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Amir Muqam visits under-construction Danish school project in Bhimber

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PM reaffirms Pakistan's resolve to defend sovereignty, territorial integrity against any misadventure

PEAK POINT

QUETTA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to defend sovereignty and territorial integrity against any misadventure at all costs. In his address to the faculty and student officers at Command and Staff College, Quetta, the prime minister lauded the professionalism, operational preparedness, and sacrifices of the Pakistan Armed Forces in safeguarding national sovereignty and ensuring peace and stability. He paid rich tribute to the Shuhada and the unwavering commitment of the Armed Forces in defence of the motherland. Referring to Marka-e-Haq, the prime minister paid tribute to the Pakistan Armed Forces historic victory under the leadership of

Field Marshal, Syed Asim Munir, said a news release issued by the PM House.

Prime minister highlighted Pakistan's responsible conduct and escalation control against India's unprovoked hubristic aggression, stating that Pakistan's mature, prudent and just stance was also acknowledged by the international community. He stated that Operation Ghazab-lil-Haq was continuing with full resolve to defend lives and property of innocent citizens against Afghan Taliban based terrorist proxies and to inflict punishment on terrorist hideouts and support infrastructures. He also reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine. Acknowledging the presence of students of friendly countries.



QUETTA: Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visited Command & Staff College, Quetta and addressed the faculty and student officers.

10 countries, including Pakistan, condemn Israel's interception of Gaza aid flotilla

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and nine other countries on Tuesday issued a joint statement condemning Israel's interception of the Global Sumud Flotilla.

The joint statement by the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Turkiye, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, Jordan, Libya, Maldives and Spain was shared by the Foreign Office on the social media platform X.

It said that the ministers "condemn in the strongest terms the renewed Israeli assaults against the Global Sumud Flotilla, a peaceful civilian humanitarian initiative aimed at drawing international attention to the catastrophic humanitarian suffering of the Palestinian people".

"The ministers recall with grave concern the Israeli interventions against previous flotillas in international waters and condemn the continuation of hostile acts targeting civilian vessels and humanitarian activists," it said.

"Such assaults, including attacks against the vessels and the arbitrary detention of activists, constitute blatant violations of international law and international humanitarian law," the statement added.

Trump says held off on new Iran attack, upbeat for agreement

MAHPARA ZAMAN



NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump said he was planning a major new assault on Iran on Tuesday, but held off as he saw hope for securing a so far elusive agreement to end the war.

Trump said that he stopped his purported attack plan at the urging of Gulf Arab allies, which Iran has threatened with reciprocal attacks if the United States and Israel end a nearly six-week ceasefire.

Trump, who had indefinitely extended the truce and made clear he wants to exit a war that has proven to be a political liability, said he had prepared a new attack for Tuesday after Iran refused his outlines of a deal. The leaders of Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates asked him "to hold off on our planned Military attack of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was scheduled for tomorrow, in that serious negotiations are now taking place," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. But Trump added he had instructed the US military to be "prepared to go forward with a full, large scale assault of Iran on a moment's notice, in the event that an acceptable Deal is not reached."

Speaking later at a White House event, Trump said there had been a "very positive development" and that Arab allies said a deal was near that would leave Iran without nuclear weapons, which Tehran denies pursuing.

22 terrorists killed in Area Sanitization Operation in North Waziristan

PEAK POINT



NORTH WAZIRISTAN: Based on credible intelligence leads with respect to the presence of Khwarji, from 17 May 2026 onwards, an Area Sanitisation Operation

is being conducted by Security Forces in the general area Shewa in North Waziristan District, according to a statement issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Tuesday. During the conduct of the operation, the security forces effectively engaged the Khwarji location and after an intense exchange of fire, twenty-two Khwarji, belonging to the Indian-sponsored Fitala-Khwarji, were killed in the last twenty-four hours.

Weapons and ammunition have also been recovered from the killed Indian sponsored Khwarji, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area. Presently, the sanitisation operation is in progress, and the area has been effectively cordoned off by security forces.

Evidence further confirms that Khwarji coerced and intimidated the local population, forcing their compliance to obtain safe passage by using them as a human shield. Such deplorable acts are highly condemnable, and no justification can rationalise the endangerment of public lives.

PAA extends airspace ban on Indian aircraft until June 24

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A ban on Indian civilian and military aircraft using Pakistani airspace has been extended for another month, until June 24, according to a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) issued by the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority on Tuesday. The previous extension was set to expire on May 24. The ban extension took effect on May 19 at 10:40am and the restriction was extended until 4:59am on June 24, according to the Notam. "Pakistan airspace not available for Indian registered aircraft and aircraft operated/owned or leased by Indian airlines/operators.

Hostile forces seeking to derail Pakistan's progress through proxies will ultimately fail: COAS

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir has reiterated that hostile forces attempting to undermine Pakistan's progress through proxies and propaganda will ultimately fail in the face of the state's resilience and the unity of its people. Interacting with officers and troops of formations deployed in Balochistan during his visit to Quetta Garrison here Tuesday, the COAS emphasized that Pakistan's destined rise cannot be obstructed through propaganda, fake news or externally sponsored terrorism, said a news release issued Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Underlining the importance of sustainable

peace and stability in province. Balochistan, the Field Addressing student



Marshal highlighted that long-term progress depends upon a people-centric approach, inclusive development and improved governance alongside security efforts.

He appreciated the ongoing efforts of the Government of Balochistan focused on public welfare, socio-economic uplift and strengthening the bond between the state and the people of the

profession. The COAS & CDF highlighted rapidly transforming character of modern warfare and stressed the importance of remaining abreast with emerging technologies, multi-domain operations, tri-services synergy and future battlefield challenges. He advised the officers to continuously train themselves and their troops to effectively respond to the changing character of war while maintaining highest standards of professionalism, preparedness and operational excellence. Highlighting the contours of prevailing security environment, he reaffirmed that Pakistan Armed Forces, with the steadfast support of the people, remain fully committed to the eradication of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

TTAP, PTI announces countrywide protests on Friday against Imran's imprisonment, rising inflation

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Opposition alliance Tehreek Tahaffuz Ayeen-e-Pakistan (TTAP) and PTI on Tuesday announced countrywide protests on Friday against Imran Khan's imprisonment, rising inflation and other issues.

The announcement was made by senior PTI leaders during a press conference held on the Parliament House after a parliamentary party meeting.

The press conference was addressed by former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser and PTI parliamentary leader Shahid Khattak.

Addressing the media, Qaiser said the entire party and the people of Pakistan were deeply concerned about the health.



SPORTS



Rizwan keeps Pakistan alive after Bangladesh tighten grip on second Test



PEAK POINT

SYLHET: Mohammad Rizwan's unbeaten 75 kept Pakistan's hopes alive as the visitors finished Day 4 on 316-7, requiring another 121 runs to beat Bangladesh in the second Test at Sylhet International Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

Resuming their chase in the final session, Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Ali Agha held firm against a disciplined Bangladesh attack, frustrating the hosts with a crucial 100-run stand for the sixth wicket that eased early pressure.

Rizwan continued to anchor the innings, bringing up his 14th Test half-century, while Salman

Ali Agha also reached his 12th first-class fifty in red-ball cricket as Pakistan moved past the 250-run mark.

However, the 134-run partnership was eventually broken when Taijul struck again, removing Salman for a well-compiled 71 off 102 balls, an innings featuring six fours and a six.

Pakistan then slipped further into trouble, losing their seventh wicket when Hasan Ali was dismissed for a duck, with Taijul claiming his fourth wicket of the innings. The visitors were left reeling at 304-7 in 83.2 overs.

At stumps, Pakistan were 316-

7 in 86 overs, with Rizwan unbeaten on 75 and Sajid Khan on eight, still requiring 121 runs for victory.

Earlier, Pakistan began steadily on day four as Azan Awaiz and Abdullah Fazal adopted a cautious approach. However, Nahid Rana broke their 27-run opening stand by dismissing Fazal for six off 28 balls.

Pakistan suffered further setbacks when Mehidy Hasan Miraz removed Azan for 21, leaving them at 41-2 in 16 overs.

Babar Azam and Shan Masood then steadied the innings with a vital third-wicket partnership,

guiding Pakistan past the 100-run mark. Starting the second session at 101-2, Pakistan lost three quick wickets before tea as Nahid Rana and Taijul Islam dismissed Babar Azam. Saud Shakeel and Shan Masood in quick succession. Babar fell after a fighting 47 off 52 deliveries, while Saud Shakeel managed just six off 21 balls, leaving Pakistan under pressure at 154-4 in 43.4 overs.

Shan Masood resisted with a composed 71 off 116 balls, reaching his 14th Test half-century, but was eventually dismissed by Taijul as Pakistan slipped further.

Ronaldo leads Portugal into his sixth World Cup



PEAK POINT

LONDON: Veteran Portugal striker Cristiano Ronaldo will lead his country into the 2026 World Cup this summer after coach Roberto Martinez named the 41-year-old in his squad on Tuesday. The former Real Madrid and Manchester United star, now at Saudi Arabian side Al-Nassr, is set to appear at a record sixth World Cup. Portugal and Ronaldo, the all-time leading men's international goal scorer with 143 goals, have never won the competition.

Ronaldo could face former Barcelona rival Lionel Messi, who is also set to play at a sixth World Cup after leading Argentina to glory four years ago in Qatar. The Portuguese forward avoided a three-match ban despite being sent off against the Republic of Ireland in their last qualifying match for an elbow. Spanish coach Martinez selected a 27-man squad with no major surprises, including Ronaldo's Al-Nassr team-mate Joao Felix. Paris Saint-Germain stars Vitinha, Joao Neves, Nuno Mendes and Goncalo Ramos are also included, along with Manchester United playmaker Bruno Fernandes and a contingent from Manchester City, including Bernardo Silva. In the run-up to the tournament Portugal will face Chile and Nigeria in friendlies, before their World Cup campaign begins against DR Congo on June 17.

U.S. Embassy hosts grand FIFA World Cup launch ceremony



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A prestigious launch event related to the upcoming FIFA World Cup was held at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, bringing together prominent figures from sports, government, and various sectors of society.

Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi, President of the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) Mohsen Gilani,

Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme Mashhood Khan, and Lahore Qalandars Chief Executive Atif Rana were among the distinguished guests in attendance.

Addressing the ceremony, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires to Pakistan Natalie A. Baker said it was an honor that the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) World Cup-related event was being hosted

in Pakistan. She expressed happiness over the positive progress being witnessed in the promotion and development of football in the country and noted that Pakistan is playing an important role in the FIFA World Cup. Natalie Baker highlighted that Pakistan is manufacturing world-class footballs for global use, while the FIFA World Cup to be hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico will be the biggest in history, featuring 48 teams for the first time. She said the United States is fully prepared to welcome fans from around the world and celebrate the historic tournament in a grand manner. She added that sports, particularly football, serve as a powerful bridge to strengthen ties and understanding among nations and people across the globe.

Speaking on the occasion, PFF President Mohsen Gilani said football is helping deepen relations between Pakistan and the United States. He described the FIFA World Cup as one of the greatest events in the world, adding that FIFA unites nations on a single platform through the spirit of the game.

Decision on Mohsin Naqvi's India visit likely this week



Pakistan hockey enters recovery phase under new management

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan hockey is showing strong signs of revival and institutional recovery following sweeping reforms introduced by the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) under the guidance of the Government of Pakistan and Prime Minister of Pakistan, who is also Patron-in-Chief of the federation.

In a press release issued by the PHF Media Cell, the federation highlighted several landmark achievements recorded in recent months.

Among the most notable milestones was the successful staging of the National Under-18 Hockey Tournament in Islamabad after a prolonged hiatus. The championship drew 15 teams from across the country, providing a competitive platform for emerging talent and signalling a renewed commitment to grassroots development. On the international front, Pakistan's national team delivered an encouraging performance at the Hockey

World Cup qualifying event in Cairo, reaching the final and securing a coveted berth in the upcoming Hockey World Cup, a breakthrough that restored confidence among hockey followers after years of struggle.

To strengthen technical expertise, the PHF inducted several former Olympians and distinguished hockey person-

assigned responsibilities across the senior, junior and under-18 programmes.

The federation has also intensified efforts to mobilise financial resources to ensure smooth participation in major international events, including the Cairo qualifiers, Junior Asia Cup in Japan, Pro League engagements in England and



Belgium, and preparations for the Hockey World Cup in the Netherlands later this year. In a significant step for player welfare, daily allowances for players and team management during international tours have been raised to USD 110 per day — described by the PHF as the largest such increase in Pakistan hockey history.

Iran World Cup squad lands in south Turkey for training





Chitral projects face scrutiny over flood protection delays, road bottlenecks and Rs7 billion power scheme timeline

NADEEM TANOLI
ISLAMABAD: Development projects in Chitral came under sharp parliamentary scrutiny after a Senate committee questioned delays in flood protection, road connectivity, power supply and telecommunication schemes in the region. The committee sought clear timelines from federal and provincial departments after concerns were raised that vulnerable areas of Chitral are facing increasing water pressure while protection walls, road projects and other basic infrastructure works remain delayed. The Senate Functional Committee on Problems of Less Developed Areas, chaired by Senator Niaz Ahmed, reviewed the matter of infrastructure and development in Chitral, which had been raised by Senator Talha Mahmood and referred to the committee for consideration and report. The most serious concern was related to flood

protection in vulnerable parts of Chitral. Senator Talha Mahmood warned that water expansion in sensitive areas is increasing risks for local communities and stressed that protection walls must be constructed without further delay. He said commitments had already been made in this regard. Taking serious notice of the matter, Chairman Committee Senator Niaz Ahmed directed the concerned authorities to submit a report within one week, clearly stating the timeline for construction of the protection wall and identifying the department responsible for the execution. Officials informed the committee that the responsibility lies with the National Highway Authority. The committee also reviewed the status of a Rs1.4 billion flood-related project in Chitral. Officials said the Irrigation Department would conduct a site visit shortly, after which work would

begin. They also informed the committee that formulation of the PC I is expected to be completed within one week. A major power scheme also came under discussion. Representatives of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives and the Ministry of Water Resources informed the committee that a 5-megawatt hydroelectric power plant worth Rs7 billion had received approval under the PC I framework. Senator Talha Mahmood questioned the Planning Commission about the timeline for clearance of the PC I, and officials said approval is expected by June 15, 2026. The committee was also informed that a spare transformer would be installed in the area to strengthen the power supply system. Members stressed that reliable electricity is essential for households, tourism, local businesses and public services in

Chitral. Road connectivity remained another major issue during the meeting. Senator Talha Mahmood sought an update from the National Highway Authority on the Chitral-Booni-Mastuj-Shandur Road project. Officials informed the committee that the project is expected to be completed between October and December this year. The Chitral Ayun Bumburet Road project also came under review. Officials admitted that the project is facing delays due to mobilisation issues within the National Highway Authority and land acquisition problems involving the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial government. The road is considered important for tourism activity and local mobility in the region. On the Garam Chashma Dorah Pass Road project, officials assured the committee that work would be completed by June 30, 2026. Members

emphasized that road delays in Chitral directly affect tourism, trade, emergency access and the daily movement of local communities. Telecommunication services were also discussed. Representatives of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority informed the committee that tower capacity enhancement in Chitral would be completed by July 15, 2026 to improve connectivity for local residents. The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission briefed the committee that training had already been provided in nine institutes operating in the region. Committee members called for further expansion of vocational and technical training opportunities to improve employment prospects for local youth. The committee was also briefed on community-supported training initiatives through PCSIR interventions.

Officials said local communities are being trained in the production of value-added products, including jams and jellies, to prevent fruit wastage in Chitral. Training programmes on food preservation, food processing and honey preservation were also highlighted. Chairman Committee Senator Niaz Ahmed directed concerned departments to explore joint ventures with local NGOs in Chitral to expand training initiatives, create employment opportunities and strengthen economic development in the region. The committee reiterated that development work in Chitral must be accelerated and that infrastructure, flood mitigation, telecom connectivity and livelihood projects should be completed within the committed timelines so that people of the less developed region are not left waiting for basic facilities.

Martyr Syed Ali Khamenei devoted his entire life to the unity of the Muslim Ummah: Condolence Mushaira

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Under the auspices of Dabistan Saqib, a grand condolence Mushaira was organized at Amblem Higher Secondary School in memory of the martyred Leader of the Revolution, Ali Khamenei. Renowned poets,

writers, teachers, and personalities from different walks of life from across the country participated in the event. Speakers and poets paid tribute through their speeches and poetry to the services of the martyred revolutionary leader for the Muslim Ummah, particularly for



Palestine and other oppressed and deprived Muslims. The poets stated that Martyr Syed Ali Khamenei dedicated his entire life to the unity of the Muslim Ummah, the support of oppressed people, and resistance against imperialist powers. They said that his martyr-

dom has further united the Muslim Ummah. The speakers added that by embracing martyrdom along with his family, he revived the memory of Karbala and never bowed before imperialist powers such as America and Israel. The condolence Mushaira was presid-

ed over by renowned poet Mian Tanveer Qadri, while Professor Tanveer Haider attended as the chief guest. Distinguished scholar and writer Peer Ateeq Ahmad Chishti and Professor Nasir Mangal were the guests of honor.

Opinion & Editorial

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Rigid on paper

Hamza Haroon
SOME constitutions die by coup. Others are buried quietly, clause by clause, beneath the respectable cover of parliamentary arithmetic. Pakistan's Constitution is, we are told, rigid. Article 239 demands that any amendment be passed by a two-thirds majority of the total membership of each House of Parliament. Where provincial boundaries are touched, the relevant assembly must agree by the same margin. This is supposed to be the great lock on the constitutional door — protection against temporary passions, executive overreach, and rulers who cannot resist rewriting the rules of the game. And yet, here we are again. The 1973 Constitution has been amended 27 times. That number alone is not the problem. Constitutions are not museum pieces; they must breathe and respond to history. But there is a difference between amendment and renovation — and what Pakistan has often practised is closer to the latter, dressed up as the former. The real question is whether entrenchment means anything when institutions are hollow, conventions nonexistent, and a two-thirds majority can be quietly assembled overnight. That is the quiet tragedy here: rigid on paper, fragile in the world. A constitution can be amended by the book and still emerge diminished. Consider the UK, which

has no single written constitution at all. Its arrangements live across statutes, judgments, and long-standing conventions. Parliament, in theory, can do whatever it likes — there is no Article 239 at the door. And yet Westminster tends not to mistake legality for legitimacy. It would not simply abolish devolved institutions in Scotland or Wales because the votes were there. The Sewel Convention — the understanding that Westminster will not normally legislate on devolved matters without consent — has no legal force but carries genuine political weight. Britain's constitution is flexible but politically disciplined. Pakistan's is rigid but politically exposed. America offers the starker contrast. The Constitution of 1787 has seen just 27 amendments, the first 10 ratified together as the Bill of Rights in 1791. That durability has nothing to do with the document being untouchable. It comes from the amendment being understood as a serious national act, not a mechanism for the government of the day to tidy up inconvenient arrangements. Pakistan has reached the same count in roughly half the time. At this pace, 100th amendment will pass without ceremony, quietly buried in a gazette that nobody reads. The 27th Amendment is the clearest example of what is at stake. It created a Federal Constitutional Court, restructured constitutional

adjudication, entrenched the formal standing of military leadership, and handed lifetime immunity from criminal prosecution to the president and senior military officers. Supporters say it was a necessary reform. Critics call it institutional capture. What it cannot be called, in good conscience, is routine. There are countries where constitutional courts work well. But borrowing institutional design without the political culture that makes it function is a familiar Pakistani mistake. The question was never only whether a new court was a good idea. It was who pushed it through, how quickly, and who stood to gain. The amendment followed Article 239. Whether it followed the spirit of constitutionalism is the more important question. A constitution is not simply a list of permissions — it is also a set of restraints that are supposed to hold even when the numbers say they don't have to. Pakistan has become fluent in the first reading and tends to forget the second. Those who defend these amendments fall back on the same logic: the votes were there, the process was followed, what more do you want? But constitutional democracy is not arithmetic. Two-thirds does not launder coercion or transform speed into deliberation. The graver the change, the more the process owes the public in honesty and time. Courtesy Dawn

What do I know?

Muhammad Hamid Zaman
Three decades ago, in the mid 1990s, when I appeared for my matric and intermediate exams for the Federal Board in Islamabad, I was following in the footsteps of everyone I knew. My siblings, my cousins, our neighbours, children of our parents' friends, the kids who played in the same playground I played — everyone went through the same system. This included the children of senior bureaucrats and high-ranking military officials and those who were of very modest means. Some of my classmates came to school on a cramped Vespa with their dads and some had uniformed drivers waiting in brand new cars for them after school. But all of us were part of the same system. Today I do not know a single person in our social network who is part of the national higher secondary school system. Everyone — my nieces and nephews, the children of my friends, the younger cousins on my side of the family and those on my wife's side, and all our social acquaintances — are part of the O and A-level system. This is not a new observation on my part. I have thought a lot about it and have occasionally written about it too. For the longest time, I believed this was because of the failure of the public system, its poor governance and the collapse of trust among parents and students. This was further reinforced by my interactions with families that are not very affluent but are making adjustments in their budget to ensure that their children study in the O and A level system. But I have realised that my understanding, if not entirely inaccurate, is certainly incomplete. There are indeed many problems with the national system, but there is an even bigger problem with my own perspective. Through a series of random conversations, I got interested in looking at what percentage of students in Pakistan study in the national system, and what percentage are part of the O and A level system. I dug up statistics and read news reports. Courtesy Tribune

Hardening positions

Tehran's continued defiance is adding to Washington's frustration bordering on retribution. In a latest move, the Islamic republic has constituted a Persian Gulf Strait Authority to assert sovereignty over the strategic water channel that accounts for 21% of global oil supplies. As expected, the superpower has rejected the move, responding with imposition of financial penalties on global shipping companies paying the transit toll, besides maintaining a strict naval blockade of the water channel targeting all maritime traffic entering or exiting Iranian ports. All that only suggests a widening stand-off between the two warring sides, threatening resumption of hostilities which mercifully stand paused under a Pakistan-mediated ceasefire since April 8. And so, there is every danger of the US — desperately in need of an a respectable exit from the Persian Gulf trap — triggering the next phase of the showdown with Iran in pursuit of earning some political points in time for the upcoming mid-term elections to the Congress. Thus, the emerging scenario is that a renewed US bombardment of Iran — causing casualties and damages — would provide President Donald Trump with a face-saving exit. This would allow his administration to claim a decisive military victory, and move on to pivot to diplomacy without appearing to yield under pressure.

NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq meets Bangladesh civil servants' delegation: Reaffirms strong parliamentary and bilateral ties



PEAK POINT
Islamabad: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, met a delegation of civil servants from Bangladesh at the Parliament House, Islamabad, today. During the meeting, the Speaker warmly welcomed the delegation and highlighted the longstanding historical, cultural, and people-to-people relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh. Speaking

on the occasion, Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq shared details of his recent visit to Bangladesh to attend the funeral of former Prime Minister of Bangladesh and BNP Chairperson, Begum Khaleda Zia. He stated that he represented Pakistan on the occasion and conveyed condolences on behalf of the people and Parliament of Pakistan. He remarked that the affection and warmth extended by the people and leadership of Bangladesh

towards Pakistan reflected a shared desire for enhanced parliamentary and diplomatic engagement between the two countries. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq informed the participants that strengthening democratic institutions, ensuring transparency, and modernizing parliamentary procedures remained among his top priorities. The Speaker also stated that the National Assembly was moving towards becoming a fully digital and paperless Parliament. He said that iPads had been provided to Members of the National Assembly to facilitate digital access to parliamentary business, legislation, agendas, and committee proceedings. He emphasized that this initiative would not only improve efficiency and transparency but would also help save public resources and promote environmentally sustainable parliamentary practices. The Speaker further said that efforts are underway to integrate modern technology and artificial intelligence.

Pakistan to send cultural troupe to Jordan for 40th Jerash Festival: Khichi

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening cultural diplomacy and international cultural engagement.

The minister expressed these views during a meeting with Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Pakistan Dr. Maen Khreasat, who called on him at his office in Islamabad to discuss matters of mutual interest, particularly cultural cooperation between Pakistan and Jordan.

During the meeting, the ambassador formally extended an invitation on behalf of Jordan's Ministry of Culture to the minister for participation in the 40th Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts, scheduled to be held from July 22 to August 02 in the



ancient city of Jerash. Pakistan to send cultural troupe to Jordan for 40th Jerash Festival: Khichi

Accepting the invitation, the minister said that under existing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between Pakistan and Jordan, Pakistan would send a cultural troupe to Jordan, while a Jordanian cultural troupe would also be invited to visit Pakistan to further enhance people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. The ambassador appreciated Pakistan's rich cultural heritage and lauded traditional.

ECC approves key TSGs, PNSC restructuring, gemstone policy



PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Tuesday approved several key Technical Supplementary Grants (TSGs), granted in-principle approval for restructuring of Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC), and cleared the National Policy to realize Pakistan's gemstone potential 2026-2030. The meeting was met under the chairmanships of the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, said a news release.

The ECC approved a summary submitted by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training for allocation of Rs.

3,915.24 million through Technical Supplementary Grant (TSG) for the Prime Minister Youth Skill Development Programme through NAVTTC and establishment of Danish Schools in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Gilgit-Baltistan, and Balochistan.

The ECC further approved two summaries submitted by the Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control, including TSG amounting to Rs. 160 million for repair and maintenance of the Prime Minister's Office during FY 2025-26, and allocation of Rs. 480 million for recurring operational requirements of Frontier Corps KP (North) Hospital at Shakas, District Khyber. The Committee was informed that following winding up of Pakistan Public Works Department (Pak PWD), maintenance responsibilities of the Prime Minister's Office had been transferred to the Capital Development Authority (CDA). The ECC noted that the approved allocation for FC KP (North) Hospital would support uninterrupted provision of healthcare and operational services for FC personnel, families of Shuhadas, and injured soldiers.

Engr Amir Muqam visits under-construction Danish school project in Bhimber

PEAK POINT

BHIMBER: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam, on Tuesday visited the under-construction Danish school project in Bhimber district of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and expressed satisfaction over the pace and quality of the construction work.

On this occasion, Federal Minister Engineer Amir Muqam said that the project reflected Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's special affection and commitment towards the education empowerment of people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. He said, "it is a moment of pride for us that the Danish school project is taking practical shape. This is the fulfillment of a dream and a promise to provide education opportunities to all." He said the project represented Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's vision of promoting quality and equal education for all segments of society. Engineer Amir Muqam.

Pak-China relations unparalleled despite bureaucratic hurdles: Minister

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh has said that Pakistan and China's 75-year-old diplomatic relation stands as an "unparalleled model" of bilateral cooperation and despite bureaucratic hurdles and regulatory challenges, the iron-clad friendship has weathered global upheavals.

He was speaking at a ceremony, titled: "Celebrating Long-Term Pak-China Cooperation," organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on the occasion of a report launch 'Charting the evolution from CPEC's first phase to its transformative second phase'. The minister said at present China is the world's second largest econo-



my that lifted 800 million people out of poverty whereas Pakistan is confronted with the same problems that existed 39 years ago because of bureaucratic set-up. Me Sheikh revealed that a proposed amendment to facilitate Chinese textile investment has been pending for six months despite Prime Minister's approval due to prevailing arduous bureaucratic procedures. Deputy Head of Mission at the Chinese Embassy, Shi Yuanqiang, lauding SDPI for organizing the celebrations.

"Int'l Day to End Fistula" Key Messages for 2026 observed

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: An estimated 2 million women live with fistula in the developing countries. Thousands of other women simply suffer in silence, unaware that they can seek medical assistance. It's easy to ignore things that you don't know, Obstetric fistula is one of those things. But it's a devastating childbirth injury to women who experience it, usually fatal to unborn babies (90 per cent of cases end in stillbirth). But now here's the encouraging news "Not only treatable but preventable". These views were expressed by Dr. Sobia Luqman, Focal Person, Dr. Shumaila Naem, Coordinator, and Athar Syed, Program Coordinator, while addressing a press conference. They further said that fistula is a devastating disease of women during childbirth. Recognizing the gravity of the challenge in hand, to give a high-level

importance to this miserable condition, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Fistula Foundation celebrate this day globally on 23rd May every year as "International Day to End Fistula" Key Messages for 2026 The International Day to End Obstetric Fistula (IDEOF): Promoting universal access to quality care is essential for the prevention of maternal mortality and morbidity. Fistula can be prevented when women get timely maternity care, including skilled birth attendance, midwifery care and emergency obstetric care (as needed), with accessibility to family planning services. Change starts with the community! Community empowerment and participation are key to successfully address the determinants of maternal mortality, morbidity and ensure the utilization of fistula prevention and treatment services by women, girls, their families, and communities.

Pakistan proposes joint vaccine production programme with China

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal has proposed a joint vaccine production programme with China, stressing the need for urgent steps towards local production of pharmaceutical raw materials and active pharmaceutical ingredients (API).

He made these remarks during a meeting with China's health minister on the sidelines of the 79th World Health Assembly in Geneva, where both sides discussed bilateral cooperation in the health sector and other issues of mutual interest.

He also discussed the promo-



tion and importance of naphtha cracker projects in Pakistan, noting that 80 to 90 per cent of pharmaceutical raw materials. Mustafa Kamal said the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) would achieve WHO Maturity Level Three status by early 2027, after which Pakistan's pharmaceutical market would expand to 100 more countries. The Chinese health minister.

Seminar on Healthcare Excellence and Medical Tourism held

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Maroof International Hospital in collaboration with Mövenpick Hotel Centaurus Islamabad hosted a prestigious International Nurses Day Seminar in Islamabad, bringing together senior government officials, healthcare leaders, students, girl guides, lady health workers, members of the diplomatic corps, and representatives from the corporate and hospitality sectors to recognize the invaluable contribution of nurses to Pakistan's healthcare system. The event was graced by Chairman Senate of Pakistan H.E. Syed Yousef Raza Gilani as the Chief Guest. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan,



Advisor and National Coordinator of the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Tourism, attended as Guest of Honor alongside Ch. Naseer Ahmed, Chairman, Maroof International Hospital. Ambassadors and diplomats from Turkmenistan, Germany, Russia, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Indonesia, Azerbaijan, Mauritius, the Turkish

Republic of Northern Cyprus, and Syria also attended the seminar. The seminar was led by Haroon Naseer, CEO Maroof International, together with Dr. Mir Abdul Waheed, Medical Director, MIH, and Ms. Catherine, Chief of Nursing. Addressing healthcare professionals and guests, Haroon Naseer emphasized the urgent need to strengthen



Pakistan's nursing workforce and healthcare infrastructure. "Nurses are the backbone of healthcare and represent nearly 60% of the global healthcare workforce. Their dedication, compassion, and resilience are critical to improving patient care and strengthening healthcare systems," said Haroon Naseer. He further stressed that Pakistan

must invest in nursing education, training, and professional development to meet the growing demands of modern healthcare. Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan highlighted the growing opportunities for Pakistan in healthcare and medical tourism. "Pakistan has tremendous potential in medical and wellness tourism. By combining quality health-

care services, internationally trained medical professionals, and world-class hospitality, Pakistan can position itself as a regional destination for affordable and reliable medical treatment," said Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan. Dr. Mir Abdul Waheed, Medical Director, MIH, paid tribute to nurses for their frontline role in patient care, emergency response, and community health services, while also recognizing the broader contribution of healthcare professionals in building a healthier and stronger Pakistan. Ms. Catherine emphasized the critical role of nurses as the foundation of patient care delivery and hospital safety standards.