



**Mohsin Naqvi pledges resolution of Religious Scholars' concerns**



**Govt developing 'National Olive Plan 2030' to promote olive cultivation: Tanveer**



**Governor's rule not on the table in KP, says Talal Chaudhry**

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## PM launches INSPIRE initiative to train 7200 professionals in semiconductor design, research

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday launched INSPIRE as Pakistan's National Semiconductor Initiative, which he believed was a milestone in Pakistan's transition toward a knowledge-based digital economy and also marked its entry into over \$600 billion global semiconductor ecosystem. The prime minister, at a ceremony, kicked off the "Initiative to Nurture Semiconductor Professionals for Industry, Research & Education" (INSPIRE) to mark Pakistan's transformative step toward technological self-reliance and global competitiveness. The initiative, spearheaded by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT) and executed

by the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), marks Pakistan's formal entry into the global semiconductor ecosystem – a sector valued at over \$600 billion globally and projected to exceed \$1 trillion by 2030.

In this address, Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the launch of INSPIRE was a milestone in Pakistan's transition toward a knowledge-based digital economy, where innovation, research, and human capital drive sustainable growth. "Our vision is to prepare Pakistan's youth for the industries of tomorrow... Through this initiative, we are building the foundations of a new economic frontier – one where Pakistan contributes talent, technology, and innovation to the world," he remarked.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the launching ceremony of Inspire, an initiative by Ministry of Information Technology to nurture Semiconductor Professionals for industry research and education.

## Punjab cracks down on Saad Rizvi: 95 accounts frozen, 330 mosques seized

PEAK POINT



LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari announced that 95 bank accounts and undisclosed properties linked to Saad Rizvi have been sealed. The leadership of the religious group has been divided into three tiers as part of an ongoing crackdown. Speaking at a press conference at DGPR, she highlighted the group's violent activities, including seizing police vans and weapons, attacking law enforcement with stones and stolen arms, and damaging Safe City surveillance cameras to destroy evidence. During recent operations in Muridke, three civilians were killed, 48 injured, and 118 police officers were shot. Eight police vehicles were snatched.

The group allegedly raised millions under the guise of Islam. Gold, silver, and unregistered properties were recovered from the leader's residence. A propaganda unit was also set up to threaten journalists and politicians. The Punjab government has taken over 330 mosques and geo-tagged 223 religious schools (madrasas). Control of these madrasas will be handed to scholars from Ahle Sunnat wal Jamaat.

## COAS reaffirms action against India-backed proxies in Balochistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Field Marshal Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), on Tuesday reaffirmed that Pakistan is taking firm action against India-sponsored militant networks operating in Balochistan, saying that they were spreading anti-people and anti-development agendas to destabilise the province.

"All necessary actions are being taken to pursue these terrorists and rid the province of this menace," the field marshal said while interacting with participants of the 17th National Workshop Balochistan at the General Headquarters (GHQ) on Tuesday.

During his address, COAS Munir said Balochistan is the pride of Pakistan, endowed with vibrant, resilient and patriotic people who are its true wealth.

He highlighted the federal



and provincial governments' development initiatives aimed at uplifting the province's socio-economic landscape through a people-centric approach, stressing the need to realise its immense economic potential.

Acknowledging the constructive role of civil society, particularly in engaging and empowering the youth, he underscored their pivotal role

in ensuring sustainable development and countering vested political agendas for the long-term prosperity of Balochistan. The field marshal reiterated that while Pakistan seeks regional peace and stability, any violation of its territorial integrity, direct or indirect, would be met with a firm and decisive response to safeguard the lives and well-being of its citizens.

The workshop concluded with a candid, interactive question-and-answer session between the army chief and the participants.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan — both of which share a porous border with neighbouring Afghanistan — faced the brunt of the terrorism incidents, accounting for more than 96% of the total violence across the country.

Balochistan, as per a report issued by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), witnessed at least 25% of the total violence-linked fatalities (230) and incidents (85).

During his last visit to Balochistan, Field Marshal Munir stressed the significance of joint civil-military efforts in addressing the challenges faced by the people.

## DPM Dar invites Moroccan FM Bourita to visit Pakistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday extended an invitation to the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco to visit Pakistan, which was accepted by the dignitary. The DPM/FM received a telephone call from Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco, Nasser Bourita, a DPM's Office news release said. Recalling their recent bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 80th United Nations General Assembly in New York.

## Pakistani delegation to visit Afghanistan for border, trade talks

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation from Pakistan is set to visit Afghanistan today (Tuesday) for key consultations with Afghan officials on border management and bilateral trade, according to official sources.

The visit will include discussions on the "One Document Regime" as well as measures to improve border control, trade cooperation, and cross-border movement systems.

Sources emphasised that the visit was pre-scheduled and is not linked to the recent closure of the Torkham bor-



der or the current tensions between the two countries. During the visit, the Pakistani delegation is expected to hold several meetings with Afghan counterparts, focusing on enhancing bilateral cooperation and building mutual trust.

Earlier, Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed to an immediate ceasefire during talks mediated by Qatar and Türkiye in Doha, Qatar's foreign ministry announced on Saturday night on X. According to the Qatari foreign ministry, the

ceasefire agreement is expected to lay a strong foundation for lasting peace in the region.

Both countries have also agreed to hold further meetings in the coming days and to establish a permanent mechanism to ensure peace and stability between them. Confirming the agreement, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif hoped that the ceasefire would end border tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The minister said the delegations from the two sides would meet again in Istanbul on October 25 as he emphasised that both countries have agreed to respect each other's territorial sovereignty.

## Non-bailable arrest warrant issued for Gandapur in arms, liquor recovery case

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court in the federal capital issued non-bailable arrest warrant against former



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister Ali Amin Gandapur in arms and liquor recovery case on Tuesday. The warrant was issued in light of Gandapur's continuous absence from the court hearings. Judicial Magistrate Mubashir Hassan ordered the police to arrest the former KP CM and produce him before the court. The development pertains to a case registered against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader at the Bara Kahu Police Station in the federal capital. The next hearing of the case will take place on October 28. The arrest warrant adds to the legal woes of the firebrand PTI leader, who was recently ousted from KP's CM post, as the same court and magistrate issued his arrest warrant in the said case in the previous month as well.



# SPORTS



## South Africa 185/4 at stumps on day two of Rawalpindi Test



**PEAK POINT**  
RAWALPINDI: South Africa ended the second day of the Rawalpindi Test on 185 for 4, with half-centuries from Tony de Zorzi and Tristan Stubbs guiding the visitors through a steady recovery before Asif Afridi's late breakthroughs.

Resuming their innings after bowling out Pakistan for 333, South Africa's openers Ryan Rickelton and captain Aiden Markram aimed to provide a solid start.

Runs flowed steadily, but the partnership was broken when Shaheen Afridi dismissed

Rickelton for 14 off 26 balls, leaving the visitors at 22-1 in 8.2 overs. Markram took charge after Rickelton's dismissal, striking boundaries and keeping the scoreboard ticking, helping South Africa reach the 50-run mark in the 20th over.

However, Sajid Khan dismissed Markram for 32 off 62 balls, ending a 32-run stand with Tristan Stubbs.

Tony de Zorzi then steadied the innings alongside Stubbs, adding 32 runs for the third wicket as tea approached.

In the final session, the duo grew in confidence, putting

Pakistan's bowlers under pressure and regularly finding the boundary.

Both Stubbs and de Zorzi went on to score fifties, compiling a 100-run partnership for the third wicket, with South Africa reaching 166-2 in 57 overs.

Pakistan found relief when Asif Afridi broke the 113-run stand by dismissing Tony de Zorzi, who scored 55 off 93 deliveries with one four and two sixes.

In the 60th over, Asif struck again, removing Dewald Brevis for a four-ball duck, leaving South Africa at 171-4 in 59.3 overs.

The Proteas will resume day

three with Tristan Stubbs unbeaten on 68 and Kyle Verreynne on 10 at the crease.

Batting first, Pakistan got off to a steady start as openers Imam-ul-Haq and Abdullah Shafique put on 35 runs for the first wicket before Inam was bowled by Simon Harmer for 17 off 35 balls.

Abdullah Shafique continued with composure, combining aggression with patience to counter South Africa's bowling.

Skipper Shan Masood joined him and displayed positive intent, hitting two towering sixes as Pakistan reached 65-1 after 20 overs.

## Misbahul Haq likely to get key role in PCB

**PEAK POINT**  
LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is likely to assign a key role to former captain Misbahul Haq.



According to reports, the PCB recently advertised the position of Director of International Cricket Operations, and Misbah-ul-Haq is now being considered for the post.

Sources revealed that, for the first time, the eligibility criteria included a condition requiring candidates to be former Test or One Day International cricketers.

It is noteworthy that the PCB had previously suspended Director of International Cricket Operations Usman Wahla for mishandling the Pakistan-India dispute during the Asia Cup but later reinstated him.

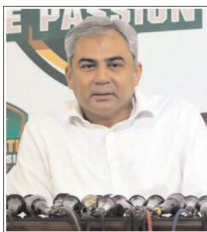
## Abbas Afridi to lead Pakistan in Hong Kong Sixes

**PEAK POINT**  
LAHORE: Abbas Afridi will captain Pakistan in the Hong Kong Sixes tournament, scheduled to take place at the Tin Kwong Road Recreation Ground in Hong Kong.



The 12-team tournament will be played from 7 to 9 November, with Pakistan team set to travel on 5 November. As per the tournament format, the 12 teams have been divided into four groups of three. Pakistan are placed in Pool C and will play their group matches on Friday, 7 November. Pakistan squad: Abbas Afridi (captain), Abdul Samad, Khawaja Mohammad Nafay, Maaz Sadaqat, Mohammad Shahzad, Saad Masood and Shahid Aziz Non-traveling reserves.

## Naqvi 'suggests' presenting Asia Cup trophy to India in Dubai ceremony



**PEAK POINT**  
DUBAI: Asian Cricket Council Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has suggested a ceremony to hand over the Asia Cup 2025 trophy to India, following their

title win last month, on September 29. The Indian team, Advertisement since written a formal letter to the ACC chairman, requesting the trophy be handed over to them. In his response, the ACC chairman

reportedly asked the BCCI to send an Indian player to attend a ceremony and collect the trophy from him. The sources said that Naqvi remained firm on his stance that he would present the silverware during the ceremony.

The ACC has also proposed holding the ceremony on November 10 in Dubai, they added.

The development comes a month after the Indian team received backlash for consistently making political statements during last month's Asia Cup.

## Peshawar journalists not getting hostel facility at Pakistan Sports Board, coverage affected

**Journalists demand intervention from higher authorities after hostels in-charge fails to provide them accommodation for two days**



**PEAK POINT**  
RAWALPINDI: Journalists from Peshawar are not getting hostel facility at Pakistan Sports Board, due to which they are deprived of proper accommodation while covering local matches for two days. According to journalists, hostel in-

charge Nasrullah is indispensable, and the work is being affected due to the lack of hostel facilities. In this regard, Arif Khan, Secretary of Rawalpindi Islamabad Sports Journalists and Executive Member of Pakistan Sports Federation, tried to meet DG Sports Board Yasir Pirzada to discuss the matter as regrettable and said that the role of journalists in the development and coverage of sports is but

refused to meet him. The journalists have demanded immediate intervention from Rana Sanullah and the DG of Pakistan Sports Board so that they can be provided with proper accommodation in the hostel and the coverage of sports is not hampered. This incident raises questions about the promotion of sports and the important role of journalists, because journalists sacrifice all their facilities for reporting on sports, but not providing basic administrative facilities is tantamount to ignoring their hard work.

## Crowd cheers as Pakistan takes on SA in Rawalpindi



## Pakistan out of Women's World Cup with loss to South Africa

**PEAK POINT**  
COLOMBO: Pakistan were knocked out of the Women's World Cup 2025 on Tuesday after South Africa defeated them in a rain-curtailed match at the R. Premadasa Stadium.

Chasing a revised target of 234 in 20 overs after multiple rain interruptions, the Green Shirts were restricted to 83/7, losing the game by 150 runs.

Wicketkeeper batter Sidra Nawaz remained the top-scorer for Pakistan with an unbeaten 22 off 33 deliveries, followed by Natalia Pervaiz, who made a 24-ball 20. The duo also shared a 31-run partnership for the fifth wicket.

Marizanne Kapp led the bowling charge for South Africa, taking three wickets for just 20 runs in her five overs. She was supported by Nondumiso Shangase, who made two strikes, while Ayabonga Khaka chipped in

with one. South Africa got off to a contrasting start to their innings as Pakistan captain Fatima Sana dismissed Tazmin Brits for a four-ball duck in the second over with just five runs on the board.



However, after the rain interruption, Laura Wolvaardt and Luus anchored the innings by putting together a crucial 118-run partnership, which saw both of them amass half-centuries. The stand eventually culminated in the 17th over when Nashra Sandhu got Luss caught at extra cover.



# ADB delegation calls on Aleem Khan, vow to deepen cooperation in transport sector

**PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Mission led by Director General Hideaki Iwasaki, called on Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan here on Tuesday. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on ongoing and proposed development projects in Pakistan's Communications Sector, said a press release. Minister Abdul Aleem Khan stated that projects of public interest

particularly the construction and expansion of Highways and Motorways are among the Government's top priorities. He noted that over the past one year, the National Highway Authority (NHA) has achieved a historic increase in revenue putting the organization on the path towards financial self-sufficiency. The minister added that upon completion of the Lahore-Sialkot-Kharian-Rawalpindi Motorway, travel distance between the regions will be reduced by up to 100



kilometers, saving both time and fuel. He said this new route will serve as an alternate corridor to the existing Lahore-Islamabad Motorway (M-2). Abdul Aleem Khan further said that strict enforcement of speed limits being ensured to make highways safer. Emergency Rescue Services and Air Ambulance System are also being introduced on Motorways to

enhance road safety and response efficiency. Highlighting progress in Pakistan, Abdul Aleem Khan said that the construction of the Karachi-Hyderabad Motorway will commence from Karachi Port, aimed at improving the country's freight transport network. He also appreciated the ADB's valuable support in the CAREC (Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation) project, emphasizing that the NHA is working professionally to ensure timely completion of all

developmental schemes. Talking on the occasion, ADB Director General Hideaki Iwasaki reaffirmed the longstanding and strong partnership between Pakistan and the Asian Development Bank. He commended Pakistan's ongoing infrastructure and transport development initiatives. Hideaki Iwasaki also appreciated the decision to host the Regional Transport Ministers' Conference 2025 in Islamabad in which the ADB Mission will also participate.

## Parliamentary Committee Defers Key Islamabad Bills, Orders Inquiry into Police Misconduct and Housing Society Affairs

**NADEEM TANOLI**  
ISLAMABAD: Lawmakers in the National Assembly Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control held an extensive session focusing on Islamabad's governance, urban development, and public accountability. The committee, chaired by Raja Khuram Shahzad Nawaz, deferred several major legislative bills concerning the capital's local government and environmental protection while ordering a reinvestigation into alleged police misconduct and summoning the leadership of a major housing

society. The committee postponed deliberation on The Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which proposes the inclusion of business community representatives in Union Councils. Members called for a detailed briefing on how the change would affect the overall structure and balance of local representation before any amendments are approved. Two private member bills tabled by Ms. Sharmila Sahiba Faruqi Hasham were also deferred due to her absence from the meeting. Meanwhile, The Capital Development

Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2025, aimed at ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities, was disposed of after the Capital Development Authority (CDA) clarified that such accessibility standards are already mandatory under the 2023 building by-laws. The committee directed the CDA to strictly enforce these provisions in both new and existing buildings and take disciplinary action against violators. Another major item, The Islamabad (Preservation of Landscape) Bill, 2025, introduced by Ms. Shahida Rehmani, sought stronger penalties for envi-

ronmental violations in the federal capital. The committee decided to defer the bill for further consultation between the mover, CDA officials, and Islamabad's elected MNAs, emphasizing the need to balance ecological protection with citizens' rights and development goals. Beyond legislative issues, the committee expressed serious concern over a reported incident involving the alleged unlawful detention and mistreatment of Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council members by Islamabad Police. Members criticized the initial police report as one-sided

and incomplete. The Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control assured the committee that the matter would be reinvestigated at a higher level, with senior police officers, including the Inspector General, instructed to appear before the committee. Accountability also extended to Islamabad's cooperative housing sector. The committee took notice of the repeated absence of the President and Secretary of the Intelligence Bureau Employees Cooperative Housing Society (IBECHS)/Gulberg Greens. Rejecting their excuses of illness and official duties, the

committee issued formal summons for the next meeting and ordered the Circle Registrar to produce the society's audit records and land documentation. Lawmakers emphasized that "personal excuses will not be entertained in future," underscoring Parliament's commitment to transparency in land management. Through these deliberations, the committee reaffirmed its dual focus on improving Islamabad's governance structure and ensuring public accountability among officials and institutions responsible for the city's development.

# Opinion & Editorial

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## Why is right-wing populism surging?

**Bilal Mustafa**  
Have you ever tried to critically analyse how the global economy structurally functions or which underlying factors influence the world's socio-economic ecosystem? Edward Bernays, a renowned author and propagandist, states in his book 'Propaganda', that "We are governed, our minds are molded, our tastes formed, our ideas suggested, largely by men we have never heard of". This quote precisely reflects how our fundamental socioeconomic realities are shaped and how we are subjected to exploitation by global capitalism. However, we don't seem to question the core essence of our socioeconomic framework. Many of us tend to ignore the layered complexities of it and perceive it as a universal law that can't be challenged. Advertisement Without questioning the credibility of the neoliberal economic model from an economic perspective, let's examine the cultural impacts of neoliberal capitalism and how it primarily undermined the political legitimacy of people and played a pivotal role in exploiting the masses structurally. With the arrival of Reagan in the White House, the world discerned a revolutionary transformation in the global economic framework. Privatisation of major components of the welfare state, deregulation of economic markets, liberalization of

several crucial elements of the American economy, and finally, the outsourcing of labour to other countries to generate more profits and disenfranchise existing working class, proved to be the primary economic objectives of Reagan administration. This whole structural overhaul transpired in the name of 'freedom'. But by 'freedom', I don't mean the prioritisation of democratising the economy; I mean it to be the dismantling of social safety nets and corporatisation and financialisation of the general economy. This kind of brutal deregulation over several decades proved to be one of the defining factors in the marginalisation of the American working and middle classes. Many of the global contemporary crises that we are dealing with today, indeed, are profoundly rooted in our world financial system — a system fundamentally based on the exploitation of people and focused on creating more wealth for the economic elite of society instead of establishing an institutional framework where everyone has an opportunity for upward mobility. This deeply unpopular type of architectural approach to reshape the global economic order has ultimately led to several radical sociopolitical consequences. People have become more polarised and begun to feel alienated from their own status quo and political structures. This sort of extreme unfolding of socioeconomic

insecurities took place worldwide, especially in the countries already grappling with major economic turmoil. Those countries saw a drastic rise in extremism and gradually relied on other ways, often violent, to achieve their goals. Many so-called Western democracies, led by neo-liberals/conservatives, are wrestling with the soaring rise in right-wing populism and are visibly unable to withstand its devastating impacts on our social fabric. The triumph of Donald Trump in 2016 and 2024 over centrist candidates Hillary Clinton and Kamala Harris demonstrated this distinct phenomenon of right-wing populism crushing centrist political narratives flawlessly. Both of President Trump's political conquests ultimately showed a troubling exhibition of institutional failures and fundamental problems within the contemporary status quo. In 2024, a similar kind of political trend unfolded in the UK. Even though the Labour Party somehow managed to win in the general election, it was mostly thanks to the collapsing Conservative Party. However, voter turnout was a record low, touching merely 59.7 per cent. And Keir Starmer was hardly able to secure 33 per cent in terms of vote share. For context, Jeremy Corbyn's vote share was 40 per cent in 2020, notably higher than Keir Starmer's number. Courtesy The News

## Too many battlefronts

**Arifa Noor**  
It has been some years since Anatol Lieven called Pakistan a "hard country", a phrase which didn't really get much traction. It just didn't carry enough negative connotations; the rest of the world preferred sobriquets such as "failed state" or "the most dangerous country in the world". It left most of us who live in Pakistan with the sense that we had a tendency to attract attention for all the wrong reasons. And whatever our image, it wasn't going to be one highlighting our softer attributes. Now, it seems, we ourselves are trying to create a tough brand. Of being known as hard, a powerful state which no one can ride roughshod over, be it enemies within Pakistan or external. These are not mere words. Just over the recent week, a protest originating from Lahore was not allowed to make its way to Islamabad, a destination which has been overrun by many others in the past. This was followed by a crackdown on the TLP, which had announced the protest, combined with allegations of state violence leading to loss of life. And while, the TLP itself has been guilty of violence on more than one occasion, the pattern of the state's reaction has now become familiar. In the past couple of years, there have been protests in different parts of the country where political parties such as the PTI as well as citizen rights movements such as the PTM or BYC have all alleged loss of life. Religio-political organisations such as the TLP were treated a bit differently but not anymore. Those who convey the master's message claim that the party will now be disbanded. Around the same time, Islamabad's relations with Kabul are also at an all-time low. It seems as if the time for playing nice is over and if the terrorist attacks in Pakistan continue, Islamabad will inflict pain on Afghanistan to change its big, bad ways. If earlier the pain was inflicted through refugee repatriation or border controls, now there will be more — the targeting of terrorists based there and skirmishes on the border. Courtesy Dawn

## Doha truce

AFTER over a week of hostilities during which some of the fiercest exchanges took place between Pakistan and Afghanistan since the Taliban returned to power in 2021, a fragile calm between the two countries has been established. A long-term ceasefire was reached in Doha early on Sunday, where both sides pledged to continue the diplomatic process and find a permanent solution to the prevailing problem — cross-border incursions by Afghanistan-based terrorist groups. Qatar and Turkey have played a key role in bringing about the truce, and representatives of both Islamabad and Kabul will meet in Istanbul on Saturday to take the process forward. Though the Pakistani state and the Afghan Taliban once maintained cordial relations, matters have nosedived during the hard-line group's second innings. At the heart of the matter is the sanctuary provided by the Afghan Taliban to the banned TTP and other militant groups that have staged bloody attacks in Pakistan. Though the Taliban deny this, there is overwhelming evidence that suggests that terrorist groups indeed have havens in Afghanistan. Over the last few months, the attacks have increased significantly — over 600 attacks over the past year, according to one report — causing heavy casualties amongst Pakistani security men.

## Pakistan Acts as a Global Shield Against Terrorism, Says Tarar



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Islamabad, organized a high-level seminar titled "The Persistence of Terrorism in Pakistan: Challenges and the Way Forward." The event brought together senior military officials, strategic analysts, policymakers, and academics to deliberate on the evolving dynamics of terrorism and Pakistan's counter-terrorism strategies. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister

for Information and Broadcasting, reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's unwavering commitment to eradicating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. He emphasized that Pakistan's sacrifices in the global fight against terrorism stand unparalleled and reflect the nation's collective resolve to safeguard peace, stability, and progress. He praised the armed forces for their sacrifices and reaffirmed the government's unity and resolve to eliminate terrorism. Citing external support from

India and Afghanistan to militant groups, he said Pakistan remains a steadfast against terrorism in all its forms. The minister stressed the need for a cohesive, nationwide implementation of the National Action Plan to ensure lasting peace. Ambassador Juhar Saleem, President IRS, noted that terrorism in Pakistan remains a serious threat, with hundreds of attacks reported this year. He attributed this majorly to external proxies and expressed concern over the Taliban's failure to uphold counterterrorism commitments. He noted that Pakistan was pursuing active diplomacy alongside kinetic operations, and expressed cautious optimism in the wake of Doha ceasefire and ahead of the Istanbul dialogue, stressing that Afghanistan must choose between supporting terrorism and becoming falling prey to Indian machinations and fostering peaceful and cooperative relations with Pakistan, which would be a sine qua non for its stability and prosperity.

## Mohsin Naqvi pledges resolution of Religious Scholars' concerns

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the residence of Grand Mufti of Pakistan, Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman, and held an extensive meeting with prominent Sunni scholars under his leadership.

Sindh's Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon and Provincial Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah also accompanied the interior minister during the visit. According to official sources, the meeting discussed in detail the recent developments in the country and other issues concerning religious scholars. The ulama presented their views on various matters and conveyed their concerns to the minister.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi listened attentively to the scholars' stance and assured



them that all genuine issues would be resolved on a priority basis. Both sides agreed to hold a detailed follow-up meeting in Islamabad soon. Minister Naqvi emphasized that the government would not interfere in the affairs of mosques and madrasas. He further announced the appointment of a focal person to maintain continuous communication between the government and the scholars.

## Govt developing 'National Olive Plan 2030' to promote olive cultivation: Tanveer

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday said that the government is developing a National Olive Plan 2030, a policy framework focusing on research, investment, training and international cooperation to promote sustainable olive cultivation in Pakistan.

The minister addressed the Pakistan Olive Summit 2.0, emphasizing that the olive sector has the potential to become a new milestone in Pakistan's economic growth.

He said that the northern and southern regions of Pakistan possess vast potential for olive cultivation, and with a coordinated and strategic approach, Pakistan can join the ranks of the leading olive-producing countries in the world. Tanveer Hussain said that achieving self-sufficiency in olive production is no longer a dream but an achievable reality, adding that olive oil can become a strong export brand for Pakistan, symbolizing "Made in Pakistan" as a mark of trust, quality, and health in global markets. He highlighted that olive cultivation will not only strengthen rural economies but also increase

farmers' income and ensure the efficient use of agricultural land. Since olive trees are drought-tolerant, their cultivation will also contribute to water conservation and environmental protection.

The minister said that the ministry is promoting the use of modern technology across all stages of the olive value chain — including cultivation, oil extraction, processing, packaging, and marketing. He added that Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models are being adopted to accelerate investment in this promising sector. He noted that the private sector has vast opportunities to invest in the olive industry. He announced that the government is establishing Olive Clusters across various regions to enhance collaboration among farmers, agricultural experts, and investors.

By promoting the olive sector, Pakistan could significantly reduce its dependence on edible oil imports, saving billions of rupees in foreign exchange each year, he said, adding that currently, Pakistan spends billions of dollars annually on edible oil imports, which can be substantially reduced by increasing domestic olive production.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, addressing the Pakistan Olive Summit 2.0 at Serena hotel.

## Amir Muqam chairs first meeting on AJK-JAAC demand

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam, chaired the first meeting of the Implementation and Monitoring Committee on Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) affairs on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Chief Secretary AJK, representatives of the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) and Secretary for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan, Zafar Hassan, said a statement. During the meeting, the committee conducted a detailed review of the agreement reached with the JAAC. Federal Minister Amir Muqam directed the relevant departments to ensure full implementation of the agreed points. He announced that the next meeting of the Monitoring and Implementation Committee will be held in Muzaffarabad on November 15. "The Prime Minister of Pakistan is keen to provide maximum relief to the people of Azad Kashmir," Amir Muqam stated, reaffirming that all available resources would be utilized to resolve public issues effectively.

## 3 civilians killed in Muridke operation, claims Punjab minister

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari claimed on Tuesday that three civilians were killed during the operation in Muridke that dispersed Tehreek-i-Labbaiq Pakistan (TLP) protesters.

The TLP, which began a protest march in Lahore earlier this month, was planning to reach Islamabad and stage a demonstration in support of Gaza and Palestine outside the US embassy. The march and sit-in, which reached Muridke, quickly turned into violent clashes between protesters and police before the protesters were dispersed, leading to a crackdown on the party and its supporters. Addressing a press



conference in Lahore today, the Punjab information minister said "false stories" were being perpetuated about the operation in Muridke. "Three civilians were martyred in Muridke. These were people who were passing by or standing off to the side," she said, adding that 48 civilians and 110 police officers were also injured. Eighteen out of 110 have sustained firearm injuries, she said.

## Governor's rule not on the table in KP, says Talal Chaudhry

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Talal Chaudhry on Tuesday told reporters that, while the constitution allows for Governor's Rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the federal government will not take that step. He said the centre had acted in good faith by providing bullet-proof vehicles to the provincial police, but the issue had been politicised and "thrown into the ring." Speaking to the media in the federal capital, Chaudhry criticised the KP leadership for what he described as weak and immature decision-making. He said Sohail Buzdar was appointed after careful thought but called



the choice foolish and childish, adding that if the chief minister objects to bullet-proof cars he should hand over his own protective vehicle to the police. Chaudhry underlined that Article 148 does not give provincial governments free rein in matters affecting national security, and stressed that the fight against terrorism is a nationwide battle.

## Scholarly voices must counter historical distortion of Kashmir: Barrister Danyal

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: "Scholarly work serves as an essential antidote to the historical amnesia imposed on the struggle of the Kashmiri people," stated Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry while addressing the launch ceremony of the book "Jammu and Kashmir – The Forgotten Narrative" at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).

Organized by the India Study Centre (ISC) at ISSI, the event gathered diplomats,

academics, and policy experts to celebrate the publication authored by Saud Sultan. The book seeks to reclaim the silenced historical truths surrounding the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Ambassador Masood Khan, Former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, attended as the Guest of Honour, while Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, and Dr. Saif Malik, Director ISC, also shared their reflections.

Barrister Danyal Chaudhry commended the author for his scholarly contri-



button, emphasizing that authentic research and informed dialogue are vital to preserving the integrity of the Kashmiri cause.

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"This book stands as a testament to the power of research and reason over rhetoric and revisionism," he said, adding, "It reminds the world that Kashmir is not a forgotten issue but a silenced one, and voices like these

restore its rightful place in history." He underscored that the Government of Pakistan remains firmly committed to promoting intellectual freedom, encouraging evidence based debate, and amplifying the just voice of the Kashmiri people on global platforms.

"Institutions like ISSI play a crucial role in shaping a fact based narrative that strengthens Pakistan's moral and diplomatic stance on Kashmir," he added. Ambassador Masood Khan praised the book as an "act of intellectual resistance," adding that informed scholar-

ship continues to be one of Pakistan's strongest instruments against disinformation. "Books like these remind us that history cannot be erased, it can only be retold more truthfully," he remarked. Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted that the book's multidimensional perspective enriches academic and policy discourse on Kashmir, while Dr. Saif Malik commended the author's effort to combine research, analysis, and historical documentation into a single compelling narrative.