



President confers top military awards on armed forces personnel



NA Speaker congratulate Nehal Hashmi on assuming office of Governor



CMOD declaration marks major milestone in Power Sector reforms: Leghari

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Pakistan stands 'ready, honoured' to host US-Iran talks, says PM Shehbaz

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Tuesday that Pakistan stood "ready and honoured" to host "meaningful and conclusive talks" between the US and Iran. "Pakistan welcomes and fully supports ongoing efforts to pursue dialogue to end the war in the Middle East, in the interest of peace and stability in the region and beyond," he said in a post on the social media platform X. "Subject to concurrence by the US and Iran, Pakistan stands ready and honoured to be the host to facilitate meaningful and conclusive talks for a comprehensive settlement of the ongoing conflict," he said, tagging US President Donald Trump, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and US Special

Envoy Steve Witkoff. Subsequently, the US president shared PM Shehbaz's statement on his Truth Social platform.

PM Shehbaz's statement came shortly after the Foreign Office (FO) urged the media to refrain from speculation and await official announcements when asked about reports of Islamabad being a possible venue for talks between the US and Iranian representatives amid the ongoing Middle East conflict.

"Pakistan, consistent with its longstanding policy, remains committed to the resolution of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East/Persian Gulf through diplomatic means and engagements," FO spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said in response to queries about the reports.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chairing a meeting of the committee to Monitor Petrol Prices to review national fuel stocks and global market developments at the Finance Division.

Pakistan will always back initiatives to promote resolution of conflicts:
Asim Iftikhar

PEAK POINT

NEW YORK: Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Asim Iftikhar said that Pakistan will continue to support initiatives that promote the resolution of conflicts. He stated that Pakistan will always back all efforts aimed at reducing differences and promoting the peaceful resolution of disputes—whether at the global level, in Ukraine, or elsewhere. While briefing the Security Council on the situation in Ukraine, he urged all parties to exercise caution.

Pakistan, China agree to deepen cooperation amid evolving regional and global challenges

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday held a key meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong in Islamabad, where both sides engaged in an extensive exchange of views on bilateral relations and global developments.

The meeting underscored the enduring strength of the Pakistan-China relationship, widely described as an "all-weather strategic cooperative partnership", as both sides revisited areas of mutual interest and reaffirmed their commitment to deepening collaboration. During the discussions, both offi-

cial examined the broader regional landscape,

Pakistan's consistent position in favour of de-

commitment to constructive engagement on international platforms. The talks also covered a range of bilateral priorities, including security cooperation, economic connectivity, and efforts to further strengthen trade and investment ties.

Both sides explored avenues to enhance cooperation under existing frameworks, reflecting the depth and diversity of the partnership. The dialogue also touched upon practical steps to bolster economic linkages and reinforce coordination in areas of shared strategic interest. The meeting concluded with a mutual understanding to maintain close communication and regular consultations on issues of common concern.



including rapidly evolving geopolitical dynamics and shifting global conditions. Particular attention was given to rising tensions in the Middle East, with Dar stressing the urgent need for dialogue and diplomacy to prevent further escalation.

He emphasised that peaceful negotiations remain the most viable path forward, reiterating

Dar reaffirmed Pakistan's firm resolve to promote peace and stability not only within the region but beyond, highlighting Islamabad's

March, April fuel cargoes secured as govt reviews supply stability

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The government on Tuesday said petroleum supplies remain stable, with fuel cargoes for March and April largely secured, as it monitors global energy market volatility amid evolving geopolitical conditions.

This was stated during a meeting of the overseeing petrol prices held in Islamabad under Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, according to a press release issued by the Finance Division.

The committee reviewed the national energy supply outlook and noted that inventories of crude oil and refined petroleum products remain at comfortable levels.

Supply chains — from import terminals to refineries, storage facilities, and retail outlets — were reported to be operating smoothly, ensuring uninterrupted availability across the country.

Officials said additional shipments are planned to further strengthen supply buffers, while refineries continue to operate at regular production levels with efforts to maintain optimal throughput. The meeting also assessed global oil and gas market trends, highlighting price volatility and its potential implications for domestic markets. Authorities are evaluating the gap between international and local prices to enable timely policy adjustments.

Ishaq Dar, Egypt FM call for de-escalation in Middle East

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar had a telephonic conversation with his Egyptian counterpart late Monday night and discussed the prevailing situation in the Middle East, according to reports here on Tuesday.

According to a Foreign Office post on X platform, Ishaq Dar and Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelaty reviewed the evolving regional situation. Ishaq Dar emphasized the urgent need for de-escalation.

Afghanistan announces release of detained US citizen

PEAK POINT

KABUL: The Afghan Taliban announced on Tuesday that it was freeing a US national who had been detained for more than a year. The foreign ministry said the family of linguist and researcher Dennis Coyle had written to the supreme leader of Afghanistan, requesting his release for Eid. "The Supreme Court of the Islamic Emirate deemed his period of detention sufficient and decided on his release," a statement read. The announcement came after a meeting of Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, US former special envoy to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad, United Arab Emirates' (UAE) ambassador to Kabul Saif Mohammed Al-Ketbi, and a member of Coyle's family. The UAE facilitated the

release, the ministry said, adding that Coyle had been freed in the past 15



reunited with his family in Kabul on Tuesday. Coyle, 64, was arrested by the Afghan authorities in January 2025, according to the Foley Foundation, which advocates for the release of Americans taken hostage or arbitrarily detained abroad. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio also welcomed Coyle's release, and urged the Taliban authorities to release all other detainees. "Dennis joins over 100

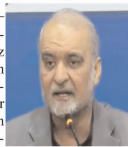
Americans who have been freed in the past 15 months," he said, adding that the United States was "still seeking the immediate return of Mahmood Habibi, Paul Overby, and all other unjustly detained Americans". A website set up by his family, freedenniscoyle.com, said he was "legally working to support Afghan communities as an academic researcher" when he was detained. They said he had been held in "near-solitary condi-

tions, requiring permission even to use the bathroom, and without access to adequate medical care". Coyle first travelled to Afghanistan in the early 2000s "to survey Afghanistan's rich linguistic diversity and help Afghan communities develop resources in their own languages", they added. "Throughout his years of service, Dennis maintained a home in Kabul and built deep, meaningful relationships with the Afghan people," the website read. "Those who know him speak with profound appreciation for both the man and his work. Dennis has always embraced Afghan culture with genuine warmth — sharing cups of traditional green tea, enjoying dried fruit snacks, and engaging in the kind of heartfelt conversations that bridge cultures," it said.

Jl chief flays govt for 'burdening' common citizen with high petroleum prices

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-i-Islami chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on Tuesday once again criticised the government for its major hikes in petroleum prices — following the closure of Hormuz Strait — and termed them a burden on the common citizen. Earlier this month, the government hiked the prices of petrol and high-speed diesel by Rs55 per litre to manage the impact of the US-Israel war on Iran, which has triggered a global oil crisis affecting many countries, including Pakistan. Although Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif last week said he had twice rejected recommendations for further increasing petrol and HSD prices, they effectively remain unchanged at Rs321.17 and Rs335.86 per litre, respectively. Addressing a press conference in Lahore today, the Jl chief said the 20 per cent increase in the petroleum development levy (PDL) had pushed prices to Rs120-125 per litre, affecting journalists, students, workers, and riders. "The government can reduce petrol prices.





SPORTS



Foreign players start arriving as Pakistan Super League 11 nears



PEAK POINT
LAHORE: The HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) 11 is set to commence on March 26 amid unprecedented circumstances, with several overseas players having arrived in Lahore to join their franchises for the tournament.

The 11th edition, running until May 3, features eight teams competing in 44 matches, but the event has undergone significant revisions due to a severe fuel crisis triggered by the ongoing conflict in West Asia involving Iran, the United States and Israel.

Zimbabwe all-rounder Sikandar Raza, a key retention for

Lahore Qalandars, Australian batter Marnus Labuschagne (direct signing for debutants Hyderabad Kingsmen), fast bowler Riley Meredith, Sri Lankan wicket-keeper-batter Kusal Perera, and New Zealanders Devon Conway and Mark Chapman have reached Lahore. Bangladeshi contingent including Mustafizur Rahman, Nahid Rana and Parvez Hossain Emon are expected late tonight, with PCB officials anticipating the arrival of nearly all foreign players by Tuesday night.

The tournament's format has been reshaped following government directives on energy conser-

vation. Initially scheduled across six venues—including debuts for Faisalabad and Peshawar—the PCB scaled operations to only Lahore (Gaddafi Stadium) and Karachi, each hosting 22 matches. All games will be played behind closed doors until the regional conflict concludes, with the opening ceremony cancelled as part of austerity measures. The fuel shortage stems from disruptions in global oil supplies, particularly through the Strait of Hormuz, prompting nationwide restrictions on movement, school closures, work-from-home policies and extended holidays.

The opening fixture pits defending champions Lahore Qalandars against new entrants Hyderabad Kingsmen at Gaddafi Stadium. Hyderabad Kingsmen, owned by American-Pakistani businessman Fawad Sarwar (who also owns Chicago Kingsmen in the US minor league), mark one of two fresh franchises this season, adding intrigue to the league's expansion.

The PCB has assembled a high-calibre panel of match officials. Sir Richie Richardson, from the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees and a former West Indies captain, will make his PSL debut.

Pakistan MMA Federation building global opportunities for local fighters



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Mixed Martial Arts Federation (PMMAF) President Omar Ahmed has emphasised the need to connect sporting success with professional opportunities, saying that medals alone are not enough to sustain athletes in today's global sports industry. Ahmed, in a statement issued here, said that while Pakistan continues to produce talented athletes and medal winners across various disciplines, many struggle financially due to the absence of structured professional pathways. "Sport is no longer just competition; it is an industry. If medals do not lead to contracts, rankings, or earnings, then the system needs to be examined," he said. The PMMAF president noted that Pakistan's sports ecosystem remains largely focused on domestic recognition, with limited integration into international professional markets. According to him, participation in events and national-level success often fail to translate into long-term careers for athletes. Discussing martial arts, he highlighted the distinction between Olympic disciplines and emerging professional sports. He explained that while sports such as taekwondo, karate, wrestling, and boxing provide international exposure and Olympic opportunities.

Pakistan's hockey World Cup qualification is a small step, but there is a long way to go



PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Hockey has burst into the limelight, both on and off the field. Although not much was right over the last 15 years, the recent events and their consequences were largely unforeseen. It started immediately after Pakistan's participation in the second leg of the Pro League in Australia. The

results weren't unexpected. Against Germany and Australia, ranked third and fifth respectively, the then 14th-ranked Pakistan lost all four matches. The issue of non-payment of players' dailies became the norm. But this time, as soon as the players returned to Pakistan, they complained of poor treatment. Captain Ammad

four or five players. "We had to prepare our own food, and clean rooms, utensils and toilets. In all previous tours, meals were arranged through official hotel bookings. This is the first time in history that we were told to manage our own food within the daily allowance," the team captain said.

He simply declared that the players wouldn't work with the team management: head coach Tahir Zaman, assistant coaches Usman Sheikh and Zeeshan Ashraf and video analyst Nadeem Lodhi. It set alarm bells ringing. Pakistan had to depart for Ismailia, Egypt, in less than a week for the all-important World Cup qualifiers.

Usman Wazir mentors Hania Aamir in boxing skills



'Khelenge Beat Pe': Atif Aslam, Aima Baig lead exciting new PSL 11 anthem

PEAK POINT
LAHORE: The Pakistan Super League (PSL) has officially released the anthem for its eleventh edition, signalling the start of another thrilling chapter in the nation's premier T20 cricket tournament.

Titled Khelenge Beat Pe, the anthem features music from renowned Pakistani singers Atif Aslam, Aima Baig, Daniya Kanwal, and the celebrated Sabri Sisters – Anam and Saman – bringing a blend of soulful vocals and energetic beats to capture the spirit of the league.

The theme of the anthem, Beat Pe Khelenge, celebrates cricket as a unifying force and reflects the PSL's journey over the past decade, highlighting its expansion to eight teams for the first time.

PSL 11 is scheduled to begin on March 26 at Lahore's Qaddafi Stadium, with the defending champi-

ons, Lahore Qalandars, taking on the debutants Hyderabad Kingsmen. According to the new schedule, all matches will be held in Lahore and Karachi, marking a streamlined approach to hosting the season's fixtures.

marks a historic expansion to eight teams, reflecting the league's success and commitment to promoting competitive cricket across Pakistan.



Khelenge Beat Pe Atif Aslam, who previously led the 2022 anthem Since its inception in 2016, the PSL has become more than just a cricket tournament; it has evolved into a national celebration of sport, culture, and passion. Each year, the league draws millions of fans, connecting generations through the excitement of world-class T20 cricket. The 11th season Agay Dekh, returns with his distinctive voice, bringing energy and emotional depth to the track. He is joined by Aima Baig, a critically acclaimed singer, Daniya Kanwal, a rising rap sensation, and the iconic Sabri Sisters, who together add a unique blend of traditional and modern sounds.

Babar Azam turns chef, shares Eid sweet-making video



of the defending champi-



Pakistani students to explore global pathways at Turkish fair 2026 held in Islamabad

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Turkish University Fair 2026 will be held on March 30 in Islamabad and April 1 in Lahore, bringing together around 20 universities from Türkiye to showcase study opportunities and foster academic collaboration with Pakistani students and institutions.

Organized under the Maarif Agency with support from the Turkish Maarif Foundation and the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye, the fair aims to strengthen academic engagement between

Pakistan and Türkiye.

The event will provide Pakistani students with direct access to information on international study opportunities, while also facilitating institutional interaction through structured sessions between Pakistani and Turkish universities. Organizers expect participation from students, educators, and academic institutions across both cities.

Türkiye, recognized as one of the leading global study destinations, currently hosts over 380,000 international students from more



than 180 countries. Previous editions of the fair have drawn significant attendance, and this year's edition is expected to build on

that momentum with expanded institutional participation.

Pakistani students to explore global pathways at

Turkish fair 2026 held in Islamabad

In addition to student engagement, the fair is also designed to facilitate institutional interaction. Representatives from Pakistani schools and universities will have the opportunity to meet their Turkish counterparts through structured sessions, focusing on potential collaboration areas such as student mobility, academic partnerships, and joint initiatives.

Previous editions of the Turkish University Fair have recorded significant attendance from students and

educators, indicating a growing interest in higher education opportunities in Türkiye. Organizers note that this year's edition builds on that momentum while further expanding institutional participation.

Türkiye has emerged as a leading destination for international students, offering a student-friendly environment, cultural diversity, and extensive scholarship opportunities that continue to attract learners worldwide. These strengths have positioned the country as a competitive and appealing choice for higher education.

Rs20,000 Monthly for Gold Medalists: HEC sports scholarships and rewards system revealed in National Assembly

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Higher Education Commission sports scholarship system came under focus in the National Assembly, where it was revealed that student athletes receive up to Rs20,000 monthly stipends and Rs500,000 cash rewards, raising questions about the effectiveness, reach, and impact of government efforts to promote sports at the university level. Responding to a question raised by Ms. Shazia Marri, the Minister for Federal Education and Professional

Training informed lawmakers that the HEC provides financial incentives to student athletes strictly on a merit based system linked to medal winning performances at national and international competitions. The scheme applies to both public and private universities across the country, including institutions in the Islamabad Capital Territory, with no regional quota in place. Under the current structure, gold medalists receive Rs20,000 per month, silver medalists Rs15,000, and bronze medalists Rs12,000 as part of the sports scholarship

program. In addition to these monthly stipends, athletes are also awarded one time prize money based on their level of competition. At the national championship level, gold medalists receive Rs70,000, while at the National Games, the reward increases to Rs300,000 for gold winners. At the international level, top performers are awarded up to Rs500,000, with reduced amounts for silver and bronze medalists. The government informed the Assembly that the program is designed to incentivize high performing athletes, but lawmakers also

raised concerns over whether these financial rewards are sufficient to develop competitive sports structures in universities or simply reward a limited pool of winners. Officials further stated that the government has introduced a 2 percent sports quota in university admissions at the undergraduate level to encourage talented athletes to pursue higher education. However, the quota system has also raised questions regarding transparency and enforcement, with directives issued to universities to ensure a "fool-proof mechanism" to prevent

misuse. The Assembly was also briefed on broader measures taken by HEC to promote sports across higher education institutions. These include organizing 64 inter university championships, comprising 28 women's and 36 men's events, along with providing financial and logistical support for university teams participating in national and international competitions. Universities have also been encouraged to offer additional incentives such as tuition fee concessions, sports based admissions, and performance based cash rewards,

while funds have been allocated in the past to strengthen sports departments and infrastructure within campuses. Officials emphasized that gender inclusion is a key part of the policy, with equal participation opportunities being promoted for male and female athletes. However, lawmakers indicated that despite these initiatives, there remains a need for stronger policy implementation, monitoring, and expansion of sports programs to ensure wider participation beyond elite medal winners.

Opinion & Editorial

Degree vs Skill



BY SARDAR AHMED ALI

In today's rapidly evolving world, the debate between academic degrees and practical skills has become more relevant than ever. For decades, a university degree was considered the ultimate gateway to success, stability, and respect in society. However, the dynamics of the modern job market are shifting, and employers are increasingly prioritizing what a person can do over what a person has studied. A degree undoubtedly holds value. It provides structured knowledge, theoretical foundations, and exposure to disciplined learning. Universities also play an important role in shaping critical thinking, communication abilities, and professional etiquette. In many professions, such as medicine, law, and engineering, a formal degree remains indispensable due to regulatory requirements and the depth of specialized knowledge required. However, the global workforce is undergoing a transformation driven by technology, automation,

and digitalization. According to multiple labor market studies, a significant percentage of employers now report difficulty finding candidates with the right practical skills, even when academic qualifications are present. This "skills gap" highlights a critical issue: having a degree does not necessarily mean being job-ready. Skills such as problem-solving, adaptability, technical proficiency, creativity, and communication have become highly valued across industries. For instance, in fields like software development, digital marketing, graphic design, and data analysis, portfolios, certifications, and hands-on experience often carry more weight than traditional degrees. Employers want to see real-world application projects completed, problems solved, and measurable outcomes achieved. Another important factor is the rise of alternative learning platforms. Online courses, certifications, freelancing platforms, and self-learning resources have democratized education. Individuals can now acquire industry-relevant skills without attending a formal university. This has enabled many self-taught professionals to

compete successfully with degree holders in the global marketplace. That said, it would be incorrect to completely dismiss the importance of degrees. In many cases, a degree still opens doors, particularly in regions where hiring practices are heavily credential-based. It can serve as a minimum requirement that gets a candidate into the consideration pool. However, beyond that initial screening, it is often skill, performance, and attitude that determine long-term success. The ideal approach is not to choose between degree and skill, but to integrate both. A degree provides the foundation, while skills build competence and competitiveness. Students and professionals alike should focus on continuous learning, practical application, and personal development. Institutions, on the other hand, must align their curricula with industry demands to reduce the gap between theory and practice. In conclusion, the modern world does not favor degrees alone nor skills in isolation. Success belongs to those who combine academic knowledge with practical expertise. A degree may get your foot in the door, but it is your skills that will keep you inside and help you grow.

What is the university for?

Muhammad Hamid Zaman

I teach two courses during the spring semester - one is a required course for sophomores in the honours college at my university, and the other is an upper-level engineering elective for undergraduate students. Both courses touch on issues related to forced displacement, migration and health access in complex emergencies and humanitarian settings.

Given the myriad conflicts that surround us all in the current moment, my students often come up to me after class or in office hours to share their thoughts, ask questions or seek resources. Sometimes I am able to answer their questions related to challenges around healthcare, disease or public health systems. Often, I direct them to scholars on campus who have expertise in the region's history, its politics and its literature. I encourage them to read books or long-form essays rather than tweets or Instagram posts that lack serious analysis or depth. Several of my students come from, or have family in, many countries of the Middle East. I learn more from their nuanced perspective than they do from mine. Through my interactions with them, I have had to confront my assumptions, biases and thought-provoking notions. To be part of this exchange is an extraordinary privilege, and to me an essential part of what a university can and should be: a place of ideas and a path to becoming a better person. But there is another perspective as well. A few days ago, I came across an essay in the magazine Science with the title "Why I may 'hire' AI instead of a graduate student". The essay is both honest and thought-provoking. The author, Professor Rosenfeld, makes the argument that graduate students learn slowly, but AI does not. When work needs to be done faster because of funding pressure, AI is a better bet. Why should a research-active professor then have to hire a novice? He ends the essay saying, "I probably wouldn't recruit my younger self."

Courtesy Tribune



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Top terror victim

Topping the Global Terrorism Index is not a distinction any country seeks, but it is one that Pakistan must now confront with full honesty. The Institute for Economics and Peace has ranked this country first among 163 nations, above active war zones, above states in open collapse. At a moment when global terrorism deaths fell by 28%, Pakistan recorded 1,139 deaths and 1,045 attacks in 2025 alone, the sixth consecutive year of rising fatalities. These numbers describe a state of sustained national emergency, and they demand a response commensurate with that reality. TTP is at the core of this crisis. Responsible for 56% of all terrorism-related deaths last year, carrying out 595 attacks, the group has expanded its reach and escalated targeted assassinations. The external dimension of this crisis is real and must be named. The TTP operates under Taliban patronage from Afghanistan territory. The BLA's operational sophistication - simultaneous strikes across nine districts of Balochistan - emerges from India's covert role. Pakistan is absorbing violence that is being organised and financed beyond its borders, and the international community's selective amnesia on that point is a scandal of its own. This is precisely why the demand for zero tolerance has become a necessary existential position. Internal stakeholders now seem aligned on the fact that no militant organisation should be offered negotiations while it is actively killing Pakistani citizens.

President confers top military awards on armed forces personnel



PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: The President of Pakistan has been pleased to grant the Military awards to the officers and soldiers of Pakistan Army, Navy, and Air Force. 11 Sitara-i-Basalat, 475 Tamgha-i-Basalat, 130 Intiaz Asnad, 378 COAS Commendation Cards, 23 Hilal-i-Intiaz (Military), 100 Sitara-i-Intiaz (Military), and 136 Tamgha-i-Intiaz (Military) have been granted.

Following officers and men have been conferred with Sitara-i-Basalat Maj Kamil Hussain, Arty, Maj Sibtain Haider (Shaheed), Punjab, Maj Hamzah Ihsan (Shaheed), FF, Maj Adnan Aslam (Shaheed), FF, Capt Hasnain Akhtar (Shaheed), Arty, Hav Ali Bilawal (Shaheed), FC Bln (S), NK Bakht Zamin (Shaheed), FC Bln (S), Sep Rehman Zadin (Shaheed), FF, Sep Saqlain Hukamdad (Shaheed), SSG, R/Adm Muhammad Sohail Arshad, HI(M), Navy and R/Adm Mazhar Mahmood Malik, HI(M), Navy.

Following officers and men have been conferred with Tamgha-i-Basalat Lt Col Muhammad Saifullah Baig, Punjab, Maj Syed Moiez Abbas Shah (Shaheed), NLI, Maj Muhammad Shabbir, Punjab, Maj Daniyal Tanveer Raja, AK, Maj Muhammad Awais (Shaheed), Sigs, Maj Saleem Malik, AK, Maj Saad Bin Zubair (Shaheed), AK, Maj Muhammad Haseeb (Shaheed), AC, Maj Atif Khalil (Shaheed), FF, Capt Muhammad Ali Qureshi (Shaheed), ASC, Capt Muhammad Irshad, NLI, Capt Khuram Shahzad, Baloch, Capt Uzair Mehmood Malik (Shaheed), Baloch, Capt Muhammad Zohaib Ud Din (Shaheed), Arty, Capt Zeeshan Abbas, Arty, Lt Muhammad Hassaan Ashraf (Shaheed), Punjab, Lt Danial Ismail (Shaheed), Sindh, Sub Sajjad Hussain (Shaheed), Arty, Sub Imran Ahmed Farooqi (Shaheed), FF, Sub Zahid Iqbal (Shaheed), FF, Sub

Shahab Ud Din (Shaheed), FC KP (N), Sub Atta Ur Rehman, FC KP (N), Sub Abdullah (Shaheed), FC KP (S), Sub Shahzad Meen (Shaheed), FC Bln (N), Sub Muhammad Zaman (Shaheed), FC Bln (S), N/Sub Abid Hussain (Shaheed), Arty, N/Sub Jan Muhammad (Shaheed).

Sigs, N/Sub Jamshaid Iqbal, Punjab, N/Sub Muhammad Bilal (Shaheed), Punjab, N/Sub Zafar Ali (Shaheed), Baloch, N/Sub Zaheer Hussain Shah (Shaheed), FF, N/Sub Muhammad Auwais (Shaheed), FF, N/Sub Muhammad Ali (Shaheed), Sindh, N/Sub Farman Ullah (Shaheed), Sindh, N/Sub Kashif Raza (Shaheed), Sindh, N/Sub Gulam Mehdi (Shaheed), NLI, N/Sub Gul Mar Jan (Shaheed), FC KP (N), N/Sub Muhammad Khaliq (Shaheed), FC KP (S), N/Sub Taib Shah (Shaheed), FC KP (S), N/Sub Muhammad Tahir (Shaheed), FC KP (S), N/Sub Falak Niaz (Shaheed).

FC Bln (N), N/Sub Dost Muhammad (Shaheed), FC Bln (N), N/Sub Gulam Abbas (Shaheed), FC Bln (N), N/Sub Sohail Raza (Shaheed), FC Bln (S), N/Sub Noor Ali (Shaheed).

CMOD declaration marks major milestone in Power Sector reforms: Leghari

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Division, Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari on Tuesday termed the declaration of the Competitive Market Operations Date (CMOD) by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) as a defining milestone in Pakistan's power sector reform journey.

In a statement, the minister said the transition from a single-buyer model to a competitive, transparent, and market-based framework is the result of years of policy development, regulatory strengthening and institutional coordination. He noted that this marks a decisive shift from reform design to its practical implementation.

He emphasized that the competitive electricity market is anchored in transparency, open



and non-discriminatory access to the transmission network, and enhanced accountability across the entire electricity value chain.

As part of a phased and responsible liberalization process, the Government has approved the transition of 800 MW of demand to bilateral contracting through transparent, automated competitive auctions over the coming years.

The minister highlighted that this progress has been made possible through the dedicated efforts and close collaboration of the Ministry of Energy.

NA Speaker congratulate Nehal Hashmi on assuming office of Governor

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday visited the residence of Governor Sindh, Nehal Hashmi, in Karachi.

The Deputy Speaker of National Assembly, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, was also present, said a news release issued here by the National Assembly Secretariat. During the meeting, Ayaz Sadiq congratulated Governor Nehal Hashmi on assuming office and extended his greetings on the occasion of Eid ul-Fitr. Ayaz Sadiq commended Governor for his long-standing political service and expressed his best wishes for his tenure.

Emphasizing the significance of the Governor's role, he said



that the office of Governor Sindh is vital for fostering coordination between the provinces and the federal government.

He further remarked that Governor Hashmi's appointment reflects his extensive political experience and expressed confidence that he would play an effective role in strengthening federal-provincial relations and promoting public service.

NA Speaker also highlighted the Governor's key role in advancing the development.

GB CM, IT minister meet Shaza Fatima; discuss progress on digital transformation and regional development



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan, Justice (R) Yar Muhammad Nasir, and GB Minister for IT Ghulam Abbas on Tuesday met Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, to discuss progress on Pakistan's digital transformation and regional development initiatives.

During the meeting, Shaza Fatima said the government is actively working on nation-

wide digital transformation in line with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's "Digital Nation Pakistan" vision.

She said the prime minister is giving special attention to Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan to ensure their inclusion in the country's digital growth.

Both sides held detailed discussions on the Digital Nation Pakistan initiative, including the preparation and implementation of the National Digital Master Plan.

They agreed to accelerate a comprehensive digitalisation strategy across the country, with a focus on ensuring uniform digital development in all four provinces, as well as Gilgit-Baltistan.

The participants also exchanged views on adopting a coordinated approach to digitalisation across various sectors. The meeting underscored the importance of promoting the digital economy and leveraging modern technologies for sustainable growth.

PTI senior leaders oppose task force for Imran Khan's release

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Several senior leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have opposed the formation of a task force for the release of party founder Imran Khan. According to party sources, the senior leadership has conveyed its viewpoint to Chief Minister

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sohail Afridi. Sources stated that both Pakistan and the world are currently passing through a difficult period, and instead of forming a task force, the option of negotiations should be adopted. The senior leadership further advised that if an attempt is made to march towards Islamabad this time, the party could face serious damage. The leadership said that choosing the path of protest in the current situation would not be a wise decision. They added that the role of a task force would ultimately revolve around protests, and under present circumstances, protests are not suitable for party workers. It is worth mentioning that Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sohail Afridi.



KARACHI: Chairman, Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto offering Fataha for departed soul of the senator Sherry Rehman's Daughter here on Tuesday.

Pakistani students to explore global pathways at Turkish fair 2026 held in Islamabad

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Turkish University Fair 2026 will be held on March 30 in Islamabad and April 1 in Lahore, bringing together around 20 universities from Türkiye to showcase study opportunities and foster academic collaboration with Pakistani students and institutions. Organized under the Maarif Agency with support from the Turkish Maarif Foundation and the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye, the fair aims to strengthen academic engagement between Pakistan and Türkiye. The event will provide Pakistani students with direct access to information on international study opportuni-



ties, while also facilitating institutional interaction through structured sessions between Pakistani and Turkish universities. Organizers expect participation from students, educators, and academic institutions across both cities. Türkiye, recognized as one of the leading global study destinations, currently hosts over 380,000 international students from more than 180 countries.

7,790 patients provided treatment at MTI Bannu hospitals during Eid holidays

ABDUS SALAM BAITAB

BANNU: MTI Bannu has released a detailed report on the medical services provided in its hospitals during Chand Raat and Eid-ul-Fitr. During the Eid days, a total of 7,790 patients received medical treatment across various departments, including emergency services.

Among them were 369 road traffic accident cases, 47 firearm injuries, 34 dog bite cases, and 10 individuals injured in drone attacks and bomb blasts, while 2 people were

affected by electric shock. On Chand Raat, one child lost his life due to aerial firing, while a total of 16 people were injured.

During Eid, one person also died in a road traffic accident. During this period, a total of 71 normal deliveries were conducted under maternal and child healthcare services, and 295 surgeries of various types were performed. Additionally, 641 patients were admitted to hospitals. Diagnostic services included 5,628 laboratory tests, 1,156 X-rays, 46

ultrasounds, 162 CT scans, and 420 ECGs, reflecting the hospitals' round-the-clock active services. During Eid-ul-Fitr, emergency services remained uninterrupted at Khalifa Gul Nawaz Hospital Bannu, District Headquarters Hospital Bannu, and Women & Children Hospital Bannu. Medical staff across all departments remained on high alert to handle any emergency situation. At Khalifa Gul Nawaz Hospital Bannu, 2,923 patients received emergen-

cy medical care, including 302 road traffic accident cases, 13 firearm cases, 7 dog bite cases, and 3 victims of bomb blasts. Additionally, 20 normal deliveries and 3 surgeries were performed.

The hospital also conducted 2,438 laboratory tests, 547 X-rays, 20 ultrasounds, 162 CT scans, and 115 ECGs, while 194 patients were admitted. At District Headquarters Hospital Bannu, 2,861 patients visited the emergency department, including 67 road traffic accident

cases, 34 firearm cases, 16 dog bite cases, and 2 bomb blast victims.

The hospital conducted 1,644 laboratory tests, 515 X-rays, 24 ultrasounds, and 305 ECGs. Moreover, 258 patients were admitted and 263 surgeries were performed.

At Women & Children Hospital Bannu, 1,997 patients were provided medical care during Eid, including 1,634 children. The hospital conducted 51 normal deliveries and 29 surgeries, along with 1,546 laboratory tests, 94 X-

rays, and 2 ultrasounds. Additionally, 189 patients were admitted. During Eid-ul-Fitr, emergency wards in all hospitals remained fully operational, ensuring timely and quality healthcare services for patients.

The Chairman Board of Governors, members of the Board, and the Hospital Director appreciated the tireless efforts, professional competence, and dedication of doctors, nurses, paramedical and non-clinical staff, and paid tribute to their services.