



Ayaz congratulates people, leadership of China on 76th National Day



Gilani hosts luncheon for senators; overall political situation reviewed



Landlocked states become land-linked economies: Aleem Khan

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(Late) Rehmata Khan

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10 dead, 32 injured in bomb blast near Quetta's FC headquarters: officials

PEAK POINT

QUETTA: At least 10 people, including soldiers, were martyred and 32 were injured on Tuesday after a bomb blast ripped through a busy street near Quetta's Frontier Corps (FC) headquarters, officials said.

Speaking to Dawn.com, Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar confirmed the death and injury toll. He said, "Ten people have been killed while 32 were injured in the blast. The injured have been taken to the Civil Hospital and Trauma Centre." Separately, he told Reuters that the those martyred in the blast also included soldiers. Meanwhile, Civil Lines Police Station House Officer (SHO) Ameen Jaffar told Dawn.com that "eight bodies were brought to

the Civil Hospital after the blast".

According to the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Special Operations Quetta Muhammad Baloch, the "blast took place when a vehicle turned from Model Town towards Hali Road, close to the Frontier Corps (FC) headquarters".

Television and social media footage captured the moment when the powerful explosion ripped through the street.

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti strongly condemned the incident, calling it a "terrorist attack".

"Following the incident, security forces gave a swift and effective response, eliminating four terrorists," a post from the Balochistan government's X account.



Paramilitary soldiers and rescue workers stand amid the debris after a bomb blast near the Frontier Corps headquarters in Quetta.

Pakistan Army successfully test-fires Fatah-4 cruise missile

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army has successfully conducted the training launch of the newly inducted indigenously developed Fatah-4 Ground Launched Cruise Missile, achieving a range of 750 kilometres.

The advanced weapon system, integrated with modern avionics and sophisticated navigational aids, demonstrated its precision strike capability during the test.

The military's media wing said that the missile - equipped with terrain-hugging features - has been designed to evade enemy missile defence systems, thereby enhancing operational survivability. The system's accuracy and long-range capability are expected to further strengthen the conventional missile.

Pakistan's leadership will decide about sending troops to support 'peace-keeping force' in Gaza: Dar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Tuesday that Pakistan's leadership will decide about sending troops to support the "peace-keeping force" in Gaza, adding that Palestinian law enforcement agencies would be operating on the ground. He shared this while answering a question about whether Pakistan would be deploying any troops in Gaza under a peace plan announced by US President Trump yesterday.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Dar also shared details Trump's meeting with Muslim leaders last week on the sidelines of United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) 80th session.

The meeting, where Trump discussed his place for ending the Israeli onslaught in Gaza,



brought together leaders from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, Egypt, Jordan, Türkiye and Indonesia.

Dar began today's press conference with outlining PM Shehbaz's and his own engagements on the sidelines of the UNGA session.

He said the visit of Pakistan's delegation to the US had two main purposes - one pertaining to activities at the UNGA and the other to work with some "like-minded coun-

tries" on trying to end the misery in Gaza as a "member of the Muslim ummah".

"The prime minister was very clear [about it]. We had had consultations before leaving [for the US] as well. And eight countries, including Pakistan, agreed to take up this matter very proactively with President Trump during the US visit," he said. Dar said a preparatory meeting was held before Muslim leaders' moot with Trump. He added that the meet-

ing with Trump was held with the objectives to try for a ceasefire in Gaza, make arrangements for sending humanitarian aid to the strip without any hurdles, stop the forced displacement of Palestinians and make arrangements for the return of those displaced from the Gaza, plan for Gaza's reconstruction and stop Israel's attempts to annex the West Bank.

"When these objectives were conveyed to him (Trump) and he was asked to work with us on achieving them," Dar said, adding that the US president then proposed that his team would devise a "workable solution" with the foreign ministers of the eight Muslim countries that participated in the meeting.

He said it was decided that the details of meetings held in this regard would be "secret" and "classified".

Seven Indian-sponsored terrorists killed in Khuzdar operation

PEAK POINT

QUETTA: Security forces carried out a large-scale operation against the militant group, Fitna al-Hindustan, in the Zahri area of Khuzdar, resulting in the killing of seven terrorists and injuries to ten others.

The operation followed precise intelligence reports about the group's presence and movements in the surrounding mountains, where they had been intimidating local residents. According to security sources, actionable intelligence indicated.

Pakistan endorses Trump-led Gaza peace initiative at UNSC ME session

PEAK POINT

NEW YORK: At the United Nations Security Council, Pakistan welcomed US President Donald Trump's initiative to advance a peace plan for Gaza and the wider Middle East, in coordination with eight OIC and Arab states.

Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, told the Council members that Islamabad would actively participate in the consultative process to support a sustainable resolution.

"We value the initiative of President Donald Trump, working with eight OIC and Arab countries to advance peace through concrete measures," Ahmad said, addressing a briefing on the Middle



East, including the Question of Palestine (SCR 2334). As a participant in this consultative process, Pakistan will closely engage and play a constructive role in promoting consensus," Ahmad said, stressing that the goal is to alleviate the suffering of Palestinians and achieve a just, comprehensive, and

lasting peace consistent with UN resolutions.

President Trump on Monday said that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has agreed to a US-backed peace plan for Gaza, even as Israeli forces press one of their fiercest offensives in the battered Palestinian enclave.

The proposal calls for a ceasefire and the release of hostages, but its success still hinges on whether Hamas will come on board. Speaking at a joint press conference with Netanyahu, Trump said they were "beyond very close" to forging an elusive peace deal and that he hoped Hamas would also accept it.

Trump warns Hamas over peace plan, recalls India losing 7 jets to Pakistan

PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said that Hamas fighters have only three to four days to respond to Washington's Gaza peace plan, otherwise they could face severe consequences.

Speaking to reporters at the White House, Trump stressed that Israeli and Arab leaders had already approved the proposal, leaving Hamas with a critical choice. The president underlined that the plan is not open to much negotiation. "Hamas is either going to be doing it or not, and if it's not, it's going to be a very sad end," he told the media. According to him, Arab and Muslim nations, alongside Israel, have all expressed their support for the initiative.

Trump said Hamas must decide swiftly on whether to agree to the peace framework. "We're just waiting for Hamas," he added, pointing out that they have between three and four days to deliver a formal response.



SPORTS

PCB suspends player NOCs for overseas T20 leagues: report

Rajiv Shukla requests Asia Cup trophy, Mohsin Naqvi sets conditions



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has suspended all no-objection certificates (NOC) for players who want to participate in T20 leagues outside Pakistan, ESPNcricinfo reported on Tuesday.

According to the report, PCB Chief Operating Officer Sumair Ahmad Syed issued a notice to the players and their agents, making the announcement.

The notification, seen by ESPNcricinfo, read: "With the approval of chairman PCB, all NOCs for players with respect to

participation in leagues and other out of country tournaments are hereby put on hold until further orders."

According to the publication, the reason behind the move is currently unknown.

"Reports have suggested the PCB aims to tie NOCs to a performance based system, the criteria for which has not been made public. The goal, from the board's perspective, is for players to incentivise national and domestic performances. However, there is no information on how long such an evaluation will take before the cur-

rent suspension on NOCs is lifted," the report said.

According to ESPNcricinfo, seven Pakistani players, including Babar Azam, Muhammad Rizwan, and Shaheen Afridi, are expected to take part in Australia's Big Bash League (BBL) which will be held in December.

Additionally, 16 Pakistani players, including Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub and Fakhar Zaman, are in the shortlist to participate in the International League T20 auction which will be held on October 1 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which included Afghanistan and the UAE.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's own domestic first-class tournament, the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, will begin on October 26, with 18 regional teams, divided into three groups, vying for a win.

The development comes two days after the Green Shirts lost the Asia Cup 2025 final against arch-rivals India, after also having lost twice to the Indian team in previous matches during the tournament. The tournament had come on the heels of Pakistan winning the T20 International tri-series which included Afghanistan and the UAE.



PEAK POINT

DUBAI: Rajiv Shukla on Tuesday demanded the Asia Cup trophy from Asian Cricket Council (ACC) President Mohsin Naqvi.

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of ACC President Mohsin Naqvi, during which India's behavior of refusing to participate in the toss and shake hands during matches was condemned.

The ACC also condemned India's attitude of not accepting the trophy from Naqvi. During the meeting, Rajiv Shukla requested the trophy from the ACC President, to which Mohsin Naqvi said that the Indian team captain and Shukla could come to his office to collect it.

Sources state that no decision was reached in the meeting regarding handing over the Asia Cup trophy to the Indian team. It may be recalled that despite winning the tournament, the Indian team remained stubborn about not shaking hands with Pakistani players. Due to this obstinacy, they also refused to receive the trophy from ACC President Mohsin Naqvi. However, ACC President Mohsin Naqvi stood firm on his decision, and the Indian team could not accept the trophy from anyone else at the ceremony. Subsequently, the BCCI formally informed the ACC that the team would not take the trophy, after which the original trophy was sent back from the stadium.

Tahir Munir Awan: A Dedicated Voice for Sports and Athletes in Abbottabad



PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Whenever the conversation turns to the promotion of sports and encouragement of athletes in Abbottabad—the picturesque city of Chinars—and across the Hazara region, one name stands out prominently: Tahir Munir Awan. Known for his sincerity and commitment, Tahir Munir Awan is more than just a journalist; he is a tireless advo-

cate for the growth of sports and the guidance of the younger generation. Unlike many who treat journalism as a personal pursuit, Awan has always used his pen as a tool to highlight positive activities and to steer youth away from negative and unhealthy distractions. His mission has consistently been to encourage young people to engage in sports, helping them harness their talents

and ultimately bring pride to the nation. Hailing from Abbottabad, Awan began his journey in sports journalism at a time when no one was focusing on athletes or sporting events in the region. He, along with Rashid Javed—a senior journalist from a leading English daily—pioneered sports reporting in the region. Through detailed coverage of local events and athlete interviews, Awan played a pivotal role in boosting players' morale and giving them the recognition they deserved. Over time, his dedication established him as a prominent sports writer not only in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but also at the national level. He is also among the founding members of the Sports Writers Association, further proving his long-standing commitment to the profession.

Botched 'surgery' keeps Pakistan spineless in Asia Cup 2025



Fatima Sana vows to make Pakistan proud at ICC Women's World Cup



Pakistan squad named for South Africa Test series

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The national selection committee has named an 18-member squad for the two-Test match series, part of the ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 against South Africa, commencing on October 12.

The squad will be further trimmed before the start of the first Test, said a press release.

Shan Masood will continue to lead the side, while three uncapped players—Asif Afridi, Faisal Akram and Rohail Nazir are also part of the squad.

South Africa, champions of the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25, will take on Pakistan in the first Test at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore from October 12 to 16, while the second Test will be staged at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi from October 20 to 24.

The two-Test match series will be followed by three T20Is and as many ODIs to be played from October 28 to November 8. The squad for the white-ball series will be announced in due

course.

The players for the pre-series camp will undergo training under red-ball head coach Azhar Mahmood and NCA coaches later today till Wednesday, October 8. The players who featured in the recently concluded ACC Men's T20 Asia Cup will join the squad on October 4.

Pakistan squad: Shan Masood (captain), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Asif Afridi, Babar Azam, Faisal Akram, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Kamran Ghulam, Khuram Shahzad, Mohammad Rizwan (wicket-keeper), Noman Ali, Rohail Nazir (wicket-keeper).

Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha.

Saud Shakeel and Shaheen Shah Afridi.

South Africa tour to Pakistan: October 12-16—First Test at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore; October 20-24—Second Test at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi; October 28—First T20I at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi; October 31—Second T20I at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore; November 1—Third T20I at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore; November 4—First ODI at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad; November 6—Second ODI at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad; November 8—Third ODI at Iqbal Stadium.

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Controversy Surrounds BISP's Use of Deputationists as Senate Committee Calls for Reform

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety, chaired by Senator Sardar Al Haj Muhammad Umer, convened today to review the operations, performance, and finances of two key social safety programs: the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal (PBM). While the meeting focused on improvements and the expansion of these vital initiatives, it was also marred by controversy regarding the current management and recruitment

practices at BISP, as well as concerns over financial mismanagement at PBM. The committee's attention was drawn to BISP's reliance on deputationists, with Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of BISP, revealing that 11 senior officers from the Education Department were serving on deputation. While she clarified that no officers from the Health Department were involved, she expressed reservations about the negative impact of such practices on both the deputationists' parent departments and BISP's

operational continuity. The lack of permanent appointments, due to financial constraints imposed by the Finance Division, has further delayed the program's capacity to expand. The committee unanimously recommended summoning the Finance Minister to the next meeting to address the issue of insufficient funding for new hires. The Chairperson of BISP further emphasized the program's transparency and efficiency, stressing that eligibility is strictly determined by poverty parameters and external interference is not tolerated. This

approach, she stated, has earned international recognition for BISP as one of the most transparent social safety programs. Despite the program's credibility, the committee called for its expansion across Pakistan's more remote regions to ensure broader coverage. In addition, the committee reviewed BISP's recent efforts, including the Benazir Nashonuma Programme (BNP) in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), which aims to combat food scarcity by providing nutritious food and healthcare services. This

initiative has led to a reported 6.4% reduction in food scarcity. The committee also received updates on the Benazir Hunarmand Programme, a vocational training scheme for young individuals from BISP beneficiary families, offering courses ranging from three to six months. However, the most controversial discussion surrounded Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal. The committee was alarmed by reports of advance payments made for products that had not been delivered. While officials assured that an inquiry is ongoing, the committee insisted that the

report be expedited and submitted within the next month. The Chairman of the committee urged the Finance Ministry to offer full support to both BISP and PBM, particularly in strengthening their human resource capacity to improve efficiency. The Senate committee's review highlighted the challenges both organizations face, urging swift action to resolve financial constraints, recruitment issues, and procurement mismanagement to ensure these critical social safety nets can better serve Pakistan's vulnerable populations.

Islamabad IT Park Project Under Fire as Lawmakers Warn Korean Contractor Over Delays

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Information Technology Park, a flagship project of Pakistan's digital growth strategy funded through a concessional loan from South Korea, is facing intense scrutiny after falling months behind schedule. Originally expected to be completed in early 2025, the multi-million-dollar facility is now unlikely to be commissioned before early 2026, prompting lawmakers to warn the Korean contractor, SAMHAN Construction Corporation, of possible

blacklisting if immediate progress is not demonstrated. Located in Chak Shahzad on 14.9 acres of land, the state-of-the-art park is designed to serve as a technology hub for 6,000 IT professionals. With a total cost of \$88.8 million, including \$12.5 million in local contributions, the project aims to attract international firms by providing one-stop solutions to legal, tax, and infrastructure challenges, while significantly boosting Pakistan's IT exports. The complex spans 720,000 square feet, offering dedicated spaces for startups,

anchor tenants, a modern data center, an auditorium, and parking for 1,200 vehicles. Officials told the parliamentary committee that physical progress has reached 71 percent, with the gray structure completed but mechanical, electrical, and finishing works lagging. The contract deadline remains October 31, 2025, yet the contractor has admitted that major works may extend to December, with final commissioning pushed to February 2026. Committee members, however, emphasized that the October deadline is final and

any delay will be treated as a contractual violation. SAMHAN Construction cited a series of challenges for the slippage, including the devastating 2022 monsoon floods, import restrictions during Pakistan's dollar crisis, and bureaucratic hurdles in securing financial instruments. The company also faced internal instability, having changed project managers nine times in just 30 months, while cash flow was strained by the depreciation of the Korean Won. A dispute with a local subcontractor further stalled progress. A major

sticking point has been the project's "zero escalation" clause, which fixes costs regardless of fluctuations in currency or materials. SAMHAN pressed for reimbursement of duties and taxes, but both the Ministry of IT and the committee rejected the claim, stressing that such expenses were already accounted for in the bid. Committee Chairman Syed Amin Ul Haq issued a stern final warning to the contractor, making clear that no further extensions would be entertained. He directed that a formal letter of displeasure be

issued and warned that if the November review visit shows insufficient progress, the government could impose penalties, including blacklisting SAMHAN Construction from future projects. Despite the delays, officials underscored the IT Park's central role in Pakistan's strategy to expand technology exports and attract foreign investment. However, the growing frustration in Parliament has amplified calls for stronger accountability and tighter project management to ensure the country's digital ambitions are not undermined.

Opinion & Editorial

Symbolism over justice

Hina Agra

In September 2025, the UK formally recognised the State of Palestine, a gesture hailed by some as historic. Yet it is a hollow, belated move after more than a century of complicity in dispossession, violence and erasure.

To understand the magnitude of this 'recognition', one must look beyond the headlines and ask: what remains of Palestine today for Britain to recognise and how much has been lost since it first conspired, along with its Western allies, to dismantle the Ottoman Empire and plant the seeds of the Israeli settler-colonial project in the early 1900s?

The moral bankruptcy of Britain's role in the Middle East is not a new story. It began with the 1917 Balfour Declaration, in which then foreign secretary Arthur James Balfour promised the land of Palestine to the Zionist movement, disregarding the rights and existence of the Palestinian majority. As US president John F. Kennedy once remarked decades later, "Palestine was hardly Britain's to give away". Yet it was given away through calculated colonial maneuvering, military suppression and a century of unwavering support to the Zionist cause, even as the native Palestinian population endured ethnic cleansing, forced displacement and systematic erasure.

The dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire after

World War I was not merely about redrawing borders; it was about creating pliable states under Western tutelage and ensuring control over resources and trade routes. Palestine, strategically located and historically significant, was sacrificed at the altar of imperial expedience. Between 1917 and 1948, Britain administered Palestine under the guise of a "mandate", during which it facilitated mass Jewish immigration, armed Zionist militias, and violently suppressed Palestinian resistance.

This betrayal culminated in the Nakba of 1948, when over 750,000 Palestinians were expelled or fled their homes, more than 500 villages were destroyed and the new State of Israel was declared with Britain's tacit blessing. The seeds planted by the Balfour Declaration had borne their poisonous fruit. And in the decades that followed, Britain and its Western allies continued to bankroll, arm and defend Israel, while Palestinians remained stateless, scattered in refugee camps or subjected to apartheid inside their ancestral homeland.

Now, more than a century later, Britain's recognition of Palestine comes not from moral awakening but from political pressure. The UK government, long one of Israel's staunchest backers, has been shaken by unprecedented global protests, especially after Israel's 2024-2025 assault on Gaza, where over 120,000

Palestinians were killed in less than a year, figures cited by UN human rights monitors as among the highest civilian death tolls since World War II. Entire neighbourhoods were flattened, hospitals destroyed and more than two million people displaced, many of them for the second or third time in their lives. This mass outrage, visible in streets from London to Manchester, from New York to Cape Town, has forced Western governments to confront their complicity. Britain, in particular, faced accusations of enabling genocide by continuing arms sales to Israel despite overwhelming evidence of war crimes. Recognising Palestine, then, is less an act of justice than a desperate attempt to salvage legitimacy in the eyes of an outraged public. But what does recognition mean when the very land of Palestine is being devoured before our eyes? The West Bank is fragmented by more than 750 checkpoints and sprawling settlements; Gaza lies in ruins under siege; and East Jerusalem has been effectively annexed. Britain recognises Palestine now, but on what map? The consequences of Britain's colonial betrayal are not only political but also deeply economic and social, reverberating across generations. Today, there are more than 6.9 million Palestinian refugees worldwide, according to UNRWA, many living in dire conditions in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. Courtesy The News

Who desecrates, who sanctifies?

Jawed Naqvi

If there was one thing absolutely clear in the 2019 Babri Masjid judgement by India's supreme court, it was the conclusion by the five-member bench of the absence of any evidence, legal, historical or archaeological, that the 16th-century mosque was built by destroying a Hindu temple.

The Archaeological Survey of India did claim to find older pillars from around the site of the mosque. The court concluded they were several centuries older than the time of the mosque's construction and there was no valid explanation that they showed the destruction of a Hindu temple. The dead rubber question has resurfaced, however, after former chief justice of India Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud claimed last week that erecting the mosque during the reign of the first Mughal emperor Babur was itself an act of desecration. This was a loaded claim coming from a judge who was on the five-member bench that handed the site of the mosque, which Hindu zealots had destroyed, to those that had supported its destruction against the supreme court's orders to keep the mosque safe. In the end, though the court decided that it was a criminal act to destroy the mosque, it went on to pave the way for the temple's construction and its eventual inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the eve of the 2024 elections. Elements so conspired that the BJP lost the seat from Ayodhya to an opposition Dalit candidate. The Babri Masjid has gone to the winner of the curious court case and temple has come up in its place; possibly it was the only way to contemplate any peace at all given the current ideological preferences of the ruling elite. And yet it may not bring closure to the trauma that continues to be inflicted on the country by state institutions, not excluding the judiciary. In the same interview with intrepid journalist Sreenivasan Jain, justice Chandrachud made another troubling assertion. Courtesy Dawn



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Petty politics

It is disappointing that the Indian cricket team felt compelled to engage in theatrics on what should have been a celebratory occasion.

Having clinched the Asia Cup after a thrilling contest with Pakistan, the side ought to have basked in its triumph. Instead, it spoiled the moment by refusing to accept the trophy from the Asian Cricket Council chief, because he is a Pakistani national.

That act of arrogance was not isolated. From its captain's refusal to shake hands in the opening match to his overtly political comments in the post-match awards ceremony, the Indian cricket team's behaviour seemed scripted to turn the game into another stage for New Delhi's nationalist posturing. Their prime minister wasted no time in reinforcing this narrative, describing India's victory as "Operation Sindoor on the games field". That he felt compelled to cast a sporting win in the language of war spoke less of confidence than of his insecurity, betraying the scars of his government's military misadventure against Pakistan earlier this year.

The pettiness is particularly regrettable given cricket's history in the region. Since the beginning, the game has seen fierce rivalry but also provided some rare occasions for goodwill between the two nations.

Uzbek, Kazakh delegations visit NDMA to strengthen regional disaster cooperation



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegations from Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan separately visited Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at the National Emergencies Operations Center to enhance regional cooperation in tackling shared challenges posed by natural disasters and climate change, fostering collaboration and mutual support. Led by Uzbek Speaker Nuriddin Ismoilov and Kazakh Security Council Secretary

Gizet Nurdauletov, the delegations received a detailed briefing on Pakistan's disaster management framework, NDMA's central coordination role, and the integration of advanced technology in early warning systems and disaster response operations. NDMA, Lt General Inam Haider Malik, welcomed both delegations and delivered a detailed briefing on Pakistan's national disaster risk reduction strategies, coordination mechanisms with provinces during Monsoon 2025, and the role of modern tools in strengthening national

preparedness and resilience through National Common Operating Picture (NCOP) along with Global Common Operating Picture (GCOP).

NDMA team gave a comprehensive account of development of disaster early warnings (DEW), risk communication, relief and response operations being carried out across the flood affected regions, highlighting NDMA's role in global disaster relief assistance, conducting Comprehensive International Simulation Exercises (CISE) with regional countries, including Uzbekistan & Kazakhstan, for knowledge sharing and global best practices. Both sides underscored the importance of enhancing bilateral and regional cooperation in disaster risk management, capacity building, and the exchange of expertise. The visiting dignitaries from Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan appreciated NDMA's proactive initiatives, resilience-building measures, and modern preparedness mechanisms. The visits highlight growing regional solidarity between Central Asia.

Ayaz congratulates people, leadership of China on 76th National Day

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on behalf of the Parliament and people of Pakistan, extended heartfelt felicitations to Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council, Zhao Leji, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on the 76th National Day of the People's Republic of China.

The speaker also extended felicitations to the Chinese nation, China celebrated the day annually on 1st October with tremendous zeal across China.

Paying rich tribute to the visionary leadership and remarkable services of Chairman Mao Zedong, Speaker NA stated that Mao Zedong laid the foundation for China to emerge as a major



global power and presented a revolutionary model for the developing world.

He further stated that the phenomenal achievements of modern China continue to serve as a beacon of inspiration for the international community. He added that the Pakistan-China friendship stands as a living testament to the shared vision of peace, prosperity, and stability in the region.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq underscored that the unparalleled bond between Pakistan and China is built on mutual trust, respect, and shared interests.

Sardar Yousaf meets Archbishop Germano Penemote, discusses interfaith harmony, minority rights

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf on Tuesday met with Vatican City's Ambassador, Archbishop Germano Penemote, to discuss growing trends of religious intolerance, terrorism, and ways to promote interfaith harmony.

During the meeting, the minister reaffirmed the government's resolve to foster inclusivity, tolerance, and mutual respect across society. He said Pakistan has taken multiple initiatives to politically, socially, and economically empower minority communities.

Sardar Yousaf meets Archbishop Germano Penemote, discusses interfaith harmony, minority rights

Sardar Yousaf noted that seats are reserved for minorities in both federal and provincial legislatures, while the establishment of the National Commission for Minorities, the approval of the Interfaith

Harmony Policy, and measures to promote religious tolerance have strengthened minorities' freedom and independence.

Sardar Yousaf meets Archbishop Germano Penemote, discusses interfaith harmony, minority rights

He described Pakistan's ties with Vatican City as an important opportunity to enhance mutual understanding, emphasizing that exchanges of delegations could further improve bilateral relations.

Ambassador Penemote highlighted the Catholic Church's ongoing contributions in Pakistan's education and health sectors. He also proposed the establishment of a university equipped with modern disciplines in Pakistan.

The minister welcomed the proposal and assured full government support in this regard. Archbishop Penemote also extended an invitation to Sardar Yousaf to visit Vatican City.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf in a meeting with the Archbishop Germano Penemote, Ambassador of Holy See (Vatican City).

Differences between PML-N, PPP 'family matters': Tarar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday said that differences between the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) were internal matters, but their alliance remained intact and was based on ideology and sincerity.

Responding to a point of order raised by PPP leader Syed Naveed Qamar in the National Assembly, he said, "If anyone has been hurt by words, we apologize. Politics comes with ups and downs, and such verbal exchanges happen. These issues will be resolved within the house, as our focus is to strengthen democracy and the country."

He added that the alliance had delivered success for Pakistan "from Saudi Arabia to the United Nations," stressing that it was founded on good faith. "Today, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques has declared Pakistan's people as guardians of the Haramain Sharifain," he noted. Earlier, speaking on a point of order.

Gilani hosts luncheon for senators; overall political situation reviewed

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday hosted a luncheon at Aiwan-e-Sadr in honour of senators belonging to various political parties.

The meeting reviewed the overall political situation in the country and abroad and took stock of the relief and reconstruction efforts underway in flood-affected regions. Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry discussed with the participants matters related to their respective ministries. The luncheon was attended by Senator Sherry Rehman, Parliamentary Leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in



the Senate, Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar, Parliamentary Leader of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) in the Senate; Senator Ali Zafar of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI); Senator Ata-ur-Rahman, Parliamentary Leader of Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI-F); Senator Hidayatullah of Awami National Party (ANP); and Senator Amir Chishti of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM). Gilani emphasised the importance of maintaining political engagement.

Governor KP, PM's Climate Focal Person for joint action on flood relief, climate-resilient development

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi met Prime Minister's Focal Person and Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, at the Ministry of Climate Change here on Tuesday. The meeting focused on providing immediate relief to recent flood victims in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, joint measures to tackle climate change, and future development initiatives. Principal Secretary to the Governor, Zubair Arshad, was also present. Romina Khurshid Alam assured the Governor that the Ministry of Climate Change would provide swift and compre-



hensive assistance to flood-affected communities, ensuring no delays in the rehabilitation process. She emphasized the urgent need for a joint strategy among all relevant institutions to deliver emergency aid while also strengthening resilience against future natural disasters. During the discussion, Romina Khurshid proposed establishing a "Governor Legacy Centre".

Landlocked states can become land-linked economies: Aleem Khan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Tuesday underlined Pakistan's pivotal geo-strategic role in connecting South Asia, the Middle East, and Central Asia, stressing that regional trade corridors could transform landlocked states into land-linked economies

Addressing the Silk Way Transport Forum held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, he stated that the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul road link is

of critical importance for Pakistan as well as the entire region, said a press release.

The minister highlighted that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) flagship projects, like the Belt and Road Initiative which are aligned with Pakistan's vision of achieving self-reliance and sustainable economic growth by 2030. He added that CPEC is integrated with other regional corridors, including ECO and SCO initiatives, while Pakistan's membership of TIR and the Quadrilateral Transit



Agreement marks a milestone for regional connectivity. Aleem Khan stressed that through trade corridors, landlocked states can be transformed into land-linked economies, while

digital transformation is enhancing transparency in the communication sector. He underlined the strategic significance of Eurasia as the world's largest land-mass and reaffirmed

Pakistan's readiness to play its role in South Asia, Middle East and Central Asia. He remarked that turning international transport corridors into pathways of peace and prosperity is a shared responsibility but customs regulations and visa restrictions remain impediments to regional integration.

The Forum was attended by Transport Ministers from 12 countries including Türkiye, Iran, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Belarus, Russia, Latvia and

Kazakhstan.

The host, Kazakhstan's Minister of Transport Mr. Nurlan Sauranbayev warmly welcomed the Pakistani delegation and extended generous hospitality to Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan. On the sidelines, a high-level bilateral meeting was held between Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and Kazakhstan's Minister of Transport Nurlan Sauranbayev, accompanied by their respective delegations.