



Emergency looms over KP as Centre-PTI rift widens

• PML-N, PPP leaders finalise plan to bring KP under federal control • PM calls cabinet meeting today to discuss constitutional options • Fazl holds meetings with PM, PTI leaders to defuse tensions • Interior minister says ‘no room left’ to avoid emergency • KP police chief directs security measures ahead of possible protests • Separate NA, Senate sessions to be summoned for Tuesday • Govt plans to invoke various provisions of Articles 232, 233 and 234

By Syed Irfan Raza
and Kalbe Ali

ISLAMABAD: As political tensions mounted with the start of the protest march by the opposition PTI, the top leaders of the two major ruling coalition partners — the PML-N and the PPP — on Saturday finalised a plan to bring the troubled Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province under federal control by invoking constitutional provisions regarding imposition of an emergency and governor’s rule, sources close to the development told *Dawn*.

In a related development, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called a meeting of the federal cabinet today (Sunday) to discuss the plan. The ruling coalition leaders also decided to convene separate sessions of the National Assembly and the Senate on Tuesday (Oct 13).

The developments followed a flurry of political activities in the federal capital on Saturday, with Prime Minister Shehbaz holding separate meetings with President Asif Zardari and Jamiat Ulema-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman to discuss available options for avoiding a direct confrontation with the opposition PTI, which is in power in KP.

The Maulana, who has been playing a role to facilitate the government-opposition talks, also held a meeting with PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and Asad Qaiser and apprised them about the possible

government’s move, if the PTI insisted on continuing its march.

“We are only facilitators of talks to defuse the prevailing tension but the decision will have to be made by the government and the PTI,” said a senior JUI-F leader after the Maulana’s meeting with the PM and PTI leaders.

Though, there were no official words from the government side, the statements issued by a couple of ministers and background interviews with some PPP leaders suggest that the government has made up its mind to invoke various provisions of Articles 232, 233 and 234 of the Constitution to take control of the KP and remove Chief Minister Sohail Afridi.

Kundi, Muqam discuss KP security, political situation:
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Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi came out more directly when he said, “There was no room left to avoid the imposition of an emergency in KP.”

Talking to reporters, Mr Naqvi said the government had made every possible effort but had nothing more to offer [to the PTI].

“Ask Maulana Fazlur Rehman himself how hard I tried,” he said, adding that Barrister Gohar could also be contacted to confirm the efforts he had made in this regard.

“I tried my best till the very



PRIME Minister Shehbaz Sharif calls on President Asif Zardari at Aiwan-i-Sadr.—White Star

end, but I have nothing left,” Mr Naqvi added.

When contacted, Federal Minister for Information Ataullah Tarar confirmed that the prime minister had convened a meeting of the federal cabinet today (Sunday) to discuss the options of imposition of an emergency and governor’s rule in KP.

“You can understand the meaning of convening the cabinet meeting on Sunday [a weekly holiday],” the minister said, when asked if the government had decided to impose emergency in KP.

Similarly, speaking to a private TV channel, Minister of State for Interior Affairs Tallal Chaudhry also said that multiple options were being examined at

different levels but questioned what other avenues were available with the federal government, with the PTI failing to fulfil the federal government’s repeated requests to cooperate in the fight against terrorism, and inciting people and speaking against national policy during the ongoing march.

Meanwhile, a senior KP government official told *Dawn* that all deputy commissioners and district police officers across the province had been directed to remain present in their respective districts till further orders.

A source in the federal government has told *Dawn* that the federal cabinet will approve a slew

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Two killed as ‘Houthi missile’ hits Saudi airport

• Makkah-bound pilgrims among dozens wounded • Riyadh airport operations suspended • Trump says US ‘may’ join Saudi attacks on Houthis

RIYADH: At least two people were killed and several others wounded in a missile attack on Riyadh International Airport on Saturday, triggering evacuations from parts of the facility and forcing the suspension of airport operations.

Saudi Arabia’s Civil Aviation Authority confirmed the attack and a diplomatic source attributed it to a missile fired by the Houthis. “Houthis are attacking civilian targets. Riyadh airport is a civilian target,” the source said.

A source at a local hospital told *AFP* that those killed included an Egyptian flight attendant working for a Saudi airline and a Palestinian holding Egyptian travel documents. Dozens of people were injured, including several pilgrims travelling to Makkah, with five in intensive care, according to an earlier account.

The attack also prompted questions over a possible US response. Asked whether Washington had decided to join Saudi strikes against Yemen’s Houthis, US President Donald Trump said his administration would review the situation.

“We may. We’re going to look at it,” Trump told reporters. “We just found out about the recent attack. So we’ll make a decision. We move very quickly.”

Meanwhile, Saudi health officials activated a rare mass call-up of doctors, ordering emergency room staff to report to hospitals around the capital to deal with what one medical source described as a “serious emergency situation.”

A witness in the domestic terminal described fleeing in panic. “I was on gate 403,” the witness said. “I saw 401 hit, I saw injured in front of my eyes. Everyone was running.”

The relative of one injured person said they had been wounded in the shoulders and arms by shattered glass, and had been taken to hospital. Three

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10 terrorists killed in Barkhan operation

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: Ten terrorists were killed in a targeted intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in Balochistan’s Barkhan district, Home Department officials said on Saturday.

“During an intense gun battle, 10 armed terrorists were killed and two CTD officials were injured,” they said, adding that the CTD conducted the operation after receiving information about the presence of terrorists belonging to the Indian proxy, Fitna al-Hindustan, in the area.

The state has designated Balochistan-based terrorist groups as Fitna al-Hindustan to highlight India’s role in terrorism and destabilisation across Pakistan.

The officials said the CTD had also seized a

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Source: Petroleum Division

ON OTHER PAGES

IMF loans fuel debt crisis, says TI report

Nearly half of the countries eligible for concessional financing from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are either in debt distress or at high risk of it, while their interest payments have quadrupled since 2013, Transparency International (TI) says. The organisation warns that secrecy and corruption in sovereign borrowing can also leave future generations paying for loans that benefit the powerful. **Page 11**

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Afridi vows to defy governor’s rule, emergency in KP

• Says PTI will resist ‘illegal moves’, ready to sacrifice his seat for Imran and Pakhtuns • Marchers likely to reach Swabi tomorrow

By Muhammad Jamal Hoti,
Muqaddam Khan and Faiz Muhammad

MARDAN/SWABI/CHARSADDA: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi on Saturday said the PTI would not accept any “illegal move”, including the imposition of governor’s rule or an emergency in the province.

The KP chief minister made the remarks while addressing PTI workers and supporters in Mardan, where the party’s protest march led by him arrived on its seventh day.

The PTI’s protest march route has changed once again. According to a party leader, the march will now reach Swabi on Monday (Oct 12) rather than its originally scheduled arrival today (Sunday).

So far, the march, being held to demand the release of jailed party founder Imran Khan, has remained within KP, where the PTI is in power.

Addressing party workers and supporters

who had gathered to welcome him in Mardan, Mr Afridi said arrests could not weaken their resolve.

He urged the public to come out for Mr Khan’s release, saying Pakhtuns were not afraid of guns or bullets.

His remarks came amid continued differences between the federal government and the PTI-led KP government over various issues, particularly counterterrorism policy. This was also a key reason behind the breakdown of talks between the Centre and the opposition on Oct 3, with the government blaming Mr Afridi for the collapse.

Speaking on the occasion, PTI MNA Muhammad Atif Khan said Mr Afridi had placed the federal government and the establishment in a difficult position through his strategy.

He added that the PTI would pursue an effective strategy to make the protest march

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Islamabad reaffirms support for Riyadh at UN

Envoy urges Houthis to halt attacks, warns of threat to maritime security

By Anwar Iqbal

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has reaffirmed its commitment to Saudi Arabia’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and security at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), declaring that it would stand “shoulder to shoulder” with the kingdom in the face of continued Houthi attacks.

Addressing the UNSC’s monthly briefing on Yemen on Friday evening, Pakistan’s Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Asim

Ifthikhar Ahmad, condemned attacks on Saudi Arabia and called for an immediate end to the hostilities, invoking the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement and recent decisions of its Strategic Political and Defence Committee.

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“In line with the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, and recent decisions taken by its Strategic Political and Defence Committee, our commitment to the Kingdom’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and security is resolute,” Ambassador Ahmad said, quoting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s statement issued the previous day.

“Pakistan fully supported Saudi Arabia’s legitimate right

to defend its people and protect its cities and vital infrastructure,” he added, again quoting the prime minister.

The ambassador condemned Houthi attacks targeting infrastructure in Makkah Governorate and the Taibah power distribution station in Madina.

He also recalled Pakistan’s condemnation of attacks on King Khalid International Airport and Abha International Airport that resulted in civilian deaths and injuries.

“The Houthi militia must immediately cease these attacks,” he said, again quoting the premier. The ambassador reiterated Pakistan’s solidarity with the Saudi leadership and people.

“The security and sanctity of the Two Holy Mosques must

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