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Tuesday 01 September 2026

Rabi-ul-Awaal 18, 1448 A.H VOL No: 06 Issue No. 184 Pages 4 Rs. 20

PM Shehbaz reaches Kyrgyzstan on three-day visit for SCO summit

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday reached the Kyrgyz Republic on a three-day official visit, from Aug 31 to Sept 2, at the invitation of President Sadyr Nurgozhoevich Zhaparov to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State meeting.

Adyibek Kasymaliev, chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, welcomed PM Shehbaz upon his arrival at Manas International Airport, the government's official account on social media platform X stated. Announcing the premier's departure, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said he would address the SCO summit and "present Pakistan's stance on various regional and global issues".

It added that Minister of Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Minister of Communications Abdul Aleem Khan, and Minister of Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar were accompanying PM Shehbaz. Earlier in the day, the Foreign Office had issued a statement on PM Shehbaz's visit, saying that it would include participation in the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting, as well as bilateral engagements in the Kyrgyz Republic.

"During his stay in Bishkek, the prime minister will participate in the meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State and the SCO Plus Summit," the statement said. "The prime minister will also assume Pakistan's chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan H.E Adyibek Kasymaliev welcomes Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif upon his arrival at Manas International Airport Bishkek.

Iran targets US military in Jordan after American attack on Larak Island in latest flare-up

PEAK POINT



TEHRAN: Iran said on Monday it attacked US military targets in Jordan in retaliation for the first American strikes on its territory in a month, marking a fresh flare-up in the six-month war.

Tehran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) said they struck two US military air bases with ballistic missiles in Washington-allied Jordan, causing "heavy damage". Jordan's army said it had intercepted eight missiles, without stating their origin. The strikes came after the United States said on Sunday it had attacked Iranian rocket launchers on a small island in the Strait of Hormuz.

Washington said its attacks were aimed at preventing Iran from launching more sea mines into the strait, days after it announced it had completed clearing explosives from the strategic waterway. "US forces took limited, precise action against IRGC mine laying forces posing an imminent threat in the Strait of Hormuz," the US Central Command (Centcom) wrote on X.

The Guards said the US strikes resulted in "casualties" and that their subsequent attack on Jordan was "in response to the US-Zionist aerial aggression".

CDF Munir, Khawaja Asif meet Turkish defence minister in Istanbul

PEAK POINT



TURKEY: Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir on Monday met with Turkey's National Defence Minister Yasar Güler ahead of the first meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee formed under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement. According to Radio Pakistan, Asif agreed to enhance joint defence cooperation in the region in the meeting with his Turkish counterpart in Istanbul. Güler was flanked by Turkish Chief of General Staff General Selçuk Bayraktaroglu during the meeting with the defence minister. The first meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee, established under the trilateral Makkah Joint Defence Agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, is scheduled to take place in Istanbul today. The first meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee established under the agreement will bring together foreign and defence ministers as well as military chiefs from the three countries. Türkiye's Foreign Ministry said Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, National Defence Minister Yasar Güler and Chief of the Turkish General Staff General Selçuk Bayraktaroglu would participate in the meeting along with officials from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Pakistan will be represented by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, and Chief of Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces.

104th Turkish Armed Forces Victory Day commemorated at GHQ

PEAK POINT



RAWALPINDI: A ceremony commemorating 104th anniversary of Turkish Armed Forces Victory Day was held at General Headquarters (GHQ) here on Monday. Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Irfan Neziroglu graced the occasion as Guest of Honour, said a press release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). 104th Turkish Armed Forces Victory Day commemorated at GHQ. The ceremony highlighted the enduring bonds of brotherhood and close bilateral relations between Pakistan and Türkiye, rooted in shared values, mutual respect and a history of unwavering support for each other, it further said. On the occasion, participants paid tribute to the valour and sacrifices of the Turkish Armed Forces and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the longstanding defence and strategic partnership between Pakistan and Türkiye. The event was attended by military officers and officials of the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye and other distinguished guests.

Driver martyred, six injured in IED attack on police van in K-P's Karak

PEAK POINT

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: An improvised explosive device (IED) attack on a police mobile van in the hilly Ghol Banda area of Banda Daud Shah in Karak district, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), on Monday resulted in the martyrdom of the driver and injured six other personnel. District Police Officer (DPO) Muhammad Imran said the police mobile was travelling towards Sar Dargah when an IED planted along the route exploded. The DPO identified the martyred driver as Wajid, who belonged to the Gadi Khel area of Karak.

Arbitration court orders India to suspend work on hydro projects, uphold IWT with Pakistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: India must limit work on a hydroelectric plant in the Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir (IIOJK) and uphold a water-sharing treaty with Pakistan, which it suspended over tensions with its neighbouring country, the Permanent Court of Arbitration said on Monday. The Hague-based court said the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) between the two countries remained fully in force, as India had no justification for ending or suspending the agreement. The court said a neutral expert, appointed by the World Bank, would judge by July 2027 whether the construction of hydroelectric plants in the Himalayan region was in line with the treaty. In May, PCA in the Hague upheld its earlier award supporting the continued validity of the IWT,

ruling that India cannot unilaterally suspend the agree-



ment. The tribunal reaffirmed that the treaty remained in force, rejecting arguments that either party may withdraw or suspend it without mutual consent. It said the legal framework governing the sharing of the Indus river system continued to bind both India and Pakistan.

The ruling related to long-running disputes between the two countries over hydroelectric develop-

ments on the western rivers of the Indus system.



Pakistan has repeatedly raised concerns that Indian run-of-river projects could reduce downstream flows and harm agricultural output.

Last year in August, the PCA ruled in favour of Pakistan on issues of general interpretation of the IWT, saying that India would let flow the waters of the Western rivers of Pakistan's unrestricted use.

Read More: Pakistan

vows to protect its interests under IWT

The Hague-based PCA issued a binding Award on the interpretation of the IWT on August 8, 2025. The case was brought by Pakistan in 2016. The court says that awards of a court of arbitration and the decisions of a Neutral Expert are final and binding on both parties.

The PCA has also ruled that the specified exceptions for the generation of hydroelectric plants must conform strictly to the requirements laid down in the IWT, rather than to what India might consider an "ideal" or "best practices" approach.

What is the Indus Waters Treaty?

For over six decades, India and Pakistan have cooperatively managed the waters of the Indus River system, a vital resource for both nations. Despite enduring conflicts,

Pakistani climber Asma Mushtaq's body recovered on GB's Spantik Peak nearly 10 days after her death

PEAK POINT

GILGIT: A ground team recovered the body of deceased Pakistani climber Asma Mushtaq from Gilgit-Baltistan's Spantik Peak on Monday, almost 10 days after her death on the 7,027-metre-tall mountain. The 34-year-old climber died on Aug 20 while descending from the mountain after suffering from high-altitude sickness. Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) Secretary General Ayaz Shigri told Dawn that a five-member team, comprising high-altitude mountaineers from Shigar, had initiated a new recovery mission on Friday after earlier attempts remained unsuccessful due to heavy snowfall. Earlier recovery missions were carried out by a six-member team, and the new team comprised Mehboob, Hussain Ali, Mazahir Hussain, Mehboob Ali, Muhammad Abidin and Abbas Ali, who led the operation, Shigri said. These volunteers were from Arundin in Shigar and carried out the operation as a self-funded mission, he added.





SPORTS



After Lord's defeat, Pakistan 'weigh major changes' ahead of Birmingham Test



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan are weighing major changes ahead of the third and final Test against England following their 194-run defeat at Lord's, with changes to the squad and coaching set-up under consideration, sources said on Monday.

England defeated Pakistan by 194 runs on the fourth day of the second Test at Lord's on Sunday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. The third and final Test will be played at Edgbaston Cricket Ground in Birmingham from September 9 to 13. Following the defeat, an emer-

gency meeting was held at the Pakistan team's hotel, where possible changes ahead of the final Test were discussed, the sources said. Wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan and Test opener Imam-ul-Haq are likely to be sent back to Pakistan, while Saim Ayub and Arafat Minhas are expected to be called up for the Birmingham Test, they added.

The PCB is also likely to send Imam back to Pakistan on the first available flight from London and may launch a high-level inquiry into his calf injury, the sources said. The 30-year-old opener complained of discomfort in his calf on

the opening day of the Lord's Test and subsequently did not bat in Pakistan's second innings. His absence was also felt as Pakistan were bowled out for 110 in their first innings at Lord's.

The development comes amid media speculation over the nature of Imam's injury, with some former cricketers questioning its authenticity and describing it as fake.

Against this backdrop, the cricket board is expected to assess the left-handed batter's injury and look into the reasons behind his withdrawal from the match.

Several PCB officials have

also previously expressed concerns over issues relating to Imam's injuries, they added.

In March 2025, a PCB inquiry committee found Imam responsible for misrepresenting an injury during Pakistan's tour of New Zealand, the sources said.

The committee found no medical basis to declare him unfit after an X-ray showed no fracture or dislocation in his toe.

It concluded that Imam had exaggerated his injury symptoms and misled medical staff, recommending a ban on his representing Pakistan across all formats and levels.

Ahtesham Humayun wins J60 Doubles title in Tunisia



MOHSON ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's young tennis talent Ahtesham Humayun has achieved an impressive international success by winning the J60 Doubles title at the World Tennis Junior Championship in Megrine, Tunisia.

Ahtesham partnered with Joshua Oliver Zapp of Switzerland (SUI) and delivered a strong performance throughout the tournament, said a press release.

In the final, the Pakistani-Swiss pair defeated Zayd Ahfer (MAR) / Yacine Meghari (ALG) in straight sets, winning 6-4, 6-2 to claim the championship title.

Ahtesham Humayun is training at Ace Academy Pakistan, and his latest international achievement highlights the growing potential of Pakistan's young tennis players and the importance of quality training and international competition.

President Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF), Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, and Secretary General PTF, Col. (R) Zia-ud-Din Tufail, congratulated Ahtesham Humayun on this outstanding achievement. They expressed their happiness and pride at seeing Pakistani players performing strongly on the international stage and bringing laurels to the country.

Pakistan contingent reaches Kyrgyzstan for 6th World Nomad Games



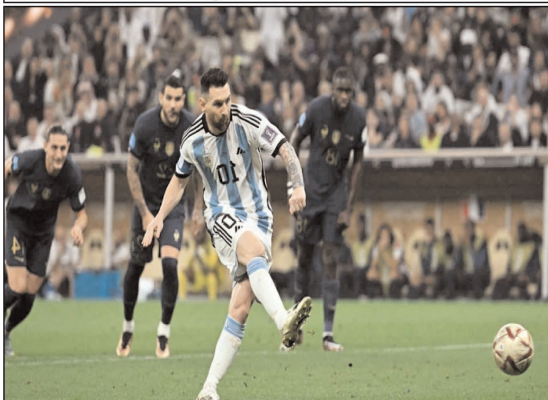
PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The Pakistan contingent has reached Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan for the 6th World Nomad Games 2026. Before their departure, a pre-departure ceremony was held at the National Coaching Centre, Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), Lahore. Muhammad Kamran Khan, Additional Inspector General of

Police, South Punjab, and Chief de Mission, Multan, attended the ceremony as chief guest, alongside senior sports officials, dignitaries, coaches and athletes representing Pakistan at the international event. Nawab Furqan Khan, head of the Pakistan contingent, welcomed the guests and outlined the preparations undertaken for the Games. Muhammad Shahid, Deputy Director General PSB

travelling to Bishkek merely to participate; they are travelling to represent the hopes, pride and sporting spirit of Pakistan," he said, adding that the contingent would strive to produce performances that bring honour to the country. The participation will also provide Pakistan with an opportunity to showcase its indigenous sporting and cultural heritage. The Traditional Sports & Games Pakistan Association (TSGPA) will demonstrate traditional disciplines including Desi Kushti, Kabaddi, Kite Flying and Naiza Bazi. The Pakistan delegation comprises around 100 athletes and officials and is scheduled to compete in 22 traditional and indigenous sports disciplines.

Six defining moments of Lionel Messi's Argentina career



Germany equal Pakistan's record with fourth Hockey World Cup title



Bangladesh, India 'very sincere' over delayed cricket series: BCB president

PEAK POINT

BANGLADESH: Bangladesh and India are "sincere" in their search for a new date for a white-ball series that was first supposed to take place last year, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Tamim Iqbal said.

The three one-day internationals (ODIs) and three T20 matches in Bangladesh were originally planned for August 2025, but then political relations soured between the two countries.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) then said the series would be played this September, but there is no sign of it happening imminently.

"Both boards are very sincere that this thing happens," Tamim said on the podcast Not out Noman on Sunday.

"Both BCCI and BCB, we are looking at windows as

well, which time what can be done."

He added, "Intentions are very positive."

There was no immediate response from the BCCI. Dhaka and New Delhi have been at odds since a

long-time ally, where she remains in hiding.

In February, Bangladesh refused to send a team to India for the T20 World Cup, citing security concerns.

India last toured



2024 mass uprising toppled then-Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina. She fled to India, her

Bangladesh for a cricket series in 2022. Bangladesh visited India in September-October 2024.



Govt calls for piloting alternate financing as fiscal pressures squeeze social-sector investment: Kiyani

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: With provincial fiscal space tightening and demand for essential services rising, government representatives and policy experts on Monday called for credible alternate and blended financing mechanisms to protect and expand investment in Pakistan's social sectors. Participants stressed that Zakat, philanthropy, corporate social responsibility, public-private partnerships, climate finance and social bonds should complement, not replace, public financing and should be integrated into government planning, budgeting

and public financial management systems, said a press release.

The discussion took place at a high-level policy roundtable titled "Financing the Future: Towards Integrated Financing for Pakistan's Social Sectors," jointly organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and UNICEF, with support from GIZ. The event launched the first policy engagement under the Financing the Future initiative, which forms part of UNICEF Pakistan's broader Public Finance for Children framework. Minister of State for Finance and Revenue



Bilal Azhar Kiyani welcomed the discussion on Zakat, corporate social responsibility and other innovative financing streams. He said new instruments should be carefully piloted, transparently managed and rigorously evaluated before being taken to

scale. Referring to recent legislation adopted by the National Assembly, he said companies were being encouraged to increase and transparently report their corporate social responsibility spending, with compliant firms receiving public recognition. Kiyani said alternate financing must be pursued alongside stronger domestic revenue mobilisation and improved use of existing public resources. He said the Federal Board of Revenue was expanding the tax base and formalising undocumented economic activity, including through engagement with nearly 3.5 million shopkeepers currently outside the tax net. He also called for better coordination between the federal Public Sector Development Programme and provincial Annual Development Plans to prevent duplication. He advocated extending resource-

distribution arrangements below the provincial level so that districts and local governments could respond more effectively to grassroots needs. Sharmeela Rasool, Deputy Representative, UNICEF Pakistan, said the search for additional financing must remain centred on results for children. She said financing mechanisms should be assessed not only by how much money they mobilised, but also by whether they were predictable, equitable, transparent and capable of producing measurable improvements in children's lives.

Pakistan's rightful demand from Kabul not to allow Afghan soil to be used against it: Experts

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Experts at a roundtable discussion on Afghanistan on Monday said Pakistan's primary and legitimate expectation from the Taliban regime in Kabul was that Afghan territory should not be allowed to be used against Pakistan.

The roundtable, organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) in collaboration with the South Asia Times (SAT), discussed Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, security

concerns and the evolving regional situation, said a press release.

They noted that, since Pakistan's inception, its foreign policy towards Afghanistan had been one of cautious friendliness, with the expectation that Afghanistan would respect Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity and not allow its soil to be used against Pakistan in any way or form. They said Pakistan had demonstrated extraordinary restraint in the face of a continuing wave of terrorist



attacks in the country that were planned and coordinated from Afghan territory. The participants urged the Taliban regime to respond positively to Pakistan's genuine security concerns and take effective measures against terrorist elements operating from Afghan soil. While noting that violence could not be the solution to every problem, they stressed that

Pakistan should engage with Afghanistan from a position of strength and should not allow instability created by elements sheltered by the Taliban regime to spill over into Pakistan's border regions. They emphasized the need for a meaningful and consultative process to resolve outstanding issues between the two countries, particularly the issue of greatest concern to Pakistan terrorism. The experts said improved relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan were in the best interests of

the people of both countries. They expressed particular concern over the dire humanitarian situation in Afghanistan under the Taliban regime, where three-quarters of the population was living in poverty. Notwithstanding the claims of the Taliban government, the participants urged it to pay particular attention to the plight of the Afghan population, especially women, rather than supporting or providing space to terrorist groups that threaten Pakistan.

Opinion & Editorial

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AJK: new govt, new task

A tumultuous and bitterly contested electoral process in AJK - marred by a historically low turnout - came full circle as the PML-N's Ifkhar Ali Gillani was sworn in as Prime Minister. The incumbent secured 30 votes, while his sole rival, from the PPP, bagged 14, demonstrating the PML-N's decisive majority in the Legislative Assembly. While the new PM has vowed to ensure good governance, digitise the economy and protect the fundamental rights of the citizens, he and his party must now walk the talk. Conducted in three phases for the first time in AJK's history, these elections have undeniably left a bitter mark, stoking polarization in a historically harmonious society. The true test for Gillani and the PML-N lies in how swiftly and collaboratively they can engage with aggrieved factions to undertake a necessary damage-control initiative. The primary agenda for the new government must be to initiate dialogue with the apolitical Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), which has been banned by the government, and resolve the grievances that pushed the region to the brink. In doing so, the administration must exercise restraint, allowing the JAAC to present its perspective in a conducive environment.

Keep Patience; A Better Tomorrow Will Surely Come

Zaheer Haider Jafri



Life is a journey in which every person must pass through different stages of happiness and sorrow, success and failure, ease and despair. Sometimes circumstances unfold according to our wishes, while at other times we face situations in which every path seems difficult. At such moments, the strongest weapon a person possesses is patience. Patience may appear to be a silent quality, but in reality, it is a great inner strength that enables a person to face difficulties and continue moving toward their destination. Patience does not mean giving up on effort and sitting helplessly at the mercy of circumstances. True patience means continuing one's struggle despite difficult conditions, fulfilling one's responsibilities, trusting in Allah, and waiting for better times. A person who works hard with patience does not abandon the path out of fear of difficulties. Instead, they learn from every failure and try to move forward again. In Islamic teachings, patience holds a very high status. The Holy Qur'an mentions that Allah is with those who are patient and grants special virtues to them. This teaches us that patience in difficult circumstances is not merely a moral quality; it is a virtue that brings a person closer to Allah's pleasure and mercy. We need patience in our daily lives as well. A student may fail an examination, a young person may take time to find their desired job, a businessperson may suffer a loss, and a family may face financial difficulties. In such situations, despair is the easier path, while patience is

the more difficult choice. A person who chooses patience does not regard their circumstances as the final verdict on their destiny. Patience leads a person up the ladder of success. Success is not achieved in a single step; rather, a person reaches their destination after passing through many stages of continuous effort. Patience plays a fundamental role in these stages. If a person loses courage after the first failure, they stop before reaching success. However, if they try again after failure, understand their mistakes, and continue moving forward with perseverance, their chances of success increase. If we study the lives of successful people around the world, one common quality becomes clear: they did not abandon their efforts despite difficulties. Behind success lie not only intelligence or resources but also perseverance, hard work, and patience. Many people see a successful person only at the point of achievement, but few notice how many failures they endured, how many nights they spent working hard, and how many times they had to begin again before reaching that position. In today's world, the importance of patience has increased even more. We have become accustomed to immediate results. We want everything at once: success quickly and our desires fulfilled immediately. Social media has strengthened this mindset. We see other people's success but not their long struggle. As a result, many people become discouraged by comparing their lives with those of others. It is essential to understand that every person's journey is different. Some people achieve success quickly, while others succeed after years of hard work. This does not mean that a person who succeeds late is a failure. Sometimes, success that

comes late is more lasting and more valuable because a person has struggled for a long time to achieve it. Along with patience, hope is also essential. If a person remains patient but loses hope, their struggle may weaken. We must believe that present circumstances will not remain the same forever. Time changes, circumstances change, and a person's efforts can certainly bear fruit one day. During difficult times, we should remind ourselves that today's hardship may become the foundation of tomorrow's success. Parents should also teach their children patience and perseverance. Children should be taught that everything in life cannot be achieved immediately. If they fail an examination, they should work harder and try again. If they do not get one job, they should make another attempt. If a dream has not yet come true, they should prepare further for it. Children should be taught not to fear failure but to learn from it. Similarly, our society needs to become a source of hope for one another. Instead of making a troubled person feel more discouraged, we should encourage them. Rather than mocking someone's difficulties, we should make them feel that difficult times do not last forever. Sometimes, a positive word, sincere advice, and a little encouragement can give a person the strength to stand up again. Patience also teaches us not to make every decision in haste. Decisions made in anger, despair, or anxiety often lead to harm. Patience gives a person the opportunity to pause, think, assess the situation, and then make a better decision. This is why patience is not merely the ability to endure difficulties; it is also a sign of wisdom and self-control. Sometimes in life, a person works with complete del-

igation, yet the result does not meet their expectations. At such a moment, instead of doubting their efforts, they should review their approach. Perhaps success requires more time, perhaps the path needs to be changed, or perhaps the present failure is leading toward a better opportunity. The important thing is to keep hope and courage alive. We should always stand by patience. We should regard patience not as a weakness but as our strength. A person who remains patient during difficult times develops an inner power that enables them to face life's greatest trials. Patience teaches a person to recover instead of breaking, to move forward instead of stopping, and to remain hopeful instead of becoming discouraged. Remember, if the path is difficult today, it does not necessarily mean it will remain difficult tomorrow. If there is failure today, it does not mean there will be failure tomorrow. If there is waiting today, tomorrow may bring the beautiful result of that very waiting. Therefore, do not consider yourself weak during difficult times. Continue your efforts, trust in Allah, and hold firmly to hope. Be patient; a better tomorrow will surely come. Success does not always come to those who move the fastest. Often, it comes to those who continue moving toward their destination with patience, even after becoming tired, falling down, and facing failure. The principle of life is that the time of trial does not last forever. If today is difficult, tomorrow may bring ease. If there are tears in our eyes today, those same eyes may shine with the joy of success tomorrow. The condition is that we must not abandon patience, hard work, and hope. Today's patience is the foundation of a better tomorrow.

Petroleum Division assures full support to Energy sector to control load-shedding: Ali Pervaiz



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik on Monday assured the Energy sector of full support from the Petroleum Division to help control load-shedding without placing an excessive burden on consumer tariffs.

Talking to the media along with Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari, he said efforts were being made to manage load-shedding as much as possible through a balanced approach while

ensuring that its burden did not fall heavily on consumer tariffs.

He said the Ministry was ensuring local gas supply to consumers for their domestic needs and had also injected a significant quantity of gas that had remained shut in.

He said all fertiliser factories in Pakistan were currently operating at full capacity, helping ensure the availability of fertilizer at a reasonable cost. Fertilizer was facing a major crisis globally, he added, but there had been no significant price

fluctuation in Pakistan.

Ali Pervaiz Malik said more than 100 MMCFD of gas was also supplied to the Energy sector the previous day.

He said that despite the highly challenging situation, efforts were being made to run the system through consultation and partnership.

He said that if LNG sourcing was required on an emergency basis or through the spot market, the Petroleum Division would play its full role, as far as possible, to address the issue and reduce difficulties faced by the public.

Ali Pervaiz Malik thanked the people for supporting the government with patience during the challenging regional situation and enabling it to face the crisis.

He said energy markets had faced significant disruption over the past six to seven months. The challenges were not limited to fuel availability, as a significant amount of fuel.

National economy to grow over 4% this fiscal year: Minister

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has expressed the confidence that Pakistan's economy will grow by over four percent during the current financial year.

Addressing an event organized by EXIM Bank in Islamabad on Monday, Aurangzeb said the country is moving from stabilization towards growth. He noted that Pakistan recorded GDP growth of about 3.7 percent during the last fiscal year.

Muhammad Aurangzeb pointed out that the fiscal deficit is now at a 22-year low. He said the country recorded primary surpluses for the last three years, while it also posted a current account surplus last year.

Referring to Pakistan's recur-



ring boom-and-bust cycles, the Finance Minister attributed them to the country's dependence on imports. He said the main challenge is not achieving growth but ensuring that it is sustainable.

He emphasized that the government is focusing on export-led growth to ensure long-term economic sustainability.

Muhammad Aurangzeb said the government is focused on utilizing the available fiscal space to move the economy forward and promote export-led growth. He said that the budget provides clear direction and support.

Gilani calls for enhanced Pakistan-Italy cooperation in trade, investment

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Monday, called for further strengthening Pakistan-Italy relations, particularly in trade, investment, agriculture, labour mobility and people-to-people exchanges.

Talking to Ambassador of Italy Ugo Ciarlatani, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Gilani said Pakistan attaches great importance to its longstanding and friendly relations with Italy, based on mutual respect and expanding cooperation in diverse fields.

He expressed confidence that Ambassador Ciarlatani would contribute to further strengthening bilateral relations during his tenure, President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release.

Gilani said Pakistan looked forward to welcoming Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs to Pakistan, noting that this visit would provide opportunities to further advance bilateral cooperation.

Highlighting the economic relationship, the acting president said there was considerable potential for further expanding bilateral

trade and investment. He welcomed the presence of Italian companies in Pakistan and encouraged greater Italian investment in areas of mutual interest.

He also congratulated Ambassador Ciarlatani on the completion of Italy's new diplomatic mission in Islamabad.

Gilani acknowledged Italy's cooperation in technical and vocational fields, including the Pakistan-Italy Textile Centre in Faisalabad and the Footwear Centre in Lahore, as well as cooperation in scientific and environmental fields.

He welcomed the educational opportunities available to Pakistani students in Italy and highlighted the importance of the Pakistan-Italy MoU on workforce, labour migration and mobility in facilitating safe, orderly and legal migration. He also welcomed the recruitment of 10,500 skilled workers from Pakistan by Italy over the next three years, saying that labour mobility would further strengthen people-to-people ties between the two countries. He thanked Italy for its support for Pakistan's election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations.



ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani in a meeting with the Ambassador of Italy UGO Ciarlatani at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Shaza Fatima to attend opening ceremony of LEAP 2026 in Riyadh

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja will attend the opening ceremony of LEAP 2026 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

During the visit, the federal minister will deliver a keynote address.

Shaza Fatima Khawaja will also formally inaugurate the Pakistan Pavilion at the technology event.

As part of her visit, an important meeting related to the Pakistan Compute Consortium will also be held.

The federal minister will visit the Pakistan and Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) pavilions and stalls established at LEAP 2026.

She is also scheduled to hold an important bilateral meeting with the Governor of the Saudi Digital Government Authority.

During her visit, the federal minister will also hold meetings with other important personalities.

Sharjeel Memon slams Mustafa Kamal over 'politics of hatred', new administrative units

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon on Monday rejected remarks by Health Minister and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Mustafa Kamal, accusing him of attempting to revive politics based on hatred, division and ethnic differences.

"Mustafa Kamal also wants to fan hatred and become the successor to the London-based leader. The MQM's politics of hatred and division have now been rejected by the people," Memon said in a statement shared on X by the Sindh Information Department.

A day earlier, Kamal alleged that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)-led government had



refused to recognise the existence of the next generation of migrants who settled in Pakistan, saying that those who were against new administrative units were actually against PPP founder Zulfikhar Ali Bhutto, who introduced Article 239 (the Constitution Amendment Bill) of the Constitution of Pakistan, and maintained that the 27 amendments were made to the constitution to strengthen it. Responding to Kamal's statement, Memon said that attempts.

WUM political science students complete 9-week internship at district police Mardan

PEAK POINT

MARDAN: Twenty students of the Department of Political Science, Women University Mardan (WUM), Session 2023-2027, successfully completed a nine-week internship programme at District Police Mardan. A certificate distribution ceremony was held at the DPO Office Mardan, where certificates were awarded to the participating students. During the internship, students received practical exposure to general policing, law and order, investigation, operations, Safe City, Command and Control, police stations, Police Facilitation Center, Driving School, PDRM, DRC and Victim Support ser-



vices. DPO Mardan Mr. Masood Ahmad appreciated the initiative and emphasized the importance of practical learning and institutional collaboration. He said that such internship programmes and other similar learning opportunities would continue to be provided to the students of Women University Mardan in the future as well, with the cooperation of District Police Mardan.

Sharjeel Memon slams Mustafa Kamal over 'politics of hatred', new administrative units

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon on Monday rejected remarks by Health Minister and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Mustafa Kamal, accusing him of attempting to revive politics based on hatred, division and ethnic differences.

"Mustafa Kamal also wants to fan hatred and become the successor to the London-based leader. The MQM's politics of hatred and division have now been rejected by the people,"

Memon said in a statement shared on X by the Sindh Information Department.

A day earlier, Kamal alleged that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)-led government had refused to recognise the existence of the next generation of migrants who settled in Pakistan, saying that those who were against new administrative units were actually against PPP founder Zulfikhar Ali Bhutto, who introduced Article 239 (the Constitution Amendment Bill) of the Constitution of

Pakistan, and maintained that the 27 amendments were made to the constitution to strengthen it. Responding to Kamal's statement, Memon said that attempts to create a divide between urban and rural populations had failed in the past and would again be rejected by the people.

Memon said the PPP had always sought to remove "walls of hatred" and promote peace, development and brotherhood, while its opponents had attempted to sustain their politics through division. "Karachi

is the heart of Sindh and the jugular vein of Pakistan's economy," he asserted, adding that those who previously tarnished the image of the city, marring it with terrorism, are now [advocating for new units] at the behest of the federal government. According to Memon, the people were now well aware of what he described as the MQM-P's "false narrative and political theatrics". He also criticised attempts to throw ethnic shade at administrative decisions, saying such moves were aimed at keep-

ing "failed politics" alive. Referring to criticism of the PPP's 18-year rule in Sindh, Memon said those raising the issue had been rejected by voters in the last general elections while the PPP had been given a fresh mandate.

"Karachi is the heart of Sindh and will remain so. No one can divide the people for their temporary interests," he underscored.

Responding to allegations of undermining opportunities for certain people through the quota system, Memon maintained that the PPP had provided develop-

ment opportunities to citizens across Sindh without discrimination and had never sought to divide Karachi.

"It is ridiculous to hold a party [PPP] that seeks to unite the federation responsible for dividing Karachi," he said.

Memon said serving the people of Karachi and the rest of Sindh remained the PPP's mission. The minister further said that residents knew who had "put guns into the hands of their children and destroyed their future".