



President pays respects at holy shrines in Baghdad



A laptop in every youth's hand government's commitment, says Wajiha Qamar



Rana Mashood declares Pakistan's Youth as the nation's future at MOIC Summit 2025

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PM Shehbaz announces cash awards, wholehearted support for victorious Pakistan U-19 Asia Cup Team

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday hosted a luncheon in honour of the Pakistan Under-19 cricket team following their triumphant Asia Cup campaign, lauding the young players for their discipline, resilience and historic victory over India in the final. Welcoming the players individually, the prime minister congratulated the entire squad, coaching staff and team management, saying the team's outstanding performances had won the hearts of 240 million Pakistanis and lifted the nation's pride. He said the emphatic win against India carried special significance and symbolised Pakistan's growing strength in youth cricket. "The way you trained, played and handled pressure shows

maturity beyond your age. You have brought great honour to Pakistan and proved that our future in cricket is bright," the prime minister remarked.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif specially praised standout performers, including Samir Manzoor for his superb batting display of 172 runs, Under-19 captain Farhan Yousaf Khan for his leadership, Ali Raza for his impactful wicket-taking spells, and Abdul Subhan for claiming 13 wickets during the tournament. He also acknowledged the contributions of all bowlers, batters, wicketkeepers, trainers and support staff. Announcing incentives, the prime minister declared a cash award of Rs1 million for each player and Rs500,000 per member of the sports staff.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with the under-19 Pakistan Cricket Team which won the U-19 Asia Cup 2025.

British mindset regarding Madaris still prevails today: Fazlur Rehman

PEAK POINT



KARACHI: Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Sunday said that the same mindset the British had regarding Madaris still exists

today Pakistan.

Addressing 'Tahafuz-i-Madaris Conference' in Karachi, JUI chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that a bias is being spread that religious seminaries limit the abilities of young people. He said it is portrayed that students of religious seminaries cannot play any role in society. Before 1857, there were no such Madaris in the sub-continent, so why do such seminaries not exist in the same form elsewhere in the world?

He added that when a madrasa was established in Aligarh, the British rulers altered its curriculum.

The JUI chief said that the scholars of the subcontinent took upon themselves the responsibility of safeguarding Islam, and that the same mindset the British had regarding Madaris still persists today. He emphasised that they have always called for a single system of education and a unified curriculum. Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

Saudi Arabia confers Kingdom's highest national honour on COAS Field Marshal Asim Munir

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz has conferred the King Abdulaziz Medal of Excellent Class on Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir for his efforts to "advance Pak-Saudi ties", it emerged on Monday.

According to a report by the Saudi Gazette, the medal has five classes; excellent, first, second, third, and fourth. It is usually awarded to those who have rendered outstanding services to Saudi Arabia or one of its institutions. The official Saudi Press Agency

reported late on Sunday that CDF Field Marshal Asim Munir was appointed as Pakistan's chief of



Munir was given the medal in honour of his "distinguished efforts to strengthen the strategic relationship and cooperation between the two nations". The report added that the ceremony took place during the Saudi minister's reception of CDF Field Marshal Munir in Riyadh. "Prince Khalid congratulated Field Marshal Munir on his

defence forces, wishing him continued success in his new role," the report added.

"During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the historical Saudi-Pakistani relations and the strategic cooperation in the defence field, discussing efforts to establish the foundations of international peace and security, as well as issues of common inter-

est," the publication reported. Separately, in a post on the social media platform X, the minister said, "Upon the directive of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques [the title held by the Saudi king], I presented Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir with the King Abdulaziz Medal of Excellent Class for his distinguished efforts to enhance our cooperation and advance the Saudi-Pakistani relations."

Later on Monday morning, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement that during the meeting, the two sides held discussions on matters of mutual interest, including regional security dynamics.

DG ISPR holds interactive session with students at AAUR

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Director General of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, held a special session with the students and faculty of Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi. The session focused on the importance of understanding the background and real facts behind information spreading on social media to avoid misleading narratives. Students emphasized the need to assess the credibility of information circulating online, noting that it is crucial to distinguish between false.

DPM/FM Dar reviews Consular Services Team's steps

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Monday, reviewed the steps taken by the Consular Services Team and emphasised that ensuring transparent and efficient attestation was the cornerstone of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' (MOFA) mission. The DPM/FM further stressed for efforts to be employed to facilitate people at minimum cost and in a timely manner. The DPM/FM chaired a meeting to review consular services provided.

Washington Times declares 2025 as 'revolutionary year' for Pak-US relations

PEAK POINT

NEW YORK: A known American publication, has described 2025 as a year of revolutionary change in Pakistan-US relations, highlighting significant shifts in diplomatic dynamics between the two countries.

An article published by the Washington Times marks a surprising transformation in President Donald Trump's Pakistan policy, noting that Washington's "India First" approach has ended and Pakistan has gained precedence.

The shift in US policy is attributed to the May 2025 conflict between Pakistan and India, which acted as a turning point.

The Washington



Times article also includes an in-depth analysis of the relationship between Field Marshal Asim Munir and US President Trump, stating that Pakistan has transitioned from being an undesirable state to a key partner nation.

The article describes the rapid change in Pakistan's image as a rare and unique occurrence, with Pakistan being placed at the center of

The article further details how the thaw in Pakistan-US relations began with secret counter-terrorism exchanges, which provided Washington with clear signs of substantive cooperation. In March, Trump unexpectedly praised Pakistan during a national address, prompting a shift in policy direction in Washington.

Islamabad capitalised on this opportunity, turning every limited cooperation into unexpected credit. As engagement increased, the relationship evolved from transactional to strategic.

The decisive turning point in Pakistan-US relations came after the brief but intense Pakistan-India clash in May.

11 killed, six injured in van, oil tanker collision in Chaghi



PEAK POINT

CHAGHI: At least 11 people were killed and six other sustained injuries in collision between a van and oil tanker near Nokundi, a town in Chaghi district of Balochistan province, on Sunday.

According to SP Chaghi Muhammad Sharif, the accident occurred at the Reko Diq Site Road near Nokundi where an oil tanker collided with a van, killing 11 people on the spot and injuring six others. He informed that the dead and injured have been shifted to a nearby hospital.

SP Chaghi Muhammad Sharif also informed that all the people who lost their lives in the traffic accident were Afghan nationals attempting to illegally travel.



SPORTS



Pakistan U19 cricket heroes receive warm reception from Field Marshal Asim Munir at GHQ



PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff, met the Pakistan Under-19 cricket team at General Headquarters (GHQ) today, congratulating them on their historic Asia Cup triumph.

The top military commander praised the players, management, and officials for their discipline, teamwork, and dedication, calling their victory a source of national pride. He encouraged the team to continue striving for excellence, maintain high standards of professionalism, and serve as ambas-

sadors of Pakistan both on and off the field. Members of the team expressed gratitude, describing the recognition as motivating and inspiring. General Asim Munir emphasised that the nation's youth are the cornerstone of its future, and that their energy, talent, and character will shape Pakistan's global standing. He reaffirmed his commitment to empowering young Pakistanis to excel across fields through discipline, integrity, and hard work. The meeting highlighted the synergy between national leadership and sporting excellence, recognising the players' achievements as a reflection

of Pakistan's growing potential in cricket.

On Sunday, Pakistan Under-19 defeated India Under-19 in the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup 2025 final at ICC Academy Ground, Dubai. Put in to bat, Pakistan amassed 347 for 8 in 50 overs. Opener Sameer Minhas starred with 172 off 113 balls, striking 17 fours and nine sixes.

Key partnerships with Usman Khan, Ahmed Hussain (56), and captain Farhan Yousaf propelled Pakistan past 300. Late contributions from Mohammad Sayyam and Niqab Shafiq ensured a commanding total despite a brief late

collapse. India's reply faltered early as Pakistan's pace trio – Ali Raza (3 for 29), Mohammad Sayyam, and Abdul Subhan (2 for 13) – ripped through the top and middle order. Reduced to 69 for 5 inside 11 overs, India were eventually bowled out for 156 in 26.2 overs, giving Pakistan a 191-run victory.

The final followed Pakistan's semi-final win over Bangladesh, while India reached the decider with a win over Sri Lanka. The result marked a landmark achievement in the storied U19 rivalry, with Pakistan demonstrating dominance with both bat and ball.

PCB organized the JJ Inter Club Cricket tournament in Islamabad



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board successfully organized the JJ Inter Club Cricket Tournament in Islamabad. The tournament commenced on 14 November at various grounds in the federal capital and concluded on 15 December. Sponsored by Junaid Akhtar Satti, the tournament featured participation from 53 clubs, with a total of 75 matches played. The competition was divided into four zones. JJ Cricket Club emerged as Central Zone champions after defeating Warriors Cricket Club. Eleven Star Cricket Club secured the North Zone title by overcoming Sher Pao Cricket Club. In the East Zone, Asif Memorial defeated Lucky Star Cricket Club to claim the championship, while Ghori Cricket Club won the West Zone title after beating Janoon Cricket Club. On the successful completion of the tournament, congratulations were extended to PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, CEO Sameer Syed, Director Domestic Cricket Khurram Niazi, Senior GM Junaid Zia, and tournament sponsor Junaid Akhtar Satti.

Pakistan played 'fearless, not careless' cricket to win Under-19 Asia Cup, says head coach



PEAK POINT

DUBAI: Head coach Shahid Anwar said that Pakistan had achieved their goal of playing "fearless but not careless cricket" after they won the Under-19 Asia Cup with a crushing victory over India on Sunday. Opener Sameer Minhas led the way for Pakistan at the ICC Academy Ground in Dubai with a breathtaking 172 to set up a massive 191-

run victory for his side. "We began a process on June 17 [this year]," he recalled. Shahid at a news conference in Islamabad on Monday, following the team's arrival and a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif where a Rs10million cash award was announced. "It was an unprecedented step... we called up 70 players, conducted trials and gave each player

four matches each and then they participated in a regional One-day tournament," he added. "The top performers, 30 of them, then took part in a five-month long camp... that's how the team was made. "We wanted to play fearless but not careless cricket. We wanted a united team and the result is in front of us." Team mentor and manager Sarfaraz

Ahmed, who led Pakistan to the Under-19 World Cup crown in 2006, hailed a "team effort".

"We had players that had the potential to do something big," said Sarfaraz.

"The coaches did a lot of hard work and the players responded... our job was to give them the confidence to play to their full potential. My message to them was to play their natural game, and in a way that they remember it for the rest of their lives."

Captain Farhan Yousaf said the players had the full backing of the team management. "We spoke about playing fearless cricket and the management backed us to play our natural game," he said.

Pakistan U-19 team receives hero's welcome at Islamabad International Airport



Departments are the backbone of national sports, says PFF chief

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) President Syed Mohsen Gilani has highlighted the crucial role of departmental sports in nurturing the talent and strengthening Pakistan's national sporting structure, describing departments as the backbone of the country's sporting success. Speaking on the development of football in Pakistan, Gilani emphasised that departmental teams have historically played a pivotal role in identifying, grooming and sustaining talent at the grassroots and elite levels. "Departments have always been the backbone of Pakistan's sporting success," Gilani said.

Derailments, collisions and sabotage mark a troubled year for Pakistan Railways in 2025

"Their contribution to nurturing talent, instilling discipline and promoting healthy competition is unmatched. The foundation of our national sporting achievements has largely been built on the support and structure provided by departmental sports." Highlighting the need to revive and strengthen departmen-

tal football, the PFF president said: "The revival and continued support of departmental football is essential for the future of the game in Pakistan. "The recent National Games clearly demonstrated this, as all the finalist teams represented different

and competitive events, and providing platforms where talented footballers can showcase their abilities," he said. "These efforts are aimed at building a vibrant football culture that brings pride, recognition and long-term sustainability to



departments. This reflects the vital role departments play in shaping athletes and inspiring young talent across the country." Gilani expressed confidence in the PFF's ongoing initiatives aimed at reinforcing departmental sports and expanding competitive opportunities for players. "Our focus remains on strengthening departmental sports programs, organising structured

Pakistan football." Reiterating his commitment to collaboration, Gilani stressed that collective efforts from all stakeholders are essential for progress. "Together, with the support of departments, institutions and football stakeholders, we can elevate Pakistan football to new heights and create a legacy of excellence for future generations," he added.

Diamond Paints, Balochistan, Newage triumphant at Lahore Open Polo





FUUAST launches PEHEL Magazine, focuses environmental challenges

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The Department of Mass Communication at the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology (FUUAST), Islamabad, has launched the second edition of its annual Magazine PEHEL. This year's edition is dedicated to Green Journalism, focusing on global warming and environmental challenges. The launching ceremony of the annual Magazine was held on Monday under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari. In-Charge Campus Dr. Saba

Bashir, Head of Department Dr. Faisal Javaid, Assistant Professor and Editor-in-Chief Dr. Sikandar Zareen, along with faculty members and a large number of students, attended the event. The magazine featured articles by experts as well as contributions from male and female students on a wide range of environmental issues. PEHEL has been compiled by Assistant Professor of Mass Communication Dr. Sikandar Zareen. Vice Chancellor Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari, while addressing the launch ceremony, lauded the efforts of students for producing a mean-



ingful and timely publication. He said that highlighting the issue of global warming through the power of the pen was an achievement in itself. He added that the Department of Mass Communication is playing a vital role in projecting the

university's positive image and noted that the university would collaborate with international organizations on environmental initiatives. In-Charge Campus Dr. Saba Bashir congratulated the Department of Mass Communication and termed

the magazine a milestone in the history of the FUUAST. Head of Department Dr. Faisal Javed said that launching an environmental protection campaign through the media was an excellent idea, praising the department for taking a new and construc-

tive initiative. He paid tribute to Dr. Sikandar Zareen and the students for their efforts. Renowned environmental writer and columnist Asif Mahmood termed the green journalism edition of PEHEL as a "remarkable document," saying that selecting the environment as the central theme was a commendable initiative by the University. Asif Mahmood described the articles published in PEHEL as the "voice of the times," stating that the editorial work carried out under Dr. Sikandar Zareen's supervision was of a standard usually associated with leading institutions.

Foreign Missions' costs, structure, and performance under fire as NA Committee pushes major diplomatic reforms

NADEEM TANOLI
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's overseas diplomatic footprint came under sharp scrutiny as the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs questioned rising costs, overlapping mandates, and outdated structures in foreign missions, signaling possible consolidation, cost cutting, and a rethink of how Pakistan conducts diplomacy abroad. The committee, chaired by Hina Rabbani Khar, reviewed Pakistan's foreign missions

with a focus on reducing heavy rental expenditures, restructuring missions in key international hubs, and improving the effectiveness of economic diplomacy. Members emphasized that maintaining expensive rented properties abroad is no longer sustainable and called for a shift toward owned assets, long-term mortgages, or other financing models to curb recurring financial drain on the exchequer. Senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led by Foreign Secretary Anna

Baloch, along with representatives from the Ministry of Commerce, briefed the committee on administrative and policy matters related to Pakistan's missions overseas. The committee stressed that diplomatic presence must deliver value, professionalism, and efficiency rather than remain a financial burden. A key issue discussed was the future of Pakistan's standalone mission to the World Trade Organization in Geneva. The committee suggested that the WTO mission could be merged with

Pakistan's Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, citing overlapping functions, workload considerations, and questions over the WTO's evolving relevance in the global trade landscape. Members argued that consolidation could improve coordination while saving resources. The committee also examined the role of Trade and Investment Counsellors and Attachés, expressing dissatisfaction with traditional approaches to economic diplomacy. Members called for innova-

tive engagement strategies, better-trained specialists, clear career paths, and performance based evaluations to ensure that trade and investment postings actively contribute to Pakistan's economic interests rather than function as routine diplomatic assignments. While discussing the rationalization of Pakistan's missions abroad, the committee urged a comprehensive policy framework to guide decisions on staffing, resource allocation, and mission effectiveness. Members acknowledged

Pakistan's diplomatic efforts internationally but emphasized that policies must reflect ground realities, financial constraints, and measurable outcomes. Concluding the meeting, the chair underscored the need to strengthen administrative efficiency and professional standards across foreign missions, warning that without structural reforms and accountability, Pakistan's diplomatic network risks becoming costly and inefficient instead of strategic and impactful.

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Why was I made a daughter?

By: Nazia Naz



This question echoes in the silence of graves where innocent dreams are buried. It lingers in homes where laughter once lived, and in the eyes of mothers who are taught to endure quietly. I did not choose my birth, yet I was punished for a crime I never committed. If I am a girl, what is my fault? Almost every other

day, a girl or a woman is killed in the name of "honor." Not because of any sin, but simply because she tried to live. She dared to think for herself, to speak, to love, to dream—or sometimes she did nothing at all. Even suspicion is considered enough. A woman's silence, too, is declared rebellion. They say I stained the family's honor. But tell me—what dishonor was there in my life? Is my birth a disgrace? Is my voice a threat? Is my freedom a crime? If honor is so fragile that it can be destroyed by a girl's choices, then it is not honor at all—it is control. I was taught obedience. I was told that my worth lay in my silence, my endurance, my

patience. From childhood, I learned that my body was not mine, my decisions were not mine, and my future would be decided by others. When I tried to write even a single line of my own life story, I was erased. So-called honor killing is not a tradition; it is violence dressed up as culture. It is murder protected by patriarchy. The killers often walk free under the shelter of family, society, and sometimes the law. My blood is silenced by being labeled a "domestic matter." The deepest pain is not only from the hand that kills, but from the silence that follows. Neighbors whisper, society offers justifications, institutions delay, and the world moves on—

until the next girl is killed, and once again the question is asked: What did she do? Why don't we ask instead: Why was she not protected? Why was her life negotiable? Why is a man's anger called honor, and a woman's choice called shame? I did not wish to be born a girl, but now the question is: why was I punished for it? I wanted to study, to work, to live with love and dignity. I wanted freedom, not fear. Equality, not death. Until society learns that true honor lies in justice, compassion, and respect for human life, daughters will continue to die with the same question on their lips: Why was I made a daughter, in a society that does not even allow me to live?

Honouring promises

GERMANY'S decision to admit more than 500 Afghans stranded in Pakistan is a welcome, albeit belated step towards honouring commitments that should never have been put on hold. These individuals were accepted under a formal resettlement scheme after the Taliban's return to power, many because they worked with German forces or spoke out for rights and freedoms that now place them at grave risk. Leaving them in limbo was never morally defensible. The move draws attention to a recurring problem in the West's approach to Afghan refugees. Grand assurances were made in 2021. Yet as political winds shifted, programmes were slowed, suspended or quietly abandoned. For those who trusted these promises and uprooted their lives, the cost has been years of uncertainty and fear. Pakistan's position adds urgency to the matter. Already burdened by decades of displacement and limited resources, it has made clear that temporary arrangements cannot continue indefinitely. Deportation to Afghanistan is not a neutral act. For many of those waiting here, it would mean persecution, imprisonment or worse. This reality places an obligation on states that pledged resettlement to act decisively. Germany's move should then be seen as just the beginning.

An 'America First' strategy

MALEEHA LODHI
THE National Security Strategy (NSS) recently released by the Trump administration leaves little doubt that it is an effort to redirect US foreign policy and break in several ways from the past. How much of this will translate into actual policy actions that can be implemented in the real world of changing geopolitics and rapid developments waits to be seen. The intent is to make protection of 'core national interests' the sole focus of strategy in pursuit of President Donald Trump's America First foreign policy and reflecting his domestic priorities. Economic nationalism is central to the NSS which accords overriding importance to US economic and mercantilist interests. Strengthening America's eco-

nomie power and maintaining its economic pre-eminence is a priority goal and trade policy the means to ensure that. The strategy reflects Trump's transactional and unilateralist view of how America should engage with the world. A distinguishing aspect of the NSS is implicit acknowledgement that the world is now multipolar, where US leverage has limits. It says America will not seek to dominate the world. This can be read not just as a choice but recognition of a world where there has been a redistribution of global power, especially economic power. When the strategy refers to the US working to "maintain global and regional balances of power" it implies acceptance of that reality and of the influence of the world's "great and middle powers". No longer aspiring to

global dominance doesn't mean the US will not act to prevent others seeking such ascendancy. According to the NSS "The US cannot allow any nation to become so dominant that it could threaten our interests", so it will ally with others to prevent the emergence of "dominant adversaries". But it won't waste "blood and treasure" to curtail the influence of all the world's powers. The kind of global leadership envisioned is apparent from the document. Posing a narrower view of national interests suggests selective global engagement and therefore a departure from past US leadership. The document states plainly "The days of the United States propping up the entire world order like Atlas are over". It sharply criticises previous national security strategies

that followed the end of the Cold War for being open-ended and overreaching by trying to "shoulder forever global burdens". Past "American foreign policy elites," it says, "convinced themselves that permanent American domination of the entire world was in the best interests of our country." Instead, it argues "the affairs of other countries should concern the US only if their activities directly threaten American interests". This is the 'course correction' the new NSS aims to carry out. Trump's redirection of foreign policy is driven by economic nationalism. As others have also noted, the strategy envisions a 'spheres of influence' world where different big powers hold sway and call the shots in their regions of priority. Courtesy Dawn

Forex reserves hit three-year high; import cover improves without debt buildup: Khurram



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Finance Minister Khurram Shehzad has said that Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have reached their highest level since March 2022, underscoring a material strengthening of the country's external position and a clear break from past, debt-led stabilization cycles.

"Quality over quantity: forex reserves rise, import cover improves — without debt buildup/decline in foreign debt-GDP in 2022-2025 vs 2015-2022. Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have reached their highest level since March 2022,

underscoring a material strengthening of the country's external position and a clear break from past, debt-led stabilization cycles", he posted on his official "X" handle. He said total foreign exchange reserves have risen to \$21.1 billion, with the State Bank of Pakistan (State Bank of Pakistan) holding \$15.9 billion (the highest level since March 4, 2022) while commercial banks' reserves stand at \$5.2 billion.

Import cover has improved to over 2.60-month from 2.38-month earlier, compared to less than two weeks in February 2023, indicating greater resilience in trade and payments. Khurram noted that the current reserve accumulation was structurally different from earlier episodes, as confidence has been rebuilt largely without fresh external borrowing. Comparing trends, he said that during the period from June 2015 to June 2022, external public sector debt increased from \$55 billion to \$100 billion (an average rise of \$6.4 billion per year), while SBP's foreign

exchange reserves declined, resulting in higher debt and weaker buffers.

In contrast, since June 2022 till 2025, public sector external debt has remained broadly unchanged in absolute terms, while the external debt-to-GDP ratio has declined from 31 per cent to 26 per cent by June 2025.

SBP reserves have been rebuilt from \$2.9 billion to about \$15.9 billion, nearly a 5.5x increase, and forward liabilities have been reduced from \$5.7 billion in February 2023 to below \$2 billion. This time, reserves rose while debt stabilized, improving both stock and quality of external buffers.

For stakeholders, markets and investors, he said this signaled a reduction in sovereign external risk, greater durability of macroeconomic stability, greater confidence that stability is sustainable, and improved prospects for medium-term credit and ratings outlook.

For businesses and corporates, he said the improved FX liquidity and import planning reduced.

President pays respects at holy shrines in Baghdad



PEAK POINT

BAGHDAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday visited the holy shrines of Sheikh Abdul Qadir Gilani (RA) and Imam-e-Azam Abu Hanifa (RA) here.

The president, who is on a four-day visit to Iraq, also visited the shrines of Imam Musa al-Kazim and Imam Muhammad al-Taqi al-Jawad (AS) at Kazimiya.

He offered Feteiha at the shrines and prayed for peace, unity, and security of the Muslim Ummah.

At the Kazimiya shrine, President Zardari penned his remarks in the visitors' book.

He described the teachings of the Imams of the Ahl al-Bayt (AS) as an eternal source of knowledge, patience, wisdom, and moral strength.

Rana Mashhood declares Pakistan's Youth as the nation's future at MOIC Summit 2025

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan attended the inaugural ceremony of the International MOIC Summit Pakistan 2025 here at the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

While addressing the opening session, he reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to empowering young people and creating transformative opportunities through inclusive policies, skills development, and global engagement.

Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan emphasized that youth are Pakistan's most valuable national asset and the key drivers of future progress. He highlighted that empowering young people is central to the country's development strategy.

He added that targeted investments in education, innovation, and employment are vital to prepare Pakistan's youth for global competition.

Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan recalled his tenure in Punjab, where Pakistan's first National Youth Policy was introduced under the leadership of then Chief Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

He described the policy as a historic milestone that created structured pathways for personal, academic, and professional growth. He noted that the federal government is now expanding this vision nationwide to ensure comprehensive youth empowerment at every level. Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan stressed that prioritizing youth is critical for sustainable economic and social progress.

He highlighted ongoing initiatives to enhance education quality, expand technical and vocational training, and generate meaningful employment opportunities. He added that these efforts aim to transform youth into productive contributors to the nation's growth and innovation. Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan outlined flagship programs under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme.

War victory against India was moral as well, says Bilawal

PEAK POINT

J A M S H O R O : Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal

Bhutto Zardari on Monday said that Pakistan knows how to safeguard its sovereignty, adding that the country's success against India was not only a military achievement but also a moral victory. Speaking at the passing-out parade of Cadet College Petaro in Jamshoro, Bilawal praised the institution as one of the country's finest educational establishments, saying it had played a vital role in shaping the character and discipline of young Pakistanis.

Bilawal said Pakistan had earned a distinct and respected place in the world, stressing that its strength lay not only in its defence capabilities but also in its principles and resilience.

Highlighting the importance of the younger generation, the PPP chairman said that youth represented the future of the nation and would determine Pakistan's path forward through their education, values, and commitment to national service.

A laptop in every youth's hand government's commitment, says Wajihah Qamar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Wajihah Qamar, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training said that providing a laptop to every young person is an important mission of the government under which the Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme is being further expanded.

She expressed these views while addressing a laptop distribution ceremony at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) as the chief guest.

She said that the promotion of education and the empowerment of youth are among the top priorities of the government.

Wajihah Qamar added that Pakistan is now moving in the right direction and progressing



toward economic stability, in which the role of the younger generation is extremely important.

Addressing the students, she remarked that the armed forces of Pakistan are the guardians of the country's physical borders, while students are the guardians of its ideological frontiers.

Emphasizing national unity, she said that students are first and foremost Pakistanis and should use these laptops responsibly.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan while addressing the International MOIC SUMMIT Pakistan 2025.

Amir Muqam welcome Sardar Mir Akbar announcement of joining PML-N

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam, has welcomed the decision of another Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader from Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Sardar Mir Akbar for joining the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), terming it a positive development for strengthening the party's roots and serving the people more effectively. Speaking at the joining ceremony on Monday, which was also attended by prominent Kashmiri leaders including former prime minister Raja Farooq Haider, Raja Mushtaq Minhas and Ghulam Qadir, he expressed full



confidence in PML-N leadership.

He said the inclusion of Sardar Mir Akbar and other leaders would further bolster the party's strength in AJK. The minister also paid tribute to the people of Kashmir for their unwavering struggle for the right to self-determination and their deep-rooted love for Pakistan, noting that their sacrifices would not go in vain. He added that victory in the Marka-e-Haq.

Ambassador Hashmi holds meetings with Pakistan's honorary investment counsellors in China

PEAK POINT

BEIJING: Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi on Monday held individual meetings with Pakistan's Honorary Investment Counsellors (HICs) in China to take stock of their work, strengthen coordination, and set priorities for the year ahead.

The meeting was attended by Ms. Ma Xiaoli, representing Mr. Yuan Jianming, Mr. Zhang Baozhong, Mr. Wang Zihai and Mr. Jian Peng. Besides individual meetings, the

Ambassador also held a collective working luncheon with the HICs.

Ambassador Hashmi appreciated the HICs' sustained efforts across a wide geographic spread, ranging from Hong Kong-Macao-Greater Bay Area, the region known for innovation and science and technology, Xinjiang which is a gateway to Pakistan, Shandong a major industrial base and Henan as an emerging agriculture hub.

He underscored the HICs' important role in advancing trade, invest-



ment and people-to-people linkages. He encouraged them to synergize their efforts with Pakistan's national development priorities and mobilize

Chinese investments in export-oriented sectors of Pakistan.

Highlighting progress made in the past two years to mobilize investment in

priority sectors, the Ambassador briefed them on the context of identifying 21 priority sectors, channeling investments in these sectors through joint ventures to boost productive capacities and integrating investments with human capital development. The Ambassador expressed satisfaction over the unprecedented results achieved from the two B2B Investment Conferences held in Shenzhen and Beijing and six sectoral investment roadshows held since last year which

cumulatively have yielded signing of over 300 MoUs and 25 Joint Ventures worth \$11 billion so far. He shared with them the active follow up mechanism underway in Pakistan at high level to provide facilitating MoUs. The Ambassador advised HICs to actively pursue implementation of MoUs falling within their respective jurisdictions to translate commitments into tangible outcomes. Ambassador Hashmi also briefed the HICs on preparations.