



Gilani calls for stronger Pakistan-Germany ties through trade, investment



Political party chief upset over not getting KP governorship, role in setup: Naqvi



Pakistan explores \$1.5bn financing through World Bank guarantees

Founded By:
(Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

Email: editor@peakpoint.pk
Website: www.peakpoint.pk

Executive Group Editor
Arif Mehmood Khan



Saturday 17 October 2026 Jamadi-ul-Awwal 05, 1448 A.H VOL No: 06 Issue No. 223 Pages 4 Rs. 20

PM Shehbaz reaffirms support for Saudi Arabia in meeting with new envoy

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday reaffirmed Pakistan's support for Saudi Arabia in safeguarding its "sovereignty, security and territorial integrity" amid a recent escalation in Houthi attacks.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the premier made the remarks during a meeting with newly appointed Saudi Ambassador Dr Rajeh Tami Albugamy. He welcomed the envoy to Pakistan and congratulated him on assuming his new responsibilities.

Ambassador Albugamy, assumed his diplomatic responsibilities in Islamabad on Thursday, reaffirming the commitment to

strengthening the strategic and fraternal ties between the two countries.

During the meeting, PM Shehbaz said Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations had made significant progress in recent years and reaffirmed Islamabad's commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation across various sectors. He "strongly condemned" the recent escalation in Houthi attacks against Saudi Arabia, which had resulted in deaths and injuries, including among Pakistani nationals, the statement said.

The prime minister also said the two countries had always stood by each other, adding that the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement and the Makkah Joint Defence Alliance marked "historic milestones".



ISLAMABAD: The newly arrived Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.E Dr Rajeh Tami Albugamy calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

'I am a normal human being': Khawaja Asif brushes off online trolling over AI-generated Marilyn Monroe riddle

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Friday brushed off online trolls who mocked him for responding to an AI-generated riddle featuring Hollywood icon

Marilyn Monroe on the social media platform X. On Tuesday, the defence minister and PML-N stalwart replied to an AI-generated image of Monroe on X, which asked users to spot the one item that did not belong in the AI-generated image from the 50s.

Asif wearing the post and pointed out that Monroe was resharing a smartwatch in the image. The original post shared by the defence minister has since been deleted.

Subsequently, netizens questioned the propriety of the post, while Indian media also published articles on Asif's online activities.

On Friday, Asif was asked about the post and whether he operated his X account himself during an appearance on Geo News programme 'Naya Pakistan'. "Two hundred per cent I operate it myself," he said. "I have a personal life and a normal life. I am a normal human being; there is nothing special about me," he emphasised.

FO condemns Indian minister's 'provocative' remarks threatening aggression against Pakistan

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) on Friday condemned Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's "provocative remarks" threatening aggression against Pakistan, saying such statements highlighting the neighbouring country's "hegemonistic mindset".

Singh on Thursday had warned Pakistan that any "fresh terrorist activity from across the border would invite a strike even bigger than the last time", according to Indian news agency ANI.

On Friday, FO spokesman Sajjad Haider Khan was asked about the comments during his weekly press briefing.

"Pakistan rejects and condemns the Indian defence minister's provocative remarks entailing a threat of Indian aggression against Pakistan. Such reckless statements reflect India's hegemonistic mindset and the risk its belligerent posture poses to regional peace and stability in South Asia," he said. "We wish to remind India of the consequences of its military aggression in May last year, when Pakistan demonstrated both its capability and resolve to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and gave a befitting response and reply to Indian aggression," he said, referring to the brief military conflict between the two countries. He said that there should be "no ambiguity" that Pakistan remained fully prepared to safeguard its "sovereignty and territorial integrity" against any "ill-advised aggression".

Iran denies nuclear ambitions, says ready for talks

PEAK POINT



TEHRAN: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian denied Friday that Tehran sought nuclear weapons, expressed readiness for dialogue and condemned US sanctions during talks with Georgia's prime minister. In his meeting with Georgian premier Irakli Kobakhidze, Pezeshkian also called for closer ties with Georgia, weeks after

Tbilisi cut aviation links between the two countries following US sanctions targeting Iranian airlines. The two met on the sidelines of a UN biodiversity summit in Armenia's capital Yerevan. "Iran is not seeking nuclear weapons, and we consider the malicious propaganda against our country to be lies," Pezeshkian said, according to a statement from his office. "We have always been ready for dialogue. They think they can force us to surrender, but we will not bow to coercion," he added, calling US sanctions against Tehran "unjustifiable and inhumane". In his meeting with Kobakhidze, Pezeshkian also called for a clear timetable to expand cooperation between Tehran.

Mastermind of suicide attack on Kohat Police Lines killed in Lakki Marwat

PEAK POINT

LAKKI MARWAT: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) team and security forces have killed a key terrorist commander Zahid Gul (affiliated with Khwariji Gul Bahadur group) during a successful joint intelligence-based operation in FR Lakki Marwat. The terrorist was the mastermind of suicide attack on the Old Kohat Police Lines two months back. According to the CTD Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, slain terrorist had personally guided the suicide vehicle laden with explosives during the attack on the Kohat Police Lines. The Khariji Zahid Gul.

18 countries, including Pakistan, condemn inauguration of Colombian embassy in Jerusalem

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Eighteen countries, including Pakistan, on Friday strongly condemned the opening of the Colombian embassy in Jerusalem, stating that any move to recognise the city as Israel's capital had no legal effect.

Colombia on Wednesday officially opened its embassy in Jerusalem, joining a small group of countries including the United States in taking the symbolic step of backing Israeli sovereignty in the contested city.

The vast majority of countries keep their embassies to Israel in Tel Aviv on the grounds that the status of Jerusalem will be settled in a final resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In a joint statement shared by the Foreign Office (FO),

the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Algeria, Djibouti, United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolu-



tion and undermined international efforts to achieve a "just and lasting peace based on the two-state solution". "The foreign ministers reaffirmed that any measure or decision intended to alter the legal or historical status of occupied Jerusalem, or to recognise it as Israel's capital, is null and void and has no legal effect," the joint statement said.

The statement said the development was in contravention of relevant

"This position is consistent with relevant UNSC and General Assembly resolutions, particularly Security Council resolutions 476 (1980) and 478 (1980), which reject attempts to change Jerusalem's character or status and call on states to withdraw diplomatic missions from the city, which is part of the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967," it added.

As per the joint statement, the foreign ministers called upon the Colombian government to "reconsider and reverse this decision, uphold its obligations under international law, and refrain from measures that prejudice the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to an independent and sovereign Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital".

Karachi court acquits alleged drug baroness Anmol alias Pinky in two more cases

PEAK POINT



KARACHI: A sessions court in Karachi on Friday acquitted alleged drug queenpin Anmol alias Pinky in two narcotics cases. The first case was registered with the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in 2018 while the second case was registered at the Gizri police station in 2021. Anmol, who had been declared a proclaimed offender in both drug cases, had filed separate applications Section 265-K (power of Court to acquit accused at any stage) of the Code of Criminal Procedure for her acquittal.

She appeared before the South additional and sessions judge via a video link at the hearing of her applications today, and the court acquitted her, citing a lack of evidence in both cases.

The court ordered her release from jail if she was not required in any other case.



SPORTS



Fakhar Zaman eyes one last shot at World Cup glory



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Fakhar Zaman knows exactly how it feels to win major trophies. He also knows how it feels to wait years for that feeling.

The southpaw has seen it all; from hitting a century that etched itself into Pakistan cricket folklore and helped them win the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy — their last global title — as a 27-year-old, to heartbreaks in 2021 and 2022 and outright debacles at International Cricket Council events over the next four years.

He will be 37 when Pakistan take their next shot at a major

international trophy, the 2027 World Cup, set to be held across South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

It will almost certainly be Fakhar's last chance to help Pakistan end their ICC title drought. And it will be that not only for the Mardan-born batter, but also for his contemporaries, the likes of Babar Azam and Shaheen Shah Afridi.

The generation basked in stardom after the 2017 triumph and runs to the 2021 and 2022 T20 World Cup semi-final and final, respectively. But a dip that began after 2022 has continued since.

Success in bilateral engagements over the past year or so has pushed Pakistan up to sixth and fifth places in the Twenty20 International and ODI rankings, respectively, but the team is long overdue to show its mettle where it matters most.

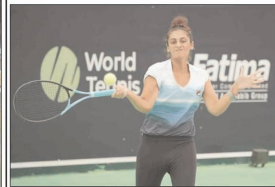
"We know it's been quite a while since we've won a major tournament," he told reporters on the sidelines of Pakistan's training session at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Friday, ahead of their ODI tri-series opener against Sri Lanka.

"We've reached finals and played in semi-finals, too.

"But, obviously, the happiness you feel as a nation when you win a trophy is something you don't get simply by reaching finals or semi-finals, no matter how many you play.

"We've sat down and discussed this at length, and many of the players are taking it very seriously. God willing, we'll give it our best, and we hope for Allah's help as well. We'll make every effort to bring this trophy back to Pakistan." Pakistan's road to the 2027 spectacle starts with the ODI tri-series, in which they will face a struggling Sri Lankan side and 2019 World Cup winners.

W-15 World Tennis Women's Championships continues



PEAK POINT

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

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.

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

Women's Singles Semifinals: Astrid Ciotte (FRA) beat Ru Xi Wu (CHN) 7-5, 6-4; Kamonwan Yodpetch (THA) beat Wozuko Mdlulwa (RSA) 2-6, 7-5, 4-2 (ret'd). Women's Doubles Semifinals: Kamonwan Yodpetch (THA), Ru Xi Wu (CHN) beat Astrid Ciotte (FRA), Sabastiani Leon (MEX) 6-1, 6-4; Anastasiya Kuparev (GER), Sevil Yuldasheva (UZB) w/o Wozuko Mdlulwa, Warona Mdlulwa (RSA). The finals will be played on Saturday.

Tri-nation Series: Pakistan face tough test Against England and Sri Lanka as Batting and Bowling Come Under Scrutiny



BY SHAKEEL UR REHMAN

PESHAWAR/RAWALPINDI: Pakistan, Sri Lanka and England are set to compete in a highly anticipated One-Day International tri-series, beginning in Rawalpindi on October 18. However, Pakistan's preparations have raised serious questions about the strength, balance and consistency of the national team, particularly in batting and bowling. A close examination of build partnerships, Pakistan's squad suggests that the team could face a difficult

challenge against two competitive opponents. While Pakistan have several experienced international players, their reputation alone will not guarantee success. The national side must demonstrate consistency, discipline and collective responsibility if it hopes to challenge England and Sri Lanka. From a cricket analyst's perspective, Pakistan's batting appears to be the area of greatest concern. Babar Azam and Fakhar Zaman remain the two most dependable batting options in the squad, but questions remain about the ability of the remaining batting order to build partnerships, withstand pressure and bat effectively through



innings. If both players perform to their potential, Pakistan can post competitive totals against even the strongest bowling attacks. The real concern, however, is what happens if one or both are dismissed early. A successful ODI batting line-up requires more than two outstanding performers. The middle order must be capable of rebuilding an innings after early setbacks, rotating the strike during the middle overs and accelerating during the final stages. Players such as Salman Ali Agha, Saim Ayub, Hasan Nawaz, Saad Baig and the other members of the batting unit must accept greater responsibility.

England's ODI squad arrives in Pakistan ahead of tri-nation series



Saudi organisers say Asian Cup preparations remain on track for early 2027

PEAK POINT

SAUDI ARABIA: Preparations for the Asian Cup remain on track for the tournament to take place in Saudi Arabia early next year, local organisers said on Friday, despite uncertainty over sporting events in the kingdom following recent attacks.

A strike on Riyadh's international airport on Saturday killed at least 12 people and wounded more than 300, with Yemen's Houthi movement claiming responsibility for the deadliest attack in Saudi Arabia in more than a decade.

Asian soccer chief Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa said earlier this week that a postponement until 2028 was possible if necessary, but the local organising committee (LOC) said they were still set on the original January 7 to February 5 schedule.

"Preparations across all organisational and operational areas are progressing according to the approved schedule, including work on venues, facilities and supporting services," it said in a

successful delivery."

The attacks on Riyadh have already had an impact on the Saudi sporting calendar.

The Six Kings Slam exhibition tennis tournament has



statement.

"(The LOC) will continue to monitor developments relevant to the tournament and ensure the appropriate conditions are in place for its suc-

been moved from October to December, while Fifa and the Saudi Esports Federation on Thursday postponed the FIFAe Finals 2026 until an unspecified future date.



Poland's Maja Chwalinska eyes a return against Greece's Maria Sakkari during their Wuhan Open quarter-final at the Optics Valley International Tennis Center in Wuhan, China.



PTV, CMG urged to deepen cooperation as friendship marks 75 years

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Managing Director of Pakistan Television Corporation Ashfaq Ahmad Khalil has stressed the need to expand media cooperation between Pakistan Television (PTV) and China Media Group (CMG), including the production of joint documentaries, to further strengthen bilateral friendship and bring the people of the two countries closer. Speaking on CGTN Urdu's programme

"Top View", he said the 75-year friendship between Pakistan and China was a model relationship for the world, with both state-run and private media playing an important role in strengthening bilateral ties. He said the Memoranda of Understanding and close institutional links between the two countries should be translated into practical cooperation through joint initiatives in various fields, including documentary production, said an official press release issued by CMG on Friday. Highlighting the role of the



media in promoting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Ashfaq Ahmad Khalil said print, electronic and digital media

had made significant contributions to informing the public about the importance, progress and benefits of the flagship project. He stressed

that coordinated cooperation between PTV and CMG could make strategic communication more effective and further promote mutual understanding between the two countries. Referring to the growing influence of digital media, he said the timely provision of authentic information, identification of fake news and prevention of misinformation had become increasingly important. He added that the Digital Communication Department of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was playing a

significant role in countering false and misleading information and ensuring the dissemination of accurate facts to the public. Discussing cultural ties, the federal secretary said exchanges of cultural heritage and traditions could help bring the people of Pakistan and China closer. He also referred to Information and Broadcasting Minister Attaulah Tarar's proposal to invite Chinese social media influencers to Pakistan to familiarise them with the country's culture, language and cuisine.

PTCL wins two honors at Dragons of Asia Awards 2026

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has earned two prestigious honors at the Dragons of Asia Awards 2026, with its social impact initiative, Dil Se Ba-Ikhtiar winning a Bronze Dragon in the Best in Digital category, while its Mother's Day campaign received a Black Dragon in Marketing Discipline. The recognition reflects the company's efforts to leverage communications and digital technology to advance meaningful social causes, and contribute to a more inclusive and empowered society. It also underscores PTCL's broader

ambition to create value beyond connectivity by supporting initiatives that address real societal needs and enable individuals and communities to realize their full potential.

PTCL's Dil Se Ba-Ikhtiar initiative mirrors the company's commitment to women's socioeconomic empowerment through digital inclusion, skills development and entrepreneurial opportunity. Ba-Ikhtiar, now spanning 22 flood affected districts nationwide, demonstrates how digital access and skills development can help create pathways towards greater economic independence.

PTCL's 'Mother's Day:



More Support for Mothers' campaign similarly reflects the company's belief that meaningful communication should extend beyond awareness to encourage tangible support for people and causes that matter. The campaign sought to encourage a more

empathetic and supportive approach to motherhood, particularly with regards to new mothers' fight against postpartum depression.

Commenting on the achievement, Amad Khan, Chief Marketing Officer, PTCL, said, "We are delighted

to be recognized at the regional level for our campaigns that have already been honored in the country. We believe the true value of our work lies in the difference it makes in people's lives. Our ambition is to use our reach and capabilities to contribute to meaningful social progress. We remain committed to building initiatives that empower communities and support a more inclusive digital future for Pakistan." The Dragons of Asia Awards recognize marketing communications excellence across Asia, with campaigns assessed by international judging panels on strategy, concept, execution and

results. The programme recognizes work that combines creative thinking with strategic relevance and demonstrable effectiveness, making the recognition a significant endorsement of PTCL's purpose-led approach to communications. The latest achievement follows PTCL's strong performance at the Dragons of Pakistan Awards 2026, where the company secured five awards for its campaigns, Pakistan Ki Pehchan – Celebrating Pakistan's Underrepresented Sports; Dil Se Ba-Ikhtiar; Mother's Day; More Support for Mothers; and World Education Day Campaign.

Opinion & Editorial

Social Media and Journalism: Abundance of Information, Lack of Authenticity

By: Zaheer Haider Jafri



In the 21st century, rapid technological advancement has transformed almost every aspect of human life. However, the changes in mass media and journalism are particularly significant. In the past, newspapers, radio, and television were the primary sources of information. Today, the growing popularity of social media has introduced a new dimension to the traditional system of communication. Platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok have provided ordinary citizens with opportunities to share information, express opinions, and participate in the dissemination of news. Although this digital revolution has brought numerous benefits, it has also raised serious concerns about the authenticity of information, professional journalistic standards, and public trust. Social media has made information more accessible, faster, and widely available. Today, news, photographs, and videos of events occurring anywhere in the world can reach millions of people within seconds. Citizen journalism has also played an important role in highlighting natural disasters, accidents, political developments, and social issues. On many occasions, information shared by ordinary citizens has drawn the attention of traditional media to events that might otherwise have remained unnoticed. In this way, social media has democratized the flow of information to some extent and provided people with new opportunities for freedom of expression. However, the rapid spread of information does not necessarily guarantee its authenticity. One of the biggest challenges of social media is that anyone can publish news, photographs, or videos without formal

journalistic training, editorial supervision, or verification from reliable sources. As a result, unverified information, rumours, and misleading content can spread rapidly. Sometimes, old videos are falsely associated with recent incidents, photographs are manipulated, and facts are presented without their proper context. Under these circumstances, it becomes increasingly difficult for ordinary citizens to distinguish between authentic and misleading information. The fundamental difference between professional journalism and information commonly shared on social media lies in verification, editorial responsibility, and journalistic ethics. A professional journalist is expected to obtain information from relevant sources, verify facts, and present different aspects of an event before publishing a report. The basic principle of journalism is to present news objectively, beyond personal preferences, political affiliations, or commercial interests. In contrast, much of the information circulating on social media is sometimes intended not to inform the public but to achieve specific political, economic, or personal objectives. In a country like Pakistan, the growing popularity of social media has significantly influenced the dissemination of information and the formation of public opinion. Discussions on political, social, and religious issues have increased through digital platforms. Citizens criticize government policies, highlight public concerns, and share their personal experiences. Nevertheless, the spread of unverified news, character assassination, hate speech, and misleading political campaigns remains a serious challenge. In some cases, individuals and institutions are accused without credible evidence, damaging reputations and contributing to social divisions and mistrust. Artificial intelligence and modern digital technologies have made

this situation even more complicated. Images, videos, and audio recordings can now be manipulated in ways that make it difficult for ordinary users to distinguish between genuine and artificially generated content. Deepfake videos and AI-generated material can be used to spread misinformation, defame political opponents, and influence public emotions. In such circumstances, developing digital verification skills has become more important than ever for media organizations and professional journalists. It is also important to recognize that traditional journalism must examine its own weaknesses. Political pressure, commercial interests, sensationalism, and competition for ratings can sometimes undermine journalistic standards. If traditional media organizations also broadcast unverified information or ignore important aspects of a story, public trust is weakened. Therefore, while criticizing the shortcomings of social media, it is equally necessary to promote transparency, impartiality, accountability, and editorial independence within professional journalism. Media literacy has become increasingly important in addressing these challenges. People need to understand that not every viral story is authentic and that every popular social media post does not necessarily provide reliable information. Before sharing any news, responsible citizens should verify its original source, publication date, supporting evidence, and credibility through other reliable sources. Promoting digital literacy and critical thinking in educational institutions can help young people identify misinformation and become responsible users of digital media. Governments, media organizations, journalistic institutions, and digital platforms also have important responsibilities. While protecting freedom of expression as a fundamental right, transparent and fair measures are

needed to address misinformation, online harassment, and organized disinformation campaigns. Such measures must never become a means of suppressing independent journalism or legitimate criticism. Media organizations should strengthen their fact-checking departments, provide modern digital training to journalists, and establish effective systems for promptly correcting errors. Instead of treating social media and traditional journalism as competitors, both can work together to develop a more reliable information system. Social media is an effective platform for identifying public issues, sharing immediate information, and highlighting the voices of ordinary citizens. Professional journalism, on the other hand, can make such information more credible through research, verification, analysis, and accountability. A responsible combination of both can contribute significantly to the development of an informed public opinion. In the present digital age, the real need is not merely access to information but the availability of authentic, balanced, and reliable information. Journalism is not simply the process of transmitting news; it is also an essential means of protecting the public's right to information, democratic values, and social responsibilities. If social media is used according to the principles of truth, ethics, and responsibility, it can become a valuable partner of professional journalism. Otherwise, despite the abundance of information, society may move further away from facts and closer to rumours. Therefore, the fundamental requirement of our time is to give greater importance to the authenticity of news rather than merely its speed. A responsible society can only be built on the foundations of credible information, independent journalism, and informed citizens.

ISLAMABAD
DAILY PEAK POINT
Arif Mehmooh Khan
Group Editor: 0333-5366814
Samra Athar Kakakhel
Resident Editor: Nadim Tanoli
Joint Editor: Mob-0301-7777874
editor@peakpoint.pk
Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
www.peakpoint.pk

Beyond the impasse

With political instability at its peak, the TTAP has formulated a narrative to make headway. The six-party alliance has made it a condition that no talks will be held with the government unless the opposition leadership is granted an audience with the incarcerated PTI leader, Imran Khan. It also demanded an end to Chief Minister Sohail Afridi's detention, alongside the release of all legislators and workers, including Khan's three sisters. The debut meeting of the opposition since the imposition of emergency and Governor's Rule in K-P took stock of the prevailing political situation. It vehemently condemned the federal intervention in the province and decided to knock on the doors of the Peshawar High Court to challenge what it called an assault on the people's mandate. Both the opposition and the government are back to square one, as talks failed – driven by the uncompromising rigidity on both sides. Had the ruling coalition ceded due political space to the PTI, and had the party shown greater flexibility instead of choosing absolute confrontation, this untoward situation could have been avoided. The question, nonetheless, is: what's next? By resorting to a major constitutional measure, the federal government has left little room for immediate political reconciliation.

Pakistan explores \$1.5bn financing through World Bank guarantees



PEAK POINT

BANGKOK: Pakistan is exploring a financing arrangement targeting around \$1.5 billion through World Bank Group guarantees to secure funding at competitive rates, the Finance Division said on Friday, as the government seeks to diversify its external financing sources. The development came during Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb meeting with Alvarez & Marsal on the sidelines of the World Bank Group-IMF Annual Meetings 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand, to discuss long-term financing through World Bank Group guarantees. "The finance

minister welcomed the proposal of combining a World Bank policy-based guarantee with Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) coverage to attract financing at competitive rates, with a potential financing target of approximately \$1.5 billion, subject to the guarantee envelope and transaction structure," read the statement.

Discussions covered leveraging World Bank resources, combining budget support with guarantees and broadening investor participation. Aurangzeb emphasised using an existing Development Policy Operation (DPO) to avoid delays associated with negotiating a new

framework.

He supported further exploration of the proposal through the Finance Division, Economic Affairs Division and World Bank Group. The meeting also touched on ongoing advisory work on the privatisation of DISCOs. In another engagement with Erin Browne, US Treasury under secretary for international affairs, Aurangzeb, accompanied by the governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), discussed Pakistan's economic outlook, reforms and external financing. The finance minister highlighted Pakistan's \$3 billion Eurobond issuance in September and plans to diversify financing through Sukuk, Panda bonds and other instruments.

He outlined progress under the IMF programme, tax reforms, three consecutive years of primary surpluses and foreign exchange reserves of approximately \$21.6 billion.

Discussions covered the regional conflict's implications for energy, inflation and food security, as well as measures to ensure supplies and prepare for winter demand.

Pakistan to assume IMF, World Bank board chairmanship for first time in over 7 decades

PEAK POINT

BANGKOK: Pakistan has been named the incoming chair of the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) for next year, for the first time since 1953, the Ministry of Economic Affairs said on Friday.

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, who is also Pakistan's governor to the World Bank, was formally announced as the incoming chair during the plenary session of the 2026 WBG-IMF Annual Meetings in Bangkok, according to the ministry's statement.

The IMF-World Bank annual meetings — scheduled to run from October 12 to 18 — have brought together more than 15,000 participants from 191 countries, including central bank



governors, economic policymakers and business leaders, for discussions on the world economy.

The statement described the development as a "historic milestone", noting that Pakistan would return to the chairmanship for the first time since 1953.

The ministry said the "role would provide Pakistan an opportunity to contribute to global economic and development discussions and facilitate constructive dialogue among member countries". Following the plenary session, Cheema was briefed by the WBG Corporate Secretariat.

Gilani calls for stronger Pakistan-Germany ties through trade, investment

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, has called for stronger Pakistan-Germany relations through increased economic cooperation, investment, education and parliamentary exchanges, saying 75 years of diplomatic ties provide a strong foundation for a mutually beneficial partnership.

Addressing a gathering to mark German Unity Day, attended by German Ambassador Ina Lepel, diplomats and other dignitaries, Gilani congratulated the German leadership and people on behalf of Pakistan's Parliament, government and people.

Gilani calls for stronger Pakistan-Germany ties through trade, investment

He described the occasion as a symbol of unity, resilience and shared prosperity. He also highlighted the longstanding friendship between the two countries, strengthened by the contributions of Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Dr Ruth Pfau. The Senate chairman appreciated Germany's continued support for Pakistan in development cooperation, climate

action, women's empowerment and human development. He stressed the need for continued German support for Pakistan's participation in the GSP Plus arrangement. He also identified Special Economic Zones, renewable energy, information technology, industrial development and value-added manufacturing as key areas for greater German investment and business cooperation.

Highlighting people-to-people ties, Gilani appreciated the contributions of Pakistani students studying at German universities. He expressed hope that delays in student and family-reunion visas would receive due attention. He also welcomed cooperation in skilled labour mobility and called for greater collaboration in technology, research and industrial development, including defence-related ventures in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Emphasising parliamentary diplomacy, Gilani called for regular exchanges between the parliaments of Pakistan and Germany and closer consultations on regional and international issues to promote peace, stability and prosperity.

Saudi Ambassador calls on DPM Dar, Pakistan reaffirms strategic partnership with Kingdom

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Friday met the newly appointed Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Dr Rajeh Tami Albogamy here on Friday.

The Deputy Prime Minister underscored the longstanding fraternal bonds and strategic partnership between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. He reaffirmed the shared commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation for mutual progress and prosperity, a DPM's Office news release said. The Ambassador conveyed the greetings of the Saudi leadership to the leadership and people of Pakistan. DPM Dar reciprocated with warm greetings and best wishes for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud; Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud; Minister of Defence Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud; Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah Al Saud; and the brotherly people of Saudi Arabia.

Political party chief upset over not getting KP governorship, role in setup: Naqvi

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday claimed that the head of a political party was "deeply upset" over not getting the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governorship or a role in the governor's rule setup.

Speaking informally to journalists in Lahore, Naqvi did not name the politician but claimed that the leader had relied on the establishment's support for decades to remain in politics.

"Such was his situation that even the air tickets for his political party were arranged by the establishment," the interior minister claimed.

Naqvi said it did not behove such politicians to point fingers at others today, adding that political



differences should be expressed through arguments and facts rather than "indecent language and accusations".

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa entered a new administrative setup last Sunday after President Asif Ali Zardari imposed emergency and governor's rule, effectively sidelining the PTI-led provincial government. The president approved and signed the summary on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's advice under Articles 232 and 234.

Women University Mardan holds 31st syndicate meeting

PEAK POINT

MARDAN: Women University Mardan held its 31st Syndicate Meeting on October 16, 2026, under the chairpersonship of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana. The meeting was attended by Registrar Mr. Adnan Ahmad and other relevant university officials to deliberate upon important academic, administrative, and institutional matters. The Syndicate members present included Engr. Nauman Ahmad Khan, In-charge/Director HEC Regional Centre, Peshawar, Nominee of Higher Education Commission, Islamabad; Honorable Justice (Rtd) Abdul Aziz Kundi, Nominee of the



Peshawar High Court; Ms. Zuhra Nigar, Additional Secretary, Establishment Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; Mr. Muhammad Farooq, Additional Secretary, Higher Education Archives & Libraries Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; Ms. Nadia Nawaz Dogar, Deputy Secretary, Finance Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani cutting a cake at "Day of German Unity".

Ayaz Sadiq calls for National drive to end poverty and ensure equal opportunities

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has called for renewed national efforts to eliminate poverty, stressing that every Pakistani must have access to quality education, affordable healthcare, safe housing, nutritious food, decent employment and social protection, regardless of income or where they live. In his message on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17, Ayaz Sadiq said poverty was not merely an economic problem but also a

serious challenge to human dignity, social justice and equal opportunities. He stressed that Pakistan could not build a fair and prosperous society unless the benefits of economic development reached all sections of the population. The Speaker said the state, Parliament, government institutions, civil society and the private sector shared the responsibility of addressing the basic causes of poverty. He said economic progress should benefit ordinary people and that no community or social group should be left behind in the

development process. Referring to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly the goal of ending poverty, Ayaz Sadiq called for stronger social protection programmes, sustainable economic growth, more decent jobs and practical measures to reduce inequality. He stressed that poverty reduction must remain a central part of national policy making, government spending and development planning. He said policies should deliver real benefits to people rather than focus only on

economic growth figures. The Speaker also called for greater support for women and young people, better access to education and technical training, assistance for small businesses and farmers, and more economic opportunities in underdeveloped areas. He said transparent, effective and carefully targeted government policies could help vulnerable families become financially independent instead of depending on temporary financial assistance. Providing people with skills, jobs and opportunities to earn a stable income was

essential to improving living standards, he added. This year's United Nations focus on "Safe Homes for All" under the 2026 to 2028 theme "United for Peace and Human Rights" was also highlighted in the Speaker's message. Ayaz Sadiq said safe, suitable and affordable housing was essential to human dignity and social well-being. He called for special attention to the housing needs of low income families and vulnerable communities, explaining that a secure home could help people access education, healthcare,

employment and a better quality of life. He said Parliament had an important role in fighting poverty through effective legislation, meaningful debate, oversight of government performance and careful examination of public spending. National development policies, he added, must respond to people's actual needs and provide practical solutions for disadvantaged communities. The Speaker also stressed the need for stronger cooperation between federal and provincial governments to ensure balanced.