



**Pakistan responded to Afghan Taliban aggression with vigilance, strength: Tatar**



**Battery-backed power system to deliver 100% reliable electricity to Gwadar by early 2027**



**Team Leader of MuP calls on Chairman Senate**

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**DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD**

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## PM Shehbaz visits GHQ, given detailed briefing on situation between Pakistan and Afghanistan

**PEAK POINT**

RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday visited General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, where the military leadership gave him a "detailed briefing" on the situation between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The development comes after Pakistan's security forces launched an operation, dubbed Ghazab lil-Haq, against the Afghan Taliban after it launched unprovoked attacks along the border between both countries on Thursday.

According to a handout by the Prime Minister's Office, PM Shehbaz said that zero tolerance should be adopted against the nexus between the Afghan Taliban and Fitna

al Khwarij and its malicious actions. "The actions of the Afghan Taliban regime and Fitna al Khwarij against Pakistan are unacceptable," he said.

He added that the country's armed forces, under the leadership of Chief of Defence Forces Asim Munir, were always ready to defend the country.

"Pakistan knows how to defend itself against any aggression," he asserted.

The premier also praised the professional capabilities of the armed forces for repelling attacks by the Afghan Taliban regime in the border areas and for retaliating vigorously. "The entire nation stands with the armed forces for protecting the homeland," he said.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is being briefed on the Pakistan-Afghanistan situation by the Military leadership.

## PAF commemorates 7th anniversary of Operation Swift Retort

**PEAK POINT**

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) commemorated the 7th anniversary of Operation Swift Retort at Air Headquarters, marking a landmark demonstration of resolve, professionalism and calibrated response in modern air warfare. Addressing the ceremony, Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), HJ, Chief of the Air Staff, stated that "Pakistan is a responsible country which desires peace with honour". He recalled that seven years ago, the aggressor miscalculated Pakistan's resolve and capability by challenging its sovereignty under the cover of darkness, said a press release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). PAF's measured broad daylight response re-established credible deterrence against a numerically superior adversary. Highlighting the complex global and regional security environment and evolving character of warfare, the Air Chief underscored that since March 2021, despite fiscal constraints, PAF has pursued comprehensive modernization and indigenous transition into a Next Generation Air Force. He noted that PAF recalibrated its Operational Doctrine.

## Over 274 Afghan Taliban, terrorists killed in Pakistan counterstrike: DG ISPR

**PEAK POINT**

ISLAMABAD: Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has said that more than 274 personnel linked to the Afghan Taliban regime were killed during retaliatory strikes along the Pak-Afghan border, as tensions sharply escalated following cross-border exchanges. The figures were shared during a detailed media briefing that outlined the scale of Operation "Ghazab-lil-Haq". Officials described the action as a direct response



to what they termed unprovoked attacks from across the frontier. According to Director General ISPR Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, at least 274 Afghan Taliban regime personnel and fighters were killed and more than 400 were injured during the operation. The military also reported

## Security forces neutralise drone attacks in three KP districts

**PEAK POINT**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani security forces have thwarted attempted drone attacks in Abbottabad, Swabi and Nowshera, successfully shooting down all incoming drones, officials said. Federal Information Minister Attullah Tatar said in a social media post that militants belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij backed by the Afghan Taliban, attempted to carry out attacks using small drones in the three districts.

He said Pakistan's anti-drone systems responded promptly and neutralized all the drones before they could cause major damage. "No loss of life occurred in any of the three incidents, and the situation is fully under control," the minister said. Tatar further claimed that the incidents once again exposed the direct links between the Afghan Taliban regime and terrorist activities inside Pakistan. Meanwhile, in Swabi's Pabini village.

## Iran calls for dialogue between Pakistan, Afghanistan to resolve issues

**PEAK POINT**

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has expressed readiness to mediate between Pakistan and Afghanistan to resolve their ongoing tensions. In a statement on X, Araghchi emphasized the importance of dialogue during the holy month of Ramadan, which he described as a time for self-restraint and strengthening unity within the Muslim world. The foreign minister reiterated Iran's willingness to assist in facilitating communication between the two countries.

## Israel's 'expansionist mindset' bereft of any regard for international law, Dar tells OIC moot

**PEAK POINT**

SAUDI ARABIA: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday condemned Israel's recent actions in the occupied West Bank of converting the territory's areas into "state property", highlighting that the country's "expansionist mindset" held no regard for international law. The minister made the statement while addressing a meeting of the executive committee of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The meeting was taking place against the backdrop of the Israeli government approving a proposal to register large areas of the occupied West Bank as "state property" for the first time since the occupation of the territory in 1967. Addressing the meeting, the foreign minister took note



of the "latest illegal measures taken by Israel to convert the West Bank and annexation attempts, which he maintained posed a threat to any prospect for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East". He recalled that in September 2025 at the UN General Assembly (UNGA), "leaders and foreign ministers of a group of eight Islamic countries, including Pakistan, engaged with the president of the US to end the bloodshed in Gaza and [...] secure a permanent and sustainable

ceasefire and advance a comprehensive peace process with Palestinian brothers and sisters". He further recalled that during the consultation held, the group of eight countries was "given assurances that annexation of the West Bank will not take place". However, the minister told the moot that "on the ground, Israel continues with brazen impunity to expand illegal settlements". He maintained that Israel's actions amounted to a violation of "international law, the UN Charter, and the UN Security Council Resolution 2803". "These violations embolden further aggression, erode regional stability and trample the rights and dignity of Palestinians," he added. Dar called on the international community to "act decisively" to halt.

## Naqvi warns 22 terror groups regrouping in Afghanistan

**PEAK POINT**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday warned that 22 terrorist organisations are regrouping in Afghanistan, saying Pakistan currently stands as "a wall between terrorists and the world". The remarks came as Naqvi led Pakistan's delegation at a six-country interior ministers' conference on illegal immigration and human smuggling held in Warsaw, the capital of Poland. He briefed participants on the evolving situation along the Pak-Afghan border and called for enhanced international cooperation to tackle transnational threats. Interior ministers from Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, along with Finland's state secretary, attended the meeting and praised Pakistan's efforts against illegal migration and human trafficking. The participants agreed to develop a coordinated roadmap to discourage illegal immigration.





# SPORTS



## T20 World Cup: Ahmed, Jacks blast England to thrilling win over NZ, keeping Pakistan's slender hopes alive



PEAK POINT

COLOMBO: Rehan Ahmed and Will Jacks smashed 44 off 16 balls to take England to a thrilling four-wicket T20 World Cup win in Colombo that denied New Zealand a guaranteed place in the semi-finals but kept Pakistan's slender hopes alive.

New Zealand would have joined England in the knockouts with a win in their final Super Eights match and they scored 159-6 after opting to bat.

England lost wickets early and looked like they would be squeezed out at 117-6, needing 43 from the last three overs.

But Ahmed and Jacks took 22 off the 18th over from Glenn Phillips to turn the match on its head.

Ahmed blasted 19 off seven balls in his first T20 World Cup match alongside Jacks, who made an unbeaten 32 off 18, to see England to 161-6 with three balls to spare.

England will move on to a semi-final in Mumbai on Thursday against either India or the West Indies, who clash on Sunday to decide the final semi-final berth.

New Zealand now have to wait on the outcome of Saturday's clash between Sri Lanka and Pakistan in

Kandy to know if they have qualified for a semi-final in Kolkata against South Africa.

Pakistan have an inferior run rate so they need to win by 64 runs or inside 13 overs to overtake the Kiwis and deny them a place in the final four. If Pakistan qualify, then the semi-final would be played in Colombo.

England used five spinners to bowl 16 of the 20 overs on a turning track.

The 2010 and 2022 champions had never bowled so many overs of spin before in a T20 international.

Jacks returned the best figures

with 2-23, while Adil Rashid picked up 2-28 and is now England's leading wicket-taker in the tournament with 11.

Rashid was complemented by fellow wrist spinner Ahmed, who was called up in place of Jamie Overton, and took a wicket with his first ball before finishing with 2-28 from three overs.

Glenn Phillips top scored with 39 off 28, including four fours and a six, while opener Tim Seifert scored 35.

Liam Dawson (1-32) and Jacob Bethell (0-13) were the other spinners employed by England.

## PSB vows strict action against rule violators



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) on Thursday reaffirmed its commitment to enforcing discipline, safeguarding institutional authority, and ensuring the uninterrupted discharge of official responsibilities, making it clear that no compromise would be made on these core principles. In a press release issued here, the Board stated that all officers and employees are strictly bound to comply with the PSB Service Rules, 2000. It emphasized that adherence to these rules is mandatory for maintaining order and institutional integrity within the organization. The PSB clarified that individuals found involved in unlawful activities, maladministration, disruption of official work, interference in government affairs, or violations of discipline have been identified. It said strict action would be taken against them under the PSB Service Rules, 2000. According to the statement, formal departmental proceedings will be initiated, and major penalties, including dismissal from service — may be imposed in accordance with the applicable rules, if deemed necessary. The Board further noted that matters relating to the dissemination of false, misleading, and defamatory information against the institution and its officers are being referred to the National Cyber Crime Agency under relevant laws and regulations.

## Pakistan women post record ODI total but South Africa seal series



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan women registered their highest-ever ODI total but fell agonisingly short as South Africa women's national cricket team secured an unassailable 2-0 lead with a 16-run victory in the second ODI at SuperSport Park on Wednesday night. Chasing a daunting 362, Pakistan were

and captain Fatima Sana (52 off 36). After early setbacks that left them 24-2, Sadaf and Ayesha stitched together a 97-run partnership to steady the innings.

Ayesha then added 76 with Natalia Parvaiz as Pakistan surged to 197-3, keeping the record chase within reach. However, a dramatic collapse swung the match. Nondumiso Shangase struck twice in the 30th over, while player of the match Anneric Dercksen removed Natalia soon after, reducing Pakistan to 199-6. Fatima responded with a counterattack-

ing knock, adding 81 runs with Syeda Aroob Shah to revive hopes.

With 82 required off 49 balls, Aroob (40) and Diana Baig fought valiantly. Diana produced a career-best unbeaten 38 off 25 deliveries, striking five fours and a six, as Pakistan needed 23 from the final over. The chase ended heartbreakingly with one ball remaining. Dercksen starred with both bat and ball, claiming 3-59 after earlier smashing 90 off 68 balls. Shangase, Nadine de Klerk and Nonkululeko Mlaba took two wickets apiece.

## BN Polo defeat FG Polo 8-4 on day two of 6th Jinnah Gold Polo Cup



## Usman Wazeer aims for 18th win against Indian opponent in Bangkok

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's unbeaten boxing sensation Usman Wazeer is set to return to the international ring on February 28, when he takes on India's Baljeet Singh at the high-profile Global Fight Night at the World Siam Stadium in Bangkok.

Carrying a flawless professional record of 17 wins from 17 fights, including 12 knockouts, Wazeer will be competing in his 18th professional bout, with his eyes firmly set on extending his unbeaten streak and moving a step closer to a coveted Open World Title shot. "I have already fought two Indian opponents in the past and knocked both out. I am excited and fully prepared for another strong performance."

Despite his young age, Wazeer has already secured multiple prestigious regional and international belts, including WBC Middle East

Title, WBA Asia Title, WBC OPBF Silver Title and WBO World Youth Title. In recognition of his sporting



achievements and contributions to Pakistan's international image, Wazeer was also awarded the prestigious Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, one of the country's highest civilian

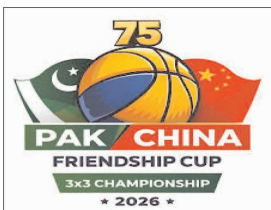
honors.

Currently, Wazeer is undergoing an intensive training camp in Karachi under the supervision of former boxer Ali Bakhsh. The camp, according to Wazeer, has significantly sharpened his technical and physical preparation, said a press release.

"I am training under former boxer Ali Bakhsh these days, and it is helping me a lot. He is not only mentoring me but also doing a great job promoting professional boxing in Pakistan," Wazeer said. The Karachi-based camp focuses on endurance, ring IQ, defensive movement, and knockout precision, attributes that have defined Wazeer's dominant run so far.

Wazeer also expressed deep gratitude to his long-time sponsor ACTIVIT and its CEO, R. Rizwan Aftab Ahmed, for their consistent support over his last five fights.

## Pak-China Friendship Basketball C'ship from March 5



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pak-China Friendship Cup 3x3 Basketball Championship 2026 will tip off on March 5 at Pakistan Sports Complex, Islamabad to commemorate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

According to

The FIBA-endorsed 3x3 championship has attracted record participation from across the country. A total of 48 teams will compete in the club category, 16 teams in the departmental category, and 26 teams in the women's category.

The large turnout highlights the rapid growth of 3x3 basketball in Pakistan and the continued commitment of the Pakistan Basketball Federation to promoting the sport nationwide. Uj-e-Zohoor emphasized that the event reflects the strong and longstanding brotherly ties between Pakistan and

China, noting that sports diplomacy plays a vital role in fostering cooperation, unity, and international goodwill. As a FIBA-endorsed tournament, the championship will also contribute points toward the FIBA 3x3 international rankings, further strengthening Pakistan's presence in the global basketball community. The organizing committee has ensured professionally managed arrangements, promising competitive and thrilling basketball action throughout the four-day event.



# HEC criticized for cumbersome degree verification mechanism burdening students

**NADEEM TANOLI**  
ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Government Assurances delivered strong criticism of the Higher Education Commission over delays and financial burden in degree attestation, demanding urgent reforms and reduced processing time. The Committee also decided to summon the CDA and Registrar Cooperative Societies over the alarming absence of healthcare facilities in newly developed housing societies in Islamabad. The National Assembly Standing Committee on Government Assurances strongly criticized the Higher Education

Commission for what it termed a cumbersome and financially burdensome degree attestation system, directing immediate steps to reduce turnaround time and ease hardships faced by students. Lawmakers observed that the current process not only causes delays but also imposes unnecessary financial strain on graduates seeking employment, scholarships, and international opportunities. The Committee, chaired by Ms. Nuzhat Sadiq, MNA, reviewed the implementation report regarding assurances given by the Minister for Education on the floor of the House. Members emphasized that the time between submission and completion of

attestation applications must be significantly minimized. The Committee expressed dissatisfaction with procedural inefficiencies and sought concrete timelines for improvement. Responding to the concerns, the Chairman of HEC informed the Committee that a comprehensive digital transformation initiative is underway, including the introduction of a secure blockchain based attestation system. The project is expected to be implemented before 30 June 2026 and will initially link HEC with 25 universities and the Attestation Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, the Committee sought a joint presentation by HEC and the Foreign Office

to ensure coordination, transparency, and accountability in the new system. In addition to the HEC issue, the Committee expressed serious concern over the non availability of healthcare facilities in newly established housing societies in Islamabad. Members described the situation as alarming, noting that the absence of mandatory healthcare infrastructure in master plans is placing immense pressure on already overburdened public hospitals in the capital. The Committee decided to summon the Registrar Cooperative Societies and the Capital Development Authority to explain why healthcare establishments are not being made compul-

sory in housing society approvals. Lawmakers stressed that regulators must ensure that every new housing project includes healthcare facilities as part of its development framework. The Committee also disposed of an assurance regarding change in electricity billing dates after accepting the justification provided by the Ministry of Power. Officials informed members that simultaneous meter readings are operationally difficult and that the issue will gradually be resolved through installation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure meters. Furthermore, while discussing the implementation of an assurance related

to the Federal Employees Benevolent Fund, the Committee directed the Establishment Division to amend its rules to include newly introduced professional degrees such as business data analysis in the fee reimbursement scheme. The Secretary Establishment assured that necessary amendments would be made to align with the Committee's directive. The Committee made it clear that inefficiency in education services and urban planning will remain under strict parliamentary scrutiny, emphasizing that public institutions must prioritize transparency, service delivery, and citizen welfare.

# Experts emphasize need for simplified regulations, digital compliance to unlock business growth

**PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD: Experts have emphasised the urgent need to simplify Pakistan's regulatory environment and introduce a unified digital compliance system to reduce the cost and time burden on businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). They expressed these views at a stakeholder consultation on the "Digital Compliance Gateway" held

at Freedom Gate Prosperity (FGP) in collaboration with the Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries (ICSTSI). Experts emphasize need for simplified regulations, digital compliance to unlock business growth. The consultation brought together policy experts, legal practitioners, industry representatives and development professionals to deliberate on practical reforms under the broader #Unlock Pak



Business initiative. Earlier, Muhammad Anwar, CEO of FGP, welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of creating a market-friendly policy environment. He said complex procedures and fragmented reg-

ulatory requirements discourage entrepreneurship and investment. He added that FGP, in collaboration with institutional partners, is working to promote evidence-based reforms that reduce compliance barriers and support business growth. Awais Satti, President of ICSTSI, underscored the need for stronger public-private dialogue to identify bottlenecks faced by traders and entrepreneurs. He noted that regulatory simplification and

digital integration could significantly improve the ease of doing business and help expand the formal economy. Dr Ali Salman, CEO of Prime Institute Pakistan, highlighted the broader economic implications of regulatory inefficiencies. He stressed that reducing unnecessary compliance costs would improve productivity, encourage formalisation and enhance Pakistan's competitiveness in regional markets.

# Opinion & Editorial

## Quranic voice

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**Abbas Hussain**  
MOST of us who read the Quran in English or Urdu do so with a quiet, unexamined assumption: that we are encountering the text itself. We underline verses, quote them in arguments, and even build moral positions upon them, rarely pausing to ask how much of what we are reading belongs to the Quran, and how much belongs to the human voice that carried it into our language.

When we reduce it to fear, we create a religion of nervous obedience rather than conscious responsibility. Much of our religious discourse has been outsourced to translations. Or take 'nafs', often rendered simply as 'self' or 'soul'. In the Quran, 'nafs' is dynamic: it desires, resists, lies to itself, regrets, and sometimes grows. It is the arena of moral struggle. When translation flattens it into a static 'soul', we lose the Quran's profound psychology of human conflict — its insight into how people deceive themselves even while believing they are sincere.

The same happens with 'zulum', frequently translated as 'wrongdoing' or 'injustice'. In Quranic usage, 'zulum' is not merely a legal violation; it is a distortion of reality — putting things where they do not belong, whether in one's heart, in social relations, or in systems of power. A tyrant is more than unjust; he is a zalim because he violates the moral order of existence itself. When this depth is lost, Quranic ethics shrink into rule-keeping.

## Another geopolitical storm

**Shahzad Chaudhry**  
President Trump asked his point man, Steve Witkoff, "Why, under this pressure, with the amount of sea power and naval power over there, why haven't they come to us and said, 'We profess we don't want a weapon, so here's what we are prepared to do?' And yet it's sort of hard to get them to that place." The 'they' in this conversation is, of course, Iran. If the underlying sentiment is any indicator, the chances are that a real war against and around Iran may well be averted.

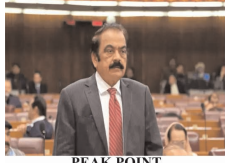
Only, the Iranians need to play it sensibly. Give Trump a face-saver of sorts and help him retain his prestige. Even more importantly, save Iran from devastation triggered by an injured ego. In which case, Iran alone will suffer, perhaps badly; the US and Trump will barely save pride, but Israel will relish the opportunity and the carte blanche in wreaking as much havoc as it can on Iran, and push the US to do the same. Iran, of course, will respond, but to a certain extent. It can play the regionalisation of the conflict as a card and push the regimes around to save themselves from Iranian reprisals by forcing the US to retract from what would be another unnecessary war. But will injured pride listen, or to what extent will it go to save its esteem? These unknowns are a fast-slipping slope, rendering the region's geopolitics highly precarious. This ties into the equation a continuing interplay of interests between nations of the Middle East, including Israel, the US and nations surrounding Iran in West Asia. That includes Pakistan, Afghanistan and Turkey. Turkey lies at the edge of what is West Asia and will most likely escape the entanglement, but the rest will slowly slide into the eye of the gathering storm. Here is why? Assume Iran is the crown jewel in this impending war. The goals are obvious to those who really want this war: replace the regime; devastate Iran to the point of irrecoverable political and economic damage; trigger a popular uprising based on deteriorated internal situation resulting in upheavals.

Courtesy Dawn

## Utter chaos

THE PTI is in disarray. The lack of discipline within its ranks, which it has long refused to address, is finally catching up with it. What was once defended as 'a culture of healthy disagreement' has now devolved into senior figures engaging in outright finger-pointing and openly trading accusations and blame. Former prime minister Imran Khan's family wants the world to know it is not happy with the way his party's formal leadership is handling concerns about his health. They have good reason to feel frustrated. The government has gone ahead with its own plan for managing the jailed former PM's health issues, largely ignoring the family's demands for giving access to his personal physicians and providing treatment in a private medical facility. But though the family has repeatedly expressed its dissatisfaction and anger, the PTI's political leaders seem much less agitated. Mr Khan's sisters cut a sorry figure when sharing this grievance with the press, as they highlighted a growing disconnect between the party's 'blood' and 'bureaucracy'. Though it emerged as a powerhouse following the last general election, the entirety of the PTI's politics now centres on a single agenda: Mr Khan and his continuing incarceration. While it has been clear for a while, his legal counsels are now openly admitting that they see no hope in pursuing legal recourse.

## Nation stands shoulder to shoulder with armed forces against terrorism: Rana Sanaullah



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah Khan told the Senate on Friday that the entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with Pakistan's armed forces in the fight against terrorism, as the House unanimously adopted a resolution reaffirming national unity against aggression and militancy.

Responding to Opposition Leader Senator Raja Nasir Abbas during a discussion on the resolution, Sanaullah said the unanimous passage of the resolution by the House of Federation reflected the collective will of the people and endorsed the resolve of the nation.

He said that at critical moments the Pakistani nation had consistently placed full confidence in its armed forces and stood firmly behind them. Referring to recent cross-border aggression, he said the armed forces had delivered a strong and effective response while exercising restraint. Sanaullah said Pakistan's armed forces were highly professional and fully capable of responding decisively to any hostile act, but had demonstrated maturity and responsibility by limiting action to what was necessary.

He warned that elements involved in cross-border activities had previously been given opportunities to behave responsibly, but if aggression continued, they would be dealt with firmly. The adviser said the government and political leadership stood fully aligned with the military leadership's decisions regarding national security and counter-terrorism operations. During the debate, Senator Ali Zafar proposed the formation of a regional mechanism to address the situation. Sanaullah suggested referring the matter to the Senate Standing

Committee on Foreign Affairs for in-camera briefings from the Foreign Office and relevant security institutions before any decision was taken.

He noted that friendly countries had facilitated negotiations in the past, but those efforts did not yield lasting results. However, he described the proposal as constructive and deserving of detailed consideration at an appropriate stage.

Sanaullah said the central message of the resolution was clear: the nation remains united against terrorism and in support of its armed forces, law enforcement agencies and the families of martyrs. He added that while political matters should ideally be resolved through dialogue among stakeholders, issues of national security required collective resolve. The prime minister had extended invitations for dialogue on multiple occasions, he said, adding that such discussions could proceed separately from security-related concerns. He urged opposition members to keep political differences separate from the national stance against terrorism.

## Team Leader of MuP calls on Chairman Senate

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Team Leader of Mustehkam Parlmaan (MuP), Mary Cummins on Friday called on Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, at the Parliament House on a farewell visit marking the culmination of her tenure.

During the meeting, Ms Cummins presented a comprehensive overview of the five-year strategic framework for the Mustehkam Parlmaan (MuP) programme, highlighting its key achievements, meaningful initiatives, and long-term objectives to strengthen parliamentary institutions in Pakistan.

She underscored MuP's continued efforts to enhance legislative processes, build the institutional capacity of Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff, and improve oversight and governance mechanisms through



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constructive collaboration and support of the European Union. The Chairman of the Senate commended the contributions of MuP toward institutional development and democratic consolidation in Pakistan. He observed that a strong, transparent, and responsive Parliament remains the cornerstone of sustainable democracy.

Reaffirming his vision, he emphasised the importance of reinforcing democratic norms, strengthening accountability frameworks, and ensuring meaningful public engagement.

## German envoy calls on climate minister; cooperation on new climate data initiative discussed

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Germany's Ambassador to Pakistan, Ina Lepel, called on Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik on Friday to discuss ongoing bilateral cooperation and future collaboration in the climate sector.

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, the ambassador thanked the ministry for its continued support in advancing climate action and for coordinating climate-related initiatives with provincial governments.

Lepel briefed the minister on the range of collaborative efforts currently underway between Germany and the ministry, particularly through the German development agency GIZ.

Areas of cooperation include climate adaptation and resilience, emission control strategies, capacity building, green initiatives and pilot projects aimed at strengthening Pakistan's climate response framework.

During the meeting, Lepel informed the

minister about a proposed project titled "Integrated Climate Information Services Value Chains for Transformative Climate Action" (CISTA), which is under consideration with the ministry.

The project, commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, seeks to establish integrated climate services and improve data management systems to support evidence-based decision-making in climate policy and planning.

Dr Malik appreciated Germany's continued partnership in supporting Pakistan's climate agenda and welcomed the proposed CISTA initiative.

He suggested organising a joint workshop focused on data integration and information sharing to facilitate effective implementation of the project.

Both sides also discussed expanding the scope of bilateral cooperation, including joint research programmes, student and faculty exchanges, and strengthened institutional collaboration in climate-related areas.



ISLAMABAD: Her Excellency Ms. Ina Lepel, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Pakistan, called on the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr Musadik Malik.

## Pakistan responded to Afghan Taliban aggression with vigilance, strength: Tarar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar on Friday said Pakistan responded with vigilance and strength to unprovoked aggression by the Afghan Taliban. Speaking to PTV, the minister stated that Pakistan's armed forces had effectively employed their professional capabilities to safeguard the motherland under testing circumstances. He said the robust response had forced the Afghan Taliban on the back foot, leaving them in a state of uncertainty and resorting to spreading fake news on social media. Tarar noted that even an international news channel fell victim to the fabricated reports circulated by the Afghan Taliban, and later compelled to delete its tweet. Highlighting the retaliatory measures, the minister said Pakistan's security forces destroyed key Taliban ammunition depots and battalion headquarters. He added that the Pakistan Air Force.

assessments of Gwadar's projected electricity requirements over the next four to five years. Current demand in the area stands at approximately 40 to 50 megawatts (MW). He explained that the new system would utilise battery energy storage systems (BESS) combined with low-cost backup generation to maintain a stable supply, particularly during disruptions from external sources. The framework is designed to operate without placing additional burden on the national grid.

## Battery-backed power system to deliver 100% reliable electricity to Gwadar by early 2027

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has approved a comprehensive battery-backed power solution for Gwadar aimed at ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply to the port city by February or March next year, the Senate was informed on Friday.

Responding to a question raised by Senator Jan Muhammad, Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari said the newly approved arrangement would guarantee "100 per cent reliable electricity" to Gwadar's critical grids, including the deep-sea port, desalination facilities and industrial zones. The minister said the decision was taken on the directions of the prime minister after an



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## No compromise on the motherland, Says Rana Mashhood

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Thursday delivered a forceful message of resolve, declaring that Pakistan will never yield to pressure or expediency when it comes to the defense of its soil, its people, and its borders. Condemning the Afghan regime's targeting of innocent civilians, he said the protection of the motherland remains a sacred and non negotiable duty. Speaking in an exclusive interview with APP, Rana Mashhood said the state stands fully prepared to defend its sovereignty and territorial



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## Ji emir Prof Ibrahim condemns tragic incident of Sukari Hassan Khel

ABDUS SALAM BAITAB



BANNU: Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and a leading leader of the Bannu Peace Jirga, Professor Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, has said that the incident that occurred in Sukari Hassan Khel is deeply tragic. The abduction of police personnel from a mosque and later the martyr-

dom of two of them while one was taken away is highly condemnable. At present, the writ of the government is not visible anywhere in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Bannu. The people of Bannu are facing severe concern and anxiety due to road blockages, target killings, kidnappings, and other forms of lawlessness.

The elders of Bannu have decided that a National Peace Jirga will be held on March 5 at the Jamaat-e-Islami office outside Huwaid Gate to discuss the prevailing situation. Leaders of all

political parties, lawyers, religious scholars, and individuals from all schools of thought have been invited to participate in the jirga. He expressed these views while talking to the media after a jirga of Bannu elders held at the Bannu Press Club. Elders of Bannu were also present with him on the occasion. Professor Muhammad Ibrahim Khan demanded that Abdul Samad Khan (Lala) has been arrested in false cases; therefore, all cases against him should be withdrawn and he should be released immediately. He

said it does not befit the state to arrest any innocent citizen on fabricated charges. The jirga also demanded the recovery of a young man, Irshad Khan from Kaki, who was abducted a few months ago and whose whereabouts are still unknown.

The jirga further demanded that before March 5 all roads in Bannu — including Miranshah Road, Kot Amandi Road, Kot Adil and Kot Barrah Road, and Juma Khan Road — should be reopened, and the checkpoints on Miranshah Road should also be removed.

If these roads are not opened before March 5, the grand jirga will announce its future course of action and implement it accordingly.

The jirga expressed concern over reports that after the abduction of police personnel in Sukari Hassan Khel, the police have been harassing local residents. House raids are being conducted and arrests have begun.

The jirga demanded from the district administration that the unnecessary harassment of the public be stopped and that any action

should be taken in consultation with local elders. The jirga also expressed concern over alleged extrajudicial actions by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), stating that CTD operations are suspicious. It was alleged that CTD personnel detain innocent citizens and demand large sums of money from them. The jirga demanded that the CTD and other state institutions put an end to such oppression, stating that due to this situation, ordinary citizens are suffering from both sides.