



President confers Nishan-e-Pakistan on Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev



Naqvi engages UAE, Rwanda in key security talks at Dubai Summit



Cambodia to host 2026 Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' conference

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Saturday 07 February 2026

Shaban 18, 1447 A.H

VOI No: 06

Issue No. 13 Pages 4 Rs. 20

At least 31 killed, 169 injured after explosion rips through Islamabad imambargah

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: At least 31 people were killed and another 169 injured when an explosion ripped through an imambargah during Friday prayers in the federal capital, according to a district administration spokesperson.

The explosion occurred at Imambargah Khadijah al-Kubra in the Tarlai area of the federal capital. Images from the site showed bloodied bodies lying on the carpeted floor surrounded by shards of glass, debris, and panicked worshippers.

Dozens more wounded were lying in the garden out-

side the imambargah as people called for help.

Islamabad Capital Territory Police Spokesperson Taqi Jawad said it was too soon to ascertain the nature of the blast. However, he indicated that the signs pointed to a suicide bomber.

Taqi added that among those killed was the cousin of Islamabad Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, while another relative was injured.

The district administration spokesperson said the site of the blast was completely sealed off by security personnel, and added that



assistant commissioners were assigned to oversee the treatment of the injured at various hospitals.

Meanwhile, police and

Rescue 1122 personnel reached the site of the incident and initiated rescue operations after the explosion. An emergency was also

imposed at the federal capital's Polyclinic, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims), and CDA Hospital.

On the directives of the executive director Pims, an emergency was enforced at the hospital, a spokesperson confirmed to Dawn. The hospital administration appealed to citizens to donate blood.

The main emergency, orthopaedic, burn centre, and neurology departments have been activated, he added.

In view of the prevailing security situation, Rawalpindi police were placed on high-alert, according to a statement by the police spokesperson.

"Security duties are being checked and [officials are being] briefed at imambargahs, mosques and other places across the city," the statement read.

According to the statement, the police officials held meetings with the administrators and the guardians of the religious places and informed them about security standard operating procedures and the measures taken in this regard.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, in a post on X, said the provincial government had dispatched 25 ambulances to Islamabad.

Security forces kill 24 terrorists in KP operations

PEAK POINT



RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed 24 Indian-sponsored terrorists in two separate engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the operations were conducted on 4-5 February 2026 in Orakzai and Khyber districts. On reported presence of terrorists, an intelligence based operation was conducted by the security forces in Orakzai. During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged their location and after an intense fire exchange, fourteen terrorists were killed. Another intelligence based operation by security forces was conducted in Khyber District. In ensuing fire exchange, ten more militants were effectively neutralised. "Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Indian sponsored khajri found in the area as relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision 'Azam e Istehkam' (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out menace of foreign sponsored and supported terrorism from the country," the military's media wing said. Operation Radd-ul-Fitna-1 in Balochistan Concludes: Security forces have successfully concluded Operation Radd-ul-Fitna-1 in Balochistan.

Pakistan, Uzbekistan vow to deepen strategic partnership, strengthen trade, investment ties

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Uzbekistan on Friday reaffirmed their commitment to elevating bilateral relations to a qualitatively new level as President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev concluded a two-day state visit to Pakistan, marked by wide-ranging agreements on trade, connectivity, culture, security, and regional cooperation. President Mirziyoyev visited Pakistan on February 5-6 at the invitation of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. The two leaders held comprehensive talks covering the full spectrum of bilateral ties and regional and inter-



national issues of mutual and spiritual affinity, people-to-people contacts. The leaders reviewed progress made since the Prime Minister's visit to Uzbekistan in February 2025 and welcomed the increasing frequency of high-level engagements, including meetings on the sidelines of multilateral fora. They reaffirmed their commitment to sustaining regular political dialogue at all levels. On economic cooperation, both sides reiterated their resolve to achieve the ambitious bilateral trade target of US\$2 billion by 2029, recalling that Uzbekistan was the first Central Asian country to sign both a Transit Trade Agreement and a Preferential.

"Pakistan and Uzbekistan are bound by deep historical, cul-

tures. Our partnership is rooted in trust and shared aspirations for peace and prosperity in the region." Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said during the talks. President Mirziyoyev, expressing satisfaction over the trajectory of bilateral relations, said the relationship had entered a "new phase of strategic cooperation" driven by enhanced political dialogue and

Iran, US start crucial talks in Oman as confrontation looms

PEAK POINT

DUBAI/WASHINGTON: Iran and the United States started high-stakes negotiations in Oman on Friday in efforts to overcome sharp differences over Tehran's nuclear programme, but a dispute over widening the agenda risks derailing diplomacy and triggering another Middle East conflict. While both sides have signaled readiness to revive diplomacy over Tehran's long-running nuclear dispute with the West, Washington wants to expand the talks to also cover Iran's ballistic missiles.

Tarar says Imran Khan's medical report shared with family

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar on Friday said that a detailed medical report of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan had been shared with his family following concerns raised over his health. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Tarar said the Leader of the Opposition had written a letter to the prime minister, while PTI leaders also approached the Supreme Court of Pakistan seeking a medical check-up of Imran Khan, who is currently serving.

Pakistan warns UN police budget cuts risk undermining peacekeeping

PEAK POINT

UNITED NATIONS: With financial resources dwindling and multilateralism waning, Pakistan has underscored the importance of full cooperation by host States to enable timely deployment of UN peacekeepers, including police components, authorized by the Security Council.

"Blue helmets are the most visible symbol of the United Nations commitment to peace and stability," Ambassador Asim Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the 15-member Council.

The Security Council met Thursday to receive its annual briefing from the heads of police components of United Nations peace operations.

The Missions, Ambassador Asim Ahmad

said were operating under Pakistani envoy said, acute financial distress, adding that further reduc-



leading to ad-hoc capacity reductions with direct implications for mandate delivery and the safety and security of the peacekeepers. Pakistan, he said, has deployed more than 50 Formed Police Units to UN operations. "Out of an authorized UNPOL strength of approximately 7,740, only around 4,600 personnel are currently deployed. Further reductions will only hurt peacekeeping efforts," the

tions will only hurt peacekeeping efforts. "We encourage all states to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time enabling the full delivery of Council mandates."

He also highlighted that Pakistani police, along with Pakistani military, has been a traditional contributor to United Nations missions. Eleven of Pakistani brave police personnel have laid down their lives in the line of duty. The current

readiness of a Pakistani Formed Police Unit at the rapid deployment level highlights its preparedness to continue supporting international peace and security efforts, the Pakistani envoy said. Pakistani police officers, he said, have earned respect for their professionalism and devotion to duty under the United Nations police banner exemplified by the leadership of Faisal Shahkar of the UN police division.

He also pointed out that Pakistani policewoman Shahzadi Gulfaam was the first-ever recipient of the International Female Police Peacekeeper Award in 2011. Also, 13 Pakistani police personnel including 3 women, serving with UNMISS, were last month awarded United Nations medals in recognition.

CM Maryam Nawaz urges citizens to celebrate Basant responsibly

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that kites have returned to Lahore's skies after 25 years as Basant festivities began in the provincial capital.

In her message on the occasion of Basant, the chief minister urged citizens to celebrate the festival responsibly and strictly follow safety standard operating procedures (SOPs) to ensure the event remains safe for everyone.

"Let us all celebrate our happiness with responsibility and make this Basant safe for all," she said, while also thanking Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for restoring joy and peace to Punjab and Pakistan.

Maryam Nawaz also shared a video on social media showing kites flying across Lahore's skyline.

Basant celebrations began across Lahore on Thursday night, with people taking to rooftops and streets, dancing to drumbeats and chanting "Bo-kata" throughout the night.





SPORTS



Pakistan take early lead against Senegal in Davis Cup tie



PEAK POINT Muzammil Murtaza gave Pakistan the perfect start by defeating Senegal's Nicolas Jadoun in a closely fought match, winning 6-3, 1-6, 7-5 to 7, 7-6, 6-2, extending Seydina Andre and Nicolas



both Pakistani players won their opening singles matches on the first day of the contest on Friday. put Pakistan 1-0 ahead in the Pakistan's lead to 2-0 at the end of the opening day. The Davis Cup tie will continue on Friday with the double Group II tie against Senegal.

Pakistan lifts Under-21 Asian Snooker crown after Doha final victory



PEAK POINT DOHA: Pakistan on Friday secured a major youth snooker title after a dominant performance at the Under-21 Asian Snooker Championship held in Doha, Qatar.

The victory came through a confident final display by Pakistan's young cueist Ahsan Ramzan, who outplayed his Iranian opponent to lift the crown. The result adds another notable achievement to Pakistan's record in regional snooker competitions.

The Under-21 Asian Snooker Championship featured rising talents from across the continent, with matches played under international competitive standards. Ahsan Ramzan progressed through the rounds with consistent form to book his place in the final, where he faced a cueist from Iran in a best-of-seven frames contest.

In the final, Ahsan Ramzan controlled the table from the outset and maintained pressure with precise potting and tactical safety play. He secured the match with a 4-1 frame victory over the Iranian challenger, closing out the contest with authority. His shot selection and break-building proved decisive in key moments across the frames. The Pakistani player kept momentum on his side throughout the match, limiting opportunities for his opponent and capitalising on scoring chances.

Kashmir Solidarity Day Squash tournament held at PSB coaching centre Peshawar with over 150 Players Participating



PEAK POINT PESHAWAR: On the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day, a vibrant squash tournament was successfully organized at the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) Coaching Centre Peshawar at PSB Mohiullah Khan Squash Complex, witnessing the enthusiastic participation of over 150 male and female players from across the city. The event aimed not only to express

is promoting sports alongside highlighting National and religious occasions through sporting activities to instill awareness, unity and patriotism among the youth. He further added that PSB is taking effective measures to identify and nurture new talent at the grassroots level by organizing various sports competitions. Former Squash Legend and Director Squash Coaches PSB Mohiullah Khan also addressed the ceremony. He appreciated the role of the Pakistan Sports Board in the development of sports in the country and emphasized that sports play a vital role in engaging youth in positive activities while strengthening national unity.

Captain Salman Agha defends 'X factor' Usman Tariq's bowling action ahead of T20 World Cup opener



PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD: Pakistan captain Salman Agha defended off-spinner Usman Tariq's unorthodox bowling action on Friday and called him the side's "X factor" on the eve of their Twenty20 World Cup opener against the Netherlands in Colombo. Tariq, who has played three T20 Internationals since his debut against South Africa in November, has been

reportedly twice for a suspect bowling action in the Pakistan Super League. His bowling style culminates in him pausing near the crease before firing the ball in with a side-arm sling-shot action. The 28-year-old claimed two wickets in his second T20 International, against Australia, and batsman Cameron Green — one of his two victims in that match in Lahore — made a

chucking gesture after being dismissed as he made his way off. "I don't understand why we are talking about his action because in my opinion it is a fair action," Salman told reporters. "He has been tested twice and he has been cleared," he said. "I think there is no problem in his action. Yes, he is the X factor of the team, and where we feel that we need an X factor, we will definitely use him."

Pakistan team heads to Australia for Pro Hockey League's second round



Diamond Paints, FG Polo qualify for 49th EcoStar Aibak Cup final



PEAK POINT LAHORE: Diamond Paints and FG Polo secured their spots in the grand finale of the EcoStar 49th Aibak Cup that is scheduled to be played this Saturday. In the first semifinal, Diamond Paints dominated SQ Seagold and outpaced by a decisive score of 9-5. From the winning side, the offensive charge was led by Lap Abelenda, who hammered home four goals. Mir Huzaiifa followed closely with a hat-trick (three goals), while Muhammad Ali Tiwana adding one each. The second semifinal was a much tighter affair, characterised by aggressive play and back-and-forth scoring. FG Polo eventually overcame BN Polo in a high-scoring encounter that spanned multiple days. The match was a continuation from the previous four chukkers. On the final day, FG Polo secured the win with a match score of 7-6, resulting in a massive aggregate final score of 14.5-11. Raja Mikayial Sami was the standout star for FG Polo, scoring five fabulous goals. He was supported by Abdul Rehman Monnoo and Marcos Rivarola.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health Mustafa Kamal visited PIMS and Polyclinic Hospital to inquire after those injured in the Islamabad suicide blast and reviewed the medical facilities being provided to the patients.

PIMS, Polyclinic to provide best medical facilities to injured: Mustafa Kamal

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Syed Mustafa Kamal Friday emphasized that PIMS and Polyclinic would utilize all the resources to provide best medical facilities to the injured in bomb blast at Imambargah in Tarlai. Addressing the media after inquiring the health of injured at PIMS

hospital here, the minister expressed his grief and sorrow over the lost of lives and injured in the tragic blast. On the special directives of Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif, he added that he reached at Islamabad from Karachi not only to inquire the health of injured but also instruct the medical team in both PIMS and Polyclinic to save the lives of the victims. He said that the Ministry of Health Secretary Deputy Secretary and officials were already monitoring the situation. He said that doctors, operation theater, medicines, and blood of all kinds available at both government's hospitals and also prayed to Almighty for speedy recovery of the injured. Syed Mustafa Kamal expressed his sympathies with bereaved families.

Maritime Ministry updates senate on Gwadar rail link, employment, and fisheries initiatives

NADEEM TANOLI
ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Maritime Affairs informed lawmakers during a question and answer session that progress is being made on Gwadar Port's railway connectivity, local employment, and fisheries related initiatives, while acknowledging that some matters remain under inter ministerial consideration. The briefing, delivered on behalf of the Ministry by Muhammad Junaid Anwar,

outlined the current status of infrastructure planning and socio-economic measures linked to Gwadar Port operations. Responding to a question on railway connectivity, the Ministry stated that the right of way for Pakistan Railways from Gwadar Port berths to Zero Point Gwadar is still under deliberation between the Gwadar Port Authority and the Ministry of Railways. The House was informed that the Gwadar Port Authority has already issued


a No Objection Certificate for the proposed alignment. According to the Ministry, the approved NOC is based on a revised railway track alignment plan that was initially suggested by the China Overseas Port Holding Company and later refined by consultants. The revised alignment places the railway track along the mountainous side in order to preserve port operational space and facilitate future berth expansion. On employment, the Ministry reported

that a total of 880 jobs have been created at Gwadar Port and its associated projects over the past three years. Of these positions, 572 were filled by local residents of Gwadar. Officials reiterated that the local employment quota is being strictly implemented across port operations, in line with government policy aimed at ensuring community participation in Gwadar's development. Addressing questions related to fisheries and coastal development, the

Ministry clarified that employment promotion in these sectors primarily falls under the jurisdiction of the Balochistan provincial government. However, it added that the federal government has taken supportive steps by establishing a regional office of the Marine Fisheries Department at Gwadar Port. The office has been staffed with officials holding Balochistan domiciles, and future recruitment is planned against the Balochistan quota to

strengthen technical and administrative capacity. The Ministry stated that these measures are intended to improve coordination at Gwadar Port, support local employment, and enhance fisheries management along the coast. Lawmakers were informed that inter-agency consultations on infrastructure connectivity and institutional arrangements will continue as part of ongoing efforts to advance Gwadar's development.

Opinion & Editorial



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Taxing times

WITH the next IMF review mission due later this month, the FBR appears quite eager to bridge the tax shortfall of Rs345bn during the first seven months of the present fiscal year. Even though a robust growth of 16pc in the FBR's January tax collection was well above its six-month average of 10-11pc, and offers hope for some improvement over the remaining five months of the current year, the revenue target deficit will not be possible to bridge through normal collection. However, the recent Federal Constitutional Court ruling, which struck down over 2,200 pending cases against the super tax and paved the way for the recovery of an estimated Rs217bn in unpaid arrears, has handed the FBR a big opportunity to narrow its widening collection gap. And its field formations are actively pursuing this avenue since the decision. While most businesses received notices for immediate payment, many complained that tax officials had threatened them against missing the deadlines unilaterally conveyed to them.

Managing uncertainty

KHURRAM ABBAS

American President Donald Trump recently completed one year of his second term in the White House. The first year of his second term has brought significant changes to the existing rules-based world order. Trump has so far mediated armed conflicts, including the India-Pakistan crisis last year, initiated a war against Iran in June 2025, established a Board of Peace to focus on Gaza, withdrawn from 66 global organisations, improved relations with China, strained ties with European allies, threatened Greenland, and treated friends and foes alike through a uniform 'tariff' yardstick.

In fact, the first year of the Trump 2.0 presidency has weakened existing alliance structures, nurtured mistrust among American allies, and introduced deep uncertainty regarding Washington's strategic commitments to the prevailing world order.

How are states trying to protect their interests in this volatile Trumpian world? Naturally, they are attempting to adapt to new global realities and are readjusting their priorities based on four broader objectives.

First, states are actively seeking or building alliances with like-minded countries to ensure collective security. From the Middle East to Africa and from Europe to Asia, states are increasingly concerned about a fragment-

ed and multipolar world order amid declining American security commitments. Trump's ever-increasing demands on allies coupled with an overarching emphasis on the protection of the Western Hemisphere have compelled several Middle Eastern, North African and Mediterranean states to pursue defence pacts for collective security.

States are trying to protect their interests in a volatile Trumpian world.

Over the past 12 months, several defence agreements have been concluded by American allies in the Middle East. For instance, Greece, Cyprus and Israel inked a Joint Action Plan in the Eastern Mediterranean in December 2025. The Gulf Cooperation Council activated its Joint Defence Agreement in September 2025 following the Iran-Israel conflict. Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed a Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement to collectively protect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The UAE and India signed a letter of intent for a bilateral strategic defence partnership. Similarly, several notable defence arrangements are under discussion, including a prospective Saudi-Egypt-Somalia trilateral defence pact and a Saudi-Pakistan-Turkiye trilateral defence framework.

Second, global uncertainty and a weakened rules-based order have accelerated the process of militarisation.

Today, powerful states can take unilateral actions with limited fear of international accountability. This trend has compelled states to increase defence spending and acquire advanced weapons to ensure territorial integrity. Global militarisation is often measured through four parameters, including force modernisation, military expenditure, arms procurement, and alliance building. This trend has increased significantly over the past year. The EU has announced the Readiness 2030 initiative to mobilise €800 billion by 2030 for collective security. Around 15 middle powers have increased their defence spending by more than 10 per cent, notably Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, Pakistan and India. Demand for fighter jets, particularly China's J-20 and J-10, France's Rafale, and the American F-35s has increased by over 73pc. This substantial rise in defence spending, force modernisation and arms procurement is intensifying the arms race and triggering security dilemmas in volatile regions such as the Middle East and South Asia. Third, states have begun diversifying their economic partnerships to minimise the impact of US economic coercion. While states have, for the time being, absorbed Trump's overt use of sanctions and tariffs, most export-driven economies have adopted a long-term strategy of seeking new markets and reliable economic partners.

Courtesy Dawn

Cosmology and God

ANEELA SHAHZAD

Cosmology is a grand science; it takes our imagination into the vast depths of the Universe. The Universe is so big that we cannot, in principle, see the whole of it. The universe, observable to earth-dwellers, is only 46.5 billion lightyears in every direction from our Earth, where each lightyear is a length of 9.46 trillion km.

The awe is stretched to its limit when we come to know of galaxies that are huge bunches of maybe a thousand or a 100 million or even a hundred trillion stars. The stars in each of these galaxies, though millions of miles apart, co-travel as if fastened with perpetual glue. These stars altogether hover around the centres of their galaxies, which are commonly home by supermassive blackholes.

The universe doesn't have these galaxies in the hundreds or thousands, rather cosmologists estimate them to be 200 billion to 2 trillion, in the observable universe alone. These galaxies, again, travel together forming humongous galaxy 'filaments', many of whom, when put together, make galactic walls and sheets. These walls and filaments make the universe look like a three-dimensional woven mesh of long threads dangling in space-time. If one, someone like God, could look from outside, He would say, 'And the heavens made of woven strips, firmly tied together', Ad-Dhariaat (6). Then, the Universe is also not static; it is constantly changing, moving and expanding. Stars and galaxies are moving away from each other at high speeds. In fact, the expansion rate accelerates by 73km/sec after every megaparsec (3.26 million lightyears) - meaning that in a year's time, every 3.26 million lightyears of distance of the universe, at any direction, expands by a multiple of 2.3 billion kilometers for every successive megaparsec. And all the stars and galaxies that have gone further than 46.5 billion lightyears from us have permanently slipped into the realm of the unknowable.

Courtesy Tribune

President confers Nishan-e-Pakistan on Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday conferred Nishan-e-Pakistan, the highest civilian award, upon President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev in recognition of his contribution to strengthening Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations.

The Special Investiture Ceremony was held at Aiwan-e-Sadr and was attended by, among others, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, members of the federal cabinet, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zabeer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, members of the diplomatic corps and par-

liamentarians, and was followed by a state banquet hosted in honour of the visiting President.

Earlier, a bilateral meeting was held between President Asif Ali Zardari and President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

During the meeting President Asif Ali Zardari said that Pakistan attached great importance to its close and brotherly relations with Uzbekistan and views the partnership as a natural and enduring one rooted in shared history, culture and faith.

He said that Pakistan is commit-

ted to elevating bilateral relations to new heights through closer cooperation in connectivity, trade and people-to-people contacts.

He described President Mirziyoyev as a visionary statesman whose leadership has transformed Uzbekistan into a modern and prosperous country, and whose contributions to regional and international peace are widely recognised.

He also acknowledged President Mirziyoyev's personal role in bringing Pakistan and Uzbekistan closer. President Zardari said that Pakistan and Uzbekistan are natural partners with intertwined futures and expressed satisfaction over the positive trajectory of bilateral relations.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to working closely with Uzbekistan to further strengthen cooperation in trade, connectivity, defence, security, culture and heritage. He noted that direct air links between the two countries have brought their peoples closer and underscored the importance.

Leghari issues directives to ensure public access to energy sector data

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for the Power Division, Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, has taken a significant step towards promoting transparency and informed policymaking by directing that energy sector data be made accessible to the public, researchers, energy experts, and students.

According to the Federal Minister's official statement, the minister emphasized that open access to reliable and accurate data would enable stakeholders to provide constructive and meaningful recommendations for the improvement of the power sector.

He underscored the importance of data transparency for evidence-based discussions and effective reforms.

He noted that making data easily available to all would



enhance accountability and strengthen public trust in the power sector. He further stated that this initiative would help eliminate speculation, misinformation, and news reports based on inaccurate or incomplete figures related to the power sector.

Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari reaffirmed the government's commitment to transparency and informed decision-making, adding that broader access to energy data would support research, innovation, and long-term planning in the sector.

Pakistan, UK discuss strengthening cultural ties to connect British-Pakistani Youth with heritage

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi Friday emphasized the importance of promoting Pakistan's culture among overseas Pakistanis, particularly the younger generation living in the United Kingdom, through structured cultural initiatives and exchange programs. He expressed these views during a meeting with Scottish-based British-Pakistani politician, Chairperson of the Alba Party, and former Member of the UK Parliament, Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh. The meeting focused on enhancing Pakistan-UK cultural cooperation, strengthening engagement with the Pakistani diaspora, and exploring the use of modern technologies, including artificial intelligence, for the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage. Aurangzeb Khichi appreciated Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh's commitment and positive vision for Pakistan and its people. He stated that the Ministry is actively considering sending cultural delegations to the UK and Europe to reconnect overseas Pakistanis with their cultural roots.

He also highlighted that women have been

assigned key leadership roles within the Ministry, contributing significantly to cultural promotion and heritage preservation.

Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh stressed the need for practical steps to connect British-Pakistani youth with Pakistan's cultural and historical identity. She noted that art and cultural activities can play a vital role in helping younger generations rediscover their roots, adding that there is also a strong spiritual connection among Muslim youth that can be further strengthened. She underscored the growing importance of artificial intelligence and suggested exploring its potential use in preserving and promoting Pakistan's cultural heritage. She also highlighted that there is significant potential for Pakistan and the United Kingdom to collaborate not only in education but also in cultural exchange, particularly given the large Pakistani community residing in Britain.

Ahmed-Sheikh described Pakistan's culture as globally significant and expressed her personal emotional attachment to Pakistan due to her family roots, stating her desire to contribute positively to the country.

Naqvi engages UAE, Rwanda in key security talks at Dubai Summit

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi actively represented the country at the World Governments Summit in Dubai, holding important meetings with the leadership of the United Arab Emirates and Rwanda to strengthen security cooperation and bilateral ties. Naqvi met UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Rwanda's Interior Minister Dr. Vincent Biruta, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to advancing partnerships with both nations. During discussions with the UAE leadership, both sides agreed to expand collaboration in policing, security, and counter-terrorism. Naqvi noted that exchange programmes with the UAE could "significantly help Pakistan benefit from the UAE's advanced policing system." The two countries also agreed to develop a joint strategy against online terrorism and terror financing.

In his meeting with Rwanda's,

Jail entitlements to PTI's Founder being provided as per court orders: Rana Sanaullah

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah on Friday informed the Senate that all entitlements and facilities admissible under the law and court orders were being provided to the PTI's Founder during his incarceration.

Responding point raised by Leader of the House in Senate, he clarified that whenever the government was questioned within the framework of rules and law, the response would also be given strictly in accordance with relevant legal provisions.

He welcomed the remarks made by Senator Swati, particularly his acknowledgment that mistakes could occur on all



sides. "We do not claim that we cannot make mistakes," he said, adding that politics should focus on reducing hatred and promoting understanding rather than deepening divisions. Rana Sanaullah said that medical care was being provided strictly in line with his legal status and court directives. He said the treatment was carried out according to the former premier's own wishes and medical advice. He said that it was inappropriate to link a cultur-

Event was organized at the HC of Pakistan (Nairobi) to commemorate Kashmir Solidarity

SPECIAL REPORT

NAIROBI: An event was organized at the High Commission of Pakistan (Nairobi) to commemorate Kashmir Solidarity Day. A reasonable number of Kenyan citizen and members of Pakistani diaspora attended the event. The event started with the recitation of the Holy Quran and messages from the President, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister were read out. Senior members of the community voiced their concerns on the denial of basic human rights and atrocities carried out by the "occupation forces" in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) The High



Commissioner, while addressing the gathering, highlighted the urgent necessity of peaceful resolution of the internationally recognized dispute of Jammu & Kashmir. He reassured the audience that Government of Pakistan will continue to extend full moral, diplomatic and political support to the just struggle of Kashmiris for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi meets British-Pakistani politician and Alba party chairman Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh to discuss strengthening Pakistan-UK cultural cooperation and engaging overseas Pakistani youth with their cultural heritage.

Cambodia to host 2026 Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' conference

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Kingdom of Cambodia has announced its hosting of the forthcoming Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) in August or September 2026, as declared by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, President of the Senate of Cambodia.

The announcement was made by President of the Senate of Cambodia during a high-level breakfast meeting with Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan and Founding Chairman of the ISC.

Notably, the Senate President Hun Sen specially requested a private breakfast meeting with Chairman Gilani, accompanied by his two sons, underscoring the exceptional value placed on this engagement and the esteemed relations between the two nations.

This rare gesture highlights the strong bonds of trust and cooperation between Cambodia and Pakistan.

During the meeting, President Hun Sen publicly announced Cambodia's decision to host the ISC, citing consultations with and encouragement from



Chairman Gilani.

The announcement underscored Chairman Gilani's leadership in advancing the ISC as a credible global parliamentary platform and Cambodia's commitment to supporting its growth. Both leaders empha-

sized their shared dedication to parliamentary diplomacy, peace, and international cooperation, expressing confidence that the ISC would further elevate Cambodia's engagement with parliamentary leaders worldwide.

The breakfast meeting

was attended by a distinguished group of senior Cambodian leaders and officials, including Hun Many, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Civil Services; Othman Hassan and Sry Thamarong, Senior Ministers in charge of Special Mission; Ngy Chanphal, Chairman of the 1st Commission of the Senate; Hun Manith, Deputy Commander of the Armed Forces and Chief of the Intelligence Department of the Ministry of National Defence; and Lay Samkol.

, Secretary General of the Senate. Prominent representatives of the business community, including Neak

Oknha Sear Rithy, Vice President of the Cambodian Chamber of Commerce, and Neak Oknha Leang Meng, owner of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, also attended the gathering.

Gilani conveyed his appreciation for the warm hospitality and welcomed Cambodia's decision, stating that the choice of venue reflected mutual confidence, respect, and a shared vision for constructive legislative dialogue. During the meeting, the Chairman suggested that Cambodia consider opening its mission in Islamabad to further strengthen bilateral.