



Naqvi hails 75 years of Pak-China partnership as "Steel-Bonded and Time-Tested"



Minister invites Kuwait to invest in ports, energy logistics projects



No wheat shortage in country: Tarar

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PM Shehbaz urges AKDN to deepen, expand partnership with Pakistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday hosted a breakfast meeting for Prince Rahim Aga Khan-V wherein he encouraged the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) to deepen and expand its partnership with Pakistan, particularly in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral, where its institutional presence and community outreach were highly valued.

The prime minister warmly welcomed Prince Rahim Aga Khan-V, who is on his first official visit to Pakistan, and appreciated his commitment to fostering peace, stability, and constructive engagement with governments and international partners, besides assuring him of Pakistan's shared commitment to these

ideals.

Prime Minister Shehbaz highlighted the longstanding partnership between Pakistan and the AKDN, and commended its contributions in rural development, healthcare, education, disaster resilience, climate adaptation, renewable energy, digital skills training, and youth entrepreneurship.

He particularly appreciated AKDN's impactful work in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral, especially in remote and vulnerable communities. The prime minister welcomed enhanced engagement with Aga Khan University (AKU), noting its major contributions in healthcare and higher education.

Recognizing Prince Rahim's advocacy for environmental stewardship.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the breakfast hosted in the honor of Prince Rahim Khan at Prime Minister's House.

23 terrorists with key commander killed in KP operations

PEAK POINT



RAWALPINDI: In a determined effort to eliminate terrorist threats and dismantle the khwarj networks, Security Forces continue to conduct series of intelligence based operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, based on credible intelligence leads. Operations have been further expanded to hotspots including Datta Khel, Spinwam and Bannu. Over the last 48 hours, during the conduct of these series of operations, own troops effectively engaged multiple khwarj locations.

Following intense and fierce exchanges of fire, twenty three more khwarj belonging to Indian-sponsored Fittal-Khwarj including khari Ring leader Jan Meer alias Toor Saqib have been neutralised in the aforementioned areas, thereby giving a significant blow to the khwarj networks operating in these areas. Khari Ring leader Jan Meer alias Toor Saqib was highly wanted by the Security Forces and Government had fixed Head money on him for his active involvement in numerous terrorist activities including killing of security forces personnel and innocent civilians.

Military awards conferred at GHQ in recognition of gallantry, distinguished service

PEAK POINT



RAWALPINDI: An investiture ceremony was held at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi to confer military awards on officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army in recognition of exceptional gallantry in operations and distinguished services rendered to the nation, the military's media wing said on Thursday. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir attended as the chief guest and conferred awards on the families of martyrs, as well as on serving officers and soldiers. ISPR said the decorations included 50 Sitara-i-Imtiaz and 12 Tamgha-i-Basalat. Medals awarded posthumously were received with honour by the families of martyrs. Paying tribute to the fallen and the wounded in service, Field Marshal Munir said, "Shuhada and Ghazis remain the enduring pride of the nation. Their honour and sacrifice are a sacred trust for every Pakistani. Peace and security of our motherland are owed to their supreme sacrifices and unwavering devotion to duty."

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Iran says latest US proposal 'reduces gaps to some extent'

PEAK POINT



IRAN: Iran has said that it currently is mulling a response to the latest message sent by the United States which "has reduced the gaps to some extent" in their talks aimed at ending the conflict, Iranian media reported on Thursday.

According to the Iran's ISNA news agency, Iranian officials are engaged in discussions in Tehran regarding the broad framework, certain details, and confidence-building measures as guarantees, and the sent US message has reduced the gaps to some extent, but the narrowing of these gaps requires an end to the temptation of war on Washington's side.

Earlier, Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmacil Bagaee said Tehran had "received the points of view of the American side" and was examining them. He repeated Iran's demands for the release of frozen assets and an end to the US blockade of Iranian ports. Iranian influencer Ali Gholhaki said the United States proposed a package to Tehran that included reopening discussions on the Strait of Hormuz, releasing 25%.

Supreme Judicial Council rejects five complaints against CJP Afridi

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Judicial Council, in its meeting held on May 14, disposed of five complaints filed against Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi. In a declaration issued on Thursday, the council said that the first complaint against the CJP had been filed by Sibghatullah Shah, a lawyer at the Peshawar High Court (PHC), in 2016 when Afridi was the chief justice of the PHC. The lawyer had alleged that the then chief justice flouted merit during the appointment of additional sessions judges.

FO condemns mistreatment of Gaza flotilla activists following global outcry over video posted by Israeli minister

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) on Thursday condemned Israel's unlawful interception of the Global Sumud Flotilla in international waters as well as the arbitrary detention and reported mistreatment of humanitarian workers. The statement came a day after Israel's far-right national security minister posted a video showing detained activists from a Gaza-bound flotilla kneeling with their hands tied and foreheads on the ground, sparking international condemnation. In the statement released on Thursday, the FO said, "The government of Pakistan condemns in the strongest possible terms the unlawful interception of the Global Sumud



Flotilla by Israeli occupying forces in the international waters as well as arbitrary detention and reported mistreatment of humanitarian workers onboard." The statement said that those detained also reportedly included humanitarian activist Saad Edhi, son of prominent social worker Faisal Edhi and grandson of late philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi.

"Pakistan demands the immediate release of all illegally detained

Palestinian territory, after Israeli forces intercepted a previous convoy last month.

Earlier this week, Pakistan and nine other countries issued a joint statement condemning Israel's interception of the flotilla. The joint statement was issued by the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Turkey, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, Jordan, Libya, Maldives, and Spain. Israel controls all entry points into Gaza, which has been under an Israeli blockade since 2007. During the Gaza conflict, sparked by Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, the territory has suffered severe shortages of food, medicine and other essential supplies with Israel at times halting aid deliveries entirely.

Pakistan responds to India at UNSC debate, says it stands exposed by terrorism and disregard for Int'l law



PEAK POINT

NEW YORK: Pakistan has responded to claims by India during a meeting of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), saying that the neighbouring country stands exposed by "terrorism, occupation, aggression, repression and disregard for international law". The development came during a UNSC debate on the protection of civilians. During the debate, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Harish Parvathaneni, accused Pakistan of ignoring international humanitarian obligations, targeting civilians and a "long-tainted record of genocidal acts", Times of India reports. He also reiterated the Afghan Taliban's claims of targeting a hospital in Kabul earlier this year.



SPORTS



Private sector partnerships key to Pakistani Hockey revival: Mohyuddin Wani



PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) took a significant step toward reviving the national game as it signed separate Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Alaska Batteries and Sky 47 during a ceremony held at the Amir Khan Boxing Gymnasium, Pakistan Sports Complex, Islamabad.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Secretary, Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination and President, PHF; Mr. Haroon Mehmood, Chairman, Alaska

Batteries; Mr. Hassan Abbas, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Sky 47; former Olympians; sports officials; and corporate representatives.

Speaking at the event, Wani said the revival of hockey would require sustained effort at every level.

"This is not a one-day task, but we are taking steps and we will continue supporting hockey at every level," he said.

Private sector partnerships key to Pakistani Hockey revival: Mohyuddin Wani

He stated that PHF's focus would extend beyond the national

team to nurturing young talent, particularly boys and girls aged 10-12, to build a strong foundation for the future. The Federation plans to introduce hockey activities in around 1,000 schools across the country during the current year in collaboration with federal and provincial governments and private sector partners.

"Hockey should remain our national sporting culture. We want to bring back the memories of the glorious eras of 1984 and the 1994 World Cup triumph," Mr. Wani added.

The PHF President appreciated Alaska Batteries and Sky 47 for

stepping forward to support hockey and called corporate sponsorship essential for the growth of sports. He assured that all sponsorship funds would be used exclusively for players' welfare, training, facilities, and international-standard preparation.

"This money belongs to the players. It will be used for their training, facilities and international-standard preparation," he said.

Federal Minister National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khichi lauded the initiative and told the U-18 players present at the ceremony that they represent the future of Pakistan hockey.

PTF, Headstart School signs MoU



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) and Headstart School Islamabad signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Wednesday in Islamabad to promote tennis development among young students.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, President of PTF, and Ms. Ayesha Anwar, GM Headstart School, during a ceremony held in Islamabad, said a press release.

Under the PTF's RTS Program, the federation will provide professional tennis coaching facilities to the students of Headstart School. The initiative aims to identify and nurture young talent and provide promising players with opportunities to enter the national tennis circuit.

Speaking on the occasion, Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi stated that the collaboration reflects PTF's commitment to promoting tennis at the grassroots level and creating pathways for young athletes to excel at both national and international stages.

Maj. Suleman Junaid, NYDD PTF, and Taimur Adil Head Falirtravel were also present at the ceremony.

Could Mohammad Amir's British citizenship pave way for IPL?



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan left-arm pacer Mohammad Amir has reportedly obtained British citizenship, apparently paving the way for his selection in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

The development came to light after Amir reshared an Instagram post, referencing approval of his

British citizenship, with the fast bowler previously hinting at a possible IPL appearance once eligible.

Last year, the 34-year-old spoke publicly about the prospects of featuring in the IPL as a British citizen. Amir acquired UK citizenship following his marriage to British national Narjis Khan.

"By next year, I will have the opportunity to play in the IPL, and if given the chance, then why not? I will play in the IPL," Amir had said.

Amir also expressed a prefer-

ence for joining Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) if selected, while former Pakistan batter Ahmed Shehzad remarked during the same discussion that the franchise could benefit from Amir's experience, particularly in strengthening their bowling attack.

It is pertinent to mention that Pakistani players have not participated in the IPL since 2008 due to strained political relations between Pakistan and India.

Former all-rounder Azhar Mahmood remains the only Pakistan-born cricketer to have featured in the IPL while holding British citizenship.

Pakistan may drop Mohammad Rizwan for upcoming Australia ODI series

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan national cricket team selectors are reportedly considering leaving wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan out of the squad for the forthcoming three-match ODI series against the Australia national cricket team.

According to reports, the matter was discussed during consultations between head coach Mike Hesson and ODI captain Shaheen Shah Afridi. Sources indicated that Hesson is reportedly not keen on Rizwan's inclusion in the ODI setup following the recently concluded T20 series.

Rizwan has represented



Pakistan in 103 One Day Internationals, accumulating 2,979 runs at an average of 40.08. His ODI record includes four centuries and 19 half-centuries, while he has also claimed 113 catches and seven stumpings behind the wickets.

During the ODI series against the Bangladesh national cricket team in

March 2026, Rizwan managed 58 runs across three matches.

Reports further suggested that Ghazi Ghouri, who made his ODI debut as a batter in the third match against Bangladesh, could be accompanied by either Usman Khan or Mirza Saad Baig as the second wicketkeeping option for the Australia series.

North Korean women win rare match in South to reach final



Pakistani climber Salman Ateeque summits Mount Everest

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Renowned climber Salman Ateeque on Thursday successfully scaled Mount Everest, becoming the 13th Pakistani to reach the world's highest peak.

Ateeque reached the 8,849-metre summit at approximately 11:39am during the ongoing 2026 Himalayan climbing season, which has drawn hundreds of climbers from across the world.

Around 464 climbing permits were issued this season to mountaineers from 80 countries, with the largest contingents coming from China and India, said sources privy to the matter.

Ateeque was reportedly the only Pakistani climber to obtain an Everest permit this



year. The climber, who has a professional background in electrical engineering and over two decades of experience in the telecommunications sector, previously summited Mount Manaslu — the world's eighth-highest mountain — in Nepal last year.

Officials familiar with the expedition said Ateeque successfully navigated the hazardous Khumbu Icefall and made his summit push during

a favourable weather window.

His ascent adds another chapter to Pakistan's growing presence in high-altitude mountaineering.

It is pertinent to mention here that Nazir Sabir became the first Pakistani to summit Everest in 2000, while Samina Baig made history in 2013 as the first Pakistani woman to reach the top of the mountain.



NA Speaker emphasizes youth empowerment and parliamentary engagement at “Hum Hain Pakistan” SDG campaign launch in Parliament House

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The inaugural ceremony of the SDG Youth Campaign/Training titled “Hum Hain Pakistan” was held at Parliament House, Islamabad under the auspices of the SDG Parliamentary Task Force. The ceremony brought together parliamentarians, educational leaders, development partners, students, and representatives from various institutions to promote youth engagement and awareness regarding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, in his opening

remarks, emphasized the critical role of youth participation in parliamentary procedures, democratic governance, and sustainable development. Addressing the participants, the Speaker stated that the SDGs Secretariat was established as a focused and facilitative institution aimed at strengthening coordination between federal and provincial legislative bodies while advancing the Sustainable Development Goals across Pakistan. He highlighted the efforts undertaken to ensure uniformity of laws and institutional development among all



provinces. He shared that the National Assembly has trained provincial legislative units for the establishment of various parliamentary caucuses, including Women Caucuses and Child Rights Caucuses, which are now functional in all provincial assemblies. Referring to the 2024 Speakers’ Conference, the

collaboration, youth engagement, and volunteerism. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq encouraged students, research associates, and young volunteers to actively contribute towards national development and sustainable progress. He also appreciated the contribution of Honourable Ms. Maryam Aurangzeb in making youth-centered SDG initiatives more active and impactful. Ms. Shaista Pervaiz Convener SDGs stated that the “Hum Hain Pakistan” initiative was launched with the vision of transforming students from passive learners into

active partners in national development. She emphasized that sustainable development can only be achieved when young people are equipped with awareness, leadership skills, civic responsibility, and practical opportunities to contribute towards their communities. She further noted that the campaign would promote student-led projects, mentorship opportunities, institutional SDG focal persons, and community engagement to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals become a lived reality for Pakistan’s youth.

Surge in unsafe hair transplants raises alarm: Smokers, Non-Doctors performing risky surgeries, Experts Warn

NADEEM TANOLI
ISLAMABAD: The Hair Restoration Society of Pakistan (HRSP) issued a stern warning over widespread malpractice in the hair transplant industry, highlighting that non-qualified personnel and patients who smoke are exposed to potentially disastrous outcomes. At a press conference, HRSP president Dr. Rana Irfan and leading surgeons revealed that a majority of clinics across Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and other major cities operate without proper medical oversight. Shockingly, out of dozens of

hair restoration centers surveyed, only few are run by certified doctors, while most clinics employ unqualified technicians performing complex surgeries. Experts labeled this a “public health crisis,” with potential financial and medical losses running into billions for unsuspecting patients. Dr. Irfan stressed that performing hair transplants on smokers, even casual ones, is a “serious crime” due to nicotine induced vasoconstriction, which prevents transplanted hair follicles from receiving essential blood flow. Patients ignoring this warning risk complete graft failure, tissue



necrosis, and irreversible donor area damage. “We have documented hundreds of cases where non doctors caused permanent damage to patients’ hairlines,” he said, noting that some clinics lure clients with low rates but impose hidden charges, and often fail to deliver promised results. The Society also criticized deceptive marketing practices, including manipulating before and after photos and making false claims of high graft counts. Dr. Irfan urged the public to seek treatment only from certified hair transplant specialists and avoid clinics run by non-doctors, citing several examples where financial incentives override patient safety. HRSP highlighted that government

regulatory bodies, including the Islamabad Health Regulatory Authority (IHRA), Punjab Healthcare Commission, and Sindh Healthcare Commission, have begun investigations and sealing operations in some unauthorized clinics. However, the Society emphasized that stricter licensing, monitoring, and standardized surgical protocols are urgently needed nationwide. The press conference also outlined key medical guidelines: hair transplant patients must abstain from all forms of nicotine including cigarettes, vaping, shisha, and gums for at least 2 to 4 weeks before

surgery, and for 12 to 16 weeks afterward, to ensure proper follicle survival. Cardiac patients and those on specific medications must receive specialist clearance before undergoing procedures. Experts warned that failure to follow these guidelines leads to very poor results and significant long-term financial and emotional loss. Dr. Irfan concluded that raising public awareness and ensuring only qualified surgeons perform transplants is critical, emphasizing that Pakistan has the expertise to rival international medical tourism standards if regulations are properly enforced.

Opinion & Editorial

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FIA misconduct

Those tasked with upholding the law cannot be seen violating it. This is not a complicated principle. It does not require legal training to grasp, nor institutional wisdom to apply. And yet FIA’s operation at Karachi’s Sarafa Bazaar on May 15 during which officials raided a jewellery shop and manhandled, even slapped, the owner in front of his young son has become the latest reminder that Pakistan’s law enforcement machinery continues to struggle with the most basic obligation of professional conduct. Whatever silver smuggling the raid was meant to uncover, what the public saw were allegations of excessive force and abuse of authority by officials who arrived with the power of the state behind them. That the FIA has since suspended one officer, transferred another and initiated a departmental inquiry suggests the institution understands something went wrong. It does not yet suggest the institution understands why this keeps happening. What almost never follows is a serious reckoning with the institutional culture that makes such incidents not just possible but recurring. Public trust in law enforcement determines whether communities see enforcement agencies as protectors or predators. Pakistan already carries a significant deficit on this count.

Dead reform conversation

Khurram Husain
THE conversation about reform in Pakistan is dead. It has been for years. In Islamabad, the government is celebrating its diplomatic success in the war. These achievements are real and deserve recognition. Specifically, Pakistan has successfully brokered a ceasefire between Iran and the US and has since put in strenuous efforts to turn this into a comprehensive peace deal. This is potentially historic. If successful, it could remake the region in fundamental ways, altering the security architecture of the Middle East and Central Asia. This is a diplomatic feat of the highest order, and it should be lauded. However, this cannot become the basis for securing the next generation of economic growth. That growth must come from domestic reform — a conversation that is unsexy and unglamorous, but the only way Pakistan can stand on its own feet. The danger here is not just economic; it is a fundamental shift in how we conceive our national destiny. We must not fall into the trap of viewing every achievement of the government as something to be touted publicly. For example, a new type of debt taken or a rollover obtained are not achievements to be presented as markers of success. Worse, these successes are increasingly being used to justify a narrowing of the political imagination, providing a cover for

further constriction of our already fragile democratic space. We are told that stability is a prerequisite for economic policy, and that the messiness of parliamentary debate is an obstacle to progress. This is a dangerous error. Democracy is a system for processing failure and making course corrections. By weakening democratic processes, we remove the tools needed to prevent mismanagement. Real reform is political. It requires building agreement for change and explaining the costs and benefits to the public. Look at the government’s approach to the economy. We have seen a clear abandonment of the long-standing agreement regarding the importance of broadening the tax base. Instead, officials now pursue what they call “tax deepening”. While this is acceptable insofar as the aim is to strengthen tax administration, it cannot be a substitute for base broadening. The forthcoming budget presents an opportunity to correct course. If the government continues to rely on squeezing existing taxpayers rather than bringing untaxed sectors — such as property and retail — into the fold, the fiscal situation will remain unsustainable. Continued reliance on tax deepening as nothing more than a means to raise more revenue is policy inolution, or the turning inward of a process so as to become cannibalistic. We are avoiding the political cost of reform today,

only to ensure that the eventual collapse will be far more painful tomorrow. The same stagnation defines the power sector. The energy ministry’s efforts can be described, at best, as aggressive troubleshooting. There is no evidence of meaningful structural reform. Any strategy worth its salt should be aimed at graduating from the single-buyer model; yet we have not seen a single effort directed towards this goal. The single-buyer model, where the state acts as the sole purchaser of electricity from producers, was perhaps intended to mitigate risk for investors in the early stages of our energy transition. Today, however, it is the primary engine of our dysfunction. By forcing the state to buy everything produced — often regardless of whether that power is actually needed by the grid — we have created a system that is fundamentally blind to market signals. The state bears all the demand risk, all the fuel risk, and all the capacity payments for plants that sit idle. We have centralised the incompetence, and in doing so, insulated producers from the natural incentives of competition. Until we break this monopoly and allow for competitive, bilateral contracting between suppliers and large consumers, we remain trapped within an outmoded power sector that combines the worst of both worlds: it imposes the costs of the private sector while retaining the inefficiencies of the public sector.

Status over service

Mujeeb Ali
Recently, I attended an educational seminar at a society convention where three distinguished professionals — a judge, a professor and a senior police officer — addressed a hall full of audience, including students. The purpose of the seminar was to motivate young people through experiences of individuals who had built successful careers in public service. The judicial officer spoke at length about the prestige and authority attached to a career in judiciary. According to him, the profession offers influence, social respect and attractive benefits. Addressing the students, he encouraged them to pursue higher education and consider joining the judicial service in the future. His remarks stated that judiciary is a powerful institution where individuals can play an important role in the state structure. However, the discussion remained largely focused on the privileges of the profession rather than on its responsibilities and challenges. The honourable judge emphasised the authority vested in judicial officers but said little about the harsh realities of the justice system. In our country, courts are burdened with an enormous backlog of cases, and ordinary citizens often spend years seeking justice. For many people, justice delayed eventually becomes justice denied. These are painful realities that millions of litigants experience without being heard to their final disposition. During the question-and-answer session, a few individuals raised concerns about these everyday issues. One participant asked about the persistent delays in the judicial system and why courts struggle to provide timely relief to citizens. The judge’s response was cautious and somewhat unsatisfactory. Rather than addressing the problem directly, he spoke in general terms about the complexity of legal procedures and the limitations within the system.

Ahsan concerned over delay, cost escalation in Diamer Basha Dam project



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday chaired a meeting of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP). A revised project related to the Ministry of Water Resources, namely "Diamer Basha Dam Project - Dam Part with Reflection of Helicopter Cost," worth Rs 485,006 billion.

n, came under discussion and was referred to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for further consideration, a news release said.

While discussing the Diamer Basha Dam project, Ahsan Iqbal expressed serious concern that the revised PC-I of the project had not been submitted during the last six years despite a manifold increase in the project cost from the originally approved cost of Rs 480 billion in 2018, which reflected poor project management capacity.

He directed the new chairman of Water and Power Development Authority to ensure that the project was managed in a professional manner.

He further observed that concerns regarding the escalating cost of the project had repeatedly been raised during Standing Committee on Planning meetings since 2020. However, despite the passage of several years, WAPDA had still not submitted the revised PC-I.

He emphasized that these reservations should be made part of the official record.

The CDWP allowed revision of the PC-I related to helicopter procurement purely on security grounds and directed that the revised PC-I for the dam component should be submitted without further delay.

The deputy chairman further questioned whether a holistic, integrated and professional project design and management system for mega projects existed in WAPDA.

"WAPDA should undertake necessary steps to improve its project management capacity," he added.

After detailed discussion, the forum also referred another revised project, namely "Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project," worth Rs 316,411 billion, to ECNEC for further consideration.

While discussing the project, Ahsan Iqbal expressed serious concerns over its management, transparency and oversight mechanisms.

He emphasized that the professional capability of the concerned staff appeared questionable, as the Ministry of Water Resources had also pointed out shortcomings in its inquiry report.

The minister questioned the process through which a local consultant with a dubious record was engaged for the project, stating that an international consultant had initially been hired and was subsequently replaced.

Naqvi hails 75 years of Pak-China partnership as "Steel-Bonded and Time-Tested"

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan and China mark the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic ties, Federal Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday marked the relationship as an enduring model of "trust, sincerity, and strategic partnership" that has withstood global shifts and regional challenges. In a special message issued here, the minister extended heartfelt felicitations to the leadership and people of both nations, particularly Xi Jinping, the Communist Party of China, and the Chinese nation, on reaching what he called a "historic milestone" in bilateral relations.

Naqvi said the 75-year journey of Pakistan-China relations was "an extraordinary story of eternal affection and sincere cooperation," rooted in unwavering mutual trust. He emphasized



that China remained Pakistan's "most reliable and time-tested strategic partner," adding that despite evolving global dynamics, the "steel-bonded resolve" between the two nations had never weakened.

Reflecting on the breadth of cooperation, the interior minister highlighted the partnership's expansion from defense collaboration to robust economic engagement. He underscored the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a "living testament" to shared development goals.

Global oil shock puts energy security at Heart of Pakistan's economic strategy

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry on Thursday warned that escalating tensions between the United States and Iran, instability around the Strait of Hormuz and disruptions in global supply chains have sharply driven up international crude oil prices, forcing Pakistan to take difficult but necessary decisions to safeguard national energy security, economic stability and uninterrupted fuel supply.

He made these remarks while addressing a special briefing organized by the Parliamentary Forum on Energy and Economy at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services.

Barrister Danyal Chaudhry stated that Pakistan, being heavily dependent on imported fuel, remains vulnerable to global market fluctuations and geopolitical crises.

Global oil shock puts energy security at Heart of Pakistan's economic strategy

He said the government adjusted petroleum product prices in response to extraordinary international pressures to protect the country's energy needs and maintain fiscal balance.

He emphasized that energy policy can no longer be viewed solely through an economic lens, describing it instead as a matter directly linked to national security, public confidence and state stability.

Referring to the recent increase in petroleum prices, he noted that crude oil prices in the international market had surged significantly, leading to more than a 55 percent rise in domestic petroleum prices.

Despite the difficult circumstances, he said, the government attempted to cushion the impact on citizens while maintaining economic discipline under the IMF programme, including adjustments in the Petroleum Development Levy (PDL). The parliamentary secretary also criticized attempts to portray the price hike as purely a policy failure.

Governor Kundi calls on Bilawal, discusses KP issues

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday called on Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari here at Zardari House and discussed the political and administrative situation of the province along with issues being faced by the people. During the meeting, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi informed the PPP chairman about difficulties in wheat supply to the province and said the people were facing hardships due to the situation.

He also briefed Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on the gas supply issue and said the matter had been resolved after taking all political parties into confidence.

The Governor said uninterrupted gas supply had led to the reopening of CNG stations across the province.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari directed the Governor to play his role in resolving the wheat supply issue and immediately inform him after progress on the matter.

Masood Khan calls Middle East peace a shared global interest

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and former Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States and the United Nations, Masood Khan, her on Thursday stressed that rising tensions between the United States and Iran continue to threaten regional and global stability, warning that any renewed military confrontation could push the entire Middle East towards a dangerous and uncontrollable escalation. Commenting on the evolving Iran-US crisis, Ambassador Masood Khan said that while there are indications of progress towards a possible agreement, contradictory and aggressive statements from various sides continue to create uncertainty and mistrust. He noted



that both Washington and Tehran have repeatedly issued warnings that any fresh attack could trigger a wider conflict extending beyond the immediate region.

Ambassador Masood Khan observed that despite harsh rhetoric, there is growing realization within the international community that continuation of war would have devastating political, economic, and strategic consequences. He stated that even within the United States there are increasing questions regarding

No wheat shortage in country: Azam Nazeer Tarar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazeer Tarar on Thursday rejected claims of a four million-ton wheat shortfall in the country and informed the Senate that sufficient wheat stocks were available to meet domestic needs.

Responding to a point of order raised by Senator Aon Abbas, the minister challenged the opposition to present documented evidence supporting the claim of a major wheat shortage. He said he had personally consulted Minister for National Food Security, Rana Tanveer Hussain before addressing the House and confirmed that no such shortfall existed. Azam



Tarar said wheat deregulation, introduced last year, had initially disturbed market prices, with wheat selling between Rs 2,500 and Rs 3,000 per maund in different areas. However, he said prices later stabilised and wheat transactions in Punjab were currently taking place between Rs 3,400 and Rs 3,600 per maund. He said the deregulation policy aimed to create a competitive market.



ISLAMABAD: Barrister Danyal Chaudhry, Parliamentary Secretary for Information & Broadcasting, chaired a high-level briefing titled "Pakistan Fuel Crisis: Energy Security in the Shadow of Hormuz Blockade".

Minister invites Kuwait to invest in ports, energy logistics projects

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry invited Kuwait to invest in strategically located coastal and energy-logistics corridors and outlined a wide range of maritime and port infrastructure projects to attract foreign capital.

The proposals were discussed during a meeting between Kuwait's Ambassador Nassar Abdulrahman Jasser Al-Mutairi and Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, said a press release issued by the minister's office on Thursday.

The minister offered Kuwaiti ambassador opportunities in fuel storage, bonded terminal facilities, jetty construction, port infrastructure and the government's planned "Energy City" initiative, aimed at developing integrated energy and logistics hubs near key ports.

Junaid Chaudhry said Pakistan was seeking international partnerships to modernise its maritime sector and increase the country's role in regional trade and energy transit.

"Pakistani ports offer significant potential for long-term investment in logistics, storage and maritime infrastructure," the minister was quoted as saying during the meeting.



The maritime minister had also invited Kuwait to explore projects linked to the storage and handling of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), crude oil and white oil products at national ports.

He proposed the establishment of rental-based bonded storage facilities, which could support regional trade flows and improve supply chain efficiency for energy imports and exports.

Among the projects presented to the Kuwaiti side was a proposed multipurpose terminal at Port Qasim, one of Pakistan's largest commercial ports near Karachi.

Junaid Chaudhry said new terminals and storage infrastructure were being planned to increase cargo-handling capacity and strengthen ports' position as a regional maritime gateway.

The discussions also covered cooperation in infrastructure development and jetty construction, with the maritime minister assuring Kuwaiti investors of full government facilitation for

potential ventures. "The talks formed part of broader efforts to secure foreign investment in Pakistan's transport and logistics sectors amid the government's push to expand economic cooperation with Gulf states," he stated.

Kuwaiti Ambassador expressed interest in reviewing the proposed projects, particularly those linked to the Energy City initiative and port-based fuel storage infrastructure. Both sides agreed to continue consultations, with follow-up engagements as Pakistan seeks to deepen economic ties with Kuwait through maritime-sector collaboration.