



President Zardari reaffirms Pakistan's firm support for Iraq's sovereignty, stability



Pakistan needs a Charter of Politics: Azam Nazeer Tarar



Khurram briefs Int'l Fintech Investors on reform, digital growth

Founded By:
(Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
Website: www.peakpoint.pk

Executive Group Editor
Arif Mehmood Khan



Monday 22 December 2025 Rajab Al-Murjab 01, 1447 A.H VOI No: 05 Issue No. 337 Pages 4 Rs.20

Pakistan Navy commissions second PNS Khyber with Turkiye's President in attendance

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Navy marked a major milestone with the commissioning of the second PNS Khyber at Istanbul Naval Shipyard in Turkey, in a ceremony attended by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Pakistan's Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf.

President Erdoğan praised the "exemplary brotherly ties" between Pakistan and Turkey, emphasizing the need to strengthen cooperation in the defense sector. Admiral Naveed Ashraf lauded the collaboration in ship planning, design, and construction, highlighting the depth of the defense partnership between the two countries.

He noted that the relationship between

Pakistan Navy and Turkish Naval Forces reflects strong bilateral trust and strategic cooperation. Following the ceremony, President Erdoğan toured the ship, received a guard of honor, and met with the crew. Discussions included regional maritime security and future joint projects between Pakistan and Turkey's naval forces.

The PNS Khyber (Malgin-class) is equipped with advanced technical capabilities and a modern command and control system. Under a four-ship agreement between Pakistan and Turkey, two ships are being built in Turkey and two in Pakistan.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif congratulated the Pakistan Navy, defense experts.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf present souvenir to President of Republic of Turkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan during the commissioning ceremony of 2nd Pakistan Navy Milgem class ship PNS Khaibar at Istanbul Naval Shipyard.

Ishaq Dar, Iranian FM discuss regional situation

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Sunday held a telephone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi to review

bilateral relations and discuss the evolving regional situation.

According to a statement issued by the Foreign Office, the two leaders assessed ongoing cooperation between Pakistan and Iran in various sectors and exchanged views on key regional developments amid shifting geopolitical dynamics.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties, with a particular focus on enhancing trade, improving connectivity and promoting people-to-people exchanges between the two neighbouring countries. They also agreed to maintain close coordination to support regional peace, stability and sustainable development.

The foreign ministers underlined the importance of regular high-level contacts and sustained dialogue to address shared challenges.

Afghan Taliban backing terrorists, harming civilians, says Field Marshal Asim Munir

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Field Marshal, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces, Syed Asim Munir, issued a stern warning to Afghan Taliban-backed terrorists while addressing the National Ulema and Mashaykh Conference in Islamabad today (Sunday).

Addressing the scholars at the conference, Field Marshal highlighted the major challenges facing Pakistan, including terrorism, national security, regional development, military preparedness, and the critical role of education and knowledge in strengthening national resilience.

Quoting verses from

the Holy Qur'an, the COAS outlined a principle



pled and coherent vision for Pakistan's ideological and strategic path.

He underscored that among 57 Islamic nations, Allah Almighty has granted Pakistan the distinct honour of being the custodian of the Haramain Sharifain, a sacred responsibility reflecting the nation's spiritual and strategic significance in the Muslim world.

Field Marshal Munir stated that Pakistan, as

the "Muhafiz-e-Haramain Sharifeen," carries a unique national honour. He credited sincere military diplomacy and strong defence ties with Saudi Arabia for achieving this recognition.

Pakistan's military diplomacy, including strategic agreements such as SMDA, demonstrates strong coordination between the Armed

Forces and the government to ensure national and regional stability.

He noted that Pakistan's global stature has strengthened, particularly after Operation Bunyan-e-Marsous, showcasing the nation's resolve and military capability against India, while reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to protecting the holy sites.

Drawing a parallel, he mentioned that Riyasat-e-Madina and Pakistan share deep ideological foundations, both rooted in the Kalima-e-Tayyaba, with divine guidance entrusting Pakistan with the protection of the Haramain. Referring to Operation Bunyan-ul-Marsous, he highlighted that divine.

PM congratulates Pak Navy, experts on PNS KHAIBAR's commissioning

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Sunday, congratulated Pakistan Navy, defence experts and all partners on the commissioning of Pakistan's second MILGEM-class naval ship, "PNS KHAIBAR", in Turkey. He said the PNS KHAIBAR's commissioning would further strengthen the protection of Pakistan's maritime frontiers. The prime minister further said that the defence.

Nine killed, 10 injured in South Africa shooting, police hunt for suspects

PEAK POINT

SOUTH AFRICA: Nine people were killed and 10 wounded in an early morning shooting in a township south-west of Johannesburg and authorities have launched a manhunt for the suspects, the South African Police Service said on Sunday. The incident occurred just before 1am local time (4am PKT) at a licensed tavern in Johannesburg's Bekkersdal township, the police said in a statement. About 12 unknown suspects in a white minibus and a silver sedan opened fire at the tavern patrons and continued.

US forces stop oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela as Trump follows up on promise to seize tankers

PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: US forces on Saturday stopped an oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela for the second time in less than two weeks as President Donald Trump continues to ramp up pressure on Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

The pre-dawn operation comes days after Trump announced a "blockade" of all sanctioned oil tankers coming in and out of the South American country and follows the Dec. 10 seizure by American forces of an oil tanker off Venezuela's coast. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem confirmed that the US Coast Guard with help from the Defense Department stopped the

oil tanker that was last globe using publicly docked in Venezuela. She available data. It was not



also posted on social media an unclassified video of a US helicopter landing personnel on a vessel called Centuries. A crude oil tanker flying under the flag of Panama operates under the name and was recently spotted near the Venezuelan coast, according to MarineTraffic, a project that tracks the movement of vessels around the

to board it, according to a US official who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Pentagon and White House officials did not immediately respond to a requests for comment.

Venezuela's government in a statement Saturday characterized the US forces' actions as "criminal" and vowed to not let them "go unpunished" by pursuing various legal avenues, including by filing complaints with the United Nations Security Council.

"The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela categorically denounces and rejects the theft and hijacking of another private vessel transporting Venezuelan oil, as well as the enforced disappearance of its crew.

Nine militants killed in two KP operations: ISPR

PEAK POINT



DI KHAN: At least nine militants were killed in two separate operations conducted by security forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said ISPR. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), intelligence-based operations led to the elimination of 9 extremist militants. The Army spokesperson stated that the first operation took place in Dera Ismail Khan following a tip-off about the presence of militants, resulting in the killing of 4 militants in a heavy exchange of fire. Similarly, another operation in Bannu led to the killing of 5 militants, and a large cache of ammunition and weapons was recovered from the extremists. The ISPR added that sanitization operations are ongoing in these areas to eliminate any remaining militants.



SPORTS



Pakistan thrash India by 191 runs to clinch Under-19 Asia Cup

Rising golfer Ahmad Baig secures Asian tour card, lifts Pakistan golf



347-8 (56.2 OVERS) vs **156** (26.2 OVERS)

PEAK POINT Minhas played a blistering innings laced with 17 fours and nine sixes. He completed his century off 71 ball. He is the top scorer of the tournament.

DUBAI: Pakistan defeated India by 191 runs to lift the Under-19 Asia Cup on Sunday.

Pakistan set a daunting 348-run target for India in the final of Under-19 Asia Cup based on 172 runs. Sameer Minhas here on Sunday.

Chasing a daunting target, the Indian side bowled out for 156 runs.

Put into bat by India after winning the toss, Pakistan scored 347 runs for the loss of 8 wickets in the allotted 50 overs.

Green Shirts would enter the field fully prepared and try to win the title.

"The team's morale is high and the players are determined to perform well in the final," he added.

The budding Pakistani cricketers have been performing brilliantly in the tournament. In the semi-final, they defeated Bangladesh by eight wickets.

India defeated Sri Lanka in the other semi-final.

Pakistan have pinned hopes on batsman Sameer Minhas who has scored 299 runs in four matches, including a century and a half-century.

The bowling department is led by speedster Abdul Sabhan and left-arm bowler Muhammad Sayam who have captured 11 and eight wickets respectively.

The two sides have met in the group stage where India emerged victor.

Interestingly, Pakistan have won the ICC Under-19 World Cup twice, but they have yet to win the Asia Cup trophy. However, Pakistan were joint champion with India in 2012.

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan's emerging golf talent Ahmad Baig has achieved a major career milestone by earning a coveted Asian Tour card, marking a significant breakthrough for both the player and the country's golfing landscape.

Despite being early in his professional career, Baig impressed during the grueling qualification process, widely regarded as one of the toughest pathways in professional golf. Competing against seasoned international professionals, the young Pakistani displayed remarkable composure, technical skill and consistency, producing under-par rounds and strong finishes in high-pressure events. His sustained performances enabled him to accumulate the required ranking points, securing a place on the prestigious Asian Tour. The achievement now opens the door for Baig to compete regularly in elite tournaments across Asia, pitting his skills against the continent's top golfers on world-class courses. Baig's rise has been strongly supported by Royal Palm, which continues to play a vital role in the development of professional golf in Pakistan. Special appreciation has been extended to Col Jameel, whose leadership, mentorship and commitment to nurturing young talent provided Baig with the confidence and environment needed to succeed at the highest level.

Diamond Paints, MP Black, FG/Asean record victories in Lahore Open Polo Championship



PEAK POINT delivered a standout performance for FG/Asean by scoring all five goals for his team. For BN Polo, Hamza Mavaz Khan netted three goals, while Saim Abbas added one.

The second match saw Diamond Paints overpower FG/Din Polo by 6-4 in an entertaining encounter. Raja Jalal Arsalan led the scoring for Diamond Paints with four goals, while Raja Temur Nadeem contributed two. FG/Din Polo's resistance came through Juan Cruz Greguali, who scored two goals, while Sheikh Muhammad Raffay and Agha Musa chipped in with one goal each.

The highlight of the day came in the third match, where Master Paints Black once again demonstrated their nerve and resilience by defeating Rijas/Sheikhoo Steel 9-8 in extra time through sudden death. Ignacio was the top scorer for Master Paints Black with four goals, followed by Mohammad Ali Malik

with three and Syed Turab M Rizvi with two. For Rijas/Sheikhoo Steel, Raja Samiullah scored four goals, Mumtaz Abbas Niazi added two, while Osman Aziz Anwar and Mohib Faisal Shahzad scored one goal each.

A large number of spectators and families turned up at the Lahore Polo Club to witness the action-packed encounters. Prominent among those present were Lahore Polo Club President Malik Azam Hayat Noon, executive committee members, sponsors and patrons including Taimur Ali Malik (Director, Guard Group), Nafees Barry of Happy Cow Cheese, Babar Naseem of BN Polo, Club Secretary Major (R) Amjad Ghafour, along with a sizeable gathering of polo players and officials.



DUBAI: Pakistan's skipper receiving trophy from PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi after defeating India in final of the U-19 Asia Cup here on Sunday.

West Indies 43-0, need 419 more to win after Conway joins elite

PEAK POINT

MOUNT MAUNGANUI: The West Indies were 43-0 at stumps on Sunday on the fourth day of the third Test against New Zealand, needing a further 419 to win, after Devon Conway became just the 10th player in Test history to hit a double century and a century in the same match.

Conway joined an illustrious list in scoring a double century and a century in the same Test match. Only Doug Walters, Greg Chappell, Marnus Labuschagne, Sunil Gavaskar, Shubman Gill, Lawrence Rowe, Brian Lara, Graham Gooch and Kumar Sangakkara had achieved the feat. Conway's 327 runs are the third highest for New Zealand in a single Test, behind Stephen Fleming's 343 (274 and 69) against Sri Lanka in 2003, and Martin Crowe's 329 (30 and 299) against Sri Lanka in 1991.

Conway and Latham added for the opening wicket in combining for 515 runs in the match. Conway joined an illustrious list in scoring a double century and a century in the same Test match.



Brandon King was on 37 and John Campbell two not out off 50 balls as the West Indies began a record chase after being set a target of 462.

No team has scored more than 418 in the fourth innings to win in Test history, but the West Indies must do so to square the three-match series after losing in Wellington and drawing in Christchurch. New Zealand declared their second innings an hour before the close at 302-2 with Conway's 100 adding to his 227 in the first innings. He became just the sixth New Zealander to score a hundred in both innings of a Test. Moments later Tom Latham became the seventh, moving from 80 at tea

Kane Williamson made 40 from 37 balls and Rachin Ravindra hit four sixes as he blasted 46 from 23 balls to take New Zealand past 300.

West Indies century maker Kaveem Hodge took 2-80 from 17 overs with his left-arm spin but captain Roston Chase was hammered for 106 runs in 13 overs.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Minority and Human Rights Ramesh Singh leading a Interfaith Cycling Heritage Ride here on Sunday.



Unpaid salaries, Blocked pensions, and missing reports rock Federal Urdu University

NADEEM TANOLI
ISLAMABAD: Serious allegations of financial mismanagement, administrative failures, and possible misconduct by senior leadership at the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Sciences and Technology have triggered alarm in Parliament, with members warning that the institution is facing a full blown governance and credibility crisis that can no longer be addressed through paper reports alone. The concerns surfaced during a meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on

Federal Education and Professional Training, where members expressed frustration over what they described as chronic issues at the university, repeated assurances without results, and incomplete disclosures by the Higher Education Commission. Committee members said the inquiry report submitted by the HEC acknowledged multiple administrative and financial irregularities but failed to provide a complete picture. Lawmakers noted that key findings, detailed observations, and actionable conclusions were missing, despite

the fact that serious issues had been under discussion for a prolonged period. Members stressed that without a comprehensive and transparent inquiry, the problems at the university would continue unchecked. The committee also voiced strong concern over allegations of workplace harassment and the apparent withholding of an inquiry report. Members recalled that the Ministry and HEC had earlier committed to sharing the findings of the harassment inquiry with the committee. The failure to do so was described as deeply troubling, with one member

warning that concealing such a report amounted to indirectly protecting wrongdoing rather than enforcing zero tolerance. Further scrutiny was directed at the conduct of the Vice Chancellor, particularly allegations that he continued to draw a government pension while also receiving a self determined salary from an institution already under severe financial strain. Members questioned how such an arrangement could be legally justified when employees were reportedly going unpaid for months. It was stated on record that university staff had not received

salaries for two months, while housing ceiling payments had been pending for nearly 15 months, underscoring what lawmakers called a collapse of financial governance. The committee was told that hiring freezes, delayed pensions, and unpaid salaries had become routine at the university, exacerbating unrest among faculty and staff. Members argued that these hardships made allegations of dual benefits for senior officials even more unacceptable. Given the gravity of the situation, the committee rejected further delays through sub committees and

agreed that the matter required immediate and direct intervention. Members decided that the entire committee should visit the Federal Urdu University to hold proceedings on site, allowing lawmakers to hear directly from stakeholders and assess conditions firsthand. The committee concluded that the scale and sensitivity of the issues demanded a broad-based inquiry rather than fragmented reviews, warning that continued inaction would further damage the institution's academic standing and public trust.

DIG Security chairs high-level meeting to finalize security for Quaid Day, Christmas in Islamabad

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: DIG Security Islamabad Muhammad Atiq Tahir chaired a high-level security meeting to review and finalize foolproof security arrangements for Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's birth anniversary and Christmas celebrations in the federal capital. An official told APP on Sunday that the meeting was convened to assess the overall security situation and to ensure peace and order during public gatherings and festive events.



Senior officers of the Security Division, including AIG Special Branch Muhammad Sarfraz Warraich, attended the session. DIG Security chairs high-level meeting to

finalize security for Quaid Day, Christmas in Islamabad. During the meeting, DIG Security reviewed proposed security plans and directed officers to put in place comprehensive and coordinated arrangements at all venues of celebrations and congregations. He ordered strict checking at entry and exit points, enhanced patrolling, and effective use of modern security resources to deter any untoward incident. Emphasizing vigilance, DIG Atiq Tahir instructed that additional personnel would be deployed at sensitive locations and that all officers and personnel should remain on high alert throughout the festive period.

Customs seizes nine NCP vehicles, smuggled goods worth Rs121.6 mln

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: In a major anti-smuggling operation, the Collectorate of Enforcement Quetta successfully seized nine (09) Non-Custom-Paid (NCP) vehicles along with smuggled goods with an estimated value of Rs121.6 million. The seized goods includes assorted brand of cigarettes, gutka, Chinese salt, and betel nuts, said a news release. The operation was carried out at Rakhi with the support of FC North and Loralai Police, following credible intelligence and directives for strict enforcement



against NCP vehicles and smuggled goods. All seized vehicles and goods have been taken into custody, and legal proceedings under the Customs Act, 1969 have been initiated. Further investigations are ongoing. The FBR reaffirms its commitment to stringent enforcement against smuggling, illegal trade.

Opinion & Editorial

Arif Mehmoed Khan
DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD
Arif Mehmoed Khan
Group Editor: 0333-5366814
Samra Athar Kakakhel
Resident Editor
Nadim Tanoli
Joint Editor: Mob-0301-777874
Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
www.peakpoint.pk

Regional disparities

IN his address at the University of Haripur recently, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif made important albeit familiar remarks of how national progress could only be realised if equal opportunities and upliftment were ensured for all regions in the country. It is a sentiment that resonates deeply with every Pakistani who is left behind in life because of the lack of both essential public services and economic opportunities in their respective cities and towns due to the state's poor development choices. These regional inequalities — present in incomes, living standards, and development — have not only undermined national cohesion but also led disillusioned youth to resort to violence against the state in parts of the country. The Population Council's District Vulnerability Index shows that "regional disparities are not accidental but an outcome of decades of skewed development policies and poor political priorities". Not just that, the wide distribution of these inequalities across provinces, regions, cities and towns signifies the exclusion of a very large segment of the population from national development strategies. The question is: can these deep structural disparities be tackled by the prime minister distributing laptops or his government sponsoring students for training or studying in China?

Pakistan and Libya: defence diplomacy

DR MUHAMMAD ALI EHSAN
Pakistan's Chief of Defence Forces' (CDF) recent visit to Libya and his meeting with the Commander-in-Chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces is creating and reinforcing the optics that Pakistan's military continues to be the primary foreign policy actor. However, seen pragmatically, CDF's visit to Libya and his engagement with the Libyan military leader reflect the Pakistani military's preference for a professional military engagement designed to further both Pakistan's and Libya's state interests. I am going to talk about five key areas to endorse the significance of this visit: the current state of Libyan politics, the leadership role of Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, the role of external powers in Libya, the strategic benefits of the visit and how critics may view the military-to-military engagement between Libya and Pakistan. Today, Libya is a politically divided country. There is a UN-backed government of National Unity (GNU) in Tripoli led by Prime Minister Abdul Hameed Dbeibeh. He exercises executive authority formed in March 2021 through a UN-facilitated process (Libyan Political Dialogue Forum), but this authority is politically contested and territorially constrained. PM Abdul Hameed leads

with a hybrid governance model through which the civilian government operates under militia-controlled and enforced security arrangements. The PM does not control Eastern Libya, where FM Haftar enjoys political and military influence. The legitimacy of PM Abdul Hameed's government is procedural (UN-backed) rather than electoral, as elections have not yet been held in Libya. Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar is the most powerful and polarising figure in Libya, who controls and dominates eastern Libya and acts as a decisive power broker in Libyan politics. He is aligned with the House of Representatives based in Tobruk. Not recognised internationally as Head of State, yet he exercises de facto authority over most of the country's territory and its oil infrastructure. He was a close associate of Muammar Gaddafi. In 1980, he commanded Libyan forces in Chad but was defeated and captured. After this event, he was disowned by the Libyan leader, and he went into exile in the United States, which lasted for over two decades. He returned to Libya during the 2011 uprising against Gaddafi and positioned himself as the senior commander of rebel forces. Since then, he has secured Benghazi, taken control of most of eastern Libya and captured key oil terminals.

Today, he controls vast Libyan territory, oil assets and the Armed Forces of Libya, and as a powerful figure, retains the ability to veto any Libyan political outcomes that he dislikes. In 2019, in an effort to rule Libya outright, Haftar launched an offensive to capture Tripoli. His campaign failed as Turkey intervened militarily on behalf of the Tripoli-based government. Seen in this context, Turkey should be viewing the current visit of Pakistan's CDF and his engagement with FM Haftar with concern. Egypt has aided the rise of Haftar as it supports Haftar's fight against the Islamic militants and gains from the prevention of the Islamic militancy spillover. UAE also supports Haftar's government through military aid, air support, economic aid, and funding. Russia also backs Haftar politically and has extended support to him through the Wagner group in the past. France also supports him and has extended vital intelligence sharing to his regime. According to a report by the Wall Street Journal, Saudi Arabia in 2019 offered millions of dollars to Haftar to help pay for his Tripoli campaign. In the same year, President Trump is also reported to have had a phone conversation with FM Haftar and recognised his significant role in fighting terrorism and securing Libyan oil reserves. Courtesy Tribune

Reflections on 2025

AIZAZ AHMAD CHAUDHRY
IN many ways, the year 2025 was an epochal moment for Pakistan. The country stood up to an aggressor much larger in size and resources, instilling renewed confidence and self-esteem in the Pakistani nation. It also discredited Indian narratives linking terrorism with Pakistan. It all started with a terrorist incident in the Pahalgam area of Indian-occupied Kashmir last April. As usual, India's knee-jerk reaction was to blame Pakistan. However, this time around, the world refused to endorse India's falsehood. Pakistan proposed impartial investigations, but India declined, and instead, carried out military strikes against nine targets in Pakistan on May 7. The latter responded robustly through a multi-domain, integrated and hybrid warfare. With seven of its planes down, including French Rafale, India sought help from the US for a ceasefire, but bizarrely, refused to acknowledge America's role. Ever since, India's global profile has continued to fall in the eyes of the West, which was disappointed that the country that was being prepared as a counter-balance to China could not even handle Pakistan. A panicked Indian leadership decided to tilt towards Russia and China, which had their own questions about New Delhi's viability as a strategic partner. India's self-proclaimed strategic autonomy has become a difficult balancing act vis-à-vis major powers. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia entered into a strategic mutual defence agreement with Pakistan with a clause that aggression against one would be considered aggression against the other. This has added another layer to Pakistan's deterrence regime against potential aggressors. The US also broke its decade-long stalemate with Pakistan and began to explore investments in the latter's mineral, oil and gas sectors. Courtesy Dawn

Mohsin Naqvi, Talal Ch. visit Lahore Airport, review immigration process



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, accompanied by Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, visited Allama Iqbal International Airport Lahore on Sunday and conducted a detailed review of the immigration process for outbound passengers.

During the visit, the ministers inspected immigration counters, observed the performance of the staff and interacted directly with passengers to obtain firsthand feed-

back regarding the immigration procedures.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi appreciated the efficient performance of a Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) official posted at the immigration counter and commended him for professional conduct.

During the inspection, a passenger complained that his boarding had been closed due to delays during the checking process. Taking immediate notice, the interior minister directed the authorities concerned to ensure the boarding of the passenger travel-

ing to Kuwait. Passengers present at the airport informed the ministers that the immigration process was being completed within minutes, terming it a welcome development.

On the occasion, Mohsin Naqvi said that safeguarding Pakistan's dignity and facilitating passengers were top priorities of the government, adding that no traveler would be stopped from traveling abroad without valid reasons. He emphasized that professional beggars and individuals possessing incomplete travel documents could not be allowed to travel overseas, asserting that those who bring disrepute to Pakistan deserved strict action.

The interior minister also issued directives to further improve the immigration system, making it more effective, transparent and passenger-friendly. FIA Lahore Regional Director Ali Zia and Deputy Director Airport Awaiz were also present during the visit.

President Zardari reaffirms Pakistan's firm support for Iraq's sovereignty, stability

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari, Sunday, reaffirmed Pakistan's firm support for Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity, and reiterated commitment to Iraq's stability, prosperity and democratic progress. The president met President of the Republic of Iraq Dr. Abdul Latif Jamal Rashid at Baghdad Palace. President Zardari congratulated the Iraqi leadership and people on the successful conduct of the parliamentary elections and expressed best wishes for the smooth formation of the new government.

"Both leaders reviewed the state of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction over the positive momentum generated by recent high-level exchanges, including the 9th session of the Pakistan-Iraq Joint Ministerial Commission and parliamentary interactions," President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release. The president noted that current levels of bilateral trade did not reflect the true potential of Pakistan-Iraq economic, cultural

and security relations and highlighted opportunities for expanding trade, investment, agriculture and defence production sectors besides information technology, construction, pharmaceuticals and related industries.

He also underscored the importance of business-to-business engagement, reciprocal business delegations and the establishment of direct banking channels to facilitate trade and commercial activity.

President Zardari reiterated Pakistan's willingness to support Iraq's reconstruction and development efforts through the provision of skilled and semi-skilled manpower under the existing Memorandum of Understanding on manpower transmission.

He also highlighted Pakistan's capacity in medical services, financial expertise and digital governance, and expressed readiness to share technical experience, including in secure data management, to support institutional capacity-building in Iraq. Senator Sherry Rehman; Senator Saleem Mandviwala.



BAGHDAD: President Asif Ali Zardari holds a one-on-one meeting with Dr Abdul Latif Jamal Rashid, President of Iraq, at Baghdad Palace.

EU-Pakistan Joint Commission discusses democracy, trade, migration

PEAK POINT

BRUSSELS: The 15th European Union (EU) - Pakistan Joint Commission in its meeting here reviewed political and economic developments in the EU and Pakistan and discussed in depth bilateral cooperation in different fields.

The commission discussed the issues of democracy, governance, human rights, trade and investment, development, migration, climate and energy, science and technology, as well as the implementation of the EU-Pakistan Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP). Both sides exchanged

views on the regional situation and reaffirmed the importance of their long-standing partnership, underpinned by shared interest in promoting regional stability.

Meanwhile, the meeting of the Sub-Group on Democracy, Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights was held on 1 December 2025, where Pakistan side was represented by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and EU side by the European External Action Service (EEAS).

The two sides stressed the importance of maintaining close cooperation on Human Rights, as part of the bilateral relation and in international



fora. The EU congratulated Pakistan for its election to the UN Human Rights Council, whose members are expected to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Pakistan updated on progress under the National Action Plan on Human

Dense fog disrupts traffic, shuts motorways across Punjab

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Dense fog and overcast conditions gripped several parts of Punjab on Sunday, reducing visibility to dangerously low levels and prompting authorities to close major motorways to prevent accidents. The Motorway Police said heavy fog led to the closure of the M2 motorway from Lahore to Kot Momin, the M3 from Lahore to Samundri, the Sialkot Motorway (M11), and the M4 from Pindi Bhattian to Faisalabad. Officials advised motorists that safe travel during foggy conditions is generally possible between 10am and 6pm. Fog was also reported in areas including Sundar, Manga Mandi, Phool Nagar and Pattoki along the national highway.

, where visibility was recorded between zero and 100 metres.

The poor weather conditions also disrupted flight operations, with several arrivals and departures at Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport delayed due to reduced visibility.

Earlier, National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) Central Region spokesman Syed Imran Ahmad.

Pakistan needs a Charter of Politics: Azam Nazeer Tarar

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar on Sunday stressed that Pakistan urgently needs a "charter of politics" to ensure political maturity, stability and national progress.

He was addressing a seminar held at Aiwan-e-Iqbal on the 53rd martyrdom anniversary of Khawaja Muhammad Rafique Shaheed.

The law minister said the proposed charter was not for any individual or political party, but solely for the beloved homeland. He remarked that those who had played with the fate of the country were no longer hidden from the public.

The minister emphasized the need to adopt a positive attitude towards criticism, promote tolerance, and listen to political opponents.



He said such events highlight the personality and sacrifices of great leaders, adding that Pakistani politics has produced many illustrious names, with Khawaja Muhammad Rafique Shaheed shining as a bright star among them. Paying tribute, he said Khawaja Rafique Shaheed always raised his voice for truth and followed a path rooted in love for the homeland, politics, and the common citizen. "He left this world like a brave man," he added, noting that politics is a continuous process that demands wisdom and patience.

Khurram briefs Int'l Fintech Investors on reform, digital growth

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Finance Minister of Pakistan, Khurram Schehzad, held a high-level strategic meeting with a delegation of leading international fintech investors from the Middle East, highlighting Pakistan's improving macroeconomic stability, reform momentum, and expanding digital investment landscape.

The delegation was led by Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chairman, Fintech Solutions Holding, a globally recognized economist and investment strategist, and Kirill Smolin, Chief Executive Officer, Fintech Solutions Holding, an expert in digital technologies and fintech.

The visit was facilitated by



Tech Avenue (Pvt.) Limited represented by its Chief Executive Officer, Obaid Ul Haq, and its Advisor to the Board, Khurram Rahat, said a press release issued by finance ministry.

During the meeting, the Advisor provided a comprehensive briefing on Pakistan's economic stabilization, fiscal reforms, and renewed global confidence, noting that consistent policy implementation and structural reforms have strengthened macroeconomy.

Jam Kamal inaugurates podcast studio of commerce ministry

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: In a significant step towards digital innovation and knowledge dissemination in the agriculture sector in particular horticulture, Federal Minister of Commerce Jam Kamal Khan here on Saturday inaugurated the Pakistan Horticulture Development and Export Company (PHDEC)'s inaugural podcast series.

This marks the first podcast initiative under the Ministry of Commerce, aimed at enhancing awareness, sharing best practices, and fostering growth in Pakistan's vital horticulture industry. The podcast, titled "Horticulture Horizons," will



serve as a dynamic platform for stakeholders, including farmers, exporters, researchers, and policymakers. It will feature in-depth discussions on key topics such as sustainable farming techniques, export strategies, value addition, and overcoming sector challenges like post-harvest losses and climate change impacts.

International experts from leading agricultural nations.

the protection of all human rights, including women and children's rights, minorities' rights, labour and migrant rights, as well as fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of expression and opinion including growing problem of disinformation.

Both sides also reviewed Pakistan's progress on the implementation of the 27 international conventions as required under the GSP+ framework. The EU welcomed progress made in bringing Pakistan's application of the death penalty in line with international standards and encouraged further steps in this regard. It also recognised important first

steps against torture, as well as the creation of a Commission on Minorities.

The EU encouraged further steps to be taken in the short term in view of the upcoming GSP+ Monitoring Report, and reiterated the need for further reforms in the medium and long term. The EU and Pakistan notably exchanged views on freedom of expression and media, enforced disappearances, the independence of the judiciary, freedom of religion or belief, anti-Muslim hatred, the rights of persons belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups. Both sides underlined the importance of proportionality.