



Gilani calls for stronger parliamentary cooperation among Asia-Pacific countries



Bilawal says Islamabad has failed, calls for Thar-style governance



Fish, Seafood Exports Reach \$125m in First Quarter: Junaid Anwar

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PM desires transformation of Pak-Poland friendship into long-term, multi-faceted partnership

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Monday, expressed satisfaction at the positive trajectory of growth in relations with Poland and reiterated Pakistan's desire to transform this historical friendship into a robust long-term multi-faceted partnership. The prime minister took note of the recent interactions between the two countries and underscored the importance of leadership-level exchanges as a catalyst towards expanding bilateral relations. The prime minister received Tomasz Siemoniak, Minister, Member of the Council of Ministers, and Coordinator of Special Services of the Republic of Poland, who is currently on an official visit to

Pakistan, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. He further underlined the need for both countries to encourage greater interaction between their respective business communities. The prime minister appreciated Poland's support to Pakistan on EU's GSP Plus scheme and expressed his confidence that the two countries would continue to strengthen their ties in all sectors. Both sides exchanged views on major regional and international developments, including the situation in the Middle East. The prime minister stressed the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in resolving regional tensions and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to promoting peace and stability in the region.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Mr. Tomasz Siemoniak, Minister, Member of the Council of Ministers, and Coordinator of Special Services of the Republic of Poland.

Pakistan participates in 8th Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan

PEAK POINT



MOSCOW: The 8th meeting of the Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan commenced in Moscow on Monday, bringing together Afghanistan and countries of the region to discuss the situation in Afghanistan and issues of regional concern. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov attended the inaugural session and addressed the participating delegations. Pakistan is represented by a high-level delegation led by Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister/Special Representative for Afghanistan (SAPM/SRA). The delegation also included Ambassador Faisal Niaz Timizti, Pakistan's Ambassador to the Russian Federation, and Ambassador Ubaid-ur-Rehman Nizamani, Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan, along with other senior officials. The consultations are focusing on regional peace and security, counter-terrorism, economic cooperation and connectivity, as well as continued engagement with Afghanistan. Pakistan has consistently emphasized the importance of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan and sustained regional dialogue to address common security and economic challenges.

Ishaq Dar, Kh Asif, Field Marshal in Saudi Arabia for SPDC huddle

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar reached Madinah Munawwarah on Monday morning, hours ahead of his meeting in Riyadh under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement. He will join Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir in Riyadh today for SPDC meeting. According to a Foreign Office statement released in Islamabad, Ishaq Dar was received by Pakistan's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Pakistan's Consul General in Jeddah, Director General of the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs Madinah Branch, and the Saudi Royal Protocol. The deputy prime minister paid respects at Roza-e-Rasool (PBUH) and offered prayers for the peace and prosperity of Pakistan, the well-being of its people and the Muslim Ummah, as well as for regional peace and stability. Ishaq Dar also visited Jabal Uhud, where he paid homage to the Shuhada-e-Uhud and offered prayers. The deputy prime minister has since proceeded to Riyadh to participate in the meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee (SPDC), where he will join Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, along with counterparts representing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Türkiye. Earlier in another statement, the Foreign Office said Pakistan's top civilian and military leadership will travel.

Jl to announce next phase of fuel levy protest campaign after Oct 7: Hafiz Naeem

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) chief Hafiz Naeem Rehman said on Monday that the party will announce the next phase of its protest campaign against the fuel levy after October 7, while criticising the government's petrol relief package. Addressing a presser in Karachi, the JI chief said the government's relief package was not a favour to the people and claimed it had been announced under pressure. "The government had to give this package after coming under pressure," he said. The JI had postponed its march, which called for the abolition of the petroleum levy, a day after it began on September 21, following an appeal from the prime minister and his assurance of a meeting with the party leadership. The prime minister left for the United Nations General Assembly session after the development and returned earlier this week. However, no meeting between him and JI leaders has taken place so far. Addressing the media earlier today, Hafiz Naeem said the petroleum relief package would not benefit all motorcyclists, noting that there are around four million motorcycles.

Security forces kill 3 terrorists in DI Khan IBO: state media

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Security forces on Monday killed three terrorists during an intelligence-based operation in the Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, state media reported on Monday. President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif commended the security forces for conducting the security operation. In separate statements, President Zardari said effective operations by the security forces were playing an important role in weakening terrorist networks, adding that the "nefarious designs" of terrorist elements operating with external support would be thwarted at all costs.

After breakdown of talks with govt, PTI says reconciliation not possible without including Imran

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: PTI leaders on Monday declared that reconciliation between their party and the government was not possible without including incarcerated party founder Imran Khan in the dialogue process.

Narrating the opposition's stance on why the talks with the government failed over the weekend, PTI's secretary general, Salman Akram Raja, presented his party's demand that Imran be included in any future political dialogue.

"Only [Imran] has the capability to bridge the gulf that has developed between the state and the nation," Raja said during the press conference held at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad.

"Imran Khan is very

important for us and we had every right to seek his another round of talks would streamline things,"



opinion, but it was not allowed," Raja said. The PTI leader said that another reason for the failure of the talks was that the government was not willing to pursue a collective strategy against terrorism. Raja told the media that the PTI had entered into the negotiations with sincerity and was serious about addressing the issues.

"Even on the second day, we were hoping that

he said. Describing the reasons for talks failing, Raja said: "We were being pushed to support the government over every action being taken regarding terrorism in KP."

He added that the PTI had demanded that the government respect the recommendations and opinions of a jirga held by the KP Assembly, in which political parties and stakeholders had participated.

The jirga had recommended solutions to the problem, the opposition delegation had told the government, according to Raja.

The delegation had also asked the government to consider the opinions of tribal leaders, Raja said.

He said the PTI had suggested the agreement should mention that a collective decision would be made regarding terrorism, but the government had said it would not put it down on paper.

"We were told that a unanimous strategy against terrorism would not be developed and it would not be included in the agreement," he said. Raja said that the government had deliberately complicated the situation. "It is a fact that the current issues can only be addressed by Imran Khan."

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to visit Pakistan from Oct 6-8

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will arrive in Pakistan tomorrow (Tuesday) for a three-day official visit, during which he is scheduled to meet the country's top leadership and discuss regional and international developments, the Foreign Office said on Monday. Guterres, who is visiting Pakistan at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, will stay in the country from October 6 to 8.

During his visit, the UN chief will meet President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Ishaq Dar and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir.

Moreover, the UN secretary-general will visit the headquarters of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) and attend a briefing at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Pakistan.





SPORTS



Pakistan announce squads for Sri Lanka T20Is and ODI tri-series

Kainat Imtiaz calls time on 13-year int'l cricket career

PAKISTAN SQUADS FOR SRI LANKA T20IS AND ODI TRI-SERIES

T20I SQUAD	ODI SQUAD
Sahibzada Farhan (c)	Shaheen Shah Afridi (c)
Abdul Samad	Abrar Ahmed
Abrar Ahmed	Arafat Minhas
Arafat Minhas	Babar Azam
Fakhar Zaman	Faheem Ashraf
Hasan Nawaz	Fakhar Zaman
Muhammad Imran	Haris Rauf
Khawaja Nafay (wk)	Hasan Nawaz
Maaz Sadaqat	Muhammad Ghazi Ghori (wk)
Naseem Shah	Naseem Shah
Razaullah	Razaullah
Saim Ayub	Saad Baig (wk)
Mohammad Salman Mirza	Saim Ayub
Shadab Khan	Salman Ali Agha
Sufiyan Moqim	Shadab Khan
	Sufiyan Moqim

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MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday announced the national squads for the upcoming three-match T20I series against Sri Lanka and the seven-match ODI tri-series featuring England and Sri Lanka.

Sahibzada Farhan has been named captain for the T20I series, with Shaheen Shah Afridi retaining the ODI captaincy.

Farhan, who led Pakistan at the recently concluded Asian Games, will captain the side in the three T20Is against Sri Lanka, scheduled to be played at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on October 9, 11 and 13.

Razaullah, who impressed with his batting performance during the third Test against England, has earned his maiden white-ball call-up. Wicketkeeper-batter Saad

Baig has been included in the ODI squad, while Mohammad Imran Randhawa has received his maiden T20I call-up. All-rounder Salman Ali Agha has been left out after being removed as T20I captain, while wicketkeeper-batter Usman Khan and spinner Usman Tariq have also been omitted from the squads. From the Asian Games squad, pacers Ali Raza, Mohammad Wasim Jr, Akif Javed

and Ahmed Daniyal have been left out of the squads for the home series.

The T20I series will be followed by a seven-match ODI tri-series involving Pakistan, England and Sri Lanka. Rawalpindi will host the first three matches, while the remaining league games and the final will be played in Lahore.

Pakistan T20I squad
Sahibzada Farhan (captain), Abdul Samad, Abrar Ahmed, Arafat Minhas, Fakhar Zaman, Hasan Nawaz, Muhammad Imran Randhawa, Khawaja Nafay (wicketkeeper), Maaz Sadaqat, Naseem Shah, Razaullah, Saim Ayub, Mohammad Salman Mirza, Shadab Khan and Sufiyan Moqim.

Pakistan ODI squad
Shaheen Shah Afridi (captain), Abrar Ahmed, Salman Ali Agha, Arafat Minhas, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Muhammad Ghazi Ghori (wicketkeeper), Haris Rauf, Hasan Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Razaullah, Saad Baig (wicketkeeper), Saim Ayub, Shadab Khan and Sufiyan Moqim. The PCB has also named the support staff for both assignments. Naveed Akram Cheema will serve as team manager, while Mike Hesson will continue as head coach.

Shaun Tait has been appointed bowling coach, Michael Smith batting coach, and Mansoor Amjad fielding coach.



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan women's fast bowler Kainat Imtiaz has announced her retirement from international cricket, bringing the curtain down on a 13-year career during which she represented Pakistan in 19 ODIs and 21 T20Is.

The right-arm pacer made her T20I debut against South Africa at Potchefstroom in October 2010 as Pakistan's 22nd player to earn the format's cap. She received her ODI cap, No. 64, against Ireland in Fatullah, Bangladesh. Kainat was part of Pakistan's squads at the 2017 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, where she featured in four matches.

She also formed part of the gold-medal-winning Pakistan teams at the 2010 and 2014 Asian Games in China and South Korea, respectively. She represented Pakistan at the 2022 Commonwealth Games as well. Her final ODI appearance came against Australia at the Gabba in January 2023, while her last T20I was against Thailand in Sylhet in October 2022.

She has already embarked on a new chapter in cricket, taking up match-refereeing duties at the PCB National Women's U19 T20 Tournament in August and September.

SL name squad for Pakistan ODI tri-series



PEAK POINT

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) selectors on Sunday announced a 16-member ODI squad for the upcoming tri-series in Pakistan, marking a vital milestone in the nation's road to the 2027 ICC World Cup.

Led by Kusal Mendis, the unit features a blend of seasoned international campaigners and emerging white-ball talent as Sri Lanka build their core combination ahead of the upcoming global event.

Opening batter Pathum Nissanka has been named in the contingent, though his travel remains conditional and he will only travel with the team if he is declared medically fit.

Sri Lanka's top-order options include

Arachchige, Kamindu Mendis, and Janith Liyanage. Former captain Dasun Shanaka will provide crucial all-round depth alongside spin-bowling all-rounder Dunith Wellalage.

The bowling attack is anchored by Maheesh Theekshana and wrist-spinner Sachindu Colombage, complemented by a formidable pace unit comprising Shanaka, Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith Wellalage.

Squad: Kusal Mendis (captain), Sahan Arachchige, Dushmanta Chameera, Sachindu Colombage, Avishka Fernando, Asitha Fernando, Janith Liyanage, Dilshan Madushanka, Eshan Malinga, Kamindu Mendis, Kamil Mishara, Pathum Nissanka, Pavan Rathnayake, Dasun Shanaka, Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith Wellalage.

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the event and enthusiastically watched the performances. The expert riders demonstrated remarkable skills in tent-pegging while riding horses, performing various traditional techniques and displaying

Djokovic overcomes Zverev in Beijing thriller



Rybakina withdraws from Wuhan with injury after China Open exit



Tent-Pegging competitions begin at Hazrat Kalu Baba Sarkar's Urs, large number of Spectators attend

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MANSAR SHARIF:

Traditional tent-pegging competitions have begun as part of the three-day annual Urs celebrations of Hazrat Kalu Baba Sarkar (RA) at Mansar Sharif, District Attock. The exciting competitions will continue throughout all three days of the Urs, with skilled tent-peggers from different areas participating and showcasing their expertise. The competitions were held under the leadership of Raja Sarfraz Akram, Khadim-e-Aala of Darbar Sharif Hazrat Imam Bari Sarkar (RA) and Darbar Hazrat Kalu Baba Sarkar (RA). Raja Imtiaz Janjua, Raja Shahzad Janjua, Raja Ayaz Janjua, Raja Riaz Janjua, Umar Qadusi, Waseem Abbas and Syed Israr Hussain Shah, along with a large number of devotees and spectators, attended

the event and enthusiastically watched the performances. The expert riders demonstrated remarkable skills in tent-pegging while riding horses, performing various traditional techniques and displaying

said that tent-pegging is one of the region's ancient traditional and cultural sports. By making it part of the Urs celebrations, efforts are being made to preserve this valuable tradition and introduce younger generations to the



impressive accuracy and horsemanship. The spectators warmly applauded the riders and appreciated their exceptional performances. The vibrant scenes of the traditional sport added excitement and colour to the Urs celebrations. The organizers

region's cultural heritage. The tent-pegging competitions will continue on the remaining two days of the Urs, with a large number of devotees and spectators expected to attend and enjoy the traditional sporting event.



Senator raises PIFD VC tenure, search committee issues in senate privilege committee

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: Senator Bushra Anjum Butt has raised serious questions over the continuation of Ms Hina Tayyaba Khalil as Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design (PIFD), alleging that her tenure had expired and that she was continuing to hold the position without a fresh notification. Addressing a press conference after a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges, Senator Bushra Anjum Butt said she had placed the matter before the committee after receiving complaints from employees regarding alleged misuse of authority and other administrative irregularities at the institute. Senator Butt, who also chairs the Senate

Standing Committee on Education, said she had formally approached the Presidency in her capacity as a senator and committee chairperson, requesting that the allegations and the status of the PIFD vice chancellorship be examined. According to her, the Presidency subsequently communicated directions regarding the assignment of the charge of acting Vice Chancellor to another senior and eligible officer of the institute. She further claimed that the Presidency had also conveyed that the search committee for the appointment of a regular Vice Chancellor of PIFD could be re-submitted, following complaints regarding alleged manipulation of the selection process. The senator alleged that the matter became particularly contentious during the committee proceedings,

where she claimed she was told that Ms Hina Tayyaba Khalil would not step down and that legal action could be taken against her over alleged defamation. "I was only following the directions contained in the Presidency's letter," Senator Butt said, adding that she had raised the issue in her official capacity as a senator and chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Education. Senator Butt also alleged that the position taken during the meeting amounted to disrespect of both the President and the Senate. She claimed that the President's representative was not allowed to properly present his position during the proceedings. She further criticised Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, alleging that he

remained silent during the exchange and subsequently asked the PIFD vice chancellor whether she should resign. According to Senator Butt, Ms Khalil declined to resign and maintained that the Senate had not directed her to do so. Senator Butt said she subsequently left the meeting and moved a privilege motion, alleging that her privileges as a sitting senator had been breached. The senator also levelled allegations regarding the PIFD search committee, claiming that the process had been structured in a manner that could favour a particular candidate. She alleged that the profile of Ms Shabana, whom she described as the sister of the incumbent PIFD vice chancellor, had been developed in a manner designed to meet specific criteria. She also alleged that Deepak Perwani,

who headed the search committee, had issued what she termed a "tailor-made advertisement" for the position. "These are serious matters and the entire process needs to be examined," Senator Butt said. She further claimed that despite a show-cause notice allegedly issued by the Presidency, meetings relating to the recruitment process were still being held. Senator Butt said the relevant minister had been called to appear before the committee and would be required to explain his position on the matter. She also rejected allegations allegedly levelled against her by Ms Khalil, saying she had placed evidence before the committee in support of her position. "I have no fear of these allegations. My performance in the Senate and my public work speak for themselves," she said. The senator

demanding an apology over what she described as a breach of her parliamentary privilege, saying that the response submitted in the matter had been circulated to relevant quarters, including the Presidency and the Prime Minister's Office. The controversy comes amid broader concerns raised by Senator Butt regarding governance in public-sector educational institutions. She alleged that in several universities, vice chancellors were misusing or manipulating their powers, while teachers were facing administrative and financial difficulties. She criticised the education ministry for what she described as greater attention to extensions and appointments of vice chancellors than to issues brought before the Senate Standing Committee on Education.

Dr Tanveer-ul-Khalil given additional charge of PIMS ED

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Professor Dr Tanveer-ul-Khalil, Vice Chancellor of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (SZABMU), has been assigned additional charge of Executive Director (ED) of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), marking a change in the lead-

ership of the federal capital's major public-sector hospital.

According to a notification issued by the Ministry of National Health Services, Dr Tanveer-ul-Khalil has been given the additional charge of PIMS Executive Director, while the outgoing ED Dr Muhammad Salman has been repatriated to his parent organization, the National

Institutes of Health (NIH).

Dr Tanveer-ul-Khalil has



previously been associated with PIMS for a considerable period and served in its Department of Surgery.

His familiarity with the hospital's clinical and administrative systems is expected to help address operational and management-related matters.

The development comes as part of efforts to strength-

en the administrative functioning and service delivery at PIMS, one of the country's major tertiary-care public hospitals.

Dr Tanveer-ul-Khalil will continue to perform his responsibilities as Vice Chancellor of SZABMU while holding the additional charge of PIMS Executive Director.

Opinion & Editorial

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Surging Houthis

Despite hopes for a thaw amid the widening Middle East conflict, the Houthis' surge is acting as a spanner in the works. Reports that the pro-Iran Yemeni militia launched drone attacks on an electricity facility in the holy city of Medina have taken the Muslim world by surprise, pushing the regional security paradigm to the edge. Likewise, unconfirmed reports indicate that American authorities are investigating potential Iranian links to a thwarted midair insider attack on a Flydubai airliner en route to Tel Aviv. This, too, has upped the ante, with US warning of a severe backlash against Iran. Finally, an unannounced, lethal conflict between Yemeni state security forces and the Houthis is hampering navigation across the strategic Bab-el-Mandeb waterway, escalating Saudi Arabia's security risks to unprecedented heights. This escalation on the part of the Houthis is uncalculated. The non-state actor is unnecessarily expanding the orbit of war, inviting retribution with dire consequences for the entire region. Loud explosions were also heard in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, which is controlled by Houthi forces. This indicates that the Iranians, too, are engaged in a power struggle, using proxies as leverage for realpolitik.

Back to the future

Malecha Lodhi
THE collapse of talks between the government and opposition and sharpening of their confrontation have again put the country on edge. PTI leaders announced they would go ahead with their protest march on Islamabad.

Federal ministers vowed to stop this and renewed threats to impose governor's rule and emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. PTI leaders, in turn, warned the government against taking such a step.

It seems that a draft agreement was drawn up but the two sides could not close the gap on key issues. Both sides attributed the breakdown in negotiations to the other. These conflicting accounts make it hard to determine what were the precise sticking points that produced the deadlock. No further round of talks is planned. Instead, Islamabad has again become 'container-istan' with barricades erected across the city to prevent protesters from entering the capital.

It is unclear whether the threat to impose governor's rule was a pressure tactic and brinkmanship by the government or a serious option. Either way, it signals the government's willingness to wield it as a sword of Damocles over the opposition. That, arguably, is the most concerning aspect of this latest confrontation. One after another, federal ministers warned that if conditions demanded, governor's rule and emergency could be

declared, without, however, specifying those conditions.

For his part, KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, a PPP leader, described governor's rule as a "measure of necessity", saying the president could take this action on the prime minister's advice if the situation in the province so warranted.

Some federal ministers tried to build a rationale for the move by accusing the KP government of governance failures and mishandling the rising wave of terrorism in the province. One senior minister accused the PTI government of "facilitating terrorists". This was unfortunate as it showed the government was prepared to weaponise the terrorism issue to demonise its opponents. Statements by ministers after the talks broke down echoed these accusations against PTI.

Our history shows that ousting provincial governments has always ended badly for the country.

It was not the first time the present political dispensation in Islamabad threatened to impose governor's rule. Such threats have surfaced in the past too, especially when PTI announced a march from KP to Islamabad. But this time, the threats were more sustained and sounded more serious. Significantly, they were repeated in the talks.

These threats recall the country's unifying political experience in the past. Ousting provincial governments has a long pedigree in Pakistan's turbulent political

history. Every province of the country has been placed under governor's rule at one time or another. Not long after the country's independence, provincial governments began to be summarily dismissed by the central government in an early display of political intolerance and creeping authoritarianism. The first government to be toppled was in Punjab in 1949. That inglorious tradition persisted through the decades. In the 1970s, opposition-run provincial governments in KP and Balochistan were dismissed by prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

This had dire consequences for national unity. It weakened the federation and made a mockery of democracy. It deepened alienation among smaller provinces, fuelled regional sentiment, and led to the insurgency in Balochistan in the 1970s. While its roots could be traced back to the 1950s, it intensified during the 2000s and had lasting ramifications. The country is still struggling to deal with the deleterious consequences of repeatedly depriving the province of legitimately elected representative governments.

History, however, is a poor teacher in Pakistan. Its lessons continue to be ignored. If the government is still contemplating imposing governor's rule or emergency, it should understand that it will neither bring political calm to the province nor eliminate its political opponents.

Courtesy Dawn

RoboKing in Pakistan

Kamran Yousaf

Pakistan's relationship with the Afghan Taliban has entered a dangerous new phase. For months, Islamabad has been warning the Taliban regime that it cannot allow Afghan territory to be used by terrorist groups targeting Pakistan. There have been diplomatic contacts, warnings, mediation efforts, and repeated assurances. None of that appears to have worked. Pakistan is now relying increasingly on military force, carrying out strikes deep inside Afghanistan against what it says are terrorist hideouts and infrastructure. But perhaps more significant than the strikes themselves is the language coming out of Islamabad.

The latest Corps Commanders Conference, chaired by Field Marshal Asim Munir on Friday, strongly backed the military's strategy. The statement issued by the ISPR, however, contained a phrase that perhaps best captures how far relations with Kabul have deteriorated. The military leadership referred to the "delusional Taliban leadership" and its main backer, India, as being responsible for the rise in terrorist attacks in Pakistan. The choice of words was significant. The Taliban leadership was once seen by many in Pakistan as a potentially friendly government in Kabul. There was considerable optimism after the Taliban returned to power in August 2021 that Pakistan would finally have a government on its western border that understood its security concerns. That optimism has long disappeared. At a recent press conference, Pakistan's chief military spokesperson made another significant claim. He said a meeting held in Kandahar on August 26 involved representatives of terrorist groups who were directed to intensify attacks against Pakistan. The revelation comes at a particularly difficult time for Pakistan. September was the deadliest month in 12 years in terms of terrorist attacks and fatalities, according to security data cited by an Islamabad think tank.

Courtesy Tribune

‘Abandoned province’: Amir Muqam slams PTI, says not in favour of governor’s rule in KP but security risks persist



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Amir Muqam on Monday slammed the PTI-led government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stressing that the federal government was not “in favour of governor’s rule” amid the party’s march, but warning of national security risks. The minister’s comments came as KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi launched the party’s long march towards Islamabad on Sunday, saying that the party would “not accept” any policy against the interests of the people of KP. The PTI went ahead with its march despite

warnings from the federal government, which has vowed to prevent any violent gatherings in the capital. The protest aims to demand the release of jailed party founder and former prime minister Imran Khan.

Addressing a press conference, Muqam said, “We are not in favour of having governor’s rule or declaring an emergency in KP as politically it is not a good decision; however, on the one hand, you have politicians, and then there is the state. Politics can only continue if we still have control of the province.” He claimed that the provincial government had lost its writ and that “the security situation was deteriorating day by day”. Speaking about the recent negotiations with the opposition over the party’s march to Islamabad, the minister said the government’s side had suggested that they “be on the same page” about terrorism. Muqam said the province’s chief executive had “abandoned” the province.

“There is no sign of the government in the province. The chief executive of the province stays busy with his one-point agenda.”

He said terrorism was not limited to KP. Muqam went on to warn, “If KP is overtaken by terrorists [...] then the rest of Pakistan would not remain free either.” He said the provincial government, the federal government and the armed forces “should be on the same page” in counterterrorism efforts. Shifting his attention to the weekend’s negotiations with the opposition, Muqam applauded the opposition’s delegation, saying that they were willing to find a resolution. He recalled that during the first day of the talks, the opposition asked for an extension since the KP CM needed to be a part as well. “The next day, we came back and sat from 3pm till 3am. In the talks, three to four drafts were prepared, and at one point, it was decided that we would issue a joint statement.”

Bilawal says Islamabad has failed, calls for Thar-style governance

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said Islamabad has failed to deliver and should be handed over to the people of Thar. Speaking after inaugurating Pakistan’s first coal-drying unit at Thar Coal Block-1 on Monday, Bilawal said Islamabad should be run in the same way as Thar. Bilawal said he did not understand the reasoning behind demands for the creation of new provinces. He argued that the changes seen in Thar should be visible across the country. The PPP chairman said Islamabad could learn from the development model being followed in Thar and called for similar progress throughout Pakistan. Turning to Karachi’s political situation, the PPP chairman said those trying to promote



politics based on hatred in the city would not succeed. Bilawal also accused a party of political orphans of pursuing a politics of division in Karachi.

He made the remarks after inaugurating the coal-drying facility at Thar Coal Block-1, which was described as Pakistan’s first unit of its kind. Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah was also present at the inauguration. Nowadays, 7.6 million tons of coal is being generated from Thar Coal Block-2. After the inauguration of Phase-3, the total coal production will reach 1,12,00,000 annually.

Gilani calls for stronger parliamentary cooperation among Asia-Pacific countries

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Monday underscored the importance of stronger parliamentary engagement and coordination among Asia-Pacific countries to address shared challenges and promote common interests.

Participating in a meeting of the Asia-Pacific Geopolitical Group held on the sidelines of the 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Arusha, Tanzania, he highlighted the need for collective parliamentary action on issues affecting the region, particularly climate change and its far-reaching socio-economic consequences.

The meeting considered key matters relating to the Asia-Pacific region and deliberated on important items before the Assembly, including vacancies, emergency items and nominations for the Drafting Committee.

The participants considered a proposal to

include climate change and its effects as an emergency item in view of the increasing frequency of climate-induced disasters, environmental degradation and their impact on communities and economies across the region.

The meeting also discussed matters relating to the ASEAN+3 Group and other issues concerning the forthcoming Assembly proceedings.

The Chairman Senate was accompanied by members of Pakistan’s parliamentary delegation, including Senators Amir Waliuddin Chishti, Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur, Anusha Rahman Ahmad Khan and Agha Shazaib Durrani, and MNAs Sharmila Farooqui, Pir Syed Fazal Jillani, Syed Hafeezuddin and Barrister Aqeel Malik.

The meeting reaffirmed the Asia-Pacific Group’s commitment to sustained parliamentary dialogue, regional cooperation and coordinated action in addressing challenges of shared concern.

Pakistan-Romania business delegation explores energy, trade cooperation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A trade delegation of the Pakistan-Romania Business Council (PRBC) visited the Prahova Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI Prahova) in Ploiesti, Romania, to explore opportunities for strengthening bilateral trade and energy cooperation. Head of the delegation and Honorary Consul Designate of Romania in Sindh, Atif Farooqi met President CCI Prahova, Marius Marinescu during the visit. Chairman PRBC and Deputy Head of the delegation Sohail Shamim Firpo also accompanied him, said a PRBC press release received here. The meeting focused on strengthening institutional and commercial linkages between Pakistan and Romania, particularly through the proposed Ploiesti-Karachi Energy Bridge. The proposed framework aims to link Prahova’s expertise in oil and gas, refining, petrochemicals, industrial engineering, energy services and equipment manufacturing with Pakistan’s growing energy, industrial, infrastructure and commercial requirements.

Federal govt warns KP against using Pashtun card

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The federal representatives have warned the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government against playing the Pashtun card, saying the state will not be allowed to be held hostage by political groups.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Coordinator Ikhtiar Wali and Parliamentary Secretary Dania Chaudhary made the remarks at a press conference in Islamabad on Monday.

Ikhtiar Wali said the government believed in a policy of reconciliation but accused Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of deliberately sabotaging negotiations. He said the Pashtun card was being used for crude propaganda and urged the Khyber



Pakhtunkhwa government to stop using it for political purposes. Ikhtiar Wali said the Pakistan Army and the state were working to protect the Pashtun people. He also alleged that the PTI was being controlled remotely from Afghanistan and claimed that Afghanistan was taking direction from India while India was receiving funding from Israel.

Dania Chaudhary said the PTI was like a non-customs-paid vehicle that could not travel beyond Mardan.

Three-Day urs of Hazrat Kalu Baba Sarkar begins, shrine washed in sacred ceremony

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MANSAR SHARIF: The three-day annual Urs celebrations of Hazrat Kalu Baba Sarkar (RA) began at Mansar Sharif, District Attock, with a spiritual and blessed ceremony to wash the shrine. A large number of devotees and personalities associated with Darbar Sharif participated in the ceremony. The shrine was washed under the leadership of Raja Sarfraz Akram, Khadim of Darbar Sharif Hazrat Imam Bari Sarkar (RA) and Darbar Hazrat Kalu Baba Sarkar (RA). Raja Imtiaz Janjua, Raja Shahzad Janjua, Raja Ayaz Janjua, Raja Riaz Janjua, Umar Qadusi, Waseem Abbas and Syed Israr



Hussain Shah, along with others, participated in the sacred ceremony. The washing of the shrine formally marked the opening of the three-day annual Urs celebrations of Hazrat Kalu Baba Sarkar (RA). Special prayers were offered for the safety and prosperity of the country and nation, peace and harmony, and the well-being of the visiting devotees.



Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani leading Parliamentary delegation comprising senators and MNA’s participating in PUIC consultative session in Arusha, Republic of Tanzania.

Fish, Seafood Exports Reach \$125m in First Quarter: Junaid Anwar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry said on Monday that Pakistan’s fish and seafood exports rose by 74.4 per cent in value during the first quarter of the current fiscal year, reaching \$125.4 million against \$71.9m during the last two fiscal years. Increase in export earnings underscores the growing economic potential of the marine fisheries sector as Pakistan seeks to expand its blue economy, he said in a statement. Junaid Chaudhry noted that export volume also rose by 74.8pc over the three-year period, increasing from 35,294 metric tonnes (MT) in the first quarter of 2024-25 to

61,679MT in the same quarter of 2026-27. He said fish exports stood at \$93.28m during the first quarter of 2025-26, before rising to \$125.4m in the first quarter of the current fiscal year, the minister said adding in terms of volume, exports increased from 35,294MT in Q1 2024-25 to 43,995MT in Q1 2025-26 and reached 61,679MT in Q1 2026-27.

The minister noted that both the value and volume of fish exports had grown substantially over the past three years, with the rise in export earnings broadly keeping pace with the increase in volume. He said the fisheries sector was an important component of Pakistan’s coastal economy, providing livelihoods to

fishing communities while generating foreign exchange through exports of fish and other marine products. Junaid Chaudhry appreciated the performance of the Marine Fisheries Department, particularly its record export earnings of \$568 million during FY2025-26. He said the opening of new international markets, particularly Russia, for Pakistani fisheries products was another significant achievement. He said recent initiatives to resume shrimp exports to the United States, along with the revival of the fishing licensing regime in Pakistan’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), would help promote the sustainable utilisation of the country’s marine fisheries resources.

WUM students honour teachers on Teacher’s Day, VC appreciates gesture

PEAK POINT

MARDAN: Women University Mardan celebrated Teacher’s Day in the presence of Honourable Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana, who joined faculty members and students in cutting a cake to mark the occasion. Addressing the participants, the Vice Chancellor expressed her sincere appreciation to the students for remembering Teacher’s Day and organizing the celebration. She highlighted the vital role of teachers in shaping students’ character, knowledge, and future. Dr. Farah Khan, Head of the Institute of Education & Research



(IER), and Mr. Kamran Khan, Campus Coordinator, Bakhshali Campus, along with other faculty members and students, also attended the event. The celebration reflected the mutual respect and appreciation between teachers and students and acknowledged the dedication of teachers towards the academic and personal development of students.