



Automotive industry contributes beyond vehicle production: Gilani



'Self-inflicted pain': Finance minister says protests, sit-ins to cause daily loss of around Rs120bn



DPM/FM Dar departs to New York to attend UNGA 81st Session

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JI launches protest march towards Islamabad against petroleum levy

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: The Jamaat-i-Islami launched its protest march towards Islamabad on Sunday, with party Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman warning that if the government failed to abolish the petroleum levy, the JI's protest could turn into one to oust the government. Naeem was addressing JI supporters at Karachi's Cantonment Station before departing for Islamabad.

"In line with our strategy, people from across the country have departed for Islamabad," he said, adding that a road caravan had also departed for the federal capital in addition to the "train march".

He said the rally would pass through Hyderabad, Landhi, Nawabshah, Rohri and

Sukkur, adding that "we will invite our sisters to join us once we reach [Islamabad]".

Rehman said the purpose of the march was to help relieve the burden on the least privileged.

"Instead of providing relief to the people, the government has decided that it would make the nation pay for its bad governance," he added. "We demand that the levy extortion should end. Petrol prices would then reduce quickly and reach around Rs200 per litre. That's when the economy could move forward." He said that the government had increased petrol prices more than any other state in the region. "The government wants to rob the common people in times of crisis," Naeem claimed.



Jamaat-i-Islami leader Hafiz Naeemur Rehman addresses supporters at Karachi's Cantonment Station before departing for Islamabad.

Aleema Khan 'detained' in Lahore under 3MPO, 'shifted' to Kot Lakhpat jail

PEAK POINT



LAHORE: Aleema Khan, sister of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, has been detained by police under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order, 1960 (MPO), party

sources said on Sunday. Party sources said that Aleema had left her home on Upper Mall in Lahore to go to a gym when she was taken into custody and subsequently shifted to Kot Lakhpat jail. They said that Lytton Road police detained the PTI founder's sister, while her vehicle was parked at the police station. Earlier, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan backed negotiations with the government, noting that talks have made no headway amid a "cold" political environment. "Negotiations should take place, but currently the environment is cold; nothing could be worked out," the PTI chief told the media persons in Peshawar. Barrister Gohar maintained that political problems required political solutions and that every side would have to take a step back to resolve them. The former ruling party has announced a nationwide protest, including a march on Islamabad on September 27, demanding the release of party founder Imran Khan and supremacy of the Constitution.

Ballistic missile intercepted over Riyadh as fire breaks out near King Khalid airport

PEAK POINT



RIYADH: The Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Houthi said Saturday that the Iran-backed group fired a ballistic missile at Riyadh at dawn, after a fire broke out near the Saudi capital's international airport. Firefighters extinguished a blaze on a fuel tank bearing the logo of Saudi oil giant Aramco at a fuel depot near Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport, an AFP journalist saw. Footage shared online and verified by AFP showed a column of black smoke above airport buildings. In recent weeks, Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi movement has staged a lightning offensive, seizing swathes of territory in one of the world's poorest countries and leaving the internationally recognised government, which is backed by Saudi Arabia, scrambling to respond. Saudi Arabia's air force 'successfully intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile launched by the Houthi terrorist militia towards the city of Riyadh at dawn on Saturday,' coalition spokesman Turki al-Malki posted on X. He said the Houthis also tried to target 'civilians and civilian infrastructure in Bisha, Taif, Farasan, and Yanbu', adding that the attacks 'were thwarted by the Gulf monarchy's air defences'. Saudi Arabia has responded with scores of airstrikes on Houthi-held areas but failed to stop the advance. The Houthis said they had responded to recent Saudi attacks by carrying out 'two successful military operations using a large number of ballistic and cruise missiles and drones', Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree said in a statement on Telegram.

Amid Houthi attacks, Turkiye vows to meet Saudi military needs under Makkah pact

PEAK POINT



TURKISH: Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said on Saturday that Saudi Arabia may have military needs due to the ongoing attacks by Yemen's Houthi

and that Turkiye was ready to help under a trilateral defence pact that also includes Pakistan.

"We see there are very serious attacks on Saudi Arabia's territorial integrity and sovereignty. We have an alliance agreement in our pact. We are in serious solidarity on this point... They may have some military needs, especially on some technical issues. We would have no issues in meeting these," Fidan told broadcaster NTV. The joint defence agreement, dubbed the "Makkah Defence Alliance", signed last month stipulates that an armed attack on any one of the three countries will be regarded as an attack on all of them. The Houthis, who control the most populous parts of Yemen, have been launching attacks on Saudi Arabia since declaring a naval blockade against Riyadh in July, a new front in the wider war that began with US and Israeli strikes on Iran in late February. The attacks have targeted Saudi cities.

Imran Khan undergoes medical examination at Adiala Jail

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A special medical team has completed the medical examination of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan at Adiala Jail, according to jail authorities.

The team, comprising doctors from the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and Shifa Eye Hospital, visited the jail for a detailed health assessment.

The medical team was led by PIMS doctor Arif Khan and assisted by medical staff from the Adiala Jail hospital. According to the jail report, Imran Khan underwent.

Security forces kill 5 terrorists, recover 23 abductees in operation along N-25 highway near Balochistan's Kalat: ISPR

PEAK POINT

QUETTA: Security forces have killed five terrorists and recovered 23 kidnapped individuals from their hideout during an operation along the N-25 Karachi-Chaman highway near Balochistan's Kalat, the military's media affairs wing said on Sunday.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that terrorists belonging to Fitna-al-Hindustan tried to disrupt people's movement by establishing a checkpoint for abduction for ransom, extortion and snatching of vehicles along the N-25 highway, also known as the Pakistan Expressway, on the night between Sept 18 and Sept 19.

"Security forces responded immediately and after intense fire exchange,

five terrorists belonging to India-sponsored proxy of



Fitna-al-Hindustan were sent to hell," the statement said. The state has designated Balochistan-based groups as Fitna-al-Hindustan to highlight India's alleged role in terrorism and destabilisation across Pakistan. According to the ISPR, 23 abductees were recovered from the terrorists' hideout near Kalat.

Six trucks, three buses

quantities of weapons, ammunition and explosives, the statement said.

"Successful operations by the security forces resulted in thwarting the nefarious designs of India-sponsored proxy of Fitna-al-Hindustan," it added.

The ISPR said sanitisation operations were ongoing in the surrounding areas to eliminate any remaining terrorists and ensure the

safety and security of the local population and national highways.

"The relentless counter-terrorism campaign under the vision of 'Azm-i-Istehkam', as approved by the Federal Apex Committee on the National Action Plan, will continue with full resolve. Security forces and law enforcement agencies remain committed to eliminating the menace of foreign-sponsored and foreign-supported terrorism from the country," the statement concluded.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari commended the security forces for the Kalat operation. A statement carried by state-run APP said the premier lauded the security forces for their "timely and effective action" and praised their professional capabilities.

Pakistan calls for technology-driven UN peacekeeping with a human face



PEAK POINT

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has called for a strengthening of UN Peacekeeping Operations, emphasizing that the integration of advanced technologies must be utilized to modernize mandates, enhance safety, and boost operational efficiency without diminishing the physical human presence on the ground. Speaking at the UN Security Council debate on Peacekeeping Operations, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, warned that peacekeepers are operating in increasingly complex and hostile environments with expanding tasks but shrinking resources.

He added that peacekeeping, a flagship UN activity,



SPORTS



Sri Lanka chase 178 to defeat Pakistan in Asian Games semi-final



PEAK POINT

DUBAI: Sri Lanka Women chased down Pakistan's 178-run target to secure an eight-wicket victory in the first semi-final of the Asian Games 2026 at Korogi Sports Park in Nisshin, Japan, on Sunday.

Sri Lanka reached 178-2 in 17.5 overs, winning with 13 balls to spare to book their place in Tuesday's gold-medal match.

Captain Chamari Athapaththu led the successful chase with an unbeaten 83 off 50 balls, striking

seven fours and six sixes at a strike rate of 166.

She put Sri Lanka in a strong position alongside Hasini Perera, who scored 42 from 26 deliveries, including three fours and three sixes.

Athapaththu and Hasini Perera then added 90 runs for the second wicket to put Sri Lanka firmly in control.

Dulani hit five fours in her 21-ball innings before being dismissed by Pakistan captain Fatima

Sana.

Nashra Sandhu then removed Perera, who was caught by Umme-Hani, but Sri Lanka remained firmly in control.

Harshitha Samarawickrama joined Athapaththu and remained unbeaten on 17 from 12 balls, with two fours, as Sri Lanka completed the chase comfortably.

Earlier, Pakistan posted 177-4 in their allotted 20 overs after being asked to bat.

Ayesha Zafar top-scored with

71 off 40 balls, while Shawaal Zulfiqar made 54 from 50 deliveries. Fatima Sana added an unbeaten 20 off 12 balls.

Sri Lanka's victory sends them through to Tuesday's gold-medal match, while Pakistan will now have an opportunity to compete for bronze.

The result also gives Sri Lanka another victory over Pakistan after their four-wicket win in the Women's T20 Asia Cup semi-final earlier this month in Dubai.

Wasim Akram questions Babar Azam's decision to accept Test captaincy



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram said that Babar Azam should have remained a player rather than taking over the Test captaincy.

Akram made the comments while speaking alongside former Pakistan pacer Waqar Younis at a charity fundraising event in Manchester.

"I do not want to blame anyone, and I could be wrong as well," Akram said. "But in my opinion, Babar should not have taken the captaincy. All of this was unnecessary."

Akram was referring to the events surrounding Pakistan's Test tour of England, where the team underwent a major overhaul following defeats in the first two Tests.

During the toss ahead of the third Test in Birmingham, Babar was asked about the decision to send seven players home and make changes to the coaching staff. The captain replied that he was unaware of the changes.

Recalling the moment, Akram sarcastically questioned Babar's role as captain if he was unaware of such major decisions.

"Babar Azam said he did not know. If you don't know, then what were you doing here? Were you here to sell chickpeas?" Akram said sarcastically.

Former spinners Tauseef, Saqlain trade barbs over Shadab Khan's selection



MOHTASHIM ALI



ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan spinners Tauseef Ahmed and Saqlain Mushtaq have traded barbs over alleged favouritism of all-rounder Shadab Khan for inclusion in Pakistan cricket.

Speaking on the YouTube channel of another national cricketer, Fawad Alam, Tauseef claimed that he possesses recordings purportedly cap-

turing Saqlain lobbying for Shadab's, who is also the latter's son-in-law, inclusion in the national team. "He doesn't see anything other than Shadab. And such things, Man, there's a limit. There's a limit to the favour. Who has put their hand on you? He called me and also asked someone else to do so; I didn't pick up the phone," said Tauseef. "Recording, [I have the] recording."

He sent it later. I don't say it like that. I say the wrong thing is wrong." Tauseef also questioned the treatment of Pakistan captain Shan Masood, claiming that he had been placed in a C or D category, while players could secure contracts despite fitness concerns. "You come from outside and take the contract. Shan Masood, your captain, goes to C or D category."

ry. No one is going to ask what's happening," he said.

He further questioned why players such as Sufiyan Muqeem were overlooked. "Great players who have played good cricket, they came here and failed in coaching," Ahmed said. Responding to Tauseef's remarks, Saqlain challenged the former spinner to publicly release the alleged recording. "Mr Tauseef Ahmed, you said you have my voice message — prove it. Release it publicly," Saqlain wrote on X. He said he had called Ahmed out of respect, considering him a senior, and rejected the way the interaction had been presented.

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Pakistan announce 23-member squad for Fifa Asean Cup 2026

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) has announced a 23-member Pakistan national team squad for the Fifa Asean Cup 2026 in Indonesia.

The squad brings together players travelling from Pakistan as well as members of the national team based abroad.

Head coach Nolberto Solano will lead the Shaheens as they compete in the inaugural Fifa Asean Cup, which brings together teams from across the ASEAN region.

The 23-member squad is: Yousuf Butt, Hassan Ali, Saqib Hanif, Abdullah Shah, Abdul Rahman, Ali Khan, Ali Agha, Hayyan Khattak, Ali Uzair, Alamgir Ghazi, Ali Raza, Abdul Samad Arshad, Kaleem Ullah, Shayek Dost, Abdullah Iqbal, Easah Suliman, Mohib Ullah, Mamooun Khan, Mohd Fazal,

Haris Zeb, Umer Nawaz, Abdul Samad, Ali Khan.

The Fifa Asean Cup 2026 will give Pakistan an opportunity to compete on a new international platform and further strengthen its preparations against teams

to October 5, with Division One matches scheduled to take place in Indonesia.

Pakistan will begin their campaign against Thailand on September 26 before taking on the Philippines on September 29. Their final



from the Asean region, the statement said.

The national side has been drawn into Group B of Division One of the inaugural Fifa Asean Cup 2026, where they will face Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam.

The Fifa Asean Cup will be held from September 24

group-stage fixture will be against Vietnam on October 2. The final of Division One is scheduled for October 5.

The inaugural Fifa Asean Cup will feature 14 national teams, comprising all 11 Asean members and three guest teams. The competition has been divided into two divisions.

Asim Khan powers into Asian Games semis





HEC's conditional NOC for Lahore leads University's G 12 campus raises questions over legal status

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission's (HEC) conditional approval for Lahore Leads University's temporary campus in G 12 has raised questions regarding the site's legal status, the safety of students' fees and the university's ability to establish a permanent campus within the timeframe set by the regulator. HEC issued the No Objection Certificate on June 6, 2026, allowing the Islamabad sub-campus to operate until December 31, 2027 for BS Computer Science and Bachelor of Business Administration programmes, subject to HEC rules and other legal requirements. But why did HEC attach a condition requiring the university to pay each affected student three times the total fee and other charges if any legal or administrative dispute affects the G 12 campus? The condition is part of the official NOC issued by HEC. The condition raises a basic ques-

tion for students and parents: what legal or administrative risk was HEC addressing when it required such a payment safeguard? HEC has also placed full responsibility on Lahore Leads University for any dispute, claim, court case, deficiency or irregularity related to land ownership and approvals from the Capital Development Authority, Federal Government Employees Housing Authority or any other competent authority. HEC has stated that it will not be held responsible in such proceedings. This leads to another question: before issuing the conditional NOC, did HEC independently verify the university's ownership or valid lease of the G 12 premises and confirm that all required approvals were in place? The regulator has also directed Lahore Leads University to establish a permanent purpose-built Islamabad campus at Mouza Tumair near Bahria Enclave within three years from the date of the NOC. HEC will



review progress after three years. The question now is whether the university already has the required land at the proposed location and whether construction can realistically be completed within the three-year period. The HEC document also includes several other conditions for the temporary campus. These include meeting faculty requirements, maintaining the required teacher and student ratio, providing academic infrastructure, obtaining accreditation for relevant degree programmes and submitting a compliance report by October 2027. HEC says an inspection committee will visit the campus again before any extension of the

NOC is considered. Another question concerns how the campus is described in public advertisements. Promotional material for the Islamabad campus uses the wording "HEC Approved Campus" and advertises BS Computer Science, BBA and Associate Degree programmes. However, the HEC document specifically describes the Islamabad site as a sub-campus operating under a conditional NOC valid until December 31, 2027. It also states that the NOC does not remove the university's responsibility to meet other statutory and regulatory requirements. This raises a further question: does the phrase "HEC Approved

Campus" in promotional material clearly communicate to students that the approval is temporary and conditional? The HEC conditions also require the university to keep complete student records, strengthen its quality system, provide medical and safety facilities, improve parking and student services, and maintain required library resources and academic journals. The available record also shows that Lahore Leads University issued a circular in March 2026 disavowing an advertisement for admissions to a Multan campus, saying the advertisement was circulating on social media. For this report, official clarification was sought from HEC on whether it had verified the ownership or lease of the G 12 premises, the required CDA and FGEHA approvals, the land at Mouza Tumair and the complete case file and inspection reports behind the June 6 NOC. The university was also asked why it accepted the three-times fee compensation

condition, whether it has clear legal control of the G 12 premises, whether land has been acquired at Mouza Tumair and whether describing the campus as an HEC Approved Campus accurately reflects the temporary and conditional NOC. No response had been received from HEC or Lahore Leads University at the time of filing the report. Any response received later will also be published. The central issue for students remains clear: what happens to their education and fees if the temporary campus faces a legal or regulatory problem, the permanent campus is not completed on time or HEC does not extend the NOC after its expiry? These questions do not by themselves establish any wrongdoing by the university or any official. They underline the need for clear answers on the campus's legal status, regulatory approvals, student protection and compliance with the conditions attached to the NOC.

G-13 residents seek relief from persistent water shortage, tanker burden

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Residents of Sector G-13 continue to face inadequate water supply despite heavy rains and water accumulation in several parts of the federal capital, calling for a stronger water

supply system capable of meeting the sector's growing domestic requirements.

Residents said while talking to APP that the existing arrangement, under which water is supplied twice a week, often falls short of their essential needs.

They suggested increasing the frequency to at least three times a week or enhancing the quantity and duration of each supply cycle so that households could receive sufficient water without having to depend on tankers.

They said families had already adopted stringent water conservation practices, carefully rationing available supplies and avoiding non-essential consumption. Despite these efforts, however, the available quantity frequently ran out before their

daily requirements could be met.

For many households, the shortfall means arranging water tankers two or three times a month. Residents said the recurring expenditure had become increasingly difficult to bear amid rising

fuel prices and broader inflationary pressures.

Hafiz Ghulam Ali, Imam of a mosque in G-13, told APP that the limited availability of water is creating considerable difficulties for residents in managing routine domestic affairs.

Opinion & Editorial

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A small republic in every classroom

Justice (ret'd) Syed Mansoor Ali Shah

PAKISTAN is extraordinarily young. Two in every three of its people are under 30. The question is not whether Generation Z will change Pakistan. Demographically, it will. The question is whether it will be ready, and little in the way this country is arranged suggests it will.

Their task can be stated in a sentence. The Constitution of Pakistan on paper and the Constitution as it works on the ground are two different documents, and the distance between them is what this generation has to close.

I was 14 when martial law came and a young man when that general died. My generation learnt a dangerous lesson: power does not explain itself. The man who speaks out is transferred; the man who stays quiet is promoted; the judge who insists upon his independence is superseded. Caution, practised long enough, becomes accommodation, and accommodation becomes submission. We learnt to accommodate power.

Our institutions learnt it too. The courts found a doctrine for every occasion: revolutionary legality in 1958, necessity in 1977, validation in 2000. Havel wrote of the greengrocer who displayed a slogan he did not believe because it was safer. Parties became family enterprises; student unions were banned in 1984 and never restored.

What we built governs without consent.

Pakistan's next generation will not be formed by protest. It will be formed by argument, and the place to begin it already exists.

So what must this generation build first? Not a movement. Character.

I have watched men who stood fearlessly at the bar change after reaching the bench. Not suddenly, and not for money. The comfort of office begins quietly to weigh, and each surrender is called realistic. Character is what resists that, and character is built by exposure to lives larger than one's own. That is what history, literature and poetry are for: to make suffering legible, so that conviction has something to rest upon.

But reading alone will not do it. What is read must be argued about, and the structure for that argument is already built, already funded and sitting idle. It is the university classroom.

Every class, in every discipline, should be run as a small republic, and the argument should be about the discipline itself. Let the law class argue whether a judgement was rightly decided, not merely what it held. Let the medical class argue triage, consent, and who receives the last bed in a public ward. Let the engineering class argue what was built, who paid, and who must live beside it. Let the business class argue what a wage ought to be, and whether a

balance sheet that is lawful is therefore honest. Every syllabus buries such questions beneath what is examinable.

Let each class elect its office bearers, for a fixed term and with real duties. Let the elections be contested, and let students lose them, because losing an election and returning next week to sit beside the person who beat you is the most useful hour of civic instruction this country could offer. Let the dissenter be protected by rule, not by the goodwill of the majority. That is how a democratic mind is made: by being outvoted by someone you believe wrong, and having to work beside him afterwards. Argue any of these questions honestly and it will not remain within its discipline. Ask an engineering class whether the dam should be built. The answer requires a lawyer on water rights, an economist on who bears the cost, a doctor on what happens downstream, and someone who has met the people being moved. A faculty can contain a syllabus; it cannot contain a real question. Memorisation keeps a student inside his discipline; argument drives him out. Debate and multidisciplinary education are not two reforms but one, and the first produces the second.

This is also where the politics lies. Our professions are organised as separate estates: a bar, a medical association, a chamber of commerce.

Courtesy Dawn

Managing swamped conurbations

Erum Ashfaq

The rooftops in monsoon – once a blessing and a romantic obsession for the masses, poets, artists and cinema – lost their meaning when urban flooding arrived.

A lack of holistic planning and a dearth of interest from policymakers to enforce development controls have left our conurbations vulnerable to unprecedented downpours. Streets have turned into flooded, inundated quarters where vehicles float like ships – a sight that has quickly become the order of the day.

Factually, urban flooding is the fallout of accumulated rainwater in built-up areas where it cannot be absorbed, leaving it to pool on roads and over built-up infrastructure. This runoff overwhelms the capacity of drainage systems, such as storm sewers. Consequently, urban flooding can occur regardless of whether the affected communities are located within designated floodplains or near any body of water.

Although the current government is working hard to devise policies to control urban flooding, rainwater harvesting has emerged as the most widely considered solution, and one that has already yielded results. In rainwater harvesting system, the rainwater is collected and stored from surfaces like roofs using pipes. This water goes into tanks or recharge wells to save water and help underground water levels grow.

To ensure the system's success, the authorities need to focus on three main areas: 1) Drainage channels must be managed separately through a collaboration between the irrigation department and the concerned municipality or development authority. There must be a strict prohibition against using drains as disposal sites for solid waste, as waste accumulation and encroachments are the primary catalysts for drain overflows during heavy rains. Consequently, the embankments should be paved, well-lit and lined with green belts.

Courtesy Tribune

Navy chief visits units at sea, Creeks Area to review SEASPARK 2026



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naved Ashraf visited units at sea and in the Creeks Area on Sunday to review Exercise SEASPARK 2026, the military's media wing said. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), The biennial exercise, which has been underway since September 1, rehearses the full spectrum of maritime operations and tests the operational preparedness and ability to transition rapidly from peacetime to wartime operations.

"Reflecting the changing charac-



ter of warfare, this year's exercise integrates Operations in the Information Environment, Multi-Domain Operations and extensive use of unmanned systems," the statement added.

During his visit, Admiral Ashraf interacted with personnel participating and commended their "professionalism, high morale, operational readiness and resolve to remain invincible at sea", ISPR said.

Pakistan and India on Wednesday lodged tit-for-tat diplomatic protests against each other over a naval incident in the Arabian Sea after vessels

from the two countries came into contact during a Pakistani maritime exercise.

The Foreign Office summoned the Indian Charge d'Affaires in Islamabad and lodged a "strong protest" over what it described as a provocative and unacceptable action by an Indian Navy vessel inside Pakistan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) on September 15. According to the Foreign Office, the Pakistan Navy has been conducting its biennial exercise, SEASPARK-26, in Pakistan's EEZ since September 1. It said that since September 7, the Indian naval ship INS Kolkata and a helicopter deployed on it had repeatedly attempted to enter the area where the Pakistani exercises were being conducted. The Foreign Office said INS Kolkata carried out "dangerous and provocative manoeuvres" close to Pakistan Navy vessels despite multiple warnings. It said the Indian vessel's activities were not a routine deployment but constituted.

Automotive industry contributes beyond vehicle production: Gilani

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has said that a strong automotive industry contributes far beyond vehicle production, as it supports employment, engineering capabilities, technology transfer, localisation and a wider network of domestic suppliers. He said this while addressing the Pakistan International Auto Show Gala Dinner organised by the Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) at a local hotel on Saturday. Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said, "Tonight is an occasion to recognise achievement, enterprise and perseverance. I warmly congratulate all the award winners. Your accomplishments reflect not only individual excellence but also the capability, resilience and innovative potential of Pakistan's automotive and engineering sector."

He further said, "Here, we see components, machinery and engineering solutions representing years of investment, technical learning and hard work by Pakistani entrepreneurs, engineers, technicians and

workers."

"Industrialisation is often spoken of in theory. Here, it takes a clear shape," he said, adding that the industry demands precision, consistency and long-term commitment—qualities that deserved recognition.

The Senate chairman said that the companies present at the event had persevered through difficult years, investing in localisation and demonstrating their confidence in Pakistan not through words but through efforts and capital. He said, "The sector continues to face challenges, including access to inputs, financing pressures, changing market conditions and the need for greater policy predictability. These concerns merit constructive and sustained engagement among industry, government and Parliament."

He maintained that industry growth was closely connected with the broader strength of the country's manufacturing economy.

"As Chairman of the Senate, I believe Parliament has an important role in providing a platform for dialogue, understanding the concerns and perspectives of productive sectors.



LAHORE: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani addressing the Pakistan International Auto Show Gala dinner organised by the Pakistan Association of Automotive parts and accessories manufacturers (PAAPAM).

'Self-inflicted pain': Finance minister says protests, sit-ins to cause daily loss of around Rs120bn

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb warned on Sunday that protests and sit-ins would result in a daily loss of around Rs120 billion, citing research findings.

His warning in a televised recorded message came ahead of the PTI planned protest march to Islamabad on Sept 27, which the government has vowed to stop.

The PTI has announced a nationwide protest on Sept 27 to demand release of party founder Imran Khan and mobilise people for the

supremacy of the Constitution, with the plan to march towards Islamabad. The Jamaat-i-Islami also launched its march towards Islamabad today in a bid to press the government to end the fuel levy. In his message, Aurangzeb said the protests and sit-ins, when seen against the backdrop of the economic hardships resulting from the Middle East conflict, would be a "self-inflicted pain". The finance czar said that supply chain disruptions and increased freight and insurance costs were arising from Middle East tensions.

He also recalled the recent Kohat bombing, noting a fresh wave of terrorism in the country. Within this context, he said, "In the past few days, along with the economic wing of our planning commission, we have held consultations on the results of protests and sit-ins on the economic progress we have sustained through difficult decisions".

Taking previous instances and the present situation into account, he said the planning commission had estimated that the proposed protests will cause "a loss of Rs120bn

daily, and this is based on very good research".

He noted that the services sector—including financial services, communication, retail, transportation, wholesale and hospitality—was estimated to take the biggest hit, with a loss of Rs86bn.

In the industrial sector, the loss was estimated to be Rs25bn, the finance minister said, adding, "This includes construction, finished goods, raw material and supply chain".

Meanwhile, the agriculture sector will suffer a loss of Rs9bn, he said.

MQM-P wants administrative restructuring of Sindh without altering boundaries: Mustafa Kamal

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan leader and Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal has said his party wants "administrative restructuring of Sindh without altering its boundaries".

"We want administrative units with their own assemblies and chief executives, where National Finance Commission [NFC] funds are directly transferred," he told a press conference here at the party's temporary headquarters in Bahadurabad on Saturday.

However, the absence of party chairman Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and senior leader Dr Farooq Sattar from Mr Kamal's press conference suggested that the party's internal rifts over leadership control are far from over.



In the evening, Dr Sattar held a separate press conference, conspicuous by Mr Kamal's absence, where he announced a rally to be held on Sunday (today) and claimed that six administrative units would soon be created in Sindh. At the first press conference, Mr Kamal said that the 18th Amendment had practically divided the country into "four independent states" and the MQM-P wanted to unite the country through the creation of new administrative units. Accompanied by senior leader Anis Kaikhani and others.

Govt finalises sweeping civil service reforms: Ahsan Iqbal

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Amid concerns over declining standards and lack of specialisation in the bureaucracy, the federal government has finalised a sweeping restructuring of the civil service, proposing 11 new professional cadres, a complete overhaul of the Central Superior Services (CSS) examination and senior-level promotions and linking officials' performance to financial rewards.

The proposed reforms, estimated to cost Rs11 billion to implement, seek to reshape recruitment, training, career progression, performance evaluation and the institutional structure of the federal bureaucracy. The package was unveiled at



a consultative session on civil service reforms chaired by Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal.

The session was attended by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Federal Minister Aleem Khan, former PTI federal minister Asad Umar, senior policymakers, sector specialists and other stakeholders.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had constituted two committees on civil service reforms, which have held 18 meetings since September 2024.

Pakistan Pavilion delegation meets Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The delegation of the Pakistan Pavilion at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair 2026 held an important meeting with Ambassador of Pakistan to the United Arab Emirates, Shafqat Ali Khan, during which they discussed Pakistan's literary and cultural representation, promotion of books, cultural linkages and future collaborative initiatives. The delegation comprised Murad Ali Mohmand, Director Headquarters, National Book Foundation (NBF); Amar Shahid, Director, Book Corner Jhelum; and Sarmad Khan, Chief Executive Officer, Urdu World Books and Principal Organiser of the Pakistan Pavilion.



Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan appreciated the efforts of the National Book Foundation, Book Corner Jhelum and Urdu World Books in presenting Pakistani literature, culture and intellectual heritage at the Pakistan Pavilion, said a message received here on Saturday. He also noted the interest of visitors and readers in Pakistani publications, particularly Urdu literature.