



# Cooperation, not loans, offers path to recovery: PM

- Premier says Pakistan has learned from mistakes of the past; rues ‘disaster-recovery-disaster’ cycle country finds itself trapped in
- Islamabad, Riyadh sign Economic Cooperation Framework to launch ‘strategic and high-impact projects’
- Energy, industry, mining, IT, tourism, agriculture and food security sectors to be main focus

Dawn Report

ISLAMABAD: Ruling out loans as a driver of economic recovery, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday called for mutual cooperation to support countries like Pakistan that are battered by climate catastrophes.

Speaking during a high-level roundtable discussion at the 9th Future Investment Initiative Conference 2025 in Riyadh, PM Shehbaz said that

**Saudi Arabia hosts world's business elite with eyes on gigaprojects, AI: Page 11**

repeated loans would erode the economic might of such countries, stagnating economic development.

“If humanity had to move forward, it should proceed in unison, share its bounties and grievances together and extend modern technologies with those countries which can use it to grow its production in the areas of agriculture, industry, and employment among others,” he said.

The PM's remarks came after

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia launched the Economic Cooperation Framework, based on shared economic interests.

The decision to launch the framework was taken during a Monday meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, according to the Foreign Office (FO).

“As part of the framework, several strategic and high-impact projects will be discussed in the economic, trade, investment and development fields that will contribute to strengthening cooperation between the two governments, enhancing the pivotal role of the private sector, and increasing trade exchange between the two countries,” the statement read.

It added that the deal would prioritise sectors including energy, industry, mining, information technology, tourism, agriculture and food security. Additionally, Islamabad and Riyadh are studying several joint economic projects, including signing memoranda of understanding (MoUs) for an electricity interconnection project between the two countries, and cooperation in the

**Continued on Page 5**

## PPP set to name AJK PM candidate today

• Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Yasin, Faisal Rathore, and Sardar Yaqub among contenders; President Zardari, PM Shehbaz to finalise nominee • Faryal Talpur meets AJK president to seek forward bloc's support • PTI to file disqualification references against defecting lawmakers

By Iftikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: The PPP is likely to announce its nominee for the office of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) prime minister on Wednesday (today), following a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif upon the latter's return from Saudi Arabia.

Sources told *Dawn* that the names of Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Chaudhry Yasin, Faisal Rathore and Sardar Yaqub are under consideration for the top slot.

Under the AJK Constitution, the movers of a no-confidence resolution are required to name a successor to the sitting prime minister. The no-trust motion will be submitted soon after the PPP finalises its candidate.

A PPP source said there was ‘no hurry’ to form the new government,

adding that the PML-N's decision not to join the treasury benches was “its democratic right”. The party insists it will move ahead “with consensus”.

According to sources, a detailed charge sheet highlighting the AJK prime minister's alleged governance failures has been prepared.

These complaints include his failure to consult cabinet members, his harsh attitude toward bureaucracy, and cuts to development funds for ministers and assembly members. His unilateral decisions and weak handling of public protests have reportedly deepened dissatisfaction within the coalition.

In a related development, Faryal Talpur, head of the PPP's women wing and the AJK political affairs wing, called on AJK President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry to seek support

**Continued on Page 5**



RIYADH: Guests watch a performance during the opening ceremony of the 9th Future Investment Initiative, a major investment conference featuring heads of state and global business elite, where it seeks support for its sprawling ‘gigaprojects’ and sky-high AI ambitions.—AFP

## After another ‘denied meeting’, Imran tells CM to pick his team

• Uzma says PTI founder has given Sohail Afridi complete authority to pick ‘a small team’ • CM vows to file contempt plea over Adiala jail restrictions • KP opposition says absence of cabinet impacting govt affairs

By Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD/PESHAWAR: After Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi was once again barred from meeting his incarcerated party founder, Imran Khan's sister told the newly appointed CM he had “complete authority” to form the provincial cabinet.

On Tuesday, CM Afridi arrived in Rawalpindi for a third time to meet Imran Khan in the Adiala jail, ostensibly to discuss the KP cabinet formation. However, he was not allowed to meet the party chief despite, court orders in this regard.

Meanwhile, KP opposition members in the provincial assembly criticised the PTI over its failure to form the provincial cabinet, saying the government affairs had come to a halt. The lawmakers also feared that the prolonged delay in the cabinet formation was tantamount to inviting the imposition of an emergency in the province.

Last week, CM Afridi was denied the meeting and

held a brief sit-in before returning empty-handed. This time, he said he'd move a contempt of court petition to contest the restrictions.

Speaking to media persons outside the prison, CM Afridi said he would file a contempt plea in the Islamabad High Court. He said it was his constitu-

**PTI under fire in assembly over failure to form cabinet: Page 8**

tional right to meet the PTI founder, as he was nominated by Imran Khan and was the representative of the people of KP.

He reiterated that he wanted to seek guidance from the party founder regarding the composition of the provincial cabinet and vowed to nominate ministers after meeting with Mr Khan.

However, Uzma Khanum, who was allowed to meet her brother on Monday, told reporters that

**Continued on Page 5**

## Mediators coax Pakistan, Afghanistan back to the table

• Turkiye, Qatar step in after talks briefly ‘break down’ amid Kabul delegation's ‘shifting’ stance • Khawaja Asif says Afghan side ‘lacks authority to finalise commitments’

By Baqir Sajjad Syed

ISLAMABAD: Turkish and Qatari mediators on Tuesday salvaged negotiations between Pakistan and Afghanistan's Taliban regime after the talks briefly collapsed over what officials described as “unbridgeable differences”.

Both sides, in separate messages to their respective national media earlier in the day, announced that the four-day dialogue in Istanbul had broken down

after failing to reach an agreement on Monday night.

A Pakistani security source told reporters that the talks had “collapsed following the Afghan Taliban's lack of commitment and seriousness to address terrorism-related issues, as well as their refusal to provide any written guarantees”.

From the Afghan side, journalists were informed that the negotiations had ended “inconclusively”, with officials in Kabul accusing the Pakistani delegation of “improper conduct” and mak-

ing “demands that are unacceptable to Afghanistan”.

However, within hours of those reports emerging, the rupture had been repaired.

By noon negotiators were back at the table following intense diplomatic efforts by Turkish and Qatari mediators, who pressed both sides to return for what officials described as a “final attempt” to achieve at least a limited agreement.

“The negotiations in Istanbul

**Continued on Page 5**

## Pakistan to attend Gaza peace moot next week

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will attend a meeting of the foreign ministers of eight countries in Turkiye next week, to discuss the next steps in the Gaza peace plan.

“Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan invited the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar to Turkiye for the forthcoming meeting next week of the eight Foreign Ministers of partner countries who were engaged on the sidelines of UNGA80 in the diplo-

**Israel launches air strikes on Gaza despite truce: Page 12**

matic process on Gaza,” the Foreign Office said in a statement on Tuesday.

The FO said Dar and Fidan discussed the evolving situation in Gaza, and the next steps and modalities for achieving lasting peace in Palestine.

In September, eight Arab and Muslim-majority countries — Pakistan, Turkiye, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Egypt, the UAE, and Jordan — formed a group to work with US President Donald Trump to end the Israel-Hamas

**Continued on Page 5**

## ON OTHER PAGES



### Gold prices dip after record high

Gold prices in Pakistan saw a record single-day drop on Tuesday, with 10 grams and one tola falling by Rs12,003 and Rs14,000 to Rs356,963 and Rs416,362, respectively. The decline followed a \$140 per ounce fall in global gold prices to \$3,940. The prices had hit record highs earlier on Oct 17. Local jewellers attribute the fall to weak consumer demand. **Page 9**

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