



Finance Minister Aurangzeb
vows to strengthen
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rule as it gave them 'hope'



Pakistan, EU envoy
discuss promoting
legal migration

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PM Shehbaz, EU official discuss Pakistan's efforts to curb migrant smuggling

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: European Union Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday to discuss strengthening Pakistan-EU cooperation in migration and mobility, one of the eight pillars of the Pakistan-EU Strategic Engagement Plan 2019. Welcoming Commissioner Brunner on his first visit to Pakistan, the prime minister underscored the importance Pakistan attaches to its partnership with the EU, according to a press release by the PM Office. The premier highlighted Pakistan's sustained efforts to curb irregular migration and combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking through legislative

reforms, institutional strengthening, effective enforcement and international cooperation.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening cooperation across all pillars of the Pakistan-EU Strategic Engagement Plan. PM Shehbaz emphasised that efforts to address irregular migration should be complemented by practical opportunities for safe, orderly and regular migration. He noted that expanding legal pathways for Pakistani skilled workers and professionals would help meet the labour market needs of European countries while reducing prospective migrants' vulnerability to smuggling networks. Brunner appreciated the measures taken and cooperation extended by the government of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Magnus Brunner, European Union Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Army conducts successful test launch of hypersonic Fatah-2 extended range missile: ISPR

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Army successfully test-launched the Fatah-2 extended range (ER) hypersonic ballistic missile, the military's media wing said in a statement on

Tuesday. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Fatah-2 ER is equipped with advanced navigation and state-of-the-art avionics. "It is capable of engaging targets with high precision and defeating [the] enemy's missile defence systems due to its unique trajectory and manoeuvrability features," it added. "Fatah-2 ER, with its extended range, will further enhance [the] army's reach and capability of engaging deep targets." The test launch was witnessed by Army Rocket Force Command (ARFC) chief Lt Gen Nauman Zakaria, senior army officers, scientists and engineers. The ARFC commander "appreciated the dedication and technical prowess of scientists and engineers", ISPR said. It further said the president, prime minister, and the chief of defence forces congratulated the scientists and engineers on the successful test launch of the "extended range version of Fatah-2 weapon system".

Iran will pursue diplomacy to counter sanctions, secure national interests: Iranian FM

PEAK POINT



IRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said that the Foreign Ministry was pursuing diplomatic avenues to safeguard and defend its rights and interests both nationally and internationally, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

He made the remarks during a meeting with representatives of Tehran Province in Parliament on Monday, as part of ongoing consultations between the legislature and the Foreign Ministry on foreign policy and national security issues.

During the meeting, the foreign minister outlined the latest regional and international developments and briefed the lawmakers on the ministry's key measures and initiatives to safeguard Iran's national interests.

US was unable to rally allies in war against Iran: Iranian parliament deputy speaker

The United States failed to secure its allies' support in its war against Iran, demonstrating the setbacks facing Washington's regional strategy and leaving it increasingly isolated, Iranian Parliament Deputy Speaker Hamidreza Haji Babai said to IRNA on Tuesday.

According to IRNA, Haji Babai said US President Donald Trump's continued threats reflected desperation, adding that a country confident in its power and ability to act would have no need to resort to threats.

The legislator added that US allies had refused to join Trump's acts of aggression against Iran, exposing Washington's difficulties.

President Zardari approves foreign visits of SC, FCC chief justices

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: On the advice of the prime minister, President Asif Ali Zardari has approved ex-Pakistan leaves and issued no-objection certificates (NOC) for the chief justices of the Supreme Court (SC) and the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) to make upcoming foreign visits.

In a press release issued late on Monday, the Presidency said that President Zardari has approved the trips of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi and FCC Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan.

CJP Afridi would visit the "United Kingdom, South Korea and Japan from Oct 14 to 21 and from Oct 27 to Nov 4", the Presidency said. Justice Aminuddin would visit Azerbaijan from Oct 19 to 22 to attend TÜRK-AY – a conference of constitutional courts and bodies exercising constitutional jurisdiction in the Turkic world.

The FCC was admitted as an observer to TÜRK-AY in July this year, about four years after the forum was established.

Houthi media says
Saudi Arabia
hit oil facility
near Sanaa

PEAK POINT

SAUDI ARABIA: Houthi media reported that Saudi Arabia struck an oil facility near Sanaa on Tuesday, after the Saudi-led coalition ordered civilians to evacuate the site. An AFP correspondent in Sanaa reported hearing an explosion, while a breaking news alert on the Houthis' Al-Masirah TV said "Saudi aggression targets the oil company in Al-Sabaha, west of Sanaa". The Saudi-led coalition had earlier warned civilians to evacuate the Al-Sabaha station near the Houthi-held capital, which belongs to the Yemen Petroleum Company (YPC).

5 killed, several injured as Peshawar-bound train derails in Punjab's Multan district

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Five people were killed and several others were injured when the Peshawar-bound Rehman Baba Express derailed near Sher Shah Railway Station in Multan district on Tuesday, officials said. Pakistan Railways (PR) Chief Executive Officer Muhammad Hafeezullah confirmed the death toll to Dawn, adding that more than 40 had been injured. According to an initial investigation report by the PR, the derailment was likely caused by a fault in a passenger coach. Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi has appointed the federal government inspector of railways (FGR) as the inquiry officer.

Speaking to Dawn, train driver Rizwan Abbas

said the train was travelling at 100 kilometres per

Abbas maintained that the train was in working



hour. "The signal was clear, and as I was passing through the Sher Shah station area, I suddenly felt a push," he said. He said he applied the brakes and managed to bring the train to a stop. "When I got out of the locomotive and looked back, I saw that the passenger coaches had derailed and were lying off the tracks. It was horrible," he said.

order. In an earlier statement, the railways minister expressed grief over the loss of life, saying he shared the sorrow of the bereaved families, according to an official statement.

He directed the authorities to ensure the provision of the best possible medical facilities to the injured passengers and said compensation would be paid to

the deceased and injured in accordance with the Pakistan Railways insurance policy, as per the statement.

Meanwhile, a replacement train for the Rehman Baba Express, carrying more than 500 passengers, departed from Sher Shah Railway Station, according to a statement. Buses were also arranged in coordination with the Multan district administration for passengers wishing to continue their journeys by road.

The statement added that all field formations of the Commercial Department were on high alert to facilitate passengers.

Multan Commissioner Amir Karim Khan also met the affected passengers and their families and assured them of all possible assistance.

PTI seeks production orders for 'detained' MNAs ahead of NA, Senate sessions



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The PTI requested the National Assembly speaker to issue production orders for its nine "detained" MNAs ahead of NA and Senate sessions on Tuesday. In a letter to NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, Chief Whip Amir Dogar claimed that the nine MNAs were "currently detained" and requested him to issue production orders for them to enable them to attend the 30th session starting today. The lawmakers comprised Haji Intiaz Ahmad Choudhry (NA-68), Muhammad Jamal Ahsan Khan (NA-89), Mian Ghous Muhammad (NA-170), Sanaullah Khan Mastikhel (NA-91), Dawar Khan Kundi (NA-43), Junaid Akbar (NA-09), Amjad Ali Khan (NA-02), Fazal Muhammad Khan (NA-25) and Adil Khan Bazai (NA-262).



SPORTS



Kusal Mendis' blistering 87 leads Sri Lanka to consolation win over Pakistan in third T20I



PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Sri Lankan captain Kusal Mendis produced a blistering unbeaten 87 off 48 balls to steer the visitors to an eight-wicket consolation victory over Pakistan in the third Twenty20 International at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

Chasing 169, Sri Lanka cruised to 172-2 in 17.1 overs, with Kusal and Kamindu Mendis combining in an unbroken 98-run partnership for the third wicket to complete the chase with 17 balls to spare.

Kamindu remained unbeaten on 40 off 27 deliveries, striking

four fours, as Sri Lanka ended the series on a winning note after Pakistan had secured the first two matches.

The visitors never looked in trouble once the two batters settled at the crease, maintaining a scoring rate of more than 10 runs an over through much of the latter half of the innings.

Kusal's commanding knock included nine fours and four sixes, as he repeatedly found gaps and punished Pakistan's wayward bowling. His innings featured a mixture of powerful drives, deft improvisation and clean hitting down the ground, leaving the hosts

unable to stem the flow of runs.

Sri Lanka suffered an early setback when Lahiru Udara was trapped leg-before-wicket by Imran Randhawa for one in the second over. Imran produced a delivery that swung sharply from wide of off stump to strike the left-hander on the back pad, giving Pakistan an encouraging start.

However, Sineth Jayawardena and Kusal quickly shifted the momentum. Jayawardena attacked from the outset, striking Salman Mirza for a six over deep mid-wicket and carving another delivery over point for four. Kusal

joined the charge with a straight six off Razaullah before delicately ramping a short ball over the slip cordon.

The pair took Sri Lanka to 59-1 at the end of the powerplay, their best such return of the series, with Jayawardena contributing 30 off 18 balls and Kusal 24 off 16.

Jayawardena continued to find boundaries, pulling Imran over deep midwicket for six and driving over extra cover for four. But his entertaining 38 off 26 balls ended in the eighth over when he attempted to loft Arafat Minhass over the infield and picked out Razaullah at long-on, leaving Sri Lanka at 74-2.

World Tennis Women's Championships kicks off Tennis Complex



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The second leg of the W-15 Islamabad Junaid Family Foundation World Tennis Women's Championships 2026 kicked off here at the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) Tennis Complex on Tuesday.

A total of 31 players from 17 countries are participating in the international tournament, featuring talented women tennis players from France, China, Russia, Denmark, Mexico, Uzbekistan, South Africa, the Netherlands, Korea, Nepal, Japan, Hong Kong, Germany, Thailand, Türkiye, the Czech Republic, and Pakistan.

Five Pakistani players Ushna Suhail, Mahin Aftab Qureshi, Mehq Khokhar, Romaisa Malik, and Hajra Sohail are also competing in the Championships.

The tournament is sponsored by the Junaid Family Foundation, whose generous support is contributing to the promotion and development of international tennis in Pakistan.

Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, President of the Pakistan Tennis Federation, and Col. Zia-ud-Din Tufail (R), Secretary General PTF, along with the PTF management, extended their best wishes to all participating players for a successful and competitive tournament. They also expressed their sincere gratitude.

First Hashim Khan PSA Satellite Squash Championship 2026 Sana Bahadar and Shamlan Gul Clinch titles; Sana has also won the honour Twice in Australia



PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Sana Bahadar and Shamlan Gul delivered impressive performances to claim the women's and men's titles, respectively, at the First Hashim Khan PSA Satellite Squash Championship 2026. In the women's final, Sana Bahadar defeated Maryam Malik 3-0 to secure the

championship title, while Shamlan Gul overcame Abdullah Zaman by the same scoreline to win the men's title. Sana Bahadar, who has previously won the same honour twice in Australia, added another significant achievement to her squash career with her victory in Peshawar. The closing ceremony of the

championship was held at the Qamar Zaman Squash Complex, Peshawar, where the Director General Sports, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ashfaq Khan, attended as the chief guest. Deputy Director Accounts Peshawar Sports Complex Shah Faisal, Squash Head at Peshawar Sports Complex Manwar Zaman, and other relevant sports officials were also present. The ceremony highlighted the players' performances and underscored the importance of promoting squash across the province. The First Hashim Khan PSA Satellite Squash Championship was held from October 5 to 9, 2026, at the Qamar Zaman Squash Complex, Peshawar. Male and female players participated in the event, showcasing their abilities, technical skills, physical fitness, and competitive spirit. The championship aimed to promote squash in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, encourage emerging talent, and provide local players with a competitive platform to demonstrate their abilities.

Master Paints/Newage, Din/FG make winning starts in JPF Pink Polo Cup



Usman Khan's unbeaten 137 puts Eshaal Associates on the Brink of Final President's Trophy

BY SHAKEEL UR REHMAN

ISLAMABAD: Opener Usman Khan continued his outstanding form with a second consecutive century, scoring an unbeaten 137 to put Eshaal Associates in a commanding position against Vital Tea on the third day of the first semi-final of the President's Trophy Grade-II Gold tournament at the National Cricket Ground in Islamabad. Eshaal Associates reached 229 for one in their second innings at stumps, extending their overall lead to 424 runs and strengthening their chances of reaching the final. Usman once again led the batting charge with a confident and composed innings. His unbeaten 137 included 14 fours and three sixes. The century was his fourth in the tournament, taking his aggregate to 743 runs and making him the tournament's leading run-scorer. At

the other end, fellow opener Haider Bhatti played an impressive innings of 85, hitting 12 fours. The pair put together a superb 211-run



opening partnership, laying a solid foundation for Eshaal Associates and putting the opposition bowlers under sustained pressure. Earlier, Vital Tea were dismissed for 224 in their first innings, conceding a valuable 195-run lead to Eshaal Associates. Mohammad

Akhlaq top-scored for Vital Tea with 64 runs, including seven fours. For Eshaal Associates, Mohammad Umair claimed four wickets, while Mohammad Idrees took three to restrict Vital Tea's first-innings total. Building on their first-innings advantage, Eshaal Associates further strengthened their position through Usman's remarkable consistency and the productive opening stand with Haider Bhatti. With an overall lead of 424 runs, Eshaal Associates are firmly in control of the semi-final. Vital Tea will need an exceptional batting performance in their second innings to challenge their opponents and keep their hopes alive. Usman's tally of 743 runs, including four centuries, underlines his outstanding contribution to Eshaal Associates' campaign in the tournament.

ICC records massive demand for 2027 World Cup tickets from 142 countries



PEAK POINT

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has reported record demand for tickets to

the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, receiving more than 15 million ticket requests in just 12 days. According to the

have come from 142 countries, highlighting the global excitement surrounding the tournament.

Cricketers fans can register for the ICC ticket ballot until November 21, giving supporters more time to secure a chance to watch the biggest teams compete for the ODI world title.

The 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup will be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.



Islamabad becomes hub for global dialogue on poverty reduction

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) on Tuesday inaugurated a two-day international conference on inclusive and resilient economic empowerment and growth in Islamabad, bringing together federal ministers, international delegates, development partners and poverty reduction experts to explore sustainable solutions to poverty, strengthen livelihoods and promote inclusive economic growth under the theme "Poverty to Prosperity".

Islamabad becomes hub for global dialogue on poverty reduction

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Syed Imran Ahmad Shah, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar, Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training Wajih Qamar, and Chairperson



Benazir Income Support Programme Senator Rubina Khalid attended the inaugural session along with other dignitaries.

Addressing the confer-

education, healthcare and skills.

He said poverty extended beyond income deprivation to unequal access to opportunities and essential services, calling for greater investment in human capital, empowerment of women and youth, and support for less-developed regions, particularly Balochistan.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar appreciated PPAF's sustained efforts to combat poverty and improve the economic prospects of disadvantaged communities.

He highlighted the importance of grassroots initiatives that translate support into tangible livelihood opportunities, enabling people to build businesses, improve living standards and achieve economic self-reliance. Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi said Pakistan's economic progress depended on bringing marginalised communities into the mainstream of development and turning their skills and potential into productive opportunities.

D-8, OIC-COMSTECH sign MoU to promote science, technology cooperation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) and the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (OIC-COMSTECH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in science, technology and innovation, with the aim of accelerating economic development and delivering tangible benefits to their Member States.

The MoU was signed during a virtual ceremony by Ambassador Sohail

Mahmood, Secretary-General of the D-8, and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of OIC-COMSTECH, said a press release issued on Tuesday.

In his remarks on the occasion, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood underscored the growing importance of science and technology in driving economic growth, improving productivity and addressing common development challenges faced by Member States. He highlighted COMSTECH's extensive experience in scientific and technological cooperation



among OIC Member States, describing it as a valuable partner for the D-8.

The Secretary-General emphasised that the D-8-

COMSTECH partnership would provide a practical framework for exchanging knowledge and expertise, undertaking joint research,

organising training programmes and strengthening institutional capacity. He further expressed confidence that the cooperation would contribute to advancing the objectives of the D-8 Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030, particularly in promoting sustainable economic development and technological progress. Under the MoU, both organizations will explore cooperation in key priority areas, including agriculture and food security, energy and minerals, environmental sustainability, Artificial Intelligence, digital transformation and emerging

technologies. The partnership will also promote capacity-building, youth empowerment, technical exchanges and stronger linkages among universities, research institutions and centres of excellence. The collaboration will further leverage existing institutional mechanisms, including the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI) and relevant COMSTECH platforms, to facilitate joint initiatives and promote the practical application of scientific knowledge and technological innovation.

Opinion & Editorial

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A juncture and a moment

Jawed Naqvi

A CLUTCH of unforeseen events have combined to pose the existential crisis Prime Minister Narendra Modi is facing from unemployed youth and young students, who after claiming his education minister's scalp recently are now determined to win the resignation of Gyanesh Kumar, India's chief election commissioner whom they call "a vote thief".

The first trigger for the youth to take to the streets came with the cancellation and corruption in the entrance exams to India's medical colleges, which led to nationwide protests amid a dozen suicides by dejected students. Then the chief justice of India described unemployed youth as cockroaches, setting off a response nobody expected.

But the safety pin from the fraught grenade was pulled by Ritika Chopra, who broke the Indian Express story on Sept 23 about two election commissioners officially calling out their chief Gyanesh Kumar for alleged illegalities in deleting 130 million voters from the electoral rolls. The deletions altered the outcomes in Bihar and West Bengal polls to the BJP's advantage. That Modi is not prepared to allow the fall of a key pivot of his winning electoral machinery is evident from the paramilitary units he has mobilised, including from troubled

Jammu and Kashmir and from platoons purposed to guard the frontier with Pakistan. They have been joined by the Delhi Police supported by street criminals from the Hindutva fold to jointly barricade New Delhi against protesters led largely by the recently formed Cockroach Janta Party.

On their part, the Cockroaches are predominantly from the Hindu middle classes, which makes it a tricky proposition for Modi to use the lethal force he deployed against the Shaheen Bagh anti-citizenship laws campaign in 2020. That movement, led chiefly by swathes of brave Muslim women in Delhi, was broken by a combination of the Covid-19 pandemic and brute force that coincided with President Donald Trump's visit to Gujarat. Trump lost the election and Joe Biden won it, only for Trump to stage a comeback, while two Muslim student activists, Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam, picked up in the crackdown during his India visit six years ago, have marked time in prison. The Cockroach movement has gained credibility by underscoring its key objectives that Indians have been dreaming of. Last week, Khalid, detained without trial under draconian anti-terror laws, won the 2026 Award for Human Rights Defenders at Risk for the Asia and Pacific region, presented by the Ireland-based Front Line Defenders. It's difficult to

see the crass brutality of a combined force of Delhi Police and Hindutva squads visiting the current crop of protesters, even though they have attacked young women in particular several times. The protests have created an extremely critical moment for the Modi establishment and for the opposition, represented prominently by the feisty young woman leader Neha Bora from the left flank of national politics. The wide political support has added heft to the collective battle for Gyanesh Kumar's resignation.

There has been some quibbling in the opposition ranks, principally between the Aam Aadmi Party and the Congress, about who is more committed to the students' cause, but this has more to do with the political chance both are eyeing in Punjab, where they face each other in elections early next year. To be fair, the campaign against 'vote theft' began as Rahul Gandhi's battle in mid-2023, when two laws were enacted that would be considered scandalous and unacceptable in any functioning democracy. Modi changed the mechanism that chose the poll chief. He replaced the chief justice of India from the trioka that chose the poll chief with his cabinet minister, making the opposition's presence meaningless. He also gave his handpicked election chief lifelong immunity from legal challenges for his duty in holding elections.

Courtesy Dawn

Elite suction machine

Naem Sadiq

It was an arduous task ploughing through the unending and at places questionable list of names selected for the national awards this year. Absent from this list was the name of the person who deserved this award the most - Espen Barth Eide, the Norwegian Foreign Minister. He taught us how to disembark from a commercial flight (and not a Gulfstream), walk down the passenger boarding bridge, carry our own luggage and not have an entourage of a dozen friends and family members. This event happened at about the same time when two government officials were being royally chauffeured in a four-horse-drawn buggy, escorted by seven minions - four mounted on horseback, two holding an umbrella and one serving as a hanger-on. Perhaps history will remember this as one of the most decadent and disgusting visuals of coloniality. Whether it is a victory in war, a diplomatic triumph, a pact with another country, a national day or simply receiving a foreign dignitary, restraint quickly gives way to vicious extravagance, wastefulness and frenzy. Ceremonies and medals proliferate, banners and hoardings multiply and billboards and bunting mushroom. Simplicity, modesty, austerity, dignity and humility are tossed overboard. The gates of the dwindling state treasury are flung wide open, and the taxpayers' money is brutally squandered - for media campaigns, immodest personal publicity and unabashed self-protection. The ruling elite of Pakistan has invented a rare and rapacious machinery that relentlessly pulverises the poor and sucks out every morsel from their meagre existence. Called the 'Elite Suction Machine' (ESM), it must not be mistaken for the real suction machines that remain idly parked as show pieces in our sewerage departments: machines whose dormancy sends 100 sanitation workers to their deaths in raw sewage gutters every year. On the contrary, the ESM is at work 24/7, constantly inventing fresh opportunities to plunder resources from the poor and diverting them to the already privileged.

Courtesy Tribune

Simmering K-P

An uneasy calm prevailed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa a day after the imposition of Emergency and Governor's Rule. While no formal street protests have been reported yet, the same cannot be ruled out in the coming days. A widespread crackdown, resulting in the arrest and detention of numerous PTI provincial leaders and supporters - including Chief Minister Sohail Afridi and his cabinet members - has forced the beleaguered party into a cautious wait-and-watch stance. Meanwhile, party stalwarts have voiced plans to galvanise an anti-government movement, calling on tribal chieftains to join them. The province remains mired in an administrative dilemma, with several districts hard-hit by law and order issues placed under a state of Emergency, while the remaining are under Governor's rule. Educational institutions across the region were shuttered yesterday, with no official timeline for when classes will resume. Meanwhile, Peshawar has effectively been transformed into a blockaded fortress, as shipping containers seal off all entry and exit points. The heavy deployment of security personnel alongside the enforcement of Section 144 continues to paralyse daily civic life. Demonstrations have erupted in outlying districts, where PTI supporters protested the crackdown on a provincial leadership that boasts a two-thirds majority.

Govt says people of KP 'welcomed' governor's rule as it gave them 'hope'



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Attaulah Tatar on Tuesday claimed that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had "welcomed" the federal government's move to impose governor's rule and emergency in the province, saying the measures had given them "hope".

The federal government on Sunday imposed an emergency in 12 districts of KP, and placed the province under governor's rule, taking note of the "provincial government's deliberate disengagement

from the fight against terrorism".

On Tuesday, Attaulah addressed a joint press conference alongside Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar in Islamabad.

Attaulah noted, "Had the people of KP supported the pro-terrorist stance of the PTI government, you would have seen millions on the street."

He went on to claim that "barely a dozen" people had gathered in protest.

Defending the move, the information minister said: "The people of KP

have welcomed the step because they believe there is now hope for them. They believe they will now be provided with safety and security, their lives and livelihoods will be protected, and this political-crime nexus will be eliminated."

At the outset of the press briefing, the law minister noted that the province in the recent past had witnessed a hike in terrorist incidents, noting a "195 per cent" rise, with 8,600 terrorist attacks recorded in 2024-2026 compared to 2,900 in 2020-2024.

Azam emphasised that it was essential that counterterrorism efforts taken by federal and provincial agencies be "harmonised", adding that such an approach was standard practice globally.

"All these arrangements are made to run the country in a way that people feel safe," he remarked.

At this, the law minister noted the "non-serious" attitude of the previous PTI-led KP government, which he said, "has now ceased to exist".

Pakistan, EU envoy discuss promoting legal migration

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: European Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner has praised Pakistan's measures to combat illegal migration in a meeting with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in Islamabad on Tuesday.

Magnus Brunner said Pakistan's effective measures have resulted in a commendable 64 percent reduction illegal migration to Europe.

He also commended the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for demonstrating professional capabilities despite limited resources. He said reducing illegal migration will open up pathways for legal migration. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said Pakistan has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against illegal migration. He said following a 64%



reduction in illegal migration, our next target is to eliminate it completely.

Mohsin Naqvi stressed the need for Pakistan and the European Union to work together to completely eliminate illegal migration.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed promoting legal migration between Pakistan and the European Union and expanding opportunities for skilled workers.

Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in border security and promote legal immigration.

Finance Minister Aurangzeb vows to strengthen collective influence of G-24

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening the collective influence of G-24 and advancing the interests of developing economies as the incoming chair, a statement issued by the ministry said.

He was speaking as the first Vice-Chair of the G-24 at the finance ministers' and central bank governors' meeting held on the sidelines of the World Bank Group-International Monetary Fund (IMF) Annual Meetings in Bangkok, Thailand.

Aurangzeb highlighted the challenges facing developing economies, including fragmentation disrupting trade and investment, climate shocks eroding development gains, restrictive financial conditions and widening financing gaps.

The minister stressed that reform of the international financial architecture must keep pace with the challenges and called for timely support for countries undertaking difficult

reforms while confronting external shocks beyond their control.

He outlined three priorities for the G-24 focused on restoring development as the central objective of the international financial system, making the Bretton Woods institutions more representative and responsive, and building a development-oriented international financial architecture.

Aurangzeb also emphasised cooperation among members and institutional partners to advance a more representative, resilient and development-centred international economic order. Aurangzeb also conducted a meeting with Sultan Abdulrahman Al-Marshad, Chief Executive Officer of the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), on the sidelines of the World Bank Group-IMF Annual Meetings in Thailand. During the meeting, the finance minister expressed condolences over the loss of lives in recent incidents in Saudi Arabia and thanked the Kingdom for its longstanding support to Pakistan.

Vawda says incumbent KP setup will also be replaced 'if it fails to perform'

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Senator Faisal Vawda on Tuesday said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's incumbent administrative setup could also be replaced if it failed to deliver, stressing that there was "no chance for failure" in the province.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the former PTI leader expressed hope that KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi would perform well, but said performance would ultimately determine whether he remained in the position. "If Faisal Kundi does not perform, he will be replaced," Vawda said. "If they cannot perform, someone else will come, but success is certain. We have no chance for failure."

He said results under the new arrangement would start becoming visible within 60 days, while people would receive relief within 180 days. "The public only cares about relief. Everything will now be based on performance," the senator said, adding that the new setup had come through the democratic system.

Vawda backed the imposition of emergency in KP.

Satellite internet framework nearing completion in Pakistan to boost connectivity: Minister

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Tuesday said that Pakistan is in the final stages of preparing a Fixed Satellite Service (FSS) framework for satellite internet services. Addressing the APT Symposium on Digital Transformation and the Universal Service Fund (USF), she said the framework would be finalised soon after consultations with relevant institutions.

The govt would provide a favourable and business-friendly environment for companies investing in the satellite internet sector, she added. The minister said Pakistan had made significant progress in expanding digital connectivity, improving internet



infrastructure and narrowing the gender gap in mobile internet usage. She said the gender gap in mobile internet usage had declined from 38% to 8%. Citing the GSMA, she said Pakistan had recorded the world's fastest progress in reducing the gap over the past two and a half years. Shaza Fatima said three new submarine internet cables had landed in Pakistan over the past two and a half years. Work was also underway on alternative routes and new cable connections to improve international.

Equipping people with market-relevant skills key to eradicating poverty: BISP Chairperson

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, Tuesday, said that equipping people with market-relevant skills and expanding digital financial access are central to helping families move out of poverty for good.

She was speaking as a panelist at the International Conference on Inclusive and Resilient Economic Empowerment and Growth 2026, organized by the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) in collaboration with the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Paigham-e-Pakistan, and the



Islamic Center of Excellence for Nation Cohesion and Outreach.

Addressing the session titled "Scaling Poverty Graduation: Bridging Social Protection, Community Development, Economic Empowerment and Inclusive Human Development," the Chairperson highlighted the Benazir Hunarmand Programme as a key pillar of BISP's poverty graduation efforts.



BANGKOK: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, participating in a panel discussion on "Mitigating Sovereign Risks in Market-Access Countries," highlighting Pakistan's debt management strategy, fiscal reforms and efforts to strengthen economic resilience.

Opposition seeks production orders for detained MNAs from Ayaz Sadiq

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Opposition members of the National Assembly have asked Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq to issue production orders for detained lawmakers so they can attend parliamentary proceedings. The request was made during a meeting with the Speaker at Parliament House on Tuesday evening. The opposition delegation included Malik Aamir Dogar, Ali Muhammad Khan, Umair Ahmed Niazi, Zain Hussain Qureshi and Syed Ali Raza Gillani. They

met the Speaker and requested that production orders be issued for members of the National Assembly who are currently in custody. The statement issued by the National Assembly Secretariat did not name the detained members or say whether the Speaker had accepted the request. The matter remains a request by the opposition members, and no decision on issuing the orders was announced in the provided information. Separately, the National Assembly's 30th session will continue

until October 27, 2026, following a meeting of the House Business Advisory Committee chaired by Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House on Tuesday. The committee reviewed the agenda and duration of the ongoing session and discussed various matters related to the business and proceedings of the National Assembly. It decided that the current session would remain in progress until October 27. The meeting was attended by Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, Federal

Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain and Federal Minister for Science and Technology Khalid Hussain Magi. Members of the National Assembly who attended the meeting included Syed Naveed Qamar, Syed Aminul Haq, Nuzhat Sadiq, Puleen Baloch, Sheikh Aftab Ahmed, Ijazul Haq, Gul Asghar Khan and Syed Hafeezuddin. Secretary National Assembly Syed Hasnain Haider also participated in the parliamentary process.

The committee reviewed the legislative business to be taken up during the remaining days of the session. However, the information provided did not list the specific bills or other matters to be considered before October 27. In a separate statement issued on October 13, Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq congratulated the nation, the armed forces, scientists and engineers on the reported successful test of the Fateh 2 ER hypersonic ballistic missile. The Speaker praised

the armed forces and scientific teams for their work in strengthening Pakistan's defence capabilities. He said the test demonstrated the country's scientific and technical skills and described it as an important step towards strengthening national defence and self-reliance. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also praised the professional abilities and efforts of military personnel, scientists and engineers, saying their contribution to improving the country's defence capabilities was commendable.