



ECC approves sale of 500,000 tonnes of wheat at revised reserve prices



Medical board examines PTI founder at PIMS: Tarar



PTI founder to receive next eye injection on March 24: Tariq Fazal

Founded By:
(Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

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

Executive Group Editor
Arif Mehmood Khan



Wednesday 25 February 2026 Ramazan 07, 1447 A.H VOI No: 06 Issue No. 28 Pages 4 Rs. 20

Pakistan, Qatar discuss regional developments, including situation in Iran and Afghanistan

PEAK POINT

QATAR: Pakistan and Qatar on Tuesday discussed recent developments in the region, especially in Iran and Afghanistan, and stressed the need for de-escalation and dialogue to avoid possible conflicts.

The development came as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali Al Thani during an official visit.

"Regional developments were also discussed, in particular the situation in Iran and Afghanistan. Both sides emphasised the importance of dialogue, de-escalation and collective efforts to promote peace and sta-

bility in the region," said an official press release issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

According to the handout, the meeting reflected the shared resolve of Pakistan and Qatar to further elevate their strategic partnership across all areas of mutual interest.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral cooperation in defence and security and reaffirmed the strong and historic ties between Pakistan and Qatar, it said.

PM Shehbaz expressed satisfaction over the ongoing collaboration between the armed forces of the two countries. He underscored Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening defence cooperation and expanding collaboration.



DOHA: Minister of State for Foreign Trade of Qatar H.E Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Sayed calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

PTI objects to 'secrecy' after Imran Khan undergoes follow-up eye treatment at Pims

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: The PTI took exception to the government's "secrecy" regarding ex-prime minister Imran Khan after it emerged that he underwent a follow-up eye treatment at an Islamabad

hospital in the early hours of Tuesday. According to a doctor at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims), Imran was brought to the hospital for a second dose of anti-VEGF intravitreal injection on February 24. Imran's eye ailment — right central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO) — came to light in late January. His first medical procedure, which was carried out on January 24, was confirmed by the government five days later. Since then, the government and the opposition have also been engaged in a blame game, with the latter accusing the former of a lack of transparency on the matter, of not ensuring appropriate treatment for Imran, and of not allowing his personal physicians access to him. The government denies these allegations. The Pims doctor said: "Prior to the procedure, he was examined by a board of specialists: a consultant cardiologist who also performed echocardiography and ECG (result: normal) and a consultant physician. "After obtaining informed consent, and under standard monitoring.

DSP among 6 police personnel martyred in Kohat terrorist attack

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Six law enforcement personnel, including a deputy superintendent of police (DSP), were martyred after a terrorist attack on a police vehicle in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kohat district on Tuesday.

A senior police officer told Dawn that six police personnel — the DSP, an inspector and four constables — were martyred when the vehicle, which was transporting two individuals for a court appearance, was attacked.

He added that one of the two individuals was also killed in the attack. The attackers also torched the vehicle after the ambush.

Earlier in the day,

state-run APP reported that heavy firing by

President Asif Ali Zardari condemned the



armed assailants targeted the DSP of Lachi police station near Shakardara Road.

Following the attack, additional police contingents were dispatched to the area, and a search operation was launched to apprehend the attackers.

Authorities have cordoned off the area, while investigations into the incident have begun.

terrorist attack in Kohat.

Paying tribute to the fallen police personnel, he expressed heartfelt sympathy and condolences to their families.

KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi strongly condemned the terrorist attack.

The governor paid glowing tribute to the DSP and other police officials who embraced martyrdom in the line of

duty and prayed for their elevated ranks. He also extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyrs and wished for the speedy recovery of the injured police personnel.

Kundi noted that the law and order situation in KP's southern districts had deteriorated significantly. He said the police were fighting on the front lines in the war against terrorism and rendering immense sacrifices.

The governor termed the sacrifices of police officers and soldiers for establishing peace a source of pride for the nation.

KP has seen a rise in terrorist attacks in the past year. According to the Annual Security Report 2025,

FBR seeks Rs100 billion reduction in tax collection target from IMF

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) is preparing to approach the IMF (International Monetary Fund) with a request to reduce the current fiscal year 2025-26 tax collection target by up to Rs100 billion with the minimum proposed reduction likely to be around Rs50 billion.

According to official sources working papers for the upcoming economic review are being finalized and the proposal has been discussed at the highest government level. The review will focus on tax performance from July to January.

Iranian military helicopter crashes into fruit market, 4 dead: state media

PEAK POINT

IRAN: An Iranian Army helicopter crashed into a fruit market in the central province of Isfahan on Tuesday, killing the pilot, co-pilot and two merchants, state media reported. The helicopter came down in the city of Dorcheh, causing a fire that was put out by emergency services, the reports added. Experts say Iran has a poor air safety record, with repeated crashes, many involving aircraft bought before the 1979 Islamic Revolution and lacking original spare parts for maintenance. Last week, a US-built F-4 fighter belonging to Iran's regular air.

North Korea ruling party promotes Kim Jong Un's younger sister

PEAK POINT

NORTH KOREA: North Korea's ruling party has elevated leader Kim Jong Un's powerful younger sister to a top position, state media said on Tuesday, a sign of her far-reaching influence within the reclusive nation.

Thousands of party elites have packed the capital Pyongyang for a once-in-five-years summit of the ruling Workers' Party, a gathering that directs state efforts on everything from diplomacy to war planning.

Kim Yo Jong — long considered one of her brother's closest lieutenants — was promoted to department director within the party's apex central committee, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said. Although it was not clear which depart-

ment she would lead, she has previously held a

North Korea. "She also served as a



senior role within the party's propaganda unit.

Kim Yo Jong has in recent years emerged as one of the most powerful figures in North Korea, playing a highly visible role in diplomacy, nuclear negotiations and other matters of state.

"Kim Yo Jong is one of the very few people Kim Jong Un can trust and rely on," said Ahn Chan-il, a researcher originally from

working-level official for Kim's summits with Trump in Singapore and Hanoi. She is experienced and seasoned," he told AFP.

Kim Yo Jong burst on to the international scene in 2018, when she was dispatched to Seoul as North Korea's envoy for the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.

With that trip, she became one of the first members of the ruling Kim

dynasty to set foot in the South since the Korean War.

Since then she has gained a reputation for her vitriolic denunciations of Washington and Seoul.

She once derided the government of former South Korean president Yoon Suk Yeol as a "faithful dog" of the United States.

Her tone has softened somewhat since South Korea's incumbent leader Lee Jae Myung — who has sought to mend ties with the North — took office last year. Kim Yo Jong's latest advancement "amounts to promotion to ministerial rank," said Lim Eul-chul from the Institute for Far Eastern Studies at Kyungnam University. Remarkably little is known about Kim Yo Jong given her prominent role.

UK govt backs releasing documents tied to 'rude' ex-prince Andrew



PEAK POINT

LONDON: The UK government said on Tuesday it supported the release of documents on ex-prince Andrew's past role as a trade envoy, hours after a veteran politician was quizzed by police in the widening Jeffrey Epstein scandal. US authorities last month published millions of files related to late sex offender Epstein, containing revelations which have rocked British political and royal circles. It has ramped up pressure on Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer's government to release its own vetting documents and sparked two separate, high-profile police investigations. The Liberal Democrats party tabled a motion in parliament on Tuesday to force the government to release vetting documents on Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor's appointment as trade envoy.



SPORTS



Brook's 100 sends England into T20 World Cup semi-finals, Pakistan left with slim chances



PEAK POINT
KANDY: Pakistan's hopes of reaching the semi-finals of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup were dealt a major blow after England chased down 165 to seal a last-four berth in their Super Eight - Group 2 encounter at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium.

The defeat leaves Pakistan relying on other results and net run rate permutations to keep their campaign alive, while England 51 confirmed their place in the semi-finals with a five-ball victory.

Defending 164-9, Pakistan struck immediately. Shaheen Shah Afridi removed Phil Salt and Jos Buttler early, both caught by Usman, to hand Pakistan early control. Shaheen's fiery spell rattled England's top order and briefly swung momentum Pakistan's way. At that stage, the total looked competitive, and the bowlers were applying pressure in the powerplay. However, Harry Brook produced a match-defining innings, smashing 100 off 51 deliveries to anchor the chase, losing partners at regular intervals,

including Bethell, Banton and Sam Curran. Brook kept England in the hunt. Will Jacks added 28, but Pakistan continued to chip away through Tariq and Nawaz to keep the contest alive. Yet Brook's composure in the middle overs ensured the required rate never spiralled out of control.

England eventually reached 166-8 in 19.1 overs, with Dawson and Archer guiding them over the line. The win confirmed England's qualification for the semi-finals from Group 2.

For Pakistan, the result significantly narrows the path forward. With only slim mathematical possibilities remaining, their progression now hinges on favourable outcomes elsewhere and a strong net run rate swing.

Earlier, Pakistan's 164-9 had been built around Farhan's 63, with contributions from Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman and Shadab Khan. But on a night where a place in the last four was at stake, Brook's century proved decisive, leaving Pakistan's campaign hanging in the balance.

ICC revises T20 World Cup semi-final schedule



PEAK POINT
DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has revised the schedule for the semi-finals of the 2026 T20 World Cup following the completion of the Super Eight stage.

In a statement circulated to all stakeholders, the ICC clarified the arrangements and venue allocations for the semi-finals under various qualification scenarios.

According to the revised plan, the first semi-final could be held either in Colombo or Kolkata, depending on which teams qualify.

If Pakistan qualify for the semi-finals, they will play the first semi-final on March 4 in Colombo. In the event that Pakistan fail to qualify but Sri Lanka advance to the semi-finals and are not drawn against India, Sri Lanka will play the first semi-final in Colombo.

The ICC further stated that if neither Pakistan nor Sri Lanka reach the semi-finals, the first semi-final will be held in Kolkata, while the second semi-final will take place in Mumbai. It was also clarified that if India qualify for the semi-finals, they will play in Mumbai, unless they are drawn against Pakistan. In that case, the match will be shifted to Colombo. The revised arrangements aim to streamline logistical and competitive considerations ahead of the knockout stage of the tournament.

PSL 11 set for March 26 start as PCB drafts expanded eight-team schedule



PEAK POINT
LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board has drawn up an initial timetable for the 11th edition of the HBL Pakistan Super League, with the tournament expected to begin on March 26. The curtain-raiser is likely to feature reigning champions Lahore Qalandars taking on debutants Hyderabad Kingsmen at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

PCB officials recently met franchise representatives to review the proposed fixtures. The schedule will be finalized after incorporating feedback from team owners. Practice sessions for all eight sides are planned from March 22 to 25 ahead of the tournament's opening clash. Matches in PSL 11 will be staged in Lahore, Karachi, Multan, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, and Peshawar. Peshawar is set to host fixtures this season as well, with Peshawar Zalmi scheduled to play their first match under lights on March 28 against Islamabad United. The playoff phase will begin with Qualifier 1 on May 2 in Rawalpindi. Eliminator 1 will follow on May 3 at Gaddafi Stadium, a new company to acquire a majority stake, potentially operating under the name Multan.

place on May 10, most probably in Lahore. This season will feature eight teams: Lahore Qalandars, Karachi Kings, Peshawar Zalmi, Islamabad United, Quetta Gladiators, and the newly introduced Pindees, Hyderabad Houston Kingsmen, and Sialkot Stallions.

In a major development, the PCB has not renewed the Multan Sultans franchise, which has been rebranded as Pindees under new ownership. Meanwhile, the Sialkot Stallions' ownership group is facing financial challenges, and negotiations are underway for a new company to acquire a majority stake, potentially operating under the name Multan.

PHF revamps national team setup, names Khawaja Junaid as head coach



Limited representation from KP despite 15 AstroTurf facilities-PHF President

PEAK POINT
PESHAWAR: Mohiuddin Wani, President of Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF), has expressed concern over the limited representation of players from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) in the national hockey team despite the province having 15 synthetic turf facilities.

He revealed that only three players from KP have managed to secure places in the national squad, terming the situation regrettable. He also noted with disappointment that players from several other provinces are similarly struggling to gain representation at the national level. Mr Wani made these remarks during a meeting with players and sports organizers from KP. The delegation was led by Olympian Rahim Khan. The delegation also included senior journalist

Amjad Aziz Malik, international player Abdul Rauf Khan, Shafiq Ullah, organizer Tufail Khan, Bashir Khan, Murad Khan, Akhtar Zeb, and Naveed Khan. The PHF chief stated that directives have been issued

Mr Wani said transitional reforms and merit-based are central to improving hockey affairs in Pakistan. He expressed optimism that the national team would deliver an impressive performance in the upcoming



to various institutions across the country to immediately form hockey teams and provide employment opportunities to players.

He emphasized that such measures would help revive the national game and encourage talented athletes to return to hockey. Highlighting his priori-

ing World Cup qualifying round and bring honor to the country.

He further assured the KP delegation that their concerns would be addressed and pledged to focus on nationwide hockey development following the team's preparations for the qualifiers.

World champions South Africa announce eight home Tests for 2026/27





ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan at the launch of PMYB&ALS Impact Report and Fintech Division.

Merit surge powers youth revolution: PMYP unleashes PMYB&ALS report, FinTech force

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan on Tuesday launched the Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme (PMYB&ALS) Impact Report through technical assistance of the Commonwealth Secretariat, and establishment of FinTech Division in the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, saying Pakistan's youth empowerment agenda had moved decisively from rhetoric to results, at a ceremony held at the PTV Headquarters Islamabad. Addressing the event, Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan said the government was pursuing a strictly merit based and technology driven approach to education, employment and entrepreneurship for young people across the country. The ceremony was attended by media representatives, policy-makers and senior officials from financial institutions. "The youth agenda is now anchored in delivery, supported by data, policy frameworks and implementation," he said, adding that sustained political backing from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and party leader Nawaz Sharif had ensured continuity of reforms focused on investing in children and youth purely on merit.

'Embarrassment due to incompetency': NA panel grills IPC as Rs 23.7bn Sports & Tourism projects face scrutiny

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Inter Provincial Coordination exposed serious governance failures in Pakistan's sports administration, with officials admitting that "incompetency and lack of internal accountability" caused national embarrassment during the Pakistan hockey team's recent tour of Australia in the Pro League. The blunt admission came as the Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC)

presented details of 34 approved, unapproved and unfunded sports and tourism projects worth Rs 23,776.302 million under the 2025-26 Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). While only Rs 1,179.84 million is estimated to be spent during 2025-26, the Ministry has demanded a massive Rs 13,184.145 million allocation for 2026-27, raising questions over planning, prioritization and implementation capacity. Chaired by Mr. Khawaja Iqbal Khan, MNA, the committee expressed concern

over financial transparency and performance accountability within the sports sector. In response, the committee reconstituted a Sub Committee under the conveshorship of Dr. Mahreen Razaq Bhattu, MNA, with Mr. Anjum Aqeel Khan and Mr. Khawaja Iqbal Khan as members. The Sub Committee has been tasked with conducting a year wise review of the Pakistan Sports Board's major achievements over the last five financial years, examining development and non-development funds reserved, released and

utilized, detailing grants provided along with beneficiaries, and identifying unresolved audit objections and reasons for their non settlement. The move signals heightened parliamentary scrutiny over how billions in sports funding have been allocated and whether outcomes justify expenditures. During the session, the Secretary IPC stated that cycling has been introduced for the first time in Pakistan's sports framework, while e sports has been incorporated into the curriculum with coaches hired in five schools. Officials also highlighted that Pakistan has secured international recognition in global e sports competitions. Separately, the Ministry of Planning informed the committee that 700 tourist guides are currently being trained, with service data to be made available online to strengthen tourism facilitation. However, the session remained overshadowed by the hockey controversy and financial accountability concerns. Members underscored that large funding demands must be matched by institutional reform and measurable performance, especially when national teams face administrative mismanagement abroad. The meeting was attended by Mr. Muhammad Idrees, Mr. Babar Nawaz Khan, Mr. Anjum Aqeel Khan, Mr. Shekif Aftab Ahmed (via Zoom), Mr. Waseem Qadir, Ms. Syeda Shehla Raza, Dr. Mahreen Razaq Bhattu, Mr. Muhammad Iqbal Khan, MNAs, along with senior officers from the Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination, Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Finance.

Opinion & Editorial

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

Keynes' masterpiece at 90

Shahid Mehmood THIS month marks the 90th anniversary of the publication of the General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money (1936) by John Maynard Keynes, a treatise that still has a tremendous bearing on intellectual discourse and economic policy-making, and profound impact on the theory and practice of economics. It's instructive to revisit its legacy and the way it shaped economic discourse. His contributions cover a wide swathe; in 1930, he wrote the two-volume Treatise on Money, after penning Monetary Reform (1923). As a public intellectual, he came to prominence in the aftermath of World War I through his Economic Consequences of Peace (1919), prophesising that the proposals at Versailles would lead to another major war (World War II). Before delving into the main ideas of General Theory, one must stress that what's known as Keynesian economics is entirely the interpretation of his written work by other economists. The famous IS-LM framework, for example, was the interpretation of his ideas by J. Hicks. A number of economists (for example, Axel Leijonhufvud), accordingly, distinguish between 'Keynesian economics' and the 'economics of Keynes'. A well-known case in point is his 1933 letter to US president Franklin Roosevelt in the context of his New Deal that considerably

expanded the public sector's economic footprint. Almost every economist today would label such expansion as 'Keynesian'. However, in his letter, Keynes warned against certain expansionary policies, cautioning "whether some of the advice you get is not crack-brained or queer". Moving to the contents of the book, it's important to first emphasise that a short summary does not do justice to the depth and extent of its ideas. As far as the main achievement of the book is concerned (for yours truly, at least), it decisively broke the hold of four schools of thought: Classical, Marxian, Neoclassical and Austrian (especially the neoclassical discourse). From the mid-1930s to the mid-1970s, Keynesian economics remained the dominant thought in academia and policymaking. The central message was that economies are not necessarily self-correcting. Characterised by ups and downs in economic activity, a recession can be ameliorated by fiscal interventions. To counter declines in economic activity, the focus should be on income generation via demand management. Keynes explained all this using the concepts of aggregate demand and aggregate supply in a general equilibrium framework, in contrast to the partial equilibrium analysis of his mentor Alfred Marshall, another leading figure in 20th-century economics. To complement his thoughts, he brought together the disparate concepts of others, like 'effective demand' (Hahn and Lederer) and 'multiplier' (Kahn) to explain and justify the 'under-consumptionist' basis of his argument, a view dating back to the likes of Quesnay, Malthus and Sismondi. By the mid-1920s, Keynes had discerned the futility of belief in a self-correcting market given the persistent struggles of European economies. His The End of Laissez-Faire (1926) reflected these beliefs, with Keynes advocating countercyclical spending. His thoughts finally got a foothold across the Atlantic too when the American economy lurched its way into the Great Depression (1929), the most devastating economic episode in recorded economic history. The 'self-correcting' hypothesis was based on J.B. Say's Law of Markets, positing that supply creates its own demand. It was based on the views of the Classics who treated money merely as a medium of exchange and 'numeraire', implying that changes in the quantity of money had no effect on economic activity. Simply put, Say's law ruled out the possibility of any demand deficiency.

A student's expectations of his teacher

M Nadem Nadir THE relationship between a teacher and his students, which in the past was one of respect and care, has undergone a visible change, dominantly a negative one. I express my apprehensions and expectations to give a clarion call to both of us. After my parents, it's only you who deserve all my respect and I never wish any wane in this reverence if any misgivings hijack it. As expectations and disappointment thereof go side by side, I don't want to be disappointed; hence, I submit, with all due respect, my expectations of you to keep intact the lofty status bestowed by your profession, which depends upon a nourishing relationship between you and me. Teacher, my first expectation, which is actually part of your professional duties, is that not a single moment of my learning time and your teaching time be wasted deliberately. I don't expect such wastage, at least not from you at all, because it's you from whom I am to learn the value of time. I expect you to devote all of your energies and utilise all of your capabilities for the best constructive utilisation of the forty minutes which are our mutual asset. Teacher, I expect you to come in time and leave the class on time, making the most of these forty minutes. My second expectation is that you enter the classroom fully prepared to deliver the lecture in such a way that all be inculcated in me. A bland lecture never enters my memory and my mind starts wandering beyond the classroom boundaries. Then, why should I be blamed for being fidgety? My third expectation, or rather a heartfelt wish, is that you will provide me with such a classroom milieu favourable in all respects to learning. Anyone, even if I dare, disrupting the continuity of learning will be handled strictly but kindly. I can never think of showing any disrespect to the guardian of knowledge when I say that a mischievous student actually begs for your attention, a Midas touch that turns baser metals into gold. Courtesy Tribune

Tug of war

THE timing may be questioned, but the issue is not new. The PPP and the MQM-P are once again engaging in their old tug of war over who 'owns' Karachi, using bombast to stake their claims. The Sindh Assembly last Saturday passed a resolution, tabled by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, to condemn "any conspiracy aimed at the division of Sindh or the creation of a separate province comprising Karachi". The resolution affirmed that Karachi shall "forever remain" an integral part of Sindh. The MQM leadership protested at the resolution during its passage, and convened especially to declare it an "attack on the federation". "This [resolution] challenged Pakistan, its Constitution, its law and its state," an MQM leader declared at the party's press conference. It was remarkable that the leaders of the MQM's component factions were able to come together on the matter, given the bitter infighting the party — whose years of rule in Karachi yielded little more than a few flyovers — has seen in recent months. The truth is that the Constitution does provide a route to creating new provinces, but this requires the approval of two-thirds of the respective provincial assembly. There seems to be no appetite within the Sindh Assembly for such a move, and, therefore, it is inexplicable why the PPP brought the matter up and why the MQM has taken umbrage to it.

Pakistan, Turkmenistan agree to enhance energy cooperation, regional connectivity



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening energy cooperation and regional connectivity with Turkmenistan during a meeting with Ambassador Atadjan Movlamov.

Pakistan, Turkmenistan agree to

enhance energy cooperation, regional connectivity

The ambassador called on the federal minister at the Ministry of Energy (Power Division), where matters of bilateral interest, particularly in the energy sector, came under discussion, said a press release.

The minister extended a cordial welcome to the Ambassador and conveyed sincere greetings on the

auspicious occasion of Ramadan, wishing peace, blessings, and prosperity to the people of both nations.

Ambassador Movlamov highlighted the deep-rooted historical and cultural ties between Pakistan and Turkmenistan, noting that these shared bonds provide a strong foundation for expanding bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors.

The meeting accorded special emphasis to strengthening regional connectivity between Pakistan and Central Asian Countries. Both sides discussed the strategic significance of robust energy infrastructure and cross-border projects in promoting economic integration, energy security, exchange of relevant data, and sustainable development across the region. The two sides reaffirmed their determination to work closely together to advance energy cooperation and promote greater regional integration for the mutual benefit of Pakistan, Turkmenistan, and the wider region.

ECC approves sale of 500,000 tonnes of wheat at revised reserve prices

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Tuesday approved the sale of 500,000 metric tonnes of wheat held by the Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation (PASSCO) through competitive bidding at revised reserve prices.

The meeting, chaired by Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at the Finance Division, reviewed a proposal moved by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research regarding disposal of surplus wheat stocks. The ECC was informed that an earlier attempt to offload wheat at previously approved reserve prices could not be finalised due to lower bids. In view of the prevailing stock position and rising carrying costs, the committee allowed the sale of 500,000 metric tonnes on a First-In-First-Out (FIFO) basis.

Under the revised pricing, the reserve price has been fixed at Rs4,150 per 40kg for locally procured wheat and Rs3,800 per 40kg for imported wheat.

The committee also approved a Technical

Supplementary Grant (TSG) of Rs536 million for Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) projects of the defunct Pakistan Public Works Department (Pak-PWD).

The amount will be transferred to the governments of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for specific ongoing schemes in line with relevant legal and constitutional provisions.

Separately, the ECC took up a summary presented by the Petroleum Division regarding a fact-finding report on the Deed of Settlement with Nergycico PK Limited.

The report was submitted in compliance with earlier ECC directions concerning delayed payment of petroleum levy.

However, the committee returned the summary with the observation that a more comprehensive presentation be made at a subsequent meeting. The meeting was attended by Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik, National Food Security and Research Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain, Investment Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh (virtually), and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan (virtually).



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chairing a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet at the Finance Division.

Pakistan-Iran ties enter most constructive phase in recent decades: Envoy

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran are witnessing one of the most constructive phases of their bilateral relationship in recent decades, marked by high-level exchanges, expanding economic cooperation and close coordination on regional issues, speakers said at a public talk held here on Tuesday. The event titled "Pakistan-Iran Relations: An Enduring Partnership in a Changing Region" was organised by the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa



(CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) under its Ambassador's Platform, said a press release. Addressing the gathering, Ambassador of Iran to

strategically significant geographic location, substantial complementary, and non-competitive economic structures create extensive opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation. He further opined that Iran and Pakistan also maintain closely aligned positions on numerous regional and international issues, including the question of Palestine. He noted that terrorism and separatist movements are other serious challenges requiring enhanced cooperation and coordination between the two neighbors.

Pakistan, Tajikistan reaffirm commitment to fast-track CASA-1000, boost regional energy connectivity

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Tajikistan on Tuesday reaffirmed their resolve to deepen bilateral cooperation in the energy sector, with a renewed focus on expediting the landmark CASA-1000 project and enhancing cross-border electricity trade to strengthen regional energy security.

The understanding was reached during a virtual meeting between Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari and Tajikistan's Minister of Energy and Water Resources Daler Juma, said a press release.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on areas of mutual interest and discussed ways to enhance collaboration in power and energy-related initiatives. Deliberations focused on advancing regional power connectivity, expediting the implementation of



ongoing joint projects, and exploring new opportunities for sustainable energy collaboration between the two countries. Particular attention was accorded to the progress of the CASA-1000 electricity transmission project and the enhancement of cross-border electricity trade. These initiatives are intended to bolster long-term energy security and promote regional economic integration. The ministers underscored the importance of regional cooperation and noted that sustained engagement could help promote reliable and sustainable energy solutions.

390 students receive laptops at Federal Urdu University under PM's scheme

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: As many as 390 students of Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology (FUUAST) were awarded laptops under the Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme at a ceremony held on Tuesday, aimed at promoting digital learning and empowering youth through technology. Minister of State for Education and Professional Training Wajaha Qamar attended the ceremony as the chief guest and, along with Vice Chancellor Dr Zabta Khan Shinwari, distributed laptops among the students. Addressing the ceremony, Wajaha Qamar said that the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif



was transforming the future of the country's youth by connecting them with the world through modern technology. She said such initiatives enable students to access global knowledge and learning opportunities while staying at home. She praised the progress of Federal Urdu University, noting that the institution was playing an important role in promoting higher education and research.

Medical board examines PTI founder at PIMS: Tarar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday informed the Senate that the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was examined by a medical board comprising four expert specialist doctors at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS).

Responding to various points raised by leader of the Opposition in Senate Raja Nasir Abbas, he said that the former prime minister was taken to PIMS with his consent, where a board comprising both govern-



ment and private specialist doctors conducted a detailed medical examination.

He said the medical board evaluated the patient's health condition, including ophthalmological assessment, cardiac evaluation and general medical review.

Feedo Nedo held a prestigious ceremony to distribute rations to deserving families at Jamia Ashrafia

REPORT WAJHA TAMSEEL MIRZA

LAHORE: Under the spirit of humanitarianism, organized by the well-known welfare organization 'Feedo Nedo', a prestigious ceremony was held at Lahore's leading religious seminary Jamia Ashrafia, in which monthly ration bags were distributed to more than 100 deserving families. Former captain of Pakistan hockey team and world champion Chaudhry Akhtar Rasool Sahib and Vice-President Jamia Ashrafia Maulana Hafiz Asad Obaid Sahib attended the function as chief guests. Speaking on the occasion, the guests appreciated the social service of 'Fido Nido' and said that it is very important to have welfare organizations in the society.



Maulana Hafiz Asad Obaid Sahib: "Islam teaches us to help each other, Jamia Ashrafia will always continue to sponsor such welfare measures. Talking to the media, the spokesperson of the organization said that the main purpose of this event is to help the members of the society who are deprived of basic necessities of life. He vowed to expand the scope of such campaigns in the future as well, so that no one sleeps hungry.