



President Zardari calls for transforming Pakistan-Poland cooperation into multifaceted partnership



Talal Ch says PTI ensured talks remained fruitless



Pakistan, Uzbekistan discuss enhanced economic cooperation, trade ties

Founded By:
(Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

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

Executive Group Editor
Arif Mehmood Khan



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PM seeks greater ILO facilitation for int'l certification, training of Pakistan's skilled workforce

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said Pakistan valued its promising partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) in creating opportunities for productive employment for the country's youth and skilled labour. The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with ILO Director General, Gilbert F. Houngbo, who called on him along with his delegation at the Prime Minister's Office, a news release said.

The prime minister warmly welcomed the ILO Director General and appreciated the robust cooperation between Pakistan and the organization. He underlined the need for greater ILO facilitation in the international

certification and professional training of Pakistan's skilled labour, in line with the standards of the international labour market.

The prime minister said that, in line with international covenants, the government was taking effective measures for the welfare, protection and professional progression of the national labour force.

He highlighted that, to enhance industrial growth, productivity and the competitiveness of the labour market, the government had reinvigorated the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA). He added that greater collaboration and constructive engagement with the ILO could further strengthen SMEDA's initiatives.



ISLAMABAD: H.E. Gilbert F. Houngbo, Director General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Five India-backed terrorists killed, two injured in North Waziristan: security sources

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Security forces killed five India-backed terrorists and injured two others during an operation targeting militant hideouts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's North

Waziristan district, security sources said on Tuesday.

According to sources, security forces targeted militant hideouts in North Waziristan and surrounding areas during the operation. Security forces remained committed to eliminating terrorism and establishing lasting peace in the region, security sources said. President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif praised security forces for the successful operation against the militants.

In a statement, the president said that effective operations by security forces were playing an important role in thwarting the "heinous designs" of terrorist elements.

Operations against Fitna al-Khawarizj would continue until terrorism was completely eliminated, he added. PM Shehbaz said that forces had taken decisive action against Fitna al-Khawarizj and foiled the terrorists' designs. He said operations against terrorist outfits would continue until terrorism was completely eliminated.

Saudi-led coalition destroys Houthi targets after Riyadh airport, Aramco refinery attacked

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Yemen's Houthi rebels on Monday said they had struck Riyadh's international airport, an Aramco refinery and several other sites in Saudi Arabia, as the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen said they had destroyed Houthi targets on the Red Sea coast.

Pakistan and Turkey meanwhile pledged to deploy troops to Saudi Arabia under a new mutual defence pact following weeks of Houthi attacks, as Riyadh and its Yemeni government allies began an ambitious push aimed at retaking all territory held by the group.

The Yemeni military said it carried out more than 1,000 strikes and began an offensive against the Houthi-held capital, Sanaa, while the Saudi-led coalition supporting the internationally recognised government said 100 warplanes flew sorties at dawn.

Turki Al-Malki, spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition said on X that its naval forces had hit "military targets" belonging to the Houthis in Hodeida on the Red Sea coast. They "destroyed weapons depots, facilities storing booby-trapped boats and naval mines" and had "thwarted a planned attack" targeting waterways in the southern Red Sea, he said. Loud explosions rattled Riyadh on Monday evening as the fighting escalated, and a Houthi spokesman said the group had hit the Saudi capital's King Khalid International Airport as well as an Aramco refinery and other targets in the kingdom's south.

PTI terms PM Shehbaz's dialogue offer 'merely symbolic'

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan termed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's offer for talks a "merely symbolic"

one, saying that no positive step has been taken beyond extending the invitation. Speaking to journalists in Rawalpindi, Barrister Gohar said his party had been denied a meeting with its jailed founder Imran Khan for a year, with the last meeting taking place in October last year. "We have always stood with the state of Pakistan," he said, adding that despite the party's good intentions, it was still not being allowed to meet its leader. The PTI chairman's remarks came hours after the prime minister extended a conditional offer of talks to the PTI, provided it ends its ongoing long march towards Islamabad. Addressing an event in Islamabad, PM Shehbaz warned that the politics of sit-ins and long marches would first target the country's economy. "I urge you to come to your senses, end the long march and sit-in, and then we will sit with you," PM Shehbaz said. Meanwhile, Barrister Gohar said the PTI founder's sisters were non-political but had been taken into custody.

Four FBR personnel shot dead in DI Khan: Police

PEAK POINT

DI KHAN: Four personnel of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and a cop were martyred and another was injured in separate incidents of firing in Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, police said on Tuesday.

District Police Officer Ziauddin Ahmed said that some armed men opened fire, leaving FBR personnel martyred near Abhaya Bridge. He said that the bodies of the slain personnel were later shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital.

UN chief hails Pakistan's 'pivotal role' in US-Iran conflict, calls for 'return to diplomacy'

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday lauded Pakistan's "pivotal role" in mediating between the United States and Iran as he called on the parties to end the conflict and return to diplomacy.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad alongside Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, he said: "Pakistan's spirit of engagement is front and centre on issues of international peace and security. I salute Pakistan's leadership for helping to create the conditions for dialogue between the US and Iran and mediating that conflict. Your efforts helped deliver the Islamabad memorandum of understanding, the subsequent ceasefire and the framework for future

negotiations. Every set of his speech, the UN Pakistani should be proud chief said that it was "wonderful to be back in Pakistan".



"And from Islamabad, I want to send a loud and clear message to all parties: end the conflict, return to diplomacy and restore navigational rights in accordance with international law. There will never be peace. X in the region until the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people is recognised, as Pakistan has long championed," he said. At the out-

He asserted that Pakistan mattered not only because of its size, but because it brought an "essential perspective" to global debates.

"For decades, Pakistan opened its doors to millions of Afghans fleeing conflict and instability. Communities around this country shared whatever they had with people seeking protection and safety," Guterres said. He added that the UN was committed to working together with the country to uphold protection principles and ensure that returns of Afghans "proceed in a voluntary, safe and dignified way". According to the UN chief, Pakistan had put a spotlight on the value of multilateralism, dialogue, mediation and diplomacy at a time of growing division and mistrust around the world.

Al-Qadir Trust case: PTI lawyers approach FCC for early hearing of Bushra Bibi's appeal

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Senior members of the PTI legal team on Tuesday approached the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) seeking early fixation of a criminal appeal filed by former first lady Bushra Bibi in the £190 million Al-Qadir Trust case. The former first lady was handed a seven-year sentence in the case in January last year, and is currently imprisoned at Rawalpindi's Adiala jail. The court found Imran and Bushra guilty of giving undue favours to property tycoon Malik Riaz in retrieving his laundered money from the United Kingdom. Bushra, along with Imran, had initially moved the Islamabad High Court (IHC) for the suspension of her sentence in July last year. But the high court dismissed their requests in May 2026, observing that their appeals against their convictions had already been fixed for hearing. On Tuesday, led by PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja and Barrister Salman Safdar, the lawyers requested the court office to fix the criminal appeal for an early hearing before an appropriate bench of the top court.





SPORTS



Bangladesh beat Pakistan in U19 Women's T20 tri-series



PEAK POINT

FAISALABAD: Bangladesh U19 Women beat Pakistan U19 Women by 13 runs in the fourth match of the Rivaj Presents the University of Lahore U19 Women's T20 Tri-series at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad on Tuesday.

This was Pakistan's second defeat in the tournament.

Batting first, Bangladesh U19 Women scored 139 for five in their allotted 20 overs before restricting Pakistan U19 Women to 126 for seven.

Bangladesh were reduced to four for two in the second over

before Ochena Jannat Emanta and Nishita Akter Nishi helped steady the innings. Nishita scored 20 off 19 balls, hitting three fours, while Emanta contributed 17 off 18 balls.

Sadia Islam then scored 24 off 21 balls, hitting three fours before the tourists slipped to 88 for five in 13.1 overs.

Sadia Akter and Farjana Easmin Medha added an unbeaten 51 runs for the sixth wicket to take Bangladesh to 139 for five.

Sadia remained unbeaten on 33 off 33 balls, including two fours and a six, while Farjana scored an unbeaten 28 off 22 balls with three

fours and a six.

For Pakistan, right-arm off-spinner Rozina Akram returned figures of two for 21, while Maham Nazakat took two wickets for 22 runs.

In turn, Pakistan made a strong start as openers Komal Khan and Ravail Farhan added 69 runs.

Komal top-scored with 36 off 29 balls, hitting four fours and a six, while Ravail scored 32 off 29 balls with six fours.

The tourists hit back by removing Komal and Ravail in the 10th over before Areesha Ansari was dismissed for one in the following over.

Zoofishan Ayyaz scored 32 off 30 balls and kept Pakistan in the contest, but regular wickets slowed the chase.

Farjana was the pick of the Bangladesh bowlers, taking three wickets for 25 runs in four overs, while Nishita took two for 28.

Bangladesh – the table toppers will take on Sri Lanka in the fifth fixture of the tournament on Thursday, 8 October.

Scores in brief: Bangladesh U19 beat Pakistan U19 by 13 runs at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad Bangladesh 139-5, 20 overs (Sadia Akter 33 not out, Farjana Easmin Medha 28.

Pak-India to clash on opening day of Hong Kong Sixes 2026



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will face traditional-rivals India on the opening day of the Hong Kong Sixes 2026, with the three-day tournament scheduled to begin on October 30.

The 22nd edition of the tournament will feature 12 teams divided into four groups, with all matches to be played at the Tin Kwong Road Recreation Ground in Kowloon from October 30 to November 1.

Pakistan have been placed in Group C alongside India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The defending champions will begin their campaign against the UAE before facing India later the same day.

Group A comprises Australia, England and hosts Hong Kong, while Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Scotland are in Group B. South Africa, Afghanistan and Oman form Group D.

Pakistan are the defending champions, having won the title for the sixth time last year after defeating Kuwait in the final.

The tournament will conclude on November 1, when the final will be played.

W15 Islamabad World Tennis Women's Futures Championships begins at PTF Complex



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The first leg of the W15 Islamabad-World Tennis Women's Futures Championships 2026 commenced on Tuesday at the PTF Tennis Complex, Islamabad, with players from 17 countries competing in the prestigious international event.

W15 Islamabad World Tennis

Futures onship.

France's Astrid Citroite, currently ranked World No. 624, is the top seed of the tournament.

A total of 30 players representing France, China, Russia, Denmark, Mexico, Pakistan, South Africa, the Netherlands, Korea, Nepal, Japan, Hong Kong, Germany, Romania, Thailand, Türkiye, the Czech Republic and

Pakistan are participating in the championship. A total of nine

matches were played on the opening day.

In the women's singles first round, Florentine Dekkers (Netherlands) defeated Kei Yau Cheung (Hong Kong) 6-1, 6-4, while Gloria Levinsky (Czech Republic) beat Serife Pelin Sari (Türkiye) 6-0, 7-5.

Russia's Varvara Rubtsova registered a 6-1, 6-0 victory over South Africa's Nissa Finnigan, while Uzbekistan's Sabrina Olimjanova defeated Warona Mdulwa of South Africa 6-2, 6-3.

Emma Van Poppel (Netherlands) advanced without playing after Ru Xi Wu of China withdrew. Russia's Ksenia Laskutova defeated Pakistan's Ushna Suhail 6-2, 6-0.

Djokovic wins China Open after de Minaur retires



Alcaraz wins Japan Open for first title since return from injury

PEAK POINT

Carlos Alcaraz won his first title since returning from a four-month injury layoff after beating the Czech Republic's Jiri Lehecka 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 in Tuesday's Japan Open final.

Top seed and defending champion Alcaraz was made to work hard by world number 19 Lehecka in Tokyo before going on to lift his first trophy since the Qatar Open in February.

It was Alcaraz's third tournament since coming back from a wrist injury, following a run to the US Open quarter-finals and an appearance at the Laver Cup.

"A lot of negative thoughts come to your mind, if you're going to come back healthy, if you're going to be the same as I was before," said Alcaraz.

"A lot of thoughts came to my mind but I tried to put those thoughts away all the time.

"My team and I knew that when I came back I was going to be healthy 100 percent and if I feel something, it's not going to be anything at all."

This was the world number three's third title of the

to-head record against Lehecka, who was looking to win his first title of the year.

Alcaraz had his service broken immediately by a confident-looking Lehecka, who gave his top-seeded opponent no time to settle.



year including the Australian Open, and the 27th of his career.

It came hours after world number one Jannik Sinner announced that he had brought a premature end to his season due to an ongoing knee injury.

Alcaraz went into the final with a 3-1 career head-

The Spaniard broke back in a long tussle midway through the first set and followed that up with a brutal display of power tennis in the next game.

Lehecka proved a tough nut to crack though, and Alcaraz needed to pull out a pair of spectacular drop shots to clinch the first set.

England humble Croatia 7-0 as Kane and Saka strike twice





Pakistan's first high-tech automatic beeswax foundation sheet manufacturing unit inaugurated

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain said that the establishment of the modern beeswax foundation sheet manufacturing unit marks an important milestone in the development of Pakistan's beekeeping industry.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Pakistan's first high-tech automatic Beeswax Foundation Sheet Manufacturing Unit at the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), the minister said that the honeybees play a vital role not only in honey production but also in crop polli-

nation, agricultural productivity and national food security.

The state-of-the-art facility has been established at the Honeybee Research Institute to modernize Pakistan's beekeeping sector, promote local production of high-quality beeswax foundation sheets and improve beekeepers' access to advanced technology.

The minister said that the new automated unit would facilitate local beekeepers by ensuring access to quality beeswax foundation sheets, thereby contributing to improved honey production and quality.

He stressed the importance of extending modern

technology and scientific beekeeping practices to beekeepers across the country, particularly small-scale entrepreneurs and young people.

Rana Tanveer Hussain said that Pakistan possesses significant potential for producing diverse varieties of high-quality honey.

He emphasized that, alongside increasing production, greater attention must be paid to quality assurance, certification, traceability, value addition, modern packaging and effective marketing to fully capitalize on this potential.

He further stated that Pakistani honey needs to be promoted more effectively in international markets. Expanding access to high-

value markets, including Europe, Japan and North America, should remain a key objective. Improved quality and value addition can help increase honey exports while enhancing the incomes of farmers, beekeepers and businesses associated with the sector.

The Federal Minister encouraged young people to consider beekeeping as a modern and emerging agribusiness opportunity. He said that access to advanced technology, research, training and markets could enable the beekeeping sector to generate new employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for youth.

H i g h l i g h t i n g Pakistan-Türkiye cooperation, Rana Tanveer Hussain said that relations between the two brotherly countries are founded on mutual respect, trust and long-standing friendship. He appreciated the valuable contribution and support of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TICA) to Pakistan's agriculture and rural development sectors. The Federal Minister said that cooperation between Pakistan and Türkiye would be further strengthened in agricultural research, modern technology, beekeeping and rural development.

He expressed confidence that the high-tech Beeswax Foundation Sheet Manufacturing Unit would play an important role in

modernizing Pakistan's beekeeping industry, strengthening domestic capacity and enhancing the competitiveness of Pakistani honey in international markets.

During the ceremony, Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain formally inaugurated the high-tech automatic Beeswax Foundation Sheet Manufacturing Unit. He also visited different sections of the facility and received a detailed briefing on the modern machinery installed at the unit and the process involved in manufacturing beeswax foundation sheets.

Residents oppose Cantonment Board charges on private water bores

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Residents of Azizabad and Mughal Abad have rejected the Cantonment Board's decision to charge a Rs7,000 no-objection certificate (NOC) fee and monthly billing on privately installed water borewells, terming the move unjustified and an added financial burden on households. They said the private bores had been installed from their own pockets to meet basic water requirements,

adding that the Cantonment Board had neither financed nor helped in their installation, construction, maintenance or operation. The issue was discussed at a consultative meeting attended by a large number of residents, where participants voiced serious concern over the decision. The meeting unanimously called for the immediate withdrawal of the Rs7,000 NOC fee as well as all monthly charges imposed on privately developed water sources. Residents main-

tained that they had arranged these water facilities through their own resources and were already bearing the cost of upkeep. They said fresh charges would further increase pressure on families that had made private arrangements due to their need for water. They argued that people should not be asked to pay additional fees for facilities established and maintained by them without any financial support from the Cantonment Board. The participants described both

the NOC fee and the monthly billing as unfair and unacceptable. The meeting also expressed disappointment over the absence of elected representatives. Residents said no councillor, MNA or MPA attended the gathering to listen to their concerns or stand with them over a matter affecting their daily lives and household expenses. Participants said elected representatives should remain available to their constituents, particularly when official decisions have

a direct impact on local communities and their financial situation. The residents urged the Cantonment Board and other relevant authorities to take immediate notice of their complaints and hold direct consultations with the affected community for a workable solution. They also called upon their elected representatives to intervene and play their due role in resolving the dispute, instead of staying away while residents face the financial impact of the deci-

sion. Residents demanded that the Rs7,000 NOC fee and all monthly charges on privately installed water bores be withdrawn without delay. They said the matter was linked to access to water, a basic necessity, and should be addressed on priority. They further stated that they would continue to raise their voice through peaceful and lawful means until their demands were accepted and the charges were withdrawn.

Opinion & Editorial

Arifa Noor
AST night, I dream of
Hogwarts again.
Indeed, the time is ripe
to revisit Harry Potter and
Hogwarts — the boarding
school where the series is
based — for here in Pakistan,
we are living in the most
'confunding' times possible.
Surely, the 'Confundus
Charm' has been used on
everyone. And the result is
greater confusion than ever
before. Let us begin at the
beginning. Of late, the sooth-
sayers among our midst, like
Prof Trelawny, have rarely
got a prophecy right. For
days, they told us ominously
that decisions had been made.
First came the warning about
the departure of Sohail
Afriidi. Within days, we were
forewarned. And then the tea
leaves predicted an emergen-
cy in KP. Apparently, it was
the only province with a dys-
functional government — the
rest are all on their way to
winning the Triwizard Cup.
But these leaf readers do
not face consequences.
Indeed, they were hardly
employed for their compe-
tence. For a number of them,
the job has not been to report,
analyse, or communicate.
Instead, comfortably
employed, they do what a
'howler' does in the Harry
Potter series — pass mes-
sages to those who have fallen
into disfavour, before
'self-destructing' once the
job is done. Dignity and cred-
ibility appear to have little to
do with messaging — neither
for these 'journalists' nor the
politicians who tweet similar

Of protests and parleys

It's a tale of missed opportunities by both the government and the opposition. The two-day talks briefly sparked euphoria, fostering a belief that a consensus was at hand to pave the way for much-needed political stability. That belief, however, proved to be an illusion. The opposition blamed the treasury for moving the goalposts, while the government questioned the opposition's sincerity. This stalemate has unfortunately forced both sides back into rigid stances, pushing an already fragile politico-economic order into even more chaotic territory.

The 'long march' that has commenced from K-P with the intent to enter the federal capital is fraught with consequences. The government has signalled a zero-tolerance stance as the twin cities have remained highly barricaded over the last three weeks. The opposition, meanwhile, insists that its protest is to seek a lawful resolution to its grievances, most of which pertain to the implementation of the August 18 Supreme Court order. The breakdown in parleys, nonetheless, has now breached the divide, and only an act of statesmanship from either side can salvage the worsening situation. The talks hit snags because the government — as alleged by the opposition — was unwilling to allow a meeting with the imprisoned PTI leader.

Magical confusion

Be that as it may, the problem lies less with the messengers and more with the higher-ups guiding them, and who tell them to announce a disqualification one day and an emergency the next. And then opt for talks, which clearly were not going to succeed — because neither side wanted to negotiate. They simply wanted to win. Pakistan's current political landscape bears a striking resemblance to the world of Harry Potter.

Consider that for weeks, the PTI was pushing for access to Imran Khan and treatment for his health issues but by the time the talks were held, the focus shifted to terrorism. The government had spent most of its energies on explaining how the party's founding chairman was fine and was receiving the medical treatment he needed, and the PTI was just kicking up a fuss for nothing. And then it all shifted. Terrorism entered the conversation as abruptly as the short-lived romance between Hermione and the character called Krum in the fourth Harry Potter book.

But while the romance twist was undeveloped, the same cannot be said of the terrorism angle in our politics. Terrorism and its causes have been discussed for very long. But it seems the root of the matter remains unclear to those in power. For longer than can be remembered, the state's entire focus has been on pushing the idea that terrorism in Pakistan is due to

the foreign hand. The groups carrying out attacks are called Fitna al-Hindustan and Fitna al-Khawarij. When attacks take place in Pakistan, it puts pressure on the relationship with Kabul as usually the attacker's identity is linked to the lands across the border, also referred to as the 'Durand Line'. Operations are carried out and these slow down the pace of attacks. It was all to do with the external enemies. Suddenly, it turns out that terrorism is due to the uncooperative attitude of the PTI government in Peshawar. This hits as hard as the unexpected death of Sirius Black in the Potter series. Who does one blame now for the attacks? The PTI or the Afghan Taliban? More confusion. It will get worse, I fear, as the talk of emergency and disqualification is back. More howling shall now commence. None of this is to suggest that the other side, the PTI, is the hero here. It is about as self-pitying and as tolerable as Kreacher the elf. The party announced the 'long march' without any strategy or plan; it didn't even consult its allies such as the TTAP. Frankly speaking, all it wanted to do was escape the growing anger of its supporters. And once the announcement was made, then the party leadership (if it can be called that) sat down to figure out a plan. The solution it found was to hope for talks and a negotiated end, allowing it to cancel the march.

Courtesy Dawn

Broadcasting ideas

Muhammad Hamid Zaman

I keep returning to the Iqbal Memorial Lectures by Professor Abdus Salam, given in mid 1960s and broadcast by Radio Pakistan. I have written about those lectures in these pages in the past. As I listened to them again recently, I wondered about how much we may have lost in the last six decades. It goes without saying that if Salam was alive today, he would not be welcome on any public platform. A tragedy of equal measure is that even after his death three decades ago, many would think twice, and probably not even entertain the idea of playing his lectures publicly. Unfortunately, they have good reason to be concerned. But my point today is not about the intolerance of society, though so much needs to be said on that. It is about what is viewed, by the media industry and the public sector, as worthy of supporting. Salam's lectures are brilliant, thought provoking, deeply researched and analytical. At the same time, they are about philosophy, history of science and physics — areas that were not topics of common discussion in households and gathering of friends in the 1960s. Most of all, they are in English — a language that is (and was) spoken and understood by a small segment of society. We may like to imagine the 1960s of Pakistan as a land of milk and honey, despite the evidence to the contrary, but even the most optimistic picture of that era would tell us that these topics were academic, complex and catering to a small group. From a purely market perspective, supporting these lectures is a non-starter. Why not have songs, dramas, or whatever form of entertainment is the most popular flavour of the day? Yet, Radio Pakistan chose to broadcast them, and six years later, they continue to have a life of their own. The question to ask is if these ideas were worthy of support then, why not now? Why has our calculus become so narrow on ratings and revenue that we cannot imagine having serious lectures that are not punctuated by 'breaking news'? Why is the mode of discussion on our channels built on conspiracy theories or personal attacks? What about conversations on important ideas?

Courtesy Tribune

Pakistan, Turkiye supporting Saudi Arabia in anti-Houthi ops in Yemen: Kh. Asif



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has confirmed that Pakistan and Turkiye have been providing support to Saudi Arabia in its operations against Houthis in Yemen.

"Both countries [Pakistan and Turkiye] have a presence here, but the army fighting is that of Saudi Arabia. We are here and providing any assistance they need," the defence czar said while speaking on Geo News programme 'Aaj Shahzeb Khanzada Kay Sath' on Monday.

The Pakistani and Turkish militaries are playing a supportive role in the conflict, he said, adding that the

two forces were involved in "reconnaissance and other things".

"Saudi forces are engaged in combat, and they are reclaiming territories," he said.

His confirmation came after Islamabad, Riyadh and Ankara agreed to ensure the "rapid deployment" of agreed military forces and capabilities in Saudi Arabia.

The three nations took the decision at an emergency meeting of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA) in Riyadh, the Foreign Office said, adding that it would be carried out under "approved arrangements" and the national laws of the three countries.

The Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis said late on Monday that naval forces carried out a military operation in Yemen's Red Sea governorate of Hodeidah.

The Yemeni government forces had already taken key positions, including an airstrip in the Dhubab district at the mouth of Bab el-Mandeb Strait, whose seizure by the

Houthis last month sent shock waves through energy markets.

Meanwhile, the defence minister said that the Saudi-led coalition has reclaimed territories from Houthis, saying the group has retreated from several areas they seized in Yemen last month.

"The Yemeni government is at an advantage there," he added.

Asif clarified that Monday's MJDA meeting in Riyadh was aimed at formalising the organisational structure, with the appointment of the defence pact's secretary-general. Pakistan's Lieutenant General Nauman Mahmood (ret'd) was appointed the first secretary-general of the MJDA for a three-year term, as Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye moved to strengthen the alliance's collective response to threats facing the kingdom. Islamabad, Riyadh and Ankara signed the Makkah trilateral agreement on August 7, which provides for collective security and defence cooperation among the three states.

Talal Ch says PTI ensured talks remained fruitless

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Tuesday accused the PTI of hiding most of the facts related to negotiations that took place to prevent the party from marching towards Islamabad.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, he said that PTI deliberately prevented the negotiations from reaching any conclusion. "Matters related to terrorism were overlooked during the talks," he said. Talal said that a consensus had developed on basic points of the agreement. "The government's negotiating team had even invited KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi to the talks," he said, adding that an agreement had been reached on the provision of medical facilities to Imran Khan and his meetings with his family members and



lawyers. "A breakthrough was imminent; however, the chief minister set conditions at the eleventh hour, which torpedoed the parleys," the minister lamented. He said that after talking to the CM Afridi, PTI's negotiating team started to back out of its commitments. He alleged that the PTI leaders did not attend funeral prayers for the martyred Pakistan Army personnel. "The elimination of terrorism from Pakistan is extremely necessary. The security and defence of the country are over and above political interests and affiliations," Talal asserted.

Shaza, Kamal, review progress on 'One Patient, One ID' project

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja and Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal on Tuesday reviewed progress on the "One Patient, One ID" project and agreed on a joint roadmap to make it operational soon. The meeting was held on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. According to the Ministry of IT, under the proposed system, a citizen's Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC) number will serve as their unique medical record number, allowing all medical records to be linked to a single identification number. The ministry said the system would enable doctors and hospitals to access a



patient's complete medical history and previous records when the patient is shifted from one hospital to another. "Technology and healthcare are being combined in the best possible way to make the medical treatment system more transparent and modern through digital medical records," Shaza Fatima Khawaja said. The meeting stressed taking practical measures and preparing clear terms of reference (TORs) to ensure the early implementation of the project.

President Zardari calls for transforming Pakistan-Poland cooperation into multifaceted partnership

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday said Pakistan valued its cordial relations with Poland, which were based on mutual respect, and expressed hope that the visit of the Polish dignitary would transform existing bilateral cooperation into a multifaceted partnership for the mutual benefit of the two nations. He was talking to Minister, Member of the Council of Ministers and Coordinator of Special Services of the Republic of Poland, Tomasz Siemoniak, who called on him here at Aiwan-e-Sadr, a Presidency's news release said. The president appreciated Poland's recognition of Pakistan's diplomatic efforts during the recent US-Iran crisis. He reiterated that Pakistan, as a responsible state, was sincerely working for the resolution of disputes through dialogue for the sake of regional and global peace and stability. Commending Poland's remarkable economic transformation since 1991, which had culminated in a trillion-dollar economy, President Zardari

stressed the importance of transforming the historical friendship through enhanced interaction among the business communities, and frequent people-to-people and leadership-level exchanges. The president also thanked Poland for its support to Pakistan on the European Union's GSP Plus scheme. He expressed confidence that the two countries would reinforce their existing coordination at regional and multilateral forums. Tomasz Siemoniak appreciated Pakistan's constructive role in promoting regional peace and stability. He expressed Poland's desire to further strengthen bilateral cooperation with Pakistan, particularly through enhanced engagement at the political, economic and people-to-people levels. He conveyed warm greetings from the President and the Prime Minister of Poland to President Zardari. He said Poland and Pakistan enjoyed strong and traditional ties, including in the field of defence, particularly through the contribution of Polish Air Force pilots and technicians.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with Tomasz Siemoniak, Minister, Member of the Council of Ministers and Coordinator of Special Services of the Republic of Poland, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Pakistan, Uzbekistan discuss enhanced economic cooperation, trade ties

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Ali Sher Takhtayev on Tuesday called on Advisor to the Prime Minister for Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan and discussed bilateral relations, economic cooperation, trade, investment, exports and people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. During the meeting, Haroon Akhtar said that Pakistan was keen to take its economic relations with Uzbekistan to new heights and further strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, exports and tourism, said a news release. He emphasized that both countries enjoyed brotherly and friendly relations, which provided a strong foundation for expanding mutually beneficial economic and commercial ties. The Advisor said that, in line with prime minister vision, Pakistan was placing particular emphasis on strengthening economic and trade relations with friendly and brotherly countries and creating new avenues for business and investment cooperation.

Three-Day Urs of Hazrat Kalu Baba Sarcar (RA) continues with large number of devotees in attendance

Faisal Karim Kundi, Hanif Abbasi and Daniyal Chaudhry lay floral chaddars and offer fatcha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MANSAR SHARIF: The three-day Urs celebrations of Hazrat Kalu Baba Sarcar (RA) are continuing with religious fervour and devotion at Mansar Sharif in Attock district. A large number of devotees and pilgrims from across the country attended the second day of the Urs and paid their respects at the shrine. On the first day of the Urs, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, Federal Minister Muhammad Hanif Abbasi, Minister of State Daniyal Chaudhry, senior Pakistan Peoples Party leader Chaudhry Riaz, custodian of the shrine of Hazrat Bari



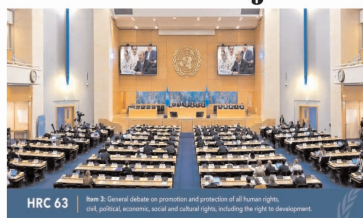
Imam Sarcar (RA) and Hazrat Kalu Baba Sarcar (RA) Raja Sarfraz Akram, Dr. Riaz Shehbaz Janjua, Mohsin Baig, Raja Imtiaz Janjua, Raja Sohail Yousaf, Malik Amin, Naeem Azam Khan, Faisal Khan of Golra, Dr. Asif Janjua, Raja Shehzad Janjua, Raja Ayaz Janjua, Syed Israr Hussain Shah Bukhari and Chaudhry Manzoor.

UN Human Rights Council raises concerns over pretrial detention of Shincheonji Founder Lee Man-hee

PEAK POINT

GENEVA: CAP Freedom of Conscience has raised concerns over the pretrial detention and treatment of Lee Man-hee, the 95-year-old founder and leader of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, during the General Debate under Item 3 of the 63rd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. In an oral statement delivered during the session, the organization drew the Council's attention to the case of Lee Man-hee, a veteran of the Korean War, who is currently being held at the Seoul Detention

Center in the Republic of Korea in connection with what the organization described as non-violent charges. CAP Freedom of Conscience expressed concern over what it characterized as a potentially politically motivated and discriminatory investigation targeting a religious minority. The organization also raised concerns about the conditions under which the elderly religious leader is being detained. According to the statement, despite having a fixed residence and, in the organization's view, posing no flight risk, Lee Man-hee



HRC 63 Item 3: General debate on promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

was kept in cells without air conditioning during Seoul's severe summer heatwave. CAP Freedom of Conscience said the conditions raised serious concerns about the health and well-being of a 95-year-old detainee. The organization told the Human Rights Council that the detention and treatment should be considered in light

of the Republic of Korea's international human rights obligations. It referred to Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which protects against arbitrary detention and requires deprivation of liberty to meet legal and proportionality standards. The statement also cited Article 10 of the ICCPR, concerning humane treatment of persons deprived of their liberty, as well as the Nelson Mandela Rules, which establish international standards for the treatment of prisoners and access to healthcare. It fur-

ther referred to the Tokyo Rules, which promote non-custodial measures and emphasize that pretrial detention should be used only as a measure of last resort. CAP Freedom of Conscience also invoked Article 18 of the ICCPR, which protects freedom of thought, conscience and religion, arguing that religious freedom concerns should be taken into account in the handling of the case. The organization called on the Human Rights Council to urge the Republic of Korea to comply fully with its international treaty obligations.