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## PM Shehbaz pays tribute to KP's sacrifices, vows united fight against terrorism, inclusive national development

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday paid tribute to the unparalleled sacrifices rendered by the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), law enforcement agencies, armed forces, doctors, engineers, students, and civilians in the fight against terrorism, saying their blood paved the way for the complete elimination of terrorism by 2018. Addressing participants at the KP National Workshop, the prime minister recalled that nearly 100,000 Pakistanis, including soldiers, police personnel, Rangers, and innocent civilians, laid down their lives to defeat terrorism. He said the tragic APS Peshawar incident became a defining moment for the nation, after which the political lead-

ership and armed forces, under the leadership of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, unanimously decided that there would be no distinction between good and bad Taliban.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif regretted that certain flawed decisions taken after 2018, including the release of hardened militants and allowing thousands of individuals to return from Afghanistan, led to the resurgence of terrorism. He said terrorism has once again emerged as a serious threat to Pakistan's peace, development and prosperity, particularly in KP, where security personnel continue to embrace martyrdom on a daily basis to protect the nation's future. He strongly condemned attempts on social media to malign martyrs and spread poisonous propaganda.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing National Workshop on Kyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Balochistan cabinet takes historic decision to resolve missing persons issue

PEAK POINT



QUETTA: The Balochistan cabinet has taken a historic step to resolve the missing persons issue on a permanent basis. The decision was made during the 22nd

provincial cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, on Tuesday. The cabinet approved the Balochistan Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism Rules 2025, which includes comprehensive measures for the investigation and protection of suspects and witnesses. Chief Minister Bugti emphasized that many political groups have used the missing persons issue for propaganda, but the government has now permanently ended such narratives. He stated that suspects will be interrogated in authorized centers under the supervision of police officers, and family members will be allowed to meet them. He added that legal proceedings of cases will be strengthened, and protection for witnesses and plaintiffs at terrorism sites will be ensured. He described the approval of these laws and rules as a major success of the provincial cabinet.

## COAS visits National Police Academy, interacts with PSP officers

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HI, visited the National Police Academy, Islamabad, where he interacted with officers of the Police Service of Pakistan (PSP).

Upon arrival, the Field Marshal was warmly received by the Commandant National Police Academy and was presented with a guard of honour by a smartly turned-out police contingent, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The Field Marshal laid a wreath at the Police Martyrs'

Monument and offered Field Marshal was briefed on the School



tribute to the Shuhada of the Police who laid down their lives in the line of duty while safeguarding peace, upholding the rule of law, and ensuring public safety across the country. He acknowledged the supreme sacrifices rendered by police personnel in the face of terrorism, crime and internal security challenges.

During the visit, the

first line of defence in safeguarding the lives, property, and honour of citizens.

While addressing Inspectors General of Police (IGPs), Additional IGPs, and senior police officials, he underscored the importance of inter-agency cooperation, modern policing practices and fostering public trust in law enforcement agencies. He emphasized that a strong, professional, and people-centric police force is indispensable for ensuring internal security and the rule of law.

The Field Marshal remarked that the duty of the police to enforce law and order is a sacred trust and that the Armed Forces.

## Raja Nasir Abbas appointed Opposition Leader in Senate

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Secretariat on Tuesday formally notified the appointment of Senator Raja Nasir Abbas as Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, with immediate effect. "In pursuance of sub-rule (3) of Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, the chairman Senate has been pleased to declare Senator Raja Nasir Abbas as leader of the opposition in the Senate, with immediate effect," said a notification issued here. Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani.

## GHQ attack case: ATC rejects lawyers request to meet Imran Khan

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Rawalpindi has rejected the request of lawyers seeking permission to meet Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in the GHQ attack case. The hearing of the May 9 GHQ attack case was held at the ATC, presided over by Judge Ahmad Ali Shah. During the proceedings, lawyer Faisal Malik requested the court to allow him and the legal team to meet Imran Khan for legal consultation. However, the prosecution strongly opposed the plea.

## Death toll of fire at Karachi's Gul Plaza reaches 28



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Rescue personnel continued searching the wreckage of Karachi's Gul Plaza on Tuesday for those reported missing in the deadly fire as the death toll reached 28. The fire had erupted on Saturday night. The plaza, parts of which collapsed due to the blaze, was a ground-plus-three-storey building with 1,200 shops spread over 8,000 square yards. On Tuesday, a large crowd was

seen gathered at the scene, with law enforcement creating temporary barriers to prevent people from going toward the plaza. Smoke could still be seen emanating from the building's rubble. According to Rescue 1122, the death toll had reached 28, with seven bodies handed over to the affected families. The statement by the rescue service said that 21 bodies were at the morgue, adding that they would be handed over to the families after a

DNA test was conducted.

A separate list issued by police surgeon Dr Summayia Syed also showed the death toll to be 28. A statement issued by Keamari police said that the merchandise salvaged from the rubble was being shifted to the KMC Ground, adding that a contingent had been deployed for ensuring security. Rescue services were searching the ill-fated building's basement on Tuesday, with South Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Asad Raza telling the media persons that rescue teams had not entered the building's first floor. He also stated that, using cell phone information, 38 of the more than 65 people reported missing had last been traced to Gul Plaza.

## IHC restores bails of Imaan Mazari, Hadi Ali Chattha in controversial tweets case

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has restored the bail of Advocate Imaan Zainab Mazari and Hadi Ali Chattha in the controversial tweets case, along with reinstating their right to defence before the trial court.

Justice Azam Khan, while hearing the case, issued key orders and suspended the trial court's earlier rulings. The court directed that cross-examination be completed within three days. During the hearing, the accused's lawyer, Kamran Murtaza, requested one week's time. In response, Justice Azam Khan remarked that the matter would be reviewed and instructed all parties to proceed with the trial in a peaceful manner. Mazari and Chattha are facing charges in a case registered.

by the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) under Sections 9, 10, 11, and 26 of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes



Act (PECA) 2016, and were formally indicted on October 30. According to the first information report (FIR), the two allegedly sought to stir divisions along linguistic lines through content shared on social media. Last month, both accused approached the Islamabad High Court (IHC), stating they had lost confidence in Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka and requested that the controversial tweets case be transferred to another court. Earlier this week, the IHC granted Mazari and Chattha one-day protective bail, despite Judge Majoka having directed them to appear before his court on Tuesday.



# SPORTS



## Auction model, higher salaries and major reforms announced for PSL 11

**HBL PSL - Dawn of a New Era**

AFTER A DECADE, HBL PAKISTAN SUPER LEAGUE TRANSITIONS FROM THE TRADITIONAL PLAYER DRAFT TO

**PLAYER AUCTION MODEL**

**PEAK POINT** LAHORE: The HBL Pakistan Super League is set to enter a transformative new phase as sweeping structural and commercial reforms have been unveiled ahead of its 11th edition, headlined by the introduction of a Player Auction system, a significant increase in player salaries, and the expansion of venues. The landmark decisions mark the most comprehensive overhaul in the League's history and underline the PCB's intent to further elevate the PSL's global standing.

growth and success, the HBL PSL will replace its long-standing Player Draft with a Player Auction Model from PSL 11 onwards. The move is designed to enhance competitive balance, improve transparency, and offer players greater market-driven earning opportunities, aligning the League more closely with leading international T20 competitions. Under the new framework, franchises will be allowed to retain a maximum of four players, with only one retention permitted per category. This represents a major departure from previous seasons, where teams could retain up to eight players, in addition to provisions for mentors, brand ambassadors, and a Right to Match (RTM) option. All such special categories and mechanisms have now been abolished, streamlining the squad-building process and placing greater emphasis on the auction itself.

In another significant development, newly inducted teams will be granted the opportunity to select and retain four players from the available pool prior to the auction, ensuring competitive parity as the League continues to evolve. Franchises will also be permitted one direct signing of a foreign player who did not feature in the

## 'Time to call it a day': Shoab Malik announces retirement from PSL



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan captain Shoab Malik on Tuesday announced his retirement from Pakistan Super League (PSL). In a post on social media platform X, Malik said, "I cherish every single moment and friendship I have made on and off the field throughout my 10 years of the PSL as a player. It's time to call it a day. "My passion and motivation to serve for the betterment of cricket will always stay. Thank you, PSL," he said. Last year in May, Malik had announced his resignation from the role of Domestic Cricket Mentor, saying he believed it was "time to move on" to ensure fairness and pay attention to multiple personal and professional responsibilities in his life.

## Pak-China Friendship Tenpin C'ship on Jan 24

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A total of 20 friendly matches between Pakistani and Chinese men and women will be played on the inaugural day of the Pak-China Friendship Tenpin Championship, on January 24 here at the Leisure City Bowling Club, Safa Gold, F-7 Markaz. According to President, Pakistan Tenpin Bowling Federation, Ijaz-ur-Rehman, who is also the Chairman Organizing Committee.

## Haris Rauf likely to miss out on T20 World Cup squad



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Fast bowler Haris Rauf is likely to be dropped from Pakistan's squad for the ICC T20 World Cup 2026, scheduled to be held in India and Sri Lanka from Feb 7 to March 8. According to sources, Rauf, who last appeared for Pakistan in the shortest format in the Asia Cup 2025 final against India, is not expected to be named in the 15-

member squad for the global event. They said head coach Mike Hesson is not in favour of the right-arm pacer's inclusion following his expensive outing in the Asia Cup final in September 2025, where he conceded 50 runs in 3.4 overs without taking a wicket. Pakistan went on to lose the match as India chased down the 147-run target in 19.4 overs with five wickets in hand to clinch the title. Despite being Pakistan's most successful bowler in T20 Internationals with 133 wickets in 94 matches, Rauf is currently playing in Australia's Big Bash League, representing Melbourne Stars.

Sources said consultations are under way regarding Pakistan's squad for the upcoming T20I series against Australia. The

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has already submitted a preliminary list of players to the ICC for the tournament, which will be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka, though changes can be made to the list without ICC approval until Jan 31. According to sources, the probable squad includes captain Salman Ali Agha, Sahibzada Farhan, Saim Ayub, Fakhar Zaman, Shadab Khan, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Mohammad Nawaz, Usman Khan and Abrar Ahmed.

Other players under consideration include Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah, Salman Mirza and Khawaja Nafay, while Abdul Samad, Mohammad Wasim Jr and Usman Tariq are likely to be named among the reserves.

## Pakistan stunned by late Indian surge in SAFW Women's futsal clash



## Pakistan women draw Ivory Coast group in FIFA Series

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan women's football team has been placed in the Ivory Coast group for the FIFA Series 2026, marking another significant step forward in the country's efforts to revive and strengthen women's football at the international level, FIFA confirmed on Monday. Under the

newly announced grouping, Pakistan will play its matches in Ivory Coast, where the national side is set to face the host nation alongside Mauritania and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The detailed match schedule and fixtures are expected to be released by FIFA in the coming weeks. The inclusion of Pakistan in the FIFA Series is being widely viewed as a landmark moment for women's football in the country, offering rare international exposure and competitive match experience against teams from different confederations. The multi-nation series is designed to provide emerging football nations.

## Asif storms into national snooker semis



## Third Chief of Army Staff inter-club National hockey championship 2026 begins in Multan

WAHJIHA TAMSEEL MIRZA

MULTAN: The Third Chief of Army Staff Inter-Club National Hockey Championship 2026 commenced in District Multan at the Mati Tal AstroTurf Hockey Ground. Four matches were played on the opening day of the championship. In the first match, Cantt Hockey Club faced City Hockey Club Multan, where Cantt Hockey Club won convincingly by 3-0. The second match was played between Noor Basharat



Hockey Club and Multan Hawks Hockey Club, which ended in a 1-1 draw. The chief guest of this match was Mian Muhammad Zafarullah Bhatti, President, District Hockey Association Multan. In the third match, Kamran Hockey Club competed against Eagle Hockey Club Shujaabad. Kamran Hockey Club secured victory by 2-1. The final match of the day was played between Shah Rukn-e-Alam Hockey Club and Young Heroes Hockey Club.

# Sindh Police under fire in Senate over katcha dacoits, unsolved political killings

**NADEEM TANOLI**  
ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control came down hard on the Sindh Police on Tuesday, expressing serious displeasure over the failure to arrest the killers of the brother and nephew of Senator Muhammad Aslam Abro, and warning that continued inaction would result in direct responsibility being fixed on the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh. Chaired by Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman, the Committee questioned the overall efficiency and performance of the Sindh Police, particularly in relation to the deteriorating law and order situation in the Katcha area, where armed dacoit gangs continue to

operate with impunity. The absence of the IGP Sindh further escalated tensions in the meeting, with the Chairman directing that the culprits be arrested immediately and a report submitted to the Committee at the earliest, failing which the concerned police leadership would be held accountable. The matter triggered visible frustration among members, culminating in Senator Danesh Kumar leaving the meeting in protest, citing repeated absences of senior police officials despite the gravity of the issues under discussion. Amid the tense atmosphere, the Committee proceeded to legislative business and passed the Prevention of Electronic Crime (Amendment) Bill, 2025, as

no objection was raised by the Ministry of Interior. The Committee also approved the Islamabad Capital Territory (Prohibition of Plastic Book Covers) Bill, 2025, with the Chairman welcoming the move as a step toward environmental responsibility. The Committee was also briefed on identity theft and the misuse of personal identification data, where officials from NADRA and the Directorate General of Immigration and Passports maintained that no data breaches had occurred following security upgrades introduced after 2023. However, members expressed concern over Pakistani citizens' personal data appearing on the dark web, directing authorities to further strengthen cybersecu-

mechanisms. Another major security related discussion centered on the increasing incidents of WhatsApp hacking across Pakistan. The Director General of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) informed the Committee that the issue was being actively addressed and that additional resources were being provided to strengthen the newly established authority. The Chairman warned that social media platforms failing to comply with Pakistani laws could face bans. The Committee also took up the murder case of the son of Mian Adil Rasheed, Patron in Chief of the Central Group of Colleges, and was informed that investigations had been

completed and the accused arrested. The Committee appreciated the efforts of the Punjab Police and disposed of the matter on assurances from the Minister of State for Interior, while directing that updates continue to be shared. Further concerns were raised by sessions around the blocking of CNICs of certain individuals, with directions issued to facilitate affected citizens through District Level Committees for verification and clearance in line with policy. Serious reservations were also expressed over data protection issues linked to E tagging, M tagging of vehicles, and household surveys in Islamabad, particularly regarding the collection of sensitive personal information. The Chairman

directed that robust safeguards be ensured to protect citizens' data and privacy. In another alarming development, the Committee took notice of the theft of 2,828 cartons of cigarettes from an FBR store in Swabi and Mardan. Citing recurring thefts of seized goods, the Chairman ordered the formation of a Sub-Committee headed by Senator Saifullah Abro, with Senators Umer Farooq and Talha Mehmood as members, to conduct a thorough investigation. Concluding the meeting, the Committee recommended that arms licenses should not be issued to non-taxpayers, directing the Ministry of Interior to strictly enforce this policy in the interest of public safety and accountability.

## Women's Parliamentary caucus launches annual report 2024-2025

**PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD: The Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) of the National Assembly, under the sponsorship of Syeda Shahida Rehmani, MNA, and with the support of its development partner UN Women, launched its Annual Report 2024-25 at the Parliament House, Islamabad. The launch ceremony was moderated by Special Secretary National Assembly, Syed Shamoosh Hashmi. The

ceremony was attended by Members of the National Assembly. Honourable Senators, representatives of development partners, civil society organizations, and other key stakeholders, reaffirming a collective commitment to the promotion of women's rights, gender-responsive budgeting, and the strengthening of Provincial and Legislative Chapters of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus. The Annual Report 2024-25 highlights the major



achievements, initiatives, and challenges addressed by the Women's Parliamentary Caucus during the year. In her keynote address, Ms. Syeda Shahida Rehmani, MNA, acknowledged the contributions of WPC members in advancing gender-responsive

legislation, strengthening parliamentary oversight on gender issues, and expanding the outreach of the Caucus across party lines. She reaffirmed the WPC's commitment to ensuring that gender-sensitive legislation remains a central component of the parliamentary agen-

da. Among the notable achievements highlighted was the convening of Pakistan's first Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Workshop on Gender-Sensitive Legislation after a gap of four years, with participation from international parliamentarians. The report presentation highlighted several landmark initiatives, including the establishment and strengthening of Provincial and Legislative Chapters of the WPC in all four provincial and legislative

assemblies, achieved for the first time in Pakistan's history. Other key initiatives included the National Women's Convention 2025 under the theme "A Unified Vision for Empowerment", roundtable conferences on gender-responsive budgeting, and the conference titled "Poverty Has a Woman's Face: Gender-Sensitive Legislation to Advance Gender Equality and End Poverty" held during the 18th Speakers' Conference.

# Opinion & Editorial

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### Predictable tragedy

OVER 20 people have died after a fire tore through Gul Plaza on Karachi's M.A. Jinnah Road on Saturday night. This tragedy did not come out of nowhere. It grew out of years of regulatory neglect and inaction. And now, compensation announcements and inquiry committees will do little to address the failures that turned a commercial building into a death trap. Gul Plaza was an ageing, densely packed structure with more than 1,000 shops squeezed into narrow corridors, basements and upper floors. Like many older markets in Karachi, it reportedly lacked adequate emergency exits, fire alarms and ventilation. Combustible materials, substandard wiring and overcrowding formed the perfect recipe for disaster. That such a building continued to operate in the heart of the city points to a system where safety rules exist largely on paper. The official response has been troubling. Firefighting efforts were hampered by water shortage, access problems and crowd mismanagement. Residents and traders insist that a faster, better-resourced response could have saved lives in the crucial first hours. With a fire station only minutes away, these claims cannot be dismissed. When flames reignite days later and bodies are recovered in fragments, the cost of delay becomes clear.

### Youth engagement

**ARIFA NOOR**  
IN times long past, kings and powerful men used messengers to communicate. Those of us brought up on Dastan-i-Ameer Hamza and Tilism-i-Hoshruba imagined lone men on horseback rushing between cities and fiefdoms, carrying letters or messages to and fro. They were known as alichis. In this age of modern communications, when we can even chat the Jetsons way with a video call, one would have assumed we no longer need alichis. But we still do. They are no longer needed for the mighty and powerful to communicate with each other as such — though the 'stories' about the various London plans suggest otherwise — but they are still used, town-crier style, to talk to the awaam, or masses, as we like to call them in English-language newspapers. The more politically correct term would be 'citizens', but why bother to be PC when the awaam in Pakistan barely have any rights, which is perhaps what defines a citizen? To return to the point, the powerful still need to pass on messages to those who are mere mortals. It can be a warning, a threat, a message or even a bid to test the waters. And this can be done via anonymous accounts on social media or through individuals known to enjoy the confidence of the powerful. In recent days, a few such well-connected people have been informing their listeners that those who have their ears are considering changing the voting age from 18 to 25. The reason being given is that if one can't be elected to parliament before the age of 25, then those who make this election possible should also be of that age. It was also pointed out, with considerable pain, that this was simply a proposal under consideration and no final decision had been taken. And this, in our hack world, ladies and gentlemen, is called a feeler — to use a news story to gauge the reaction. Test the waters, so to speak. What if after yet another amendment, it turns out it wasn't enough to increase the age to 25? Why in the world, in the middle of crises such as convincing the IMF to ease fiscal restrictions, decisions about Gaza, a security crisis, and even rolling back the NFC, would the government take on another constitutional amendment? Especially if they still have not been able to create a consensus on the NFC and the provinces-versus-local-government debate? But then, these are useless questions — for who knows how the minds of the powerful work? But it is an idea being taken seriously on talk shows. Analysts have discussed it and politicians have been asked about it. And a senior politico, when asked about it, did point out that Gen Z doesn't even read manifestos before voting. Valid argument, because every 30- and 50-year-old is making voting decisions after a detailed comparison of the manifestos. Dare one say, though, that the argument about manifestos or the uniformity between voting and eligibility age is all just red herrings? Justifications conjured up post-decision making are akin to being told that the 26th Amendment had to be brought in to ensure judges could be recruited from a wider cross-section of society than just a law firm or two in Lahore. Because two dynastic families prioritise fresh blood — even if it is only in the judiciary. What might just remain unsaid — like other issues such as trees or conflicts to the west — is that the increase in the voting age will be aimed at the PTI's support base. This stubborn Gen Z, which the state now associates with the party, has to be kept from voting for its preferred party, hopefully reducing the PTI's chances. But why would the powerful do this? For it would be yet another admission of failure. Why admit that the trips to universities and colleges, which began all the way back with the caretaker prime minister, all the laptop schemes and the grand events where students weep and credit the government for their success, have not worked? All those talk shows with students and the discussion about Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and Maryam Nawaz being an inspiration for young people — will these conversations be discarded? Courtesy Dawn

### Why our environmental message isn't working

**MIRZA MUJTABA BAIG**  
History offers a simple lesson that we keep forgetting: nothing meaningful changes unless people first understand one another. Most conflicts, from small quarrels to full-scale wars, begin not with malice but with miscommunication. A single careless word can weaken an entire argument. Sometimes, even peace treaties collapse because of an avoidable misunderstanding. If communication can fail so catastrophically at the highest levels, it is hardly surprising that it stumbles in everyday public life as well. The challenge becomes far greater when the goal is not just to inform, but to persuade people to act. Some crises announce themselves so loudly that no explanation is needed. During COVID-19, no one had to be convinced to buy masks. Fear and urgency did the work. But many problems do not arrive with sirens. They grow slowly and quietly, and by the time their effects become visible, habits are already entrenched. Pollution is one of those problems, and after more than three decades of warnings, it is fair to ask why our message still seems to fall on deaf ears. We have been telling people for years that pollution is harmful and urging them to change their behaviour. Yet the air grows heavier, the water dirtier, and the landscape more degraded. Somewhere along the way, the message has stopped being a call to action and turned into a ritual complaint. Every seminar, every speech, every campaign sounds the same: who is failing, what is going wrong, and why nothing is improving. When communicators start to sound like walking complaint boxes, it is usually a sign that the problem lies not only in reality but also in the way reality is being explained. Consider the mismatch between the message and the audience. What is the point of lecturing a community of labourers about industrial pollution when they have no control over factory emissions and not even the means to shield themselves from them? Courtesy Tribune

## Sardar Ayaz Sadiq holds talks with China's top legislature in Beijing



PEAK POINT

BEIJING: A parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on an official visit to China, held a meeting with the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, Zhao Leji, in Beijing.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq reaffirmed Pakistan's pride in its time-tested friendship with China, rooted in mutual respect and trust, and emphasized the unbreakable bonds between the peoples of both countries.

He underscored the importance of strengthening Pakistan-China parliamentary cooperation and enhancing Parliamentary Friendship Groups to further deepen bilateral relations and the strategic partnership, which he described as vital for regional peace, development, and prosperity.

Highlighting 75 years of diplomatic and parliamentary ties, the Speaker termed the enduring Pakistan-China friendship a model for the world and described CPEC as a game changer for the region. He also appreciated China's remarkable

progress under President Xi Jinping, acknowledged the significance of the Belt and Road Initiative, and thanked Chairman Zhao Leji for the warm hospitality while extending an invitation to visit Pakistan. Zhao Leji, appreciated Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq's views on China-Pakistan relations and stated that China attaches great importance to its long-standing, friendly ties with Pakistan. He concurred with Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq's proposal to further enhance parliamentary cooperation between the two countries. He also lauded Pakistan's role in promoting sustainable peace in the region and reiterated China's commitment to further strengthening the strategic partnership with Pakistan. The meeting was attended by members of the Pakistani parliamentary delegation, including Coordinator to PM on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, and MNAs Muhammad Numan, Ms. Zeb Jaffar, and Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri.

## First Lady briefed on PHHF's free clubfoot treatment initiatives

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, Tuesday, received a briefing on the ongoing initiatives of Prime Hospital Healthcare Facility (PHHF) from Chief Executive Officer Dr Shahzad Shafiq Musavi, over the treatment of clubfoot deformity in children, particularly in underdeveloped areas of Sindh. During the meeting at the Aiwan-e Sadr, Dr Musavi shared details of PHHF's efforts to provide free diagnosis and surgical treatment for children affected by clubfoot, including the organisation of specialised camps and collaboration with international surgical teams, President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release.

PPP Senate Parliamentary Leader Senator Sherry Rehman, Syed Naveed Qamar MNA and Shazia Marri MNA were also present during the meeting. The first lady was briefed on the scale of the programme and its focus on restoring mobility and improving quality of life for affect-

ed children. It was explained that clubfoot, medically known as Congenital Talipes Equinovarus (CTEV), is one of the most common congenital deformities and a leading cause of preventable childhood disability.

The first lady was informed that through timely, free-of-cost intervention, PHHF has conducted over 1,621 outpatient assessments and successfully treated 252 children, demonstrating that the condition is fully treatable when addressed early and systematically.

Aseefa Bhutto Zardari appreciated the humanitarian focus of the initiative and underscored the importance of sustained attention to preventable and treatable childhood disabilities. She noted that access to timely medical care could play a decisive role in enabling children to lead dignified and productive lives and assured Dr Musavi of her full support for efforts aimed at eradicating this serious public health issue.



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari in a meeting with CEO Prime Hospital Healthcare Facility, Dr Shahzad Shafiq Musavi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## NA Lawmaker Shehla Raza calls for neutral leadership to ensure transparent Pakistan Hockey federation elections

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Member of National Assembly (MNA) Shehla Raza has urged Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to appoint an ad-hoc and neutral president for the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) to ensure free, fair, and transparent elections. She made these remarks during a press conference at the National Press Club Islamabad, attended by prominent Pakistani Olympians including Shehnaaz Sheikh, Samiullah, Kaleemullah,

Hanif Khan, Nasir Ali, Wasim Feroz, Muhammad Shakeel Abbasi, Syed Haider Hussain, Naem Akhtar, and provincial and district officials of hockey associations from across the country. Shehla Raza highlighted that the current PHF president is not an elected representative, and although the caretaker government had assigned Tariq Misuri the task of scrutinizing clubs and conducting elections, he has been attempting to make himself the elected president. "Legally, a caretaker cannot



contest elections, yet he has begun forming parallel organizations nationwide to secure his position," she said. Raza further criticized the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), which had issued a

## Talal Chaudhry says security operations strictly under NAP

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry told the National Assembly on Tuesday that all security operations being carried out across the country were strictly in line with the unanimously agreed National Action Plan (NAP) and were being conducted in close coordination with provincial governments and relevant institutions.

Speaking in the House, he recalled that the NAP was first formulated in 2014-15 and later reinforced under NAP-II, adding that all political parties and provincial governments had reached a consensus on the framework.

He said intelligence-based operations were being conducted daily with the support of provincial authorities and law enforcement agencies. Referring to ongoing operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the erstwhile tribal areas, the minister said the provincial government was on board and that consultations had been held with district.

## Tarar stresses creativity promotion; ethical oversight of TikTok politics, journalism

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday underscored the need to foster creativity and bring TikTok-driven politics and journalism under a clear ethical and regulatory framework, cautioning that without such measures society cannot move forward.

Addressing the oath-taking ceremony of the Pakistan Federal Union of Columnists and Creators (PFUC) after administering oath to the newly elected office-bearers, Information Minister said that bizarre acts are often staged merely to secure maximum likes on TikTok, while little attention is paid to the government's initiative of distributing one million laptops and other public welfare initiatives.

He emphasized the need to



promote creative content, saying it helps build awareness in a society facing multiple challenges. He noted that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has revived the health card scheme first introduced by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in 2012, yet it receives little attention, while TikTok politics continues to draw the most likes.

He acknowledged that dissent holds a vital place in society, warning that its absence renders a community lifeless. As a minister, he said, he accepts criticism, adding that narrative battles.

## Political stability possible only through dialogue, consensus: Rana Sanauallah

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanauallah on Tuesday urged all political parties to join hands for a "Charter of Stability of Pakistan (Misaq-e-Istehkam-e-Pakistan)," stating that the country's political, electoral, and institutional challenges could only be resolved through dialogue and consensus within Parliament.

Speaking in the Senate, he said the prime minister had repeatedly extended an unconditional offer to the opposition to engage in dialogue, stressing that political disputes should be resolved politically rather than through confrontation. Pakistan's history showed that prolonged



political deadlock only weakened democratic institutions, he said.

Rana Sanauallah said concerns raised regarding the February 8 elections were not unprecedented, recalling that similar allegations had followed earlier polls, including the 2018 general elections. He said if political forces remained stuck in past grievances, progress would remain impossible. He said both the government and opposition must acknowledge that Pakistan's electoral system.

## Oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of the (PFUC) was held

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected central and provincial office-bearers of the Pakistan Federal Union of Columnists and Creators (PFUC) was held in Lahore, with Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar attending as the chief guest. Reputed pillars of journalism Sohail Waraich, Abdul Majeed Sajid and Najam Wali Khan graced the occasion as guests of honour. The federal information minister took oath of office from the newly elected cabinet. Speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister Attaullah Tarar hailed the inclusion of 'Creators'



in PFUC as a revolutionary step in keeping with the modern requirements of the digital era. Announcing a historic milestone for the organisation, he issued an order to allocate an office adjacent to Radio Pakistan to PFUC. President PFUC Farid Razaki thanked the Federal Minister and reiterated the commitment that this place will be made a "Center of Digital Excellence."

tained a portal allowing selective club registrations, players are not even receiving their daily allowances. She asked, "If PSB wants to, should we just give up on hockey?" Former Olympian Shehnaaz Sheikh added that recommendations had been submitted to the Prime Minister to conduct elections under neutral caretaker leadership, with full scrutiny of all hockey clubs nationwide. She urged the Prime Minister to take notice of the decline of the national sport and help restore its stature. Former

Olympian Samiullah also criticized the governance, noting that Pakistan hockey has suffered for over 20 years, with the national team currently ranked eighth, making it difficult to attract sponsorship. He emphasized that improving club standards could significantly strengthen Pakistan hockey. Shehla Raza concluded by demanding that the Prime Minister appoint a neutral caretaker president for PHF to conduct transparent elections and revive Pakistan hockey's golden era.