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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

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FM Ishaq Dar meets Chinese counterpart, reviews regional developments

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held meetings with senior Chinese officials in Beijing on Sunday, focusing on strengthening bilateral relations, according to statements issued by the Foreign Office (FO). Dar arrived in Beijing on Saturday to co-chair the seventh round of the Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue, scheduled for today, alongside Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. In a statement shared on social media platform X, the FO said that Dar met Chinese Executive Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to further deepening the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. Vice Premier Ding appre-

ciated Pakistan's consistent support for China on matters of core national interest.

The two leaders also highlighted the significance of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, agreeing to use the milestone to develop a forward-looking roadmap for enhanced cooperation, including under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Vice Premier Ding also extended New Year greetings to the leadership and people of Pakistan.

Earlier, the FO said Dar also met Liu Haixing, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC). During the meeting, Dar congratulated the Chinese leadership on the successful convening of the fourth plenary session.



BEIJING: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi co-chaired the 7th round of Pak-China Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue.

Ex-PTI leaders plan multi-party conference to ease political tensions

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) leaders plan to convene a multi-party conference (MPC) in Islamabad next week in an attempt

to reduce political tensions in the country. The conference is being organised under the banner of a recently formed National Dialogue Committee (NDC) set up by ex-PTI leaders, including Fawad Chaudhry, Dr Shahzad Waseem and former Sindh governor Imran Ismail. Organisers said the event would bring together political leaders as well as lawyers, intellectuals and technocrats from across the country. Invitations will be sent to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), PTI, Jamiat Ulama-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) and Jamaat-i-Islami (JI). The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q), Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Awami National Party (ANP) and other parties will also be invited. The NDC will also extend a special invitation to Tehreek Tahaffuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TTAP), Fawad Chaudhry, Imran Ismail and Mahmood Moulvi, who formed the committee, have begun contacting political leaders to extend invitations. The organisers said the conference aimed to explore a way out of the political crisis.

Venezuela's SC orders Delcy Rodriguez become interim president as Maduro reaches New York

PEAK POINT

CARACAS: The Constitutional Chamber of Venezuela's Supreme Court ordered on Saturday that Vice President Delcy Rodriguez assume the role of acting president of the country in the absence of Nicolás Maduro, who was detained early Saturday morning in an operation by US forces.

The court ruling said that Rodriguez would assume "the office of President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in order to guarantee administrative continuity and the comprehensive defense of the Nation."

The ruling added



that the court will debate the matter in order to "determine the applicable legal framework to guarantee the continuity of the State, the administration of government, and the defense of sovereignty in the face of the forced absence of the President of the Republic."

Meanwhile, Venezuelan President Maduro landed in the United States on

including CNN, Fox News and MS Now, identified a person who disembarked from the plane as Maduro.

Earlier, US President Donald Trump said he was putting Venezuela under temporary American control after the United States captured President Nicolas Maduro in an audacious raid and whisked him to New York to face drug-trafficking charges.

"We will run the country until such time as we can do a safe, proper and judicious transition," Trump said during a press conference at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida. "We can't take a chance that someone else takes."

Mamdani slams US strike on Venezuela, denounces 'blatant regime change'

PEAK POINT

NEW YORK: New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani said that he telephoned President Donald Trump "directly" to voice opposition to what he called a "pursuit of regime change" in Venezuela after the capture of President Nicolas Maduro and his wife in an overnight operation. "I called the president and spoke with him directly to register my opposition to this act," Mamdani told reporters during a press conference. He said his objection was rooted in opposition to a "pursuit of regime change".

UK says conducted joint strike with France on IS site in Syria

PEAK POINT

LONDON: The British Ministry of Defence said it cooperated with France on Sunday night to strike an underground facility in Syria that had likely been used by the militant Islamic State (IS) group to store weapons. "Royal Air Force aircraft have completed successful strikes against Daesh in a joint operation with France," the ministry said in a statement, using the Arabic acronym for IS. "This facility had been occupied by Daesh, most likely to store weapons and explosives."

UNSC to meet on Monday amid alarm over US action in Venezuela, concerns about risks to international system

PEAK POINT

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Security Council will hold an emergency session on Monday amid mounting international alarm over the United States' military action in Venezuela and concerns that the crisis has now moved beyond bilateral tensions.

On Saturday, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned that the crisis in Venezuela could undermine the foundations of international law by setting a "dangerous precedent" for similar actions in the near future. The meeting was requested by Colombia and supported by China and the Russian Federation, with Venezuela also formally appealing to the Council. According to the Council presidency, the session will be held under the agenda item "Threats to



International Peace and Security," and the secretary general is expected to brief the members.

In a statement issued through his spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric, Secretary General Guterres said he was "deeply alarmed by the recent escalation in Venezuela, culminating with today's (Saturday) United States military action in the country, which has potential worrying implications for

the region." The statement added: "Independently of the situation in Venezuela, these developments constitute a dangerous precedent." "The secretary general continues to emphasise the importance of full respect — by all — of international law, including the UN Charter," Dujarric said. "He's deeply concerned that the rules of international law have not been respected." The decision to con-

vene the Council reflects a growing view among several UN members that the crisis has moved beyond bilateral tensions and now poses broader risks to regional stability and the international system itself. The US operation, carried out overnight on Saturday, marks the most direct American military intervention in Latin America in decades. Washington said the action was a decisive move against an authoritarian leader accused of narco-terrorism and criminal activity. US President Donald Trump publicly confirmed the operation, adding that the United States would "run the country until such time as we can do a safe, proper and judicious transition," signalling an interim American role in Venezuela's governance.

3 on-duty traffic policemen martyred in firing by suspected terrorists in KP's LM

PEAK POINT



LAKKI MARWAT/ BANNU: Three traffic police personnel were martyred in firing by suspected terrorists in the Serai Naurang area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Lakki Marwat district on Sunday.

Quadratullah, spokesperson for the district police officer (DPO), told Dawn the three traffic policemen were on duty near the Dil Begu Khel area when "unidentified terrorists, who were on a motorcycle", opened fire on them.

As a result, they died on the spot, the spokesperson said. Ticketing officer in-charge Jalal Khan was among the martyred, he said, adding that two other personnel were identified as Azizullah and Abdullah. The bodies were moved to Naurang Hospital, and police have launched a search operation.



SPORTS



Bangladesh will not play T20 World Cup matches in India



PEAK POINT

BANGLADESH: Bangladesh will not play their T20 World Cup matches in India after Mustafizur Rahman was released by his Indian Premier League (IPL) team amid growing tensions between the countries, Bangladesh's sports adviser Asif Nazrul said on Sunday.

Kolkata Knight Riders said on Saturday they had released the Bangladesh bowler after being told to do so by India's cricket board (BCCI).

Bangladesh are scheduled to play three T20 World Cup matches in Kolkata next month, with the

February 7-March 8 tournament being co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka. "Bangladesh will not go to India to play the World Cup. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has taken this decision today," Nazrul, who is an adviser to the Ministry of Sports, said in a statement after an emergency meeting of the BCB.

"We welcome this decision taken in the context of the extreme communal policy of India's cricket board."

Earlier, Nazrul had said, "We will not accept any insult to Bangladesh cricket, cricketers and Bangladesh under any circum-

stances." "The days of slavery are over," he had said.

Nazrul said he had ordered the BCB to write to the International Cricket Council (ICC).

"The board should inform that where a Bangladeshi cricketer cannot play in India despite being contracted, the entire Bangladeshi cricket team cannot feel safe going to play in the World Cup," he wrote. "I have also instructed the board to request that Bangladesh's World Cup matches should be held in Sri Lanka."

Nazrul said he would also ask that the IPL be blocked from Bangladeshi broadcasters.

"I have requested the information and broadcasting adviser to stop the broadcasting of the IPL tournament in Bangladesh," he said. Kolkata Knight Riders, majority-owned by Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, subsequently said that Mustafizur's "release has been carried out following due process and consultations."

BCB President Aminul Islam Bulbul told reporters late on Saturday: "The dignity and security of our cricketers are our top priorities, and we will take a decision at the appropriate time keeping these in mind."

National Ranking Tennis Championships continues



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The 11th Begum Kulsum Saifullah Khan National Ranking Tennis Championships 2025 continued here at PTF Tennis Complex on Sunday.

The championship is organised annually to commemorate the memory of the late Begum Kulsum Saifullah Khan, mother of Senator Salim Saifullah Khan (Patron, PTF).

Senator Salim Saifullah Khan and Anwar Saifullah Khan, former Federal Minister, visited the PTF Complex to witness the matches, and appreciated the players. Both dignitaries also appreciated the PTF Management for organising the championship in a befitting manner.

The event is sponsored by the Saif Group of Companies (Kulsum International Hospital, Saif Energy Limited, Transworld) and Parco as well. Men's Singles 2nd Round: Muzammil Murtaza beat Zalan Khan 6-0,6-2; Abubakar Talha beat Zohaib Afzal Malik 6-3,6-2; Barkatullah beat Hamza Roman 6-3,6-4; Yousaf Khalil got a walk over against Ahmad Chaudhry; Nadir Mirza beat M.Haziq Aasim 6-3,6-2; Ahmad Nael Qureshi beat Shehryar Anees 6-2,4-6,6-1; Muhammad Shoaib beat Sami Zeb Khan 6-3,6-2; Aqeel Khan beat Ahtesham Humayun 6-0,6-4.

PCB retains senior core in provisional T20 World Cup squad



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has formally submitted its provisional squad to the International Cricket Council (ICC) for the Men's T20 World Cup 2026, sources have confirmed, as the countdown intensifies for the marquee event scheduled to be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka from February 7 to March

8. Under ICC regulations, participating nations are allowed to make changes to their preliminary squads without seeking approval until the final submission deadline of January 31. Any alterations beyond that date will require clearance from the ICC Technical Committee. Pakistan have accordingly named a 15-member provisional squad along with a list of

January 7 to 11 in Dambulla, is expected to play a decisive role in finalising Pakistan's World Cup combination. Team management plans to closely assess the performances of one or two players during the series before locking in the final squad.

Pakistan are set to depart for Sri Lanka in phases on January 4 and 5. Following the conclusion of the tour, the PCB is expected to announce squads for both the anticipated home T20I series against Australia, likely to be played from January 30 to February 5, and the T20 World Cup.

Pakistan, the 2009 champions, have been placed in Group A alongside India, the Netherlands.

Ahsan Iqbal encourages youth at Peshawar Zalmi's Madrassa League



Australia spin-less in Sydney Test for first time in 138 years

PEAK POINT

SYDNEY: Australia pulled a 138-year first on Sunday by omitting a spinner for a Sydney Cricket Ground Test, with skipper Steve Smith saying he had been backed into a corner.

Not since 1888 have the hosts neglected to play a frontline slow bowler at the storied venue, once considered the country's spin haven.

But with all-rounder Beau Webster selected for the fifth and final Ashes Test against England and Todd Murphy overlooked, the unprecedented run was broken. "Hate doing it," said Smith. "But if we keep producing wickets that we don't think are going to spin and seam is going to play a big part and cracks are going to play a big part, you kind of get pushed into a corner." It is becoming a trend in Australia with the home side overlooking veteran Nathan

Lyon for the pink-ball second Test in Brisbane before his injury replacement Murphy's non-selection in Melbourne and Sydney.

In Sydney, England also failed to play their top spin-

after a seam-friendly fourth Test ended inside two days, Smith elaborated on why spinners were not being used.

"With a lot of the wickets we're playing on now, I think spin ... is the easiest thing to



ner Shoaib Bashir for a fifth straight game, meaning he will return home having not bowled a ball in a Test in Australia. Just nine wickets have been taken by spinners across the first four Tests of the series, from a fraction of the total overs bowled. Speaking in Melbourne

FG/Din, PB, BN win in 6th Allama Iqbal Polo Cup





Immunization mela held in Balochistan to promote awareness on routine immunization

PEAK POINT
LASBELA: Under the leadership of Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), Department of Health, Government of Balochistan, with the support of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Dopasi Foundation organized an Immunization Mela in District Lasbela, to raise awareness and promote advocacy around the importance of routine immunization for children and families. The community-focused event was arranged to reach the unreached communities and educate parents about life-saving vaccines and to address common misconceptions related to immunization. The Additional Deputy Commissioner Lasbela Siraj

Ahmed Baloch attended the event as Chief Guest, along with Dr Awais Wajid (MS DHQ Uthal & Coordinator NP), Dr. Kamar Roonja (Senior Medical Officer) and other senior government officials from the district administration and health department. Their presence underscored the government's commitment to strengthening routine immunization and community health awareness in the region. While addressing the gathering, the Additional Deputy Commissioner stated, "Organizing such a festival particularly in Balochistan, is a remarkable achievement by Dopasi Foundation. Awareness- and trust-based initiatives like this play a critical role in building a healthy



society." Dr. Farhajuddin Shaikh, Program Manager at Dopasi Foundation, emphasized the importance of routine immunization in protecting children from preventable diseases. He highlighted that EPI vaccines are safe, effective, and essential for safeguarding child health, and stressed the need for continued collaboration between communities, health workers, and government institutions to ensure no child is left behind. Provincial Coordinator Mr. Abdul Qadir also addressed the participants, underscoring the life-saving impact of EPI vaccines. He encouraged parents to complete their children's vaccination schedules on time and reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening immunization

services, particularly in underserved and hard-to-reach areas of Balochistan. A large number of parents, and children participated in the mela, reflecting strong community interest and engagement. The event featured a variety of child-friendly activities, including a magic show, singing performances, rides, and interactive segments focusing on raising awareness about routine immunization and importance of timely vaccination. Gifts were also distributed to children and mothers to encourage participation and reinforce key health messages. In addition, a special vaccination booth was also arranged to ensure timely vaccination of the children, where a large number of

mothers got their children vaccinated. Dopasi Foundation's mascot, Teeku Buddy, played a central role in engaging with families by distributing informative IEC materials to parents. The material focused on the importance of routine immunization, vaccination schedules, and addressing myths and misconceptions surrounding vaccines. The Immunization Mela concluded with a strong message on the importance of sustained awareness and community engagement to improve vaccination coverage. Such initiatives play a vital role in building trust, promoting informed decision-making, and ensuring that every child has access to essential vaccines for a healthier future.

IESCO to further intensify crackdown on power theft, defaulters

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has decided to further intensify its crackdown against electricity thieves and defaulters in line with the federal government and Ministry of Energy's zero-tolerance policy against power theft.



Chief Executive Officer (CEO) IESCO Engineer Chaudhry Khalid Mahmood said that 100 percent implementation

of the government's vision against electricity theft was being ensured across the company's jurisdiction. He said strict action was being taken in all six operational circles of IESCO to curb the menace of power theft, said a press release issued on Sunday. During the ongoing anti-power theft campaign, fines exceeding Rs 554.1 million were imposed on consumers involved in electricity theft, while 3,185 offenders were arrested by the police, the CEO said. He added that during the recovery drive, more than 230,000 running and dead defaulters were targeted, result-

ing in recoveries of over Rs 7 billion, significantly contributing to improved financial discipline in the power sector. Chaudhry Khalid Mahmood urged consumers to pay their electricity bills on time and to report any incidents of power theft to the concerned SDO offices or IESCO's helpline 118. He said public cooperation was essential to ensure a transparent, stable and sustainable power distribution system.

ITP issues traffic advisory for Monday morning rush

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has issued a traffic advisory for Monday in view of expected congestion on the Expressway during peak office hours, advising commuters to use alternative routes to avoid inconvenience. An ITP official told APP on Sunday that traffic pressure is expected on various sections of the Expressway during morning and evening rush hours, and special traffic arrangements have been put in place to ensure smooth flow.

Opinion & Editorial

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Needed: desi deconfliction strategy

Farrukh Khan Pitafi
Sometimes a handshake is just a handshake. Right? Well, not in the South Asian political tinderbox. For context, at the former Bangladeshi prime minister Khaleda Zia's funeral, India's external affairs minister and Pakistan's speaker of the national assembly briefly shook hands. Both countries' press then offered a masterclass in how not to cover such a development. The thrust of the Indian coverage was to downplay it as an insignificant happenstance. And while covering Pakistan, why not smuggle in a few choicest insults? The Pakistani media, by contrast, treated it as a significant breakthrough. Could ice be melting between the two South Asian rivals? And, for good measure, we were reminded of the drubbing India received in May. I am biased in Pakistan's favour and would still choose our coverage over whatever mad cow disease is afflicting the Indian media. But in both cases, what I dislike is our shared bad habit of hogging all the attention at such emotionally charged events. The late Begum Khaleda Zia was a giant of Bangladeshi and regional politics. The visually stunning images from the funeral, showing the sheer number of participants, were a reminder did nothing wrong by being polite, the media on both sides could perhaps exhibit better funeral-side manners.

How many times have our other SAARC partners complained about our unfortunate tendency to hold multilateral forums hostage to bilateral politics? After living in the real world and being disappointed by several false starts over the past twelve years, I have given up on magical thinking. My motto is simple: if a significant breakthrough occurs between the two countries, we will all know. Why set yourself up for undue disappointment? Here, I must centre a very astute observation from a former boss, mentor, and veritable genius of the field: a great deal of homework goes into these seemingly happenstance optics. Bear in mind that the very same EAM refused to shake hands with the then foreign minister, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, at Goa. Likewise, recall Musharrarf's 2002 handshake with Vajpayee. A handshake is rarely just a handshake when it involves such dignitaries. With stakes usually high, there is hardly a moment when background diplomacy is not at work. We shall cross that bridge when we come to it. But the coverage of this handshake brings two facts into sharp relief. One, the obstacle to understanding each other's perspective, what Arle Hochschild so pithily calls the empathy wall, could hardly be higher. Two, it is nevertheless permeable enough to allow both countries to lob propaganda grenades at one

another. In ordinary times, this might be tolerable. But these are not ordinary times, and these are not ordinary actors. As the first and fifth most populous countries in the world, they would attract attention even if they lacked the uncanny knack for staying in the news that comes naturally to them. Both are also home to some of the world's youngest populations. In Pakistan, 65 per cent of the population is under 35, totalling around 150 million people. Some 60 per cent are unskilled, driven by 25 million out-of-school children feeding into weak secondary education outcomes. Unemployment has risen to 7.1 per cent in the 2025 Labour Force Survey, hitting youth hardest at roughly 22 per cent. India mirrors this profile: 66 per cent under 35, or about 950 million people, 40 per cent unskilled, with 30 per cent lacking secondary education. Overall unemployment stands at 6 to 8 per cent, rising to between 17 and 23 per cent among youth. This is the picture even before AI-led technological displacement. Once that begins, there will be a bloodbath. Clearly, both countries have better things to do than invest so heavily in mutual hate. Then there is the problem of hate boomeranging onto the diaspora. During the war on terror's heyday, the Pakistani diaspora hit rock bottom amid rising Islamophobia. Now it is the Indian diaspora's turn. Courtesy Tribune

Terrorism data deficit

MUHAMMAD AMIR RANA
PAKISTAN'S power circles are jubilant over their successes in 2025, which stemmed from multiple factors, the most significant being the restoration of trust with the US. Whatever factors compelled the Trump administration to enhance engagement with Pakistan, this shift has altered Pakistan's regional position primarily in South and West Asia, and partially in Central Asia. The change in the US attitude towards Pakistan began early this year, even before the May stand-off with India, when American President Donald Trump and Centcom chief Michael Kurilla praised Pakistan's contribution to the war against terrorism and thanked the country for handing over the mastermind of the Abbey Gate terrorist attack by IS-K to the US. Here lies Pakistan's real strength: while engaged in a prolonged war against terrorism and dealing with multiple strands of terrorist groups, including the Taliban, who now rule Afghanistan, the country has gained experience in managing global threats and winning the trust of international partners. Action against IS-K opened several doors for Pakistan in regional and defence cooperation with many Muslim countries, including the much-discussed Pak-Saudi defence pact. It remains to be seen how far these engagements will go and whether Pakistan can translate them into tangible economic and political gains. In the absence of authentic official data, research groups rely heavily on open sources. However, the internal security front has become more critical, as religiously motivated terrorist groups and Baloch sub-national militant organisations continue to thrive, complicating the country's security challenges. State institutions responsible for addressing internal security challenges and terrorism threats have failed to provide authentic statistics on terrorist activities and the state's response to them. Courtesy Dawn

More than a number

MOVING into 2026, Pakistan stands as the world's fifth most populous country, with more than 255m people. This fact is often viewed as a crisis to be dealt with. Yet population size itself is not the problem. The real question is whether the state treats population dynamics as a liability to be endured or a strategic force to be governed in pursuit of development. There were signs in 2025 that thinking has begun to shift. As noted by the United Nations Population Fund, improvements in reproductive health services, population data systems and youth engagement point to a growing recognition that demography sits at the heart of economic planning, social stability and climate resilience. Better coordination between federal and provincial authorities also suggests a welcome, if tentative, move away from fragmented policymaking. Yet challenges prevail. Maternal mortality is still high, millions of women lack access to family planning, early marriages persist and gender-based violence remains widespread — issues which shape fertility trends, labour participation and human capital formation. In climate-exposed districts, weak health systems and limited access to services deepen vulnerability, reinforcing inequalities. The evidence leaves little room for debate.

Political shift visible in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; says Amir Muqam



PEAK POINT

MALAKAND: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, and President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Muqam, here Sunday said that a major positive change is visible in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and that people of KP have begun to distinguish between truth and falsehood, loyalty and betrayal.

He said that during 13-year tenure

Minister Engineer Amir Muqam inaugurated the NADRA Center in Totakan.

Addressing the gathering, he said that politics comes later, but Pakistan comes first. He said that the grand public gathering held on January 4 in the Totakan area of Batkhela is clear proof that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have started to differentiate between truth and falsehood, loyalty and betrayal.

The enthusiastic participation of thousands of people, he said, is like a public seal of approval on this change.

Thanking the public for their warm welcome and affection, Engineer Amir Muqam said that he accepts these sentiments not only on his own behalf, but also on behalf of PML-N leader Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and the entire party leadership. He said that today's gathering is dedicated to the successes Pakistan achieved in 2025.

of PTI, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government gave nothing to the public in the sectors of education, health, employment, and infrastructure.

He added that in the year 2025, Pakistan achieved great successes and inflicted a humiliating defeat on India.

He expressed these views while addressing a large public gathering on Sunday at the inauguration ceremony of a NADRA Center in Totakan, Batkhela, Malakand. Federal

Cases involving taxes will be given priority: Chief Justice Afridi

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi has said that swift decisions in tax cases affecting the national economy will be a priority for the apex court.

A statement has been issued following a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Justice Afridi regarding a strategy for the early disposal of tax cases. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb, the chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the board's member (legal), and other senior officials attended the meeting.

According to the statement, Chief Justice Afridi said that prolonged tax cases restrict fiscal space and undermine investors' confidence.

He emphasized that swift decisions in tax cases affecting the national economy will be a



judicial priority, noting that delays in such cases are harmful to investment and economic stability.

The statement added that detailed discussions were held on resolving long-pending and high-value tax disputes, and it was agreed that high-value tax cases would be addressed on a priority basis.

The meeting also stressed the need for improved coordination and communication between the judiciary and tax authorities, and considered institutional reforms to ensure consistency.

Naqvi visits FIA Karachi Zone; chairs special meeting, reviews FIA's performance

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday visited the FIA Karachi Zone and chaired a special meeting. During the meeting, the Interior Minister reviewed the performance of the FIA Karachi Zone and South Zone.

The interior minister ordered a comprehensive crackdown against the money-laundering mafia and directed that major money launderers be dealt with firmly. He instructed that the entire money trail of those involved in money laundering be exposed. He stated that the hawala-hundi business would not be tolerated under any circumstances and that indiscriminate action must be visibly ensured.

The federal interior minister also ordered effective action against agent mafias involved in human smuggling. He said that elements who deceive innocent people with false promises of employment abroad deserve no leniency. Action against the agents' mafia must be taken without any pressure.

Mohsin Naqvi further stated that those involved in the business of counterfeit medicines were playing with human lives and that such elements engaged in this heinous trade must be brought to justice.

He said that the shortage of human resources in the FIA Karachi Zone would be addressed on a priority basis. FIA officers will be provided with all necessary resources; however, they must enhance the institution's reputation through their performance, he added. During the briefing, it was informed that over the past four months, 20 agents involved in human smuggling have been arrested, and non-custom-paid goods and drugs worth Rs. 140 million have been seized. A Facilitation Center has also been established at Karachi Airport for the convenience of passengers. The minister sought performance reports from in-charge officers regarding their respective circles and directed them to work with greater diligence. The Director, FIA Karachi Zone.



KARACHI: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday visited the FIA Karachi Zone and chaired a special meeting.

NADRA extends Pak-ID Union Council registration facility to more Sindh cities

PEAK POINT

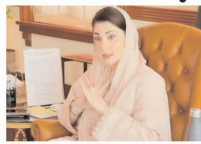
KARACHI: The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has expanded the Union Council registration facility through the Pak-ID mobile application to additional cities in Sindh. According to NADRA, the service, which was earlier available in selected cities of the province, has now been extended to Tando Allahyar and Jamshoro. The initiative allows citizens to register births, deaths, marriages and divorces without visiting Union Council offices. Under the system, applicants can complete the required documentation, submit applications through the Pak-Identity Mobile App and receive the relevant certificates from their homes. NADRA said work is under way to further expand the service, with plans to roll it out across the entire province of Sindh in the near future. The move is part of a broader push towards digital governance and improved public facilitation. NADRA has introduced the automated system in collaboration.

CM launches live monitoring system to improve service delivery

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has introduced a flagship governance model aimed at improving service delivery and strengthening good governance across the province by personally monitoring the performance of government institutions through a live digital system.

Under the initiative, the Chief Minister Inspection Team has been activated in the field and is submitting real-time performance reports of various government departments, while a dedicated monitoring dashboard has also been made functional to enable direct oversight by the Chief Minister. On the directions of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz



Sharif, inspection teams are conducting surprise visits to hospitals to ensure the availability of essential facilities for patients, including the uninterrupted provision of free medicines. The monitoring exercise will also extend to other public institutions beyond the health and education sectors.

Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Shoab Mirza, along with members of the CM Inspection Team, is carrying out unannounced visits to healthcare facilities to assess.

No place for politics of abuse & incivility: Aleem Khan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and President of the Isteqam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) Abdul Aleem Khan on Sunday said that politics based on abuse, intolerance and bad manners should have no place in society, stressing that mutual respect and dignity were a collective responsibility.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the IPP Central Secretariat in his constituency NA-117, Shahdara, Abdul Aleem Khan said that this is not the time for politics; rather, it is the time to serve the people and resolve their problems, said a press release.

No place for politics of abuse



& incivility: Aleem Khan

On the occasion, Jawad Khalid Gujjar, son of senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and two-time Member of the Punjab Assembly Khalid Mahmood Gujjar, and a prominent political figure of PP-145 called on Abdul Aleem Khan and along with his associates announced joining the Isteqam-e-Pakistan Party.

UAE President directs launch of 'Community-Managed Virtual Authority' as Year of Community concludes

PEAK POINT

ABU DHABI: President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has directed the launch of the Community-Managed Virtual Authority, a new initiative inspired by the vision of the UAE's Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed, to enhance the role of skilled individuals in shaping the nation's future. The announcement coincides with the conclusion of the Year of Community.

The Community-Managed Virtual Authority adopts a non-traditional approach to government that

places community participation at its core. Under this model, skilled members of the UAE community will, for the first time, assume full responsibility for managing an authority. A Director General and team members will periodically be assigned to lead and run the authority for fixed terms, with a remit to develop meaningful products that deliver lasting benefit to the nation and its people.

The UAE is pioneering this innovative model as part of His Highness the President's broader vision to empower and invest in people



and harness their capabilities for the benefit of society.

The new entity is designed to serve as a global model of participatory governance centred on human development and community empowerment. It has been structured in line with the UAE Centennial 2071 vision, which seeks to create the optimal environ-

ment for individuals to realise their potential, foster a culture of innovation and initiative, and position the UAE as a global reference for future government models and a testbed for new approaches that strengthen community engagement.

The Community-Managed Virtual Authority adopts a flexible appointment process based on clear criteria of competence, expertise, and the ability to contribute effectively to the authority's objectives.

Appointing a new Director General and team members from across the

community on a rotating basis aims to ensure a continual flow of ideas and the regular exchange of expertise across teams.

This approach strengthens the principles of role rotation and shared responsibility, and embeds a culture of community leadership founded on initiative and service, in line with the goals of the Year of Community.

The authority aims to attract diverse groups of skilled Emiratis to participate on a rotating basis, including experts, specialists, professionals, academics, youth,

entrepreneurs, and retirees with significant experience. Each group will be able to contribute in its respective field, fostering generational exchange and transforming community diversity into a driving force for national development.

The core mandate of the Community-Managed Virtual Authority is to design initiatives, programmes, and practical solutions that are both innovative and ready for implementation. Its work will focus on delivering high-impact outputs directly informed by the needs.