



Talal Chaudhry presents details on Oct 4 protests, JAAC links, arrest of 3 more accused



Hypocrisy hallmark of PTI's politics: Atta Tarar



Abbasi vows no compromise on passenger facilities

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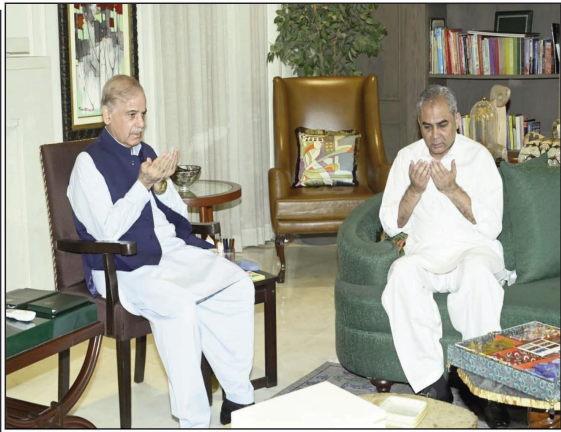
Pages 4 Rs. 20

Naqvi says second May 9 won't be allowed, Sohail Afridi behind collapse in PTI-Govt talks

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday blamed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi for the collapse of government-Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) talks, claiming that both sides had reached a "win-win" agreement before the chief minister sought changes to the finalised draft. Addressing a press conference in Lahore following the deadlock in negotiations, Naqvi said the draft agreement had been finalised after several rounds of discussions and only required Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari to go through it. He made it clear to PTI that "that if even a single life is lost during the long march, Sohail Afridi will be held respon-

sible." Mohsin Naqvi asserted that the pattern of repeatedly storming Islamabad must end. He said "If anyone commits a violation this time, we will pursue them all the way to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa." Naqvi said second May 9 episode will not be tolerated. "Protest is permitted, but storming Islamabad will not be allowed," Mohsin Naqvi clarified. Naqvi said he had briefed President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif about the negotiations. He added that the draft of the agreement had also been presented to the president. According to Naqvi, the draft was changed four times during the negotiations. He said that even after the draft had been finalised, Sohail Afridi stated that they would not accept it.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif offering fatcha at residence of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on demise of his maternal uncle.

Turkiye says Makkah pact committee to meet in Riyadh on October 5

PEAK POINT



Turkiye: A committee of the Makkah defence pact between Pakistan, Turkiye and Saudi Arabia will hold talks in Riyadh on Monday, the Turkish foreign ministry said on Sunday.

"The meeting will address recent developments in the region and the stage reached in the Alliance's institutionalisation efforts," the Turkish statement said. It said Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, Defence Minister Yasar Gulur and chief of the general staff General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu would attend the meeting of the pact's strategic political and defence committee, along with officials from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye signed the Makkah trilateral agreement on August 7, which provides for collective security and defence cooperation among the three states. The pact — later named the Makkah Defence Alliance — stipulates that an armed attack on any one of the three countries will be regarded as an attack on all of them. The Houthis have carried out repeated missile and drone attacks against Saudi Arabia since announcing a naval blockade on the Kingdom in July.

Araghchi says Tehran serious about diplomatic path, rules out 'military solution' to end war

PEAK POINT



TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tehran is "serious about finding diplomatic solutions, just as we are serious about defending ourselves," Al Jazeera reported on Sunday. Araghchi said there was no military solution to his country's conflict with the United States, as talks aimed at ending the war appeared to have reached an impasse, AFP reported. "If our enemies again choose the path of military confrontation, our response will be stronger than before, and we will defend ourselves with even more force," Araghchi said at a gathering of foreign ambassadors. "There is no military solution, nor any solution based on new sanctions," he added.

Iran will upgrade the range of its missiles following the war with the US, as American forces are now positioned as much as 1,000 km (621 miles) away from the Iranian coast, Army spokesperson Mohammad Akraminia told Fars news on Sunday.

"During this war, we concluded that we absolutely must increase the range of our missiles, and we have now moved in that direction," he said. The Strait of Hormuz will not reopen until seven Iranian conditions set out in a June interim agreement with the US are met.

Nournews reported Iran's parliament speaker, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, said on Sunday, a few days after Tehran received Washington's reply to its diplomatic proposal.

Security forces kill 8 terrorists in Dera Ismail Khan IBO: state media

PEAK POINT



DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Security forces killed eight terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail Khan, security sources said on Sunday, according to state-run Radio Pakistan.

The terrorists were identified as those belonging to Fitna-al-Khawarij — a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan — the Radio Pakistan report said.

Security sources said that three key terrorist commanders were among those killed and foreign currency and a large quantity of arms and ammunition was found in the possession of the slain terrorists.

The IBO was a part of the Azm-i-Istehkam operation, the report added. Operation Azm-i-Istehkam was launched in June 2024, symbolising the national resolve to eradicate extremism and terrorism from the country.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif commended security forces for timely and effective action in DI Khan. PM Shehbaz.

Azeri woman in alleged Lahore gang-rape case returns home under police escort

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The foreign woman at the centre of an alleged gang-rape case in Lahore left for her homeland, Azerbaijan, on Sunday, after earlier refusing to return. The flight to Baku took off from Lahore airport, with three Lahore Police officers travelling with the woman, identified as Diana. According to police sources, the request to send police officers with Diana was made by the Azerbaijani embassy. The officers accompanying the woman include female Assistant Superintendent of Police Barira, Deputy Superintendent.

4 injured Pakistanis rescued from vessel hijacked in Somalia head to Karachi with remains of 3 colleagues

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The four Pakistanis who were injured during a security operation to recover a hijacked oil tanker off the coast of Somalia, along with the remains of three others who lost their lives in the episode, have departed Addis Ababa and are expected to reach Karachi Sunday evening. "Pakistan's ambassadors to Djibouti and Ethiopia saw off the four injured Pakistani crew members of MT Honour 25, Usman Ghani, Aqeel Khan, Ameen bin Shams and Yasir Khan, along with the mortal remains of Rafi Ullah Khan, Syed Kashif Umer and Mahmood Ahmad Ansari, from Addis Ababa. "They are arriving in Karachi today aboard Ethiopian Airlines flight ET 694," a post on the

Foreign Office's (FO) said. The seven were among



10 Pakistanis aboard MT Honour 25, which was hijacked by Somali pirates in April. Apart from Pakistanis, the vessel's crew also included seven Indonesians, an Indian and a Sri Lankan.

For around five months, there had been no progress either in negotiations or in the payment of the ransom, said to be around \$3 million, for the recovery of the hostages, despite concerns

abounding about their declining health. Since the

hijacking, the crew made several emotional videos and audio appeals, reporting that they ran out of clean water, food and medicine. For its part, FO maintained that it remained "actively engaged" to secure the release of the sailors. On Sept 29, Somali maritime police recovered the Palau-flagged oil tanker amid reports of casualties among the crew. During the operation, it said, 21 sus-

pected pirates were apprehended, while operations to locate the remaining members continue.

"Before the operation [had] begun, the pirates on board the ship killed five of the crew. Among those killed were three from Pakistan, one from Myanmar and one from India," it said.

Advocate Quratlain of the Ansar Burney Trust, however, gave a separate account of the events, saying the pirates had brought the hostages onto the deck when they realised Puntland forces were approaching. "They tied their hands and warned to kill them if the police force came anywhere near them without paying them the ransom," she said, adding that the ransom demand had by then been reduced from an initial \$3 million to \$1m.

Yemen forces say struck Houthi targets in several areas



PEAK POINT

YEMEN: Yemen's government forces said Sunday they had struck Houthi targets around the country, deepening the conflict ravaging one of the world's poorest nations and the wider region.

The armed forces launched strikes against the Houthis in the capital Sanaa, the northwestern governorate of Saada — one of the group's strongholds — and Taiz in the southwest, military spokesman Colonel Majid al-Nuzaili said. Yemen was plunged back into civil war in July after years of calm, pitting the Iran-backed Houthis, who control most of northwest Yemen including Sanaa. The government, based in the city of Aden, controls much of the country's south.



SPORTS



Pakistan finish Asian Games 2026 with 10 medals, best haul since 2002



MOHSN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan ended their Asian Games 2026 campaign with 10 medals – two silver and eight bronze – recording their best medal tally at the continental event since 2002.

Pakistan's two silver medals came in men's cricket and men's squash, while the country secured eight bronze medals in women's cricket, men's hockey, men's volleyball, men's squash singles, MMA, shooting and e-sports (PUBG).

The 10-medal haul marks a significant improvement over

Pakistan's recent Asian Games performances. The country won three medals in 2023, four in 2018, five in 2014, eight in 2010 and four in 2006.

Pakistan's last Asian Games campaign with more than nine medals came in 2002, when the country won 13 medals – one gold, six silver and six bronze.

The 2026 campaign also brought an end to several long medal droughts.

Pakistan won their first Asian Games volleyball medal since 2010, while the men's hockey team secured its first medal at the

event since 2014.

Cricket also returned to the Asian Games podium for the first time since 2014, with the men's team winning silver and the women's side taking bronze.

Pakistan's medal tally in recent Asian Games is as follows:

2026: 2 silver, 8 bronze – 10 medals

2023: 1 silver, 2 bronze – 3 medals

2018: 4 bronze – 4 medals

2014: 1 gold, 1 silver, 3 bronze – 5 medals

2010: 3 gold, 2 silver, 3 bronze – 8 medals

2006: 1 silver, 3 bronze – 4 medals

2002: 1 gold, 6 silver, 6 bronze – 13 medals

Pakistan also missed out on medals in kabaddi and javelin throw, two events where the country had hoped to challenge for podium finishes.

Despite falling short of gold, the 10-medal haul represents a marked improvement over Pakistan's recent Asian Games record and provides several positives ahead of the country's next major international sporting assignments.

Sri Lanka unveil squad for ODI tri-series in Pakistan



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on Sunday announced a 16-member squad for the upcoming ODI tri-series against hosts Pakistan and England, with matches scheduled in Rawalpindi and Lahore from October 18 to 31.

Kusal Mendis will captain the Sri Lankan side, with Pathum Nissanka, Avishka Fernando, Kamil Mishara, Pavan Rathnayake, Sahan Arachchige, Kamindu Mendis, Janith Liyanage and Dasun Shanaka among the players named in the squad.

Opening batter Pathum Nissanka has been included in the lineup, but his travel remains subject to medical clearance. He will join the team only if he is declared fit to play.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka have dropped former captain Charith Asalanka from the squad for the ODI tri-series, which also features England.

Asalanka, who averages 40.55 in 88 ODIs, has been left out after managing scores of 1, 11 and 7 during the ODI leg of Sri Lanka's recent tour of England. Sri Lanka will first arrive in Pakistan on October 4 for a three-match T20I series against the hosts. All three matches will be played.

Kainat Imtiaz retires from international cricket



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan fast bowler Kainat Imtiaz has announced her retirement from international cricket after a 13-year career in which she represented the women's team at the 2017 World Cup and won two

medals. The right-arm pacer played 19 One-Day Internationals and 21 Twenty20 Internationals for Pakistan after making her T20I debut against South Africa in Potchefstroom in October 2010. She made her ODI debut

against Ireland in Schools Under-17 Fatullah, Bangladesh. Women's

Imtiaz, 34, was Championship in part of Pakistan's 2007 before making squads that won gold her domestic List A at the 2010 Asian debut in 2008.

Games in China and She has already the 2014 edition in begun the next phase South Korea. She of her career, serving also represented as a match referee at Pakistan at the 2022 the PCB National Commonwealth Women's Under-19 Games.

She played four August and matches at the 2017 September.

Women's Cricket Cricket runs in the World Cup and made family.

her final ODI appearance against Australia mother, Saleema

at the Gabba in Pakistan's first became

January 2023. Her woman umpire on the last T20I came International Cricket

against Thailand in Council's 2022.

Sylhet in October International Development Panel

Pakistan after making 2022.

her T20I debut Imtiaz began her in 2024. She has

against South Africa cricket journey with since officiated nine

in Potchefstroom in the Karachi Schools women's ODIs and

at the 2017 World Under-17 team in the 69 women's T20

Cup and won two made her ODI debut PCB National internationals.

Pakistan squash heroes accorded rousing welcome at Islamabad Airport



Asian Games 2026 conclude in grand style, Pakistan finishes 29th



Pakistan clinch Asian Games hockey medal after 12 years, beat South Korea 5-3

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan ended a 12-year wait for an Asian Games hockey medal after defeating South Korea 5-3 in a thrilling bronze-medal playoff at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 in Japan.

Playing at the Gifu Prefectural Green Stadium, Pakistan produced an attacking display and held their nerve in a closely contested encounter to secure the bronze medal.

Pakistan took an early lead in the fourth minute when Sufyan Khan converted a penalty corner. South Korea responded through Lee Gang-san, who levelled the score in the 12th minute, before Kim Jung-bok put Korea ahead in the 18th minute.

South Korea extended their advantage when Yang Ji-hun scored from a penalty corner in the 25th

minute.

Pakistan, however, staged a strong comeback before halftime, with Abdul Rehman converting a penalty corner in the 30th minute to reduce the deficit.

Pakistan continued their

The 5-3 victory secured

Pakistan the bronze medal and marked their return to the Asian Games hockey podium after a 12-year gap.

Pakistan Hockey Federation President

Muhyuddin Ahmad Wani



attacking momentum in the second half, with Rana Waheed scoring twice in the 52nd and 54th minutes, including a goal from a penalty corner, to put Pakistan back in front.

Hannan Shahid then sealed the victory by scoring Pakistan's fifth goal in the 59th minute.

congratulated the national team, players and officials on the achievement. He expressed hope that the team's performance would provide further impetus to the revival and development of hockey in Pakistan and enable the players to continue bringing honour to the country.



Heavy School bags affecting children's health, Parents seek relief

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Parents have shown serious concern over the issue of heavy school bags on tiny shoulders, calling it a daily burden that is affecting the health and happiness of young students.

Every morning outside schools, parents can be seen helping their small children carry bags that look much bigger than their own bodies.

According to parents, these bags are overloaded with thick textbooks, notebooks, water bottles and lunch boxes, and the weight is far more than what a small

child can easily carry.

Doctors have warned that this daily burden can have long-term effects on a child's physical health. Talking to an APP scribe, an orthopaedic doctor named Dr Bilal from Rawalpindi said, "We are seeing many young patients complaining of shoulder pain and back pain due to heavy school bags. Carrying excessive weight at a young age can affect spinal development, cause muscle strain and lead to poor posture that may become permanent if ignored."

He said a child's bag



should not weigh more than ten to fifteen percent of their body weight, noting that when children bend forward to carry heavy bags, it puts

extra pressure on their spine and shoulders, which can also cause fatigue, headaches and difficulty in walking properly. He commented that

Children are in their growing years and their bones and muscles are still developing. Continuous pressure from heavy bags can slow their physical growth and make them tired throughout the day, which also affects their concentration in class.

A mother of a Class Two student, Atiqah, said, "My daughter is just seven, and her bag is so heavy that she cannot even lift it properly. I have to carry it to the school van daily and in the evening she complains of pain in her shoulders." She said that her child leaves for school happily

but comes back fully exhausted, adding that the weight of the bag makes her tired and she avoids homework. She suggested that they buy expensive lightweight bags, but the real problem is too many books, so schools should think of dividing books into parts or keeping extra books in the classroom. A father from Rawalpindi said, "My son has to take eight books every day. Education is important, but his health is also important. Schools should provide lockers or make a timetable with fewer books."

Health experts urge citizens to prevent seasonal illnesses

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Health authorities have advised citizens in the federal capital to take precautionary measures as changing weather conditions may increase the risk of seasonal infections, respiratory problems and other health concerns.

Health experts have urged citizens, particularly children, older people and those with existing health conditions, to avoid sudden exposure to temperature changes and wear appropriate clothing

according to the weather.

They advised people to maintain good personal hygiene, wash their hands regularly and avoid close contact with individuals suffering from respiratory infections to reduce the spread of seasonal illnesses.

Citizens have also been advised to stay adequately hydrated, consume a balanced diet and get sufficient rest to maintain their health during the seasonal transition. People suffering from allergies or respiratory prob-



lems should avoid exposure to dust, smoke and other irritants and seek medical advice if symptoms such as persistent cough, breathing difficulty, fever or unusual weakness develop, health experts advised.

Health authorities have also stressed the importance of keeping homes and surroundings clean and avoiding stagnant water, particularly as dengue prevention remains important during the changing weather.

Citizens have been urged to keep water containers covered, remove standing water from around homes and workplaces and cooperate with dengue surveillance teams conducting preventive activities across the capital.

Parents have been

advised to pay particular attention to children's health and ensure they remain appropriately dressed, consume safe food and water and receive timely medical attention if they develop persistent symptoms.

The health authorities emphasized that simple preventive measures, timely medical consultation and greater public awareness could help citizens remain healthy during the seasonal transition.

Opinion & Editorial

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A surging insurgency

A worrying new report on the security situation in the country includes the grim statistic that there was an 83% surge in violence-linked fatalities during the third quarter of 2026, with 1,415 deaths recorded across 385 incidents. This sharp escalation in violence described in the Centre for Research and Security Studies quarterly security report shows that the declining trend witnessed in the first half of the year is a distant memory. In fact, the spike in violence is also the highest quarter-on-quarter increase since 2021. The epicentre of this deterioration is Balochistan, where fatalities increased over threefold from 265 to 829, accounting for 88% of the national increase. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, which has its own torrid history with terrorism, was second-worst, recording 186 violent incidents, which in terms of quantity - ignoring fatalities - represents 48% of all attacks in the country. The TTP, which is the primary threat, being linked with 13 attacks that killed 117 people, while the BLA and Hafiz Gul Bahadur group also caused significant casualties. While almost two-thirds of the casualties were "outlaws", the raw numbers of civilians and security forces martyred rose by 36% and 79%, respectively, or 54% overall.

The court that could not see

Justice (ret'd) Syed Mansoor Ali Shah WITNESSES testified that a senior banker sketched private parts on the glass of his desk, asked a woman colleague to name them, and threatened to tear off her clothes if she wore a particular outfit again. Another officer made indecent remarks about her attire before colleagues. The ombudsman found the charges proved; the Islamabad High Court agreed.

On Sept 16, the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) set that judgement aside without substantively engaging with this evidence or the high court's careful appraisal of it.

Its central reason was a definition. Harassment under the 2010 workplace harassment law, it declared, "is only restricted to conduct which is sexual in nature". Even by that narrow test, the conduct proved was plainly sexual. Before the high court, the officers never contended it fell short of harassment.

Why does the FCC confine harassment to sex? The Act's title and preamble speak of 'harassment', not 'sexual harassment', and anchor it in the right to dignity. Nor does 'sexual' mean only the act of sex; it also means relating to the sexes, or to gender.

The Supreme Court said so on review in Nadia Naz, through Justice Ayesha Malik: "sexually demeaning

attitudes" means demeaning a person because of their sex. Yale's Vicki Schultz has shown that much workplace harassment has nothing to do with desire; it belittles women and signals they do not belong. And the 2022 amendment, ignored altogether, covers gender discrimination "which may or may not be sexual in nature".

Courts elsewhere agree. The US supreme court held in Oncale that harassment need not be motivated by desire; Canada and India root it in equality and dignity. India's law lists "sexually coloured remarks", exactly what was proved, and the 2021 Nadia Naz judgement the FCC relies on quoted that very provision. ILO Convention 190 treats gender-based harassment, including sexual harassment, as one wrong.

This is where a constitutional court should begin. Article 14 declares the dignity of man inviolable, and the Act's own preamble rests on it. A constitutional court's first duty is to read statutes through fundamental rights and expand their frontiers, not shrink them. A woman made to name drawings of private parts before her colleagues has had her dignity violated by any measure.

Constitutional courts are judged not by the powers they claim but by the rights they protect.

Our Supreme Court had already arrived there. In

Uzma Naveed (2022) and Muhammad Din (2025), both of which I authored, it held that harassment is not confined to the act of sex and that dignity is absolute and non-negotiable. The FCC dismisses Muhammad Din in one sentence, "with due respect", ignores Uzma Naveed, and leans instead on the 2021 Nadia Naz judgement the Supreme Court set aside on review. In Haji Adam, decided by the same author the same day, substantial passages reappear word for word; it even names the bank case's witnesses as the Pemra complainant's. That raises a serious question whether each record received independent judicial consideration.

Precedent is not a courtesy; it is law. Judgements of the Supreme Court delivered before the 27th Amendment bound every court under Article 189. The amendment operates prospectively; it makes the FCC's decisions binding from now on, but it does not erase nearly eight decades of constitutional jurisprudence. Having inherited the Supreme Court's constitutional jurisdiction, the FCC inherited the law declared under it. If it doubts that law, the doctrine of precedent requires reasoned reconsideration by a larger bench, not a three-member bench's single sentence. Even the FCC's own test, set this March, forbids precedent being "ignored and disregarded in silence".

Courtesy Dawn

RoboKing in Pakistan

Ali Hassan Bangwar

For all its existence, Pakistan has seen democrats, dictators and hybrids; liberals and theocrats; gerontocrats and stratonocrats. All, however, either served the system at the cost of the people or inflicted such heavy blows on the country that humane leadership of integrity, vision and empathy could never gain a decisive voice. Democrats, liberals, centrists, rightists, leftists, socialists, feminists and civil society have all betrayed faith and trust and, for their fair share, betrayed their ideologies, manifestos and mandates. Thus, the system recycles the same leaders under different names and slogans, and barely cares a damn about any leader of vision, empathy and integrity. As a result, the great country with great potential finds itself running in a groove. The reason is not that there is no pragmatic way out of the imbroglio; it is that, for the ruling elite, the quagmire is itself the way out, since it sustains the system and all the perks and wrongdoings attached to it.

Who else, if anyone, and if given a chance, would likely change the fate of the people for the better? Where does the way out of the country's current poly-crisis lie? Does the system itself not coopt, neutralise and sabotage every possible way out? A student recently asked, amid dehumanised human leadership and the sweeping scope of AI, whether giant, humanised, enthroned robots as kind as Optimus Prime and Bumblebee, two of the most iconic heroes of the Autobots, who wage an endless war against the evil Decepticons, would offer a panacea to the socio-economic, political and ethnic ills plaguing the world in general and Pakistan in particular. Since they inherently hold no interests, have no children for whom to plunder the national wealth and harbour no greed or lust for wealth, they would deliver for the people rather than the system. Wouldn't they? For the student, a cyber-king or RoboKing, perfectly programmed with positive values, might help rid the country of greed and of the trading of faith, truth and public rights.

Courtesy Tribune

Governor House to play constitutional role to protect KP province from terror, devastation



PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi discussed several important provincial-level matters during a key meeting at Governor House, Peshawar.

The meeting was attended by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah and the Inspector

General (IG) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, says a press release issued by Governor House KP.

The participants of the meeting deliberated on the rising unrest in the province, the political situation, and various aspects of the circumstances arising from the long march. During the meeting, concern was expressed regarding the potential for facilitating the safe passage of terrorists through

security checkpoints during the long march.

It was also agreed during the meeting that whenever the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan deem it necessary to impose Governor's Rule or a state of emergency to protect the province from terrorism and devastation, the Governor House will play a full constitutional role.

According to official press statement, the provincial government's attitude and role regarding counter-terrorism operations during the negotiation process amounted to hostility toward the public and the province; furthermore, after an agreement on resolving the issues had been reached, the provincial government demonstrated obstinacy and irresponsibility by once again resorting to a U-turn.

During the meeting, the use of helicopters and other official resources by the Chief Minister.

KP govt backing terrorism; Nation, army steadfast to counter internal & external enemies: Defence Minister

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Sunday said the leadership of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has been facilitating terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which has resulted in the rising challenges of security in the province.

In his statement on a social media platform, he said the nation would hold the KP government accountable for the martyrdom of several civilians and military personnel in the wake of terrorist activities in the province.

The defence minister said the PTI founder supported the settlement of those elements in KP who backed terrorism. His speeches in the National Assembly and the media's record bear witness to this fact, he added. He pointed out that every



PTI chief minister, after losing power in the Centre attacked the federation.

He termed Islamabad as the symbol of federation's unity and the identity of 250 million Pakistanis.

Khawaja Asif said the martyrs sacrificed their lives while safeguarding their homeland, and recalled the military operation last year that shattered the enemy's arrogance.

The Pakistani nation and the valiant armed forces dare to confront any internal or external enemies.

Talal Chaudhry presents details on Oct 4 protests, JAAC links, arrest of 3 more accused

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Sunday revealed the arrest of three more individuals linked to JAAC and presented audio recordings, statements and investigation findings related to the case.

He said the Interior Minister would soon present facts, background information and details explaining why, according to the government, the KP administration benefits politically from the law and order situation in the province instead of fulfilling its constitutional and legal responsibilities. Speaking at a press conference, Talal Chaudhry said that the call for a JAAC protest and the PTI long march had been announced for the same day, October 4. He said JAAC had called for protests and strikes, but the people of Kashmir rejected the call. During all three phases of elections, large numbers of voters participated and rejected efforts aimed at preventing Kashmiris from making their own decisions, he added. Talal Chaudhry said the government had maintained from the beginning that the movement was not purely political. He stated that after suffering defeat in a direct attack

against Pakistan two years ago, hostile elements increased support for their proxies. He alleged that hideouts and training camps operating across the western border were used to destabilize Pakistan through proxy groups. He said if links existed between such proxies and political figures or groups, an important question arose as to whether politicians were using these elements for their own purposes. Referring to earlier investigations, Talal Chaudhry said a man named Zia had been arrested and was found to have been involved in illegal arms trading for the past eight years. He said investigators established links between Zia, Sardar Aman, Majid and another individual named Zarghoon in Afghanistan. According to the investigation, weapons were procured from Afghanistan, transported through Pakistan's tribal areas and later moved to Kashmir through an official employee named Akbar, who allegedly used his official position to avoid suspicion.

Talal Chaudhry said that after these details were presented publicly, further investigations led to the arrest of three more individuals.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry addressing a press conference.

Abbasi vows no compromise on passenger facilities

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Sunday said provision of quality and comfortable travel facilities to passengers was the top priority of Pakistan Railways.

He expressed these views during his surprise visit to Lahore Railway Station, where he inspected the ongoing extension work at platforms No. 2 and 4 in detail. The minister expressed displeasure over the installation of substandard benches at Platform no. 4 and directed the authorities to immediately remove all such benches and replace them with new, standard-quality benches.

He also directed that the Divisional Superintendent (DS) Office be shifted to Lahore Railway Station to ensure direct monitoring of passenger facilities, ongoing development projects and overall performance. Muhammad Hanif Abbasi inspected the family and executive lounges and reviewed air-conditioning and other facilities being provided to passengers. The passengers thanked the minister for ensuring quality facilities.

Hypocrisy hallmark of PTI's politics: Atta Tarar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar said on Sunday that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is not ready to abandon the hypocrisy and double standards that are the hallmark of its politics.

"PTI comes to talks with duplicity and double standards, and is not ready to give up its policies," the minister said while talking to the media. Tarar said he has been pointing to their duplicity for the last couple of weeks and, ironically, they are proud of their shifting stances.

Providing safety and security to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the primary responsibility of the provincial government, he said, adding, "If it cannot protect the lives and property of its citizens, it is a complete failure of provincial government."

He also highlighted contradictory statements from within PTI



regarding the counter terrorism policy, citing the statement of Shafi Jan, who said the party will change its policy on terrorism completely, while Salman Akram Raja says otherwise.

The minister said PTI's policy amounts to nothing but promoting terrorism and spreading it across the province.

He said the PTI must now decide whether it stands with Pakistan or with Afghanistan.

"You take benefits from Pakistan but speak for Afghanistan. This double standard will not work," he said, adding the party has neither owned counter-terrorism efforts nor shown seriousness about them.

Teachers shape the Nation's Future, foster intellectual and moral growth of youth: Ayaz Sadiq

Teachers' Role Central to Building an Educated and Responsible Society, Speaker NA

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, while paying tribute to the invaluable services rendered by the teachers, said that teachers play a central role in building an educated and civilized society. He said that teachers not only impart knowledge and awareness to the new generation but also inculcate in them a sense of their national



responsibilities and duties. He stressed the need to recognize and appreciate the services of teachers and ensure respect for them.

Hazara province demand should not be delayed, says Yousaf

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Chairman Hazara Province Movement Sardar Muhammad Yousaf on Sunday called for the creation of Hazara province without further delay, saying the region's case had already been taken up by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly and the National Assembly. Addressing a large

Hazara Province Convention hosted by Senator Talha Mahmood at Haripur, Sardar Yousaf said the demand for a separate province was based on administrative grounds and that the movement was now focused on parliamentary and constitutional forums. "The Hazara province movement is strong and its case is ready," he said, adding that resolutions in favour of the

province had been passed three times by the provincial assembly. Sardar Yousaf said the demand had received support from political leadership and claimed that the military leadership had also expressed support for the creation of new provinces.

He said bills seeking the creation of Hazara province had been introduced in the National Assembly in 2019 by both opposition and government members. "The matter is now inside the assemblies," he said, urging lawmakers to take steps for the creation of the province. Sardar Yousaf said bringing administrative services closer to the people was essential for improving access to government and public facilities. Delays in matters concerning public welfare, he

Strong condemnation of the threatening behavior towards Alam Zeb Wazir, President of PFUC KP

BY WAJIIHA TAMSEEL MIRZA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Federal Union of Columnists and Creators (PFUC) has lodged a strong protest regarding the alleged mistreatment and threatening behavior directed at Alam Zeb Wazir—a journalist and the President of the PFUC's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter—after he raised questions concerning administrative affairs and alleged corruption in Razmak. The organization has demanded an



immediate, transparent, and impartial investigation into the incident by the relevant authorities. According to Alam Zeb Wazir's complaint, he had raised questions on social media regarding alleged corruption and other issues involving the Assistant Commissioner of

Razmak and the local administration. Subsequently, he faced a harsh tone and threatening behavior from the DSP of Razmak, who questioned him as to why he was raising issues concerning the Assistant Commissioner and the administration. Strongly condemning the incident, PFUC Central President Farid Razaqi stated that intimidating or pressuring a journalist who highlights public issues is unacceptable. The duty of the

police is to provide protection to citizens; threats cannot be the response to questions raised about an officer's conduct or administrative performance. An impartial inquiry should be conducted into Alamzeb Wazir's complaint, and action should be taken against the concerned officials if liability is established. Secretary General Waqar Aslam stated that a journalist is bound to question the administration's performance.