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PM Shehbaz terms federal budget 'people-friendly', hopes it will promote an 'export-oriented' economy

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday termed the federal budget for fiscal year 2026-27 "people-friendly" and hoped that it would promote an "export-oriented" economy.

He made the remarks in a meeting with women parliamentarians from the PML-N, where he thanked them for their participation in the ongoing budget debate.

He expressed hope that people will be able to benefit from the "relief-oriented" budget after the restoration of peace in the region, according to a press statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

According to the statement, PM Shehbaz noted that the budget had introduced "measures to empower women in the country as well as increase their inclusion in the mainstream," terming it a "top priority" for the government.

He also spoke of Pakistan's peace efforts in the US-Iran war, expressing gratitude to countries who supported Pakistan throughout the peace process.

PM Shehbaz commended the efforts of the Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for their role in the peace process.

"Only with the establishment of lasting peace in the region, the dream of economic prosperity for Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Women parliamentarians of PML (N) Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

6 suspected terrorists killed by KP CTD in 2 separate operations

PEAK POINT



PESHAWAR: Six suspected terrorists were killed by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in two separate intelligence-based operations. According to two separate press releases issued by the CTD late Tuesday night, the suspected terrorists belonged to Fitna al-Khawarij — a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan. The first statement said the Kohat CTD received information from sources, indicating that terrorists were hatching a plot and had established a checkpoint on the Shikardara Road in an attempt to obstruct the movement of law enforcement personnel.

The statement said that upon receiving the information, a Special Weapons and Tactics (Swat) team reached the location, at which the "terrorists opened indiscriminate fire on the CTD personnel." "In the ensuing exchange of fire, three Fitna al-Khawarij terrorists were killed. Three Kalashnikovs, nine magazines and multiple rounds of ammunition from their possession," the statement said, adding that other accomplices had managed.

Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah presents Rs3.56tr budget with no new taxes, 7pc pay raise

PEAK POINT



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah is presenting a Rs3.56 trillion budget for FY2026-27. The government is projecting current expenditure at Rs2.56 trillion and capital expenditure at Rs281.7 billion.

The session was delayed due to a ruckus created by lawmakers of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P). MPA Ali Khurshidi said the party was boycotting the session because the opposition had not been consulted beforehand.

CM Murad said that in the upcoming fiscal year, the government's goal was to "maintain fiscal discipline, strengthen public finances, and sustain development momentum during a very challenging year". For development, the provincial government has allocated Rs720.39 billion. The Sindh government is proposing an allocation of Rs402bn for the health sector, Rs185bn for transport and communication, Rs103bn for irrigation, Rs49bn for sanitation, and Rs347.6bn for local government and service delivery.

Furthermore, in FY2026-27, the Sindh government is proposing Rs222 billion for law and order.

He also referred to the deadly Gul Plaza fire, saying that the Sindh government had approved one of the largest relief packages in response to the incident, amounting to Rs8.45 billion, including compensation of Rs10 million for the family of each deceased victim.

Iran deal includes \$300 billion fund, more than half of which already committed: source

PEAK POINT



IRAN: A \$300 billion private fund designed to trigger investment into Iran is outlined in the US-Iran framework agreement and more than half that sum has already been committed, a source with direct knowledge of the deal told Reuters. The fund is designed to give both sides an economic incentive to conclude a final deal, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the plan has not yet been announced as Washington and Tehran prepare to sign on Friday. US and Iranian officials said on Sunday they had agreed on a framework to end their war, which began when US and Israeli forces attacked Iran on February 28, halt the US blockade of Iran and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a key supply route for global oil and gas. The new fund is a private investment vehicle, not a reconstruction or reparations program and will not include any government money or grants, the source said, adding that companies based in the US, the Gulf Arab states, Asia, South America and Africa have agreed to commit financing. Investments pledged span energy, logistics, manufacturing and transport, the source said.

Pakistan renews airspace closure for Indian flights till July 24

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has extended airspace restrictions on all India-owned or India-operated aircraft until 4:59am on July 24, according to a Notice to Airmen (Notam) issued by the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) on Wednesday. The restrictions apply to all Indian-registered aircraft, including commercial and military planes, the Notam showed.

Aircraft leased by Indian airlines will also remain barred from using Pakistani airspace during the period.

Pakistan, UK agree to expand cooperation on counterterrorism, illegal migration

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the United Kingdom on Wednesday agreed to enhance cooperation in counterterrorism, combating illegal migration and human smuggling, institutional collaboration and police training.

The understanding was reached as Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met British Minister of State for the Middle East, South Asia and the UN Hamish Falconer.

According to the interior ministry, Falconer appreciated Pakistan's "positive and significant" role in facilitating the US-Iran peace deal.

"Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir played a historic role for peace," it quoted Falconer as saying.

"The US-Iran peace deal has projected UPSCALE Project and the capacity of Pakistani institutions, the ministry said.



"Naqvi reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening relations with the UK," the statement said.

"Both leaders agreed to work together to address the issue of fake student visas," the statement said.

"Naqvi also emphasised that several terrorist organisations were operating from Afghanistan, and the Afghan government must prevent its territory from being used against Pakistan," the ministry said. In a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar earlier this week, Falconer had acknowledged that Pakistan has the right under international law to defend itself against attacks originating from Afghanistan.

PPP secures 11 seats as GB election chief decides remaining election petitions

PEAK POINT

GILGIT: Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Raja Shabbaz Khan on Wednesday announced decisions on three pending election petitions, giving the PPP 11 seats.

The election chief declared PPP candidate Attullah Khan the winner from GBA-16 Diamer-II, PML-N candidate Malik Kefayat from GBA-17 and PML-N candidate from GBA-13 Astore-I.

The rival candidates had filed petitions with the GB Election Commission, challenging the Form-47 results.

After hearing arguments from both sides, CEC Raja Shabbaz Khan had suspended the results and reserved his verdict on the petitions. With the announcement, the PPP has secured 11 seats, the PML-N has secured six, independent candidates — who joined the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) a day earlier — have won four, PTI-backed candidates have won two and the Majlis Wahdat-i-Muslimeen has secured one seat. The GB CEC said the notifications for the successful candidates would now be issued.



SPORTS



Historic Pakistan-Kazakhstan boxing Partnership begins in Islamabad



PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD: Pakistan boxing received a major boost as a landmark Pakistan-Kazakhstan collaboration officially commenced with the arrival of two elite Kazakh boxing coaches in Islamabad to conduct a comprehensive coaching and athlete development clinic at the Dosty Sports Centre, Pakistan Sports Complex.

The initiative marks the practical implementation of a strategic partnership between Pakistan and Kazakhstan aimed at reviving and strengthening Pakistan's boxing landscape through world-class training, knowledge exchange, boxing, while promoting youth

empowerment and people-to-people ties between the two friendly countries. Nasir Tung said the partnership would facilitate talent exchange, capacity building and joint training programmes, enabling Pakistani boxers and coaches to benefit from Kazakhstan's globally acclaimed boxing system.

"These agreements are opening new doors for our young athletes. This is not just about boxing; it is about creating a complete ecosystem of shared growth, excellence, friendship and opportunity," he said.

Under the agreement, Pakistani boxers will gain access to high-performance training environments, structured preparation for major international competitions, and regular exposure to top-level sparring partners—critical ingredients for success on the world stage.

Expressing his gratitude, Nasir Tung said the federation was delighted to host renowned Kazakhstan boxing coaches Damir Budanbekov and Nurzhan Kondybayev, describing their visit as a significant step towards rebuilding Pakistan's proud boxing legacy.

Noh Dastgir Butt wins second gold medal at 'Int'l World Strongman'



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Commonwealth champion Nooh Dastgir Butt added another achievement to his illustrious career by winning a second gold medal while representing Pakistan at the International World Strongman competitions in Uzbekistan.

The event was held in the city of Tashkent, where some of the world's strongest athletes competed in various strength-based contests. Nooh secured the gold medal in the Log Push in Water Pool event, delivering an impressive performance and winning both rounds of the competition to claim the top position.

The international tournament featured elite strongman competitors from several countries. This is Nooh's second gold medal at the ongoing World Strongman Games, further highlighting his dominance in the competition. Reacting to his son's latest triumph, Nooh's father expressed pride over the achievement, saying the athlete had once again brought honour to the country and raised Pakistan's flag high at an international event. Nooh Dastgir Butt, one of Pakistan's most accomplished strength athletes, has consistently earned international recognition through his performances.

Mohammad Yousuf returns to grassroots cricket, joins summer camp as coach



PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan captain Mohammad Yousuf has become actively involved in grassroots cricket, joining the summer camp of Pak Lions International Cricket Academy as a coach to help nurture young talent. The summer camp, currently underway in DHA Phase I, is featuring multiple coaching sessions tailored to the needs and abilities of young cricketers. Participants have expressed excitement over receiving coaching and guidance from one of Pakistan's most accomplished batters. Yousuf has begun working with players from different age groups, sharing batting tips and focusing on improving their technical skills and overall development.

listen to me," he said, adding that the more time invested in young players, the better their chances of developing into successful cricketers.

The former batting great stressed the importance of building strong fundamentals at an early age, saying players with a solid foundation are more likely to succeed across all three formats of the game.

"If a player's basics are strong, they can excel in Tests, ODIs, and T20s. Most of today's top batters who are successful in all formats have built their careers on strong fundamentals," he remarked.

PTF Summer Camp continues



Former cricket captain Shahid Afridi visits UN, appreciates Pakistan's diplomatic engagement

PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan cricket captain Shahid Afridi on Wednesday visited the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York and appreciated the Pakistan Mission's constructive role in fostering dialogue and settling disputes peacefully. In a statement shared on X, the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN said, "Former Pakistan cricket team captain and celebrated all-rounder Shahid Afridi visited the UN Headquarters in New York at the invitation of Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, the permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN." During the visit, Ambassador Ahmad briefed Afridi on the work of the mission, including "Pakistan's active engagement at the UN in advancing multilateralism, promoting dialogue and diplomacy, and contributing to international peace and



security," the statement said. It added that Afridi "expressed appreciation for the mission's important work and its constructive role in fostering understanding, dialogue and multilateral cooperation among nations, and advocated the peaceful settlement of disputes". Meanwhile, the former skipper was given a tour of the UN Headquarters and also briefed on its work and its role in promoting international peace, security, sustainable development and multilateral cooperation, the Mission stated. In a meeting dynamic performances and powerful stroke play, it said. The ambassador also appreciated Afridi's humanitarian and welfare initiatives. "These projects have positively impacted the lives of many people, particularly in underserved communities," Ambassador Ahmad was quoted as saying.

Magical Messi equals World Cup goals record as Argentina thump Algeria 3-0





Civil society and health experts welcomes GST on ultra-processed products

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Civil society organizations, medical associations, and patient groups in a post budget press conference welcomed the inclusion of several ultra-processed food products (UPPs) in the Third Schedule of the Sales Tax framework, making them liable to 18% sales tax. However, they expressed concern that healthy products such as unsweetened milk, lassi, and flour should not be taxed. The UPPs categories proposed for tax in finance bill include sugar confectionery, infant formula products, sauces and condiments, packaged pasta and noodle products, fruit and vegetable

preparations such as jams and purees, and vegetables and oils sold in retail packaging. The coalition described the decision—subject to approval of the Finance Bill—as encouraging, but recommended that the federal government make such decisions based on scientific evidence. They noted that the NOVA food classification system and WHO-recommended thresholds for salt, sugar, trans fats, saturated fats, and products containing any amount of non-sugar sweeteners provide a strong technical basis for taxation. Such an approach could help generate revenue for government while also delivering public health benefits. The coalition also urged the gov-



ernment to increase the Federal Excise Duty on all sweetened beverages, including sodas, packed juices, flavoured milk, iced tea, coffee, squashes, and syrups to 40%, citing their significant contribution to Pakistan's growing public health challenges. They noted that packaged juices, which are often stripped of natural fiber, can have metabolic effects similar to sugar-sweetened beverages. The resulting high glycemic load contributes to rising rates of type 2 diabetes and childhood obesity, placing an increasing financial burden on the public healthcare system. Major General (R) Masud ur Rehman Kiani,

renowned heart specialist and President of the Pakistan National Heart Association, said that heart and other NCDs are lifestyle diseases that can be controlled. Diet has a pivotal role in the life style. Ultra-processed products are typically high in added sugars, unhealthy fats, and salt, and often contain artificial additives while offering little to no nutritional value. He noted that excessive consumption of these products has consistently been linked to rising rates of type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, certain cancers, and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs). He warned that Pakistan is already facing a growing NCD crisis, with millions of people

living with diabetes, heart disease, and obesity-related illnesses. According to him, the increasing availability, affordability, and aggressive marketing of ultra-processed foods is contributing significantly to unhealthy dietary patterns across the country. He further stated that taxes on ultra-processed foods in the Finance Bill 2026-27 must send a strong message that public health must be prioritized over commercial interests. He urged policymakers to continue strengthening fiscal and regulatory measures aimed at reducing the consumption of ultra-processed food and beverage products that contribute to the country's growing disease burden.

Muharram mourning rights are constitutional and religious rights that must be protected: Allama Dr. Shabbir Hassan Maisami

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: On the instructions of Quaid-e-Millat-e-Jafaria Pakistan, Allama Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi, the Central Secretary General of Shia Ulema Council Pakistan and Head of the Central Muharram Committee, Allama Dr. Shabbir Hassan Maisami, addressed a press conference and stated that mourners of Ahlul Bayt (A.S.) are facing difficulties due to baseless reporting by certain institu-

tions in Punjab, unnecessary restrictions, and the misuse of authority regarding long-standing Muharram mourning programs. The press conference was attended by Central Secretary Information Zahid Ali Akhonzada, Deputy Secretary General Syed Sikandar Abbas Gilani, Additional Secretary General Sindh Dost Ali Wangani, Maulana Mahmood Ali Yasoobi (Islamabad District), Farhat Abbas from the



Department of Religious Propagation Islamabad, Central President of JSO Syed Fateh Haider Rizvi, and other leaders. Allama Dr. Maisami stated that while Muharram-ul-Haram has commenced across Pakistan and around the world, numer-

ous issues related to Azadari continue to arise every year. He urged the Government of Pakistan to immediately reopen land routes for pilgrims traveling to Iran and Iraq. He noted that many pilgrims are facing serious difficulties due to travel restric-

tions, particularly during the months of Muharram and Safar and in connection with participation in significant religious occasions. The closure of land routes should be ended without delay. He further said that the Punjab Police's demands for surety bonds and affidavits, threats of inclusion in the Fourth Schedule, preventive detention, and criminal cases are contrary to the constitutional, fundamental, and religious rights of citizens. He emphasized that creating obstacles in centuries-old religious traditions and mourning programs, and attempting to restrict Azadari under the guise of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), is completely unacceptable. He added that several memorandums have already been submitted to the Punjab Government and relevant authorities, but there remains an urgent need for a permanent resolution of these issues.

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CCD negligence

Nine-year-old Hania Ahmed's death in Chakwal must become a watershed moment for policing in Pakistan. A law-enforcement agency tasked with protecting citizens cannot justify an operation that leaves an innocent child dead. Whatever the circumstances, such an outcome points to a grave failure of judgment. Fresh revelations surrounding the incident have only deepened public concern. Hania's father, Australian-Pakistani Adeel Ahmed, has alleged that personnel of CCD opened indiscriminate fire on his family's vehicle while they were being robbed, and that the robbers fired only afterwards before escaping. More significantly, the CCD's own Additional Inspector General has acknowledged that officers would have been better off pursuing the suspects later instead of engaging in a gunfight that endangered civilians. Such admissions lend credence to concerns that established operating procedures were ignored at the cost of innocent lives. Police officers are empowered to use force only because they are expected to exercise far greater restraint than the criminals they pursue. Positive identification of suspects and the proportional use of force are the very foundation of professional policing that must be followed.

PIMS employee faces multiple complaints; questions raised over administrative oversight

Alena Janat emerged regarding the handling of multiple complaints reportedly filed against a junior technician at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), with concerns being raised by some employees and sources about the institution's complaint-handling and administrative processes. According to documents and accounts cited by sources, a staff member from PIMS' Gynecology Department is reported to have submitted a formal complaint against junior technician Qamar Javed, alleging inappropriate conduct and workplace-related concerns. However, the allegations have not been independently verified by this publication, and it remains unclear whether any formal inquiry has reached a conclusion. Sources further claim that the matter has yet to be resolved through a publicly known disciplinary or investigative process. PIMS management has not publicly commented on the status of any such proceedings. In a separate development, a written report dated June 8, 2026, from the Office of the Director Planning and Development reportedly raised concerns regarding an incident involving Qamar Javed. According to the document, allegations were made regarding inappropriate workplace conduct during an interaction with an official. The contents of the report represent the complainant's version of events and have not been independently verified. Sources also alleged that Qamar Javed has previously expressed views on social media critical of certain government policies and programs. These claims could not be independently confirmed, and no official findings regarding such allegations were available at the time of filing this report. The situation has attracted attention within the institution because, according to sources, Qamar Javed currently performs responsibilities in several administrative areas in addition to his primary role. Some employees have questioned the administrative rationale behind these assignments and have called for

greater transparency regarding staffing decisions. Sources stated that concerns have been raised over whether administrative positions were allocated through an appropriate process and whether available human resources were fully considered before assigning additional responsibilities. Employees and other stakeholders who spoke on condition of anonymity have called for a transparent and impartial review of the concerns being raised, arguing that clarity on the matter would help address uncertainty and maintain institutional confidence. It is important to note that the allegations and claims referenced in this report remain unproven, and no court or competent authority has publicly established wrongdoing by the individual concerned. PIMS management, the Ministry of National Health Services, and the concerned employee were approached for comment. No official response had been received by the time this report was filed. Their version will be included as soon as it becomes available.

An original institution

Muhammad Hamid Zaman
Twenty-two years ago, in 2004, I met Syed Babar Ali for the first time. I was a post-doc at MIT, and through colleagues and friends, had heard about a new initiative in Pakistan to start a school of science and engineering. This was a topic dear to me, and the idea to create an institution in Pakistan that prioritised basic science at the undergraduate level was as exciting as it was unbelievable. I was not sure I belonged in those conversations, but those who had been thinking about it for a while were exceptionally generous to let me in those early meetings in Boston. Though I had not met Babar sahib personally, I had heard about him. In the mid-1990s, when a friend went to LUMS in their new undergraduate programme in CS, I was intrigued by what was being created. I saw Babar sahib's smiling picture in the brochure and somehow that image stayed with me. A few years later when I was at MIT, I got to meet two of his granddaughters who were undergraduates there, and I was so touched by their kindness and good nature. But none of this had prepared me for my first meeting with Babar sahib. I knew of his success in business and was aware of his extraordinary philanthropy. What I was not prepared for was his humility and his genuine interest in learning. I remember him asking me questions about research culture, inquiry and higher education that no one had ever asked me. I was used to be in places where there were others who knew so much more about these things than I did, and I knew that I had nothing new to offer. But Babar sahib had different ideas – he was genuinely interested in what I had to say, and his follow-up questions showed sincerity in learning that I had not experienced before. In many ways, this was very unsettling. I did not know many successful businesspersons in Pakistan who cared about education, and those who did were involved to the extent of writing cheques. Courtesy Tribune

Info minister terms FY2027 budget 'positive and relief-oriented'



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday termed the federal budget for the upcoming fiscal year "positive and relief-oriented".

He made the remarks while speaking at a media briefing alongside State Minister for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani. At the outset, the information minister said that certain segments were criticising for the sake of criticising. "When Pakistan was on the brink of default ... our macroeconomic indicators were at their lowest," he said. He alleged that some government officials

"went on holiday", saying that they did not want the country to default during their tenure.

He recalled that at the time, no one was ready to work on the economy.

"In such a time, it was the PML-N leadership that stepped in and stabilised the economy as per the vision of Nawaz Sharif," he said. He recalled that when Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took charge of the government, several difficulties came up at the time as well.

He said that in the last two years, PM Shehbaz had always reassured the public that the government would provide relief whenever there was room for it.

"We did not just wait for room, we created it through consistent effort and as per a home-grown plan," he remarked.

At this, he said that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) had two to three major problems — digitisation was stalled, officials were corrupt and posted through personal recommendations and there was no coordi-

nated tax collection system.

"PM Shehbaz's vision was that he refused to place the burden of those who don't pay tax onto those who do, and acting on it, he directed that FBR officials would be hired on a merit basis," the information minister said.

"From income tax offices to ports, we now have a faceless system [...] any exporter whose shipments are pending clearance at the port would not have to interact with a customs official, but clearance is issued through a system and that too within days," he said. He said there was no room for "demands or delays" in such a system. Similarly, industries such as sugar, beverages, cement, and tobacco were "earning windfall profits but not paying taxes", the minister said. He said that PM Shehbaz first initiated tax collection from sugar mills.

"Cameras were installed inside sugar mills, and an IT system was installed to monitor production and sales, with every bag traceable through a QR code," he said.

DPM Dar says Pakistan facilitating repatriation of 30 Iranian fishermen, sailors

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Wednesday that Pakistan was "pleased to facilitate the repatriation of 30 Iranian nationals".

In a post on the social media platform X, he said that this number included "eight Iranian fishermen rescued at sea by the British vessel MMA Valour after their boat ran aground, and 22 Iranian crew members from the vessel Lenore/Davina, recently interdicted by US authorities".

"Both groups are expected to transit through Karachi in the coming days," he said.

"We remain in close coordination with the Iranian, United States and United Kingdom authorities to ensure the safe transit and early return of our Iranian brethren to their homeland.



Pakistan remains committed to humanitarian cooperation and to extending every possible assistance to our Iranian brothers," he said.

Earlier this month, US forces conducted an interdiction of the sanctioned oil tanker Davina in the Indian Ocean, the US military's Indo-Pacific Command, which has now reverted back to the name Pacific Command, said.

The Davina, a supertanker capable of carrying up to two million barrels of crude oil and also known as the Lenore, was placed under US sanctions.

NA speaker shares party-wise speaking time in Budget 2026-27 debate

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Wednesday said the ongoing budget debate for the next financial year has crossed 32 hours and was expected to reach around 40 hours by the end of the day.

Addressing the House, he provided a detailed breakdown of speaking time used by different political parties during the Budget 2026-27 discussion.

He said lawmakers from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) spoke for seven hours and 42 minutes, while still having eight hours and 12 minutes of their allocated time remaining.

Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPP) members



delivered 10 hours and five minutes of speeches, exceeding their allotted time by about one hour and 10 minutes. Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) lawmakers spoke for two hours and 51 minutes, also slightly over their quota by 12 minutes.

From the opposition, 47 members of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) spoke for 12 hours and 12 minutes, exceeding their allocated time by nearly two hours. The Speaker said members of Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam.

Review of Muharram arrangements, DC Gujranwala and AC Saddar visit Qila Deedar Singh in detail

SPECIAL REPORT SHEIKH HASSAN RAZA GUITTA

QILA DEEDAR SINGH: (Gujranwala) / In order to ensure peace and order during Muharram, provision of best facilities to the mourners and peaceful conduct of processions, Deputy Commissioner Gujranwala Naveed Ahmed and Assistant Commissioner Saddar Lt. (ret'd) Faisal Majeed reviewed the routes and arrangements of processions in Qila Deedar Singh in detail. A large number of office bearers and administrators of Anjuman Shia Athana Ashriya Qila Deedar Singh were present on the occasion of the visit. Representatives of the association gave a detailed briefing to the district administration regard-



ing the processions, gatherings and other religious activities held during Muharram. During this, matters related to procession routes, security arrangements, traffic management, cleanliness, street lights and other civic amenities came under consideration. DSP/SDPO Qila Deedar Singh Ramzan Kambh and other officers of the police and district administration were also present on the occasion.

Rana Mashhood explores EV talent in China, charts ambitious skills revolution

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan on Wednesday visited the Guangdong Electric Vehicle (EV) Training Base in China to examine advanced electric mobility training systems and explore avenues for strengthening technical skills development, vocational education and youth employability in Pakistan's emerging EV sector.

During the visit, Mr Khan toured state-of-the-art EV laboratories, industrial workshops and training facilities, where Chinese experts demonstrated cutting-edge equipment, automated systems and industry grade simulators being used to prepare a skilled workforce for the rapidly expanding electric vehicle industry. The PMYP chairman interacted with trainers, technical specialists and students to gain firsthand insight into modern vocational education models and the latest technological advancements driving the global transition towards electric mobility.

Highlighting the growing importance of future ready skills, Mr Khan said that hands-on technical training and industry aligned educa-

tion are critical to equipping young people for evolving labour market demands.

He noted that electric mobility and green technologies offered significant opportunities for employment generation, entrepreneurship and technological innovation. The visit formed part of broader efforts to deepen Pakistan China cooperation in vocational training, youth development, technology transfer and innovation. Discussions focused on identifying collaborative initiatives that could help enhance Pakistan's technical education ecosystem and prepare young people for careers in high-growth sectors. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to expanding partnerships aimed at promoting skills development and knowledge exchange, while supporting the transition towards sustainable and modern transportation solutions.

The Prime Minister's Youth Programme continues to pursue international collaborations designed to empower youth through education, innovation and workforce development, ensuring that Pakistan's young population remains competitive in an increasingly technology driven global economy.



Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan while visiting the cutting Edge EV training facilities in China.

Senate secretariat to launch mobile app for senators to promote digital governance

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: As a significant step towards institutional innovation and the promotion of digital governance, the Senate Secretariat, under the leadership of Syed Yousef Raza Gilani, has decided to introduce a comprehensive mobile application for senators, marking an important milestone in its agenda of leveraging technology for improved efficiency and service delivery.

The initiative reflects Chairman Senate's vision of a technologically empowered, efficient, and environ-

mentally responsible parliamentary institution.

The mobile application has been developed utilizing indigenous resources and the professional expertise available within the Senate Secretariat, demonstrating the institution's commitment to innovation, self-reliance, and prudent utilization of public resources.

The progress on the application was reviewed during a meeting chaired by Chairman Senate Senator Syed Yousef Raza Gilani at Parliament House. Secretary Senate Syed

Hasnain Haider briefed the Chairman Senate and committee members on the development of the application, its key functionalities, and the benefits it will bring to parliamentary operations.

The Chairman Senate emphasized that the initiative is aligned with the broader objective of promoting the e-Office concept within the Senate Secretariat.

He added that digitalization is essential for improving efficiency, reducing paperwork, enhancing institutional transparency, and ensuring timely access to

information.

He further stated that the transition towards digital systems would contribute significantly to environmental sustainability by reducing paper consumption and minimizing administrative delays. Secretary Senate Syed Hasnain Haider informed the meeting that the user-friendly application has been designed to provide Senators with secure and convenient access to parliamentary business and official information through their mobile devices.

The application incorpo-

rates several innovative and unique features aimed at enhancing communication, accessibility, and workflow management for Members of the Upper House.

The application is expected to facilitate real-time access to Senate proceedings, legislative business, committee information, official notifications, parliamentary documents, schedules, and other essential resources.

The digital platform has been developed with a strong focus on ease of use, security, and accessibility to

ensure a seamless experience for Members.

The Chairman Senate appreciated the efforts of the Senate Secretariat officers and technical team involved.

in the development of the application and termed the initiative a major advancement towards a digitally empowered Senate.

He observed that the adoption of modern technological solutions would save valuable time and resources while strengthening institutional effectiveness and service delivery.