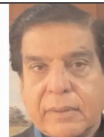




**Gilani, Hun Sen discuss stronger Pakistan Cambodia ties**



**APP's global partnerships key to strengthen national narrative: Atta Tarar**



**Science and Technology Key to Sustainable Development: Pervaiz Ashraf**

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## PM reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to fostering friendly ties with Libya

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tuesday, reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to fostering friendly relations with Libya and emphasized the importance of continued engagement and dialogue.

A high-level Libyan delegation called on him at PM House. The delegation included Dr. Osama Saad Hamad, Prime Minister of the Libyan Government, Field Marshal Khalifa Abu-al-Qasim Haftar, Commander-in-Chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces and Lieutenant General Saddam Khalifa Haftar, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, Deputy Prime Minister and

Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, COAS & CDF, were also present during the meeting, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the discussions, both sides exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and underscored the importance of strengthening bilateral relations. The meeting reflected the shared desire to enhance cooperation in areas of common concern and to promote peace, stability, and development at regional and international levels.

The Libyan leadership appreciated Pakistan's role and expressed interest in expanding collaboration between the two countries.



ISLAMABAD: A high-level Libyan delegation comprising H.E Dr Osama Saad Hamad, Prime Minister of the Libyan Government and Field Marshal Khalifa Abu-al-Qasim Haftar, Commander-in-Chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Libyan armed forces deputy commander-in-chief meets Naval chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf

PEAK POINT



Admiral Naveed Ashraf here on Tuesday at Naval Headquarters.

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Saddam Khalifa Haftar, called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf here on Tuesday at Naval Headquarters.

Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces was received by Chief of the Naval Staff, said a press release issued by Directorate General Public Relations (Pak Navy).

During meeting both the leaders deliberated on matters of mutual interest, evolving regional maritime security landscape, and ways to further bolster cooperation in defence and training.

Lieutenant General Saddam Khalifa Haftar commended Pakistan Navy as a pivotal force for regional peace and maritime security. Both leaders reaffirmed their resolve to further diversify and strengthen the scope of existing bilateral defence relationship.

## Pakistan to join Iran-US talks on de-escalating regional tensions

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will participate in upcoming Iran-US talks in Istanbul, aimed at easing tensions between Tehran and Washington, the Foreign Office confirmed on Tuesday. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar will represent at the talks. The discussions, scheduled to reach their main session on Friday, will also include regional powers such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates.

A regional official told Reuters that the priority of the talks is to avoid any conflict and de-escalate rising tensions. While the format of the meetings remains unclear, officials emphasised the importance of dialogue to pre-

vent further escalation. The talks come amid



heightened regional concerns, including the recent deployment of a US aircraft carrier group in the Middle East following anti-government protests in Iran. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian confirmed on Tuesday that he had authorised his Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi, to engage in nuclear negotiations with the United States, provided the discussions occur in an environment "free from threats and unreasonable expectations." He added that the talks would proceed "within the framework of our national interests." In an interview with CNN, Araghchi expressed cautious optimism, saying a nuclear deal with the US is achievable if Washington adheres to its stated aim of preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. "President Trump said no nuclear weapons, and we fully

agree. That could be a very good deal," he said, adding that Tehran expects sanctions relief in return. US President Donald Trump has reiterated his hope that Washington will reach an agreement with Iran, while warning that "bad things would happen" if no deal is achieved. Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei,

has warned that any US military action could trigger a regional war.

Turkiye has spearheaded the diplomatic initiative, with Foreign Minister Araghchi meeting counterparts in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan in recent days. Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Jordan have all assured Tehran that their airspace or territories will not be used for any military action against Iran.

## Federal Constitutional Court disposes of Arshad Sharif suo motu case

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) on Tuesday disposed of a suo motu case initiated on the killing of prominent journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya, ruling that judicial oversight of the ongoing investigation was impermissible under Pakistani law. The court emphasised that the matter was being handled through diplomatic channels and a mutual legal assistance (MLA) agreement between Pakistan and Kenya had also already been reached.

The 14-page judgment was authored by Justice Ameer.

## Petition moved for jail facilities, meetings for Imaan Mazari

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Former federal minister Shireen Mazari on Tuesday filed a petition to Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking a meeting with her daughter, Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chatha, and provision of better facilities in jail to them. The petition is moved through lawyers Kamran Murtaza, Raja Aleem Abbasi and Manzoor Jaja, among others, in which the Federation, Interior Secretary, IG Islamabad and Superintendent Adiala Jail were made parties and the position was taken that it was the day of the visit, despite going to Adiala.

## IMCTC launches 'Reintegration Initiative' program in Pakistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC) has launched the "Rehabilitation/Reintegration Initiative" in Islamabad, aimed at the rehabilitation and social reintegration of individuals involved in extremist terrorist behavior.

The event was attended by the Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif, the Secretary General of IMCTC, Major General Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Mughid, and a number of prominent figures from the military, security, intellectual, and diplomatic communities, said a press release. This program is part of IMCTC's strategic efforts to address the root causes of extremism and to strengthen preventive and ideological approaches

through rehabilitation and reintegration programs, it requires a comprehensive



further said. In his opening remarks, the IMCTC Secretary General emphasized that the "Reintegration" initiative is one of the coalition's core pillars in the ideological domain, noting that IMCTC considers rehabilitation and reintegration programs to be the first line of defense against extremist ideologies.

He said that countering extremism cannot be limited to security and military

measures alone; rather, it requires a comprehensive approach that helps rebuild awareness, rehabilitate individuals, and reintegrate them into society in a positive and sustainable manner, the press release said.

Major General Al-Mughidi said that the initiative aims to enhance the capacity to return individuals involved in terrorist crimes to normal life, free them from the intellectual, psychological, and social misconceptions propagated by extremist and terrorist groups, and enable them to once again become active members of their families and communities.

Speaking on the occasion, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif praised IMCTC's efforts and highlighted Pakistan's strong partnership in the fight against extremism and terrorism. He said that hosting the "Reintegration" initiative reflects Pakistan's commitment to strengthening international cooperation and exchanging experiences in the fields of deradicalization and social reintegration. He said that an effective strategy against extremism is one that integrates security, intellectual, and social dimensions, as this integration is essential for achieving lasting peace and stability.

## Finance minister pledges support for KP's financial claims

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has assured Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of full cooperation in securing its legitimate financial claims under the National Finance Commission (NFC) and other relevant frameworks, while stressing transparency and adherence to established procedures. The assurance was given during a meeting at the Ministry of Finance with the chief minister's adviser on finance, Muzammil Aslam. Senior officials from both the federal government and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa administration also attended the discussions. Officials exchanged views on financial and development matters, including the timely release of funds for development projects in the merged districts, outstanding liabilities related to the rehabilitation of temporarily displaced persons, and provincial shares and allocations under the NFC. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa delegation.



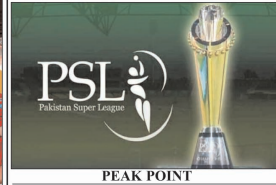


# SPORTS



## Babar, Shaheen and Shadab retained while big names released for PSL 11

PSL Int'l media rights soar 149pc in record-breaking sale



**PEAK POINT** LAHORE: Pakistan Super League franchises have officially announced their retained players for the 11th edition of the tournament, triggering major shifts in team compositions ahead of the newly introduced auction-based selection process.

Among the high-profile retentions, Peshawar Zalmi retained Babar Azam, Lahore Qalandars kept Shaheen Shah Afridi, Islamabad United held on to Shadab Khan, Karachi Kings retained Hasan Ali, and Quetta Gladiators named Abrar Ahmed as their platinum pick. Several established stars, including Haris Rauf, Fakhar Zaman, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub and Sahibzada Farhan, were released and will enter the auction.

Khushdil Shah in gold, and Saad Baig in the emerging category. The franchise opted to release several other squad members as the auction. Defending champions Lahore Qalandars retained captain Shaheen Shah Afridi in the platinum category. Abdullah Shafique was retained in diamond, Sikandar Raza in gold, and Muhammad Naqem in silver. The Qalandars released prominent players including Haris Rauf and Fakhar Zaman from platinum, along with Salman Mirza from diamond, Zaman Khan, Jahandad Khan, Asif Afridi and Asif Ali from gold, and Muhammad Akhlaq and Muhammad Aazib from silver. Islamabad United confirmed Shadab Khan as their platinum retention. Salman Irshad was retained in gold, while Andries Gous remained in the silver category. The franchise released a number of experienced players, including Naseem Shah, Sahibzada Farhan, Salman Ali Agha, Mohammad Nawaz and Imad Wasim from platinum. Azam Khan, Haider Ali and Roman Raees were released from gold, while Muhammad Zaman Khan, Faeq and Haneen Shah exited from silver.

**PEAK POINT** LAHORE: The Pakistan Super League has created fresh history with a landmark surge in the value of its international media rights, recording a 149 percent increase compared to last year.

The latest deal highlights the league's expanding global footprint and rising commercial appeal in the international cricket market. The one-year global media rights, excluding the India region, have been awarded to Walec Technologies, which submitted a bid exceeding the reserve price set by the Pakistan Cricket Board.

The sharp rise in valuation is being viewed as a clear reflection of the PSL's growing popularity, competitive cricket standards, and strengthened brand value worldwide.

PSL Chief Executive Officer Salman Naseer said the league continues to consolidate its position among the world's leading T20 competitions. He described the 149% increase in international media rights as a strong endorsement of global confidence in the PSL, adding that the league's consistently high-quality and competitive cricket has captured the attention of fans across multiple markets. Naseer noted that the new agreement further reinforces confidence in the league's long-term business growth.

## ICC seeks resolution as Pakistan boycotts high-profile India encounter



**PEAK POINT** DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has convened an emergency virtual Board meeting on Monday following the Pakistani government's announcement that its national team will boycott the high-profile group-stage match against India in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026.

through the global cricketing fraternity and is widely viewed as an attempt to exert financial and administrative pressure on the ICC. PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has recently accused the world governing body of applying "double standards" and operating under disproportionate influence from the Indian cricket board.

The ICC has confirmed that it is awaiting formal written communication from the PCB regarding the boycott. In an initial response, the council expressed serious concern, saying that selective participation undermines the integrity and foundational principles of a global sporting event.

## Pakistan Shaheens squad announced for white-ball series against England Lions

**PAKISTAN SHAHEENS SQUAD**  
FOR T20 AND 50-OVER SERIES AGAINST ENGLAND LIONS

- SHAMYL HUSSAIN (C)
- ABDUL SAMAD
- ARAFAT MINHAS
- AHMED DANİYAL
- AKIF JAVED
- ALI RAZA
- HASAN NAWAZ
- MAAZ SADAQAT
- MOHAMMAD SALMAN
- ROHAIL NAZIR (WK)
- SAAD BAIG (WK)
- SAAD KHAN
- SAAD MASOOD
- SAMEER MINHAS
- SHAHID AZIZ
- SUFYAN MOQIM

## PSL 11 matches not to be televised in India

**PEAK POINT** LAHORE: Matches of the 11th edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) will not be telecast in India.

According to sources, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided not to sell broadcasting rights for PSL matches in the Indian region. However, broadcasting rights will be sold for all other regions.

It is noteworthy that the 11th edition of the PSL will begin on March 26, and matches will be broadcast live worldwide except in India. This year, two new teams have been added to the league, increasing the total number of teams to eight.

For the first time in PSL history, the players' auction ceremony will be held on February 11.

## District Sports Officer Sargodha Madam Saima Manzoor present trophies to the winning team during the Different Games event



## Knights Chess academy presents 2nd rapid open Chess tournament

**PEAK POINT** ISLAMABAD: The 2nd Rapid Open Chess Tournament organized by Knights Chess Academy was successfully held on 1st February 2026 at Shahbaz Sharif Sports Complex, Rawalpindi. More than 30 players from different cities participated in the tournament, with ages ranging from 9 years to 70+. The participation of national-level players made the event more competitive and exciting, providing valuable learning opportunities for young players. A delicious Chicken Biryani was served for lunch. The tournament concluded with cash prizes awarded to the top three players. The cash prizes were distributed by CEO of Knights Chess Academy, Mr. Yasir Hussain, along with National Master Mr. Liaquat Ali.



# Fee Cap Agreed, but Vacant Seats and Falling demand raise questions as PMDC PAMI deal ends court battle

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: The agreement between the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council and the Pakistan Association of Medical Institutions to cap annual tuition fees for private medical and dental colleges at Rs 1.8 million has brought temporary relief to parents, but it has also exposed deeper structural problems in Pakistan's private medical education sector, particularly the growing crisis of hundreds of vacant seats that remain unfilled across the country. Members of the National Assembly Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination have already expressed serious concerns over the issue, noting that more than 400 seats in private medical and dental colleges are currently vacant,

despite the demand for medical education and repeated admission cycles. The matter was raised during committee proceedings, where lawmakers questioned whether high fees, rigid merit policies, and declining affordability have pushed students away from private institutions. Against this backdrop, PAMI's sudden decision to withdraw its petition from the Islamabad High Court challenging the fee cap has raised eyebrows. Observers within the health and education policy circles are questioning whether the association's retreat reflects non-compliance alone, but commercial pressure created by falling enrolments and unsold seats, particularly among MBBS aspirants who are unable or unwilling to pay previously demanded fees. Under the joint declaration, PMDC and PAMI have



fixed the annual tuition fee for MBBS and BDS programmes at Rs 1.8 million for the 2025-26 academic session, allowing a maximum annual increase of 5 percent. The fee cap applies strictly to tuition and does not include hostel charges, transport, university dues, or examination fees. PMDC has also limited the maximum allowable profit for private medical and dental colleges to 20 percent of revenue, warning that charging above the approved cap without authorization will be illegal and subject to regulatory action. The agreement does allow colleges to seek conditional enhancement of fees up to Rs 2.5 million, but only on the basis of audited financial accounts, cost-per-student data, and formal regulatory approval. PMDC has made it clear that any institution charging fees beyond the approved ceiling without permission will face enforcement action. The path to this agreement was contentious. PAMI had earlier argued before the Islamabad High Court that fee caps threatened institutional sustainability and proposed upper limits as high as Rs 3.2

million, insisting that PMDC lacked adequate financial justification. However, the withdrawal of the petition now appears to coincide with mounting evidence that private colleges are struggling to fill seats, undermining their bargaining position. Parents and student groups have welcomed the fee cap as long overdue relief, pointing out that private medical education had become inaccessible for middle income families. Critics argue that while colleges justified higher fees in the name of quality, the reality is that expensive seats remained empty, while students either shifted to dentistry unwillingly or abandoned medical careers altogether. Despite the agreement, enforcement remains a key challenge. Parliamentary members have already warned that some

institutions may attempt to recover losses through hidden charges or ancillary fees, shifting the burden away from regulated tuition. The National Assembly health committee is expected to monitor implementation closely, particularly in light of vacant seats and declining admissions that could further destabilize the sector. While PMDC and PAMI have pledged strict compliance in the interest of students and the public, lawmakers say the real test lies ahead. With hundreds of seats still empty and affordability now officially acknowledged as a barrier, the fee cap agreement has become not just a regulatory measure, but a litmus test for whether Pakistan's private medical education model remains viable at all.

# The Youth Council Pakistan hosts International Parliamentary and Diplomatic reception, honours global leaders

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Youth Council Pakistan successfully convened an International Parliamentary and Diplomatic Reception, bringing together young leaders, diplomats, and parliamentarians to champion youth-driven dialogue on global issues. The highlight of the event was the confer-

ence of multiple awards in recognition of significant contributions to human rights, business, and youth leadership. The Council presented its prestigious Human Rights Award to His Excellency Barrister Imran Hussain, Member of the British Parliament, in recognition of his courageous and steadfast advocacy for



human rights, justice, and the dignity of oppressed communities worldwide, notably in Kashmir and Palestine. In his acceptance statement, MP Imran Hussain said: "I am

deeply honoured to receive this award. True peace and prosperity are built on the foundations of justice and universal human rights. Engaging the energy and vision of youth is not an option but a necessity for resolving the great challenges of our time, from climate justice to geopolitical strife. I commend The Youth

Council Pakistan for its vital role in fostering this essential youth diplomacy." The event also celebrated emerging and established leaders with Young Leader Awards presented to Sajid Rafique (Vice President, The Youth Council Pakistan), Councillor Kamran Hussain (Bradford, UK), and Mubeeb Achakzai (Social Activist).

# Opinion & Editorial


  
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## Subsidised relief

THE generous relief package recently announced by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for an industry burdened with high energy prices, elevated financing costs and an excessive tax burden was a necessary intervention. The move should help to ease cost pressures on producers, bolster domestic productivity and shore up export competitiveness. With competition intensifying globally — particularly after India's free trade deal with the EU, which threatens Pakistan's preferential advantage — the government had no option but to move swiftly to improve exporters' competitiveness to maintain the market share. The package, welcomed by the business community, consists of a cut of Rs4.04 per unit in electricity prices, reduction in wheeling charges to under Rs9 per unit and a decrease in the cost of export refinancing to 4.5pc from 7.5pc. The total size of the relief, however, is unclear as are the steps the government intends to take to offset the resulting revenue loss. It is also not clear if the shortfall will be passed on to other consumers, or if the government will subsidise industry from the budget. This intervention comes on the heels of the State Bank's decision to slash the cash reserve requirement for banks — a move aimed at injecting additional liquidity into the system to push private sector credit for supporting growth.

## Age of strategic adjustment

**MALEEHA LODHI**  
CANADIAN Prime Minister Mark Carney's speech at Davos was one of the clearest enunciations of the strategic adjustment countries, especially middle powers, need to make when faced with a bullying superpower in a fractured world. Without naming the US, he stressed the need for middle powers to resist economic coercion by powerful countries by acting together because if they didn't, they will 'not be on the table but on the menu'. While Carney spoke pointedly about the imperative to adapt, countries have already been adjusting to new geopolitical realities and power shifts in a transforming world. Adjustments are of different kinds, from diversifying trade partners to shifts in geopolitical alignments. Some trends have been accelerated by President Donald Trump's policies, but they were already in evidence in an increasingly multipolar world characterised by structural changes, new power balances and shift in economic power from the West to the rest. Consider how the EU and others have been boosting trade with China and how Beijing has been diversifying its markets. In 2020, China overtook the US to become the EU's biggest trading partner. The EU is also China's largest trading partner, and not as often thought the US. With Washington pursuing a contain-China strategy and tariff war, Beijing has been

diversifying its export destinations away from America, a policy it stepped up after Trump's return to power. This has paid dividends. It accounts for China's record trade surplus of \$1 trillion today with a boom in exports to Southeast Asia and Europe while Chinese exports to the US have declined. The 'strategic' trade and energy partnership between Canada and China is another illustration of countries pursuing trade diversion. As is the recent EU-India free trade agreement. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's visit to China last week marks an effort to upgrade business ties between the two countries. Meanwhile, South-South trade has increased significantly and now accounts for about a quarter of global trade. It has more than doubled between 2007 and 2023 and is projected to rise even further. This indicates the Global South is seeking to chart its own course by leveraging a multipolar environment. How much of the rise in South-South trade is attributable to US tariff policies? It is estimated around 40-45 per cent of the growth since 2018 is due to the disruption caused by US tariffs. Global South countries are trading more with each other and have an increasing number of free trade arrangements between them. They are also investing more among themselves. Their trade with China has increased exponentially and now surpasses that with the

US. Countries are diversifying trade ties and shifting alignments as they adapt to changing global dynamics. On the geopolitical front, Global South nations, with many middle powers among them, have sought greater global influence and a bigger voice through organisations such as the 11-member BRICS, which is a vehicle for political and diplomatic coordination in different areas. They also seek to make their collective influence felt in international affairs through regional organisations such as the GCC and SCO. Meanwhile, middle powers from the Global South have been pursuing policies of multi-alignment while also playing off the China-US rivalry to enhance their leverage. This has made countries such as Türkiye, more influential international actors. A different kind of adjustment is being forced on Europe by Trump's downgrading of the continent, as reflected in his national security strategy, repeated insults of European leaders, disdain of Nato and of course his threat to seize Greenland. The transatlantic alliance is in shambles and the breakdown of trust unprecedented. Although European leaders first tried to flatter and ingratiate Trump, that did not work. The US president only saw it as weakness and pressed his demands on them more forcefully without ceasing his harsh criticism of Europe.

Courtesy Dawn

## People's influx into Karachi

SHAHID JAVED BURKI

This is an article on the large-scale movement of people in and out of Pakistan and how that has affected various aspects of life in the country since its founding as an independent state in 1947. I have already written about the movement of 14 million people that resulted from the division of the British Indian colony into the independent states of India and Pakistan. India became a predominantly Hindu state while the majority of the population of Pakistan belonged to the Islamic faith. My academic work on this movement suggested that of the eight million Muslims who headed for Pakistan, about 470,000 went and settled in what was chosen to be Pakistan's first capital. The other large movement of people had occurred a decade and a half before the birth of Pakistan. This was to bring farmers from the eastern part of Punjab to the newly irrigated lands in western Punjab and upper Sindh. I will take up a study of this influx of people into Pakistan in a later article. For the moment, I will continue to work on the movement of people in and out of Karachi. The 'out' movement was mostly to the Middle East, another subject for a later article. A building boom resulted from the arrival of 470,000 Muslim refugees from India to Karachi which then was a small seaport on the Arabian Sea. The British administrators of colonial India had expanded the port to handle the surplus grain that had become available from the irrigated lands of Punjab and Sindh. The grain surpluses were shipped to the ports in the eastern parts of India to deal with perennial food shortages in that part of British India. In 1943, a devastating famine had starved to death millions of people in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. The arrival of 470,000 Muslim refugees to Karachi needed both urgent care as well as long-term accommodation. The result of the long-term care for the refugees was a building boom in the city.

Courtesy Tribune

## Kazakhstan president arrives in Pakistan on 2-day visit



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev arrived in Pakistan on Tuesday for a two-day official visit as the two nations seek to bolster bilateral ties further.

The two countries maintain friendly diplomatic relations, with Kazakhstan being Pakistan's top export destination among Central Asian countries.

President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy PM Ishaq Dar received President

Tokayev at Rawalpindi's Nur Khan Base.

According to state-run Radio Pakistan, a 21-gun salute was presented to the visiting dignitary.

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, who also welcomed the Kazakh president at Nur Khan Base, later posted on social media platform X: "Honoured to welcome His Excellency Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on his two-day official visit to Pakistan. He was received at

the airport by President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

"This will be a great visit in terms of strong ties between both countries and we look forward to further strengthening our friendship and bilateral cooperation."

Tokayev is accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising senior cabinet ministers and other high-ranking officials. A video shared by his office showed the streets in Islamabad adorned with Kazakhstan's national flag.

In a handout issued earlier in the day, the President's Secretariat said that President Zardari will confer the Nishan-i-Pakistan, the country's highest civilian award, on the Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan presidents; the latter is expected to visit the country sometime this month.

According to the Foreign Office (FO), President Tokayev is expected to hold meetings with President Zardari and PM Shehbaz, as well as address the Pakistan-Kazakhstan Business Forum.

## APP's global partnerships key to strengthen national narrative: Atta Tarar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has emphasized that the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) must leverage its agreements with international news agencies to bolster Pakistan's soft image and strengthen the national narrative globally. The minister issued these directives while presiding over a high-level meeting at APP to review its performance.

During the meeting, he received a comprehensive briefing on the agency's core objectives, organizational structure, and professional mandates. APP Managing Director Muhammad Asim Khichi briefed the minister about the organization's current performance and digital strategy. The meeting was also attended by Coordinator to the PM on Media



Badar Shahbaz and Principal Information Officer Mobashir Hassan. Key discussions centered on APP's role in strategic narrative-building, expanding its digital footprint, and modernizing operations to meet international benchmarks. The minister specifically called for the optimized use of social media to enhance digital outreach, with a primary focus on regional language content. To ensure news reaches the grassroots level, Tarar directed APP to prioritize high-quality dissemination in Balochi, Brahui, Sindhi, Pashto, and Seraiki.

## Gilani, Hun Sen discuss stronger Pakistan-Cambodia ties

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, and President of the Senate of Cambodia, Samdech Hun Sen, held a high-level bilateral meeting. The chairman led a high-level parliamentary delegation to the Kingdom of Cambodia, marking an important step in strengthening parliamentary diplomacy and bilateral relations between the two countries, said a news release received here on Tuesday.

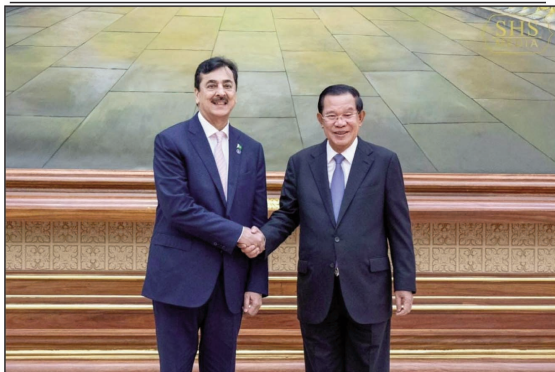
During the meeting, both sides discussed issues of mutual interest, with a focus on enhancing parliamentary cooperation and further strengthening bilateral ties.

They also discussed ways to expand political, economic, and people-to-people contacts. The two leaders exchanged views on exploring new opportunities in trade, investment, institutional cooperation, and parliamentary exchanges. They reaffirmed their commitment to deepening relations for mutual benefit and agreed to continue close dialogue and cooperation. In honour of the Chairman Senate of Pakistan, the Cambodian side hosted an official dinner, reflecting the warm and friendly

relations between the two countries. Gilani's visit highlights Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening its long-standing friendly relations with Cambodia, promoting parliamentary diplomacy, and exploring new areas of bilateral cooperation. Earlier, the Chairman Senate arrived in Phnom Penh with a high-level delegation and received a warm welcome at Techo International Airport. He was received by Second Vice President of the Cambodian Senate Dr Thun Vathana; Chairman of the First Committee of the Senate and Head of the Cambodia-Pakistan Senate Friendship Group Angi Chanfal; Chairman of the Fifth Committee Dr Chiv Yi Seang; Director General of Protocol and International Relations Nguon Sok Veng; and Pakistan's Ambassador to Cambodia Zahiruddin Babar Thetum.

As part of his official engagements, Gilani visited the Independence Monument, where he laid a floral wreath to pay tribute to Cambodia's national heroes and praised the country's struggle for independence.

He also laid a wreath at the Royal Memorial Statue of the late King Father.



Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, honorable Chairman of the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan shaking hands with Samdech Techo, President of the Senate of Cambodia upon his arrival at Polear Thipadel Hall, solidarity palace, Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.

## Science and Technology Key to Sustainable Development: Pervaiz Ashraf

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has said that progress in the fields of science and technology is indispensable for the sustainable and balanced development of any country.

In the modern era, only those nations are moving ahead in the race for development that make research, innovation and scientific knowledge the foundational pillars of their national policies, said a press release here on Tuesday.

He expressed these views while addressing the closing ceremony of an international conference titled "Frontiers in Science" at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) as the chief guest.

He said that effective and long-term solutions to Pakistan's economic, social and environmental challenges are possible only through modern scientific research, promotion of technology and innovative thinking.

Raja Pervaiz Ashraf emphasized that educational institution,

## Government rejects 'intelligence failure' claims, defends security operations in Balochistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior and Narcotics Control Muhammad Tullal Badar on Tuesday rejected allegations of intelligence failure and defended the government's handling of the law and order situation in Balochistan, while winding up a debate in the National Assembly on a motion moved by him to discuss the prevailing security situation in the country, particularly in Balochistan. Concluding the debate, Tullal Badar said that certain elements were attempting to promote a narrative of deprivation in Balochistan to justify acts of terrorism and to undermine development initiatives, including international investment, mineral projects, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and the strategic importance of Gwadar. He said that claims of deprivation were contrary to



facts, noting that under the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award, Balochistan received a per-capita share around 40 percent higher than Punjab, while more than 90 percent of provincial funds were contributed by the federation. He added that Balochistan also received the largest share of federal development funding under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). Highlighting development indicators, the minister said that at the time of independence there were only 114 schools in Balochistan.

## MNA Hameed Hussain offers condolences to late Inayat Ali Shah's family in Parachinar

PEAK POINT

PARACHINAR: Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Hameed Hussain, along with his team and accompanied by Yousaf Ali, visited the residence of the late Inayat Ali Shah to offer condolences to the bereaved family. During the visit, MNA Hameed Hussain expressed heartfelt sympathy with the family and prayed for patience and strength for the heirs of the deceased. The delegation also held discussions on several matters of public importance, including issues related to



District Headquarter Hospital (DHQ) Parachinar, road infrastructure, education, and other pressing challenges faced by District Kurram. The visit concluded with collective prayers for the forgiveness and eternal peace of the departed soul.

## Türkiye Announces Merit-Based Scholarships Through MAGIS 2026 Examination

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pak-Türk Maarif International Schools and Colleges have officially announced the launch of MAGIS 2026, a nationwide entrance and scholarship examination aimed at identifying, nurturing, and supporting talented and high-achieving students across Pakistan. The MAGIS 2026 examination will be held on February 15, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., simultaneously in multiple cities, including Lahore, Multan, Khairpur, Jamshoro,

Hyderabad, Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, Islamabad, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, ensuring wide accessibility for students from diverse regions. MAGIS 2026 serves as a bridge between academic potential and quality educational opportunities. Through this initiative, Pak-Türk Maarif reaffirms its commitment to promoting merit-based education, fostering human development, and contributing to the social and economic advancement of Pakistan's youth. Students who qualify



through MAGIS 2026 will be eligible for merit-based scholarships, including partial and full tuition fee waivers, along with the

opportunity to learn the Turkish language. The programme also offers pathways to higher education in Türkiye, with access to fully

and partially funded scholarship opportunities. In addition to academic benefits, successful candidates will receive career counselling, internship opportunities, and job placement support, facilitating a smooth transition from education to professional life. Officials from Pak-Türk Maarif stated that MAGIS 2026 provides a unique platform for students to showcase their abilities and secure a clear pathway to success. By reducing financial barriers and expanding access to international education, the initia-

tive aims to empower students to realise their ambitions and build a brighter future. Interested candidates may apply online through the official website: [www.emaarif.com.pk](http://www.emaarif.com.pk). Detailed information regarding the syllabus and updates is available at: [pk.maarif-school.org/page/syllabus](http://pk.maarif-school.org/page/syllabus). Pak-Türk Maarif International Schools and Colleges encourage students, parents, and educational institutions nationwide to participate in this prestigious examination and benefit from the opportunities it offers.