



Ayaz Sadiq seeks explanation from Finance Ministry, FBR over non-submission of replies



Govt taking steps to make 'Made in Pakistan' globally trusted brand: Ahsan Iqbal



Aurangzeb hails Pakistan's inaugural Panda Bond as 'new chapter' in economic ties with China

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PM Shehbaz lauds 'historic' Pak-China ties in meeting with Chinese business delegation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday lauded the "historic" ties between Pakistan and China during a meeting with a Chinese business delegation.

According to a handout from the Prime Minister's Office, a high-level 11-member Chinese business delegation led by Qian Xiaojun, the founder, president and controlling shareholder of IBI Beijing United Technology, called on the premier.

"While welcoming the delegation to Pakistan, the prime minister said Pakistan and China enjoyed historic ties and the two countries were all-weather strategic cooperative partners," the handout said.

He lauded the remarkable progress made

by China under the visionary leadership of President Xi Jinping and said that he was looking forward to his visit to China later this month, it added.

The prime minister welcomed the growing business-to-business engagement between the two countries and said it was particularly encouraging that IBI would promote digital economy cooperation, investment facilitation and industrial collaboration, it said.

Expressing confidence in Pakistan's economy, Xiaojun said IBI hoped to help build the backbone of the digital transformation of Pakistan's economy. He said the establishment of IBI's Digital Economy headquarters in Pakistan would be the command centre.



ISLAMABAD: A Chinese business delegation of IBI Beijing United Technology called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

9 terrorists killed, 4 security personnel martyred as attack on army camp in Bajaur repulsed: sources

PEAK POINT



RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed nine terrorists as they repulsed an attack on an army camp in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bajaur district, official sources said on Friday. Four

security personnel were also martyred during the engagement, they added.

The sources said terrorists from Fitna-al-Khawarij — the state-designated term for the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) — attacked the camp with explosives on Thursday night and tried to end the camp from one of the gates while firing. But, security forces responded timely and effectively, as a result of which they remained unsuccessful in their nefarious designs, the sources added.

They said that according to initial reports, nine terrorists had been killed and four soldiers were martyred during the engagement.

The terrorists were unable to enter the camp despite using explosives and resorting to intense firing, they said, adding that a search and clearance operation was under way at the camp.

Trump concludes visit to China, says made 'fantastic trade deals' with Xi

PEAK POINT



CHINA: United States President Donald Trump on Friday concluded his visit to China, where he said he made "fantastic trade deals" with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Trump had arrived in Beijing seeking to seal deals in sectors including agriculture, aviation and artificial intelligence, as well as to contain differences between the two sides in a number of tense geopolitical areas — not least the Middle East war. Trump's overtures to Xi, whom he described as a "great leader" and "friend", have so far been met with more muted tones by the Chinese leader. But the US leader said "a lot of good" has come out of the visit. "We've made some fantastic trade deals, great for both countries," he said, as Xi accompanied him through the gardens of Zhongnanhai, a central leadership compound next to Beijing's Forbidden City. "We've settled a lot of different problems that other people wouldn't have been able to solve," Trump added, without providing details. Xi said it was a "milestone visit", and that the two sides had to date established "a new bilateral relationship, which is a relationship of constructive strategic stability". He promised to send Trump seeds for the White House Rose Garden. In an interview with Fox News after the first day of the summit wrapped, Trump said the talks in Beijing had gone well and that Xi had agreed to several US wishlist points.

Pakistan's mediation process facing difficulties but remains active: Iran's Araghchi

PEAK POINT



IRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Pakistan's mediation efforts regarding regional tensions had "not failed" but were currently facing difficulties.

He added that Tehran would welcome any constructive role played by China to help ease the situation and support diplomatic progress. Speaking at the Iranian Embassy in New Delhi, Araghchi said Iran was attempting to preserve the current ceasefire in order to give diplomacy an opportunity to move forward. He added that Tehran has "no trust" in the US and is interested in negotiating with Washington only if it is serious. Iran is trying to keep the ceasefire to give diplomacy a chance, he told reporters during a press conference. Araghchi blamed "contradictory messages" from Washington for complicating negotiations, according to Al Jazeera. He also acknowledged the impact of US sanctions on Tehran, saying Iran fully understood the consequences of the restrictions imposed by Washington. In comments carried by Iran's IRIB broadcaster, he said Iran is not to blame for disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, and that Tehran did not initiate the war.

Petrol, Diesel prices slashed by Rs5 per litre from May 16

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) has announced a reduction of Rs5 per litre in the prices of both petrol and high-speed diesel for the coming week. According to an official press release issued by the ministry, the revised ex-depot prices will come into effect from May 16, 2026. Under the new rates, the price of petrol (motor spirit) has been reduced from Rs414.78 to Rs409.78 per litre, while the price of high-speed diesel (HSD) has been lowered from Rs414.58 to Rs409.58 per litre.

Pak-US ties have strengthened during Trump's tenure, Naqvi says in meeting with American official

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday said that Pak-US ties had strengthened during United States President Donald Trump's tenure.

He made the remarks during a meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Paul Kapur, the interior ministry said in a post on the social media platform X. The meeting was also attended by US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker, Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudry, and other officials.

"During the meeting, discussions took place on Pakistan-US relations and the latest situation in the Middle East," the ministry said. It added that views were also exchanged on increasing cooperation in the fields of security,

counter-terrorism, and between Pakistan and the US soon." "We are hopeful



"Pakistan-US relations have strengthened during Trump's tenure," the ministry quoted Naqvi as saying. "Pak-US relations are based on mutual trust and bilateral cooperation," Naqvi said, adding fool-proof security had been ensured for American companies working on the Reko Diq project. According to the ministry, Naqvi said the country "wanted direct flights

for a lasting and peaceful resolution of the Middle East conflict," he added. On Thursday, Kapur had also met with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

"During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on bilateral relations and regional developments," the Foreign Office (FO) said.

ment, Dar appreciated Trump's "vision for peace, the Iran-US ceasefire understanding, and the visit of US Vice President JD Vance to Pakistan".

"He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to resolving issues through dialogue and diplomacy," it said.

"Expressing satisfaction over the current momentum in Pakistan-US relations, Dar welcomed growing engagement between the two countries and the expansion of cooperation across multiple fields. He also underscored the importance of regular high-level exchanges and sustained structured dialogue," it said.

Meanwhile, Kapur appreciated Pakistan's role in regional mediation and noted the positive trajectory in bilateral relations.

1st Anniversary of Marka-e-Haq celebrated in Jeddah

PEAK POINT



JEDDAH: Pakistan Consulate, along with Pakistan Community in Jeddah, celebrated 1st anniversary of Marka-e-Haq with great enthusiasm, paying tribute to the nation's unwavering resolve, the unshakable courage of Pak armed forces, and the nation's determination. The event was held at the premises of the Pakistan Consulate in Jeddah and was graced by the presence of a diverse spectrum of the Pakistani community alongside the presence of local ethnic media representatives, highlighting their deep-rooted unity and fondness for their homeland. The event commenced with a recitation of the Holy Quran and the national anthem of Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, stirring a strong sense of patriotism and respect among all attendees.



SPORTS



Pakistan crush Zimbabwe in final T20I to complete series whitewash



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Pakistan completed a clean sweep of the three-match T20I series after crushing Zimbabwe by 133 runs in the final match at National Bank Stadium, Karachi, on Friday.

Half-centuries from Saira Jabeen and captain Fatima Sana, followed by Sadia Iqbal's three-wicket haul, propelled Pakistan to the dominant victory.

Set to chase a daunting 224-run target, the visitors could accumulate 90 before getting bowled out in 17.1 overs and thus succumbed to the whitewash defeat as the Chevrons tasted the same fate

in the first two fixtures of the series. Left-handed opener Kelis Ndhlovu waged a lone battle for Zimbabwe with a counter-punching 32 off 13 deliveries, featuring six fours and a six, and remained their top-scorer.

Besides her, Adel Zimunu (18) and Michelle Mavunga (13) could amass double figures against the disciplined Pakistan bowling attack, led by Sadia, who bagged three wickets for just 20 runs in her three overs.

Sadia was supported by fellow spinner Nashra Sandhu, who returned economical bowling figures of 2/21 in her four overs,

while Tuba Hassan, Rameen Mabhero struck again in her next over, trapping Ayesha lbw, who made a quickfire 45 off just 28 deliveries, laced with nine fours.

Pakistan captain Fatima Sana's decision to bat first proved beneficial as the home side racked up 223/4 in their 20 overs.

The Green Shirts got off to a flamboyant start to their innings as their new opening pair of Muneeba Ali and Ayesha Zafar yielded 58 runs in the batting powerplay. Lindokuhle Mabhero broke the opening partnership on the first delivery of the seventh over, dismissing Muneeba, who walked back after scoring 22 off 17 deliveries with the help of three fours.

Natalia Pervaiz fell victim to Zimbabwean counterpart Beloved Biza and consequently slipped to 93/3 in 10.2 overs. Following the back-to-back wickets, Iram Javed joined Saira in the middle, and the duo stabilised Pakistan's innings by putting together 49 runs for the fourth wicket before the former fell victim to Michelle Mavunga in the 17th over.

Pakistan U-19 cricket team to tour England for ODI series in September



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Asian champions U-19 cricket team will tour England in September for a multi-format series against England.

The tour, scheduled from September 2 to 16, will feature one four-day match and four one-day matches between the two sides.

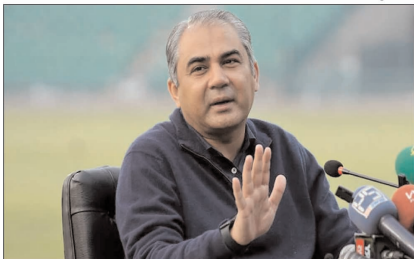
The only four-day match of the series will be played in Arundel from September 2 to 5.

The limited-overs leg will begin with the opening ODI match in Arundel on September 9. The second ODI will be held in Guildford on September 12, while the third and fourth matches are scheduled for September 14 and 16 in Wormsley.

The side won the ACC Men's Under-19 Asia Cup in December 2025 in Dubai after crushing arch-rivals India Under-19 cricket team by 191 runs in the final.

Pakistan U19 also featured in the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup in Zimbabwe and Namibia earlier this year, where they played five matches and won three of them.

PCB set for 'major overhaul' in central contracts ahead of new cycle



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is expected to make major changes to national cricketers' central contracts ahead of the new contract cycle beginning from July 1.

According to the sources, the current financial model for

central contracts will expire on June 30. The three-year financial structure was introduced in 2023 during former PCB chairman Zaka Ashraf's tenure and has remained unchanged under current chairman, Mohsin Naqvi.

Last year, the PCB awarded central contracts to 30 cricketers, with no player included in Category A for the first time.

The sources said preliminary discussions regarding new

contracts are expected to feature large-scale changes based on players' fitness and performances, with several cricketers likely to face promotion or demotion in categories.

The sources added that the chances of Mohammad Nawaz, Abdullah Shafique, Faheem Ashraf, Hussain Talat and Khushdil Shah being retained in the central contracts appear slim.

Meanwhile, domestic performers including Azeem Khan, Ahsan Ali, and Abdullah Fazal are likely to be considered for inclusion in the new contracts.

Pakistan street child football team secures 3rd position at WC

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's street child football team concluded its inspiring campaign at the Street Child World Cup by securing an impressive third position in Mexico. Pakistan faced Brazil in the semifinal, where the team delivered a courageous performance before narrowly losing 2-1 in a highly competitive encounter, according to information received here Friday.

The young Pakistani players displayed exceptional determination, teamwork, and resilience against one of the tournament's strongest sides.



Adding to the nation's pride, a player from the Pakistan team also emerged victorious in the tournament's Top Goal Scorer Award in recognition of his outstanding performances and exceptional talent throughout the competition.

Brazil later went on to win the Street Child World Cup title after defeating India in the final, while Pakistan proudly finished third

with opportunities, support and encouragement. Team management congratulated the players on their historic achievement and praised their discipline, unity and dedication in representing Pakistan with pride and dignity on the international stage.

Team Lead Rehan Tahir said, "These young players have shown extraordinary courage, passion and commitment throughout the tournament. Securing third position in the world and winning the Top Goal Scorer Award is a proud achievement for Pakistan and a testament to the talent and potential of our youth."

PSB introduces immediate reforms to simplify sports governance

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has initiated immediate administrative reforms aimed at improving ease of doing sports governance and facilitating athletes and national sports federations across the country.

On the very first day after assuming the additional charge of Director General of the Pakistan Sports Board, the Secretary of the Inter Provincial



Coordination (IPC) Division Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani directed the simplification and reduction in the size of the affiliation forms for National Sports Federations. According to officials, the revised format has been made more concise, practical and user-friendly

while maintaining unnecessary delays, transparency and governance compliance requirements.

In another significant facilitative measure, the Objection Certificate (NOC) proforma and related documentation requirements for athletes and sports federations travelling abroad for international competitions, training camps and sporting events have also been reviewed and streamlined. The move is expected to reduce

ICC fines Pakistan, docks eight WTC points for slow over rate in Dhaka Test

PEAK POINT

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Friday fined Pakistan 40 per cent of their match fee and docked them eight points in the ongoing World Test Championship (WTC) for maintaining a slow over rate during the first Test against Bangladesh. In a press release, the ICC said, "Pakistan have been fined 40pc of their match fee and penalised eight points in the ongoing WTC 2025-27 cycle after being ruled eight overs short of the target once time allowances were taken into account." With this penalty, Pakistan is now on four points in the WTC standings, placing them eighth, just above the West Indies. The sanction



was imposed by Jeff Crowe of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, it added. "Under Article 2.2.2 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which deals with minimum over-rate offences, players are fined 5pc of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl within the allotted time," the release said. "As per Article 16.11.2

of the WTC playing conditions, teams lose one championship point for each over short, resulting in Pakistan being docked eight crucial points in the WTC standings," it maintained. The press release said that Pakistan captain Shan Masood had "admitted the offence and accepted the proposed sanction", eliminating the need for a formal hearing.



Canadian High Commission showcases indigenous arctic cinema, climate culture at PNCA

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: A special screening of the acclaimed Canadian film "Wrong Husband" (Uiksaringitara) was held at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts on Canadian Film Day, organized by Canadian High Commission in Islamabad. Canadian High Commission showcases indigenous arctic Cinema, Climate Culture at PNCA. The film screening bringing together diplomats, filmmakers, students, environmental advocates and members of the media to celebrate

cultural diplomacy, Indigenous storytelling and climate awareness. Addressing the audience, High Commissioner of Canada, Tarik Ali Khan said the theme of climate change remains deeply relevant to the Canadian Arctic, the setting of the film being screened. "I want to recognize Farah Naz, Parliamentary Secretary on Culture, and Raisa Adil, Chairperson of the National Film Board," he said while welcoming diplomats, filmmakers and media representatives to the event.



Introducing the film, the High Commissioner described "Wrong Husband" as a timeless tale of forbidden love that resonates across cultures. "You will think of Heer Ranjha, Laila Majnun and Soni Mahiwal. Cultures around the world share these perennial stories," he remarked. He noted that the uniqueness of the film lies in its setting in the Canadian Arctic 4,000 years ago and in its use of the Indigenous Inuktitut language spoken by the Inuit people across

Alaska, Canada and Greenland. Referring to the Inuit community, he explained that they are among Canada's most important Indigenous peoples and have inhabited the northern regions of present-day Canada for more than 10,000 years. "Sometimes people refer to them as Eskimos, but that is an outdated and derogatory term. The proper term is Inuit," he said. The envoy highlighted the harsh climatic realities of Arctic life, where communities survive through hunting and fishing in extreme condi-

tions marked by months of prolonged daylight in summer and near darkness in winter. "It is called the land of the midnight sun in summer," he said, describing the resilience required for humans to thrive in such an environment. Drawing attention to the cultural significance of oral traditions, the Canadian envoy said stories and legends have been passed down through generations in igloos, fishing camps and Arctic settlements, forming an essential part of Inuit identity and communication.

CAF convenes high-level dialogue on Pakistan's climate future ahead of COP31

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: A high-level roundtable discussion on "Shared Responsibility, Shared Resilience: Climate Action in Pakistan" successfully concluded under the convening of the Climate Action Forum (CAF), Secours Islamique France (SIF) and Institute of Rural Management (IRM). The session was graced by the guest of honour Amir Mohyuddin, Additional Secretary 1, Ministry of Climate Change and

Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC), said a press release issued here on Friday. CAF convenes high-level dialogue on Pakistan's climate future ahead of COP31. The distinguished roundtable speakers included Dr. Roomi S. Hayat (CEO IRM & Chair CAF), Dr. Altaf Abro (HoM SIF), Amir Khan Goraya (CEO NDRMF), Air Commodore Umar Naeem (NDMA), Ali Tauqeer Sheikh (BoD Fund for Responding to loss & Damage), Fauzia B. Malik



(Country Representative of Pakistan), Javed Iqbal (CEO KnK), Thomas Coman (Deputy Country Representative WFP), Shandana Khan (CEO RSPN), Muzaffar Ud Din

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envolving climate trajectory and emerging priorities ahead of the Pre-COP consultations and COP31. Discussions particularly focused on inclusive climate resilience, climate governance, just transition pathways, climate finance, and community-centered adaptation approaches. The session concluded with a shared commitment towards strengthening collaborative and evidence-informed climate action for a more resilient Pakistan.

Opinion & Editorial

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Bring the sailors home

Over three weeks have passed since the oil tanker MT Honour 25 was hijacked by Somali pirates and taken to the coast of Eyl in Puntland, a semi-autonomous region of Somalia. From there, the pirates have been demanding ransom payments from the countries from which the ship's crew hail, and from the owners of the ship itself. After being boarded by about 50 pirates, supplies onboard meant for the 17-member crew have been exhausted, forcing the multinational, mostly-Pakistani crew to eat plain boiled rice and drink dirty water. The Pakistani government's response has been to just bid its time, leaving the sailors' relatives to threaten hunger strikes as a last-ditch effort to draw attention to the problem. The non-profit Ansar Burney Trust has provided some assistance to the families, but it has also warned that resolving the issue is beyond its capabilities. Ironically, that is also the position of the Somali government, which has done little to rein in pirates, who mostly operate from break-away states and areas that are not under the control of the central government. The only effective restraint on piracy has been brute force. The US, China and India are the most prominent countries that have sent their warships and special forces soldiers to directly attack pirate ships, which led to a years-long lull in the number of incidents of piracy.

Citizens for better healthcare

Zafar Mirza
"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has," —Margaret Mead. AS a nuclear state and the sole arbiter of global peace trying to avoid World War III, we need to pay equal attention to the precarious situation of the people of Pakistan, especially the most vulnerable — poor women and children. Pakistan's global optics are great today and the government deserves kudos, but the real development has to be inside out. From a submerged and swelling mountain of poverty, disease and consistently declining human development, the latest tip of the iceberg emerged from Taunsa in the form of the HIV transmission among children. Yes, the tip of the iceberg, since the major drivers of HIV are prevalent across the country, ie, unsafe medical practices, including the reuse of contaminated syringes and unscreened blood for transfusion. To be precise, in Taunsa, a joint mission of WHO, Unicef, UNAIDS and Punjab's Department of Health and Population was conducted in April 2025, covering the period since December 2024. Until then, 120 cases had been recorded, out of which 75 per cent of infections occurred in children under the age of five years. The mission's report says that "Analysis of reported modes

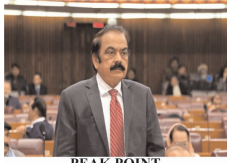
of transmission shows that blood transfusions (48pc) and contaminated needle use (48pc) are the primary contributors to the outbreak". It rightly concludes that the paediatric HIV outbreak in Taunsa is not just a local health crisis — it is a powerful reflection of broader systemic vulnerabilities within our healthcare system. A BBC Eye documentary had recorded the same unsafe practices in the same hospital some weeks ago. By then, the recorded number of cases had swelled to 331. This is a horrendous situation, to say the least. The official attitude among provincial bureaucrats and programme managers and health professionals in the public sector is still hush-hush. Instead of admitting the problem and assuring people of immediate and visible remedial actions, there is a strange numbness and a shrug of resignation as if nothing has happened. As innocent children of poor families are being infected for life by the healthcare system itself — almost a death sentence — the discussion in many official circles is that since the Global Fund doesn't give money to the government, what can we do? For God's sake, these are our children and we should take the financial responsibility to care for them. Have we become so callous and thick-skinned that nothing affects us anymore?

Citizens must be more involved in health affairs that affect them and those around them. The real problem is that these are children of poor people. Had they been children of rich and influential people in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi, the response would have been swift and very different. As long as elite families are not affected, nobody is bothered. This is the harsh reality of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. But we cannot give up even in the face of these harsh truths. There is a state failure in healthcare, but then what is a state? It comprises not just institutions but also citizens, without whom there would be no concept of a state. And citizens have to become active in critical matters of life and death. As I wrote in my last column on these pages, ("Cure or curse?", May 1, 2026) the public health crisis in Pakistan today is a collective failure of successive governments and its reform is a collective responsibility of the state and society. Citizens have to come together for better healthcare in the country, delivered by both the public and private health sectors. Citizens have to become more aware and involved in health affairs that directly affect them, their loved ones and the people around them. What happened in Taunsa may appear remote, but if not effectively stopped, it will spread to our near and dear ones.

Should Iran control Hormuz?

Shahzad Chaudhry
A growing number of international analysts call it Iran's nuclear option. Iran's real nuclear journey now seems relegated to this newfound pleasure of choking the world at will. Ask the Pakistanis, and most will gloat over how Iran, the brave, has taken Trump, America, and the West in a chokehold. Crediting Iran for standing up to the bully is one thing, even if it has cost Iran an arm and a leg, and a lot of blood and treasure, which we will perhaps never get the true estimate of, but to reinforce what is stifling and suffocating for the rest is blatant. Even more importantly, Trump and the US may never asphyxiate, or if so, perhaps slowly, but the rest would surely have life squeezed out of them much faster and much earlier. Celebrating Trump's predicament as a loser and America getting its face blackened by Islamic Iran are all happy tidings that most Muslims may smile about and chuckle in corners, but it truly takes us closer to what Samuel Huntington had prophesied a couple of decades back. History must find its new direction when one phase is over, Francis Fukuyama would now agree. When Huntington came out with his theory of the clash of civilisations, these were the same Muslims who huffed at another white man sighting his guns on Islam as a civilisation, now that the Soviet Union seemed to have closed its chapter as the West's favourite whipping boy. One turn of the geopolitical play, and one strategic error down, and the same champions of Islam are happily pitting the Iranian Islamic brothers against Trump, America, and the West. How is that for a requital? This 'love' is mutual, of course. Israel would rather see all of Iran drowned in Hormuz. Iran's Arab neighbours, especially the GCC countries, likewise. The UAE, surely. Saudi Arabia is circumspect — it finds a certain advantage in Iran being an effective counterweight to Israel's naked aggression against the Palestinians and their Arab neighbours.

PTI founder being provided best available medical treatment in Pakistan: Rana Sanaullah



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Adviser on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah on Friday apprised the Senate that PTI founder and his spouse Bushra Bibi were being provided the best available medical treatment in Pakistan, while meetings in jail were being regulated under court-approved procedures.

Responding to points raised by the leader of the opposition and other lawmakers in the Senate, Rana Sanaullah said political parties should remain within democratic and peaceful boundaries and avoid actions that

could create instability in the country. He said the events of May 9 were attacks on national institutions, adding that such actions carried serious consequences.

Rana Sanaullah said that repeated attempts to march on the capital and confront the state had further complicated the political environment.

He said that the issue of meetings with the PTI founder had already been settled through proceedings before the Islamabad High Court under multiple petitions were filed. He said that a larger bench of the court had devised a mechanism under which meetings were to be held twice a week, with separate days allocated for lawyers and family members and lists of six visitors to be provided in advance. The adviser said that PTI leaders, including party secretary general Salman Akram Raja, had assured the court that meetings would not be used for political messaging or media campaigns against state insti-

tutions. However, he said that the agreed understanding was repeatedly violated through press conferences, international media campaigns and anti-state propaganda after meetings.

Rana Sanaullah said that campaigns targeting state institutions and their heads were carried out abroad, adding that evidence regarding such activities could be presented whenever required. He said that jail rules did not permit the use of prison meetings for political purposes, and restrictions were imposed only after repeated violations of agreed procedures.

Regarding the PTI founder's health and jail conditions, the adviser said that the matter had also been reviewed by the Supreme Court, which sought reports from jail authorities. He said that the court had directed lawyer Salman Safdar to independently inspect the facilities and submit a report, adding that the findings matched the report submitted by jail authorities.

Govt taking steps to make 'Made in Pakistan' globally trusted brand: Ahsan Iqbal

PEAK POINT



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said the government was taking practical steps to introduce "Made in Pakistan" as a strong, reliable and high-quality brand at the global level, stressing that industrial growth and exports were key to sustainable economic stability. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of METSFAB 2026 at Expo Centre Lahore, he said Pakistan possessed immense potential in the engineering and manufacturing sectors and urged global manufacturers and investors to explore opportunities in the country. He said strong manufacturing formed the foundation of sustainable development, industrial self-reliance and economic strength, adding that countries with advanced manufacturing sectors played a leading role in the global economy. Ahsan Iqbal said devel-

oped economies strengthened their financial position by producing aircraft, ships, tractors, automobiles, heavy machinery, industrial equipment and advanced technology products. He said Pakistan's youth had the capability to excel in modern technology and industrial innovation, adding that the engineering sector served as the backbone of a modern economy. The federal minister said exhibitions like METSFAB provided Pakistani engineers and industrialists an opportunity to showcase their products and expertise before the world while also attracting foreign investors towards Pakistan's industrial potential.

Govt. working closely with business community to promote trade, investment, economic growth: Gilani



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has said that the government, in collaboration with traders, investors and the business community, was taking effective measures to promote trade, investment and industrial activities across the country. "The political and military leadership of the country is playing a responsible and proactive role for the promotion of peace at the national, regional, and global levels",

he expressed while inaugurating the 33rd branch of Intiaz Group located in Sector E-11, Golra Sharif here Friday.

The ceremony was attended by former Chief Minister and Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mehtab Abbasi, former Deputy Speaker National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi, former Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal Zamrud Khan, former Senator Tanveer Ahmed Khan, members of parliament, business leaders, representatives of civil society and a large number of citizens. The Chairman Senate paid tribute to Chairman Intiaz Group, Intiaz Hussain, his sons, family and the management for their contributions toward the promotion of a modern and organised retail system in Pakistan.

He added that institutions like Intiaz Group were not only strengthening the national economy but also provided real relief to the public through the availability of quality products at affordable prices.

Governor, Opposition Leader discuss law and order, political situation in KP

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Leader of the Opposition in Provincial Assembly Dr Ibadullah called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House on Friday and discussed the deteriorating law and order situation and overall political scenario in the province.

During the meeting, both leaders termed the worsening security situation a result of the incompetence of the provincial government and described its silence over the matter as criminal negligence and against the interests of the province and its people.

They also expressed concern over the closure of CNG stations in the province and the difficulties being faced by the public due to the shortage of gas supply.

The meeting further discussed the increase in flour prices in the province following restrictions on wheat supply from Punjab, which, they said, had added to the hardships of the people.

Ayaz Sadiq seeks explanation from Finance Ministry, FBR over non-submission of replies

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Friday sought an explanation from the Ministry of Finance and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) over the non-submission of replies to questions in the House.

During the Question Hour in the National Assembly, the Speaker noted that answers to three questions related to the finance ministry had not been received and asked Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani about the matter.

He directed officials of the Ministry of Finance present in the House to immediately contact the ministry and the FBR and submit a written explanation for the

delay in providing the replies. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also advised lawmakers and ministers to keep their questions and answers brief during Question Hour and Calling Attention Notices so that more questions could be entertained.

He urged members to limit supplementary questions to 30 seconds or one minute, while directing ministers to avoid lengthy explanations and policy statements and instead give concise and relevant answers.

Mr. Rizwan Suhail Anwar appointed Vice Chairman NPCP District Lahore



WAJIHA TAMSEEL MIRZA

LAHORE: Head and Central Chairman of National Peace Council Pakistan, Respected Chaudhry Ghulam Mustafa Ansari Sahib, has officially appointed Mr. Rizwan Suhail Anwar as the Vice Chairman District Lahore, National Peace Council Pakistan. On this occasion, the following respected office bearers and members expressed their full confidence in Mr. Rizwan Suhail Anwar and extended their

heartfelt congratulations and best wishes. Rana Muhammad Iqbal - Central Organizer, Munawar Hussain Kalu Sahib - Central Secretary General, Hafiz Mustafa Riaz Sahib - Peace Ambassador Pakistan, Brigadier Muhammad Aslam Sahib - Central Senior Vice Chairman, Madam Naila Nina Sahib - Central Chairperson Women Wing UK Chapter, Colonel Muntaz Niazi Sahib - Central Executive Member, Kanwal Shahzad Ranjha Sahib - Central Executive Member & Chairman Division Dera Ghazi Khan, Maulana Sheikh Allama Musa Jan Madani Sahib - Central Organizer Ulema Mashaikh Wing, Bilal Ameen Randhawa Sahib - Central Vice President, Shahryar Shah - President Punjab Youth Wing, Syed Munawar Shah Gilani - Chairman Sindh, Shehzad Memon - President Sindh, Saboor Khan Afridi - Chairman Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Rana Faheem Shahpuriya Sahib - Provincial President Punjab.

Aurangzeb hails Pakistan's inaugural Panda Bond as 'new chapter' in economic ties with China

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Friday termed the successful issuance of Pakistan's first-ever Panda Bond as a historic milestone in the country's economic and financial engagement with China and the international capital markets. Addressing the ceremony in Beijing, which marked Pakistan's inaugural Panda Bond issuance, Aurangzeb stated: "We celebrate a real landmark for Pakistan, the successful debut issuance



of Pakistan's Panda Bond in China." Pakistan completed its inaugural Panda Bond issuance in China's onshore capital market on Thursday, marking the country's first-ever entry into the world's second-largest and deepest capital

market. The finance minister said that the achievement marks "a beginning of a new chapter in Pakistan's economic and financial engagement with China, in the context of international capital markets". The Panda Bond issuance reflects the growing maturity of our economic cooperation and the confidence of Chinese institutions and investors in Pakistan, he added. He shared that Pakistan has become the first Panda Bond issuer from South Asia. Aurangzeb informed participants that Pakistan had successfully established a CNY 7.2 billion Panda Bond Programme after two years of extensive preparation and coordination with Chinese regulators, development partners, advisors, and market participants.

A historic achievement of Dr Mehwish Manzoor in Sports Science-100 research publication

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: The University of Narowal proudly celebrates the extraordinary academic milestone of Dr. Mehwish Manzoor, In-charge Institute of Sports Science, National Sports City Narowal, on successfully completing 100 research publications in the field of sports Biomechanics, sports psychology, sports law, sports Nutrition, Sports Science. Her remarkable journey of dedication, scholarly excellence, and impactful research has brought immense pride to Pakistan and the University of Narowal. As first female researchers in Sports Science, her contributions continue to inspire a new generation of

students, researchers, and academicians across the country. This outstanding achievement reflects her unwavering commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and the promotion of research at both national and international levels. Heartiest congratulations on this phenomenal success and best wishes for many more achievements, honors, and milestones ahead.

Mr. Nadeem Mahbub on being conferred with the prestigious Sitara-i-Imtiaz

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Heartiest congratulations to Federal Secretary Education Mr. Nadeem Mahbub on being conferred with the prestigious Sitara-i-Imtiaz in recognition of his outstanding contributions to education and public service in Pakistan. His commitment to inclusive education, and dedication to expanding quality learning opportunities for all continue to inspire meaningful progress across the country. Ms.

Wajiha Qamar extends best wishes and appreciation for his remarkable services towards building a brighter, more inclusive, and educated Pakistan.