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15 cops among 21 martyred in blast at Kohat Police Lines, more than 80 injured

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: At least 21 people, including 15 police officials, were martyred on Friday when an explosives-laden vehicle detonated near a mosque in Kohat Police Lines, followed by terrorists storming the compound and attacking police facilities, according to senior police and district health officials.

District Health Officer Dr Nasir Hassan Afridi confirmed the toll to Dawn, adding that more than 80 people were injured, with three in critical condition.

According to officials, SP Traffic Akbar Shinwari and Dr Israel Orakzai, head of the children's department at DHQ KDA Kohat, were among those martyred in the attack.

According to police, at least one attack-

er was holed up inside the compound and a clearance operation was underway.

Meanwhile, the CTD said the Additional IG CTD reached the site of the Kohat attack. An exchange of fire between CTD personnel and the terrorists was ongoing, the department said, adding that the AIG had entered the site himself to take part in the operation and lead the personnel.

According to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General (IG) Zulfiqar Hameed and police statements, the attack began when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) detonated at the boundary wall near the mosque inside the Kohat Police Lines. At least seven attackers then breached the compound.



People stand near an ambulance and a damaged section of a police facility following a suicide attack in Kohat.

PM Shehbaz directs to include 20-year-old bikes, rickshaws in fuel relief scheme

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday issued directives to include motorcycles, rickshaws and Qingqis that were registered after Jan 1, 2006 in the govt's recently announced fuel scheme. "All motorcycles, rickshaws, and Qingqis registered after Jan 1, 2006, will be eligible for registration in the Prime Minister Fuel Relief Scheme," the Prime Minister's Office said in a post on the social media platform X. "Now, those who drive 20-year-old motorcycles, rickshaws, and Qingqis will also be able to benefit from the Prime Minister's Fuel Relief Scheme," it said.

PM Shehbaz Sharif had on Sep 13 announced a "relief scheme" for users of motorcycles, autos and vehicles of up to 800cc to "alleviate the burden" of rising global oil prices. Under the scheme, owners of motorcycles, rickshaws, Qingqis, three-wheelers and vehicles with engines of up to 800cc will receive a Rs100 per litre relief on petrol. Motorcycles, rickshaws and Qingqis, as well as other two- and three-wheeler users, are eligible for relief on 20 litres of petrol per month.

'Our commitment is unconditional': Amid Houthi attacks, DG ISPR says Pakistan will 'go to any extent' to defend Saudi Arabia

PEAK POINT



RAWALPINDI: Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has said that Pakistan will go to "any extent" to defend Saudi Arabia, adding that Islamabad's commitment to the kingdom's security is "unconditional".

He made the remarks in an interview with Arab News, clips of which were posted on its social media account on X on Friday.

The remarks come as fighting between Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Houthis has intensified, with the group making gains along Yemen's Red Sea coast near the strategic waterway and launching missile and drone attacks on Saudi territory, while Riyadh has stepped up airstrikes against Houthi positions.

This week, the Saudi-led coalition battling the Houthis accused the rebels of targeting the holy city of Makkah, sparking outrage across the Muslim world. However, the Houthis swiftly rejected Riyadh's report as a "lie". "Pakistan fully stands with the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, both diplomatically and physically. And I would like to underscore the word physically," Lt Gen Chaudhry said in the interview with Arab News. "We will go to any extent for the security of Haramain Sharifain and the kingdom of Saudi Arabia. To any extent as asked and required by our Saudi brothers," he said.

Ji's long march to reach Islamabad on Sept 23-24, says Hafiz Naeem

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) chief Hafiz Naeem Rehman on Friday said that the party's march will reach Islamabad on September 23 and 24

and a train march will leave Karachi on September 20. Addressing a press conference in the federal capital, the JI chief said that people would begin arriving in Islamabad from all four directions on September 20, while clarifying that the party would not block roads.

"We are coming to get relief, not to lay hands on anyone," he said, adding that the government had been asked to grant permission for the protest.

"Our only demand is to abolish the levy," he said, arguing that major political parties were not addressing the issues faced by ordinary Pakistanis.

Rehman said that the government had agreed to demands during their negotiations but had not implemented them. The JI chief's remarks come days after the party rejected the government's special fuel relief scheme, saying that the package cannot be a substitute for abolition of petroleum levy.

Ishaq Dar, British envoy discuss ways to boost bilateral cooperation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Islamabad on Friday and discussed a variety of issues with him. Discussions mainly centred on Pakistan-UK relations, and the understandings reached during the Deputy Prime Minister's recent visit to the UK in August, and ways to further strengthen cooperation across areas of mutual interest. Ishaq Dar underscored the importance of sustained high-level engagement and also discussed.

Govt to stop anyone marching on Islamabad 'in every possible way', says Naqvi

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said on Friday that the government would stop anyone from marching towards the federal capital "in every possible way" and file contempt of court proceedings against those who violated a recent Islamabad High Court (IHC) decision.

He was addressing a press conference in Islamabad alongside other officials.

The interior minister's remarks came in the wake of PTI's call for a nationwide protest, including in Islamabad, on September 27 to demand the release of party founder Imran Khan and mobilise people for the supremacy of the Constitution.

Last week, the administrations of the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad

started preparations to counter the PTI's "also attended the meeting. In light of the detailed



announced countrywide protest, including a request for detention of activists, arranging containers, seeking additional personnel and procuring anti-riot gear.

At the outset of his press conference on Friday, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said a detailed meeting had been held to discuss the upcoming protest call and the law and order situation. Officials from all provinces and federal law enforcement agencies had

IHC judgment, there is no possibility of ravaging the federal capital or any other province," he said. The minister said that if anyone took to the streets, the government would first pursue legal action by filing a contempt petition against them for violating the IHC order. At the same time, he said, "We will stop the marchers in every possible way." All law enforcement agencies had been informed of the decision "with all clarity,"

Naqvi added.

He said weapons had been used and losses suffered in protests in the past.

"This time, we are communicating very clear rules of engagement to our law enforcement agencies. They will not remain silent if a bullet is fired at them," he said. He urged the protesting party's leadership to hold demonstrations in their respective provinces and cities. "Plans for locking down the capital or charging into another province will never be allowed," he said. "It is our responsibility to stop this protest to ensure the protection of the lives and property of the capital's residents," the interior minister said. The interior minister drew a distinction between a political protest aimed at pursuing political interests and a violent campaign involving people armed with weapons.

Security forces kill 7 terrorists in Balochistan IBOs: state media



PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Security forces have killed seven terrorists during two intelligence-based operations (IBO) in Balochistan, state broadcaster Radio Pakistan reported on Friday, citing sources. Five of the terrorists were killed in the Fateh Ali area of Panjgur district, the report said, adding that large quantities of weapons and ammunition were found in their possession. Meanwhile, an IBO was conducted in the Dhadar area of Kachhi district, during which two terrorists, were killed, it added.

Several other terrorists were also reportedly injured during the operation, according to the report. Balochistan has witnessed an increase in terrorist attacks in recent weeks, prompting security forces to intensify.



SPORTS



PCB announces criteria, process for inaugural PSL Cricket Development Excellence Award



PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board Friday unveiled the procedure to award one franchise the prestigious and inaugural HBL PSL Cricket Development Excellence Award worth USD 200,000.

The 2026 award will consider the development work done by franchises from HBL PSL 3 to HBL PSL 11, i.e., the period during which at least six franchises participated in the league.

After the 11th edition of the tournament, only the development work done between the two latest editions will be considered and

evaluated for this award.

Franchises will self-assess and score themselves using a scoring model devised by the HBL PSL in the first phase, then submit it to an assessment committee formed by the PCB.

The five-member committee includes independent experts and internal stakeholders, who will verify and confirm each score against the evidence supplied using verifiable data points. This mechanism will account for 80% of the final score. Afterwards, competing franchises will be asked to present a presentation on their cricket development work on

official PSL social media handles. Fans will be entitled to vote and rank the franchises' development performance, and their votes will carry 20 per cent weightage in the final scores.

The scoring model and the weightage of the scores are given below:

1. Player Pathway and Development – 25 per cent
2. Player Impact and Match contribution – 10 per cent
3. High-Performance Infrastructure and Innovations – 15 per cent
4. Grassroots and Domestic Engagement – 20 per cent

5. Player Welfare and Education – 10 per cent
6. Fan voting via Social Media – 20 per cent

Scoring guidelines will be provided to fans at the time of voting. About the Key Performance Indicators:

The Player Pathway and Development Key Performance Indicator (KPI) will cover new or uncapped talent identified by franchises, their development, progression, and cricket exposure beyond HBL PSL. Player Impact and Match Contribution KPI will evaluate a scouted/new found player's impact trajectory.

Pakistan's Abdul Rehman wins FIH Poligras Magic Skill Award



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's emerging hockey star Abdul Rehman has won the prestigious Poligras Magic Skill Award in the men's competition following a global vote by hockey fans after the conclusion of the FIH Hockey World Cup Belgium and Netherlands 2026.

Abdul Rehman received 44 per cent of the votes for his spectacular 3D skills during Pakistan's match against Wales, narrowly edging Canada's Kenton Melville, whose audacious goal received 39 per cent of the votes.

The Pakistani forward produced one of the standout moments of the tournament when he displayed remarkable ball control and 3D skills to beat four defenders before producing a composed finish to score for Pakistan against Wales.

The goal captivated hockey fans around the world and was selected among six outstanding moments – three from the women's competition and three from the men's competition, for the Poligras Magic Skill Award, presented by FIH Global Supplier Polytan.

The global voting process was held from September 4 to 13, giving hockey fans worldwide the opportunity to select the moments that best captured the skill, creativity and excitement of the sport during its premier global competition.

Pakistan edge Thailand by three wickets to reach Asian Games semi-finals



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan secured a place in the semi-finals of the Asian Games Women's Cricket competition after defeating Thailand by three wickets with two deliveries remaining in a rain-shortened quarter-final at Korogi Athletic Park on Thursday.

The match was reduced to 11 overs per side after rain

delayed the start. dismissed Nattakan Chantham for six with the second delivery of her opening over. She posted 91 runs to set Pakistan a target of 92. Nannapat Koncharoenkai's innings in the final over by trapping her leg before wicket, finishing with two wickets for 22 runs from three overs. Thailand captain Phannita Naruemol Chaiwai added 10 from three balls, including a six and a four, to help her side finish with a competitive total.

Pakistan began the chase strongly through openers Shawaal Zulfiqar and Gull Feroza, who added 36 runs in 3.5 overs. Zulfiqar was the more aggressive of the pair, scoring 25 from 14 balls with three fours and a six, while Feroza made 16 off 13 balls. Thailand then turned the match around by taking four Pakistan wickets for just 11 runs from 13 deliveries, leaving the Asian side at 47 for four at the end of the powerplay. Fatima Sana, batting at No. 4 for only the second time in her T20I career, steadied the innings with a quick 21 from 13 balls, including three fours and a six.

Russian tennis player Blinkova switches allegiance to France



Noor Zaman carries Pakistan flag and squash's lost glory into Asian Games

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Noor Zaman will walk into the opening ceremony of the Asian Games in Nagoya on Saturday carrying Pakistan's flag. The 22-year-old from Peshawar will also carry something heavier — the memory of a sport Pakistan once ruled.

"I want to bring Pakistan on top in squash, make my country champions again," Noor told Dawn on Thursday. "And I am working towards that goal, doing my best."

It is a mission that once belonged to Jahangir Khan and Jansher Khan, the two men who made Pakistan squash synonymous with dominance for nearly two decades.

Noor is old enough to have heard the stories, not old enough to have lived them. His own grandfather, Qamar Zaman, was a world champion. His uncle, Mansoor

Zaman, was a former world No. 11.

Pakistan has not produced a world champion since Jansher retired in 1998, and the country's squash programme has struggled for funding and international

Performance award — announced just weeks before he was named flag-bearer for Asiad.

"This is a very proud moment for me, for my family, for all of us," he said. On the court, Noor enters as the



exposure in the decades since. "There is responsibility," Noor said. "But there is no pressure on me at all. Because of what my grandfather did for Pakistan, the name he built for himself — I am also working hard for that." He is the third generation of his family to receive the President's Pride of

third seed in the men's singles, behind Malaysia's Eain Yow Ng and India's Abhay Singh.

"They are all tough — nobody is easy in this tournament," he said. He has faced India before at the Asian Games — in 2022, as a junior, he was part of the team that lost the final.

Carrick confident Man Utd can 'work through' tough time





Planning minister formally launches nationwide polio vaccination campaign, reaffirms resolve to eradicate virus

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has recorded a significant decline in polio cases, from 74 in 2024 and 31 in 2025 to four in 2026, while positivity in environmental surveillance samples has fallen below 10 per cent. The progress was reported at a meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee on the National Taskforce for Polio Eradication, chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal here on Friday, a news release said.

The minister formally launched the latest nationwide vaccination campaign and reaffirmed the govern-

ment's resolve to continue national efforts until poliovirus transmission was completely stopped. Of the four cases reported in 2026, three were recorded in southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, underscoring the need for sustained attention to the remaining high-risk areas. Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal, Prime Minister's Focal Person on Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq, representatives of provincial governments and federating units, development partners, government departments and relevant organisations attended the meeting.



Representatives of the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the Pakistan PolioPlus Committee and Rotary also participated. In his opening remarks, Ahsan Iqbal said polio eradication was a national responsibility directly linked to the health, dignity and future of Pakistan's children. He noted that of the 120 countries where polio had once been present, 118 had eradicated the virus, leaving Pakistan and Afghanistan as the only two countries where it remained endemic.

The Planning minister said polio was not merely a public-health challenge but a threat to the lifelong potential of affected children and the wellbeing of their families.

Even one case, he stressed, meant that every unprotected child remained at risk while the virus continued to circulate.

Calling for unified national action to achieve zero polio, Ahsan Iqbal appealed to parents, particularly mothers, to ensure that every eligible child received the vaccine. "When a polio worker knocks on your door, do not ignore that knock. It is the knock of your child's future," the minister said.

"Those two drops can protect your child's future."

He urged religious scholars, community leaders and opinion-makers to counter misinformation and strengthen public confidence in vaccination. He said violence or intimidation against polio workers was deeply alarming and must be rejected collectively. The minister also called upon young people, including university students, to support community-awareness efforts. He emphasised that children must be provided with a healthy, nurturing and child-friendly environment during the first five years of life, when most mental development takes place.

Radio Pakistan seeks market value for 69.2 acres of Quetta land

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation has sought payment at market rates for its 69.2 acres of land on Sariab Road in Quetta as the Balochistan government seeks the property for public use, creating a dispute over the future of one of Radio Pakistan's major land holdings. The issue was discussed by the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, which examined the land demand and the financial position of the Pakistan Broadcasting

Corporation. Officials told the committee that Radio Pakistan purchased the land privately in 1956. The transmitter installed at the site is no longer working, after which the Balochistan government and the Chief Minister requested that the land be handed over for public utility. The Quetta Development Authority has sought 57 acres from the total 69.2 acres. Officials said this would leave about 12 acres separated from the main portion of the property and make it difficult for Radio Pakistan to use effectively. The Pakistan Broadcasting

Corporation has asked for payment according to market rates under the General Financial Rules. The Balochistan government has not agreed to the payment arrangement so far, according to the briefing. The Senate committee supported the position that Radio Pakistan should receive proper value for its property. Chairman Sarmad Ali suggested that the corporation could also seek another piece of land of equal value from the Balochistan government if the government requires the Quetta property for public use. The chairman also

warned against a situation in which the land could eventually be converted into a commercial housing project instead of being used for the purpose for which the property was sought. The matter comes as Radio Pakistan is trying to increase income from its properties. The corporation expects to earn more than Rs1 billion each year in rent by the end of the current financial year, with vacant spaces being rented mainly to government departments. In Islamabad, properties in H 9 and I 14 have been rented to the Customs Department

and generate Rs270 million annually, according to the briefing. The committee is also examining wider plans to improve the use of Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television properties. It was informed that Radio Pakistan is developing a museum to preserve its history and is also working on a broadcasting training academy. The committee also reviewed a proposal to include parliamentarians on the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation Board. The proposed bill would provide one Senate member and one National Assembly member

on the board. The committee passed the bill, while the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting pointed to the State Owned Enterprises Act, 2023, which currently restricts parliamentarians from serving as independent directors. The chairman said the relevant law may need to be amended to resolve the legal issue. The committee is also expected to visit the Karachi buildings of Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television to examine how their properties can be used more effectively.

Opinion & Editorial

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation has sought payment at market rates for its 69.2 acres of land on Sariab Road in Quetta as the Balochistan government seeks the property for public use, creating a dispute over the future of one of Radio Pakistan's major land holdings. The issue was discussed by the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, which examined the land demand and the financial position of the Pakistan Broadcasting

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Justice for Rosham

Nine days after 17-year-old Rosham Hussain was shot dead inside his home in Manghopir neighbourhood of Karachi, his family is still sitting outside the police station with his body unburied. That a bereaved family should feel compelled to withhold its own son's funeral until the killers are arrested is a disturbing measure of how little confidence it has in the state's ability to deliver justice. Rosham was reportedly killed on September 8 when six armed men entered his house, two of them wearing police uniforms. Police say a seven-member investigation team has been formed and that significant clues have been obtained. But after nine days, the public needs to see tangible progress. The most obvious lead appears to be the digital evidence. Investigators reportedly identified seven mobile phones active at the location around the time of the incident, with two inside the house and five outside. If these phones have been identified, investigators should be able to establish the numbers, trace the registered SIM holders and examine their movements and contacts. That evidence should then be corroborated with CCTV footage and other available data. There is an even more troubling dimension. Two men allegedly entered the house dressed as police officers. For an ordinary citizen, a police uniform is supposed to signify protection and authority.

Restructuring lessons

Ghazan Jamal

INTERIOR Minister Mohsin Naqvi's proposal for more provinces wasn't the first time someone close to the establishment made the suggestion. However, this time a stated motivation was also provided: namely, the complete collapse of the existing governance system. While much has been written about this issue, it has largely been theoretical and speculative, with the closest real-world examples coming from other countries. The problem with those examples is that, while informative, they mostly exist in a context very different to Pakistan's, making it difficult to draw parallels. But an example closer to home can help us predict better. The last time Pakistan's internal borders were redrawn was in 2018 with Fata's merger with KP through the 25th Amendment.

A similarly stated motivation for the merger was given at the time — the utter collapse of the old Fata governance system. That system has been blamed for the militant takeover in many parts of Fata (now called the merged districts). Many also hold it responsible for erstwhile Fata's extremely poor human development indices compared to the Pakistani average. The merger with KP, and thus the extension of KP's institutional structures, laws, and systems, was deemed necessary to resolve Fata's problems. Another proclaimed benefit was that the

merger would bring the government closer to the public. The state believed that the militants had filled the void created by an unresponsive government. So, in many ways, the motivation to merge rested on two beliefs: first, to replace an old, collapsed system with one offering better governance; and second, to involve communities in decision-making by bringing government closer to them. Similar justifications are now being touted to support the idea of new provinces.

Eight years after the merger, the question is: how effectively has the change improved both aspects for residents of the merged areas? The question of whether decision-making has been brought closer to the people and thereby made government institutions more responsive to the public's needs is perhaps the easier one to answer: there's no evidence that matters have improved; if anything, the opposite appears to be true. The merged areas still have no share in the NFC and continue to depend on discretionary federal funding. In fact, they are a step removed from that planning process, as it must come through KP rather than directly to them. Similarly, the tribal system is, by definition, participatory and community-led. Replacing it with a more centralised, institutional state structure has decreased community involvement and the power of the local people to

run their own affairs.

The question of governance is more complex, but even here, there is not much improvement. First, the new system is less participatory even in governance, further alienating people from their government. Second, the administrative system is now far too bureaucratic to respond promptly. It is increasingly bloated — current administrative expenditures for the merged areas have more than doubled, from about Rs50 billion at the time of the merger to over Rs100bn now. Similarly, the judicial process, like elsewhere in the country, is painfully slow, making locals increasingly likely to turn to traditional jirgas rather than the courts. The creation of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and dispute resolution councils, aligned with traditional jirgas and under the guise of the district administration and district police respectively, acknowledges the delay in dispensing justice. Worse, there has been no marked improvement in any human development indicator; apart from isolated instances, no real examples of systemic improvement in service delivery exist. Where security is concerned, there is a surge in militant activity in the region, with terrorist incidents and casualty figures worse than in the years before the merger. Clearly, the merger is not preventing the resurgence of militancy in the area.

Courtesy Dawn

The cost of litigation

Barrister Syed Saad Ali Shah

We have spent years discussing judicial reforms: more judges, simpler procedures, mediation and arbitration. All matter. But a basic incentive remains ignored. A person who makes another litigate without reason seldom bears the reasonable cost of doing so.

I graduated in 2016, returned to Pakistan and practised for two years before leaving for my Bar in the UK. Costs caught my attention during the civil litigation course. In England and Wales, they were no postscript. They shaped pleading, conduct and settlement.

The contrast was stark. In Pakistan, I had seen weak claims, untenable defences, repeated adjournments and unnecessary applications pursued with little fear of reimbursing the person forced to answer them. At the Bar, unreasonable conduct carried a financial consequence. Part 36 of the Civil Procedure Rules was especially striking. A formal offer remains hidden from the trial judge until the merits are decided. If a claimant rejects a defendant's offer and fails to do better at trial, costs may follow despite a technical victory. The rule asks not only who won, but when continuing ceased to be reasonable. After returning, I began seeking costs when a valid claim succeeded, a baseless case was dismissed or proceedings were needlessly prolonged. A decade into practice, the familiar response remains: "Counsel, the case has been decided in your favour. You should be satisfied. Forget about costs." The response is usually well intentioned. Thank God your client is out of court, it suggests. What more could one want? But relief at escaping injustice is not a remedy for enduring it. A judgment cannot return lost years, fees, opportunities or peace of mind. For many, the process is the punishment. And what of someone who never expected to win? If proceedings were brought to harass, delay or exhaust, their pendency may achieve the objective.

Courtesy Tribune

Leghari, Turkish envoy discuss power sector reforms, DISCOs privatisation



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan, Dr Irfan Neziroglu, on Friday called on Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari and discussed ongoing reforms in Pakistan's power sector.

The meeting also discussed progress on the privatisation of Distribution Companies (DISCOs), participation of Turkish investors, and further strengthening cooperation between Pakistan and Türkiye in the energy sector, said a press release.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the measures completed by the government so far and the progress made in the DISCOs privatisation process.

The Federal Minister stated that the Power Division has completed the required policy, reform and institutional work for the privatisation of DISCOs, while the formal privatisation process is now being taken forward through the relevant forum and the Privatisation Commission.

Leghari said that the Government of Pakistan is pursuing comprehensive reforms aimed at improving the

performance of the electricity distribution system, ensuring financial sustainability and better governance, and enhancing service delivery to consumers through effective private-sector participation in the power sector.

The minister said that cooperation between Pakistan and Türkiye in the energy sector is already built on strong foundations. Referring to the three MoUs signed between key energy-sector institutions of Pakistan and Türkiye during his visit to Türkiye, he said the agreements have provided a strong framework for institutional cooperation between the two countries in the areas of electricity markets, transmission and distribution.

Awaiz Leghari welcomed the interest and participation of Turkish companies in the DISCOs privatisation process, saying that the experience and expertise of Turkish companies in the energy sector is of significant value to Pakistan. He said Pakistan greatly appreciates the continued interest of Turkish investors in the privatisation process and their engagement in this regard.

China's active diplomacy can help lower Middle East temperatures: Masood Khan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: China's growing diplomatic engagement in the Middle East, particularly its coordination with Pakistan and dialogue with the United States and Iran, can contribute to lowering tensions and creating space for negotiations, said Sardar Masood Khan, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, China and the United Nations, and former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir said here Friday. Commenting on the forthcoming meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump, Sardar Masood Khan described the development as positive, saying it could help lower temperatures not only globally but also in the Middle East.

He noted that China had recently become more active



diplomatically regarding the US-Iran conflict and had emphasised the importance of freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf.

Recent Chinese diplomatic statements have likewise called for restraint, renewed negotiations and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

He recalled that China had previously supported Pakistan's mediation efforts. China and Pakistan jointly put forward a five-point initiative in March calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

Aurangzeb outlines economic progress at JP Morgan Conference

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, on Friday outlined Pakistan's progress in restoring macroeconomic stability and the government's priorities for moving towards investment, capital formation, exports and private sector-led growth.

The conference saw strong interest in Pakistan from leading global institutional investors and top money managers, with 55 global investment funds engaging with the Pakistani delegation through a number of one-on-one meetings and a full investor session. The Finance Minister outlined six priorities: strengthening macroeconomic stability; promoting sustainable, productivity- and export-led growth; continuing structural reforms; shifting from aid to trade and investment; expanding access to finance; and preparing Pakistan for the digital economy, including blockchain and Web 3.0. He said that over the last three years, Pakistan's overriding task had been to restore macroeconomic stability and rebuild credibility. He noted that significant progress had been made in fiscal consol-

idation, external sector stability, inflation, debt management and international market access. GDP growth had recovered to 3.7 percent in FY26, while the fiscal deficit had declined to 2.6 percent of GDP, a multi-year low, with the country recording a primary surplus for the third consecutive year. The Finance Minister said the objective was now to ensure that stability became durable and provided the foundation for a different growth model, one increasingly driven by investment, productivity, exports and private sector activity rather than short-term, consumption-led expansion. Highlighting improvements in Pakistan's sovereign debt position, the Finance Minister said the government had pursued active liability management, extended domestic debt maturities and reduced refinancing risks. He said these measures, together with fiscal consolidation, were strengthening the overall sovereign balance sheet and supporting greater confidence in Pakistan's economic outlook. Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said Pakistan had also re-established access to international capital markets through diversified.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq condemns terrorist attack at Police Lines in Kohat

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has strongly condemned the terrorist attack and blasts at the Police Lines in Kohat during Friday prayers, expressing deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious human lives. NA Speaker said that targeting police personnel and innocent civilians during Jumma prayers was a cowardly and highly condemnable act. He expressed heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of those martyred in the blast, saying that he shared their grief and stood with them in their hour of sorrow. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq prayed for the early and complete recovery of those injured in the incident, stressing that the terrorists responsible for such heinous acts must be dealt with firmly and swiftly in accordance with the law. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that terrorists targeting innocent citizens in pursuit of their nefarious objectives, shall never succeed in their designs. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that the entire

Zamurd Khan lauds Alkhidmat Razi Hospital's affordable healthcare services

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Sweet Home Chairman Zamurd Khan visited Alkhidmat Razi Hospital Rawalpindi and praised Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan for providing quality healthcare services to deserving people at affordable rates.

He was accompanied by Al-Jabbar Foundation Chairman and All Parties Hurriyat Conference Jammu and Kashmir Executive Member Altaf Ahmed Bhat, said a press release here.

Alkhidmat Razi Hospital Management Board Chairman Engineer Abu Umair Zahid, Vice Chairman Syed Arshad Farooq and other board members welcomed the guests.

Zahid briefed them on the



hospital's welfare-based healthcare model. He said thousands of patients were being provided modern medical facilities at highly subsidised rates, while deserving patients received free treatment with the support of philanthropists. He said the hospital's services were being provided with the sole aim of serving humanity and seeking the pleasure of Allah Almighty.

Altaf Ahmed Bhat appreciated the hospital's commitment to serving people.

Youth entrepreneurship key to economic growth: Governor Kundi

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday said that young entrepreneurs were playing an important role in strengthening the economy, adding that sustainable peace, employment opportunities and economic development were essential for the progress of the province. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of Sohaib Food Industries at Deans Trade Centre, Shiraz Arena here, the Governor congratulated the young management of the company on launching their business despite tough competition in the food sector. He said establishing a business in the food industry was a challenging



task, but the young entrepreneurs had succeeded in making their mark in the market within a short period, which was commendable. Kundi said the talented youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were also bringing laurels to the country in sports, citing the recent outstanding performance of Mardan-based cricketer Razaullah in England. He appreciated the resilience of industrialists.



LONDON: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, addressing the "Fireside Chat: Pakistan: External Shocks Remain Manageable" at the J.P. Morgan Emerging and Frontier Markets Opportunities conference in London, along with Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Mr Jameel Ahmed, highlighting Pakistan's transition from stabilisation to investment, capital formation and private sector-led growth.

Church of Pakistan honours Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi with Global Peace Award

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Church of Pakistan has honoured Chairman of the Pakistan Ulama Council and Coordinator of the National Paigham-e-Aman Committee, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, with the "Global Peace Award" in recognition of his services for peace, interfaith harmony and religious tolerance.

President of the Church of Pakistan, Bishop Azad Marshall presented the award to Mr Ashrafi at an investiture ceremony in Lahore, appreciating his longstanding efforts to promote peace, religious harmony and dialogue across the country, said a press release.

Bishop Azad Marshall said Ashrafi had made sustained efforts for the protection of the rights of non-Muslim citizens living in Pakistan and for promoting dialogue and har-



mony among followers of different religions. He said Ashrafi's national and international role in advancing interfaith harmony and

peace was commendable and worthy of appreciation by Pakistanis and all those committed to peace.

Receiving the award, Ashrafi expressed his gratitude to the Church of Pakistan and Bishop Azad Marshall, saying that under Bishop Marshall's leadership, the Church of Pakistan had been playing an important role, in cooperation with leaders of different faiths and Muslim schools of thought, in promoting peace, national security and Pakistan's stability. Ashrafi said the joint efforts of Muslim and non-Muslim religious leadership through the National Paigham-e-Aman Committee would further strengthen peace, interfaith and intra-faith harmony and national unity in Pakistan.

Thanking the Church of Pakistan for the Global Peace Award, Ashrafi reaffirmed his commitment to continuing efforts for peace, dialogue, religious harmony and the protection of the legitimate rights of all Pakistanis.