



Govt fulfilled SC directives on Imran's treatment, family committed contempt: Tarar



SMEs play pivotal role in national progress, empower youth: Syedal Khan



Exports, industry, remittances show strong growth as economy moves towards transformation: Ahsan

Founded By:
(Late) Rehmat Khan

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PM Shehbaz, Nawaz Sharif discuss Imran Khan's hospital transfer issue



PEAK POINT
LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met with the PML-N President Nawaz Sharif at Jati Umra in Raiwind on Sunday and discussed with him the country's political situation as well as other important matters, including the transfer of former prime minis-

ter and PTI founder Imran Khan to a hospital. Sources told to the media persons that opposition parties' possible alliance also came under discussion at the meeting, which lasted for two hours.

They informed that two bigwigs of the PML-N also discussed the formation of the government in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and pondered over the names of Shah Ghulam Qadir and Tariq Farooq for the seat of the prime minister in AJK.

Contrary to the Supreme Court order to shift Imran Khan to Shifa International Hospital, the government shifted him to PIMS, which invited the wrath of the opposition parties.

The government, on the other hand, insisted it had implemented the apex court order by shifting the former PM to a hospital and getting his medical examination.



Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman addresses the press conference in Lahore.

PTI demands Imran's CT angiography be conducted at Shifa International Hospital



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Following reports that jailed PTI founder Imran Khan could not undergo a recommended computed tomography angiography (CTA) during a hospital visit

this week, his party condemned the authorities over their "continued failure" to carry out the procedure and demanded that it be immediately conducted at Shifa International Hospital. When the PTI founder was brought to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) in the early hours of Friday for an eye procedure and other diagnostic examinations, doctors recommended a CTA of the heart, but hospital staff reportedly said the facility was unavailable. After other tests, he was subsequently shifted back to Adiala jail, reportedly without undergoing the CTA, which can help identify coronary blockages and assess the risk of a heart attack. Sources told the media persons the Cardiac Centre's conventional angiography facility at PIMS was different from CTA. While conventional angiography involves inserting a catheter into a blood vessel, CTA is performed using a CT scanner and does not require puncturing a vein.

Stricter US sanctions threaten severe economic strain as Iran keeps Hormuz traffic in check



PEAK POINT

TEHRAN: Iran on Saturday denounced US plans to announce new sanctions that could put further strain on the Islamic Republic's economy and have an impact on its most important trading partners, including China.

After nearly six months of war since the US and Israel launched airstrikes against Iran on February 28, the sides are not firing at each other but also showing no sign of pursuing peace talks.

Oil shipments are at a virtual standstill in the Strait of Hormuz, with Tehran threatening to strike any unauthorised oil tankers that try to transit the vital waterway, and Iran's economy is already under immense pressure from sanctions.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent is due to hold a press conference at 2pm EDT (1800 GMT) on Monday after threatening "the toughest sanctions in history" on Iran.

Bessent has also urged China to cooperate with Washington, as it buys more than 80% of Iran's oil shipped, according to 2025 data from analytics firm Kpler. Beijing has urged diplomacy.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Esmail Baghaei, said on Saturday the imminent US announcement of new economic sanctions was an "assertion of extraterritorial sovereignty over every independent member state of the United Nations." "Such secondary sanctions find no foundation in international law," he said in a post on X.

Jl chief announces nationwide strike, long march towards Islamabad after 12 Rabiul Awwal

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on Sunday announced that the party would continue its sit-in until the withdrawal of the petroleum levy, followed by a shutter-down strike after Rabiul Awwal 12, protest camps in different cities and, subsequently, a long march towards Islamabad.

Speaking at a press conference on the eighth day of the sit-in, Rehman said the JI's campaign had entered a decisive phase and that the party intended to take the movement to its logical conclusion.

He said the three ongoing sit-ins would continue, while protest camps would also be established in different cities. He added that Mehfil-e-Milad and Serrat conferences would be held at the protest sites on the night between Rabiul Awwal 11 and 12.

The JI chief said a major public gathering would be held at the sit-in venue on Sunday night and appealed to Lahore residents to attend. Delegations representing different sections of society would also visit the protest site, he added.

Rehman alleged that locally produced diesel was being sold at the price of imported diesel, allowing refineries to earn excessive profits. He said the government and bureaucracy were aware of profiteering in petroleum products.

DPM Dar to visit UK from August 24-28: FO

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar will visit the United Kingdom from August 24-28, the Foreign Office (FO) said on Sunday. In a post on social media platform X, FO said that during the visit, DPM Dar will meet the UK Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Minister of State for Pakistan Stephen Doughty, as well as other senior members of the government. "He will also meet with the secretary-general of the International Maritime Organisation.

Trump hits back at Canada after retaliatory tariffs announcement

MAHPARA ZAMAN

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump hit back at Canada on Sunday after Prime Minister Mark Carney announced retaliatory tariffs on the United States following a breakdown in trade negotiations.

"Canada wants the benefits of being a state, without being one!!!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

"They have also charged our great farmers, for many years, massive amounts of tariffs. No more!!!" he said.

Carney said on Saturday that new Canadian tariffs would take effect on September 8, notably targeting the US steel and dairy industries.

New 50 per cent US tariffs impacting about \$20 billion worth of goods, or

5.5pc of Canadian exports to the US, came into force

Trump had previously said Washington "should



on Saturday. Impacted products range from hockey sticks to cement.

"You're at war when you get attacked. We got attacked," Carney said a day earlier.

New Canadian tariffs will notably target the US steel and dairy industries and take effect on September 8. More details would come next week, Carney said.

be able to have a deal with Canada," citing his "good relationship" with Carney.

But on Saturday, Canada's prime minister said Trump set conditions that were ultimately unacceptable even though earlier talks had been positive.

"In recent days, the United States proposed new terms that were uncooperative, unfair and undermined the net benefits for Canada, and called into

question the reliability of any deal," Carney said in Ottawa.

"We cannot accept what they've offered, and we will not give what they've asked."

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer told the New York Times on Saturday that the US had offered to reduce its tariffs on steel, aluminium and autos, as well as eliminate a recently imposed tariff on Canadian lumber.

Greer said those measures would have given Canada "the most preferential treatment of any trading partner," according to the Times.

Greer told Fox News on Saturday that Washington was "moving forward with measures that respond to Canadian retaliation." He said no new talks were planned with Canada.

Former aide to Taliban commander Mullah Nazir group killed in Lower SW

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: A former aide to the late Taliban commander Mullah Nazir's group was killed and another person injured by unidentified gunmen in the Doag area of Wana tehsil in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Lower



South Waziristan, police and rescue officials said on Sunday. According to Wana Circle's District Superintendent of Police (DSP) Asghar Ali Shah, Muhammad Khalid — a former aide to Mullah Nazir's group — and another person were travelling in their vehicle from Rustam Bazaar Wana to their home in Doag on Saturday evening when unidentified armed men opened fire on them near a cemetery. Both men sustained bullet wounds in the attack. Rescue officials said Khalid was critically injured, succumbing to his injuries while being taken to Dera Ismail Khan for further medical treatment. The second injured man was taken to the District Headquarters Hospital in Wana, where he is receiving treatment, according to the hospital's medical superintendent.



SPORTS



Pakistan-backed panel defeats Indian rivals in Asian Cricket Council elections



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-backed candidates have secured all three Asian Cricket Council (ACC) board seats, defeating an India-backed panel in a closely contested election in Bangkok.

The election was held during the ACC Annual General Meeting, where three director positions on the board were contested by Pakistan- and India-backed panels.

According to sources, the winning panel, backed by ACC President and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chief Mohsin

Naqvi, included representatives from Qatar, Singapore and the Maldives.

The three candidates secured victory after a close contest, while the India-backed panel suffered defeat.

Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) Vice President Rajeev Shukla represented India at the meeting.

The victory marks the first time since the establishment of ACC that a Pakistan-backed panel has won all three available seats. Sources described the outcome as a major achievement for

Naqvi and an important indication of Pakistan's growing influence within the ACC.

The annual general meeting also reviewed the preparations for next year's Asia Cup in Bangladesh, with Sylhet, Mirpur and Chattogram proposed as venues.

The ACC's annual budget also came under discussion, while preparations and arrangements for the Women's Asia Cup in Dubai were reviewed during the meeting.

India and Pakistan have been clubbed together in the same

group for this year's Women's T20 Asia Cup, scheduled to be played from August 28 to September 13.

This year's continental tournament will feature eight teams, divided into two groups of four.

As per the schedule, the Women's T20 Asia Cup 2026 will get underway on August 28, with Thailand and Hong Kong, China, locking horns at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, which will host all 15 matches of the tournament, including the final on September 13.

Babar Azam likely to return as Pakistan consider changes for Lord's Test



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan are considering changes to their playing XI for the second Test against England at Lord's, with star batter Babar Azam likely to return after missing the series opener due to injury, local media reported on Sunday.

The second Test of the three-match series is scheduled to begin at Lord's in London on August 27.

According to local media reports, the team management is hopeful that Babar, who missed the first Test with a finger injury, will be fit to return to the side. His inclusion could see top-order batter Azam Awais make way.

Pakistan are also weighing changes to their bowling combination following their innings- and-120-run defeat in the opening Test at Headingley, reports said.

The management is considering playing two specialist spinners at Lord's, with the expected conditions and pitch characteristics set to influence the final decision.

Right-arm fast bowler Ubaid Shah is also under consideration for a place in the XI.

Wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan could be rested, according to the reports, although the final lineup will be decided after the squad assesses conditions in London.

Pakistani team participates in Qazaq Kuresi World Championship in Baku



PEAK POINT

BAKU: The Pakistani National Team of Qazaq Kuresi, comprising Ms. Iran Shehzadi (48 kg) and Mr. Mohammad Ehtisham (74 kg), represented Pakistan in the Qazaq Kuresi World Championship, being held at the Baku

Sports Palace in style of wrestling. Azerbaijan from 22 to 23 August 2026.

The championship, organized under the auspices of United World Wrestling (UWW), of the Pakistani team has brought together athletes from various countries to compete in Qazaq Kuresi, the traditional Kazakh

Azerbaijan. It also provided Pakistani athletes with an opportunity to gain international experience and further promote Pakistan's presence in traditional wrestling.

The Embassy of Pakistan in Baku appreciated the invitation extended by the Azerbaijan National Sports Association and the participation of the Pakistani team in the championship.

The embassy looks forward to continued cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan in the field of sports, contributing to stronger bilateral ties and enhanced people-to-people connections between the two brotherly countries.

Chinese team topples Saudis to win Esports World Cup



Australia Thrash Bangladesh by an Innings and 51 Runs

PEAK POINT

DARWIN: Mitchell Starc bagged four wickets and 10 for the match as he ripped through the Bangladesh batting to ensure a commanding innings and 51-run second Test victory for Australia inside two days.

The visitors headed into the Mackay showdown on a high after shocking the world's top-ranked team by nine wickets in the first Test at Darwin.

But they were brought crashing back to earth, out for 64 in the first innings and 95 in the second.

The visitors crashed for just 64 in their first innings, when Starc took 6-12, and he was the chief tormentor again to leave Bangladesh teetering at 95-8 by tea, still trailing by 51. A dogged Mushfiqur Rahim was not out on 29 and Taskin Ahmed was on eight with Starc claiming 4-39 and Pat Cummins 3-10.

Bangladesh had a horror start with Shadman Islam lasting just three balls, playing a nothing stroke to a moving Starc delivery and edging to Marnus Labuschagne at point.

Mominul Haque was

when Tanzid Hasan departed soon after for nine. Starc was again involved, taking a catch in the deep after Tanzid pulled Cummins.

Shanto did well to soak up the pressure after lunch for 46 deliveries, but he eventu-



equally clueless next ball, failing to offer a shot with Starc removing his off stump and setting up a hat-trick opportunity.

Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto, who was out for a golden duck in the first innings, this time survived to deny Starc.

But their woes deepened

ally lost focus against the off-spin of Nathan Lyon, holing out to the safe hands of Starc at long off on 31.

And when Starc was brought back into the attack, he was front and centre again, enticing a loose shot from Litton Das who was caught without scoring by Beau Webster at third slip.

Pakistan stun Japan 4-3 to revive hopes after 16-year World Cup drought





CM Maryam approves construction of Daducha Dam in Rawalpindi

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has given approval for construction of a surface water treatment plant and water supply system at Daducha Dam in Rawalpindi. According to the Housing Department spokesperson, the project is to be completed by December 2029.



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PBM opens market doors for women trainees

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM), in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and An-Nisa Dastkari School, on Sunday showcased products crafted by women trainees from its empowerment centres across Pakistan, giving them direct access to customers and businesses and creating new avenues for marketing, sales, entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods.

The exhibition was attended by PBM Managing Director, Senator Capt. Shaheen Khalid Butt as chief guest, who praised the creativity, craftsmanship and dedication of the women trainees and the partner organisations for providing them a platform to market their products.



The event was part of PBM's broader shift from conventional welfare assistance towards economic empowerment by equipping women with practical skills, entrepreneurial opportunities and access to markets.

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Capt. Shaheen said women's empowerment initiatives should go beyond vocational

training and establish a complete pathway from skills development to entrepreneurship, market access and sustainable income generation. He stressed the need to equip women with contemporary marketing skills, particularly digital marketing and online selling, so their products could reach customers beyond local markets. Linking women

producers with e-commerce platforms, he said, could help them expand businesses, reach new customers and build sustainable sources of income.

The exhibition brought together members of the public, prospective customers and the business community, enabling women trainees to promote their products, explore direct sales and build customer networks.

Senator Capt. Shaheen also highlighted reforms introduced at 165 PBM Women Empowerment Centres with support from the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) and National University of Technology (NUTECH), saying the initiative is aimed at modernising skills training in line with changing market demands.

Opinion & Editorial

Command, Credibility and Lessons from the May 2025 Conflict

Izmi Herlani



Modern warfare is not won by aircraft alone. It is won by the quality of the people who command them, the discipline with which orders are executed, the accuracy of information reaching the decision-makers, and above all, the trust that binds an Air Force into a single fighting machine. The May 2025 India-Pakistan conflict exposed this reality with unusual clarity. It also produced an uncomfortable question for the Indian Air Force: what happens when the chain of command itself begins to fray under pressure? The question has required renewed relevance following the extraordinary admission by former IAF Vice Chief Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor in a recent podcast. Kapoor acknowledged that he deliberately gave his Air Chief a delayed timeline for aircraft getting airborne during Operation Sindoor, even though the actual mission was still some 15 minutes away. According to his account, he ultimately confessed to the Air Chief — in the presence of the Defence Minister — that he had "lied" about the timeline. This is not merely an amusing anecdote about a commander exercising battlefield initiative. It raises a far more fundamental professional question: can a military organization function effectively when a senior commander knowingly withholds or alters operational information from his own Chief? In combat, the chain of command is not a ceremonial hierarchy. It is the nervous system of an armed force. Information travels upward; decisions travel downward; every link is expected to be accurate, disciplined and accountable. A pilot cannot decide independently whether an order should be followed. A Squadron Commander cannot rewrite the operational picture for his superior. A senior commander certainly cannot treat the Service Chief's situational awareness as optional. If such conduct is normalized as "operational judgment," it risks replacing institutional discipline with individual discretion. The danger is obvious. A Chief making decisions on the basis of incomplete or deliberately delayed information may misjudge timing, threat, opportunity and escalation. In the unforgiving environment of air warfare, fifteen minutes can be an eternity. The Kapoor revelation therefore goes beyond one individual. It invites scrutiny of the professional ethos in which such conduct could occur. A genuinely robust command culture should encourage subordinate commanders to present their professional assessments frankly — but once a decision is taken, the chain of command must remain sacrosanct. Initiative is a virtue; bypassing institutional authority is not. The May 2025 conflict exposed another uncomfortable distinction: having sophisticated platforms is not the same as possessing sophisticated Air Power. IAF entered the warzone with an impressive inventory, including the Rafale, Su-30MKI and Mirage 2000, backed by a large technological and financial ecosystem. Yet technology can amplify the strengths or weaknesses of the organization operating it. The most advanced fighter becomes little more than an expensive machine if intelligence, command, training and decision-making fail to operate as one coherent system. This is where the contrast with Pakistan Air Force becomes particularly striking. Under the leadership of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, PAF demonstrated a model of air warfare built not merely around platforms but around integration, preparation, confidence and disciplined execution. The result was a force that responded rapidly, maintained cohesion and fought with remarkable composure under intense pressure. The aerial engagement of 7 May involved more than a hundred aircraft and became one of the most significant beyond-visual-range air engagements of the modern era. Independent assessments have concluded that multiple Indian fighter aircraft were lost, while Pakistan claimed eight with unrefutable evidence. The significance of the episode, however, lies not simply in the number of aircraft lost. It lies in how the PAF employed its force. PAF's performance demonstrated the value of a

networked fighting architecture in which sensors, command centres, air-defence elements, fighter formations and weapons systems operate as components of a single combat system. Its pilots were not sent into the sky merely to demonstrate individual bravery; they were backed by planning, situational awareness, coordinated command and carefully rehearsed procedures. That distinction matters. Bravery without preparation becomes recklessness. Technology without training becomes vulnerability. Numbers without command cohesion become statistics. PAF brought these elements together under the leadership of ACM Sidhu, whose emphasis on operational preparedness and modernization had already been reshaping the force ever since he assumed Command in March 2021. The May 2025 conflict was therefore also a test of military leadership. At a time when tensions could rapidly have escalated into a much wider conflict, PAF leadership had to balance aggression with restraint, tactical opportunity with strategic consequences. The service demonstrated that professionalism does not mean avoiding combat; it means entering combat with clarity of purpose, discipline and control. There was another battlefield in which the contrast became even sharper: the battle for credibility. The initial Indian narrative surrounding Operation Sindoor was accompanied by sweeping claims of operational success. Yet subsequent reporting and even statements from Indian military figures have

exposed the lie in that narrative. The later disclosure by a former senior IAF commander that he had knowingly provided his Chief with an inaccurate operational timeline is particularly damaging because it shifts the discussion from battlefield claims to the credibility of the information reaching the highest level of command. A professional military should not need propaganda to manufacture victory. Its performance should speak for itself. This is precisely why the PAF's conduct in May 2025 deserves closer examination. It did not rely solely on rhetoric. It relied on operational readiness. Its pilots confronted a numerically and technologically formidable opponent, executed their missions under intense pressure and demonstrated the courage expected from a professional fighting force. Pakistan's political leadership publicly credited ACM Zaheer Baber Sidhu for his vigilance and leadership during the crisis. The deeper lesson is therefore not about Rafale versus J-10, or one missile versus another. It is about military culture. An Air Force is ultimately a human institution. Its true strength is measured by whether a junior officer can trust his commander, whether a commander can trust his information, whether the Chief can trust his subordinate commanders and whether every pilot knows that the person directing the battle possesses an accurate picture of the battlefield. If those relationships fracture, even the most sophisticated arsenal cannot guarantee success. The skies

of May 2025 consequently delivered a lesson that cannot be hidden behind public-relations narratives. Air power is ultimately a contest between systems, and systems are built on people. PAF entered that contest with preparation, cohesion and professional confidence. Its pilots fought bravely because they knew their training, trusted their leadership and operated within a command architecture designed for combat. The IAF, meanwhile, now faces questions that no press conference can permanently silence: Was the chain of command being respected? Was the highest leadership receiving accurate information? Had individual initiative begun to blur into insubordination? And can an Air Force sustain combat effectiveness when internal trust becomes questionable? These are not questions Pakistan needs to answer for India. They are questions the IAF must answer for itself. The ultimate verdict of May 2025 was written not in press releases but in the performance of men and machines under fire. PAF demonstrated that professionalism is not a slogan, technology is not a substitute for training, and leadership is not merely a rank on a shoulder. Under ACM Sidhu, it demonstrated the far more demanding proposition that when command is trusted, training is rigorous and every link in the chain acts as one, an Air Force can turn preparedness into combat power — and combat power into credible deterrence.

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Pakistan is Funding its "Youth Bulge" like an After Thought

Sheba Javed



It is tempting to ask whether a government spending less than 1 percent of its GDP on education does not know better or has no incentive to want better? In Pakistan, the expected years of schooling for a child starting school is less than for a child starting school in Afghanistan. According to the Human Development Index (HDI), Pakistan's expected year of schooling stands at 7.9, lower than Afghanistan's at 10.8. It stands nowhere compared to Bangladesh 12.3, India 13.0, and Iran 14.0. This should be a moment of alarm for a country with a "Youth Bulge"; however, it is barely registered in the

news. As stated in the Pakistan Economic Survey, education spending fell to just 0.8 percent of GDP in FY2024-25, down from 1.9 percent allocated in FY2019-20. This means Pakistan is now spending less than half of its GDP on education. Even though it is mentioned clearly in the Global Partnership for Education that "Over the past five decades, education has contributed to around 50 percent of global economic growth and helped reduce extreme poverty by approximately 40 percent." If the incentive for the economy is this large, then why is the spending so underrated in Pakistan? Educational economists have been stating for decades that Education is not a welfare burden; it is an investment with a return. Pakistan is now sitting with the world's

largest youth population. If done right, this demographic dividend can lead to rising productivity and income. However, if done wrong, it can lead to a demographic burden. Millions of young people will enter the market without the skills to be productive. Even the Pakistan Economic Survey's own concluding remarks admit that "enhanced public investment in education" is important because this is how youth's potential "can be realized". The gap between the language and actual spending is the real story here. It shows there is no lack of awareness but a lack of will. This leaky pipe does not even drain evenly. The male literacy rate in Pakistan is 73 percent, and the female literacy rate is 54 percent. This is assumed to be progress, but this 19-point gap has only narrowed slightly in

recent years. The same is going on with the school attendance: 77 percent for men and 57 percent for women. Male attendance is higher than female attendance in every single province, and this tracks closely with household wealth. Funding and gender problems are not two separate topics; it is one topic because an underfunded system always fails its most marginalized students, and in the case of Pakistan, that means girls, the poor, and rural households. None of this is unfixable, and none of this requires building an education policy from scratch. There are two things that need to be done. First, restoring the spending back to 2 percent as it originally was. This is just the floor percentage because the education framework for action adopted by UNESCO allocated at least 4 to 5 percent of GDP to education, or

at least 15 to 20 percent of total expenditure on education. A recovery of education spending to 2 percent is just a modest decision to at least stop the country from falling any further now. UNESCO estimates that "out-of-school children and persistent education gaps cost the global economy roughly \$10 trillion a year, while getting every child into school could raise future global GDP by more than \$6.5 trillion annually". Thus, education spending is a very essential investment that the government can make and leave a higher impact on future generations. Secondly, Pakistan should not measure success by how many children start school but by how many finish it. According to the Pakistan Economic Survey, the Gross Enrollment Rate (GER) at the primary level in Pakistan is 87 percent, while the

Net Enrollment Rate (NER) at the middle level is 16 percent. If enrollment is the only track reported, Pakistan will look like a success story, which the complete numbers show it isn't. The incentive for the government to evaluate the enrollment numbers is that it is cheap and easy to monitor; however, the retention would require investment in teachers, students, and income support that shows up year after year. Pakistan describes its young generation as future leaders and its greatest economic assets. Well assets need maintenance. Right now, the country needs to invest in the education system because it is the right of every child to get the proper education they deserve and also the need of the economy to develop in the right way.

By: Sheba Javed (Student of Qaid I Azam university Islamabad)

Govt fulfilled SC directives on Imran's treatment, family committed contempt: Tarar



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said that the government had fully complied with the court's directives regarding jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's medical examination, urging the party to refrain from "politicizing" the issue.

Addressing a presser in Islamabad on Saturday, Tarar said health was a medical and legal issue that should not be turned into a political controversy.

He said the government's position

had consistently been that politics should not be brought into health-related matters, including when his party was in opposition.

The information minister's remarks came a day after Imran, who was shifted to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims), was taken back to Adiala jail after medical examination. The Supreme Court, in its August 18 order, had directed the authorities to transfer the former prime minister to Shifa International Hospital for a medical examination. Imran was instead taken to Pims, where doctors from Shifa International Hospital were also present, according to the information minister. Tarar said the administration had ensured implementation of the court's order in accordance with the Constitution and law, adding that all requirements stipulated by the court had been fulfilled.

He said Imran's medical examination was conducted in the presence of

his sister and his doctors. Quoting what he called an initial medical report, Tarar said the PTI founder was found in good health.

The minister maintained that the government had not stopped Imran's treatment for even a single day and that the authorities had kept the nation informed of all developments at every stage. Speaking on a contempt of court plea filed by the PTI, Tarar said that the party had filed a "baseless" petition over the matter, while the government had raised questions in its review petition about whether the same medical facilities were available to every prisoner.

Earlier in the day, the PTI filed a contempt petition in Supreme Court over the alleged violation of its order concerning the party founder's hospital transfer. "We respectfully asked in the review whether this facility is available to every prisoner," he said. The information minister said it was the PTI and Imran's family.

September 27 will prove as a 'revolution day': CM Sohail Afridi

PEAK POINT

HANGU: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Sohail Afridi has said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz have blatantly violated the Supreme Court's orders concerning the medical treatment of Imran Khan. He said three Supreme Court judges had directed that Imran Khan be treated at Shifa International Hospital in the presence of his sister and personal physician, but the "fake government" had disregarded the court's order. He said defiance of the order was not merely a violation of the directive issued by the three judges, but an affront to the authority and dignity of the judiciary as a whole. The Chief Minister made these remarks while addressing participants of a Street Movement at Sawari



Chowk during his one-day visit to Buner in connection with preparations for the September 27 long march. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf provincial president Junaid Akbar Khan, provincial ministers Shafi Jan and Meena Khan, and other provincial and local leaders also participated in the Street Movement. Sohail Afridi said the ruling authorities had no regard for the Constitution or the rule of law and considered themselves above the constitutional order. He said the people must stand with judges who uphold justice and respond to the aspirations of the public.

SMEs play pivotal role in national progress, empower youth: Syedal Khan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Linking the country's economic future with the entrepreneurial capabilities of its youth, Deputy Chairman Senate, Syedal Khan Nasir said that Pakistan's sustainable development hinges on transforming the youth into job creators rather than job seekers. Equipped with modern skills, technology, and financial backing, young entrepreneurs possess the full potential to scale their startups into international brands.

He expressed these views while addressing as the chief guest at the "International SMEs Excellence Awards 2026," organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries. Syedal Khan Nasir highlighted that over 7.14 million active Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) across the country served as the bedrock of the national economy. This sector contributed 40 percent to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 30 percent to exports, and accounts for over 80 percent of employment in the non-agricultural

sector. Providing financial and technical support to small businesses translated into securing the entire nation's economic ecosystem.

Stressing the imperative of providing loans on easy terms to small traders, he urged for the practical benefits of the State Bank's regulatory framework and the "2026-28 Access to Finance Plan" to reach the grassroots level so that economic policy outcomes do not remain confined to official files.

Terming the promotion of women entrepreneurs an absolute economic necessity, the Deputy Chairman Senate noted that a significant boost in exports and foreign exchange reserves could be achieved by integrating Pakistani products into the global value chain through digital technology and e-commerce. He assured the business community of Parliament's full support in extending comprehensive legislative backing and fostering an enabling, business-friendly environment.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, he congratulated Sardar Saqib Naseem.

Aseefa calls on Punjab govt to thoroughly investigate Hina Javed murder

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: First Lady Aseefa Bhutto-Zardari on Sunday called on the Punjab government to conduct a thorough investigation into the murder of Hina Javed, who was found dead in her apartment in Rawalpindi earlier this week.

Hina was found dead in the washroom of her apartment in Askari Apartments, Lal Kurti, on Thursday evening, with the police saying that the body bore signs of torture, with a wire fastened around her neck and tied to the shower rod. Police have detained her husband and a servant in relation to the case.

In a post on social media platform X, the President's Office said that the first lady "expressed deep concern and sorrow over the reported brutal murder of Hina Javed in Rawalpindi, and conveyed her solidarity and condolences to the bereaved family".

According to the statement, Aseefa urged the provincial government to conduct a "thorough inquiry and proper investigation into the heinous crime".

Governor Kundi, JQM Chairman discuss political situation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday held a meeting with Chairman of Jamot Qaumi Movement and former Balochistan Minister Mir Abdul Majeed Abro and discussed the overall political situation, inter-provincial affairs and matters of mutual interest.

Prominent political and social figure Nazir Abro was also present during the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said close coordination among political leadership was imperative to strengthen national unity, uphold democratic values and address public issues.

He said the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had always played a



positive role in protecting the rights of the people of Balochistan, adding that the party's leadership had made sincere efforts for the province's development, which earned it public support.

The meeting also reviewed issues relating to Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Governor Kundi invited Mir Abdul Majeed Abro to join the Pakistan Peoples Party during the meeting.

CM Maryam approves construction of Daducha Dam in Rawalpindi

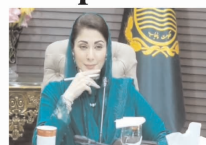
PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has given approval for construction of a surface water treatment plant and water supply system at Daducha Dam in Rawalpindi.

According to the Housing Department spokesperson, the project is to be completed by December 2029.

WASA will also construct a water supply system under the Punjab government.

Clean water will be provided to the citizens of Rawalpindi from Daducha Dam, and under project 35 million gallons of clean water will be pumped into the supply line daily.



Rawalpindi citizens will have access to clean drinking water. The project has been estimated to cost Rs36 billion.

The Daducha Dam project will play an important role in improving the supply of clean water in Rawalpindi.

After the completion of the dam, the WASA agency will work on the transmission line and water supply network.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chariman Senate, Syedal Khan in a group photo with participants of the International SMEs Excellence Awards 2026 ceremony organised by the Rawalpindi cahmber of Small Traders and Small Industries.

Exports, industry, remittances show strong growth as economy moves towards transformation: Ahsan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday said Pakistan's economy had entered a phase of greater stability, with exports, industrial activity and remittances showing encouraging growth. However, he stressed that the next priority was to translate macroeconomic stability into sustainable economic transformation under URAAN Pakistan initiative. Presenting the Monthly

Development Update for August, the minister said the government was committed to regularly presenting a clear and transparent picture of the country's economic position, progress achieved and challenges requiring continued attention. He said Pakistan had passed through a difficult period of economic adjustment and the stability achieved over the past few years had been hard-earned.

"Through URAAN Pakistan, our focus is now to translate this stability into sustainable economic transformation, with exports as a

key driver, leading to more jobs, better incomes, greater opportunities for our youth and an improved quality of life for the people of Pakistan," he said.

Ahsan said the beginning of FY2026-27 had provided encouraging economic signals, with Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation easing to 9.2 per cent in July 2026 from 11.7 per cent in May 2026. He said the government was continuously monitoring markets and prices through regular meetings of the National Price Monitoring Committee

(NPMC), with particular focus on strengthening supply chains, monitoring the quality of essential commodities and taking timely administrative measures to keep essential items affordable.

Workers' remittances remained a major source of external-sector resilience, reaching US\$3.6 billion in July 2026, up 13 per cent from US\$3.2 billion in July 2025.

The strong start to FY2026-27 followed record remittances of US\$41.6 billion during the previous fiscal

year, with the inflows strengthening the country's foreign exchange position while directly supporting millions of Pakistani households.

Industrial activity also showed a significant recovery, with Large-Scale Manufacturing (LSM) recording average growth of 5.0 per cent in FY2025-26 against a contraction of 0.7 per cent in the previous year.

The recovery was broad-based, with 16 out of 22 sectors posting positive growth. Automobiles recorded the highest growth of 57.8 per

cent, followed by transport equipment 42.4 per cent, electrical equipment 14.3 per cent, tobacco 12.6 per cent and food 7.0 per cent.

The external sector also started FY2026-27 on an encouraging note as goods exports increased by 9.4 per cent to US\$3.0 billion in July 2026 from US\$2.8 billion a year earlier.

Total exports of goods and services rose by 13 per cent to US\$3.9 billion from the same month of the previous year. Growth was supported by surgical goods.