



**Afghan interim govt  
needs to move out of its  
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kicks off talks with  
visiting IMF mission**



**Talks, threats  
can't go hand in  
hand, says Minister**

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## Shehbaz meets executives of major global financial institutions in London

PEAK POINT

LONDON: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held separate meetings with senior executives of Barclays, JPMorgan, Citi, BlackRock and Rothschild & Co in London during his visit to the United Kingdom.

The meetings focused on Pakistan's economic reform agenda, economic stability, the investment climate and expanding cooperation with the global financial sector.

During a meeting with Muhammad Kamal Syed, Head of Private Bank and Wealth Management UK at Barclays, the prime minister welcomed the bank's interest in Pakistan.

Shehbaz briefed him on government measures

aimed at ensuring economic stability and invited Barclays to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan's financial sector and other business areas.

In a separate meeting with a high-level JPMorgan delegation led by Co-Chief Executive Mathieu Wiltz, discussions focused on expanding cooperation in capital markets, trade financing and investment banking. The prime minister invited JPMorgan to further expand its activities and presence in Pakistan.

The delegation expressed interest in Pakistan's sovereign debt capital markets and corporate banking sectors. During a meeting with Citi officials led by Chief Client Officer David Livingstone.



LONDON: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with the delegation of JP Morgan headed by its co-CEO, Mr Mathieu Wiltz.

## Seven India-backed terrorists killed in KP, Balochistan operations

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Security forces have killed seven India-backed terrorists in separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan, security sources said on Tuesday.

Security forces killed two terrorists during an operation in the Nokcha area of Balochistan's Chagai district, after the militants set an empty water bowser on fire, security sources said.

According to security sources, the terrorists attempted to flee after setting the vacant water bowser ablaze, prompting the security forces' operation.

The sources said that the militants were also involved in arson attacks at various locations along the N-40 highway. They added that 11 terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Hindustan, who were involved in similar acts of sabotage, had been killed on August 31. Operations will continue until the last terrorist is eliminated from Balochistan, security sources said. Separately, security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in Bara town of KP, killing five terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij, according to security sources.

## PPP 'welcomes' opposition's invite to multiparty moot, says will forward it to Bilawal to consider

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Opposition alliance Tehreek-i-Tahafuz-Ayin-i-Pakistan (TTAP) on Tuesday invited the PPP, a key ally of the ruling PML-N in the Centre, to attend multiparty conference that is being planned by the opposition. For its part, the PPP said it "welcomes the move" and would forward the invitation to the party's chairperson, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari. The TTAP would then be informed of his stance. The development was confirmed in separate but similar statements by the two sides. The opposition had first announced its intention to hold a multiparty moot on Sept 11, with the PTI leading the initiative. PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan had outlined plans to hold the conference, saying that "the current law and order situation, the economy, inflation, lawlessness, and the creation of new provinces issue" called for such measures. His statement to the media came after a meeting with Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leaders, who have agreed to attend the opposition's moot. A delegation of the TTAP, led by Barrister Gohar, called on PPP Secretary General Nayyar Hussain Bukhari at the party's Central Secretariat in Islamabad and formally invited his party to the moot as well, statements by the two sides said. The delegation also included Leader of Opposition in the Senate Allama Raja Nasir Abbas, Senator Zeeshan Akhonzada and TTAP spokesperson Akhonzada Hussain Yousafzai. The TTAP delegation briefed Bukhari on the objectives and purpose of the planned multiparty conference, the statements said.

## Iran threatens new strikes as it awaits US response to Hormuz plan

PEAK POINT



TEHRAN: Iran on Tuesday threatened to attack infrastructure around the Middle East, intensifying its rhetoric as it awaits a formal response from Washington on a new plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

US President Donald Trump has already dismissed the proposal from Tehran, but Iran's foreign minister said Monday that he was expecting a formal response from American officials in the coming day. Fighting has subsided in recent weeks, though Tehran has continued to target ships in the strait, with Washington falling back on an economic pressure campaign instead of further military action.

Iran's chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf on Tuesday threatened new attacks, saying no infrastructure in the region would be safe if his country's security was not guaranteed. "In a region where we cannot sell oil, no one else will sell oil either; or if our security is not guaranteed, no infrastructure will remain safe," Ghalibaf.

## Police assault case: Islamabad ATC fixes Oct 6 for indictment of Imaan, Chattha

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Islamabad on Tuesday fixed October 6 for the indictment of lawyer Imaan Mazari and her husband Hadi Ali Chattha in a case involving alleged violation of protocol and assault on police. The case, registered at the Secretariat Police Station, involves accusations of a police altercation and public protest. ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Supra heard the case. Imaan and Chattha appeared before the court via video link, while their lawyers, Riasat Ali Azad and Zainab.

## Five crew members, including three Pakistanis, killed in ship attack

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Three Pakistani crew members were among five people killed during a rescue operation launched by the Puntland Security Force against pirates who had hijacked the oil tanker Honour 25 in Somalia.

Four other crew members were injured in the operation, according to crew members.

The Pakistani victims were identified as Second Officer Kashif Umar, Third Engineer Mahmood Ansari and Rafiullah Khan. An Indian crew member, Tanveer, and the vessel's Myanmar chief engineer were also killed.

The vessel has 10 Pakistani crew members on board, along with Indian, Myanmar and Indonesian nationals.

In a conversation

shared with the media and proper medical treatment, while the bodies of those



Indonesian captain confirmed the deaths.

Second Engineer Hussain Yousuf said four crew members were injured during the operation. They included Fourth Engineer Usman, Aqeel, Ameen and an Indonesian crew member. Yousuf said the vessel's steering system was damaged and another ship was towing it. He said the injured crew members had not received

killed were lying exposed to the sun. He appealed to the authorities to arrange an immediate helicopter evacuation for the injured and to transport the bodies. Yousuf also said communication with the crew members' families had been cut off.

According to Yousuf, the vessel was being taken to Vassaco, a journey expected to take around three days.

He expressed concern over the condition of the injured crew members and the lack of proper arrangements for the bodies.

Honour 25 was seized by armed pirates near Somalia on April 21.

Earlier footage reportedly showed Pakistani crew members being held in cramped and deteriorating conditions.

The families of the hostages have also expressed concern over their safety. Relatives of Second Engineer Syed Hussain, in particular, said they had not been able to contact him since the hijacking. Previously, Turkish naval forces and Somalia's armed forces carried out a joint operation to regain control of the commercial vessel MV LATUF after it was seized by pirates in Somali waters.

## PTI KP leader urges party to further postpone long march, warns of emergency risk



PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Secretary Shaukat Yousafzai has urged the party leadership to further postpone the long march, now scheduled for October 4, warning that the risk of emergency rule made it imperative to delay the protest. In the letter addressed to PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar and other party leaders on Tuesday, Yousafzai said the march should be postponed in the wider national interest, particularly given the security situation and increased terrorist activity.

He warned that the federal government could use certain issues as a pretext to impose emergency rule, and that a possible attack from Afghanistan could serve as justification.



# SPORTS



## Asian Games 2026: Pakistan to face Bangladesh in cricket semi-final



PEAK POINT

PEAK POINT Bangladesh on October 1, the batter was ruled out of the tournament due to a fever and infection. Despite the washouts, Shearer remained optimistic the weather would clear in time for the top-tier cricket. "Come tomorrow morning, it will be all hands on deck to dry up the areas that aren't under the covers. We've got some soppers, we've got some squeegees, some big old brooms, we've got sponges. A day ago, Pakistan reached the semi-finals after hopes the fixtures will go ahead as scheduled.

JAPAN: Pakistan will face Bangladesh in the men's cricket semi-final at the Asian Games 2026 after Tigers' quarter-final against Malaysia was abandoned without a ball being bowled in Nisshin, Japan, on Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, the quarter-final between Sri Lanka and Nepal was also called off due to rain, with Sri Lanka advancing to the semi-finals to face India.

Pakistan will take on Najmul Hossain Shanto after their quarter-final against ahead as scheduled.

## Pakistan clinch eSports bronze at Asian Games



PEAK POINT

TOKONAME: Pakistan won a bronze medal in the battle royale eSports competition at the Asian Games in Nagoya on Tuesday, taking the country's medal tally at the event to five, the Pakistan Olympic Association said.

Thailand secured the gold medal and China finished with silver after the 12-match competition at Aichi Sky Expo Hall D.

Pakistan's bronze-winning eSports lineup featured Mohammad Huzaifa, Shayan Asad, Falak Sher Memon, Hasnain Rahman and Syed Sameer.

The latest medal adds to Pakistan's bronze-medal haul in women's cricket, MMA through Asim Khan, and squash through Noor Zaman and Ashab Irfan.

Pakistan's men's cricket and hockey teams have also advanced to the semifinals, keeping the country in contention for further medals.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's women's squash team suffered a 3-0 defeat against South Korea in the team event.

Hwayeong Eum opened the tie with an 11-2, 11-4, 11-7 victory over Mahnoor Ali in 18 minutes at Nagoya Kinjo Futo Arena.

Minggyeong Heo extended South Korea's lead by beating Sana Bahadar 11-5, 11-5, 11-8, before Dami Kim completed the clean sweep with an 11-3, 11-8, 11-5 win over Mehwish Ali.

## Rizwan seeks inquiry details, return of mobile phone from NCCIA: Sources



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Investigation Authority (NCCIA), sources told Geo News on Tuesday.

According to the letter, a copy of which was received by Geo News, Rizwan reiterated that he had not been provided with any written details of the ongoing inquiry thus far, while the NCCIA returned within three hours, adding that he had also not contacted him about any further proceedings.

The wicketkeeper examination of his device would be completed soon. Rizwan then went on to request the NCCIA, in the letter, to inform him in writing about the reasons for the inquiry and also to communicate the date and time at which he is required to appear before the agency again. The former white-ball captain also asked the NCCIA to return his mobile phone without further delay, which he said remained in the agency's possession, while also requesting that any future communication with him be made through official channels and sent to his residential address.

## Pakistan produce stunning comeback to secure 2-2 draw against Philippines in FIFA ASEAN Cup



## Pakistan set up India semifinal after Oman rout



## Pakistan secure fifth Asian Games medal with PUBG Mobile bronze

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan won their fifth medal of the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Tuesday when their PUBG Mobile team secured bronze in the esports competition at the Aichi Sky Expo in Tokoname.

Pakistan finished third in the 12-match competition with 100 points, behind gold medalists Thailand, who accumulated 128 points, and China, who took silver with 114. The bronze came after Pakistan finished third in the final match of the competition, scoring 12 points — four placement points and eight elimination points. Japan won the match with 18 points, while Thailand finished second with 14.

Pakistan's medal tally at the Games now comprises five bronzes — the women's cricket team, modern MMA fighter Asim Khan, squash players Noor Zaman and

Ashab Irfan, and the PUBG Mobile team.

The women's cricket team secured its medal on Sept 22 by defeating Bangladesh by 31 runs, while Noor and Ashab both guaranteed bronze medals by reaching the semifinals.



ing the men's singles squash semi-finals before losing their respective last-four matches.

Pakistan's PUBG Mobile team, comprising Mohammad Huzaifa, Shayan Asad, Falak Sher, Hasnain Rehman and Syed Sameer, finished strongly after entering the second day of competition in medal contention.

They collected 61 points across the final six matches to finish on 100, having accumulated 39 on the opening day.

Pakistan's best returns on the second day included 16



points in the seventh match, 10 each in the eighth and ninth, 12 in the 11th and 12 in the concluding match.

Thailand's consistency throughout the competition saw them finish 28 points clear of Pakistan, while China held off the Pakistani challenge for silver by 14 points.



# Danish School Islamabad delegation visits NBF, purchases books for school library

## PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of female teachers from Danish School Islamabad, led by Zunaira Majeed, has visited the National Book Foundation (NBF), where they selected and purchased books on diverse subjects for the school library.

The delegation comprised Iqra Kausar, Tanzila Rana, Sanbal Mir, Faiza Tasneem and Jaweria Riaz.

The primary purpose of the visit was to select quality and useful books for the Danish School library that could contribute to the intellectual, academic and literary development of students while cultivating their interest in reading.

The teachers reviewed books on a wide range of subjects, including translations of the Holy Quran, Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH), history, literature, philosophy and poetry. They also selected informative, educational and engaging books particularly suitable for children.

They thoroughly explored the collection available at the NBF Bookshop and purchased a number of books according to the age, educational needs and interests of the students.

The delegation members expressed their appreciation for the extensive collection of affordable and quality books available at the NBF Bookshop under one roof.



They observed that books ranging from translations of

the Holy Quran and religious and Seerah literature to history, literature, poetry, philosophy, general knowledge, and interesting and educational books for children were readily available at one place, making it easier for educational institutions to select and purchase books for their libraries. The teachers took particular interest in books for children that present stories, information and lessons in an engaging manner. They emphasized the importance of introducing children to books that broaden their imagination, encourage them to think

and ask questions, acquaint them with moral values, and make the process of acquiring knowledge enjoyable. They also appreciated the availability of books on diverse subjects for readers from different age groups, particularly children and students. The delegation also met Director Headquarters, National Book Foundation, Murad Ali Mohmand. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on book selection, suitable books for educational institutions' libraries, and ways to promote reading habits among students.

# SCO Member States' Coordinators visit PNCA to explore Pakistan's rich cultural heritage

## PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of coordinators from the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) visited the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), as part of the preparatory engagements for the upcoming SCO activities under Pakistan's chairmanship in 2027. The delegation was warmly received by the Secretary, National Heritage and Culture Division who welcomed the distinguished

guests and briefed them on Pakistan's rich cultural heritage, artistic traditions, and the role of culture in promoting mutual understanding and regional cooperation.

During the visit, the delegation explored PNCA's art galleries, including the photographic exhibition dedicated to the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and the renowned Sadequain Gallery, which showcases the remarkable artistic legacy of one of Pakistan's most celebrated painters. The visitors also witnessed cultural performances highlighting the diversity and vibrancy of Pakistan's performing arts.



Director General PNCA, Mr. Muhammad Ayoub Jamali, briefed the delegation on the Council's mandate, its role in the promotion and preservation of Pakistan's visual and performing arts, and its initiatives to foster cultural exchange at national

and international levels.

Recognising the importance of cultural diplomacy in strengthening ties among SCO member states, the Secretary NHCD also offered PNCA's premises as a platform for participating countries to showcase their respective art, culture, and traditional heritage through cultural stalls and exhibitions during upcoming SCO engagements. The visit underscored the significance of cultural cooperation as an integral component of

regional diplomacy and reflected Pakistan's commitment to promoting intercultural dialogue, people-to-people connections, and a shared appreciation of the diverse cultural identities of SCO member states. Through such initiatives, PNCA continues to serve as a vibrant platform for cultural diplomacy, providing opportunities for nations to celebrate their heritage, exchange artistic experiences, and strengthen bonds of friendship and cooperation.

# Opinion & Editorial

ISLAMABAD  
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## Failing foreign guests

The horrific allegations of a gang-rap involving a 20-year-old Azerbaijani business traveler in Lahore highlight a deeply concerning issue, reinforcing why our justice system must maintain a zero-tolerance policy toward such violence. The survivor's courage in recording a formal statement before a magistrate is commendable, challenging the societal stigmas that often silence victims. This legal step provides a pathway for authorities to implement robust damage-control and preventative strategies against such severe crimes. To foster a safer environment, all segments of society must support survivors and advocate for the strict punishment of offenders. This is the second horrific assault on a foreign national in the last four months, exposing a deeply unsettling trend. In June, two women from the Netherlands and Venezuela were abducted from Islamabad and later sexually assaulted in Lahore, reportedly after they refused to pay extortion money. This recurring pattern severely damages Pakistan's international reputation, entirely undermining ambitious assertions of the country becoming a preferred destination for global tourism and foreign investment. Such heinous acts bring shame to a proud and resilient nation.

## Off to elect another people

Jawed Naqvi

THE embattled prime minister of Israel has sworn to strip the citizenship of two Jewish filmmakers whose celebrated documentary has exposed the targeted genocide of Palestinian civilians carried out with impunity by the IDF. Journalists Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor have won standing ovations in the West for their film NAZA. The rule, Benjamin Netanyahu said, would apply to anyone who insults Israel's military.

Meanwhile, the fascism-hugging president of the US is busy doing what he can to try to strip those of citizenship and voting rights who are least likely to vote for his party. If he doesn't win the midterms, he could be impeached. India's ruling party, struggling to mask its old inspiration from the Nazis, has devised its own methods of stripping the citizenship rights of millions. According to a slew of reports, the BJP government is leaning on its chosen three-member election commission to deregister millions with a view to contriving state victories for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party. Bertolt Brecht's satirical call to elect another people since the people had lost the confidence of the government has become ominously and palpably real. Coordinated moves by the three countries are linked by a quirk of fate in a post-Cold War bond. The rogue measures are a groundswell unchallenged. A groundswell

of protests primarily by students and unemployed youth is spreading across India against what reports have identified as the plundering of democracy in the country.

New York's Zohran Mamdani, Israel's filmmakers and India's Cockroach Janta Party are leading the pushback. The Indian protesters are directly accusing Modi's handpicked three-member election commission of effectively changing poll verdicts, most recently in Bihar and West Bengal, by manipulating electoral rolls and surrendering the election commission's neutral platform to the ruling party. The subversion is part of a global fraying of the lipstick on the pig, the ideological sleight of hand that was used to paint bourgeois democracies as enticing options against communist hardships. The moment the Soviet Union collapsed, however, the West's definition of democracy itself took on a new life. It would henceforth be 'free-market democracy'. Now that vener, too, has blown away to herald raw plunder, assassinations, kidnappings and what leftist analysts have called 'AI feudalism'.

As the lipstick fades, big-power global rivalries deepen with unabashed candour. The West sought to keep up the pretence of supporting democracy, even though the fangs were out against elected and independent-minded leaders — for instance, in Iran in 1953 or Chile in 1973. Drooling at the promise of

the American century, a clutch of former allies of the USSR were reduced to rubble. Yevgeny Primakov was the head of the KGB's foreign intelligence unit when the USSR collapsed. He became Russia's foreign minister and subsequently rose to become prime minister. Primakov moved to staunch the Russian haemorrhage caused by the chasm between Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin. The Russia-India-China (RIC) grouping was his brainchild, but he was already late since the US-Israel-India group was installed more swiftly. For Indian ideologues, who were regarded as Western catspaws during the Cold War, the alignment with Israel under the false pretence of democratic camaraderie was a windfall. The BJP gained most from the turn of events, though the Congress had its own pro-West ideologues licking their chops.

As the lipstick fades, big-power global rivalries deepen with unabashed candour.

As capitalism struggled to breathe sans the Red Terror as its ruse, the fangs could barely be hidden. During the Cold War (roughly 1945-1991), capitalist democracies — particularly in Western Europe and North America — faced a powerful ideological rival in global communism. To prove that capitalism was the superior system for the working class, many Western nations built robust welfare states.

Courtesy Dawn

## Heroes and public safety

Muhammad Hamid Zaman

A legacy of the Covid-19 years, I hope, is a broader recognition of the work of frontline workers. During some of the darkest days of the pandemic, there were communities, across the world, that would celebrate the extraordinary work of those at the forefront — physicians, nurses, technicians, first responders and those who took a personal risk to keep the disease at bay. This idea of heroism is the same across many facets of life in a society — of personal risk, high likelihood of a terrible outcome, and service to others.

Let us keep this thought of risk and service to others in our minds for a second. And now bring in another idea — the idea that some of the places among our midst are dangerous, likely to breed infection and are contaminated by nasty bugs. It is places that bring wastewater, sewage and other organic and inorganic waste together. From a public health point of view, making sure that these places follow health and sanitation guidelines is essential for the wellbeing of society. A lapse there can risk the lives of millions.

Now let us combine the two thoughts. Of places of highest risk, and people who work in those places. We all know who works in those places in our society, and yet, we cannot imagine considering these people ever as heroes, or people who we owe a great debt of gratitude. In fact, we are far on the other extreme. We consider those who work in these awfully difficult and toxic places, full of pathogens, as the lowest amongst us. We have all kinds of terrible names for them. So much so that official advertisements for jobs to do this work specifically list that these are only open to non-Muslim members of our community — suggesting that these jobs are beneath the dignity of much of society. I cannot imagine large sections of society ever consider sanitation workers as people who keep us safe. This notion of recognition of their work as an integral pillar of public safety, worthy of deep respect, would be considered laughable by many and even offensive by a certain sizeable section.

Courtesy Tribune

## Afghan interim govt needs to move out of its 'militant mindset': Tarar



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said the interim Afghan government needed to "move out of its militant mindset", declaring it the root of all current problems between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Ties between the neighbours have been strained in the past few years as Islamabad continues to voice its concern over cross-border terrorism. Meanwhile, September witnessed another bout of conflict between the two.

On Tuesday, addressing a seminar in Islamabad on Afghanistan and the

prospects of peace, Tarar described it as the "Afghan predicament or Afghan conundrum". He stressed that it was a "very complex" problem which required a long, lasting, and sustainable resolution.

"The interim Afghan government needs to move out of its militant mindset into a mindset of a statesman or state," the information minister maintained.

"Pakistan and Afghanistan have been, are, and will remain neighbours. We have international borders, linkages, connections. But our past has been turbulent," he noted. Tarar reiterated that Pakistan believes in peace and in peaceful coexistence; however, he asked whether peace was given a chance. "Can peace prevail is the question that confronts us today." He asserted: "Can peace be achieved? Yes, but is there a will to achieve peace? The answer unfortunately is no." On Islamabad's part, Tarar highlighted that various attempts to hold negotiations were made, as Pakistan believed that negotiations could

resolve outstanding issues.

He recalled that multiple high-level delegations from Pakistan had visited Afghanistan to hold talks with the interim government, and other friendly countries — such as Qatar, Türkiye and China — had also hosted talks between the two neighbours.

The minister stated that Islamabad had been expressing reservations over the use of Afghan soil in carrying out terrorist activities in Pakistan.

He added that Pakistan had also "responded to these activities through strikes against the terrorists".

Tarar maintained that the only problems that persisted were violent extremism and militancy. "Even now, there are safe havens of terrorists and internationally proscribed organisations in Afghanistan," he noted, adding that Islamabad had taken up the matter with Kabul. "Peace has to be achieved through a viable and sustainable model," the minister stressed. "For peaceful coexistence, one has to acknowledge and accept that live and let live."

## Talks, threats can't go hand in hand, says minister

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Law Minister Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday said that PTI founder Imran Khan had undergone a medical examination, and his sister had personally confirmed that the PTI founder was completely healthy and fit in all respects.

The law minister said the forum for a prisoner's release was not the government but the courts. Speaking to the media outside Parliament House in Islamabad, Azam Tarar said a board comprising country's senior-most doctors had examined Imran Khan on the Supreme Court's orders. "The purpose was to determine whether his life faced any danger. Imran Khan's sister, who was herself part of the medical board's process, had appeared on the media and stated



that the PTI founder was healthy and fit." If there were still any legal shortcomings, he said, the courts should address the matter. Such issues could not be resolved through an assault on Islamabad or rallies and demonstrations, he maintained.

Tarar asked ordinary citizens to decide for themselves whether the method adopted by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, including repeatedly moving against the capital and Punjab, was correct. If PTI's conduct was considered appropriate, he said, the government should also stand aside, he said and added.

## Finance minister kicks off talks with visiting IMF mission

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb held a kick-off meeting on Tuesday with a visiting staff mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF mission, led by Iva Petrova, is in Islamabad for the fourth review of Pakistan's \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement and the third review of the \$1.4bn Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF). Aurangzeb, in a virtual meeting, briefed the IMF team on the latest macroeconomic indicators, improvements in credit rating and overall investment climate amid a challenging outlook emanating from prolonged Iran conflict. On the successful conclusion of talks, Pakistan will be entitled to disbursement of about \$1.2bn under the two programmes: \$1bn under the EFF and \$200 million under the RSF by the end of October or early November, but may require waivers from the IMF's executive board for slippages on structural benchmarks.

The authorities are in continuous breach of structural benchmarks regarding the

sovereign wealth fund (SWF) law that was originally missed in March.

The federal government already notified new procurement rules on Monday, two days ahead of the deadline, i.e., Sept 30.

The SWF law is part of the discussions with the visiting IMF team. Authorities are in breach of an end-March 2026 structural benchmark on amendments to the Sovereign Wealth Fund Act to adopt governance mechanisms and safeguards for seven state-owned enterprises (SOEs), involving an asset portfolio of about \$8bn. Most of them are blue-chip entities listed on the stock exchange but remain outside normal reporting requirements. They include OGDCL, Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), Mari Petroleum, National Bank of Pakistan (NBP), Govt Holdings, Pakistan Development Fund, and the Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower project.

The amendments are pending parliamentary approval. The IMF team has been in Pakistan since Sept 23. It spent the initial days in Karachi for engagements with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and other stakeholders.

Lahore court grants police 6-day remand of two suspects in Azeri woman's gang-rape case

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: A judicial magistrate on Tuesday allowed Defence C police a six-day physical remand of two suspects in a case against them over the alleged gang-rape of an Azeri woman.

The 20-year-old Azerbaijan national had travelled to Pakistan for business purposes and was allegedly gang-raped by three men in a rented flat of a private housing society located near Raiwind on the night between Friday and Saturday.

One of the prime suspects had been arrested on Monday, while another's arrest surfaced on Tuesday. According to Lahore Deputy Inspector General (Investigation) Zeeshan Raza, police had identified the third suspect and were conducting raids to trace him.

On Tuesday, the police produced the two arrested men before Magistrate Azhar Mahmood at Cantonment Courts.

The investigating officer sought their 14-day physical remand for interrogation, collection of evidence.

## Pakistan steps up efforts to preserve Gandhara heritage, promote Buddhist pilgrimage

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi Tuesday said that Pakistan is advancing a series of practical measures to preserve its Buddhist and Gandhara heritage, facilitate Buddhist pilgrims and expand religious and cultural tourism.

Pakistan steps up efforts to preserve Gandhara heritage, promote Buddhist pilgrimage.

The minister, speaking during a meeting with Ambassador of Myanmar, Wunna Han at his office, said the government is planning a dedicated facility on Murree Road for the respectful preservation and display of sacred Buddhist relics, providing Buddhist pilgrims and visitors an



appropriate place to pay their respects.

Aurangzeb Khan Khichi said the ministry is also exploring the transfer of important Buddhist relics currently preserved at Peshawar Museum to the National Museum for display at a dedicated national institution. He said bringing important relics together at a national facility would improve access for Buddhist visitors and further promote Pakistan's Gandhara heritage and religious tourism.

## WUM observes Int'l Day of awareness of Food Loss and Waste

PEAK POINT

MARDAN: The Department of Human Nutrition & Dietetics, Women University Mardan, observed the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste on 29 September 2026 at the HND Laboratory under the theme "Food Waste to Food Worth." The event aimed to raise awareness about reducing food loss and waste, promoting sustainable food practices, and encouraging responsible food consumption. Students actively participated in a variety of creative and educational activities, including infographic poster displays, innovative food preparations, food loss mapping, and



food storage demonstrations, highlighting practical ways to minimize food waste and promote sustainability. The department expressed its sincere gratitude to the Honourable Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Razia Sultana, for her continued encouragement and support. Appreciation was also extended to the event organizers, faculty members, and students.



Mr. Aizaz Khan, Charge d' Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Pakistan, Brigadier Ali Asghar Khan, Defence and Army Attache of the Embassy of Pakistan and Lt. Gen Luo Huiqi, Secretary of the Commission for Discipline Inspection Director of the Supervisory Commission of the PLA Army are cutting the cake at Defence and Martyrs Day reception organised by the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing.

## HBL Microfinance Bank, 1LINK & Euronet sign agreement to launch Pakistan's first PayPak Credit Card

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: HBL Microfinance Bank (HBL MFB), 1LINK (Pvt.) Limited and Euronet Pakistan have signed a landmark tripartite agreement to introduce Pakistan's first PayPak Credit Card, with HBL Microfinance Bank becoming PayPak's inaugural credit card partner. This milestone marks an important development in Pakistan's payments landscape. The agreement was signed by Mr. Amir Khan, President & CEO, HBL Microfinance Bank; Mr. Najeeb Agrawalla, CEO,

1LINK; and Mr. Kashif Gaya, CEO, Euronet. Under the partnership, HBL Microfinance Bank will issue the PayPak Credit Cards and lead the customer proposition, 1LINK will provide the PayPak payment scheme, while Euronet will provide the card processing technology platform and implementation support. HBL Microfinance Bank plans to introduce the PayPak Credit Card across all four variants: Green, Standard, Pink and Edge, designed to provide customers with greater choice and flexibility in



meeting their livelihood needs. This initiative is part of bank's broader plans to introduce both conventional and Islamic PayPak Credit Card offerings, expanding access to innovative credit

solutions for microfinance customers across Pakistan. Mr. Amir Khan, President & CEO, HBL Microfinance Bank, said, "At HBL Microfinance Bank, we see access to finance as a way

to help customers move forward with confidence. As part of our commitment to expanding access to responsible and innovative financial solutions, we are proud to introduce the microfinance sector's first credit card offering in Pakistan. This partnership aims to give microfinance customers greater choice, flexibility and convenience in how they access credit and make payments. By combining our customer reach with PayPak's domestic network and Euronet's technology, we are pioneering a new chapter

for the microfinance industry, bringing credit card access to a segment traditionally underserved by conventional banking products. This initiative will help support our customers' livelihood needs while promoting responsible borrowing and greater financial inclusion." Mr. Najeeb Agrawalla, CEO of 1LINK, said, "Today marks a landmark moment for Pakistan's payments ecosystem with the signing of the agreement for the first PayPak Credit Card. This milestone reflects the strength of our domestic payment infrastructure.