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Wednesday 21 October 2026 Jamadi-ul-Awwal 09, 1448 A.H VOL No: 06 Issue No. 226 Pages 4 Rs. 20

Field Marshal Asim Munir lands in Tehran in new push for mediation

PEAK POINT

TEHRAN: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, whose country has attempted to mediate a peace deal in the Middle East conflict, arrived in Tehran on Tuesday.

"General Asim Munir, the Commander of the Pakistani Army, arrived in Tehran along with a delegation of officials from his country," state television said in a statement.

According to Iran's ISNA news agency, Field Marshal Asim Munir has arrived in Tehran for talks with Iranian officials, in a visit aimed at continuing cooperation between Tehran and Islamabad and following up on regional developments and Iran-US

negotiations.

The visit is part of ongoing bilateral engagement and comes as Pakistan has been acting as a mediator in talks between Iran and the United States.

ISNA said Field Marshal Asim Munir is expected to meet Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, President Masoud Pezeshkian, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council.

Earlier, the spokesman for Iran's foreign ministry, Esmail Baqaei, confirmed the visit during his weekly press conference, saying talks would "relate to issues concerning the negotiations, but they are mainly focused on bilateral relations."



TEHRAN: "General Asim Munir, the Commander of the Pakistani Army, arrived in Tehran along with a delegation of officials from his country."

PTI rules out Achakzai's removal, says no talks on making Fazl opposition leader

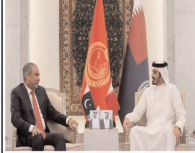
PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Monday ruled out any "minus" for Mahmood Khan Achakzai, saying there had also been no discussion about replacing him with JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman as opposition leader in the National Assembly. Speaking to Geo News at Parliament House, Gohar said PTI founder Imran Khan had complete confidence in Achakzai and that the party had no authority to decide whether to accept the opposition leader or not. "We accept the PTI founder's decision and will move forward accordingly," he said. Gohar said everyone in the party was free to express their opinion, but once the party made a decision, it was accepted by all. He said the decision regarding the opposition leader was at Imran's discretion, adding that the PTI founder had named Achakzai and Allama Raja Nasir Abbas as leaders and directed the party to move forward under their guidance. "The PTI founder gave me instructions, and those are what we accept and follow," Gohar said, adding that neither opposition leader had been disrespected.

Pakistan, Qatar agree to deepen internal security cooperation

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Qatar have agreed to strengthen their security partnership and expand bilateral cooperation in internal security, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Interior on Tuesday.

The two sides held detailed discussions on expanding cooperation in areas related to internal security, the ministry said in the statement.

Both ministers reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation between their respective interior ministries and agreed to enhance their partnership in internal security.

Naqvi said Pakistan and Qatar were working together for regional peace and stability, reaffirming Islamabad's commitment to working with Doha on matters of mutual interest, particularly those related to internal security and regional stability. The Qatari interior minister said his country attached great importance to its relations with Pakistan.

The meeting took place a day after Naqvi addressed the 8th Global Security Forum in Doha, where he said Pakistan and Qatar had worked together to promote regional peace and stability.

Addressing the Global Security Forum in Doha on Monday, Naqvi said Pakistan had made every possible effort to bring Washington and Tehran to the negotiating table. He added that there were moments when tensions escalated sharply, but Islamabad did not give up its efforts. His remarks come amid mounting regional tensions.

PHC issues notices in petitions challenging Governor's Rule, emergency in KP; hearing adjourned till Nov 10

PEAK POINT



PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Tuesday issued notices to the federal and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments in several petitions challenging the imposition of emergency and governor's rule in the province on Oct 11.

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan moved the PHC on Oct 14 against the measures, requesting the court to declare them unconstitutional. The move to impose emergency and governor's rule followed heightened tensions between the PML-N-led federal government and the PTI-led KP government. On Tuesday, a two-member bench comprising Justices Ijaz Anwar and Muhammad Faheem Wali took up several petitions, including Gohar's. PTI leader Shandana Gulzar, the KP Bar Council and leaders of the Tehreek-i-Tahafuz-i-Ayini-Pakistan (TTAP) have also filed pleas. The bench adjourned the hearing till Nov 10 after hearing preliminary arguments. The court said an order would be issued afterwards, adding that notices would also be issued to Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan.

Mir Raza murder case shows 'epic failure' in police investigation: judicial commission

PEAK POINT

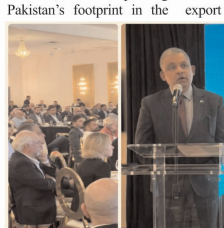
KARACHI: A judicial commission investigating the death of Mir Raza Ali has described the police investigation as an "epic failure", finding serious lapses ranging from negligence and poor supervision to a failure to preserve evidence and pursue the case professionally. The single-member commission, headed by Sindh High Court judge Justice Omar Sial, said police breached required procedures necessary to withstand judicial scrutiny and support a successful prosecution.

Ambassador Rizwan Sheikh addresses Pak-U.S. Tech Connect 2026 to explore bilateral tech cooperation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, on Tuesday addressed Pak-US Tech Connect 2026 in Dallas, Texas, which brought together leading Pakistani technology companies, American business executives, investors, and members of the Pakistani-American community to explore opportunities for bilateral technology cooperation, investment, and strategic business partnerships. Organized in collaboration with the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington, D.C., the Consulate General of Pakistan in Houston, the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), and OPEN Global, the Conference formed part of the broader Pak-US Tech Connect 2026

initiative, aimed at expanding Pakistan's footprint in the



U.S. technology market and fostering long-term commercial and technological partnerships, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs news release said. Addressing the Conference, Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States Rizwan Saeed Sheikh highlighted the strategic importance of technology cooperation in Pakistan-U.S. economic relations. Describing the United States as a global hub of technological innova-

tion and Pakistan's largest IT export market, he empha-



sized the immense opportunities for mutually beneficial collaboration, particularly in emerging technologies and artificial intelligence. He noted that Pakistan's youthful population, with approximately 60-65% below the age of 30, afforded a significant demographic advantage and a strong foundation for the evolving global knowledge-based economy. The Ambassador stated that the 2026 Tech

Conference series had adopted a more focused, business-oriented format, featuring approximately 13-14 established Pakistani technology companies with proven international experience and demonstrated capabilities. He emphasized that the objective was to move beyond merely showcasing Pakistan's technology sector to demonstrating its ability to deliver world-class solutions and forge commercially meaningful partnerships. Highlighting Pakistan's "potential, prowess, promise, and profitability", he encouraged American enterprises to explore, partner with and benefit from the country's expanding technological capabilities and competitive advantages. Ambassador Sheikh also underscored the vital role of Pakistani-American technology professionals.

UK to deploy fighter jets to help protect Saudi Arabia from Houthi attacks

PEAK POINT



LONDON: British fighter planes will be deployed to help Saudi Arabia defend itself against increasing attacks from Yemen's Houthi rebels, the UK government announced on Tuesday. The defence ministry said the deployment formed part of "additional defensive military support" to Riyadh. "The UK will fly defensive counter air missions to support the protection of Saudi cities and critical national infrastructure against aerial attack, using RAF Typhoon fighter jets," the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said in a statement. "These aircraft will operate in a defensive role and will not conduct offensive strikes against the Houthis." Britain will also deploy a military transport aircraft "to support the movement of defence material within Saudi Arabia."



SPORTS



All-round Arafat Minhas owns the show as Pakistan crush England in tri-series match



MOHSIN ALI

RAWALPINDI: As Gus Atkinson and Sonny Baker found themselves stranded at the same end, Arafat Minhas fumbled a throw from the deep. The run-out opportunity, with England already nine down, still stood.

Arafat gathered the ball again and his slinging left arm, which had caused havoc in the preceding overs, produced a flat, direct throw that crashed into the stumps. It was the final act of an evening Arafat had made his own, leading Pakistan to an 87-run victory over England in the One-day

International tri-series match at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

The run-out capped an outstanding all-round performance from the left-arm spinner, who had earlier scored a crucial half-century before claiming six wickets for 40 runs in 8.4 overs to bowl England out for 215 in 38.4 overs while chasing 303.

England began the chase confidently, with Tom Banton and Ben Duckett racing to 91 without loss in 14.3 overs. Duckett made 45 off 46 balls, striking eight fours, while Banton scored 57 from 53 deliveries with five fours

and two sixes.

Haris Rauf broke the opening stand when Duckett mistimed a pull and Fakhar Zaman took the catch at deep fine leg. Arafat then changed the complexion of the chase, removing Banton with his third delivery as the opener swung across the line and picked out Shaheen Shah Afridi at midwicket. The spinner struck again by bowling England captain Harry Brook for five with a delivery that gripped and straightened, leaving the visitors at 128-3. Naseem Shah subsequently ended Joe Root's resistance, bowling him for 33 off 35 balls with a skidding

delivery that kept low and struck the off stump.

Sam Curran and Jordan Cox attempted to keep England in contention, but the visitors' resistance steadily faded. Curran made 27 before top-edging a pull off Haris to substitute fielder Ghazi Ghori at deep backward square leg. Cox, who scored 18, was trapped leg-before by Arafat's quicker delivery and lost his review.

Arafat continued his dismantling of the lower order, dismissing Jamie Overton for one when Hasan Nawaz took a catch at long-on after the batter charged down the pitch.

Mari Energies defeat Guangdong 5-2 in first hockey test



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Mari Energies defeated China's Guangdong team 5-2 in the opening Test match at General Ashfaq Ahmed Stadium under the auspices of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF).

Mari Energies made an impressive start, with Muhammad Mohsin scoring a field goal in the 10th minute to give his team an early lead. The match intensified in the third quarter as Mari Energies scored three goals in quick succession. Muhammad Nadeem extended the lead with a field goal in the 38th minute, followed by Umer Sattar, who converted a penalty corner in the 40th minute. Muhammad Nadeem Khan then scored another penalty-corner goal in the 41st minute to make it 4-0.

Captain Waseem Akram added the fifth goal in the 49th minute through a field effort, putting Mari Energies firmly in control of the match.

Guangdong attempted a late comeback, scoring field goals in the 55th and 59th minutes, but Mari Energies held on to secure a convincing 5-2 victory in the opening Test.

PHF President Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani and other prominent personalities were present at the stadium to witness the match.

Nasir begins Venus ABC Open title quest



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Pakistan's experienced squash player Nasir Iqbal will begin his title quest against Canada's Salah Eltorgman in the men's singles preliminary round of the Venus ABC Open 2026, which begins at the DHA Creek Club on Wednesday (today). The event is being held under the

auspices of the Sindh Squash Association (SSA).

The 11th-seeded Nasir, who was part of Pakistan's silver-medal-winning campaign at the recent Asian Games, is expected to make a strong start in the tournament, which features 24 men, including seven players from Pakistan.

Experienced campaigner Asim Khan is

also among the participants. He has received a bye in the first round and will advance directly to the pre-quarter-finals on Thursday. Meanwhile, wildcard entrant Azan Ali Khan will face Egypt's Ziad Ibrahim, while Anas Shah will take on Malaysia's Yee Xian Siow in the preliminary round on Wednesday. Another wild-card

entrant, Abdullah Nawaz, will meet Malaysia's Ameeshenraj Chandaran.

Top seed Curtis Malik of England has also received a bye in the first round.

The 24-player men's draw features seven players from Pakistan, four each from Egypt and Malaysia, and two each from England and Hong Kong. Japan, Bahrain, Canada, Sri Lanka and the Netherlands are each represented by one player. The women's event will also feature 24 players, with Sana Bahadar, Anam Aziz and Rushna Mahboob representing Pakistan. Egypt has six players in the women's draw, while Pakistan and Germany have three each.

US diplomat Natalie Baker hails historic women's tennis tournament in Pakistan as milestone for sports diplomacy



Colourful ceremony marks opening of Asian Masters Weightlifting Championship

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Mark-e-Haq 2nd Asian Masters Weightlifting Championship and World Masters Grand Prix 2026 opened at Liaquat Gymnasium, Pakistan Sports Complex, on Tuesday with a lively and colourful opening ceremony attended by athletes, officials, dignitaries, participants and fans from several countries.

The vibrant ceremony featured a warm welcome for the participating delegations, while the participants and fans enjoyed the festive atmosphere and the spirit of international sports.

Parliamentary Secretary for Inter-Provincial Coordination Kiran Imran Dar, who was the chief guest welcomed the participating delegations and congratulated Pakistan Masters Weightlifting Association (PMWA) President Arshad Khan Turk for organising the

international event.

"Pakistan is delighted to welcome all the participating athletes and officials. I congratulate Arshad Khan Turk for his commitment and hard work in making this international championship possi-

Pakistan.

"I especially welcome our Indian guests and hope they will experience the warmth and hospitality of the Pakistani people. I want them to return to their country with sweet memories and share



ble. Organising an event of this scale requires dedication, perseverance and a strong belief in the power of sports to bring people together," she said. Dar extended a special welcome to the Indian delegation and expressed hope that its members would return home with pleasant memories of their stay in

with their fellow citizens how warmly and wholeheartedly the people of Pakistan welcome their guests," she said.

She said sporting events could build bridges between nations, promote mutual understanding and strengthen people-to-people contacts beyond political and geographical boundaries.

'Special' to face friend Perez in CL, says Liverpool's Iraola





16th International Conference on public health held at Health Services Academy Participants emphasize Digital Health Innovation for Better Healthcare Outcomes

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The Health Services Academy (HSA) organized the 16th Annual International Conference on Public Health 2026 under the theme "Digital Health Innovation for Better Healthcare Outcomes." The conference brought together federal and provincial ministers, members of parliament, senior government officials, medical experts, university leaders, representatives of international organizations, and professionals from the healthcare sector. The conference aimed to explore how digital technol-

gies can strengthen the healthcare system, improve access to medical facilities, address public health challenges, and enhance the quality of healthcare services provided to the public. Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry and Minister of State for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath attended the event as guests of honour. Other prominent participants included Member of the National Assembly and Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Raja



Khurram Shahzad Nawaz, Member of the National Assembly and Focal Person for the Prime Minister's Youth Programme Syeda Amna Umer, Punjab Minister for Labour Mian Munshauallah Butt, Director General, FDI,

Obaidullah Malik. The conference was also attended by the World Health Organization (WHO) Representative in Pakistan, Dr. Luo Dapeng; Head of the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) programme, Professor Dr. Samina Naem Khalid; former health minister, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Health Sciences (UHS), and Chairman Professor Dr. Javed Akram; Minister of State for Education and Professional Training Wajih Qamar; Chairperson of the Pakistan Digital Authority Dr. Sohail Munir; and Chairman of the Higher Education Commission

(HEC), Professor Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar. Other participants included Chairperson of the Balochistan Revenue Authority Abdullah Khan; Commissioner of the Punjab Employees Social Security Institution Zulfiqar Ali Khara; Dr. Sabena Khan; Dr. Shabana Raza, Country Director of Nutrition International; UNICEF Representative in Pakistan Pernille Ironside; public health expert and senior academic at Bahria University Karachi Dr. Fareed Mudath; District Health Officer Islamabad Dr. Syeda Rasheeda Batool; Secretary of the Health Department.

Senate Panel warns of ban on formula milk ads over missing spoken warning

NADEEM TANOLI
ISLAMABAD: Formula milk advertisements could be stopped if television channels fail to include the required spoken warning promoting breastfeeding, the Senate health committee has warned. The warning came after the committee was told that objections from television channels and other relevant organisations had prevented the required spoken message from being aired, despite earlier instructions to make the warning part of formula milk advertisements. The Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations

and Coordination, chaired by Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti, reviewed the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority's (PEMRA) compliance with the committee's directions on the promotion of formula milk. PEMRA's chairperson informed the committee that disclaimers were being aired after formula milk advertisements and that public service messages promoting breastfeeding had also been broadcast. However, the committee was told that the required spoken warning had not been included because television channels and other relevant organisations had raised objections. Members

expressed concern over the missing spoken warning and said that simply displaying a written disclaimer was not enough to inform viewers properly. They stressed that the message must be clearly heard as part of formula milk advertisements so that parents understand the importance of breastfeeding. The committee directed PEMRA to enforce its previous and current instructions fully. It warned that formula milk advertisements could be prohibited where the required spoken warning was not included. The committee's earlier directions required the message "There is no substitute for Mother's Milk" to be

spoken in formula milk advertisements and printed in Urdu on all formula milk packaging. The aim was to make the message clear to parents, both when they watched advertisements and when they saw formula milk products in shops. During an earlier review, the committee had been informed that the message had been added to advertisements and packaging of Lactogen and NIDO and had been broadcast on television and radio. However, the committee found the presentation of PEMRA's chairperson unsatisfactory and called for full compliance with its directions. The latest review again

raised concerns over the failure to air the required spoken warning. The committee also directed the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination to improve and update its animated public service message promoting breastfeeding within three days. The aim is to make the campaign clearer and more effective for the public. Under earlier instructions, the ministry was also directed to prepare a 30 second public service message promoting breastfeeding and provide it to PEMRA for broadcast on television. The committee called on PEMRA to ensure that its media campaign fol-

lows the instructions issued by the committee. It stressed that the purpose of the warning was to make sure the public receives clear information about breastfeeding and that the message is not weakened by incomplete implementation. The committee made it clear that regulatory instructions must be followed in full and that the required warning cannot be treated as optional. It said the relevant authorities must take the necessary steps to ensure that formula milk advertisements carry the required message and that the breastfeeding awareness campaign reaches the public effectively.

Opinion & Editorial

ISLAMABAD
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A global troika

Diplomacy is the art of navigating a path through adversity. Russian President Vladimir Putin's off-the-cuff proposal for a trilateral summit with his American and Chinese counterparts is an epoch-making initiative. It could go a long way toward not only providing clarity to wayward realpolitik, but also helping formulate a way forward toward a rules-based world order. The Czar was candid; he minced no words when stating that the upcoming APEC summit in China could act as an icebreaker to deliberate on issues confronting evolving multilateralism, especially the conflict in Ukraine. This troika possesses the power and potential to bring sanity to otherwise messy global politics. It is worrisome that two major wars are underway across two continents, both of which could turn out to be catastrophic. The war in the Middle East has already taken a severe toll, interrupting supply chains and causing soaring oil prices that are pushing the world to the brink of a recession. Likewise, the Russo-Ukrainian war has effectively dismantled the deterrence that existed between Russia and the US since the heyday of the Cold War. Both of these flashpoints can be effectively addressed if Presidents Trump, Putin and Xi Jinping gather for a huddle of statesmanship.

Every runner in the race

Jawed Naqvi
IN a relay race, one must trust all running partners equally, and not second-guess the other's abilities or overestimate one's own ability to deliver victory or gain glory. That would be a different field of activity and not the race in which the baton is passed at the quickest possible speed. Worryingly, the movement against the mass rigging of elections in India is beginning to look like a relay race in which the runners are not necessarily looking together at the end of the linear, or oval, or meandering track ahead.

In some tellings, the challenge is trickier, more like a trapeze act, and without a safety net. A miss of the clap of the partner's hands or misjudging the timing of a leap could lead to injury or worse. No matter how equipped one party feels about its own sinews to carry the baton to the finish line by itself, a collective race offers no quarter to one-upmanship.

If the objective is to bring down the Modi government, which is what Congress and its supporters say they hope to do, there is an absence of team coordination. A clear discussion is required with all stakeholders for a shared understanding of the game plan. Call it a common minimum programme, if you like. If the objective is to clean up governance, which is what the Cockroach group has committed itself to from the start — a transparent, humane judiciary, an inde-

pendent corporate-free media, accountable bureaucracy, a trustworthy election commission, a truly representative parliament with 50 per cent women MPs — all these objectives are also ways of reaching the same outcome: the desire for the dismantling of a right-wing regime.

Cockroach leader Abhijeet Dipke's reported comments that his party is aiming for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, and that it doesn't share the enthusiasm for regime change, need to be parsed and accepted with empathy. The youngsters may not have built the appetite for prison visits or the daily brutal assaults by police and state-run goons. Besides, they may genuinely fear their agenda was being hijacked by allies with larger resources or experience in the field.

Nearly everyone opposed to the Modi government is overlooking the acumen needed to learn from history.

There could be nothing truly wrong with a call to change the Modi regime. Modi has similarly called for removing Manmohan Singh, and the JP movement was all about overthrowing Indira Gandhi's government. In which case, everyone should be made aware of what is involved in the effort and whether they all feel equipped to bear the inevitable pushback from the regime they seek to dismantle. There is already an undeclared emergency. If push

comes to shove, the government has the wherewithal to formally suspend civil liberties. The BJP echo chamber has been describing the campaign against vote theft as a leftist conspiracy. It may not be a coincidence that the government has timed a verbal exchange with China over India's curiously announced renaming of certain places in Ladakh at the height of the Delhi protests. The timing coincided with an evolving attack on communist parties that have participated with full strength in the protests. The bulldozer attacks on communist book stalls in BJP-ruled West Bengal during the ongoing Durga puja celebrations offer a clue to this plan.

The one obstacle that comes to mind against an open declaration of emergency is not one from the activists. It could come, instead, from the RSS, the fountainhead of the Hindutva fold, which wouldn't want to hand over any extra powers itself to any prime minister or his cabinet. Anyone familiar with the history of the Third Reich would know of the swiftness with which the Führer eliminated the leadership of the SA in what is remembered as the Night of the Long Knives. In that fear lies a potential deterrent to a formal clampdown, though the right-wing state has equipped itself with all manner of underhand methods to keep a truly mortal challenge at bay.

Courtesy Tribune

Rebuilding trust in public health

Muhammad Hamid Zaman
A few days ago, at the Boston Book Festival, I was part of a panel on health and disease. I was joined by two other authors who, along with me, shared some ideas from our recent books that came out in the last year. The last question in the session was from a young student, who asked us how we can rebuild trust in public health in the current moment. This question is relevant for so many places around the world in the era of misinformation and massive funding cuts. We were out of time, so all of us on the panel gave very short — and perhaps not very satisfying — answers. But her question made me think of an incident from a few years ago. During the pandemic, right around the time when the vaccines were first coming to the market, I got a chance to speak (remotely) to students in a biology class in a high school that had majority of its students coming from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Those were days when we all were trying to figure out zoom and were fidgeting around mute buttons and cameras capturing us in unflattering moments. Towards the end of my talk, a young African American student asked a question. She asked me that while she understood the need for vaccines, how we knew that this was not going to be another Tuskegee. By Tuskegee she meant the four decades long study, from 1932 to 1972, supported and sponsored by the US Federal Government to study untreated syphilis among African American sharecroppers (most of whom were very poor) in Alabama. The participants in the study were denied treatment, despite potent drugs becoming widely available by 1940s, in order for the researchers to 'understand the disease and its natural progression'. There was no informed consent. During the course of the study, dozens of participants died, many suffered immensely and all were misled and deceived.

Courtesy Tribune

PM Shehbaz ready to build consensus on counterterrorism if opposition willing to: Sanaullah



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah on Tuesday said the federal government was ready to invite all political parties and build consensus on counterterrorism.

Speaking in the Senate, the PML-N leader also urged the opposition to "set other demands aside".

The PM's aide's remarks come after the Centre imposed emergency and governor's rule in KP on October 11, citing the PTI-led provincial government's "deliberate disengagement" from the fight against terrorism. The decisions were also endorsed by the Parliament last week amid protests by the opposition.

"Even now, if all parties [...] can agree to sit down to discuss this issue, then Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is willing to invite them and find a way forward (on counterterrorism) or how operations can be supported by the entire nation," Sanaullah said, urging political parties to put other demands aside and "stand united" in tackling terrorism.

Sanaullah went on to criticise National Assembly Opposition Leader Mehmood Khan Achakzai.

"He became the leader of the opposition after the speaker signed off on his appointment; however, [...] he does not accept the speaker's authority and is not even ready to meet the prime minister and has even refused to sit in the speaker's chambers with the PM," Sanaullah said.

Sanaullah then turned his attention to the rise in terrorism in the country, expressing sorrow at the martyrdom of an army officer a day earlier.

Addressing the opposition, he said, "You are running propaganda against the head of this institution and

[...] making below-the-belt remarks."

The PML-N senator also assailed the members of the now non-functional PTI-led KP government for not attending apex committee meetings.

"In 11 months, there was one apex committee meeting in which the KP CM was in attendance, and the way he was brought there, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi already spoke about it," Sanaullah said.

Recalling the federal government's talks with the PTI earlier this month, Sanaullah said: "During the talks, we agreed on constituting a political committee comprising members from both sides; however, [...] the talks broke down on one single point — the PTI fulfilling its responsibilities and supporting the federal government in counterterrorism efforts."

Chaudhry reiterates invitation to opposition. Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry also invited opposition parties to develop a consensus against terrorism, saying Pakistan's peace and the future of its children depended on a united stance against.

KP emergency, governor's rule aimed at restoring peace: Dr.Tariq

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Tuesday said the imposition of emergency and Governor's Rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa followed the provincial government's lack of cooperation with the federal government and state institutions in the fight against terrorism.

Addressing a press conference, he said emergency and Governor's Rule were imposed through a presidential order on October 11 under Articles 232 and 234 of the Constitution, respectively. Both measures were subsequently endorsed by Parliament and a joint sitting, completing the constitutional requirements, he added. He said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi had assumed the powers of the provincial government, while an 11-member advisory council comprising highly qualified professionals with distinguished records in their respective fields had been constituted to assist him. Local tribal elders had also been included in councils formed for 12 terrorism-affected districts to ensure community participation in consultations and intelligence-based operations. Dr Tariq Fazal said the imposition of emergency might have been avoided had the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-led provincial government cooperated with the federal government.



At SCO, Dar calls for promoting use of national currencies to help offset global economic shocks

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday encouraged members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to use national currencies for "mutual settlement" and establish other financial mechanisms to "offset international financial shocks".

He made the remarks while addressing the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe, where he arrived a day earlier.

The SCO comprises 10 member states, namely Pakistan, China, India, Iran, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The two observer states are Afghanistan and Mongolia. The CHG is the SCO's second-highest decision-making body and provides guidance on economic, financial, trade, connectivity and socio-economic cooperation, as well as the organisation's budgetary matters. Addressing the SCO meeting, Dar highlighted the "need to accelerate efforts to promote the use of national currencies for mutual settlement", as well as to establish the SCO Development Bank, SCO Development Fund and SCO Investment Fund.

"Such tools are measures which will advance development initiatives and help the SCO region to offset international financial shocks," the former finance minister noted.

Dar reiterated his call to accelerate local currency settlements in a later address to an expanded-format session of the meeting.

Two members of the SCO, Russia and Iran, face Western sanctions restricting their access to international markets and stifling their economic growth.

In the joint communiqué for the Pakistan-chaired 2024 CHG meeting, SCO member states had reaffirmed the need for consistent implementation of a roadmap on gradual increase in the share of national currencies in mutual settlements. It underlined the need to protect and promote the World Trade Organisation's multilateral trade system for inclusive global growth and reduce reliance on the American currency for international trade transactions. At that summit, PM Shehbaz Sharif had noted "growing consensus among the member states on the use of mutual currencies for settlements" and said such a transition would "shield us from global financial disruptions".

Gilani expresses deep grief over loss of five young lives in Multan road accident

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the tragic road accident on Bosan Road in Multan that claimed the lives of five young men. In his condolence message, the Chairman Senate described the loss of precious human lives as deeply heart-breaking, saying that the untimely demise of five young men was a great tragedy for their families and a matter of profound sorrow for the entire community. He extended his heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families, sharing in their grief during this difficult time. He prayed to Almighty Allah to grant the departed souls eternal peace, elevate their ranks in the hereafter, and give their families the strength, patience and fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

Chairman Senate also emphasized that strict adherence to traffic rules and the adoption of precautionary measures are essential to safeguarding precious human lives and preventing such tragic incidents.

Ashrafi, IIUI President discuss countering ideological terrorism through youth awareness

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council, Secretary-General of the International Tazee-e-Haramain Sharifain Council and Coordinator of the National Paigham-e-Aman Committee, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, on Tuesday held a meeting with President of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Prof. Dr. Ahmed Saad Alahmed, at his office and discussed the issues of mutual interests including ideological terrorism, youth awareness and efforts to promote religious harmony.

During the meeting, the two dignitaries discussed the growing challenge of ideological terrorism, emphasizing the need to address the ideas and narratives that fuel extremism.



They observed that ideological terrorism could be more dangerous than other forms of terrorism and stressed the importance of raising awareness among young people to help them understand and counter this social menace. The meeting also featured a briefing on the National Paigham-e-Aman Committee and its efforts.

Samar Haroon Bilour says KP interim setup focusing on practical work

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Adviser for Information Samar Haroon Bilour has said that the current provincial setup is focusing on practical measures rather than promises and has taken steps to address public grievances and improve service delivery.

Speaking to journalists at Peshawar Press Club on Monday, she said the government was working to clear the mess accumulated over the past 13 years, adding that the scale of alleged corruption and irregularities had made it difficult to determine where the accountability process should begin. She said that the long march had turned into a "round march" and



reached its logical conclusion.

Ms Bilour said she had begun her political journey from the Peshawar Press Club and considered the institution her home. She added that, being a daughter-in-law of Peshawar, she wanted to serve the people of the city to the best of her abilities. Paying tribute to journalists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, she said she held their sacrifices in high regard and acknowledged their contributions.



DUSHANBE: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in a group photo with the Prime Minister of Tajikistan, along with other Heads of Delegation.

Ayaz Sadiq reviews completion of 104 additional family suites

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A long delayed project to build 104 additional family suites next to Parliament Lodges has entered its final stages, more than a decade after it was originally scheduled for completion, as National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq reviewed the remaining work alongside Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah. The project began in 2011 and was supposed to be completed in 2013. However, it remained stalled for nearly a decade before being revived

through the personal interest of Ayaz Sadiq. His continued attention to the project's progress helped speed up construction and brought the additional family suites closer to completion. During the visit, the speaker and deputy speaker inspected the finishing work, furniture and furnishing inside the suites. Senior officials of the Capital Development Authority briefed them on the progress made and the work still required before the project could be completed. The inspection focused on the quality of the finishing and furniture, as the project

approaches its final stage. However, the National Assembly Secretariat did not announce a specific date for completion or occupancy. The Secretary National Assembly, Special Secretary for Parliamentary Diplomacy and Protocol, other senior officers of the National Assembly Secretariat and senior CDA officials were also present during the visit. Separately, Ayaz Sadiq met Federal Minister and Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon at Parliament House to discuss efforts to

raise the Jammu and Kashmir dispute at international forums and strengthen support for the Kashmiri people's right to decide their own future. Qasim Noon briefed the speaker on his visit to the United States during the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly. He shared details of diplomatic activities and meetings with representatives of different countries and international personalities aimed at highlighting the Kashmir issue. The federal minister praised Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for raising the dispute in his address to

the United Nations General Assembly. He said the prime minister had presented Pakistan's position on the rights of the Kashmiri people and urged the international community to support a fair solution. Ayaz Sadiq appreciated the parliamentary and diplomatic efforts to highlight Kashmir. He said the dispute was not merely a regional issue and called for a fair and lasting settlement in line with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. He also stressed the need to draw international attention to the

human rights situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the Kashmiri people's struggle for self-determination. Both leaders agreed to strengthen contacts with international parliamentary forums, world leaders and diplomatic missions. Ayaz Sadiq reaffirmed that Pakistan's parliament, government and people remained united in supporting the Kashmiri people, pledging that parliamentary, diplomatic, moral and humanitarian efforts would continue for a peaceful and lasting solution.