



Bangladesh civil servants delegation meets CJP



Pakistan-China friendship rooted in shared values, enduring ties: Tarar



Talal Chaudhry attends Pakistan Coast Guards' 46th passing-out parade

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Aga Khan affirms commitment to supporting development during meeting with President Zardari

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prince Rahim al-Hussaini Aga Khan V, on his first visit to Pakistan since being named the spiritual leader of the Ismaili community last year, reaffirmed the Aga Khan Development Network's (AKDN) commitment to supporting humanitarian and development efforts in Pakistan during a meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari. According to a statement, Prince Rahim is visiting Pakistan from May 20 to 26. Upon his arrival at Nur Khan Air Base, Prince Rahim was received by President Asif Ali Zardari. He was presented with a guard of honour at Aiwan-i-Sadr, where he stood alongside the president as the national anthem was played.

Prince Rahim then had a meeting with the president, which was also attended by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, followed by delegation-level talks, according to a statement from the Presidency.

It adds that Prince Rahim's delegation comprised Sultan Ali Allana, Director of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development and Head of Financial Services at AKDN; Shafiq Sachedina, Head of the Department of Jamati Institutions; Nizar Noor Mohammed Mewawala, President of the Ismaili Council for Pakistan; and Akbar Ladak, Vice President of the Ismaili Council for Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari receiving Prince Rahim Aga Khan V upon his arrival at Nur Khan Airbase.

Xi and Putin unite in criticism of US on nuclear, security issues

PEAK POINT



CHINA: China and Russia condemned United States President Donald Trump's Golden Dome missile defence shield plans and Washington's "irresponsible" nuclear policy

at a joint summit on Wednesday, a week after President Xi Jinping hosted Trump in Beijing. A statement from Xi and Russian President Vladimir Putin said Trump's plan for a ground- and space-based missile interceptor system posed a threat to global strategic stability. It also criticised the United States over the expiry of the last remaining treaty restricting the size of the US and Russian nuclear arsenals, which lapsed in February with Trump failing to respond to Moscow's proposal to extend the limits by a year. Both sides jointly signed a statement on strengthening comprehensive strategic coordination and a declaration advocating multi-polarity in the world order. "The global agenda of peace and development is facing new risks and challenges, with the danger of fragmentation of the international community and a drift back toward the 'law of the jungle,'" their joint declaration said, according to the Kremlin.

PM Shehbaz reaffirms resolve to ensure success of CPEC next phase

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to ensure success of next phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which focuses on key sectors including agriculture, information technology, industry, and mining. He was talking to a high-level

Chinese delegation, led by Vice Chairman of Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Cai Dafeng, in Islamabad today. The delegation is visiting Pakistan to participate in celebrations marking 75th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. The Prime Minister lauded role of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as a game-changer for Pakistan's socio-economic development. He said Pakistan and China, over the past 75 years, have established a unique bond of friendship, anchored in mutual trust and strategic convergence on issues of bilateral and regional significance. The Prime Minister conveyed his warm greetings to President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang, and the Chinese people on the occasion of 75th anniversary. He reiterated Pakistan's full support for China's core interests, while expressing appreciation for China's continued support for Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In the context of the regional situation, the Prime Minister appreciated China's constructive role in promoting peace and stability in South Asia and in the Middle East, and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to regional harmony and multilateral cooperation.

Tankers exit Hormuz as Trump, Vance talk up Iran deal prospects

PEAK POINT



SINGAPORE/WASHINGTON: Two Chinese tankers laden with oil exited the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday, shipping data showed, brightening hopes that the

US-Israeli conflict with Iran may soon be resolved after positive comments from the US president and his deputy. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday the war would be over "very quickly" while Vice President JD Vance talked up progress in talks with Tehran about an agreement to end hostilities. "We're in a pretty good spot here," Vance told a White House press briefing. Trump made his comments a day after saying he had paused a planned resumption of hostilities following a new proposal by Tehran to end the conflict.

"I was an hour away from making the decision to go today," Trump told reporters at the White House on Tuesday.

Iran's leaders are begging for a deal, he said, adding that a new US attack would happen in the coming days if no agreement was reached. The United States has been struggling to end the war it began with Israel nearly three months ago. Trump has repeatedly said during the conflict that a deal with Tehran was close, and similarly threatened heavy strikes on Iran if it did not reach an accord.

Govt announces Eidul Azha holidays from May 26-28

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Wednesday announced a three-day public holiday from May 26-28 (Tuesday to Thursday) to mark Eidul Azha.

According to a notification issued by the Cabinet Division, shared by state-run APP on the social media platform X, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif declared May 26 to 28 as "public holidays on the occasion of Eidul Azha".

Pakistan will observe Eidul Azha on May 27 (Wednesday).

Pakistan, China share 'converging vision' on regional and global issues, says DPM Dar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said Islamabad and Beijing shared a "converging vision" on regional and global matters.

"Pakistan and China share a converging vision on regional and global issues," said Dar while addressing the Senate. A Chinese delegation was present in the visitors' gallery to mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

"We are committed to upholding the purposes and principles of the UN Charter in a world facing complex challenges," the foreign minister said. Dar stressed that cooperation between Pakistan and

China at the United Nations, the Shanghai ties. During the visit, they



Cooperation Organisation (SCO), and other international forums had been "vital in defending the interests of developing countries and promoting global peace".

During his address, Dar said that he will be accompanying PM Shehbaz Sharif on his state visit to China from May 23 to 26, during which they will also attend celebrations marking the 75th

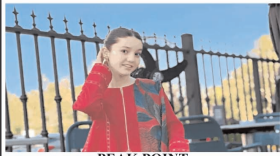
anniversary of Pak-China ties. During the visit, they would engage with the Chinese leadership, including President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang, besides business-to-business (B2B) meetings. "We would also have meetings of two very important mechanisms: Pakistan-China Political Forum and CPEC Joint Consultative Mechanism," Dar said, adding that a large multi-party parliamentary delegation from

Pakistan would be attending many of these meetings. Dar highlighted the joint initiative by the two neighbours to "promote peace and stability in the Gulf and the Middle East, noting that it reflected a "shared sense of responsibility as peace-loving nations to contribute to global security and stability".

Recalling his visit to China in late March, Dar said, "We came up with a five-point initiative for a peace plan in the conflict, and this has been accepted and endorsed by dozens of countries on the globe." Dar noted he had been in "constant touch" with China's FM Wang Yi and other colleagues from the region throughout the Middle East conflict that began with US-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28.

In detailed order, court rules 'no leniency' for murderer of Sana Yousaf

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: After a sessions court on Tuesday sentenced Umar Hayat to death for the murder of 17-year-old social media influencer Sana Yousaf, the detailed order made public on Wednesday observed that the accused deserved "no leniency" as there were "no mitigating circumstances" in the case. Last year, Umar Hayat — son of a retired government official and a TikTok star himself — was arrested a day after 17-year-old Yousaf was shot dead in her Islamabad house.

on June 2, 2025.

The 23-year-old convict had confessed before a magistrate under Section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) that he shot Yousaf. In his statement, he admitted developing a one-sided obsession with her after online interactions.



SPORTS



Bangladesh complete 2-0 Test series whitewash over Pakistan



PEAK POINT
SYLHET: Bangladesh beat Pakistan by 78 runs in the second Test at Sylhet International Cricket Stadium on Wednesday to clinch the two-match series 2-0.

Chasing a mammoth 437, Pakistan were bowled out for 358, handing the hosts a comprehensive victory and a series whitewash.

After resuming on day five following a brief rain interruption, Mohammad Rizwan and Sajid Khan added valuable runs in quick time, putting together a key 50-plus stand that pushed the total beyond 350.

The partnership was eventually ended by Tajjul Islam, who removed Sajid Khan for 28 off 36 balls, a brisk innings featuring five fours.

Soon after, Pakistan lost another wicket when Shoriful Islam dismissed Mohammad Rizwan for a superb 94 off 166 deliveries, an innings decorated with 10 boundaries. Tajjul Islam then completed his six-wicket haul by cleaning up Khurram Shahzad for a duck, bringing the innings and the match to a close.

The Green Shirts had a shaky start to the chase as both openers were removed for 41 runs. Babar

Azam and skipper Shan Masood then steadied the innings with a vital third-wicket partnership, guiding Pakistan past the 100-run mark. Babar fell after a fighting 47, while Saud Shakeel managed just six, leaving Pakistan under pressure at 154-4. Shan resisted with a composed 71, but was eventually dismissed by Tajjul as Pakistan slipped further. Despite the collapse, Rizwan and Salman rebuilt the innings with a crucial stand that pushed Pakistan beyond 200 runs and briefly stabilised the chase. However, the 134-run partnership was eventually broken when Tajjul struck again, removing

Salman for a well-compiled 71. Hasan Ali was also removed by Tajjul as Pakistan finished Day 4 on 316-7. Earlier in their first innings, Bangladesh were bowled out for 278 despite slipping to 116/6, largely due to a composed and commanding innings from Litton Das, who held the innings together and guided the lower order. The right-handed batter top-scored with a magnificent 126, decorated with 16 fours and two sixes. For Pakistan, Shahzad was the standout bowler, finishing with four wickets for 81 runs in 17 overs. Abbas took three wickets.

Fakhar Zaman, Saim Ayub ruled out of Pakistan vs Australia ODI series



PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Openers Fakhar Zaman and Saim Ayub have been ruled out of Pakistan's upcoming one-day international (ODI) series against Australia, the cricket board said on Wednesday.

In a statement, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said that the opening batters "will not be available for selection for the upcoming three-match ODI series [...] scheduled to begin on 30 May during Australia's tour of Pakistan".

The board further noted that both players are currently recovering from injuries and have been advised to continue their rehabilitation programmes under the supervision of the PCB medical panel.

"Consequently, they have been ruled out of selection for the ODI series. The PCB wishes both players a speedy recovery and looks forward to seeing them return to competitive cricket at the earliest opportunity."

Further updates regarding the squad and player fitness, as mentioned in the statement, will be shared in due course.

The ODI series will begin on Saturday, May 30, with the opening match scheduled at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

The second and third ODIs will be played at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on June 2 and 4, respectively. All matches will start at 4:30pm local time.

Pakistan Football Federation Football4MentalHealth programme in Islamabad



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Football Federation and United Nations Youth Office on Wednesday launched the Football4MentalHealth programme in Islamabad, bringing together players, officials and stakeholders to highlight football's growing role in promoting mental wellbeing and social development in Pakistan. The event marked Pakistan's inclusion as one of the pilot countries in the global UNFootball4MentalH

health initiative, which, like other countries, faces increasing



ing, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan Mohammad Yahya described the collaboration as "not just a partnership, but a message that young people matter." He emphasized that Pakistan has a significant youth population

Mohsen Gilani underlined football's power beyond the pitch, stating that federations have a responsibility not only to organize sport but also to contribute towards building society. He revealed that the campaign, initially planned for six months, has now been extended to one year, with the aim of creating more than 400 mental health ambassadors across the country. Gilani reaffirmed his commitment to using football as a tool for social impact and youth empowerment. Pakistan women's national team captain Maria Khan and former vice-captain Malika Noor shared personal experiences on how football provides therapy, belonging and emotional resilience.

Women Tennis Association of Pakistan meeting held



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Women Tennis Association of Pakistan (WTAP) was held here at the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) Tennis Complex on Wednesday. The meeting was chaired by Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, President of the Pakistan Tennis Federation,

said a press release. The meeting was attended by Ms. Asma Khawar Khawaja (President WTAP), Zaira Ahmad Zaka (Secretary General WTAP), Ms. Sarah Ibrahim Khan (Treasurer WTAP), Ms. Sara Mansoor (NDD-PTF), Shahida Kausar Farooq, Ms. Bakhtawar Raja, Ms.

Mehreen Haider, Mahnoor Haider, Adil Bari, Ali Ashraf, Ms. Mehek Khokhar, Ms. Gulmira, and Ms. Ushan Suhail. The participants discussed various matters related to the promotion and development of women's tennis in Pakistan. Special focus was given to organizing more tournaments and development activities for young girls and women across the country. The meeting also reviewed preparations and planning for Pakistan's participation in the upcoming Billie Jean King Cup and emphasized the importance of providing better opportunities and exposure to female tennis players.

Sohail Sakhi summits Kanchenjunga, world's third highest peak



Pensioners held meeting with the Director General PSB

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of retired employees and widows of the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) met with the Director General PSB, Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, and apprised him of issues related to the timely disbursement of pensions. The delegation stated that the current pension system was established following the merger of the National Sports Trust (NST) into the Pakistan Sports Board in 1980 and is based on various government decisions, directives of the Federal Ombudsman, and orders of concerned ministries. Under this framework, PSB was authorized to disburse pensions to retired employees. It was further highlighted that in 1984, the PSB General Body and Executive Committee approved the pension scheme and regulations, while in 2008 the Ministry of Sports formally notified the scheme through a gazette notification. Since 2006, PSB has been paying pensions from its own limited resources, current-

ly benefiting more than 250 retired employees and 42 family pensioners. The delegation further clarified that the contributory provident fund (CPF) system is no longer applicable under the existing arrangement, as deductions were discontinued after March 2006; therefore, implementation of an alternative contributory



mechanism has become practically difficult. It was also informed that the current PSB Board approved the establishment of a Contributory Pension Fund in 2025 to make the pension system more sustainable. Under this arrangement, deductions of 10% from retired employees (effective July 2025), 20% from pension-

ers above 72 years of age, and 10% from regular employees are being implemented. The delegation also pointed out that a large number of officers have been appointed on deputation in PSB, who are reportedly receiving sports allowance of up to 150% of their basic pay. It was further highlighted that these officers are also using official vehicles and fuel facilities, while the government is simultaneously pursuing a policy of austerity and expenditure reduction. The delegation observed that linking rationalization of such expenditures with the timely release of pensions is necessary to ensure financial balance and fairness within the organization. The delegation requested the immediate release of pensions for April and May 2026, especially in view of Eid-ul-Adha, so that retired employees and their families may not face financial hardship during the festive period. In this regard, a signed letter from the pensioners and widows addressed to the Director General, Pakistan Sports Board.



Illegal Weapons, Armed Guards and 'Dala culture' under scrutiny as 12,966 FIRs registered in Punjab

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: The spread of illegal weapons, unauthorized armed guards and the "Dala Culture" came under scrutiny before the Functional Committee on Human Rights after officials disclosed that 9,968 FIRs related to illegal weapons were registered in Punjab during 2025, while another 2,998 FIRs have already been registered in 2026. The committee was also informed that 30 FIRs were lodged against the unauthorized display or use of private armed guards, raising serious questions over armed groups, private security misuse and weak enforcement of weapons laws. The matter surfaced during the committee's review of the

targeted killing of Ahmed Javed in DHA-9 Lahore, where separate proceedings related to alleged illegal and unauthorized weapons were also discussed. The case drew attention to the broader issue of armed persons, private guards, suspicious weapons licences and the public display of weapons in Punjab. Officials informed the committee that several FIRs had been registered under the Punjab Arms Ordinance, 1965. These included FIR No. 1777/25 and FIR No. 1778/25 registered at Police Station Defence-B Lahore, FIR No. 83/26, FIR No. 1499/25 at Police Station Millat Park Lahore, and FIR No. 3121/25 at Police Station Defence-C Lahore. The committee was



told that these cases are being proceeded with independently in accordance with law. The committee was also briefed that issues relating to illegal weapons, unlawful display of armed persons, validity of arms licences and irregular private security arrangements are already under separate legal proceedings. Officials said these matters are being dealt with under the Punjab Arms

Ordinance and other applicable legal frameworks. The most alarming figures presented before the committee showed that Punjab police registered 9,968 FIRs relating to illegal weapons during 2025. In addition, 2,998 FIRs have already been registered during 2026 so far, indicating that the issue remains widespread despite enforcement claims. The committee was further informed that 30

FIRs concerning "Dala Culture" and the unauthorized display or use of private armed guards had also been registered during 2025-26. This raised concern over the growing trend of private armed convoys, public display of weapons and the use of guards in a manner that creates fear among citizens. The proceedings highlighted serious concerns about whether existing arms control mechanisms are strong enough to prevent misuse of weapons and private security arrangements. Members were informed that action is being taken, but the scale of registered cases shows that illegal weapons remain a major law enforcement challenge. The issue also exposed the dangerous

overlap between private security culture, illegal weapons and public safety in urban areas. The presence of armed guards, vehicles associated with "Dala Culture" and questionable weapons use has increasingly become a symbol of power, intimidation and weak state control. The committee stressed that all matters should proceed strictly according to law and that no injustice should be caused to any party. However, the disclosures placed fresh pressure on law enforcement agencies to show whether FIR registration is followed by effective prosecution, weapon recovery, and accountability for those involved.

Higher Education reforms underway to strengthen sector, Says Chairman HEC

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan is undertaking comprehensive reforms and policy interventions aimed at strengthening governance, while putting strenuous efforts to accelerate digital transformation and internationalisation of higher education. This was stated by Chairman HEC Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar while addressing a press briefing here at the Commission Secretariat on

Wednesday. He termed the media a very important stakeholder of development in the higher education sector and presented an overview of the developments that have taken place during the last few months. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar said, "HEC's foremost priority has been the strengthening of governance." He maintained that HEC engaged all the relevant stakeholders, holding meetings with the Commission, Vice Chancellors Committee, Accreditation Councils, and



other decision-making forums. He said that coordination with provincial HECs and higher education departments has also been enhanced to ensure uniform and effective implementation of poli-

cies nationwide. He also shared the outcomes of his recent extensive visits across universities from Karachi to Gilgit-Baltistan, saying that the visits provided direct insights into institutional

challenges, governance models, student needs, and regional educational strengths. Referring to digital transformation initiatives, the Chairman termed the launch of online attestation services a major public facilitation reform that would reduce unnecessary travel, delays, and inconvenience for students and graduates. HEC has achieved a milestone in the public service delivery by adopting an entirely paperless, online degree attestation system. Apprising the media

of HEC's efforts to revitalise accreditation councils, he said that HEC is working on establishing new accreditation councils in disciplines including Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Biological Sciences, Languages, and Psychology. He said that HEC has established task forces on different key academic matters, including a task force to recommend on how the position of Pakistani universities can be strengthened in the international rankings.

Opinion & Editorial



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Animal transport

Rukhsana Shah
HUMANS may be the most sentient creatures on earth, but it is their duty as custodians of the planet to recognise that other species are also sentient and should be cared for and protected. Unfortunately, cruelty towards animals is endemic in Pakistan, with horrific stories of abuse reported frequently in social and mainstream media.

On Eidul Azha, around 7.5 million animals are expected to be sacrificed in the country — a huge number for mass slaughter in a limited time frame, with implications for hygiene, health, biosafety, waste management, environmental issues and transportation. Each year, we see cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep and camels being moved from one place to another, pushed along busy roads with sticks, or crammed into trucks, wagons and even rickshaws to and from animal markets.

In these dirty, overcrowded vehicles, there is little space for the animals to move: they are thrown at each other, sometimes breaking their limbs, at others collapsing with heat and dehydration. They are pushed up onto trucks and forced to jump down from these at the end of the journey. They are tied to vehicle frames by ropes that are too small for them, forcing them to hold up their necks in a painful position, sometimes even getting their horns stuck in the vehicle slats. Often cattle

are injured or blinded when they are gored by the horns of other animals or when they lose their footing. They undergo torture, fear, stress and trauma. Owners and transporters do not provide them with adequate food, water, rest, ventilation and protection from extreme heat. Vehicles aren't disinfected, leading to the spread of disease and parasites. There are no standardised ramps, and no limits on the duration of journeys. At the same time, animal markets often lack shade, clean water, food and veterinary supervision. Butchers aren't properly trained and slaughterhouses are insanitary with poor waste management.

Animal abuse in Pakistan remains a systemic issue. Pakistan has few laws for animal welfare. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1890, that is still extant, prohibits causing "unnecessary pain or suffering" to animals, covers overloading, beating and cruel transport but the penalties for violation are very low. The Punjab and Sindh animal legislation of 2019 and 2022 is general in nature. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Animal Welfare Act, 2024, is more animal-centred and explicitly sets humane handling and transport standards along with increased penalties. However, animal abuse in Pakistan remains a systemic issue mainly due to lack of institutional commitment. Even where laws exist, there is hardly any

capacity to enforce the provisions, such as regular inspection of vehicles, enforcing health and safety protocols, and prosecuting and penalising violators. There's no dedicated infrastructure for animal transport, nor is there public awareness of these matters.

Pakistan as a member of the World Organisation on Animal Health recognises the sentience of animals and their five universal freedoms: from hunger, thirst and malnutrition, from fear and distress, from physical and thermal discomfort, from pain, injury and disease, and to behave in a manner innate in the animal's own kind. Islamic teachings explicitly mandate the humane treatment of animals, including those designated for sacrifice. The guidelines include providing animals with kindness, food, water and shelter, protecting them from unnecessary suffering, and not slaughtering an animal in front of another animal or sharpening knives in front of it. The government must initiate an awareness campaign before Eid through electronic / social media, mosques and banners to emphasise Islamic values such as kindness and care of all species, and especially sacrificial animals. It should also educate the public that abuse such as cruel transportation, painful slaughter, beating, dragging animals, or letting them go thirsty is haram.

Courtesy Dawn

When the classroom travels

Dr Intikhab Ulfaq

Travelling with students is never merely a matter of distance. It is a movement of minds. A bus journey, when connected with an academic purpose, can become a moving classroom, a shared experience and a reminder that education does not begin and end within the walls of a lecture hall. Some lessons are learned from books, some from teachers, and some from the atmosphere of participation itself.

Recently, I had the opportunity to travel with students and faculty members from the Department of Physics, University of Karachi, to Government College University Hyderabad for the International Conference on Frontiers of Modern Physics and Sustainable Technologies, FMST-2026. The journey from Karachi to Hyderabad was not simply a departmental visit. It became an academic experience filled with conversation, curiosity, companionship and the quiet excitement that appears when young minds move toward a wider world of knowledge.

The theme of the conference was timely and relevant. Modern physics is no longer confined to abstract theories, blackboards and laboratory demonstrations. It is now deeply connected with clean energy, climate action, advanced materials, nanotechnology, data science, environmental monitoring and sustainable development. A subject once perceived by many students as difficult and theoretical increasingly stands at the centre of technological and social transformation. Physics today is present in solar cells, medical imaging, sensors, communication systems, climate models, radiation technologies and advanced materials.

This is precisely why such conferences matter. In classrooms, students learn equations, laws, theories and definitions. At conferences, they witness how those ideas are presented, questioned, debated and connected with real problems.

Courtesy Tribune

Gilani reaffirms Pakistan-China parliamentary partnership during meeting with Chinese delegation



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, on Wednesday, welcomed a high-level delegation led by Cai Dafeng, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China, during an important meeting held at Parliament House, Islamabad.

During the meeting, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani emphasised that the

enduring friendship between Pakistan and China remained a cornerstone for peace, stability, development, and prosperity in the region.

He noted that the completion of 75 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries reflected the historic and time-tested bond shared by the peoples of Pakistan and China. Highlighting the significance of parliamentary diplomacy, the Chairman of the Senate said that par-

liamentary exchanged and institutional cooperation between the Senate of Pakistan and the National People's Congress of China were playing a pivotal role in further strengthening bilateral relations.

He stressed that sustained engagement between lawmakers of both countries would deepen mutual understanding and enhance cooperation across multiple sectors.

Gilani observed that Pakistan-China relations were founded on mutual trust, respect, goodwill, and unwavering support for each other's core interests. Recalling his numerous visits to China while serving in different national capacities, he said he had the privilege of meeting Chinese leadership, including the President, Prime Minister, and senior ministers, while also visiting various regions of China. He added that these engagements led to several important agreements aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation.

Pakistan-China friendship rooted in shared values, enduring ties: Tarar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar has said that Pakistan and China shared an unbreakable bond rooted in history, shared values and strong people-to-people connections as celebrations marking 75 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries commenced at the Pak-China Friendship Centre.

Addressing the "Pakistan-China Cultural Evening, Celebrating 75 Years of Enduring Friendship, Shared Values, and a Bright Future" held here, the minister extended greetings in Chinese by saying "da jia hao".

Tarar said it was a real pleasure for him to host the event at the Pak-China Friendship Centre as Pakistan and China began celebrations commemorating 75 years of diplomatic relations.



He said the Pakistan-China friendship had been passed down through generations and remained deeply cherished by the people of Pakistan.

"It is something we hold very dear, something which is very close to our hearts, and something which has stood the test of time," he remarked. Recalling a personal family memory, the minister said his mother had told him that as a young schoolgirl in Islamabad, she was among the children who welcomed former Chinese premier Zhou Enlai during his visit to Pakistan while waving the flags.

Pakistan signs offshore exploration agreements, reopens offshore frontier after two decades

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik on Wednesday witnessed the signing ceremony of Production Sharing Agreements (PSAs) and Exploration Licences (ELs) for offshore exploration blocks awarded under the Offshore Bid Round 2025, marking the formal reopening of Pakistan's offshore frontier after nearly two decades.

The awarded blocks are located in the Indus and Makran offshore basins adjoining the territorial waters of Sindh and Balochistan. The Offshore Bid Round 2025 attracted bids covering approximately 54,600 square kilometres of Pakistan's offshore area, resulting in the award of 23 offshore blocks, said a news release.

Two offshore blocks awarded under the same bid round, Offshore Deep-C and Offshore Deep-F, had earlier been executed on December 2, 2025, with Mari

Energies Limited, Turkish Petroleum Overseas Company (TPOC), and Fatima Petroleum Company Limited during a ceremony held at the Prime Minister's Office. With the signing of the remaining 21 PSAs today, the contractual framework for the entire Offshore Bid Round 2025 portfolio now stands fully completed.

Speaking at the ceremony, Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik termed the signing a defining milestone in the Government's efforts to revitalise offshore exploration, attract both foreign and domestic investment, and reduce reliance on imported energy. He added that the agreements reflect strong investor confidence in Pakistan's offshore upstream potential, a frontier spanning 282,623 square kilometres, where only 18 exploratory wells have been drilled since independence. The Minister further highlighted that the successful completion of the offshore bid round reflects.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Mr Ali Pervaiz Malik witnessed the signing ceremony of Production sharing agreements (PSAs) and Exploration Licences (ELs) for offshore exploration blocks awarded under the offshore Bid Round 2025.

Bangladesh civil servants delegation meets CJF

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of senior civil servants from Bangladesh called on the Chief Justice of Pakistan at the Supreme Court of Pakistan during their visit to Pakistan under the Executive Development Programme being conducted at the National School of Public Policy.

The delegation was led by Rector NSPP Farhan Aziz Khawaja and included senior Bangladeshi bureaucrats headed by Additional Secretary Salma Siddiqua Mahtab.

Welcoming the delegation, Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi briefed participants on Pakistan's judicial system and ongoing reform initiatives aimed at making the justice sector citizen-centric, transparent, technology-driven and efficient.

The delegation was informed about key reforms introduced by the apex court, including e-filing, video-link hearings, digital dashboards, QR-coded certified copies, e-payments, online facilitation systems and establishment.

Talal Chaudhry attends Pakistan Coast Guards' 46th passing-out parade

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Coast Guards held the passing-out ceremony of its 46th Recruit Batch in Karachi today, where Talal Chaudhry, Minister of State for Interior, attended as the chief guest on Wednesday. Upon his arrival, the Minister of State was received by Major General Jawad Riaz, Director General Pakistan Coast Guards, who welcomed him and briefed him on the operational achievements of the force. In his address at the ceremony, Talal Chaudhry described the Pakistan Coast Guards as "one of the country's most important and dignified forces," praising its role in safeguarding Pakistan's maritime boundaries. He conveyed that Interior Minister Mohsin Naqi



could not attend the event due to engagements related to ongoing Iran-US diplomatic discussions. He added that the Pakistan Coast Guards remains a force close to the Interior Minister's heart.

Highlighting the operational successes of the past year, the Minister of State noted that the Pakistan Coast Guards seized narcotics valued at USD 1.14 billion, demonstrating the organisation's strong counter-narcotics capabilities. Additionally, Rs 3.8 billion worth of illegal goods.

VC Dr. Jahanzeb for designing skill-based national curriculum

ABDUL SALAM BAITAB

BANNU: The Vice Chancellor of the University of Science and Technology Bannu, Professor Dr. Jahanzeb, has said that in view of the current circumstances, the curriculum should be designed in such a way that when a student graduates from the university, they are not dependent on a government job. Instead, they should be capable of standing on their own feet and contributing to the economic stability of their families. In this regard, there is a need for the university and the Chamber of Commerce and Industries to work together, which will not only benefit individuals but also contribute to the



stability of the national economy. He expressed these views at a special meeting of the steering committee on the occasion of signing an MoU with the Chamber of Commerce. The meeting was attended by Dean Professor Dr. Sultan Mahmood, Dr. Afzal Shah, Professor Dr. Hidayatullah Khan, President of the Chamber of Commerce Malik Khalid Khan.

Pakistan maintained fuel supplies despite global crisis: Ali Pervaiz Malik

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentarians and experts, at a great debate on Wednesday, have warned that geopolitical tensions, particularly the Middle East conflict and disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz, have exposed Pakistan's vulnerability to external energy shocks, thus there is an urgent need to effect structural reforms in the energy sector. The Great Energy Debate: Way Forward for Fiscal Discipline, was organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute here on Wednesday. The speakers also called for targeted subsidies, integrated



energy planning, transparent policymaking and accelerated investment in local and renewable energy resources to steer Pakistan through mounting fiscal and energy challenges. Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik said Pakistan has successfully maintained seamless fuel supplies despite

unprecedented global pressures and volatility in crude oil prices. He further said the government has managed the crisis without adding "a single rupee" to circular debt in the oil supply chain. Resilient energy value chains could not be built on a single pillar, he said and suggested that practical and economi-



cally sustainable energy transition to balance conventional fuels with renewable energy. The minister revealed that the Turkish Petroleum is partnering with local firms for exploration of new oil fields in Pakistan. The country requires \$200 billion to \$300 billion investment to build the infrastructure necessary for renewable energy

expansion, he said, adding that financial interventions are needed to strengthen energy infrastructure and strategic reserves. Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani said the diversification and indigenization of energy supply chain through hydel and solar is the priority

of the government. He said refinery upgrades are under way to achieve cleaner Euro-5 compliant fuel production. He added that electric vehicles represent the future and market-driven adoption would increase if EVs became economically viable for consumers. SDPI Executive Director Dr. Abid Qaiyum Sulteri said the dialogue is being held at a critical time when the federal budget was under preparation amid an IMF programme and escalating regional tensions. He said the government had managed fuel supplies efficiently despite global uncertainty, noting that unlike.