



Minister urges PTI to choose between Pakistan and Afghanistan amid terror attacks



Minister warns governor's rule possible in KP amid tensions with provincial govt



Pak, Oman seeks wider opportunities for youth: PMYP

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US delegation meets CDF Munir, acknowledges Pakistan's 'longstanding role, sacrifices' during Afghan war

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: A delegation of America's Afghanistan War Commission called on Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir on Monday and acknowledged Pakistan's "long-standing role and sacrifices during the conflict in Afghanistan", according to the military's media affairs wings. The visiting delegation also appreciated Pakistan's continued contribution to regional peace and stability, the Inter-Services Public Relations said in a statement. The delegation, led by its co-chairs, Shamila N. Chaudhary and Dr Colin F Jackson, met CDF Munir at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi. "The delegation is undertaking a review of the United States' 20-year engage-

ment in Afghanistan," the statement said, adding that its discussion with the military chief covered topics including "Pakistan's support, the regional security environment and developments in Afghanistan, with focus on perspectives relevant to the commission's work".

For his part, CDF Munir shared Pakistan's perspective on the security dynamics that shaped the conflict, also highlighting the challenges the country faced during the prolonged US engagement in Afghanistan.

The ISPR statement added that he highlighted the need to incorporate a regional perspective, as well as Pakistan's experience in assessing the strategic, diplomatic and operational dimensions of the conflict. The US Congress established the Afghanistan.



CDF Asim Munir meets with delegates of the US' Afghanistan War Commission, Shamila Chaudhary and Dr Colin F Jackson, at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi.

Aleema provided basic facilities, essential items in jail, Punjab govt tells LHC

PEAK POINT



LAHORE: The Punjab government on Monday told the Lahore High Court (LHC) that Aleema Khan, a sister of PTI founder Imran Khan, had been provided basic facilities and essential items in jail. Aleema was detained on Sep 20 after the Lahore deputy commissioner ordered her detention or arrest under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Ordinance. The detention has come amid reports of a crackdown on the PTI ahead of its countrywide protest and march to Islamabad, which the party has postponed to Oct 4. The protest has been called to demand Imran's release from jail and mobilise people for the supremacy of the Constitution. Assistant Advocate General Farrukh Khan Lodhi submitted a report on behalf of the Kot Lakhpat jail superintendent during the hearing of a petition filed by Shahrez Khan, Aleema's son. According to the report, Aleema had been provided with a bedsheet, blanket, shoes, six suits and a towel. She was also given face wash, a toothbrush, a skincare kit and a shawl, it added.

China, US agree tariff cuts on \$60bn of goods including agriculture, household items

MAHPARA ZAMAN



NEW YORK: China and the United States have agreed to cut tariffs imposed on \$60 billion worth of goods imported from each other, on an array of products ranging from US corn to cosmetics, and from Chinese household appliances to toys.

Under the US-China Board of Trade, both countries have each recommended \$30 billion of trade in non-sensitive goods for more favourable tariff treatment, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said in a statement on Sunday.

For the United States, that was "unlocking improved market access" for about 30% of US exports to China, he said.

The reciprocal tariff reduction as well as an extension of a trade truce were among the key takeaways from the second summit this year between President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump, hosted in Washington last week. One of two lists from the White House showed that China planned to trim duties on a variety of US agricultural goods including corn, wheat, sorghum, meat, dairy, vegetable oils and meals. It did not include soybeans.

Beijing will also look to reduce levies on US fish and seafood, logs and wood products, cosmetics and medical devices.

In another list were Washington's reciprocal tariff cuts for Chinese small appliances such as coffee makers and toasters, tableware, blankets and bed linens.

TTAP to 'fully participate' in PTI's Oct 4 protest

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Opposition alliance Tehreek-i-Tahafuz-Ayin-i-Pakistan (TTAP) said on Monday it would "fully participate" in the PTI's protest that had been rescheduled to Oct 4.

The PTI has announced a nationwide protest, including a march to Islamabad, to demand the release of former prime minister and party founder Imran Khan. The protest was originally scheduled for Sept 27 but was postponed to Oct 4 last week.

The leadership of the TTAP, which includes the PTI, was not fully on board with the decision to delay the march. However, once the decision was taken, they agreed to abide by it, but made it clear that they would not own the decision. A statement released by TTAP spokesperson Akhunzada Hussain Ahmad Yousafzai appeared to be implying the same. "The PTI is part of the opposition alliance and the call for the Sept 27 protest unanimously declared as a joint call of the opposition alliance in a TTAP meeting," he recounted.

Indian delegation in Islamabad to attend SCO Coordinators' Meeting

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The meeting of National Coordinators from Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states has begun in Islamabad, with an Indian delegation arriving in Pakistan to participate in the meeting.

This visit marks the arrival of an Indian delegation in Pakistan during the two years. India's National Coordinator Alok Amitabh Dimri is leading the Indian delegation, while Pakistan's National Coordinator is chairing the meeting. Sources said matters relating.

5 men held over bomb scare at England base used by US to attack Iran are UK nationals: police

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Five men held over a bomb scare at a British air base used by the US are all UK nationals aged in their mid-20s, British counter-terror police said Monday.

The five — a 25-year-old, three men aged 24 and a 23-year-old — all based in London, have been detained since Sunday on suspicion of offences including "preparation of a terrorist act" under UK anti-terrorism laws, according to police.

The five were questioned by the police on Monday.

Officers detained the group in the early hours of Sunday after they received a tip-off that three large white vans had been seen heading to the military airfield of RAF Fairford in the west of England.

US President Donald Trump said the suspects earlier said an Iranian-linked motive was behind that they hate our democracy, and we know that we regularly have to thwart Iranian attempts to threaten either our interests or indeed our allies."



had been looking to do "big damage" and had been under investigation by British and US authorities.

However, a local farmer said she had tipped off police after seeing a group of "hooded and masked men" running into the fields.

British counterterrorism detectives have publicly shared little about the suspects but a source familiar with the investigation

ered the most likely, while a Russian sabotage operation or a terrorism plot were also being looked at as possibilities.

Defence minister Wes Streeting told BBC News on Monday that he would not speculate about motives of a live investigation. But he added on the general Iranian threat to the country: "We know that Iran and their proxies wish to do us harm. We know

that they hate our democracy, and we know that we regularly have to thwart Iranian attempts to threaten either our interests or indeed our allies."

The Iranian embassy in London said it "categorically rejects and strongly condemns" speculation that Tehran was involved in the bomb scare.

In an X post, the embassy criticised "the recent unfounded and malicious speculations published by some British individuals and media outlets attempting to link Iran" to the incident.

In May, Britain sanctioned 12 individuals and entities linked to Iran, accusing them of involvement in hostile activity including plotting attack-sand providing financial services to groups seeking to destabilise the UK and other countries.

Four terrorists killed in Dera Ismail Khan intelligence-based operation



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Security forces killed four terrorists in an intelligence-based operation in Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, security sources said.

According to the sources, security forces closely monitored the movement of the terrorists before targeting them during the operation. A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and Afghan currency was recovered from the slain militants, the sources added. Security officials said operations against terrorism were continuing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under the government's Azm-e-Istehkam framework. Pakistan's government has repeatedly said it remains committed to eliminating militant groups operating in the country.



SPORTS



Pakistan reach Asian Games cricket semi-finals after rain washes out Hong Kong clash



PEAK POINT

JAPAN: Pakistan advanced to the Asian Games men's cricket semi-finals on Monday after rain washed out their quarter-final against Hong Kong, China, in Nisshin, Japan.

The first quarter-final was abandoned without a toss after persistent rain prevented any play at Korogi Sports Park.

The abandonment of the fixture meant the Green Shirts, on the virtue of being the better-ranked side, advanced into the semi-finals, while it bowled.

marked the end of Hong Kong's campaign at the Games.

Pakistan had entered the knockout stage directly alongside India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka by virtue of their rankings, while Hong Kong secured their quarter-final place after finishing second in Group B.

Hong Kong had two points from their group matches, while Malaysia topped the group with three points.

Their final group fixture against Oman was also abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Pakistan arrived in Japan after a four-day training camp in Karachi, where they worked on conditions expected at the Asian Games and practised different match scenarios.

Their training session in Nisshin on Sunday was also affected by overnight rain and a wet outfield.

Sahibzada Farhan is captaining a 15-member Pakistan squad that includes T20 internationals such as Saim Ayub, Abrar Ahmed, Haider Ali and Mohammad Wasim Jr. Mike Hesson is the team's head coach.

Pakistan's semi-final will be played on October 1, with the bronze-medal match and final scheduled for October 3.

Pakistan squad for Asian Games

Sahibzada Farhan (c), Abdul Samad (vc), Abrar Ahmed, Ahmed Daniyal, Akif Javed, Ali Raza, Arafat Minhas, Haider Ali, Hasan Nawaz, Maaz Sadaqat, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Saad Masood, Saim Ayub, Sufyan Moqim and Usman Khan (wk)

Pakistan beat Oman 7-2 to reach Asian Games hockey semi-finals



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan thrashed Oman 7-2 to qualify for the semi-finals of the Asian Games 2026 at the Nagoya Kinjo Futo Arena.

Pakistan started the quarter-final on the front foot and held a 2-1 lead at half-time.

Rana Waheed scored a hat-trick for Pakistan, while Sufyan Khan netted twice. Ghazanfar Ali and Mohammad Imad scored one goal each.

Pakistan finished second in Pool B with 12 points, behind Malaysia, who topped the group with 15 points.

Pakistan won four of their five pool matches, with their only defeat coming against Malaysia.

The team scored 28 goals across five matches and conceded eight.

The Green Shirts will face arch-rival India in the semi-final on October 1.

Meanwhile, Pakistan advanced to the Asian Games men's cricket semi-finals after rain washed out their quarter-final against Hong Kong, China, in Nisshin, Japan. The abandonment of the fixture meant the Green Shirts, on the virtue of being the better-ranked side, advanced into the semi-finals, while it marked the end of Hong Kong's campaign at the Games. A few hours later, with rain in the air, India progressed against Afghanistan.

President's Trophy Grade-II Gold: Usman Khan hits unbeaten double century as eshaal associates seal innings victory



BY SHAKEEL UR REHMAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Under-19 opener Usman Khan continued his impressive run of form with a magnificent unbeaten double century in the President's Trophy Grade-II Gold tournament, helping Eshaal Associates defeat Haider Cricket Club by an innings and 11

runs at the SBP Ground in Karachi. Representing Eshaal Associates, the talented left-handed batter produced a breathtaking 202 not out off 212 balls, smashing nine fours and 15 sixes in a dominant display of power hitting. Usman's outstanding innings powered Eshaal Associates to 397 for 8 declared in their first innings. Zain bin Farooq also made a valuable contribution with an impressive 86. Haider Cricket Club were earlier bowled out for just 158 in their first innings, while Muhammad Ansarullah top-scored with 58. Eshaal Associates consequently secured a commanding 239-run first-innings lead. Facing a huge deficit, Haider Cricket Club were unable to withstand the Eshaal Associates bowling attack in their second innings and were dismissed for 228. Shahbaz Tabriz led the resistance with 67, while Muhammad Ansarullah followed up his first-innings effort with a fighting 62. For Eshaal Associates, play with an increasingly aggressive approach.



Tokyo: A view of match between Pakistan and Kazakhstan teams during Asian Games Tokyo 2026 Volley Ball Men's Contest here on Monday.

2027 Davis Cup World group I and II Play-offs draw confirms 26 Global ties

ZAHID YAQOOB KHAWAJA

ISLAMABAD: The draw for the 2027 Davis Cup by Generali World Group I and II Play-offs was officially confirmed on Monday following a ceremony held at the World Tennis offices in London. The draw features 52 nations facing off in 26 home-or-away ties in men's premier team tennis. The action will take place internationally between 5-7 February 2027, with home nations choosing to host on either 5-6 February or 6-7 February. 2027 World Group I Play-offs: Finland (1) v New Zealand (c) Sweden (2) (c) v Ukraine Poland (3) (c)* v Dominican Republic Switzerland (4) (c) v Morocco Bulgaria (5) v Paraguay (c) Portugal (6) (c) v Romania Türkiye (7) (c)* v Tunisia Bosnia and Herzegovina (8) (c)* v Uruguay Colombia (9) (c) v Mexico Lithuania (10) v

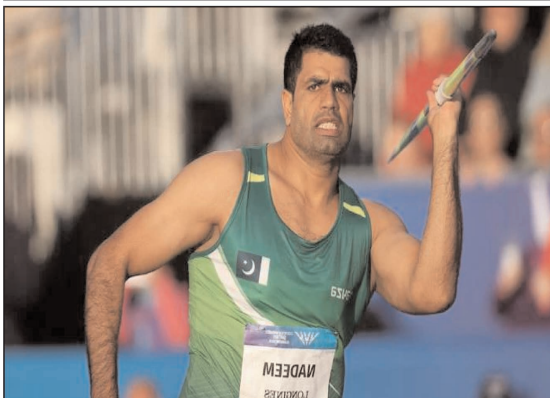
Bolivia (c)* Greece (11) v Slovenia (c) Luxembourg (12) (c)* v China, P.R. Kazakhstan (13) (c)* v Lebanon 2027 World Group II Play-offs: Israel (1) v Senegal (c)* Egypt (2) (c) v Iran Hong Kong, China (3) (c) v



Namibia Estonia (4) v Venezuela (c) El Salvador (5) (c)* v Nigeria Pakistan (6) v Saudi Arabia (c) South Africa (7) v North Macedonia (c) Thailand (8) v Guatemala (c)* Cyprus (9) (c)* v Puerto Rico Latvia (10) (c)* v Jordan Syria (11) v Bermuda (c)* Barbados (12) v Moldova (c)* Indonesia (13) (c)* v

Progression World Group I Winners: Advance to compete in World Group I ties in September alongside the losing nations from the 2027 Qualifiers 1st Round. World Group I Losers & World Group II Winners: Compete in World Group II ties in September. World Group II Losers: Relegated.

Arshad Nadeem misses Asian Games podium despite season-best throw



DISCOs Privatisation faces senate review over CCI approval

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Sub Committee on Devolution questioned the continuation of electricity distribution companies' privatisation, stating that the constitutional and legal position must first be reviewed because the DISCOs are linked to functions falling within the provincial domain. The committee examined the Privatisation Commission's report on the proposed privatisation of the distribution companies during its meeting at Parliament House on September 28. The meeting was chaired by Senator Zamir Hussain Ghumro. The committee expressed reservations about continuing the privatisation process while questions remain over whether the matter falls within provincial authority. It directed the concerned authorities to review the constitutional and legal position before moving ahead. The committee stressed that matters involving the provinces should be placed before the Council of Common Interests where required. It said the position of DISCOs should be properly addressed through the constitutional process because the companies perform functions connected with provincial matters. According to the committee, there are two possible ways to address the issue. The position of the DISCOs could be given legal cover through approval from the relevant provincial assemblies, or the companies could be transferred to the provinces. The committee also expressed reservations about the Privatisation Commission's response. It said the commission appeared to be seeking to continue the process without fresh approval from the Council of Common Interests. The committee directed the commission to comply with its earlier instructions. Members also stressed the need for transparency in the DISCO privatisation process. The committee referred to concerns raised during earlier privatisation processes and said the DISCO matter should be handled openly and according to the constitutional process. The committee warned that failure to address its directions could lead to parliamentary action, including consideration of a privilege motion. The warning was issued as members sought a clear response from the authorities on the legal and constitutional basis of the privatisation process. The dispute is therefore not only about the sale of the electricity companies. The committee is also questioning which level of government has the constitutional authority to deal with the DISCOs and whether the Council of Common Interests must first consider the matter. The committee's position means the Privatisation Commission has been asked to reconsider its approach and provide clarity on the constitutional process before further action on the DISCO privatisation proceeds.

PANAH holds World Heart Day symposium

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) organized its World Heart Day annual symposium 2026 to promote awareness about cardiovascular diseases, prevention, healthy lifestyles and the importance of timely action to protect heart health.

PANAH holds World Heart Day symposium

The symposium brought together health professionals, cardiology and nutrition experts, academics and university students.

Maj Gen (R) Masud-Ur-Rehman Kiani, President PANAH, highlighted the need for collective efforts to prevent cardiovascular diseases and promote healthier communities.

Dr. Shakil Ahmed Mirza, Additional Executive Vice President, PANAH, stressed the importance of prioritizing heart health and strengthening preventive measures and public awareness about cardiovascular diseases.

PANAH General Secretary Sana Ullah Ghumman briefed participants on the association's initiatives for heart disease prevention, health awareness and community engagement.

Senior Preventive Cardiologist, AFIC, Shazia Fatima Malik delivered a detailed presentation on heart health and cardiovascular disease prevention, emphasizing healthy lifestyle choices, early detection and timely management of risk factors.

Nutrition and Research Expert Munawar Hussain and Professor, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Rizwan Alam also contributed to the symposium.

Students from various universities actively participated in the event, highlighting the role of young people in promoting healthy lifestyles and greater awareness of cardiovascular health.

The symposium reaffirmed PANAH's commitment to strengthening public awareness, promoting preventive healthcare and encouraging communities to take timely action against cardiovascular diseases.

Opinion & Editorial



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Cockroaches on a roll

The Cockroach Janata Party of India has rapidly transitioned into a formidable pressure group capable of altering the regional governance landscape. Fresh from their victory in securing the resignation of the education minister, the group has successfully flexed its political muscle once more by forcing the Election Commission of India onto the backfoot. Following a sharp warning of imminent protests from the party's leadership, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar hastily directed a comprehensive review of the electoral rolls which, according to Indian media reports, were manipulated to benefit the ruling BJP. This surrender by a high-ranking official not only underscores the growing leverage of the Cockroach Party but also signals a profound shift in how grassroots agitation dictates institutional accountability. However, the Chief Election Commissioner still faces the looming threat of dismissal, as he has stopped short of the full resignation demanded by the Cockroach Party. Ultimately, this standoff serves as a stark reminder about the necessity of an objective, neutral election commission led by an unbiased leader in a functioning democracy. Without absolute neutrality at the helm, the promise of free and fair elections remains entirely hollow.

Do leaders matter?

Malecha Lodhi

THE age-old debate over the role of individuals in history continues. Do leaders shape history or is history the product of underlying social and economic structures? Can leaders bring about change in society and determine national outcomes? Proponents of the 'great man theory' have argued that history is the biography of great leaders. This has been contested by others who insist economic and social forces are decisive and impose constraints on what individuals can do. But can individuals transcend structures in moments of crisis?

A provocative new book joins this debate. In *Profits, Prophets, Coaches, and Kings: (When) do Leaders Make a Difference* Jared Diamond examines whether individual leaders alter the course of their societies. The study marks a break from the American author's earlier books which earned the Pulitzer Prize winner much fame. But his bestselling 1997 book *Guns, Germs, and Steel* and other works also attracted criticism for geographic determinism and playing down human agency. His latest book reverses the lens. Across politics, business and sports, it examines whether individual leaders play a decisive role in shaping the world around them, and under what conditions if they do. He considers how the interplay between an exceptional individual and historical circumstances determines success or failure.

At the book's outset, Diamond narrates the incident of March 1930 when Adolf Hitler's car was hit by a huge trailer truck in which he survived. Three years later, Hitler became chancellor of Germany and unleashed the Holocaust and World War II, in which millions of people were killed. He asks whether these horrific events would have happened if Hitler had died in the car crash. Some will argue things would have turned out differently. Others would point to the humiliation inflicted on Germany by the Treaty of Versailles, by the hyperinflation it suffered and the fact that antisemitism was deeply embedded in the country well before Hitler's rise. That makes it hard to decide whether Hitler made a difference. This, Diamond says, exemplifies the question of whether leaders determine outcomes, for better or for worse. The role individuals play in shaping history has always been a contested issue in an age-old debate. He mentions three competing schools of thought in this debate. One sees exceptional and heroic leaders determining history. The opposite view is that leaders are constrained by circumstances and have little influence on events. An in-between view holds that individual leaders sometimes do and sometimes don't make a difference. His book takes a middle ground in this debate. For the author, the key question is under what conditions can leaders make a difference.

In his discussion of leaders' impact on history, Diamond sets what he calls the Hamlet test. This refers to whether any contemporary person had comparable qualities to achieve a similar outcome as the individual being assessed. In Shakespeare's case, his unique talent meant no other Elizabethan could have written *Hamlet* if Shakespeare hadn't done so. He cites the example of independent Botswana's first president as a political figure who passes the Hamlet test. Seretse Khama's policies made his country well-governed and not consumed by civil wars or diamond revenues being wasted on ostentatious projects. Although he leveraged Botswana's inherent advantages and his position as a tribal leader, his contributions to his country would not have happened under another founding president. No other figure had comparable skills. He was an effective leader at a particular place and time, and therefore made a difference.

Leaders however gifted, Diamond says, can be effective only in certain circumstances. For example, Genghis Khan, who established the largest land empire in history, had exceptional qualities but was lucky enough to be born "at the start of the wettest decade in the last 2,000 years on the steppes of Central Asia".

Courtesy Tribune

The paradox of our age

M Nadeem Nadir

THE progressive approach to technology underpins the acknowledgement of every new advancement for the betterment of human civilisation, but we must be extra cautious when the very advancement threatens the existence of what it feeds on. The context is World News Day, which falls on September 28th and is being observed this year at a time when journalism is existentially threatened by generative AI. The first casualty wrought by the onslaught of generative AI bots is the loss of trust. "This is the paradox of our age. The most connected societies in history are also among the most vulnerable to confusion, manipulation and distrust," says the op-ed 'The Integrity Dividend' by David Whimsley, President, World Editors Forum.

Phil Chetwynd, Global News Director, AFP, labels the utopian future of AI as another so-called 'news agency killer' in his op-ed 'Dystopia, Inc', available on the World News Day organisation's website, and reproduces an ironical question: "Why pay for your professional journalism when information is being delivered free in real time? Why waste money employing journalists to gather information that can be aggregated by our new chatbot friends?" He himself demystifies the fear of AI: "Part of the answer lies in the little chatbot disclaimer which says the information in your AI overview may actually be wrong."

He narrates how global news agencies deployed their journalists to gather the first-hand information of the flash floods along the Nepal-Tibet border this August. All the authentic information and visuals came from news agencies like AFP, Reuters and AP. But then what followed was the digital deluge of deepfake images emotionally manipulating the viewers with 'artificially generated destroyed villages and bodies lined up for burial'. The World News Day organisation asserts 11 world renowned economists gave the clarion call that every sector of society, from the economy to health, education and the military, relies upon the production of factual and robust information.

Courtesy Tribune

Minister urges PTI to choose between Pakistan and Afghanistan amid terror attacks



ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Attaullah Tarar has urged Imran Khan-founded Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to clarify whether it stands with Pakistan or Afghanistan amid deadly terror attacks across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Addressing a press conference alongside Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry in Islamabad, Tarar said that the PTI-led KP government refuses to take ownership of the counterterrorism operations or take effective steps against terrorism.

"I said in KP that their intentions

are bad. I have been saying for years that they [PTI] is a B-team of the TTP [Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan]. I am justified in saying that because they facilitated the terrorists in the last 12 years," he added.

He said sufficient time had passed to bring about changes in the province, arguing that "12 and a half years are enough" to change the conditions of any province.

Tarar accused the KP government of failing to address terrorism and provide basic services, saying people in the province were turning to other provinces for basic facilities.

He said that the federal government had offered modern vehicles for the KP police, but the offer was rejected.

"Our firm resolve is to eliminate the scourge of terrorism from its roots," the minister added.

Tarar alleged that the PTI leadership had left the KP police "at the mercy of terrorists", while failing to

condemn recent cross-border firing from Afghanistan to date.

"Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is burning in the fire of terrorism," he said, adding that the provincial leadership's entire focus was on securing the release of a prisoner from jail.

The ministers' presser comes amid ongoing terror attacks across the province, leaving scores of civilians and security personnel martyred.

Earlier this week, at least 13 people, including two women and a two-year-old child, were martyred when a suicide bomber rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into an anti-smuggling check post in the Darazanda area of Dera Ismail Khan.

The martyred include Customs, Excise and Rescue officials as well as civilians, according to the sources.

Last week, 22 people, including 16 police officials, were martyred and 103 others injured after explosions targeted a mosque inside Kohat Police Lines during Friday prayer.

Minister warns governor's rule possible in KP amid tensions with provincial govt

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR/ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Amir Muqam on Monday said all legal requirements for imposing governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been fulfilled due to what he described as the "illegal" actions of Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, warning that "anything can happen at any time".

Speaking to journalists in Peshawar, Muqam said the situation in the province was evident to everyone, with the KP's people having faced terrorism for a long time and made significant sacrifices. He said the entire country was witnessing the hardships and sacrifices of the people of the province.

Criticising the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-led provin-



cial government, he said the "change" government had only changed chief ministers but had failed to change the fate of the people.

Muqam said the KP people had given PTI a mandate and that the party had governed the province for 13 years, but the objectives for which people had voted for it were not visible.

He questioned the experience of the incumbent chief minister, saying that Afridi had effectively been given two targets — "to loot as much as possible" and secure the release of a prisoner.

Minister IT visits Huawei Global Support Center in Islamabad, highlights Pakistan's emerging role as global tech services hub

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja visited Huawei's Global Support Center (GSC) in Islamabad, where she was given a briefing on its operations, toured the centre and interacted with young Pakistani engineers and technology professionals supporting global ICT operations.

The Minister was received by Ethan Sun, CEO Huawei Pakistan, Ahmed Bilal Masud, CEO AI & Cloud, Huawei Pakistan, and senior management of GSC.

Speaking on the occasion, Shaza Fatima stated that Huawei GSC demonstrated Pakistan's growing potential as a global hub for technology and IT-enabled services.

Describing the model as "exports without shipping containers," she said Pakistani professionals were increasingly delivering high-value digital services to international markets from within the country.

She highlighted Pakistan's young workforce, noting that around 68 percent of the

population is under the age of 30, and emphasized the need to translate this demographic strength into skilled human capital and global economic opportunities.

Recalling Huawei-Pakistan training partnership agreed during the Prime Minister's visit to China, Shaza Fatima appreciated Huawei's commitment to train 300,000 young Pakistanis in ICT skills.

She stressed stronger collaboration among government, industry and academia to build a sustainable technology talent pipeline and connect young Pakistanis with international opportunities.

The Minister appreciated Huawei's contribution to technical capacity building through its ICT Academies and encouraged the company to further expand investment, knowledge transfer, mentoring and explore opportunities for establishing an R&D centre in Pakistan.

Interacting with women engineers at the Centre, the Minister appreciated their contribution to Pakistan's digital economy and underscored the importance of creating greater opportunities for women.

Mohsin Naqvi condemns Tank attack that martyred 3 traffic police personnel

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday condemned the firing incident carried out by Khawarij militants on a traffic police vehicle in the Tank area, which resulted in the martyrdom of three police personnel. He expressed grief over the loss of the officers and extended condolences to their families.

In a statement, Mohsin Naqvi strongly denounced the attack on the traffic police vehicle and expressed sorrow over the martyrdom of the three personnel who lost their lives in the incident. The Interior Minister conveyed his sympathies and condolences to the families of the martyred officers. He said the nation salutes the sacrifice of the personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Mohsin Naqvi stated that the government stands with the families of the martyrs during this difficult time and shares their grief.

He said the sacrifices made by the martyrs in the fight against terrorism.

Pak, Oman seeks wider opportunities for youth: PMYP

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Oman on Monday discussed expanding employment opportunities, skills development and labour mobility for Pakistani youth and skilled workers, as Advisor to the Prime Minister and Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan met Omani Ministry of Labour Undersecretary Khalid bin Salim Al Ghammari in Muscat, according to the press release received here. During the meeting, Rana Mashhood highlighted Pakistan's large youth population as a major pool of skilled and semi-skilled manpower and said Pakistan was mapping high-demand skills in destination countries to align its



training programmes with the specific requirements of international labour markets.

Chief PMYP identified Oman as an important destination for Pakistani workers and expressed hope that the Sultanate would continue to provide employment opportunities for Pakistan's skilled and semi-skilled workforce.

Undersecretary Khalid bin Salim Al Ghammari reciprocated the views and assured that the Omani government.

Will impose Governor's rule on President's advice: Kundi

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has said that a warlike situation prevails in the province, warning that Governor's Rule could be imposed if the situation deteriorates further.

Speaking to the media during a protest by house officers and other doctors at Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH) in Peshawar on Monday, Faisal Kundi said the Constitution provides for Governor's Rule, although he has no personal desire to impose it. He added that if circumstances reached that point and the President of Pakistan advised him



to do so, he would implement the constitutional measure.

He also criticized the provincial government over the ongoing doctors' protest, saying the Chief Minister should have come forward to resolve the issue.

"The Chief Minister should have come to resolve the doctors' issue," Faisal Kundi said, adding that those who call themselves public representatives.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for IT & Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja during her visit to Huawei's Global Service Center.

D-8 Secretary General advances economic cooperation during Moscow visit

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Secretary-General of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) Ambassador Sohail Mahmood held a series of meetings with Russian officials, the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) and representatives of academic and policy circles in Moscow to explore new avenues for trade and economic cooperation.

During his visit, the D-8 Secretary-General met Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission Bakytzhan Sagintayev at the Commission's headquarters in Moscow, said a press

release issued on Monday.

The two sides discussed the respective priorities of the D-8 and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), complementarities in their economic agendas and opportunities to enhance intra- and inter-regional trade and economic cooperation.

The Secretary-General highlighted the D-8's efforts to deepen economic cooperation among its Member States and expand partnerships with regional and international organizations. The two sides agreed to strengthen mutual dialogue and develop a cooperative relationship between the D-8 and the Eurasian Economic Commission,



focusing on practical areas of common interest and complementarity to advance trade and broader economic cooperation.

The Secretary-General also held bilateral interactions with senior representatives of

the Russian Federation, including Andrey Rudenko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Zamil Kabulov, Special Presidential Envoy; and Dr. Kirill Babaev, Director of ICCA RAS, alongside engagements with

academic, think-tank, media and policy circles. These exchanges provided an opportunity to highlight the D-8's evolution since its establishment in 1997, its core priorities and expanding sectoral cooperation, as well as its growing partnerships with regional and international organizations. Discussions also explored ways to deepen mutual exchanges and advance shared objectives in regional trade, economic cooperation, connectivity and institutional engagement.

The Secretary-General's visit was undertaken at the invitation of Dr. Kirill Babaev, Director, Institute of China and Contemporary

Asia of the Russian Academy of Sciences (ICCA RAS), to participate in the 60th anniversary celebrations of ICCA RAS. NDuring the special high-level event organized to mark this landmark, the Institute also conferred ICCA RAS Honorary Doctorate to Ambassador Sohail Mahmood in recognition of his contributions to the promotion of international cooperation and Pakistan-Russia relations. In his remarks on the occasion, the Secretary-General expressed appreciation for the honour and dedicated it to all those working for peace, mutual understanding, solidarity and international cooperation.