



First Lady Bibi Aseefa receives Ethiopian Ambassador on farewell call



Nefarious design to end in vain: Aleem Khan



Ikhtiar Wali emphasizes resilience, unity, faith on National Resilience Day

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PM lauds negotiations body's efforts; assures to address AJK people's concerns

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday appreciating the amicable resolution of the situation in Azad Kashmir, assured that all-out steps would be taken to address the concerns of the Kashmiri people.

The prime minister, in a meeting with members of the government's negotiating committee following the successful conclusion of the negotiation process in Azad Kashmir, appreciated their efforts for resolving the matter amicably.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Sardar Muhammad Yusuf, Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, and Ahad Khan

Cheema, Adviser to PM Rana Sanaullah, Chairman of PM Youth Program Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Qamar Zaman Kaira.

The prime minister also praised the Joint Action Committee for showing understanding and support for Kashmir's development and prosperity.

"The government will continue to serve the Kashmiri people and take steps to resolve their issues as public welfare and peace are our priorities. We have always been protecting the rights of our Kashmiri brothers and sisters and will continue to do so," he added. The prime minister said that his government has always focused on issues of Azad Kashmir.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Government's AJK negotiation committee calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

PTI names Sohail Afridi for KP CM; Gandapur to resign on Imran's directive

PEAK POINT
PESHAWAR: PTI's Ali Amin Gandapur said on Wednesday that he will resign from his role as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister shortly after the party's general secretary, Salman Akram Raja, confirmed that party founder Imran Khan directed Sohail Afridi to assume the role of provincial chief executive.

"The role of the chief minister was Imran Khan sahib's amanat (entrustment) and as per his order, I am returning his amanat and submitting my resignation," a post on Gandapur's official Facebook account, later deleted, quoted him as saying. PTI Information Secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram also shared the same statement on X, attributed to Gandapur. The PTI also confirmed the development on its official X account: "Ali Amin Gandapur has resigned as per Imran Khan's directive."

Pakistan Army vows swift response to Indian aggression, backs Kashmir and Palestine causes

PEAK POINT
RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir on Wednesday chaired the 272nd Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi.

The meeting opened with prayers for the martyrs of recent terrorist attacks attributed to Indian-sponsored proxies. The top military commander commended the resolve of Pakistan's armed forces in their fight against foreign-backed terrorism and in conducting extensive flood relief operations alongside civil administration and law enforcement agencies.

The Forum undertook a detailed assessment of ongoing counterterrorism campaigns, operational readiness, and the evolving threat landscape. It



reaffirmed that the Armed Forces remain fully prepared to counter any hostile designs against Pakistan in all domains.

The Forum voiced grave concern over recent provocative and irresponsible statements made by Indian civil and military leaders, describing them as part of India's pattern of stoking war hysteria for political gains.

The participants warned that such rhetoric risks destabilising regional peace and security. Commanders at the meeting pledged that any act of aggression by India would be met with a swift and decisive response, shattering any assumptions of geographic safety. The Forum declared that any attempt to create a so-called "new normal" would be

countered with an equally firm and retributive "new normal".

Participants reiterated the resolve to sustain comprehensive counterterrorism operations targeting networks of Indian-backed groups, including Fitna Al-Khawarij and Fitna Al-Hindustan. The Forum also lauded Pakistan's recent diplomatic engagements and reaffirmed its commitment to global and regional stability.

Lt Col among 11 Army personnel martyred, 19 terrorists killed in KP's Orakzai operation

A key highlight of the conference was the acknowledgment of the landmark Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The accord aims to enhance strategic relations, deepen multi-domain cooperation.

ATC grants one-day exemption to Parvez Elahi in illegal recruitment case

PEAK POINT
LAHORE: The Anti-Corruption Court (ATC) Lahore on Wednesday approved a one-day exemption from appearance for former Punjab CM Chaudhry Parvez Elahi in the alleged illegal recruitment case in the Punjab Assembly. Judge Javed Iqbal Warrach of the ATC heard the case against Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, former principal secretary of the Punjab Assembly Muhammad Khan Bhatti, and other accused Muhammad Khan Bhatti and other co-accused appeared before the court and marked.

Lt Col among 11 Army personnel martyred, 19 terrorists killed in KP's Orakzai operation

PEAK POINT
ORAKZAI: In a major intelligence-based operation in Orakzai district on the night of October 7-8, 2025, the security forces eliminated 19 Indian-sponsored terrorists linked to Fitna al Khwarij, said ISPR.

According to the military's media wing, during the intense exchange of fire, Lieutenant Colonel Junaid Arif (39) and Major Tayyab Rahat (33), both residents of Rawalpindi, along with nine valiant soldiers, embraced shahadat while leading their troops from the front.

The martyred soldiers include Naib Subedar Azam Gul (38, Khyber), Naik Adil Hussain (35,



Kurram), Naik Gul Ameer (34, Tank), Lance Naik Sher Khan (31, Mardan), Lance Naik Talish Faraz (32, Mansehra), Lance Naik Irshad Hussain (32, Kurram), Sepoy Tufail Khan (28, Malakand), Sepoy Aqib Ali (23, Swabi), and Sepoy Muhammad Zahid (24, Tank).

Security forces have

launched a sanitization operation to clear the area of any remaining threats.

The ISPR reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to eradicate terrorism, stating that the supreme sacrifices of the martyred heroes will only strengthen the nation's determination to achieve lasting peace and stability.

PM Shehbaz vows

CB emphasises reliance on existing constitution until any further enactment

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court (SC) Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan remarked that the judiciary must rely on the existing Constitution until any amendment is formally enacted. The SC held a live hearing on petitions challenging the 26th Constitutional Amendment. The eight-member constitutional bench, headed by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, included Justices Jamal Mandokhail, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Ayesha Malik, Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Musarrat Hilali, Naeem Afghan, and Shahid Bilal. The proceedings were broadcast live on the Supreme Court's official YouTube channel.

At the outset, Advocate Hamid Khan began his arguments, stating that the 26th Amendment was introduced in Parliament late at night. Justice Amin-ud-Din asked him to first assist the court regarding the formation of the bench, while Justice Jamal Mandokhail remarked that whether the amendment was good or bad should not be discussed at this stage.

Hamid Khan said he was not discussing the merits but presenting certain facts. He requested that the case be heard by a full court.



SPORTS



Women's World Cup: Australia outclass Pakistan by 107 runs



PEAK POINT
COLOMBO: Pakistan faced a humiliating 107-run defeat against Australia in the ninth match of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 at the R Premadasa Stadium, Colombo, on Wednesday.

Beth Mooney's gutsy century, followed by a collective bowling effort, led Australia to a resounding victory over bottom-placed Pakistan. Set to chase a 222-run target, Pakistan's batting unit could yield 114 before getting bowled out in 36.3 overs, succumbing to their third consecutive defeat in the eight-team global event. In-form top-order batter

Sidra Amin waged a lone battle for the Green Shirts, scoring a fighting 35 off 52 deliveries with the help of five boundaries.

Besides her, only Rameen Shamim (15), skipper Fatima Sana and Nashra Sandhu, 11 each, could amass double figures against a ruthless Australia's bowling attack.

Kim Garth led the bowling charge for Australia with three wickets for just 14 runs in her six overs, followed by Megan Schutt and Annabel Sutherland with two each, while Ashleigh Gardner, Alana King and Georgia Wareham chipped in with one scalp apiece.

The 107-run victory lifted Australia to the top of the ICC Women's World Cup 2025 standings with five points in three matches, while Pakistan remained at the bottom, having lost all of their first three games.

Opting to bat first, Australia finished at 221/9 in their allotted 50 overs, courtesy of a century-plus stand for the ninth wicket.

Australia began steadily as openers – skipper Alyssa Healy and Phoebe Litchfield – put together a 30-run partnership.

Healy was the first to fall, dismissed for 20 off 23 balls by spinner Sadia Iqbal in the final deliv-

ery of the seventh over. In the very next over, Litchfield was caught and bowled by Fatima Sana for 10, leaving Australia at 30/2.

Ellyse Perry and Beth Mooney added 25 runs for the third wicket, but it was not enough to stabilise the innings. Perry was stumped for just five by Nashra Sandhu, who claimed her first wicket of the match.

Nashra struck again in the following over to dismiss Annabel Sutherland for one, reducing Australia to 59/4 in 14.3 overs.

Beth Mooney tried to anchor the innings, but wickets kept tumbling at the other end.

Naqvi says Afghanistan's visa issues for Asian Cup qualifier resolved



PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Visa issues surrounding Afghanistan's football team being able to play in Pakistan have been sorted out, allowing the team to travel to Islamabad for Thursday's AFC Asian Cup qualifier at the Jinnah Stadium, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Pakistan Football Federation president Mohsen Gilani said that its Afghanistan counterpart had failed to ensure the presence of its full travelling squad at the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul for biometric verification, as most of the players were not living in the country.

The Afghanistan Football Federation was quoted by the Afghan Voice Agency as stating that it had sent the initial list of team members to the Pakistan Embassy on September 18, but "despite repeated follow-ups and official contacts, visas have not been issued to the players and officials".

Today, Minister Naqvi took to X to announce the issue had been sorted out. "Issued now," he said in response to journalist Faizan Lakhani's post saying the minister has ordered to sort out the visa issue of the Afghanistan football team.

South Africa Test squad arrives in Pakistan for two-match series



PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: South Africa's Test squad arrived in Lahore on Wednesday for the two-match series against Pakistan, starting from October 12.

South Africa are touring Pakistan for a series in all formats of the game. The first Test is scheduled from

the bottom of the table in the last championship, having lost nine out of their 14 matches. On the other hand, South Africa will be eager to begin their title-defence campaign with a solid performance.

Following the red ball series, three T20s and as many ODIs will be played from October 28 to November 8. The squad for the white-ball series will be announced later.

Meanwhile, the tickets for the upcoming two-match Test series between Pakistan and South Africa are now available for sale.

Fans can purchase tickets online through the official platform, while physical tickets are available at TCS Express Centres from

Thursday, October 8. First Test at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore from October 12 to 16.

Second Test at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium from October 20 to 24. Pakistan's Test squad: Shan Masood (C), Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Asif Afridi, Babar Azam, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Kamran Ghulam, Khurram Shahzad, Mohammad Rizwan (WK), Noman Ali, Rohail Nazir (WK), Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shakeel and Shaheen Shah Afridi.

South Africa's Test Squad: Aiden Markram (c), David Bedingham, Corbin Bosch, Dewald Brevis, Tony de Zorzi, Zubayr Hamza.

We're hoping for a good match against Afghanistan: Nolberto Solano



Young PAF Star Muhammad Sameer Clinches Title at All Pakistan Junior Squash Championship

PEAK POINT
KARACHI: Pakistan Air Force's (PAF) talented young squash player Muhammad Sameer has captured the Under-11 title at the Ambassador All Pakistan Junior Squash Championship 2025, displaying remarkable skill, confidence, and composure throughout the tournament. In the final match held in Karachi, Sameer outclassed Anees Rafi by three games to one (3-1) to lift the championship trophy. Demonstrating exceptional fitness, sharp shot selection, and unwavering focus, the young prodigy never allowed his opponent to dominate at any stage of the contest. Earlier, in the semifinal, Sameer defeated the tournament's second seed Abdul Rehman Riaz to secure his place in the final. His tactical brilliance and command over the game

impressed both spectators and coaches alike. Muhammad Sameer regularly trains at the PAF Squash Complex, while also receiving advanced coaching at a source of pride not only for his coaches and family but also for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa sports community and the Pakistan Air Force. According to squash circles, if he maintains this level of dedication and discipline, Muhammad Sameer could soon emerge as one of Pakistan's brightest hopes on the international squash stage.

Nashra Sandhu creates history as Pakistan's highest wicket-taker in Women's World Cup





An evening of diplomacy and opportunity: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan welcomes Saudi Investors to Pakistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: In a major stride toward deepening Pakistan-Saudi Arabia economic relations, a high-level Saudi business delegation led by Prince Mansour bin Mohammed Al Saud arrived in Islamabad to explore fresh investment avenues across multiple sectors , from minerals and energy to tourism, IT, and infrastructure. To honor the visiting delegation, Prime Minister's Coordinator on Tourism, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan,

hosted an exclusive dinner that brought together top Pakistani business leaders, senior government officials, and Saudi investors in an atmosphere of optimism and partnership. The evening reflected Pakistan's growing stability and its ambition to position itself as a dynamic destination for global capital. Saudi Arabia remains one of Pakistan's closest allies and most trusted economic partners," said Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan during his address. "This collaboration will open new doors for



investment, job creation, and industrial development, driving Pakistan toward a new era of growth and global recognition." The Saudi delegation expressed keen interest in expanding investment cooperation, particularly in IT, healthcare, and tourism. Discussions also reviewed progress on joint ventures and previously

agreed economic frameworks aimed at boosting bilateral trade and regional integration. Pakistan is ready for transformative partnerships," added Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan. "Our government stands fully committed to facilitating Saudi investors , ensuring that every opportunity translates into shared prosperity and long-term success." Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, widely regarded as one of Pakistan's most forward-looking business and policy voices, underscored the government's focus on strengthening both public and private sector collaboration. He emphasized that Saudi investments will not only energize the economy but also enhance Pakistan's global image as a confident, emerging economic power. The visit, marked by cordial discussions and strategic understanding, signals a renewed chapter in Pakistan-Saudi relations , one built on trust, shared goals, and a vision of sustainable economic growth.

Health Ministry Proposes Universal Insurance Model Amid Zero Budget for New Projects

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: In a candid and high-stakes session of the Senate Standing Committee on Health, Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal made a startling disclosure: the government has allocated "zero budget" for new health projects in the current fiscal year. The minister confirmed that the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) allocation for ongoing initiatives has also been cut from 21 billion PKR to 14 billion PKR, marking one of the most drastic reductions in Pakistan's healthcare development history. Amid this fis-

cal paralysis, the Ministry of Health has proposed a sweeping overhaul of Pakistan's healthcare landscape replacing the existing state-run system with a state-funded universal health insurance model. The Minister described the current structure as unsustainable, inefficient, and deeply unfair, pointing out that Pakistan spends over 1,157 billion PKR annually across federal and provincial programs, yet fails to satisfy even 10% of its citizens. "We are spending over a trillion rupees, and in return, we face widespread dissatisfaction," the Minister declared. Illustrating his

point, he remarked, "A patient may receive treatment worth 300,000 rupees from a government hospital, but if that same person has to sell their mobile phone to pay 2,500 rupees for a private lab test, that's the memory that lasts. We are losing public trust despite massive spending." The proposed Universal Health Insurance Model envisions covering every citizen for inpatient treatment excluding organ transplants at an annual cost of approximately 210 billion PKR, which the minister conservatively revised to 300 billion PKR. The plan's goal is to achieve over 90% public sat-

isfaction by improving service quality and ensuring equitable access to healthcare. Under the proposed roadmap, the first two years would provide full insurance coverage to all citizens, entirely funded by the state, to establish confidence and demonstrate the system's viability. In the third year, a modest co-payment system would be introduced, requiring affluent citizens to contribute around 20% of their medical expenses. By the fourth year, the contribution from higher-income citizens would rise to a balanced 50-50 model, reducing the state's fiscal burden. In the fifth and

final phase, the model would become self-sustaining, with citizens paying small monthly premiums—500 PKR from 75% of the population and 100 PKR from lower-income groups eliminating dependency on government funding. Committee member Senator Anusha Rahman strongly endorsed the proposal, emphasizing that it would create accountability and tangible benefits for taxpayers. "The taxpayer rightly asks, 'What do I get in return for my taxes?'" An insurance model answers that question it guarantees benefits, ensures a consistent revenue stream for hospitals, and forces pub-

lic facilities to compete and improve," she said. Concluding the session, Minister Mustafa Kamal stated that "the government should not be in the business of running hospitals," asserting that its true role lies in regulation and payment, not service delivery. "Let market forces drive quality, accessibility, and efficiency," he added. The committee welcomed the proposal and requested a comprehensive presentation in the next meeting, signaling growing support for a radical shift in Pakistan's healthcare governance.

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Time for talks, not threats

Abdul Sattar

The recent provocative statements by Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, along with the bluster of some Indian officials, are a matter of grave concern for a region still grappling with the aftermath of the war that erupted on May 7 this year, threatening a nuclear holocaust in South Asia. While addressing an event on October 2, Singh warned Pakistan that "a route to Karachi passes through Sir Creek" and claimed that Pakistan's recent military buildup in the area exposed the flaw in its intentions.

The Indian defence minister accused Pakistan of planning military actions, but many critics believe that it is India that might be mulling aggressive moves to avenge the humiliation it suffered during the May conflict. They cite Singh's comments made during the same event, where he highlighted India's heightened military preparedness along the border, arguing there could be no final winner in a war between two nuclear powers. Any such conflict, they fear, would result in total annihilation – not only of the two nations but also of their history, cultures and traditions.

It is not only the Indian defence minister who indulged in this dangerous game of sabre-rattling; his army chief also expressed a desire to plunge the region into an abyss of war and con-

flikt. Top Indian General Upendra Dwivedi warned Islamabad on Friday against sponsoring terrorism, bluffing that India could transform Pakistan's history and geography. Speaking at an event in Rajasthan, General Dwivedi said, "If Pakistan wants to maintain a place in world history and geography, it must stop state-sponsored terrorism. We will not show any restraint this time as we did during Operation Sindoor 1.0 and will go a step ahead if provoked again". He added that future action could be so forceful that Pakistan may have to "rethink whether it wants a place in history and geography or not".

The statements triggered a strong reaction from Pakistan. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Sunday warned India against any future military conflict, stating that a befitting response would be given in the event of hostilities. He termed the recent statements by Indian military and political leaders a "failed attempt" to restore their lost credibility, which he said was the result of "pressure" after defeat in the May clashes. Asif said, "The statements of the Indian military and political leadership are a failed attempt to restore their tarnished reputation. After such a decisive defeat with a score of 0-6, if they try again, the score, God willing, will be far better than before".

Political observers believe that India stands iso-

lated globally on the diplomatic front. It has been locked in a trade war with the US over tariffs. The recent executive order by American President Donald Trump regarding certain visa categories is also aimed at India, which exports a large number of tech experts to the US and other parts of the world. There is tremendous pressure on New Delhi from Washington regarding oil imports from Russia. The US has repeatedly made it clear that it will not allow the purchase of Russian energy products. Trump's administration is not only asking India but also EU members to stop buying Russian gas and oil.

India's ties with the sole superpower are not as cordial as they once were. Therefore, there is very little chance that Washington would extend any assistance to the world's largest democracy in case of a conflict with Pakistan. New Delhi's joint ventures with American arms manufacturers might also be affected if the Modi-led government does not heed Trump's demands to buy American oil and gas. The US Department of the Interior estimates that there are technically recoverable resources of 29.4 billion barrels of oil and 391.6 trillion cubic feet of gas in the US. American shale gas is more expensive than Russian gas supplied via pipelines. Even then, Trump wants Europe and India to buy it.

Courtesy The News

Mystery of the 'port deal'

Zahid Hussain

WHILE rejecting an international media report about Pakistan offering America access to a proposed port at Pasni, senior security sources were cited as saying that any related discussions vis-à-vis private or commercial entities would have been "exploratory" and not "state initiatives". Nevertheless, the subject has raised many questions.

According to the Financial Times, the proposal was discussed with some US officials and shared with the army chief before he met President Donald Trump at the White House last month. The report claimed that 'advisers' to the army chief (Pakistani security sources said that the army chief does not have any official advisers) had approached the Americans with a proposal to build and operate a port on the Arabian Sea.

The FT said that the plan envisions American investors developing and managing a port in Pasni to facilitate access to Pakistan's critical minerals sector. It is a highly sensitive issue, which concerns our foreign and national security policy, and if unfounded, the FT report needs to be strongly and publicly rebutted by the political and military leadership, especially as the report involves the latter in the purported negotiations. So far, no official denial of the reported discussions on the proposed port with American officials or private companies has been issued by the government, including the Foreign Office. The only clarification on this extremely sensitive matter has come from unnamed security sources who reportedly told selected media persons that the (FT) report did not represent the official government or military policy. A number of questions have been raised about the purported Pasni discussions. According to media reports, the state-run digital outlet PTV also cited the sources as saying, "Conversations with private companies were exploratory, not official initiatives."

Courtesy Dawn

Gaza's future

TWO years after the Hamas attacks targeting Israel created shockwaves that rattled the Middle East, representatives of the Palestinian group and the Zionist state are discussing the modalities of US President Donald Trump's peace plan in Egypt. It is difficult to say whether these parleys will lead to lasting peace, as Israel has an extremely unsavoury past when it comes to honouring commitments. Moreover, those that populate the current Israeli cabinet are no doves; many have spoken openly of obliterating the Palestinian people. Yet any chance of halting the genocide in Gaza, and bringing relief to its battered people, must be pursued.

Much has happened since Oct 7, 2023. For one, the modern era's first live-streamed genocide has been carried out in the besieged Strip, executed by Tel Aviv and funded and defended by the West's 'liberal democracies', while the Muslim world has looked on. This has resulted in over 67,000 Gazans being slaughtered, more than 20,000 among them children. Israel has used starvation as a weapon of war, committing crimes against humanity in full public view. Beyond the wasteland of Gaza, Tel Aviv has attacked and occupied Lebanon and Syria, traded fire with Yemen's Houthis, and fought a devastating war with Iran.

Welfare of Lawyers, Improvement of the Justice system are our top priorities: Danial Ch



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Danial Chaudhry, reaffirmed the government's commitment to the welfare of lawyers and the improvement of the justice system while addressing a grand dinner hosted at the Islamabad Club in connection with the upcoming Supreme Court Bar Association elections. The event was attended by a large number of lawyers from the Supreme Court and High Courts and was graced by

Federal Minister for Law Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar as the chief guest.

In his address, Barrister Danial Chaudhry emphasized that the lawyers' community acts as a bridge between the people and the judiciary, playing a vital role in ensuring justice and the rule of law in society. He said, "The sacrifices of our lawyers for the supremacy of law are a shining chapter in our national history." Highlighting the positive role of young legal professionals, he noted that emerging leadership among young lawyers is helping strengthen

the relationship between the bar and the bench, a development he described as "a hopeful sign for the progress of Pakistan's justice system."

Federal Minister for Law Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, in his address, urged lawyers to rise above political differences and focus on welfare-oriented initiatives. "Instead of slogans, we must take practical and collective measures to address the challenges faced by the legal fraternity," he stated.

The Law Minister also lauded Barrister Danial Chaudhry's efforts and legal services, acknowledging his dedication to the legal community. Touching upon Pakistan's foreign policy, he remarked that under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership, the country is moving in a balanced and dignified direction on the global stage.

In a key announcement, Barrister Danial Chaudhry revealed that regular consultative sessions will be held to address the issues of lawyers.

Pakistan calls for stronger United Nations-African Union partnerships for peace

PEAK POINT

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has told the United Nations Security Council that the maturing institutional coordination between the UN and African Union (AU), demonstrates that "regional voices can shape global action when guided by mutual respect and shared purpose".

"This cooperation has been vital in responding to African crises," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, said in a debate on Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional and Subregional organizations on Tuesday. Conflicts in the Horn of Africa, Sudan, South Sudan and the Great Lakes region — including the Democratic Republic of the Congo — have caused widespread displacement and multiple humanitarian emer-



gencies. However, the Pakistani envoy voiced concern that responses to African crises are still filtered through the lenses of geopolitical competition, commercial interests and selective humanitarianism.

The Council must move away from externally imposed models of stabilization and towards models endorsed and owned by African actors, he stressed.

"Sustainable peace cannot be imposed; it must be locally owned and regionally reinforced," Ambassador Asim Ahmad said, adding, "A shift of penholdership on Africa.

First Lady Bibi Aseefa receives Ethiopian Ambassador on farewell call

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: First Lady of Pakistan, Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday received the Ambassador of Ethiopia, Dr Jemal Beker Abdula here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr on his farewell call.

Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari appreciated the Ambassador's contributions toward promoting friendship between Pakistan and Ethiopia, a Presidency's news release said.

She recalled that Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was the first Prime Minister of Pakistan to visit Ethiopia, and said it is now time to further strengthen these historic ties built on mutual respect and solidarity since the time of King Nefasih.

The First Lady noted that Pakistan was among the top ten environmentally stressed countries and shared that large-scale reconstruction and plantation activities were underway in her constituency for flood-affected communities. She said Pakistan and Ethiopia could work together on climate-smart agricul-

ture, renewable energy, and early warning systems under the Green Pakistan Initiative and Ethiopia's successful reforestation model.

Congratulating Ethiopia on becoming a full member of BRICS, Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to expanding cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, and climate action.

She also appreciated the growing economic linkages between the two nations, including the conclusion of the Bilateral Trade Agreement, the Single Country Exhibition in Addis Ababa taking place later this year, and the resumption of direct flights between Karachi and Addis Ababa which is contributing to greater connectivity and people-to-people contacts. The Ambassador appreciated the First Lady's role in projecting a positive image of Pakistan and strengthening bilateral relations during his tenure as Ethiopia's first Ambassador to Pakistan. He said his focus had been on building lasting connections between the two nations.

Nefarious design to end in vain: Aleem Khan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD:

Federal Minister for Communications and President of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), Abdul Aleem Khan, on Wednesday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of Pakistan Army officers and soldiers during an operation against terrorists in Orakzai. In his condolence message, Abdul Aleem Khan said the entire nation pays tributes to its brave Martyrs and stands in mourning over the sacrifices of Lt. Colonel Jumaid Arif, Major Tayyab Rahat and 9 valiant soldiers, said a press release.

He prayed for the Martyrs and for their families to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude. He stated that the Armed Forces of Pakistan have always thwarted the enemy's malicious ambitions by laying down their lives for the motherland.

He commended the Armed Forces for eliminating 19 India-sponsored terrorists, thereby ensuring the country's security and reaffirmed that countering the "fitna al Khawarij" and their facilitators remains a top priority for national defense.

Ikhtiar Wali emphasizes resilience, unity, faith on National Resilience Day

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Coordinator on Information, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Affairs, Ikhtiar Wali Khan, on Wednesday, focused on resilience, unity and faith on National Resilience Day, calling these factors the true strength of Pakistan, which had made the nation stronger in every calamity.

In his message on National Resilience Day, which is being marked on October 08, Ikhtiar Wali Khan said the day reminds us of the moment when the earth shook, but the resolve of the Pakistani nation stood firm.

"The 2005 earthquake shook the mountains and valleys of KP, especially Balakot, yet the spirit



of the people shone brightly and was written into history in golden words," he said.

The calamity, while leaving behind deep sorrows, also gave birth to a nation that refuses to bow before adversity, he said.

He said, "As we mark the 20th anniversary of that catastrophic event, we salute the martyrs, the orphans, the brave volunteers and those resilient hearts that searched for hope amidst the ruins." Ikhtiar Wali said the people of KP are symbols.

Misbah Khar meets Philippine envoy to broaden bilateral cooperation through parliamentary diplomacy

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Misbah Khar, Special Envoy for the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC), on Wednesday called on Dr. Emmanuel R. Fernandez, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines, at the Embassy of the Philippines in Islamabad to discuss potential areas of collaboration in connection with the upcoming ISC.

Ambassador Khar briefed the Ambassador on the scope and objectives of the ISC, highlighting its role as an emerging platform that brings together parliamentary leaders to deliberate on global challenges and promote shared principles of peace, pros-



perity, and inclusive governance, said a news release.

She underscored that the long-standing friendship between Pakistan and the Philippines provides a strong foundation for enhanced parliamentary cooperation and policy exchange in fields such as institutional development, social progress, and economic stability. She apprised that the Chairman Senate.



ISLAMABAD: First Lady of Pakistan, Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, in a meeting with the Ambassador of Ethiopia, Dr Jemal Beker Abdula, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on his farewell call.

Apologised to PM Shehbaz on presumptions about supposed minerals deal with US: Senator Aimal Wali

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Awami National Party (ANP) Senator Aimal Wali Khan has said he has apologised to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif after the latter provided him with a clarification on the questions he had earlier raised during a Senate speech regarding a presumed rare earth minerals deal with the US.

In a post on X on Tuesday, he said the PM had invited him for a meeting after his speech in the upper House of Parliament, and during the conversation, he

told the premier: "If I can criticise openly, I also have the courage to apologise if I make a mistake". He added that he had told the PM that if he was wrong in his presumptions about the deal, "I apologise".

In his Senate speech, Khan had referred to a photograph circulating on social media that showed PM Shehbaz, US President Donald Trump and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir, who was holding an open briefcase that appeared to contain minerals. The photograph

was released by the White House, after a September meeting of the three in the US, and showed Field Marshal Munir pointing to the contents of the briefcase and Trump looking at them.

Khan said in his speech in the Senate on Sept 30 that in the photograph, it seemed that a deal for the trade of rare earth minerals was being proposed. "Under what agreement, which law and the Constitution? This is dictatorship. This is, sorry to say, not democracy."

He went on to question whether parliament held any

importance.

Khan also spoke of the rights of smaller provinces and accused the ruling party in the Centre, the PML-N, of working on the terms of the military establishment.

The ANP leader also termed the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) — a committee that helps with foreign investments — an "unconstitutional institution".

"The SIFC is financially taking Pakistan towards one unit. All your decisions are being made at one place ... The SIFC is making Punjab's

agriculture policy [...] It is the SIFC that is dealing with rare earth minerals," he alleged.

Following Khan's speech, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar mentioned in the Senate on Tuesday that PM Shehbaz had met Khan and clarified details regarding his meeting with the US president.

Subsequently, Khan posted on X that after his speech in the upper house of parliament, the premier invited him for a briefing on his visit to the US.

"At the beginning of the

meeting, he apologised to me and said that all of this should have happened in parliament prior to the US visit. I accepted his apology right away and said: "Look at my speech. I only talked about the supremacy of parliament. I did not ridicule anyone."

According to Khan, the premier clarified that he needed to take the army chief along with him on some visits. "Due to some strategic constraints, he takes the Field Marshal along with him," he said. "Referring to the picture of Trump, the Field Marshal and himself.