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Shaza calls for global laws to protect children from online threats

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PM Shehbaz directs doubling of SME financing to Rs2.2 trillion by 2028

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed to increase the total financing for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from Rs1.1 trillion to Rs2.2 trillion by 2028, underscoring their potential to drive economic growth and create business opportunities across the country. Chairing a meeting on the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), the prime minister said the business community was the backbone of any country's economy, while Pakistan's SME sector had immense potential to accelerate economic development, a Prime Minister's Office news release said. He said the ongoing reforms at SMEDA were aimed at empower-

ing small and medium-sized entrepreneurs and facilitating the establishment and expansion of businesses. The prime minister emphasised the need to empower people in underdeveloped areas, saying it would help reduce migration from these regions to major cities and contribute to balanced national development. He said providing people in less-developed areas with opportunities to establish businesses in different sectors would promote local economic activity, development and prosperity. The prime minister directed SMEDA to formulate a comprehensive plan to educate a greater number of people about procedures for obtaining business loans and take effective measures to raise public awareness about entrepreneurship.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding SMEDA.

Mohsin Naqvi provides 10 APCs to KP Police for counterterrorism operations

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has handed over 10 new armored personnel carriers (APCs) to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police to strengthen counterterrorism operations amid rising terrorist incidents in the province. The APCs were provided on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who ordered their immediate transfer to the provincial police force.

Naqvi said the federal government had decided to increase its support for counterterrorism operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"The war against terrorism is a collective responsibility," he said. "On the directions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, today I handed over 10 newly acquired Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) of Islamabad Police to KP Police to strengthen their ongoing counterterrorism operations. In view of the prevailing security situation and rising terrorist incidents in KP, the Prime Minister directed their immediate transfer. The fight against terrorism is our collective responsibility."

Brazilian defence delegation calls on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir

PEAK POINT



RAWALPINDI: A high-level delegation from the Federative Republic of Brazil, led by Admiral Renato Rodrigues De Aguiar Freire, Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of Brazil, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF), at General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi.

Upon arrival at GHQ, the visiting dignitary was presented a Guard of Honour by a smartly turned-out tri-services contingent, said an ISPR news release.

During the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interest, the regional security environment and avenues for enhancing bilateral defence and security cooperation.

They expressed satisfaction with the longstanding cordial relations between Pakistan and Brazil and agreed to further strengthen military-military collaboration.

The COAS & CDF emphasised Pakistan's commitment to strengthening defence ties with Brazil. The visiting dignitary appreciated the professionalism and operational preparedness of the Armed Forces of Pakistan and acknowledged their contributions towards regional peace and stability. The visit reflects the shared resolve of Pakistan and Brazil to deepen defence cooperation and strengthen bilateral military ties.

Closure of Riyadh airport extended after deadly Houthi strikes

PEAK POINT



RIYADH: Saudi authorities said on Monday they were extending the suspension of operations at the international airport in the capital, Riyadh, after deadly weekend attacks by Yemen's Houthi.

Operations at King Khalid International Airport, Saudi Arabia's second-busiest airport after Jeddah, were suspended to "allow for the completion of procedures to ensure the safety and operational readiness of the airport's facilities", the Saudi civil aviation authority said in a statement.

The airport has been shut since an attack on Saturday that killed 13 people and wounded more than 300, the deadliest in the kingdom in more than a decade. On Sunday, another attack killed one Pakistani and injured nearly a dozen others.

The attacks marked one of the most significant disruptions to Saudi aviation in years, adding to pressures on an industry already grappling with conflict across the Middle East.

2 Pakistan Army pilots martyred as training aircraft crashes in Quetta: ISPR

PEAK POINT

QUETTA: Two Pakistan Army pilots were martyred on Monday after a training aircraft crashed in Quetta due to a technical fault, the military's media wing affairs said. In a statement, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said: "[At] midday, a Mushshak training aircraft of Pakistan Army Aviation crashed near Nawar Killi, Quetta due to a technical fault." It said both pilots, Major Husnain Shehzad Humayun, the instructor, and Captain Abdul Samad, a student, embraced martyrdom in the crash.

KP's policies will come from Islamabad now, not Kabul, says Kundi

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said on Monday that gone were the days when there would be no coordination between the Centre and the province, adding that "our policies will now come from Islamabad" and not Kabul. "Gone are the days when there was no coordination between the Centre and the province. Gone are the days when we used to fight needlessly with another province... We will have coordination with the Centre; our policies will come from Islamabad... not Kabul, Jalalabad or Kandahar. It is clear," Kundi said at a press conference in Peshawar a day after taking the helm in KP.

Kundi assumed executive control of the province after the release of its founder, Imran Khan, and later these remarks and those about ending the lack of coordination between the province and the Centre came as he pledged enhanced support for the province's law enforcers, who are on the frontline in the fight against terrorism.



He said the new setup in the province would "not compromise on police", pledging enhanced support and a pay raise for its law enforcers.

The governor further stated that he called a meeting on security the previous day and that of the provincial apex committee earlier today. He said the Centre had "shown confidence in us" and to meet its expectations, "our first priority is the fight against terrorism".

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SPORTS



Pakistan eye clean sweep as Sri Lanka seek consolation in final T20I



PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI : Pakistan will look to complete a commanding series whitewash when they face Sri Lanka in the third and final Twenty20 International at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday, with captain Sahibzada Farhan keen to see his side continue its aggressive approach after two emphatic victories.

Having sealed the series 2-0, Pakistan head into the final encounter with their batting unit in impressive form, while Sri Lanka face the task of salvaging pride after being outplayed in both matches. The hosts' 215-3 in the

second T20I on Sunday was their highest-ever total in a home T20I, reflecting the intent they have sought to bring to the shortest format.

With the trophy already secured, Pakistan could consider resting key players and testing their bench strength. However, the management may be reluctant to disturb a combination that has begun to click, particularly with the top order delivering consistently and the bowling unit providing timely breakthroughs.

Farhan has led that transformation with scores of 89 and 73 in the first two matches, while Maaz

Sadaqat has emerged as another major force. The youngster followed his 50 off 29 balls in the opening game with a blistering 96 off 51 deliveries on Sunday, underlining his ability to attack both pace and spin.

Farhan said Pakistan intended to maintain the same attacking mindset regardless of the opposition or the occasion.

"If I play my 50th or 100th T20 match, the demand of T20 cricket will remain the same. I will play the same way and attack in the same manner," Farhan said in a video released by the Pakistan Cricket Board on Monday.

He explained that the team had specifically targeted improved returns during the powerplay, aiming to push its scoring beyond the 40-45-run mark and regularly cross 50 or even 60 in the first six overs.

The captain also expressed confidence in the batting depth available to Pakistan, pointing to Maaz, Saim Ayub and Hasan Nawaz as players capable of sustaining the momentum.

"Looking at the way we are batting, I believe we can comfortably score 200-plus," he said, crediting the batters for delivering on that ambition.

Cirotte claims W15 Islamabad Women's singles title



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: France's Astrid Cirotte clinched the women's singles title at the W15 Islamabad World Tennis Women's Futures Championships 2026, defeating Thailand's Kamonwan Yodpetch 7-5, 7-5 in a closely contested final at the PTF Tennis Complex on Sunday. Cirotte maintained her composure in both sets to overcome Yodpetch and secure the championship, bringing the first leg of the international women's tennis event to a successful conclusion. Sponsored by Fatima Group, the event marked another step towards promoting international women's tennis and strengthening competitive opportunities for players in Pakistan. Usam Sharif of Fatima Group attended the closing ceremony as chief guest, while DIG Saleem Marwat was the guest of honour. Other distinguished attendees included Col. Gul Rehman, Director of PTF; Zaira Ahmad Zaka, Secretary of Pakistan Women's Tennis Association; former Pakistan No. 1 Sarah Mahboob Khan; and Tufail Cheema, Secretary of ITA. Players, parents, media representatives and tennis enthusiasts also attended the ceremony, celebrating the conclusion of the opening leg. The tournament was supervised by Türkiye's Abdullah Haluk Torun, an International Tennis Federation (ITF) Bronze Badge Referee. Meanwhile, the PTF has announced that the main draw of the second leg of the W15 Islamabad World Tennis Women's Futures Championships 2026 will begin on October 13 at the PTF Tennis Complex.

Nizar Nayani leads Pakistani runners at Chicago Marathon 2026



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: US-based Nizar Nayani was the prominent Pakistani runner at the Chicago Marathon 2026, completing the 42.195-kilometre race in 3 hours and 45 seconds, as runners representing Pakistan and members of the Pakistani diaspora participated in one of the world's most prestigious marathons.

Nayani, who lives in Tomball, Texas,

narrowly missed the sub-three-hour

marathon mark by just 46 seconds, leading the Pakistani contingent in the race.

Karachi-based Mustafa was the second-fastest Pakistani runner, finishing in 3:29:18, while Brooklyn-based Basherri Anjum finished as the most prominent Pakistani woman and third-fastest overall among the Pakistani runners identified, clocking

3:31:01.

Abu-Bakr Mohammad Afzal followed with 3:32:39, while Pakistani-American Babar

Ghias completed the marathon in 3:42:44. An analysis of Nayani's splits showed that he maintained a strong pace during the first half of the race, reaching the 5km mark in 20 minutes and 16 seconds and completing the first 10km in 40:22. He crossed the

halfway point in 1:25:41, putting him on course for a finish comfortably inside three hours. However, his pace slowed during the second half as he reached 30km in 2:03:49 and 40km in 2:50:24, eventually crossing the finish line in 3:00:45.

Speaking after the race, Nayani described Chicago as a special event for him, regardless of his finishing time. "Chicago Marathon is always very close to my heart, no matter the results, no matter the conditions. I will keep coming back as long as Allah allows me to, and if I'm in shape," he said. "Today was not ideal conditions, but this is what 26.2 miles does to you."

"Portuguese expertise, Pakistani Talent": Portugal's ambassador applauds SIFC-facilitated football academy



Absar Welfare Foundation appoints senior sports journalist Asim Sheraz as public relations officer

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Absar Welfare Foundation (AWF) has appointed Asim Sheraz, President of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sports Writers Association and a senior sports journalist and member of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS), as its Public Relations Officer (PRO). The appointment aims to strengthen the foundation's media relations, highlight its social welfare initiatives, and ensure effective promotion of its projects at national and international levels. Absar Welfare Foundation works to empower women, girls and persons with disabilities through sports, promote leadership skills among young people, and encourage positive male engagement and social inclusion. On the occasion, Foundation Chairman Rahat Mian presented Asim Sheraz with a football as a token of appreciation. The

football was provided under one of the foundation's sports development projects implemented in collaboration with Right To Play Pakistan. The project was supported by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) through the

to promote community development and inclusive opportunities. Its founder is also an alumnus of a US Department of State exchange programme. As PRO, Asim Sheraz will be responsible for promoting the foundation's



Canadian High Commission in Islamabad. The foundation believes that sports are an effective tool for empowering young people, promoting social harmony, strengthening communities and bringing about positive social change. Founded in 2017 by young social leader Mian Absar Ali, Absar Welfare Foundation has been working

activities, projects, achievements and success stories of beneficiaries through national and international media. His responsibilities will include strengthening relations with journalists and media organisations, coordinating media coverage, and raising awareness of the foundation's welfare and sports development initiatives.

Jhang gears up for mega Desert Rally and Cultural Festival from Oct 16





Shaza calls for global laws to protect children from online threats

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Monday called for global laws to protect children from the harmful effects of the internet. Addressing the "Safe Scroll: Protecting Our Children Online" event, she said children's interest in information technology was growing worldwide, with even young children achieving major milestones in the field. Children could not be kept away from information technology, she added. Shaza Fatima said there was a need to determine the appropriate level of internet access and screen time for chil-

dren and establish clear limits.

She said several countries, particularly 20 to 25 member states of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), were considering frameworks and laws to regulate children's use of social media and the internet. Australia, Malaysia and Thailand were among the countries taking steps in this direction. The minister said governments alone could not verify the age of every child online or fully monitor their activities. Therefore, major technology companies and digital platforms also needed to take responsibility for age verification and content monitoring through artificial intelligence (AI) and other advanced tools. Highlighting awareness initia-



tives, she said the Ministry of IT had launched the "Safe Raho" programme in collaboration with Google, focusing on parental controls and family safety. She said 12,500 students, teachers and parents had received digital safety training in 100 public schools through a

joint initiative involving Telenor and the National Cyber Crime Research Centre (NCRC). She added that progress had also been made in collaboration with Meta to introduce stricter AI-based controls for children's accounts. Meanwhile, the

"Junior Cyber Heroes" initiative, launched in collaboration with PK-CERT and UNICEF, was raising awareness among children about online safety.

Regarding legislation, Shaza Fatima said the proposed Personal Data Protection Bill and the National Cyber Security Policy prioritised the protection of children's data and privacy, as well as the establishment of a framework for parental digital consent.

She said these measures aimed to prevent the misuse of children's personal information and photographs.

The minister said around 25 million children in Pakistan were out of school, adding that internet access and digital tools could help provide modern education and teach science,

technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects.

She warned that completely shutting down modern digital platforms would make it difficult to meet future educational needs. She said Pakistan must equip children to become creators in technology, artificial intelligence and mathematics. Otherwise, the country would struggle to preserve its cultural identity, language and narrative at the global level.

Shaza Fatima urged educational institutions and parents to reduce unnecessary screen time in primary schools and revive civic education and moral training. She stressed that addressing cyber threats required not only legislation but also improvements in the social environment.

DRAP, IPO-Pakistan sign MoU to strengthen cooperation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) and the Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan (IPO-Pakistan) on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen institutional cooperation, facilitate information sharing and protect generic pharmaceutical names from inappropriate trademark registration. The MoU was signed by DRAP Chief Executive Officer Dr. Obaidullah and IPO-Pakistan

Chairman Dr. Hafiz Aziz ur Rehman in the presence of senior officers of both organisations. Under the agreement, the two institutions will share relevant information and databases within their respective legal mandates and organize joint training sessions, workshops and seminars to enhance mutual understanding of applicable laws, regulations and practices. A key component of the MoU is the protection of International Nonproprietary Names (INNs), which are generic names assigned to



pharmaceutical substances and recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). DRAP and IPO-Pakistan will work together to discourage the registration of trademarks derived from INNs or their recognized

generic pharmaceutical names remain available for appropriate public and commercial use. Speaking on the occasion, DRAP CEO Dr. Obaidullah stressed the need for effective implementation of the MoU and appreciated the IPO-Pakistan chairman's interest in finalizing the cooperation framework. He said information sharing between the two organizations would support informed decision-making and ultimately benefit consumers and stakeholders in the therapeutic goods sector.

IPO-Pakistan Chairman Dr. Hafiz Aziz ur Rehman said a balanced approach to intellectual property protection, in accordance with national laws and international commitments, was essential for fostering innovation, attracting foreign direct investment and safeguarding the public interest.

To ensure effective implementation, both organizations would nominate focal persons not below the rank of director to coordinate activities and advance cooperation under the agreement.

Opinion & Editorial

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Marching for merit

The unsuccessful candidates of SPSC, who have embarked on a long march from Hyderabad to Karachi, may not command the numbers or attention enjoyed by India's youth-led 'cuckoo' movement. Yet their comparatively small presence should not diminish the importance of their demands. The strength of a protest should not be judged by the number of people taking to the streets, but by the legitimacy of their grievances. For young people who have spent years preparing for competitive examinations, questions surrounding the fairness of recruitment are matters of considerable consequence. Having spent more than 80 days protesting outside the commission's office, they have now embarked on a long march from Hyderabad to Karachi. Their persistence should be reason enough for the provincial government to listen. Competitive examinations are supposed to offer an avenue of advancement based on merit, particularly in a society where opportunities are scarce and patronage continues to influence access to employment. Any perception that this avenue is compromised threatens to deepen an already troubling sense of disillusionment among educated youth. The legal dispute surrounding CCE 2024 has further complicated matters.

A theorist of crisis

Umair Javed

BORN in Karachi in 1945, Anwar Shaikh, a giant of Marxist economics and professor at The New School in New York, passed away last week. His father served in the Foreign Service as a result of which his family moved around frequently, through Malaysia, Canada, Kuwait, and finally the US. It was in Kuwait, he would later say in a biographical note from 2016, that economics first claimed him: standing amid the gleaming infrastructure of an oil economy, he could not reconcile the scale of wealth with the poverty of those who produced it. The obvious question was why. He spent the next half-century building an answer to this and its related questions.

I came to Shaikh's work first through an undergraduate class: Aasim Sajjad Akhtar's Political Economy of Development and Underdevelopment course, which featured Shaikh's short four-page elaboration of Marx's theory of exploitation published in a 1990 reader on Marxian economics compiled by Eatwell, Milgate, and Newman. It was only later on, after having joined academia myself, that I picked up a more sustained interest in his political economy contributions. Many of these were based on the workings of the advanced capitalist world, but to me it felt possible — via a universalist understanding of the capital-labour relation that

characterises our shared modernity — that one could recover a broader insight and logic extendable to other contexts as well.

His magnum opus, Capitalism: Competition, Conflict, Crises, published by Oxford in 2016 after nearly 20 years of writing, is not an easy book. It runs into nearly 1,000 pages and I have only been able to digest parts of it, a process aided greatly (and almost singularly) by his video lectures on YouTube. However, its central propositions are clear enough to state plainly — capitalism is driven by the pursuit of profit as a structural consideration. Firms invest, hire, fire, pollute, underpay, and cut corners not out of some moral imperative or ethical inadequacies, but because competition demands it.

Competition, Shaikh insisted, is quite unlike the "deconomic ballet" of textbook economics. It is a war, fought with prices, wages, lobbying, disinformation, and whatever else gives one firm an edge over another. In this universe, marked as it is by war, it's a bit difficult to model markets as tending towards equilibrium (as orthodoxy usually claims). Shaikh, instead, argued that rather than any form of stasis, capitalism fluctuates, overshoots, crashes, recovers, and overshoots again. What is worth celebrating in Anwar Shaikh's work is his insistence that economics is never neutral.

Mainstream accounts tend to view these as 'fail-

ures' (of regulation or rationality). Someone like Shaikh, on the other hand, would see these as systemic features of a mode of production built on separating the producers of value from the means of production.

His writings on so-called externalities generated by this systemic feature of competition are worth dwelling on, given the cost-of-living and ecological crises plaguing the planet. Orthodox economics treats pollution, low wages, and dangerous working conditions as costs that firms impose on society from outside the market, ie, as unfortunate side effects, correctable with the right regulations.

Shaikh went as far as calling this view of externality a conceptual fraud. Rather than by accident, a firm pollutes because the alternative — investing in cleaner production — costs money that would otherwise be profit. The extraction and pollution are thus internal to how profit works. The same point has also been made at a more philosophical level by theorist Alysa Battistoni, who argues how nature is classified as a "free gift" under capitalism, ie, as something that does not carry with it the moral force of reciprocity or care (unlike a real gift).

Beyond the intricate debates with the mainstream, what is worth celebrating in Shaikh's work is his insistence that economics is never neutral.

Courtesy Dawn

Praise intolerance

M Nadeem Nadir

The hardest thing to swallow is another person's praise, and that too if they are commended in our presence. The digestion goes worse if the extolled person happens to be any of our colleagues. Some teachers don't even like students admiring other teachers. They waste no time enumerating the demerits of the eulogised teacher. It's not the success of the colleague that turns us mad; it's our morbid desire to be lionised by the ones who occupy our minds. Psychology suggests that a friend's success disturbs the insecure soul more than an enemy's does.

Some teachers suffering from praise constipation downplay their students' achievements, fearing generational defeat. The students' knowledgeability fed by modernism puts them way ahead of their teachers who keep themselves stagnant. A teacher should feel proud of his disciple's surpassing him. If the student doesn't excel or isn't allowed to, it's a failure of the education system.

Some narcissist parents, instead of appreciating their children's laurels, start comparing themselves with them. Suffering from praise indigestion, they start nitpicking in their children's likes and dislikes. They fail to understand that their children are undergoing age transition and hormone imbalance. The constant presence of friction turns familial bonding sour, destroying family peace and happiness. The due and just praise of a person is something abstract that can't be reduced by our begrudging manoeuvring. If, for the moment, we counter anybody's praise with self-concocted demerits in his success, over time, his merits and demerits will inevitably dawn upon people. At workplaces, when what is seen is deemed truth and reality, when words eclipse actions, and when recognition is divorced from merit, praise is always misplaced. When the undeserving people are eulogised for long, the deserving ones, in their weaker moments, might resort to truth speaking to bring forth the reality buried under appearance and falsehood.

Courtesy Tribune

Houthi's attack on KSA attacks on peace, security of Muslim world, says religious scholars



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The International Tazem-e-Haramain Sharifain Council, Pakistan Ulama Council, Muttahida Jamiat Ahle Hadith, Markazi Ulama Council, Jamiat Ulama Pakistan, Sunni Ulama Council, Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat and other religious organisations have strongly condemned the continued missile and drone attacks by Houthi rebels on Saudi Arabia's civilian airports, passengers and civilian infrastructure. The leaders described these attacks as blatant terrorism, a serious crime

against humanity, a violation of international law and a direct threat to the peace and stability of the Muslim world.

According to the leaders, the attacks on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh resulted in the deaths of innocent people, left hundreds injured and claimed the life of a Pakistani citizen. They stated that targeting passengers, children, women, patients and civilian populations cannot be justified under any religion, sect or political position. They expressed condolences to the families of the martyrs and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, Secretary-General of the International Tazem-e-Haramain Sharifain Council and Chairman of the Pakistan Ulama Council, said that the security of Makkah al Mukarramah, Madinah al Munawwarah and the Land of the Two Holy Mosques was a red line for the entire Muslim Ummah. He stated that Houthi aggression was an attack not only on Saudi Arabia but also on region-

al peace, international air travel, global trade and the security of millions of innocent people. He expressed complete solidarity with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, the Saudi government, armed forces and people. The statement said that Saudi Arabia has the right to take all necessary and legitimate defensive measures, in accordance with international law, to protect its sovereignty, citizens, expatriates, Hajj and Umrah pilgrims, and holy sites. The leaders called upon the United Nations Security Council, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the Arab League, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the international community not to limit themselves to condemnations but to take effective measures to immediately halt the attacks, hold those responsible accountable, protect civilian infrastructure and act against networks providing weapons, financial resources and technology to the Houthis.

Decision to impose emergency was not easy as economy was suffering: Dar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar has declared that the decision to impose emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was not an easy one as the government had left with no other option.

Addressing a seminar in Islamabad on Monday regarding the situation in KP, Ishaq Dar said the economy has been suffering due to sit-ins and protests.

He maintained that that combating terrorism remained the government's top priority and maintained that every province has to play its role for elimination of this menace from the country.

Ishaq Dar said fighting terrorism was the government's top priority, urging the international community to acknowledge



Pakistan's sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.

Dar said the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) continued to target civilian infrastructure and development projects in Balochistan, adding India sponsors terrorism from Afghan soil and uses it as a policy tool against Pakistan.

The deputy prime minister said Afghan soil must not be used for carrying out terrorist activities against Pakistan, adding Pakistan cannot ignore the persistent terrorist threat emanating from Afghanistan.

Finance Minister holds high-level meetings on economic reforms, Climate Finance and Development Cooperation in Bangkok

PEAK POINT

BANGKOK: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a series of meetings and participated in key ministerial engagements on the sidelines of the Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Bangkok, Thailand. The engagements focused on Pakistan's macroeconomic stabilization, structural reforms, investment opportunities, climate finance, development financing and international cooperation on debt management. In a meeting with Mr. Dan Katz, First Deputy Managing Director of the IMF, the Finance Minister discussed Pakistan's macroeconomic stabilization, progress under the IMF-supported programme and ongoing structural reforms. Both sides welcomed the staff-level agreement and acknowledged improvements in fiscal performance, foreign exchange reserves, inflation and external sector stability. Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb highlighted improved investor confidence, sovereign credit

rating upgrades and renewed access to international capital markets. He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to fiscal discipline, tax reforms, privatization and sustainable economic growth. Discussions also covered the impact of the Middle East conflict on energy prices and inflation, including targeted relief for vulnerable households within fiscal constraints. Additionally, participating in the 17th V20 Ministerial Dialogue, the Finance Minister appreciated the V20's support in developing Pakistan's Climate Prosperity Plan and identifying bankable projects to attract climate finance. He emphasized fiscal responsibility and the need to strengthen domestic and external buffers against climate challenges and geopolitical shocks. Highlighting opportunities to mobilize green investment, he referred to Pakistan's inaugural green Panda bond. Welcoming the proposed fund initiative, he stressed collective ownership, accountability and effective implementation, cautioning against initiatives remaining unimplemented in light of the experience of the Loss and Damage Fund.



BANGKOK: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, participating in the 17th V20 Ministerial Dialogue, reaffirming Pakistan's support for the V20 climate finance agenda.

Mir Raza's family seeks inquiry report, demands new JIT

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Advocate Jibrin Nasir, counsel for the heirs of Mir Raza Ali Khan, has written to the Sindh chief minister and chief secretary, seeking the complete report and recommendations of the inquiry commission and demanding the formation of a new Joint Investigation Team (JIT). In the letter, Mir Raza's parents, Mir Hussain and Maryam Hussain, called for a new JIT comprising federal and provincial officers who had not previously been involved in the case.

The family also opposed any move to alter the findings of the Special Medical Board constituted under the Sindh Medico Legal Act 2023. The letter follows an earlier communication dated August 19, 2026, after which the Sindh government established the inquiry commission. The family appreciated the decision to form the commission and the transparency maintained during its proceedings. The counsel said the family had formally requested a complete copy of the commission's final report, including all findings and recommendations.

Russian Interior Minister arrives in Pakistan for first-ever visit at Mohsin Naqvi's invitation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has opened a new chapter in Pakistan-Russia relations by inviting Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Kolokoltsev to visit Pakistan. Kolokoltsev arrived in Islamabad on a four-day visit, marking the first time a Russian interior minister has visited Pakistan. Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry received the Russian interior minister upon his arrival in Islamabad. During the four-day visit, discussions will focus on strengthening bilateral relations and promoting cooperation between Pakistan and Russia.

Russian Interior Minister



Vladimir Kolokoltsev is also scheduled to hold important meetings with Pakistan's leadership during his stay.

The visit, arranged at the invitation of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, marks a new development in relations between the two countries, with bilateral ties and mutual cooperation set to be discussed during the Russian minister's engagements in Pakistan.

Ahsan Iqbal defends governor's rule in KP, blames PTI for political crisis

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal has defended the imposition of governor's rule and a state of emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saying the Constitution permits such measures as a last resort under unavoidable circumstances.

He said governor's rule and emergency were not preferred measures in principle but were available within the democratic system under the 1973 Constitution. The Constitution also provides parliamentary and judicial mechanisms to determine the justification for such actions, he said, rejecting claims that

the measures were unconstitutional. Ahsan Iqbal said rising terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had become a serious challenge not only for the province but also for Pakistan's national security. He said the provincial government's primary responsibility was to protect lives and property and strengthen efforts against terrorism.

He accused the PTI leadership of neglecting this responsibility by directing provincial resources and administrative attention toward political confrontation with the federal government.

"When the focus of security agencies shifts from com-

bating terrorists to political confrontation, it is the enemies of peace who benefit," he said.

Ahsan Iqbal claimed the PTI's long march had effectively provided safe passage to terrorists while its leadership engaged in rhetoric against state institutions.

He said security personnel were sacrificing their lives in the fight against terrorism while political confrontation was diverting attention from the country's security challenges.

The minister questioned the timing of political protests, saying Pakistan was working to strengthen its international position and

convert diplomatic achievements into economic opportunities. He said repeated confrontations in the capital affected businesses, employment, investment and daily life. Ahsan Iqbal said peaceful protest was a democratic right, but political parties were responsible for respecting the law, protecting citizens' rights and maintaining peace.

He said the government had made every possible effort to resolve the political crisis through negotiations, but extremist elements within PTI had obstructed those efforts.

The minister accused PTI of repeating political mis-

takes that had previously weakened its position.

He referred to PTI's resignation from the National Assembly after the no-confidence motion and its decision to dissolve its government in Punjab.

Ahsan Iqbal said the party had now lost its remaining provincial government by prioritizing stubbornness and political confrontation over negotiations.

"Thank you, PTI!" he remarked.

Responding to PTI's constitutional objections, the minister referred to the events of April 2022, when the then-deputy speaker rejected the no-confidence

motion against Imran Khan instead of holding a vote under Article 95 of the Constitution.

He said Imran Khan subsequently advised the dissolution of the National Assembly, which then President Arif Alvi approved.

Ahsan Iqbal said Article 58 did not permit the prime minister to advise dissolution of the assembly while a no-confidence motion was pending. He said the Supreme Court subsequently declared the deputy speaker's ruling, the prime minister's advice and the dissolution of the National Assembly unconstitutional and restored the assembly.