secretary BISP Dr. Asmat Nawaz and all Director Generals.