

Export-led growth, SME financing key to economic revival, says Aurangzeb



Leghari agrees to reduce load shedding in high-loss areas of KP



Shaza Fatima named 'Industry Champion of the Year' at The Fast Mode Awards 2026

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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

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Dar reaffirms govt's commitment to public relief in meeting with JI delegation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing relief to the public amid global economic challenges during a meeting with a Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) delegation led by Liaquat Baloch to discuss petroleum prices and measures to ease the financial burden on low-income citizens. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday met with a delegation of the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) to discuss petroleum prices in the country, with both sides agreeing to "continue their consultations over the coming days to formulate a way forward on energy pricing and public relief," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement. "Dar met with the JI delegation led by Liaquat Baloch, holding candid discussions on practical measures to provide relief to the common man, with a specific focus on easing the economic burden on low-income citizens," said the Foreign Office in a post on X. The meeting came after the government and JI, on October 27, agreed to form a six-member committee to finalise recommendations on expanding the existing petrol relief scheme and preparing proposals for a phased reduction in the petroleum levy. Under the agreement, three members each from the government and JI would examine measures to broaden the scope of the ongoing PM fuel relief scheme to ensure that the maximum number of deserving people benefit from it.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar meeting a delegation of Jammat-e-Islami (JI), led by Mr. Liaquat Baloch, to discuss petroleum prices in the country.

Iran president says return to war benefits 'no one', after reported US strikes



PEAK POINT

TEHRAN: Iran's president Masoud Pezeshkian said on Tuesday that a return to war would benefit "no one", hours after reported US strikes on an Iranian island in the Strait of Hormuz. It came as US voters prepared to cast their ballots in midterm elections that threaten President Donald Trump's grip on power. Iran's chief negotiator in talks with the US, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, said the Islamic republic was "ready for battle with its finger on the trigger", while deputy foreign minister Kazem Gharibabadi said Iran retained the right to "legitimate self-defence" after the strikes. But Pezeshkian said his government was still trying to resolve the crisis "through dialogue", adding that "no one will benefit from this war" if it reignited, and emphasising that the country's supreme leader had recently granted the government new powers to negotiate issues previously "off-limits". The US strikes, reported by The Wall Street Journal, CNN, The New York Times and other outlets, hit Qeshm island in the Hormuz waterway, a key flashpoint of the Middle East war that has upended global markets.

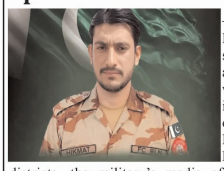
Pakistan successfully tests first indigenously developed Fa'az air-to-air missile



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has successfully conducted the flight test of its first indigenously developed Fa'az air-to-air missile, marking a significant advancement in the country's aerospace and defence capabilities, the military's media wing said on Tuesday. According to a statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the missile is equipped with a state-of-the-art terminal guidance system and is capable of engaging enemy aerial targets at longer ranges. The Fa'az missile is expected to enhance the operational flexibility of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and further strengthen the country's overall defence posture, the statement said. It added that the successful flight test demonstrated the technical maturity, innovation and self-reliance achieved by Pakistan's defence industry. Senior officers of the Pakistan Armed Forces witnessed the launch alongside scientists and engineers involved in the development of the advanced weapon system. President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, as well as the services chiefs, congratulated the scientists and engineers on the successful test. The development follows the Pakistan Army's successful test launch of the extended-range version of the Fatah-2 hypersonic ballistic missile on October 13, 2026. According to the military's media wing, the Fatah-2 Extended Range (ER) weapon system is equipped with advanced navigation and state-of-the-art avionics.

Soldier martyred, 17 terrorists killed in intelligence-based operations in Balochistan: ISPR



PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: A soldier was martyred and 17 terrorists were killed in two intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Balochistan's Kachhi and Kharan districts, the military's media affairs wing said on Tuesday.

According to a statement by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), security forces conducted the IBOs on Nov 1 on the "reported presence of terrorists belonging to Indian proxy Fitna al Hindustan". The state has designated Balochistan-based groups as Fitna al Hindustan to highlight India's alleged role in terrorism and destabilisation across Pakistan. The statement said the first IBO was conducted in the Sanni area of Kachhi district. During the operation, "terrorists' attempt to establish [a] road block in the city was thwarted by proactive action of security forces," resulting in the killing of 10 terrorists. "Weapons and ammunition were also recovered," it added. Separately, security forces busted a terrorist hideout in Kharan and after an intense fire exchange, "seven Indian-sponsored khawarij were sent to hell".

Two polio cops martyred in Mohmand gun attack

PEAK POINT

MOHMAND: Two police personnel were martyred and another sustained injuries when unidentified armed assailants opened fire on them as they were on their way to security duties for an anti-polio vaccination campaign in Mohmand District on Tuesday. The police officials said that the attack on the anti-polio cops took place in the Dag Tamanzai area, where the policemen were travelling to perform security duties for the ongoing anti-polio campaign personnel. The attackers opened fire on the cops, leaving three of them critically wounded.

Saudi envoy receives warm welcome at MORA, hold discussion with Sardar Yousaf

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Dr Rajeh bin Thami Al-Buqami visited the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, where he held a detailed meeting with Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousaf to discuss bilateral relations, cooperation in the religious sector and arrangements for facilitating Pakistani Hajj pilgrims and Umrah visitors. Federal Secretary for Religious Affairs Abrar Ahmed Mirza and Joint Secretary Hajj Syed Abdul Waheed Shah also attended the meeting. Welcoming the Saudi ambassador on his appointment to Pakistan, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf said that relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had entered a new era. He observed that the two countries enjoyed exceptionally strong religious, historical and fraternal ties, adding that



Saudi Arabia had always stood by Pakistan like an elder brother during difficult times. The minister said the Makkah Accord represented the voice of the people and that Pakistan's spiritual and religious bond with the Haramain (the two holy mosques in Makkah and Madinah) would remain intact forever. He added that the people of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were connected through enduring bonds of devotion, love and brotherhood, which continued to strengthen relations between the two countries. Sardar Muhammad Yousaf appreciated the exemplary measures being taken under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to provide maximum facilities to Hajj pilgrims. He also commended the Saudi government's efforts to improve Hajj arrangements and introduce modern facilities for pilgrims.

Describing the Route to Makkah initiative as an excellent project, the minister said it had significantly facilitated Pakistani pilgrims and made their journey for Hajj more convenient.

The federal minister also invited the Saudi ambassador to visit his hometown, Mansehra, expressing hope that his appointment would further strengthen the long-standing brotherly relations and expand cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in various fields.

Speaking on the occasion, Saudi Ambassador Dr Rajeh bin Thami Al-Buqami said his appointment to Pakistan was an honour and that Pakistan had now become his first home. The ambassador observed that serving Hajj pilgrims was a great privilege and said the Saudi leadership attached special importance to serving the Two Holy Mosques and providing the best possible facilities to pilgrims.

'Baseless': PTI rejects reports Imran Khan 'welcomed' suspension of KP govt



PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Tuesday strongly rejected reports that Imran Khan had expressed satisfaction over the end of his party's government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, terming the assertion "completely false". Speaking to the media in Rawalpindi, Gohar said questions had emerged about Imran's views on the party, its movement and the situation in KP following Barrister Salman Safdar's meeting with the incarcerated PTI founder. "One thing I must strongly refute — which some TV channel ran, claiming Khan Sahib said it was very good that his government ended in KP — that is completely false," Gohar said. "Khan sahib never used any such words," he added.



DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

SPORTS



PCB Patrons XI to face Sri Lanka in three-day practice match on today



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: The PCB Patrons XI will take on the Sri Lankan team in a three-day practice match starting Wednesday (tomorrow) at the Islamabad Club Ground as both teams prepare for the upcoming Test series.

Both teams held training sessions at the Islamabad Club on Tuesday, a day before the match.

Patrons XI head coach Ijaz Ahmed Junior said the practice match would provide a valuable opportunity for players selected for the Test series to prepare under match conditions.

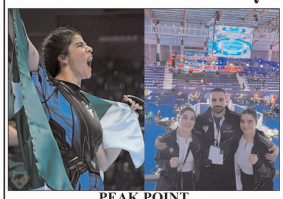
He said all players in the Patrons XI squad had been playing domestic cricket and expressed hope for a good and competitive contest. The PCB Patrons XI captain Saad Baig said red-ball cricket required patience, adding that players needed to adjust quickly to the demands of the longer format.

He also said he felt honoured to lead the Patrons XI and was happy with the responsibility.

The 13-member Patrons XI squad includes seven players from Pakistan's Test squad, giving them a chance to gain valuable match practice before the two-Test series.

The Pakistan Cricket Board has also decided to add two more fast bowlers from the Patrons XI to the national Test squad after the practice match ends on November 6. The first Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka will begin in Rawalpindi on November 9, while the second Test will be played in Lahore from November 17.

Pakistan's Maliha Ali stuns Russian MMA superstar in sensational WC victory



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan's Maliha Ali delivered one of the most electrifying performances of the IMMAF World Championships, defeating Russia's highly rated Veronika Drozdova in a thrilling contest that showcased exceptional striking, tactical intelligence and commanding cage control.Drozdova, a Russian national who's a two time European champion, and one of the country's most formidable rising MMA stars, arrived in Georgia with a reputation as a future World champion and superstar. Representing one of the world's strongest MMA nations, she was considered a clear favourite in her weight division.Russia arrived at the championships with a formidable squad of over 60 athletes, fielding elite competitors across almost every weight category with huge funding from the government and national sponsors like Gazprom. Russia boasts a very established MMA infrastructure, international pedigree and considerable presence in the sport of MMA. Russia remains one of the most powerful forces in international MMA. But Maliha Ali had other plans.In a breathtaking contest, Maliha displayed outstanding striking, intelligent movement and exceptional cage control, taking the fight to her highly regarded Russian opponent and delivering one of the standout victories of the championship.

ICRC National PD Cricket Championship: Lahore and Abbottabad Victorious

Peshawar and KP Stars defeated on second day, Muhammad Aftab scores half-century and takes four wickets



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Lahore won the match on the second day of the ICRC National Physical Disability Cricket Championship and secured first position on the points table, while KP Stars are second, Abbottabad third and Peshawar fourth.On the second day of the ICRC National Physical Disability Cricket Championship being held at Imran Khan Stadium Peshawar, Lahore and Abbottabad won their matches while Peshawar and KP Stars, who had won on the first day, faced defeat. On the occasion of these matches, Secretary Pakistan Physical Disability Cricket Association (PPDCA) Ameeruddin Ansari, CEO Al-Syed Marketing Syed Sher Ali Afridi, Director Imran Khan Stadium Jafar Shah, Regional Heads Sajid Shah, Javed Ashraf, Muhammad Tahir Raja, Tournament Coordinator Nasrullah, Director PPDCA Muhammad Nizam, Sports Journalist Hina Malik and others were also present.In the first match of the second day of the championship, Abbottabad defeated Peshawar by 30 runs. Batting first, Abbottabad scored 158 runs. Muhammad Asad scored 57 off 46 balls and Aftab Hussain played an unbeaten innings of 51 runs off 46 balls. For Peshawar.

Ushna, Meheq, Bismal advance as Sheheryar Malik Memorial Tennis inaugurated



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Ushna Suhail, Meheq Khokhar, Bismal Zia and Fajar advanced as the 10th Sheheryar Malik Memorial Pakistan Open Tennis Championship 2026 was inaugurated at the Nishtar Park Sports Complex on Tuesday. The championship was formally inaugurated by Fazal-ur-Rehman, Member Planning and Development Board, Punjab, who attended the opening ceremony as the chief guest. Prominent tennis personalities, including Rashid Malik (Sitara-e-Imtiaz and Tamgha-e-Imtiaz), Senior Executive Vice President of Punjab Lawn Tennis Association (PLTA), Rao Iftikhar Ahmad, Imran Siddiqui, Waqar Nisar, Sohail Malik, Said Hassan, Mehboob Waheed and tournament coordinator Faheem Siddiqui, players, their parents and tennis enthusiasts were also present on the occasion.The chief guest, Mr Fazal-ur-Rehman, paid glowing tribute to Rashid Malik's late son, in whose memory one of Pakistan's premier national tennis championships is being organised.

23rd Asian Team Squash Championships 2026

Pakistan Mens team have won their first match



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Mens team have won their first match!Other winners today: Hong Kong China Men and Women teams and Malaysia Women team.MATCH RESULTS - DAY 1:Women's TIE 1: Hong Kong Women bt Korea 2-1- WS1: Lee Ka Yi bt Kim Ye-jin 11-9, 11-7, 11-9- WS2: Liu Yang bt Kim Hyo-young 11-8, 11-5, 11-7- WS3: Kim Ga-hye bt Ho Tze-Lok 11-9, 11-7, 9-11, 11-9Men's TIE 1: Hong Kong Men bt Iran 3-0- MS1: Tang Ming Hong bt Seyed Amirmostafa Sohrabian 11-7, 11-5, 11-7- MS2: Lee Tsz Kit bt Mohammadreza Farzad 11-4, 11-7, 11-5- MS3: Chan Chi Hin bt Ali Mousavi 11-6, 11-4, 11-6Women's TIE 2: Malaysia Women bt Iran 3-0- WS1: Ainaa Amani bt Fereshteh Eghtedari 11-6, 12-10, 11-2- WS2: Yasshmita Jadishkumar bt Najmeh Boushehrizadeh 11-3, 11-2, 11-5- WS3: Yee Xin Ying bt Baran Mohammadpoor 13-11, 11-8, 11-5Men's TIE 2: Pakistan Men bt Uzbekistan 3-0- MS1: Noor Zaman bt Muhammadmustafo Abdurakhmonov 11-2, 11-2, 11-4- MS2: Mohammad Asim Khan bt Yakhyokhon Nazirov 11-3, 11-4, 11-2- MS3: Nasir Iqbal bt Botirjon Anvarjonov 11-6, 11-5, 11-6 TOMORROW'S SCHEDULE - 4th November 20261000 hrs - Women's TIE 3 (RR)[3] KOREA.



Quaid-e-Azam Trophy: Peshawar Blues make impressive start as Mohammad Rizwan and Najab Khan score unbeaten centuries

BY SHAKEEL UR REHMAN

PESHAWAR: The 69th edition of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2026-27 got underway across various cities of the country, with 20 regional teams competing in the Gold and Silver divisions of the tournament organized by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).Peshawar Blues made an impressive start to their campaign, scoring 306 for three at the close of play on the opening day against Faisalabad Region at Abbottabad Cricket Stadium.The highlight of Peshawar's innings was outstanding centuries from Mohammad Rizwan and Najab Khan, who shared an unbeaten 179-run partnership for the fourth wicket to put their team in a commanding position.After winning the toss and electing to bat, Peshawar Blues began their innings cautiously. Maaz Sadaqat scored 29 before being caught by Mudassar off Ali Shan, while Israrullah contributed just seven runs before Asad Raza dismissed him, with Atiq taking the catch.Nabi Gul then played a responsible innings, scoring 48 off 93 balls, but was also caught off the bowling of Ali Shan.Following the third wicket, Najab Khan and Mohammad Rizwan took control of the innings with a superb combination of patience and aggression. Both batters completed their centuries and remained unbeaten, frustrating the Faisalabad bowling attack.At stumps, Najab Khan was unbeaten on 101 off 168 deliveries, while Mohammad Rizwan had scored an impressive 111 not out off 142 balls, including two sixes.Peshawar Blues reached 306 for three in 76 overs. For Faisalabad Region, Ali Shan and Asad Raza claimed one wicket each. Peshawar Blues have placed themselves in a strong position. Najab Khan and Mohammad Rizwan will look to extend their partnership on the second day and help their team post a substantial first-innings total.



Only 2 Pakistani Universities enter global top 500, HEC faces questions over quality and funding

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: Despite a sharp rise in the number of Pakistani universities appearing in international rankings, only two have secured places among the world's top 500 institutions, while financial shortages, weak international links and limited industry cooperation continue to hold back the country's higher education sector.The figures were presented by Higher Education Commission (HEC) Chairman Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar during a briefing to the National Assembly Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training on November 3, 2026.The briefing showed a major increase in Pakistan's representation in international university rankings. However, the HEC chairman also admitted that universities face serious challenges, particularly a lack of funding, limited global recognition and difficulties in working with international institutions.According to the HEC, the number of Pakistani universities listed in the QS Asia University Rankings increased from 29 in 2020 to 83 in 2026. Pakistan's representation in the Times Higher Education Asia Rankings also rose from 14 universities in 2020 to 48 in 2026.In the global rankings, the number of Pakistani universities appearing in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings increased from 14 in 2020 to 56 in 2027. The number listed in the QS World University Rankings rose from seven in 2020 to 18 in 2027.Despite this growth, just two Pakistani universities secured places among the world's top 500 in the QS World University Rankings 2027. Twelve Pakistani universities entered the top 1,000 in the same rankings. In the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026, 22 Pakistani universities were placed among the top 1,000.The figures raise an important question about whether the growing number of universities appearing in international rankings is translating into better teaching, stronger research and improved job opportunities for graduates.Dr. Akhtar told the committee that rankings are important because they reflect universities' international reputation, research performance, graduate employment prospects and links with institutions around the world. However, he stressed that improving ranking positions should not be the only goal. The real aim, he said, should be lasting improvements in education quality, university performance and international competitiveness.The HEC chairman identified financial and budgetary shortages as a major problem. He also pointed to barriers linked to international relations, limited recognition of Pakistani institutions abroad and weak cooperation between universities and industries.He explained that international ranking systems examine several areas, including research, employment outcomes, quality of learning, international engagement and sustainability. Pakistan has strong human resources, but financial limits make it difficult for universities to improve in these areas.To address the issue, the HEC has formed a committee on international university rankings. Its task is to develop a coordinated national plan, explain ranking methods to universities and help them identify weaknesses that need improvement.The chairman also informed the committee that around 20 task forces had been formed to study important areas of higher education and recommend reforms.The HEC is reviewing and developing policies covering undergraduate education, education across national borders, liberal arts, dual and joint degree programmes, computing education, curriculum changes and the use of artificial intelligence in academic programmes.Scholarships and international partnerships were also discussed. The HEC highlighted programmes including the Pak US Knowledge Corridor, Fulbright and DAAD scholarships, Quaid i Azam Memorial Scholarships and the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme. The commission also referred to Allama Iqbal Scholarships for international students, academic partnerships with Chinese universities and technology companies, and its Global Scholar Network Portal. The portal aims to connect Pakistani scholars working abroad with universities, teachers and researchers in Pakistan.For faculty development, the HEC said it had launched free artificial intelligence training for teachers and administrative staff in public and private universities.The chairman also highlighted the introduction of an online and paperless degree attestation system developed through cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Inter Boards Coordination Commission.

IWMI urges stronger media engagement to promote water awareness

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Communication Specialist Amjad Jamal has emphasised the need to treat the media as a partner rather than an adversary in promoting public awareness of water and climate-related challenges.

"We must take the media as our friends, not our adversaries," he said while addressing the second day of the sixth Pakistan Water Week 2026, a five-day international conference.

He described journalists as essential allies in translating research and scientific evidence into public understanding and, ultimately, better policymaking.

Amjad Jamal said IWMI had been actively engaging with bureau chiefs, editors and beat reporters to sensitise them to critical water and climate issues.

He cited the institute's Environmental Journalists Quarterly Meetings, organised under CGIAR's Policy Innovations Science Program and the FCDO-funded Water Resource Accountability in Pakistan programme, as a practical example of this engagement. Under these initiatives, journalists covering climate change, water and agriculture are taken on field visits to interact with beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders and observe project sites where IWMI has installed scientific instrumentation.

He said such field engagements enabled journalists to witness interventions firsthand, interact with communities and develop evidence-based stories reflecting ground realities.

He stressed that direct exposure to projects and the experiences of beneficiaries could help strengthen media coverage by ensuring that reporting was informed by firsthand information and credible evidence.

Opinion & Editorial

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Police brutality

The use of excessive force by police personnel remains a serious concern in Pakistan, where allegations of torture and abuse of authority continue to surface despite laws prohibiting such practices. The custodial death of Akmal Ali Khan, allegedly following an assault by policemen at a checkpost in Taxila, calls for immediate accountability. The victim was reportedly beaten following a minor roadside dispute and later declared dead at a hospital. Three police personnel have been booked for murder. Such incidents are grave and must be investigated impartially, with those found responsible subjected to the full force of the law. The persistence of police brutality reflects serious shortcomings in the country's law enforcement system. The police have long operated within a culture that tolerates coercion and intimidation, particularly when dealing with ordinary citizens who lack the means to challenge abuses of authority. Torture is frequently employed as a method of investigation or punishment, while officers accused of misconduct often escape criminal accountability. This has contributed to public distrust of the police and weakened the institution's ability to perform its fundamental duty of maintaining law and order.

Is Rahul Gandhi ambitious?

Jawed Naqvi

MILLIONS of Indians evidently see Rahul Gandhi as their candidate to steer the country out of its deep mess driven by hate-filled divisive politics and a K-shaped economic trajectory plying unprecedented inequality. That seemed to be the unspoken sentiment, if not consensus, at the massive Sunday rally of opposition parties in Delhi against vote theft.

The issue has brought out angry youth on the streets. Rigging of polls betrays, however, an inability to secure popular support through clean elections, which is a blessing.

India is not alone in subverting democracy. Narendra Modi's ride-or-die friendship with Benjamin Netanyahu reveals a shared scorn for secular democracy and minority rights. Netanyahu hopes to disenfranchise Palestinian MPs (strategically called Arabs by a clever political fiat) even as they mock him in turn by holding the balance of power, principally against him, after last week's elections.

Likewise with Modi, whose controversial victories in Bihar and West Bengal recently benefited enormously as his handpicked election commission disenfranchised millions of Muslim voters and other potential opponents of the regime. Netanyahu rewarded Modi's friendship by giving his government the Pegasus spyware among other contraptions to undermine democracy.

One would readily go along with the view that Gandhi makes for a great candidate to don the mantle of prime minister and also restore its prestige. He has displayed the drive to nurse Indian democracy back to health. But is he as equipped as, say, streetfighters like Priyank Kharge or M.K. Stalin or Akhilesh Yadav to deal frontally with the push which will inevitably arrive in the process of dismantling entrenched fascism?

That Sonia Gandhi and both her children — Rahul as the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, Priyanka Gandhi as an outspoken and gritty parliamentarian — called out Israel's genocide in Gaza, while major parties other than the left looked away is cause to celebrate the family — and also something to worry about as it puts them in the crosshairs of many a foreign and domestic interloper. The fact that the RSS chief hosted an Israeli diplomat as chief guest at the Hindutva body's annual day on Dussehra is troubling.

Has anyone bothered to ask Rahul Gandhi if he was himself interested in the job that so many appear keen to award him?

A pivotal question needs to be flagged here about widespread faux expertise over a future prime minister from the opposition. Has anyone bothered to ask Rahul Gandhi if he was himself interested in the job that so many appear keen to award him? A fair guess based on history and Nehru-Gandhi genealogy is that Rahul Gandhi harbours no such ambitions. We could perhaps glean the truth of this hunch from Sonia Gandhi's soon-to-be released memoirs.

The BJP routinely accuses Jawaharlal Nehru and his daughter of political ambition. No Indian prime minister with a clear majority in parliament has offered to resign other than Nehru. In February 1950, Nehru offered to resign as prime minister over the refugee crisis after Partition. Sardar Patel persuaded him to withdraw the offer. Again, in 1958, Nehru announced his desire to step down and take a break from office, citing severe mental fatigue, fading idealism, and deteriorating public standards in Indian politics. A public outcry broke out, and the Congress begged him to stay on.

Did Nehru want his daughter to succeed him? On the contrary, there's plenty of evidence that he desired young socialist leader Jai Prakash Narayan as his deputy in 1952, which JP refused. There was not even a remote hint that he wanted his daughter in his cabinet or to succeed him.

Nehru was wary of Morarji Desai from the right-wing of the party. He engineered a plan for senior cabinet ministers to resign to work at the grassroots with the party.

Courtesy Dawn

The ownership disclosure

Muhammad Hamid Zaman

Last week, the most prominent news in the higher education sector in the US was that the provost (and the chief academic officer) at Dartmouth College resigned. Dartmouth College is a premier institution of higher learning in the United States and while many readers of this newspaper may not really care about a higher education official of a US institution leaving his post, I believe that the reasons for his departure are relevant beyond the US and worthy of our reflection.

Dr Santiago Schnell, who served as the provost at Dartmouth for just over a year, was a well-regarded scholar in the field of mathematical biology.

He had trained at Oxford and prior to his position at Dartmouth, he had worked at Indiana University, University of Michigan and University of Notre Dame. In August and September of this year, two news outlets – Semafor in August and The Dartmouth, the university student newspaper, in September – revealed that Dr Schnell had widely used generative AI in his writing without disclosing its use, including in journals and newspapers where there are clearly laid-out requirements for disclosure, or any use of generative AI is prohibited.

When confronted, Dr Schnell acknowledged using AI for 'language refinement' or 'copyediting' but did not elaborate any further. As a result of the detailed story published in The Dartmouth student newspaper, many students and faculty at Dartmouth College were upset at what they saw was the blatant disregard for the university policies.

They argued that if the student did such a thing (i.e. use AI and not disclose the use), they would get into serious trouble – so why is it that the chief academic officer can get away with it? There were others who found the entire episode distasteful – and antithetical to creativity, originality and transparency.

Courtesy Tribune

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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

Export-led growth, SME financing key to economic revival, says Aurangzeb



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb and Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Ali Hussam Asghar Tuesday discussed key priorities, including export-led growth, improved access to financing for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and a predictable business policy environment. During the meeting, they focused on strengthening role of private sector in economic growth, addressing business community concerns and introducing measures to improve competitiveness, investment and exports, according to LCCI spokesman here.

The finance minister welcomed Ali Hussam Asghar and highlighted the government's commitment in achieving sustainable economic growth through greater private-sector participation, enhanced competitiveness and an expanded export base. He said that exports must remain central to the country's growth strategy and that policies should facilitate exporters in becoming more competitive in regional and international markets.

The meeting was also attended by Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kiyani, Governor of State Bank of Pakistan, Federal Secretary Finance, and senior representatives from the Tax Policy Office, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and Finance Division.

Emphasizing the importance of an improved business environment, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said that ease of doing business requires a facilitative and predictable policy framework, simplified regulatory procedures and effective coordination among relevant institutions.

He underscored the need to address the concerns of businesses, particularly SMEs, and ensure that government policies support investment, productivity, employment generation and business expansion.

Ali Hussam Asghar presented Lahore Chamber's perspective on promoting SMEs, improving access to finance and facilitating business expansion.

Pakistan offers Bangladesh expertise in managing energy crisis amid Mideast conflict

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has offered support to Bangladesh in dealing with the ongoing energy crisis triggered by the Middle East conflict and the subsequent closure of the Strait of Hormuz — a key oil trade route from which around one-fifth of global oil shipments pass. The development came as Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik held a meeting with Adviser on Finance of Bangladesh Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir in Islamabad to exchange views on the evolving global energy situation, its impact on international energy markets, and the measures taken by both countries to address energy supply challenges. According to a statement issued by the Pakistan High Commission in Bangladesh on Tuesday, both sides discussed their respective strategies for managing the unprecedented energy crisis, ensuring uninterrupted fuel supplies and mitigating the impact of rising energy market uncertainties on their economies. The petroleum minister briefed the Bangladeshi adviser on Pakistan's efforts to secure fuel supplies amid challenging global circumstances. He also shared details of the government's initiatives, including targeted fuel subsidy measures, to provide relief to the public while managing the impact of the crisis.

Pakistan secures 11 China education deals for youth skills

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has secured 11 cooperation agreements and 14 skills and education projects with Chinese institutions during Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan's October 27 to November 3 visit to China, aimed at expanding international qualifications, technical training and employment opportunities for Pakistani youth, with Pakistan recording the highest number of signings among participating countries at the 27th China Annual Conference and Expo for International Education (CACIE 2026), according to a pressure release received Here.

The agreements, signed or witnessed by the PMYP chairman, establish cooperation between Pakistani and Chinese institutions in mechatronics, green energy, mobile communications, nursing, modern agriculture, cross-border e-commerce and international skills certification. Of the 11 agreements, PMYP is directly a party to three, signed with the China Global Professional and Technical Certification Center, Jilin Electronic Information Vocational and Technical College, and Peili Vocational College.

The remaining eight involve the University of Lahore, Ghazi University, NUTECH Karachi, Preston Institute of Management Science and Technology, and Punjab Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA), in partnership with Chinese vocational institutions.

The visit also saw the unveiling or witnessing of 14 flagship skills and education initiatives, including an International Nursing Talent Training Base, a Cross-Border E-Commerce Talent Training Base unveiled by Rana Mashhood, Pakistan Tiangong College, a Joint Teacher Training Centre, and new committees on Industrial Robotics and Electronic Information Engineering. In a significant development for employment opportunities linked to the country's railway infrastructure, China Railway Group Secretary Han Hui flew to Pakistan on the same day following strategic discussions with the PMYP chairman to initiate on-ground work on skills training and employment opportunities associated with the Main Line-I (ML-1) railway upgrade.



Chairman PMYP Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan delivering a speech at CACIE 2026 in Bejing China.

Ayaz condemns attack on police personnel deployed for anti-polio campaign in Mohmand

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has strongly condemned the firing incident targeting police personnel deployed to provide security for the anti-polio campaign in Mohmand district, expressing deep sorrow and grief over the loss of precious lives. In a statement issued on Tuesday, the Speaker paid rich tribute to the courage, determination and professional services of the police personnel performing security duties to protect the nationwide anti-polio campaign. He said targeting security personnel engaged in the national campaign to safeguard the future of innocent children was an extremely shameful act. Ayaz Sadiq extended his heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families of the martyred police personnel and prayed for patience and strength for them to bear the irreparable loss.

He also prayed for the early recovery of the police personnel injured in the incident.

Shaza Fatima named 'Industry Champion of the Year' at The Fast Mode Awards 2026

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja has received international recognition for her role in advancing Pakistan's digital landscape, having been named "Industry Champion of the Year" at The Fast Mode Awards 2026. The prestigious honour, presented to only one individual worldwide each year, recognises outstanding leadership and contributions to the telecommunications, satellite and data centre industries. The award marks a significant achievement for Pakistan's technology sector, placing the country's digital transformation efforts on an international platform. According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication on Tuesday, this year's awards attracted more than 500 company nominations from over 60 countries, with participants competing across 11 categories for more than 80 awards. Organised by global technology media platform The Fast Mode, the awards recognise individuals and organisations making notable contributions to technological advancement and digital connectivity.

Kamal warns pharma companies of action over 2D bar-code compliance

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal has warned pharmaceutical companies of strict legal action, sealing of production units, for failing to submit mandatory data for the implementation of 2D barcodes on medicines.

Chairing a meeting to assess progress on the implementation of the 2D barcode system following the October 9 deadline, the minister said around 80 per cent of pharmaceutical companies had initiated the process of introducing 2D barcodes on their medicines.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Executive Officer of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), representatives of relevant institutions and other stakeholders.

Mustafa Kamal and the Ministry of National Health Services decided to issue formal notices to companies that had failed to submit the required data to DRAP.

Leghari agrees to reduce load shedding in high-loss areas of KP

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari on Tuesday agreed to reduce the duration of load shedding in high-loss areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) as part of efforts to improve electricity supply and provide relief to consumers in the province.

The decision was taken at a consultative meeting held at the Power Division on the special directives of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, with Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari and the Federal Minister for Petroleum to formulate sustainable solutions for the power and energy challenges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Federal Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari and the Federal Minister for Petroleum held comprehensive discussions regarding the energy sector challenges in KP. In line with the Prime Minister's vision, the meeting aimed to improve the energy situation and provide relief to the public in close collaboration with the provincial administration.

The high-level meeting was attended by Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, Secretary Power Division , Secretary Petroleum, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Energy, and Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



During the meeting, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi highlighted the overall energy landscape in the province and urged for a meaningful reduction in the duration of load shedding, particularly in high-loss and hard-hit areas. Prioritizing public relief as a goodwill gesture, Federal Minister Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari agreed to reduce load shedding and to extend the duration of electricity supply to high-loss areas that were previously facing prolonged outages.

The federal leadership expressed confidence that the public would reciprocate this goodwill gesture by clearing their outstanding electricity dues and supporting efforts against power theft, ensuring that this sustained power supply can be maintained uninterrupted.

Outlining a sustainable solution, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari stated that the Transformer-Based Load Management System (APMS) is being actively implemented across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Under this modern and automated mechanism, the conventional practice of shutting down entire feeders will be phased out, transitioning load management directly to individual transformers.

Concluding the meeting, the federal government and the provincial leadership agreed to maintain close coordination to ensure the timely execution of the agreed roadmap, delivering prompt and lasting relief to the citizens of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.