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PM Shehbaz vows to bring back era of happiness, peace, development in KP

Says Federal Govt and military leadership working together for sustainable peace, development in KP

PESHAWAR, (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here on Thursday said that the government and military leadership were working together for sustainable peace and development on a fast track basis in Khyber Pakthunkhwa.

Addressing the Federal Apex Committee of National Action Plan here at Governor House, the Prime Minister said that difficult decisions had to be taken in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to the deteriorating law and order situation, expressing the resolve that the federal government, in cooperation with the military leadership would soon be able to restore durable peace, development and prosperity in the terrorism-affected districts of the province.

The high level meeting of the federal apex committee was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Federal Minister for Law Azam Nazeer Tarar, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervez Malik, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Leghari, Prime Minister's Adviser Rana Sanaullah, senior military leadership and senior officers of the relevant department.

Addressing the Federal Apex Committee, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said KP was a beautiful province inhabited by courageous, brave and resilient people, adding that the federal government had been compelled to impose constitutional measures of emergency and Governor's rule in the province under extraordinary difficult circumstances.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to help the government and people advance the process of peace and development in the province. The prime minister also expressed deep sorrow over the tragic death of a female teacher and children in the recent school roof collapse in Peshawar and expressed sympathies with the victims.

The prime minister said he had directed the Governor KP to immediately visit the affected site of the school at Dir Colony and ensure a complete investigation into the tragic incident.



PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the meeting of Federal Apex Committee under the National Action Plan



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail inaugurates the Fine Arts Exhibition at BUITEMS.

Pakistan, EU reaffirm commitment to combat terrorism in all forms

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Pakistan and the European Union (EU) on Thursday exchanged views on recent regional and global developments impacting the terrorism threat landscape and issued an unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, reaffirming commitment to combating this threat.

Pakistan and the EU exchanged their views during the 10th round of annual bilateral Counter Terrorism Dialogue held here. The Pakistan delegation was led by Dr Fareha Bugti, Director General (CT), while the EU side was headed by Anna Strzaska, the EU External Action Service's Special Envoy for Counter terrorism.

The EU side condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Pakistan, expressed solidarity with the sufferings of innocent civilians affected and recognised the value of Pakistan's efforts to combat terrorism. Acknowledging each other's role in the ongoing global fight against terrorism, Pakistan and the EU expressed concern at the security implications of the situation in Afghanistan. Pakistan and the EU agreed to strengthen their cooperation at multilateral forums, including the United Nations, to advance a coherent counter terrorism approach.

They maintained that effective multilateralism remains essential to building lasting international consensus on terrorism. The discussions also addressed the evolving nature of terrorist threats, including exploitation of cyberspace, information and energy resources for advancing their objectives.

Pakistan and the EU also exchanged best practices on preventing and countering violent extremism, terrorism financing and radicalisation in all forms, particularly the use of cyberspace by terrorists, among other critical areas in addressing the evolving terrorist threat.



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari MNA in a meeting with First Lady of the Republic of Maldives Madam Sajidha Mohamed at Aiwan-e-Sadr

Pakistan, Maldives to further improve bilateral relations through enhanced cooperation: Ayaz

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Thursday met with President of Republic of Maldives, Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, during his state visit to Pakistan.

The meeting focused on bilateral relations between Pakistan and the Maldives, with particular emphasis on further strengthening cooperation and promoting people-to-people contacts.

During the meeting, Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its longstanding, friendly and brotherly relations with the Maldives.

He emphasised the need to further enhance cooperation between the two countries in areas of mutual interest, including trade, education, health, tourism and capacity building.

Ayaz Sadiq underscored the importance of high-level exchanges in promoting mutual understanding and strengthening institutional linkages between the two countries.

He said that continued engagement between the leadership and institutions of Pakistan and the Maldives would help explore new avenues of cooperation and further consolidate bilateral relations.

Ayaz Sadiq highlighted the significance of parliamentary diplomacy in promoting dialogue, mutual understanding and closer ties between the two nations.

He expressed confidence that enhanced interaction between the parliamentary institutions of Pakistan and the Maldives would contribute to strengthening bilateral relations and fostering cooperation on matters of mutual interest.

President of Republic of Maldives Dr. Mohamed Muizzu appreciated the longstanding friendship between the two countries and expressed his desire to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in diverse fields.

He underscored the importance of continued engagement and closer collaboration for the mutual benefit of the peoples of Pakistan and the Maldives.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations through sustained engagement, enhanced cooperation, and closer people-to-people contacts.

Iran threatens to target US data centres, undersea internet cables if war breaks out

TEHRAN, (Agencies): Iran's security chief Mohsen Rezaei on Thursday said negotiations with the United States have been suspended, warning that undersea internet cables, data centres and AI facilities could be targeted by Iran if war breaks out, IRNA reports. Meanwhile, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said that it had targeted four ships in the northern part of the Arabian Gulf that it said were transferring oil cargoes from one vessel to another. The IRGC's naval forces said in a statement that "fires were still burning on the targeted ships." It added that the four vessels had been spotted transferring oil between ships and were targeted simultaneously for sailing along "unauthorised routes." The IRGC accused the US of "encouraging ships to cross a maritime passage planted with mines," saying this was leading to an "increase in maritime incidents." The statement warned Washington that if the US continued with this approach, the scope of Iran's response "would also include American bases in the region."

Three terrorists killed as security forces foil attack on construction camp in Gwadar

GWADAR, (Monitoring Desk): Security forces have killed three terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Hindustan while foiling an attempt to attack an unoccupied camp of a construction company in Balochistan's Gwadar, state-owned Radio Pakistan reported on Thursday, citing security sources.

According to the report, security forces acted promptly to thwart the attack on the vacant camp. The sources said security forces had also surrounded three more terrorists.

In a separate attempted attack, an operation was under way against terrorists hiding in a local hotel near the Gwadar Highway, the report said.

Citing security sources, Radio Pakistan reported that four terrorists had been surrounded by the forces.

The Gwadar general officer commanding was personally leading the operation on the ground, the report added.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi praised security forces for foiling the attempted attack and lauded the forces' professional capabilities for killing three terrorists during the operation

"We are proud of the brave sons of the soil who are fighting against terrorists," Naqvi said, expressing pride in the personnel engaged in counterterrorism efforts.

He said the entire nation stood united against terrorism and supported the security forces.

Naqvi added that operations would continue until terrorists and their facilitators were completely eliminated.

Asifa Bhutto lauds Maldivian First Lady's initiatives to empower women, youth

ISLAMABAD (INP): First Lady Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari met with First Lady of the Republic of Maldives Sajidha Mohamed at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

During the meeting, the two First Ladies underscored the importance of women's empowerment, youth development and greater people-to-people engagement as key pillars of Pakistan-Maldives bilateral relations. Welcoming her Maldivian counterpart, Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari expressed the hope that Pakistan's warmth and hospitality would make her visit memorable and further strengthen the longstanding bonds of friendship, mutual respect, shared values and Islamic brotherhood between the two countries. The First Lady expressed satisfaction over expanding bilateral cooperation in education, healthcare, culture, youth development and people-to-people exchanges. Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari commended First Lady Sajidha Mohamed's distinguished professional journey, particularly her leadership role at the Maldives Food and Drug Authority.

Poverty drives woman to commit suicide

LAHORE (INP): A 28-year-old woman allegedly died by suicide at her sister's home in Lahore's Iqbal Town on Thursday, with poverty and financial hardships reported as the reason. According to Rescue 1122 officials, the deceased was identified as Ayesha Bibi. The incident took place in Neelum Block near Number Stop in Iqbal Town, where Ayesha had been living with her sister. According to initial reports, she had married a man named Rashid five years ago but later filed for khula (dissolution of marriage) due to financial difficulties. She subsequently moved to her sister's home, where she reportedly continued to face financial hardships.

Police have recorded statements from family members and launched an investigation into the incident. Forensic experts collected evidence from the scene, while the body was shifted to a hospital for a post-mortem examination.

President Zardari vows to facilitate foreign investment in Pakistan

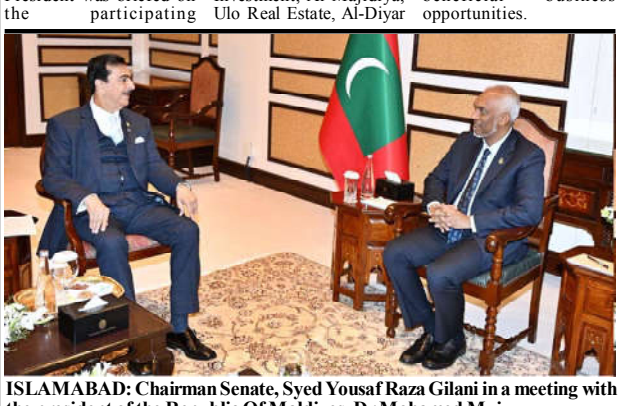
Says Saudi Arabia always stood firmly alongside Pakistan through difficult times

LAHORE, (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday visited the Saudi Pakistan Real Estate Expo (SPREX) at Lake City, here, underscoring the importance of strengthening economic cooperation and promoting investment between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Upon arrival, the President was received by Governor of Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan and Dr Gohar Ejaz, CEO of Lake City and Member of the Saudi-Pakistan Business Council, a Presidency's news release said.

During the visit, the President was briefed on the participating companies and their projects, as well as the investment opportunities being explored in Pakistan's real estate sector.

The Expo features pavilions of prominent Saudi real estate and investment companies, with participation from Prince Mansour bin Mohammed Al Saud, Chairman of the Saudi-Pakistan Business Council, and Abdul Aziz Al-Ashrafi, Vice Chairman of the Council. The participating Saudi companies include Safa Investment, Knowledge Economic City, Sumou Investment, Al-Majidiya, Ulo Real Estate, Al-Diyar Al-Arabiya, Bin Daood Investment and International Gate Investment. The participating companies are exploring potential investment opportunities in Pakistan, while showcasing projects in Makkah and Madinah to attract Saudi investors and promote greater cross-border investment. Speaking on the occasion, the President emphasised the importance of translating the longstanding and fraternal relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia into stronger economic partnerships, increased investment and mutually beneficial business opportunities.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani in a meeting with the president of the Republic Of Maldives, Dr Mohamed Muizzu

State-backed Hindu celebrations at Hinglaj Mata reflect Pakistan's commitment to religious harmony

QUETTA, (APP): Pakistan's religious harmony, respect for diversity, and support for minority communities have found powerful expression in the Hindu celebrations at the historical Hinglaj Mata Temple in Balochistan.

Nearly 300,000 pilgrims had attended the April 2026 festival, fully supported by state-provided security and relief supplies, alongside community-organized food and refreshments. Keeping up this spirit of interfaith harmony, thousands of devotees—many traveling long distances on foot—reached the shrine to observe October's Navratri and Durga Ashtami celebrations.

Highlighting the province's focus on smooth arrangements, Senator Danesh Kumar extended his gratitude to Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti and the provincial government for their facilitation.

He also recognized Jam Kamal for his continued support and praised Kashish Chaudhary, Balochistan's first Hindu woman assistant commissioner, for her dedicated service as the focal person supervising the arrangements, showcasing meaningful minority representation in public service.

This facilitation strengthens Pakistan's positive international image through practical inclusion, demonstrating how religious freedom is upheld through actionable protection, dignified facilitation, and equal treatment.

In stark contrast to Pakistan's efforts at promoting peaceful worship, severe concerns remain regarding the state of Muslim places of worship in India. Beyond the 1992 demolition of the Babri Masjid, official reports reveal that 861 Muslim religious sites have been demolished over a three-year period in India, including 57 mosques, 563 mazars, 6 dargahs, 226 madrasas, 6 Eidgahs, and 1 graveyard. The practical protection and support provided to Hindu devotees at Hinglaj Mata underscore Pakistan's commitment to enabling minority communities to celebrate their faith with dignity, safety, and respect for religious diversity.



Auditor General of Pakistan Maqbool Ahmed Gondal giving away certificates to the participants at the completion ceremony of the first batch of a specialized training programme on Procurement Rules and EPADS 2.0.

THE VOICE OF MILLIONS

Friday October 23, 2026

Return to talks

The Islamabad MoU, and the broader US-Iran ceasefire this document is supposed to underpin, is unravelling before our eyes. Following a recent escalation, Washington and Tehran have been trading fire across the Gulf, with each round more intense than the last. The US has struck locations in Iran, while Tehran has responded in kind by hitting targets in the GCC states allied with the US, as well as in Iraq, Jordan and Syria. Both sides have hit civilian sites, including water plants. The immediate trigger for hostilities was Iran's demand that only its 'approved' route be used for transit of the Strait of Hormuz. Its attacks on ships using 'unauthorised' routes invited an American military response. Apparently, both sides were reading the MoU's clause regarding the vital strait differently. Yet beyond Hormuz, Israel's attacks in Lebanon have also put great strain on the MoU. As of Saturday, the MoU seemed all but dead, as Iran's deputy foreign minister has said his country is "no longer implementing" its commitments as per the document. The threat of the war restarting and the conflict expanding is very real. The US attacks have failed to deter the Iranians while there is talk of a possible American ground invasion. This idea must be dropped immediately, as it would prove to be an unmitigated disaster, and torpedo any chance of peace, however remote, that exists today.

Furthermore, Yemen's pro-Iran Houthis have threatened to close the Bab al-Mandeb strait another key chokepoint for global trade in case the conflict expands. The effect this would have on the global economy would be brutal. Therefore, to prevent further bloodshed and a new global economic shockwave, all regional states and members of the international community should redouble their efforts to revive the ceasefire. The Pakistani and Chinese foreign ministers have called for an immediate return to dialogue. There is great wisdom in their words. Other states, such as Egypt and Turkiye, as well as Qatar, should also try and bring the belligerents back to the table. This entirely preventable war is the result of hubris and arrogance; it was launched by the US and Israel, who thought they could knock out the Iranian system in a few days or weeks. Clearly, their assumptions were delusional. The US particularly finds itself in a quagmire, standing at the precipice of another 'forever war' as midterms loom in November. It has few good options before it. Rather than sink deeper in the Iranian quicksand, the US should halt hostilities immediately. Iran, too, must silence its guns. It is time the US realised that Iran sees the conflict as an 'existential war', as its parliament Speaker has observed.

The only way to prevent a catastrophic regional conflagration is for both to return to the negotiating table.

Charging for Hormuz

Sikander Ahmed ShahSana Afraz

Iran is seeking to recalibrate its control over the Strait of Hormuz by regulating maritime traffic and establishing a 'smart management' system that includes passage fees for vessels traversing the strait. The principal treaty governing these matters is the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which establishes the legal framework applicable to passage through international straits. It recognises two principal regimes: innocent passage and transit passage.

Under UNCLOS, innocent passage is defined as passage that is "not prejudicial to the peace, good order, or security of the coastal State". Activities that render passage non-innocent, expressly include any threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity, or political independence of the coastal state, or in any other manner in violation of the principles of international law embodied in the Charter of the United Nations. Nevertheless, warships enjoy a customary right to innocent passage through straits used in international navigation in times of peace as recognised in the ICJ Corfu Channel case.

Innocent passage is more restrictive of the two regimes and applies within a coastal state's territorial sea. Ships of all states enjoy the right to innocent passage through territorial seas and such passage must be continuous and expeditious. Under Article 25(3), a coastal state may temporarily suspend innocent passage in specified areas of its territorial sea, without discrimination, where necessary for its security and after due publication.

Article 45 of UNCLOS applies to straits that connect a part of the high seas or an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) with the territorial sea of another state, thereby extending the innocent -passage regime to such straits used for international navigation. Iran would argue that the Strait of Hormuz falls within this special category of straits, much like the Straits of Tiran. This could, in turn, allow Iran to argue that, in specified areas of its territorial sea rather than throughout the entire strait, and upon giving due notice, it may temporarily suspend the innocent passage of foreign ships, without discrimination in form or fact, where such suspension is essential to protect its security.

Under Article 37 of UNCLOS, the transit-passage regime applies to straits used for international navigation between one part of the high seas or an EEZ and another part of the high seas or an EEZ. It grants broader rights than innocent passage: submarines may transit while submerged, aircraft enjoy a right of overflight, and passage may not be suspended by the coastal state.

Iran signed UNCLOS in 1982 but never ratified it. Under Article 34 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, a treaty does not, of itself, create obligations for a state that is not a party to it. As per this view, the legal basis for subjecting Iran to the transit-passage regime established under a treaty it has not ratified is questionable, unless it can be shown that the regime exists as a rule of customary international law — a proposition that, in this case, is not fully established. The US, however, maintains that the right of transit passage is part of customary international law, even though it has not ratified UNCLOS.

In 1959, Iran extended its territorial sea to 12 nautical miles, citing security concerns over Hormuz. Upon signing UNCLOS in 1982, it declared that transit passage was not part of customary international law but was, instead, a treaty compromise binding only on state parties.

Iran has maintained this position in its domestic law despite the Revolution. The 1964 Maritime Code, a 1981 decree left un-amended after the conclusion of UNCLOS, the 1993 Act on Marine Areas — which requires prior authorisation for numerous categories of vessels, including warships — and the 2012 amendments, all treat Hormuz as subject only to innocent passage.

Assuming arguendo that the right of transit passage applies, Iran would nevertheless maintain that passage through its territorial sea within the Strait of Hormuz remains governed by the innocent-passage regime, with the right to temporarily suspend for security reasons, particularly against belligerent states such as the US and its allies.

However, the innocent-passage regime prohibits imposing a fee merely for the right of passage. Consequently, any charge imposed solely for passage, or applied discriminatorily, would be legally questionable. Articles 16(4) and 18 of the 1958 Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone prohibit charges for mere innocent passage through straits. Although Iran and the US are not parties to UNCLOS, it is worth noting that Article 26 of the Convention permits charges only for specific services actually rendered to a foreign vessel during innocent passage and requires that such charges be imposed without discrimination.

Iran's newly formalised Persian Gulf Strait Authority requires vessels to obtain transit authorisation, submit cargo details and pay fees before entering the Strait of Hormuz. This policy, however, is strongly disputed internationally. Although Iran's sovereignty supports the exercise of administrative, environmental and customs jurisdiction, international law strictly limits passage fees to reimbursement for specific services actually rendered.

To justify its tolls, Iran points to Turkiye's fee system under the 1936 Montreux Convention and Egypt's Suez Canal tolls. Unlike the Bosphorus, however, Hormuz is not governed by an existing multilateral treaty legitimising such fees, and, unlike the Suez Canal, Iran has not demonstrated that it provides dedicated services or maintenance for the strait.

If Iran is able — with or without Oman — to conclude an internationally recognised multilateral treaty, attracting a sufficient number of consenting states, that treaty could provide a legal basis for passage tolls, even if opposed by states such as the US. Without such a widely ratified treaty, Iran may struggle to justify a toll system legally, particularly one that is not linked to services actually provided and that accords preferential treatment to certain states.

The bottom line

Zarrar Khuhro

As there is no realistic scenario in which the Houthis would enforce a naval blockade of Saudi Arabia, and then launch attacks on its facilities without the approval — or on the instructions — of Tehran, we need to ask why a besieged Iran has taken the risk of provoking Saudi Arabia, which has thus far avoided direct participation in the war despite massive pressure from the US. Saudi Arabia's chequered and violent history with Yemen and its armed factions notwithstanding, this blockade is a tool used by Iran to swing outcomes in its favour.

The strategy is simple: Iran wants the clock to run down on global oil supplies while ensuring that the world feels the pain as prices rise. Saudi Arabia is not only the world's largest crude oil producer but also the one country with enough spare capacity to stabilise energy markets. By attacking Saudi tankers trying to transit Bab-El-Mandeb, the Houthis force them to take the circuitous route through the Suez to Asian markets, easily doubling the fuel cost.

Thus far two tankers — one bound for India, the other for China — have been forced to turn back but two Chinese supertankers were allowed to pass, showing that the blockade is selective. The threat to Saudi Arabia has rung alarm bells in Pakistan. The Foreign Office warned that Pakistan will "take all necessary measures, including lawful use of force, in the exercise of self-defence to protect its maritime assets and national interests". The bottom line is clear: Saudi Arabia is Pakistan's red line but oil is Pakistan's lifeline.

Saudi Arabia — barring one spat over Pakistan's (wise) refusal in 2016 to join the Saudi-led military intervention — plays a major role in keeping Pakistan running through rollovers and oil facilities. During this war, it ensured that oil supplies reached Pakistan from its western port of Yanbu thus preventing a serious fuel crisis. However, that port is now under threat of blockade and even attack which creates an intolerable and possibly existential crisis for Pakistan.

Now, with outright Houthis attacks on Saudi facilities, there is the Pak-Saudi defence pact to consider: were Islamabad to refuse a call for action it would not only seriously damage our relations with a critical ally but also regional and, in fact, global credibility. While outright entanglement has been avoided thus far, a direct attack on Saudi soil would naturally change the calculus rapidly and the result would be in no one's interests, certainly not Iran's.

Much has been written about America's obvious lack of planning and foresight, and about the odious behaviour of its leadership, but this should not be taken as proof that Iran's leadership — whoever is calling the shots at this time — is making the correct calculation. Yes, they acquitted themselves better than expected in the first round of conflict and yes, in the short term the squeeze on Riyadh will hasten the global energy crisis Iran desires, but at what cost? If Pakistan's oil lifeline or treaty ally is threatened, what will that mean for Iran in coming months and years, with yet another neighbour not exactly looking at it favourably?

The actions against Saudi Arabia come despite a China-brokered pre-war improvement in Iran-Saudi ties over the past few years, which had raised the tempting prospect of a post-war scenario in which Riyadh and Tehran could come to terms. The current confrontation makes that scenario less likely with every passing day. Indeed, it makes a Saudi-UAE rapprochement all the more likely, which would also be to Iran's detriment.

The irony is that the war provided a historic opportunity for Iran to drive a wedge between the US and its Gulf allies, who were clearly fuming at the US turning them into a target and then refusing to defend them. And while it is a reality that US bases in those countries serve as launching pads for American aggre-ssion, Iran's current strategy runs the risk of (a) forcing those countries into a deeper US embrace out of necessity, and (b) working to increase their own defensive and offensive capabilities and entering into regional alliances that exclude, and are aimed at containing, Iran. Is that a desirable outcome for Tehran? Would a carrot have been preferable to the stick?

There's a degree of selectivity when it comes to Iran's acquiescence in the Saudi blockade and the latest attacks on Gulf states as well, given that the UAE is and has been an active partner of Israel and in favour of the war on Iran but has been spared in the latest round of hostilities. Does this mean that the reports of a UAE payoff to Iran are true? Perhaps. Either way it points to a pragmatism that belies the rhetoric emanating from Iran.

And so, we must and should ask where that pragmatism is when it comes to Saudi Arabia and, by extension, Pakistan?

Healing touch needed

Tariq Khosa

Since early this month, Balochistan has been reeling from a series of dastardly terror attacks. The nexus of ideologically different banned terrorist groups — the religiously motivated extremists of the TTP and BLA terrorists — poses a grave challenge. The current spate of violence started on July 5, when terrorists managed to reach the fertile Shaban area next to Hanna-Urak in the suburbs of Quetta cantonment, and then launched another attack the next day on the Mangi Dam Ziarat police post at the pumping station. Despite a valiant fight put up by a DSP and 40 policemen, the terrorists, who had attacked in a large numbers, kidnapped and killed 27 ammunition-deficient law-enforcement personnel. Timely reinforcements by the police and FC could have prevented this tragedy.

Meanwhile, an FC convoy was attacked near Khad Kucha, district Mastung, resulting in casualties. In addition, a military contingent in unmarked vehicles was attacked at Bela-Vinder by the BLA's Majeed Brigade, resulting in casualties in double figures. Clashes in the mineral-rich district of Chagai were also reported, while a suicide attack took place in Khuzdar in which a tribal political leader involved in internecine strife lost 17 of his kinsmen to five attackers who rammed their explosive-laden vehicle into the gate of the fortified compound in Wadh. A three-hour gun battle left 30 injured. In the latest high-profile incident on Thursday, a sessions judge and his guard were killed on the road by assailants.

Since July 5, there have been more than 40 police, military, FC and civilian casualties, while a total of 121 terrorists have been eliminated. The operation is to continue "until the last terrorist is neutralised" say the state authorities. The government has agreed to constitute a judicial commission to probe the Urak violence and Mangi Dam tragedy. Hopefully, a judge of the high court will probe what led to the violence, in which there were four casualties among the local land owners in the agriculturally rich Shaban area around Killi Babri. The question is, how did the armed terrorist groups get involved? Similarly, Mangi is a project of national interest. It will supply fresh water to Quetta and its cantonment and reduce water shortage by around 20 per cent when operational. FC is deployed at the main dam and other ancillary sites. How come the pumping station post which was recently taken over from the defunct levies, was not being jointly manned by the FC and police, especially in light of the threat alerts issued? The most significant concern is the large number of TTP terrorists who have become active in the vast terrain joining Quetta's suburbs to the mountainous region linking the northern parts of Balochistan with KP.

During the 1980s, under martial law, Gen Ziaul Haq focused on reconciliation and good governance. The best police and civil administration officers were posted to focus on the administration of justice and service delivery. On promotion as SP and on top of my batch, I was allocated to Balochistan where for the next four years I served as additional SP Quetta, district SP Sibi in charge of the Kachi and Sibi districts and Dera Bugti and Kohlu agencies, and finally as SSP Quetta. We respected the citizens who reciprocated the sentiment. The military, police and civil administration worked for the welfare and progress of the province. Roads were safe for travel. Next, I had the honour of serving as IG Balochistan in 2007 under Gen Musharraf's military hybrid rule. The entire province was converted into a police jurisdiction replacing the ragtag levies model of rural policing. The issue of missing persons and enforced disappearances became a festering wound in the Baloch psyche. The killing of Nawab Bugti in a cave near Kohlu sparked intense violence.

After the 2008 elections, the PPP-led federal and provincial governments were unable to stop the kill-and-dump strategy. Mass graves were discovered. Human rights violations multiplied. The conversion to police jurisdiction was reversed. Following the 2013 polls, the PML-N-led government adopted a carrot-and-stick approach to the violence. The first-ever non-sardar chief minister genuinely worked for political reconciliation and met the BLA and BRA leaders in London and Geneva. His efforts were scuttled in 2015. The PTI-led government in 2018 could not change the tough security stance vis-à-vis Balochistan. Since the controversial 2024 elections, the PML-N-led federal and PPP-led provincial governments have actively supported this hard security-stance, with male and female Baloch activists convicted under draconian laws. The roads are unsafe. Trade and business are in decline. Fear rules and violence is widespread. Miscreants are active in the following districts: Turbat, Kalat, Khuzdar, Nushki, Surab, Gwadar, Mastung, Panjgur, Awaran, Kachi/Bolan, Kharan, Chaghi, Kohlu, and Washuk. That's a huge swathe of land.

Police have been facing a massive challenge since the recent conversion of the entire province to police jurisdiction. The experienced CT-related, KP battle-hardened police chief of Balochistan needs full support from the federal and provincial governments in terms of human resources, infrastructure and equipment. The Zia-era model of good governance is worth consideration: give him the best officers in the ranks of SP and SSP to serve for a fixed tenure of three years. The prime minister must review his decision to depute about 20 serving military officers as district SPs in the insurgency-infested areas. This militarisation of police will be a fiasco.

Balochistan suffers from many missed opportunities and unfulfilled promises. Addressing the crisis effectively requires a two-pronged strategy: decisively eliminating the terrorist threat while proactively addressing the grievances of the local population. As this paper rightly observed, "The long-term solution to Balochistan's problem remains the political path." The need for a serious political strategy cannot be ignored anymore.

Fifty people killed, 700,000 displaced by floods after monsoon rains in India

Monitoring Desk

GUWAHATI: Flooding in India's northeastern Assam state has killed at least 50 people and displaced 700,000 after days of heavy monsoon rain that overflowed the Brahmaputra River, officials said.

The river, one of Asia's largest that originates in China's Tibet region and flows about 900 kilometers (560 miles) through Assam, flooded villages, swept away homes and forced nearly 300,000 people into government-run relief camps, officials said.

Authorities provided food and relief supplies to flood victims including airdrops from helicopters, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

Nearly 900 villages were submerged and more than 7,000 homes were without electricity, he said.

Police, disaster response teams and local volunteers were working to rescue stranded residents and deliver essential supplies to flood-hit communities, officials said.

Jatin Gogoi, a 52-year-old farmer from Nazira, said the rising waters swept away his bamboo-walled home and destroyed his livelihood.

"I lost all my cattle. My five-member family and I have nowhere to go, so we are taking shelter in a relative's home," he said over the phone.

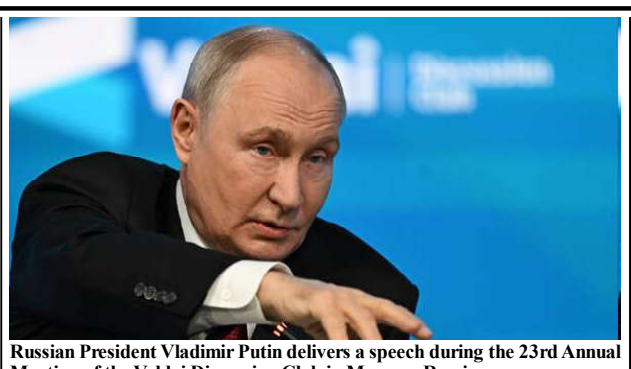
Flooding on Thursday evening disrupted parts of Guwahati, Assam's capital with about 2 million residents, as submerged roads left commuters stranded for hours.

"I had to stay overnight at my office. The roads were filled with water, some waist deep," said Sudip Mazumdar, a journalist in Guwahati.

Experts say human-caused climate change is intensifying South Asia's monsoons, which traditionally run from June to September and again from October to December. The rains, once predictable, now arrive in erratic bursts that dump extreme amounts of water in short periods, followed by dry spells.



People walk through stalls during the second day of the TEKNOFEST aviation, space, and technology festival at Sanliurfa GAP Airport in Sanliurfa, Turkiye



Russian President Vladimir Putin delivers a speech during the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club in Moscow, Russia

Trump's new wave of tariffs triggers global backlash

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump is moving ahead with sweeping new tariffs on dozens of America's trading partners, escalating global trade tensions just as a temporary set of stopgap levies expires.

The Trump administration announced on Thursday it will impose tariffs ranging from 10 to 12.5 per cent on imports from 60 countries, covering roughly 99 per cent of US imports. The move comes after a legal setback earlier this year, when the US Supreme Court struck down some of Trump's most ambitious tariff measures.

The new duties will take effect at 12:01 am Friday in Washington, DC (04:01 GMT), coinciding with the expiration of temporary 10 per cent tariffs that had been introduced as an interim measure following the court ruling. Washington has justified the fresh tariffs by accusing trading partners of failing to adequately enforce bans on goods produced through forced labour. US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer defended the decision, saying the move was long overdue.

"The United States has had a forced labour import ban for nearly a century, and rigorously enforces it; it's well past time for our trading partners to do the same," Greer said in a statement on Thursday. "Today's action will begin to correct what is both a human rights abuse and a distortive trade practice to improve the welfare of workers everywhere."

However, the announcement has triggered sharp criticism from governments across the globe, with many rejecting both the legal and moral basis of the tariffs.

European officials were quick to challenge Washington's justification. Kaja Kallas, Vice President of the European Commission, questioned the premise of the move, highlighting the bloc's labour protections.

'Source of any aggression' against Iran legitimate target: FM Araghchi

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Speaking at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Iran reserved the right to retaliate against any acts of aggression, according to Mehr news agency.

Araghchi stated that Iran has shown it is not an initiator of any war and that regional security depended on not using double standards.

He said that the origin of any act of aggression against Iran amounted to a legitimate target for the Iranian armed forces, underlining that Iran reserved the right to retaliate against any acts of aggression against it.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, in accordance with international law, reserves its right to take all necessary measures within the framework of legitimate defence and will consider the source of any aggression against the Iranian nation as a legitimate target for defensive actions by its Armed Forces," he said.

Araghchi said Iran had exercised its inherent right to self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter following military aggression by the United States and the Israeli regime, adding that Tehran has not been the initiator of any war, as per Mehr.

The Iranian foreign minister condemned the US and the Zionist regime for launching repeated attacks against Iran, saying those actions have targeted not only Iran's national security but also principles of the international legal order. Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said Israel was "the number one enemy of all Islamic countries", state-run IRNA reports.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Ali Falih Kadhim al-Zaidi, the prime minister of Iraq, in Tehran on Friday.

Ghalibaf added that cooperation between Iran and Iraq to preserve the unity of Islamic nations against the Zionist regime was "certainly effective".



Turkiye's Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) leader Devlet Bahceli (R) presents red and white roses to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Bangladesh's President Shahabuddin, 76, resigns citing health concerns

Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin, a former ally of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has resigned citing serious health issues, his office said today.

Shahabuddin, 76, has held the largely ceremonial post of president since April 2023, a period that included volatile months after Hasina's flight to India following a student-led uprising against her rule in 2024.

"Recent medical examinations have diagnosed me with a condition known as Autonomic Neuropathy. Due to this condition, I occasionally experience momentary loss of consciousness," Shahabuddin said in a statement released by his press secretary.

The resignation of Shahabuddin would leave Hasina with no allies in high office five months before her planned return. Her Awami League party is banned, and many of its leaders and activists have jailed or gone into hiding since a deadly student-led uprising toppled her government in 2024.

The speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, the national parliament, will perform the duties of the president until a new one is elected, the statement said.

As head of state, Shahabuddin is commander-in-chief of the armed forces, but executive power rests with the prime minister and cabinet of the mainly Muslim country of 173 million people.

Reuters reported on Thursday that Shahabuddin, a former ally of ousted premier Sheikh Hasina, would resign on Friday. Last November, Bangladesh's war crimes court sentenced Hasina to death in absentia for ordering a crackdown on the uprising which.

Philippines says ship hit by Chinese water cannon at disputed reef

Monitoring Desk

MANILA: The Philippines accused China's coast guard of blasting a Filipino government vessel with a water cannon near a disputed South China Sea reef, the third confrontation between the two sides this week.

The incident at Scarborough Shoal, which took place during an attempt to resupply Filipino fishermen, came as top diplomats wrapped up a Southeast Asian regional forum in Manila.

Beijing claims most of the South China Sea, including the flashpoint shoal, despite an international ruling that its assertion lacks any legal basis. The Philippine Coast Guard said Friday that the Chinese vessel conducted a "reckless" manoeuvre, coming within seven metres of the BRP Datu Paduhinog and hitting the ship with a water cannon blast.

Lavrov tells Rubio 'unacceptable' for US to continue arms sales to Kyiv

Monitoring Desk

PHILIPPINE: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov warned Washington against continuing arms sales to Kyiv during a meeting with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in the Philippines on Thursday, the Kremlin said.

During the meeting, which took place on the sidelines of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) foreign ministers' summit, Lavrov told Rubio that it would be "unacceptable" for the US to continue arming Ukraine, according to a statement released by Russia's foreign ministry.

"Lavrov briefed his American counterpart on the actual situation along the front line and emphasised that it would be unacceptable to further arm the Kyiv regime," the statement reads.

Lavrov also "reaffirmed" Moscow's "readiness for a political and diplomatic settlement of the conflict," it said, adding that the two parties had also discussed the situation in the Persian Gulf, where the US remains locked in conflict with Iran.

Speaking to reporters after their meeting, Rubio said the pair had a "good," "frank" conversation, without going into further details.

Egypt receives €1.5bn loan as part of EU economic support

Monitoring Desk

EGYPT: The European Commission has disbursed €1.5 billion ($1.7 billion) in economic support to Egypt.

The payment is the second of three instalments of a €4bn loan, the European Commission said in a statement.

The fresh funds were subject to economic and democratic reforms requirements which, according to the commission, have been met.

Brussels and Cairo agreed on the loan in 2024 as part of a cooperation agreement between the EU and Egypt.



People visit cemeteries across Lviv to pay tribute to Ukrainian soldiers who lost their lives in the war with Russia, laying flowers, lighting memorial candles and praying for their souls on Defenders of Ukraine Day in Lviv, Ukraine

Iran keeps targeting U.S. bases as U.S. interceptor stockpiles dwindle

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iran claimed new drone strikes against U.S. military facilities in Bahrain, Jordan and Kuwait, as explosions were heard near a military base hosting U.S. forces in northern Iraq and video showed dramatic drone interceptions.The attacks came hours after the U.S. military said it completed a 13th consecutive night of strikes on Iran aimed at halting attacks on ships in and around the Strait of Hormuz, which the Trump administration insists is open despite few ships risking passage.The pace at which the U.S. is using some of its most advanced missile interceptors and other weapons in the Middle East is unsustainable and has become a point of tension within the Trump administration, U.S. military and intelligence officials told CBS News Thursday.A spokesman for the Houthi rebels in Yemen said today that the Iranian-backed group was not seeking to block all traffic through the strategic Bab el-Mandeb Strait, just Saudi traffic. The group declared a maritime blockade earlier this week of Saudi Arabia, a long-time foe of both the Houthis and Iran.

"There is no closure of Bab el-Mandab as some are suggesting," said Mohammed Abdusalam, a top Houthi negotiator, in a post on X, adding that the group's actions - which have included attacking two vessels this week - were "limited to a maritime blockade that only affects the Saudi side."

Like the nearby Strait of Hormuz, the Bab el-Mandeb is a key transit point for global energy supply.

Talks with youth protest leaders

Indian govt seeks time on minister resignation demand

Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: Leaders of India's youth-led "cockroach" movement said today that the government has asked for time until Saturday afternoon to respond to their demand for the education minister's resignation, following talks between the two sides.

The talks came hours after activist Sonam Wangchuk ended his 26-day hunger strike, raising hopes that the two sides could reach a breakthrough after tens of thousands of angry youth converged in the capital , Delhi, to demand the minister's resignation over exam paper leaks.

The anti-government protests represent the biggest youth challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi since he came to power in 2014. Opposition parties have echoed the movement's demands and have disrupted the monsoon session of parliament that began this week.

The talks were the first substantive meeting between the two sides after a preliminary round held on Monday. The government was represented by senior federal ministers JP Nadda and Jitendra Singh.

Nearly 3,000 confirmed infected with Ebola in Congo after data review

Monitoring Desk

CONGO: The number of people confirmed infected with Ebola in the Democratic of Congo was heading towards 3,000 Thursday after officials reviewed data in two of the worst-hit provinces and reported more than 300 new cases. The number of confirmed Ebola cases was 2,905, including 1,269 deaths, according to the daily from the central African country's public health institute. The number of confirmed deaths passed the 1,000 mark in figures announced late on Wednesday.

At least 11 killed in Russian strikes on Ukrainian cities

Monitoring Desk

KIEV: Six people died and dozens were injured in daytime missile strikes around Kiev on Friday, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Glide bombs also killed at least five people in Sloviansk near the front lines in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, Zelensky posted on Telegram.

Authorities sounded a missile alert in the capital shortly before noon. Russia fired at least 10 ballistic missiles at the city, as well as Zircon guided missiles, the state news agency UNIAN reported.

Several explosions were heard over the city. According to Mayor Vitali Klitschko, ambulances were also deployed.

The surrounding area was hit even harder, with Zelensky citing rescue and recovery operations and posting photos of devastated residential blocks.

Russia has massively intensified its missile attacks on Kiev in recent weeks.

Iran repairing missile bases, sites bombed by US

Monitoring Desk

IRAN: "They refilled their stockpiles," WSJ quoted former IDF air defense chief Brig.-Gen. Ran Kochav as saying. "They have very impressive industrialization and reconstruction capabilities." Iran has managed to rebuild infrastructure damaged in US and Israeli airstrikes faster than expected, the Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday.

Nigeria's president approves largest military expansion in recent times

Monitoring Desk

NIGERIA: Nigeria's president has approved the country's largest military expansion in recent times - an attempt to tackle the slew of security challenges plaguing the nation.

Bola Tinubu has greenlit the recruitment of 28,000 extra soldiers and the creation of four new army divisions, which will take the total number up to 12.

Nigeria's government is under intense pressure to curb the violence perpetrated by a variety of armed groups, including militant Islamists, separatists and gangs who kidnap civilians for ransom.

Over the past week, an armed gang killed at least 20 villagers in the north-western state of Zamfara and 46 students were abducted from a school in Borno state in the country's north-east.

The students were rescued by the army hours after they were taken and generally, the authorities appear to have made recent inroads in their fight against armed gangs. Despite this, the criminal groups have become more sophisticated and violence remains a defining aspect of life in Nigeria.



Fishermen and those working in the fishing industry in Thessaloniki, Greece, staged a demonstration along the city center's waterfront to protest rising operating costs and government policies affecting the sector.

'Extremely significant' bomb in car intercepted on way to NI, Irish police

Monitoring Desk

IRELAND: A car containing an "extremely significant" bomb has been intercepted in the Republic of Ireland as it was being driven across the border for an attack in Northern Ireland, gardaí (Irish police) have said.

The vehicle was stopped during an operation targeting dissident republican activities on Wednesday, but further details are just emerging. Two people were arrested.

Garda Commissioner Justin Kelly confirmed on Friday that officers found an explosive device.

Police sources in Northern Ireland believe the New IRA was likely behind the intended attack.

The vehicle was stopped on the N2 near Carrickmacross, County Monaghan, at about 15:00 on Wednesday.

A woman in her 20s, who was the driver of the vehicle.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL & FINANCIAL PROPOSALS

TSE-2627101211944 only electric bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required Request for proposal for selection of consultancy service invites on electric public procurement system (EPPS) from well reputed National firms service provider meeting with eligibility criteria , viz having registration with FBR for income tax and BRA and who are on active tax payers list (ATL) and or not blacklisted in any procuring agency or authority for preparation of hiring of " Preliminary and detail design of SUB/ Super Structural Components such as footing, columns, beams and slab in accordance with the Nature of soil as per site , Engineering Design of infrastructure Utility Services , Drainage ,Water Supply &Sewerage, Works and other required services ,Generation of all Architectural & relevant Detailed structural working drawings of structural members" for the mentioned below work

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Bid Security	Green Challan
1	HIRING OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF B/T ROAD FROM BAB E CHORI TO GOWARI ZAI KHALIQABAD DISTRICT KALAT.	3,940,000	2 %	1000/-

The Procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Baluchistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules, 2014 amended up to date. ELIGIBILITY OF BIDDERS: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity Turnover of at least 3,800,000 PKR Amount in 2 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List BRA Registration Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan PEC/PCAD Registration All bidders must submit the original deposit challan and original Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) The RFP Documents can be downloaded from BPPRA Website. (www.bprra.gob.pk) Last Date of Bid Submission: The tender must be submitted latest of 05th November 2026 till 10:30 AM. Tender Opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 05th November 2026 till 11:30 AM

Executive Engineer-Roads
CWPP&H Department
Kalat.

DPRQ/PRQ No.1993/21-10-2026

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Dialogue-based settlement of disputes firmly embedded in Balochistan's tribal culture: CM

DERA BUGTI, (VoM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has said that reconciliation and peaceful resolution of tribal disputes remain an integral part of the province's traditions, helping bring an end to prolonged rivalries and fostering harmony among communities.

The chief minister expressed these views while addressing tribal elders and local residents during a public forum (khuli kachehri) in his ancestral area of North Dera Bugti.

Bugti spent more than six hours meeting residents, listening to their complaints and discussing issues confronting the area.

In his capacity as chief of the Bugti tribe, he also helped resolve several tribal matters through traditional reconciliation mechanisms.

He said mutual respect, brotherhood and dialogue-based settlement of disputes were firmly embedded in Balochistan's tribal culture and could contribute significantly to strengthening social cohesion.

Commenting on the security situation, the chief minister said Baloch and Pashtun communities had stood with the security forces in the struggle against terrorism and acknowledged the sacrifices rendered by security personnel for the restoration and maintenance of peace.

He stressed that close cooperation between communities and law-enforcement agencies was vital to confronting militancy and establishing durable stability across the province.

On development, Bugti said the provincial government was giving priority to remote and underserved areas, where various projects were being undertaken to improve basic facilities and raise living standards. He said thousands of young people had obtained government jobs in different departments during the past two years, while the government was continuing efforts to generate additional employment opportunities.

The chief minister maintained that the government was taking concrete steps to ensure recruitment on merit, rather than confining its commitment to policy statements.

Speaking about education and healthcare, Bugti said both sectors had received particular attention from the provincial government during the past two and a half years, with several initiatives earning recognition at the national level.

He reiterated that peace, balanced development, employment generation and transparent, merit-based recruitment would remain among the government's principal priorities.



LAHORE: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing the gathering during his visit to the Saudi Pakistan Real Estate Expo (SPREX)



PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets members of the Area Representative Development Council

President Zardari for further expansion of Pak-Nigeria cooperation

ISLAMABAD, (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening its warm and friendly relations with Nigeria, saying the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries would continue to deepen and expand in the years ahead.

"In his message to President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Nigeria's Independence Day, President Zardari said Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Nigeria and expressed confidence that closer cooperation would serve the shared interests of the two peoples," President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release.

The president conveyed his best wishes for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Pakistan launches National Mental Health Policy 2026-35

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Pakistan on Thursday launched the National Mental Health Policy 2026-2035, aiming to expand mental health services and support for an estimated 32.4 million people in need of care across the country.

The policy was launched during the two-day Global Mental Health Summit being held in Islamabad from October 1-2, bringing together around 800 participants, including mental health experts, policymakers, academics and representatives of national and international development partners.

The initiative was launched under the leadership of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Global Institute of Human Development (GIHD)–Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University (STMU).

According to estimates, around 32.4 million people in Pakistan require mental health care, while only about five percent of the population has access to such services, leaving a treatment gap of around 95 percent.

The shortage of qualified mental health professionals is also a major challenge, with Pakistan having approximately 0.19 psychiatrists per 100,000 population compared with an average of seven per 100,000 in high-income countries. Speaking at the summit, Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal described mental health as an emergency and said it was linked to economy.

Home Minister for coordinated approach, prompt action against criminal activities

QUETTA, (ANN): Balochistan Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langove has reaffirmed that safeguarding citizens' lives and property is the provincial government's top priority, stressing that there would be no compromise on public security or enforcement of the law.

In an exclusive interview with ANN, the home minister said ensuring lasting peace, maintaining a secure environment and upholding the rule of law were among the government's fundamental responsibilities.

Langove emphasized that stronger coordination between police, district administrations and other law-enforcement agencies was necessary to improve security and maintain effective control over law and order across the province.

He called for a coordinated approach, prompt action against criminal activities and strict compliance with legal procedures, making it clear that negligence in carrying out responsibilities related to public protection would not be tolerated.

The home minister said maintaining peace and order required not only effective cooperation among state institutions but also a constructive partnership between law-enforcement agencies and citizens.

He stressed that public trust, responsible civic conduct and respect for the law were essential for creating safer communities and strengthening the overall security environment.

Langove also called for the efficient deployment of available resources and institutional capabilities to enhance crime prevention and reinforce measures aimed at protecting the public. Reiterating the provincial government's resolve to promote peace and stability, he said efforts to safeguard citizens, improve law enforcement and strengthen security arrangements would remain ongoing. "A peaceful and secure Balochistan is essential for sustainable development, economic growth and a prosperous future for its people," the home minister said.



QUETTA: MPA Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman presenting a condolence resolution during the assembly session.

Health Minister reviews health complaint management system

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the Health Complaint Management System and assess the performance and latest developments of health helpline 1166.

During the meeting, representatives of relevant companies briefed the minister on mechanisms for registering, monitoring and resolving public complaints related to healthcare services.

The meeting discussed measures to ensure timely redressal of citizens' complaints, improve coordination among relevant institutions, strengthen continuous monitoring and enhance transparency in the complaint management system.

Syed Mustafa Kamal directed the concerned authorities to make the system more effective, reliable and public-friendly to ensure that citizens could access prompt and convenient solutions to their health-related concerns. He emphasized the importance of an efficient complaint redressal mechanism in improving public service delivery and strengthening citizens' trust in the healthcare system.

Meanwhile, Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal on Thursday chaired the first meeting with representatives of three companies to review progress on agreements reached at the Pakistan-China Pharmaceutical and Healthcare B2B Investment Conference 2026. The meeting discussed implementation of the agreements, bilateral cooperation and the future course of action to advance investment and collaboration in the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors.

The participants also reviewed the implementation of the medicine track-and-trace system and the introduction of 2D barcodes to strengthen monitoring and transparency in the pharmaceutical supply chain.



A delegation of the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives call on Minister of State for Law & Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik at the Ministry of Human Rights, to discuss bilateral cooperation in human rights. NCHR Chairperson Rabiya Javeri Agha and Secretary MoHR Abdul Khalique Shaikh are also present

Pakistan warns Afghan Taliban over continued support to terrorist groups

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Spokesperson to the President Murtaza Solangi on Thursday issued a strong warning to the Afghan Taliban regime over its continued support to terrorist outfits by providing them with safe sanctuaries, training and logistical support.

"If the illegitimate Taliban regime thinks they will continue to provide safe sanctuaries, training and logistical support to a cocktail of terror outfits and act as a surrogate mother of terror, the global and regional forces of peace and civilisation shall surprise them," the spokesperson said in a statement on his X timeline.

He, however, said that the surprise by the global and regional forces of peace might not be too pleasant for the "beasts".

The statement by the president's spokesperson came after Pakistan carried out well-planned and calibrated aerial strikes against the hideouts and safe havens of terrorist organisations of Fitna al Khwarij and Fitna al Hindustan in Afghanistan, killing multiple terrorists, in continuation of operation Ghazab lil Haq.

Based on credible intelligence, selective targeting of terrorist camps and hideouts at two locations belonging to Fitna al khwarij, Fitna al Hindustan and their affiliates has been carried out in Afghanistan with precision and accuracy, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced.

"Targets were destroyed with precision, and initial reports suggest the killing of twenty-two terrorists. Large quantities of weapons and ammunition stored at these hideouts were also destroyed," it added.

No woman should miss treatment due to poverty, says First Lady

Asifa Bhutto calls for greater breast cancer awareness and timely treatment

ISLAMABAD, (APP): First Lady Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari on Thursday urged women to take breast health seriously and seek medical advice if they notice any unusual changes.

She said breast cancer is treatable and curable, and that early diagnosis and timely treatment can save lives.

In her message on the commencement of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, she said the month provides an opportunity to remind women that looking after their health also means knowing their bodies and taking action when something does not feel right. Regular self-examination can help women become familiar with normal changes in their bodies and recognise when they need to seek medical advice.

The first lady said women over 50 should consider regular mammograms at facilities that offer screening services. She also pointed out that more than 90 per cent of breast cancer cases are self-detected among those who do not undergo regular mammography screening, making awareness of body changes particularly important.

The first lady said what is most concerning is that many women, particularly in rural areas and low-income households, still reach doctors too late. Sometimes it is because of lack of awareness, sometimes because medical facilities are too far away and sometimes because the cost of diagnosis and treatment feels beyond reach. She said no woman should lose her chance of survival simply because she is poor, lives far from a major city or is afraid to seek help. Our government institutions and civil society must do more to ensure that every woman has access to the health education, screening and care she needs.



QUETTA: Student of BUITEMS presenting souvenir to American guest Tanveer Ahmed

Nation stands shoulder to shoulder with security forces in war against terrorism: Naqvi

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi praised the security forces for carrying out successful intelligence-based operations against Khawarij in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saying the forces once again thwarted the plans of terrorists through their professional capabilities.

In his statement, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi commended the performance of security forces for successfully countering the activities of Khawarij and conducting effective operations in different areas. He said the forces demonstrated professionalism and commitment in the fight against terrorism.

Mohsin Naqvi said that security forces eliminated six Khawarij during an intelligence-based operation in the Kachhi district of Balochistan.

He noted that the operation was part of ongoing efforts to prevent terrorist activities and maintain security in the region.



LAHORE: Bilal Khan Kakar witnesses the signing ceremony of MoU between BBoIT and Roshan Packages Ltd.

Reform unveiled to bring non-formal education at par with formal system

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training has unveiled major reform to bring non-formal education at par with formal system to activate a structured capacity-building and professional development framework to bring non-formal basic education on par with the formal schooling system across Islamabad, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB).

Under this initiative, a third cohort comprising 45 master trainers selected from among 1,400 non-formal education teachers in the federal capital successfully completed an intensive three-day training program.

The concluding session of the "Three Days Professional Development Training for BECS Master Trainers," organized under the aegis of Basic Education Community Schools (BECS), at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Thursday.

Addressing the ceremony, Federal Secretary for Education and Professional Training Nadeem Mahbub stated that the Ministry had formulated a comprehensive road map a year and a half ago to modernize and streamline the non-formal education sector.

He emphasized that the primary focus of this road map is to hone the pedagogical skills and capacity of non-formal teachers serving marginalized segments, ensuring no compromise on the quality of education delivered in underserved communities. Mahbub highlighted that, unlike formal school teachers, non-formal educators historically lacked structured professional development. He noted that under the current initiative, standardized teacher guides were developed, and training sessions were conducted during the summer break.

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