



Aurangzeb vows to deepen cooperation on fiscal governance, revenue reforms



Pakistan, Sri Lanka vow to deepen sports ties for stronger people-to-people bonds



CJP chairs meeting to review progress on judicial reforms

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PM orders fast-track, transparent PIA privatisation; focus on expanding airworthy fleet, ensuring on-time operations

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday directed authorities to accelerate and complete all stages of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) privatisation with full transparency and devise a clear strategy to increase the number of airworthy aircraft in national carrier's fleet and to ensure the timely departure of all flights.

The prime minister chaired a high-level meeting at the PM House to review key matters related to the PIA and emphasised that improving operational efficiency must remain a top priority.

The officials briefed the meeting on the ongoing privatisation process and the accompanying business plan. It was informed that

four parties have been pre-qualified for PIA's privatisation, and the bidding phase would commence soon. The government plans to privatise 75% of PIA's shares, while maintaining strict conditions that the airline's name and branding will not be altered post-privatisation.

The meeting was further informed that, under the business plan, the number of airworthy aircraft in PIA's fleet will be increased from 18 to 38 by 2029. Currently serving over 30 cities, PIA aims to expand its service network to more than 40 destinations by 2029.

The session was attended by Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on matters related to Pakistan International Airlines.

Security forces gun down 30 terrorists in multiple IBOs in KP: ISPR

PEAK POINT
RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed 30 Indian proxy Fitna al-Khawarij terrorists during multiple intelligence-based operations (IBOs) carried out by security forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the military's media wing said on Thursday. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), in a statement, said that an IBO, conducted in Mohmand district on November 18-19, resulted in the killing of four terrorists. "Another intelligence-based operation was conducted in Lakki Marwat district. In ensuing fire exchange, two khawarij were effectively neutralised by the security forces," it added. Security forces killed another Fitna al-Khawarij terrorist during the third encounter that took place in the Tank district. In the Kurram district, as many as 12 terrorists were neutralised after an intense exchange of fire during a targeted operation conducted on the reported presence of militants on November 19. "Capitalising on intelligence with respect to presence of another group of khawarij, in same general area, in another intelligence-based operation, own troops successfully neutralised 11 more," the ISPR's statement added.



Banned Pakistani outfit TTP is 'serious threat', receiving support from Afghan authorities, UNSC told

PEAK POINT
NEW YORK: Deputy Permanent Representative Sandra Jensen Landi has declared the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) a serious threat in Central and South Asia and said that it has been receiving support from the regime.

As chair of the Security Council's ISIL (Daesh) and Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee, Denmark highlighted these concerns during a briefing to the UN Security Council meeting held here on Wednesday.

Tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan's Taliban authorities have persisted over the presence of TTP militants on Afghan soil. Since the Taliban's takeover in 2021, Islamabad has accused them of sheltering thousands of TTP fighters who have stepped up attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Landi warned that the TTP — estimated to have around 6,000 fighters — poses a serious regional threat and benefits from "logistical and substantial support" from Afghanistan's de facto rulers. She noted that the group has carried out numerous high-profile attacks in Pakistan from Afghan territory, many resulting in mass casualties. She also presented the latest assessment of global terrorist networks, stating that ISIL (Daesh), Al-Qaeda and their affiliates remain active and geographically dispersed, with the highest intensity of attacks now seen in Africa. She said these groups continue to expand their propaganda on social media and increasingly use cryptocurrencies, complicating sanctions enforcement. She highlighted ISIL's shift toward Africa and described ISIL-Khorasan as one of the most significant threats in Central and South Asia, with around 2,000 fighters targeting Shia communities, Afghan authorities and foreign nationals.

According to Landi, foreign fighter movements remain a concern, while Al-Qaeda's central leadership is weakened but its affiliates — particularly in the Sahel — continue to exploit local instability. She stressed the need for strong multilateral cooperation.



IMF flags corruption as major obstacle to Pakistan's economic stability

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF), as part of conditions under its loan program, has released the Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment Report for Pakistan, stating that corruption remains a serious challenge that continues to undermine economic activity and institutional performance. According to the report, corruption weakens the control of state institutions and prevents the transparent and proper use of tax revenues, ultimately reducing overall tax collection. Public trust in the legal system is also severely.

2 cops martyred, 4 injured as police van targeted in KP's DI Khan

PEAK POINT
DI KHAN: Two cops were martyred and four were injured when a police van was targeted with a bomb in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail Khan, an official said. DI Khan District Police Officer (DPO) Sajjad Ahmad Sahibzada confirmed the casualties to the media persons. He said that a "remotely controlled bomb was detonated when an armoured police vehicle of the Takwara checkpoint was patrolling on the Hathala-Giloti road as per its routine". "As a result, Driver Ramzan and Constable Saifur Rehman lost their lives. Hawaldar Shahid and constables.

PAF deepens global Airpower Alliances as Aif Chief leads strategic outreach at Dubai Airshow 2025

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, held a series of high-level engagements with Air Chiefs from friendly countries and senior military leadership of the United Arab Emirates on the sidelines of the Dubai Airshow 2025. The discussions focused on enhancing military-to-military cooperation, expanding training and operational collaboration with special emphasis on exploring future avenues in airpower development, aerospace technologies and professional exchange initiatives.

During the visit, Chief of the Air Staff also held comprehensive discussions with Lieutenant General Pilot Ibrahim Nasser Al-Alawi, Undersecretary of cooperation in advanced training, fostering collaboration in emerging aerospace technologies and enhancing the mechanisms for effective operational coordination. The UAE military leadership lauded Pakistan Air Force's modernization initiatives and affirmed the commitment of both sides to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation. The discussions centred on strengthening



professional exchanges and forward-looking partnerships. Pakistan Air Force contingent has arrived in the United Arab Emirates to participate in the Dubai Airshow 2025. The contingent features advanced JF-17 Thunder Block-III and the renowned Super Mushshak trainer aircraft, reflecting Pakistan's growing expertise in indigenous military aviation. During the event, the JF-17 Thunder Block-III emerged as a major focal point, drawing significant attention from defence analysts, aviation specialists and visitors. Its cutting-edge technology, strong combat capabilities and proven operational performance in Marka-e-Haq reinforced its reputation as a highly capable and cost-effective multi-role fighter.

ECP seeks troops deployment in Haripur by-polls, takes notice of CM Afridi's 'threats'

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Taking notice of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi's "threats" and use of "provocative language" in the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has requested the deployment of the Pakistan Army and the civil armed forces for NA-18 Haripur by-election due on November 23.

In separate letters addressed to the respective secretaries of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Interior, the ECP drew attention to CM Afridi's recent speech at a public rally at Havelian, alleging that he "clearly threatened" district administration, police officers and ECP officials engaged with the by-polls due on November 23.

"Regrettably, he [KP CM] used offensive language which amounts to harassing and unduly influencing them which may prevent them [officials] from effective performance of their duties," the letter reads. The electoral body's concerns are linked with CM.





SPORTS



Brian Bennett, Sikandar Raza and bowlers combine as Zimbabwe crush hapless Sri Lanka



PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Under the chilly cloak of a Thursday night at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Zimbabwe authored a performance of stunning authority, dismantling Sri Lanka by a massive 67 runs to record a significant victory in their tri-series T20 International match.

In a display that blended explosive batting with relentless bowling, they first posted a commanding 168-8 before skittling their esteemed opponents for a paltry 95, registering only their third-ever T20 International win against the island nation.

The foundation for this landmark triumph was laid by their batsmen, who, after being asked to bat first, constructed a total that always seemed way beyond Sri Lanka's grasp.

The innings ignited early, with opener Brian Bennett shifting from cautious to carnage in the second over, striking off-spinner Maheesh Theekshana (1-30) for three scintillating boundaries. Fellow opener Tadiwanashe Marumani followed suit, hitting two more off pacer Nuwan Thushara, propelling Zimbabwe into a comfortable position.

The breakthrough came from

Theekshana, who induced a soft fifty partnership in style with a leading edge from Marumani for a boundary.

Just as Zimbabwe looked set for an explosive finish, heartbreak struck Bennett for the second game running. On the cusp of a deserved half-century, he top-edged a sweep off the wily Wanindu Hasaranga to be dismissed for a brilliant, yet agonising, 49 off 42 balls.

The departure of Bennett triggered a mini-collapse, masterminded by Hasaranga. Ryan Burl, after smacking two sixes in his 11-ball 18, was undone by a brilliant intelligence and punished the googly that clattered into his loose deliveries, bringing up their stumps.

Decision on city names for two new PSL franchises after Dec 15: PCB



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Amid rumours of two new city names being decided for the Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchises, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced on Thursday that the decision will be made after December 15. PSL confirmed last week that two new franchise teams would be named from among Hyderabad, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Gilgit, Muzaffarabad and Sialkot. The list was finalised after the valuation reports for the two new teams were received by PCB. "The PCB refutes news circulating in the media regarding the finalisation of the two city names for the new HBL PSL franchises."

PCB to restore commercial activities at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced plans to revive commercial activities at Gaddafi Stadium, which have remained dormant since the venue's upgrade last year. Prior to the renovation, the stadium precinct was home to several restaurants.

Hosting ATP Challenger Tour could be a game changer for Pakistan: Aisam



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Insisting that holding the ATP Challenger Tour for the very first time later this month is a great success of the country, Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) president Asiam-ul-Haq on Wednesday said that the contest could be a game changer noting that three local wildcard entrants will feature in the main round.

Pakistan will be hosting the ATP Challenger at the PTF

Complex in Islamabad from Nov 24-30.

Players from different countries will be seen in action with main draw containing 24 contestants.

Sweden's Elias Ymer, who is world number 169, is the event's top seed followed by second seed Britain's Jay Clarke (213) and Saba Purtseladze (290) of Georgia, seeded third.

There are six players in the international ranking bracket of 400-600 Islamabad while the for-

eign players will start arriving from Thursday [today]," said Aisam while talking to Dawn.

Answering a query about lower-ranked entries of international players in the Islamabad event, the PTF chief said that Pakistan's primary focus was hosting this mega event for the first time.

"Our focus is to hold this event successfully, this is [only] beginning. Next year, we will hold another event with bigger prize money, which will attract higher-ranked players," Aisam said.

"Our local wildcard entrants have a great chance to improve their [international] ranking. All of them are experienced players who have displayed impressive performances over the years in various national and international events."

Zimbabwe, SL teams gear up for Tri-Nation Series encounter



Arshad Nadeem defends gold medal at Islamic Solidarity Games

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan dominated the men's javelin throw final at the 6th Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh as Arshad Nadeem expectedly defended his gold medal and Muhammad Yasir won silver.

Arshad was in a league of his own headed into the seven-man event; his personal best of 92.97m — which won him gold and the games record at the Paris 2024 Olympics, was head and shoulders above the rest of the field.

Predictably, he had the lead from the start and was the only competitor to throw more than 80m — prompting hearty Arabic praise from the commentators — though he looked disappointed after most of his throws.

The 28-year-old took home gold with a modest 83.05m throw on his second attempt, well below his

88.55m throw at the previous edition that won gold broke the games record.

Meanwhile, Yasir shifted gears in the sixth and final throw to win silver in 76.04m after overtaking Nigeria's Samuel Adams

the javelin throwing sector, waving Pakistani flags and holding up their mobile phones to get a picture of the javelin superstars in action.

Arshad opened his campaign with a low 75.44m first throw before breaching



Kure, who bronze in 76.01m.

The duo's medals took Pakistan's tally at the games to four; boxers Fatima Zahra and Qudrat Ullah both won bronze medals in their respective categories.

A sparse audience at the Prince Faisal Bin Stadium was seen clustered behind

the 80m mark on his second and third throws. However, by his fourth throw he had come back to 77.06m and had a no throw on his fifth attempt. Javelin in hand, he turned to the crowd before his sixth and final throw and orchestrated the audience with rhythmic claps above his head.

DP/Din, FG/Din record victories in SQ Seagold Polo Cup





NA Committee orders new protector offices, full E-Protector Digitisation, and Banking of Promoter fees as mandatory reform

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development issued firm and far-reaching directives, ordering the immediate opening of new Protector Offices within the current financial year, a nationwide accelerated roll-out of the E-Protector system, and mandatory banking of all promoter fees to eliminate fraud, intermediaries, and exploitation. The Committee made clear that excuses of budgetary constraints or administrative delays would no longer be accepted, insisting that sys-

temic reforms must now translate into direct, real-time relief for Pakistani workers seeking opportunities abroad. Chaired by Syed Rafiullah, the Committee met at Parliament House to review progress made by the Ministry, the Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment (BEOE), the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). Officials admitted that administrative approvals for new Protector Offices were still "in process" and hampered by budget limitations. The Committee rejected these justifications outright, directing that new offices must become operational

during the current financial year and that all Protector services be fully integrated with NADRA and allied e-government platforms to ensure secure identity verification and reduce dependence on middlemen. The Committee demanded an urgent national expansion of the E-Protector system, including shorter processing times, measurable service-level targets, and user support mechanisms to improve accessibility. Officials reported that around 60,000 users have accessed the system so far. The Committee insisted that digitisation must be backed by transparency tools such as online tracers, verifiable payment receipts, and

grievance-tracking mechanisms. Chair Syed Rafiullah stressed that "services must be digitised, transparent and timely — progress on paper must translate into help in hand for our citizens." Members also reviewed plans to expand insurance coverage for overseas Pakistanis. The Committee recorded that, following its earlier recommendations, the Ministry has now begun increasing compensation limits and extending claim eligibility windows, including consideration of expanding coverage beyond five years. The Committee reiterated its directive that all promoter fees and related payments be routed exclu-

sively through formal banking and recognised digital channels. It instructed the Ministry to finalise consultations with banks and payment providers and to submit a comprehensive promoter-fee policy. This policy must include a standardised invoice/receipt format, a capped schedule of permissible charges, and an enforcement framework with penalties for overcharging and misconduct. FIA was further directed to provide a consolidated register of promoter complaints, including family-tree analyses of blacklisted promoters and updates on prosecutions. Institutional capacity issues within BEOE were examined in depth. The

Committee reviewed the staffing situation and ordered a time-bound recruitment plan supported by litigation summaries. Where court cases pose obstacles, the Law Officer was instructed to provide a briefing on available legal remedies. The Committee also assessed multiple operational matters, including progress on Malta visa facilitation, the backlog of 1,000 nursing placements to Kuwait, and jobs-portal performance metrics. Members sought firm placement timelines, employer-verification protocols, and evidence of active bilateral engagement.

Alleged scholarship corruption by OGDCL and MOL in the Name of District Karak—"Talent Hunt" Nothing but an Eyewash

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Shaker Zeeshan Khattak, in his statement, said that if OGDCL, MOL, or other companies are not providing scholarships to any student from District Karak, then these companies have no right to use the name of Karak. He stated that in the name of Karak's students, certain officers of OGDCL and MOL have begun a cycle of loot and corruption, enriching themselves while

deserving and qualified students of Karak are being completely deprived. In his statement submitted with the Federal Ombudsman in Islamabad on a red petition, Shaker Zeeshan Khattak said that these companies are running a "system of plunder." He said that instead of supporting students from Karak through Talent Hunt programs and other scholarship schemes, benefits are being given to irrelevant or unknown individuals. He said

that OGDCL's Talent Hunt and MOL's CSR Scholarship are nothing but schemes in name only. "No real talent is being identified, nor are deserving students from Karak being given any opportunity," he said. According to Shaker Zeeshan Khattak: "These are merely paper-based programs — the name 'Talent Hunt' is used, but in reality, these are false claims. No actual talent hunt is taking place." He further said that

countries around the world offer scholarships for Pakistani students, enabling them to pursue higher education across different continents, countries, and regions. Similarly, the Punjab government provides various scholarship programs for its students, and the federal government and multiple universities across Pakistan also offer educational assistance programs. However, he regretted that students from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa — particularly

District Karak, an area rich in oil, gas, and mineral resources — remain deprived of scholarships. He stated that it is a grave injustice that the district contributing major natural resources to the country is the same district whose talented students are being denied educational opportunities. Shaker Zeeshan Khattak added that under the Right of Information Act, details of scholarship recipients were requested from these institutions, but the

institutions refused to provide information. This behavior, he said, is proof that scholarships issued in the name of Karak have been given to non-deserving and unidentified individuals, which clearly amounts to corruption. He demanded that relevant authorities ensure that if these scholarships are not truly meant for the students of District Karak, then these companies must stop using the name of Karak.

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National disparities

THE Population Council's District Vulnerability Index for Pakistan offers a data-driven picture of vulnerabilities both at the provincial and district level. It shows that the nation's regional disparities are not accidental but an outcome of decades of skewed development policies and political priorities. The index collates existing datasets to measure and compare relative vulnerability across Pakistan's districts. Unlike traditional climate or disaster assessments, it focuses on underlying structural and systemic factors. It draws on 21 indicators grouped in six key domains to assess access to essential resources and opportunities: housing; communication and transportation; livelihoods; access to health services; access to public education; and demographics. It is an uncomfortable truth: provincial disparities are not only wide; they are also structural and deepening. This is most visible in Balochistan, which continues to exist on the socioeconomic margins despite decades of policy rhetoric. The province scores at the bottom across nearly all domains — from infrastructure and communications to livelihoods and human development — reflecting systemic governance failures. The distribution of vulnerability — high unemployment, inadequate housing, poor access to health and education, etc — across the province paints a picture of exclusion from the national development strategy.

Bangladesh's victory and Pakistan's lessons

Amina Abdul Sattar
As Pakistanis, we have much to learn from our brothers in Bangladesh, who have once again shown courage and unity in the face of injustice. In 1971, when they felt that their identity and language were not being respected, they stood up for their rights and fought for independence. And in 2024, when they realized that Sheikh Hasina's government was restricting their freedom, they rose again. Students from all fields came out of their institutions and protested bravely. As a result, nearly 1,400 students lost their lives, many were injured, and their economy suffered greatly. Yet despite all the sacrifices, they regained their freedom. Sheikh Hasina fled the country, fearing the strength of the public. History proves that when the youth take a stand with determination, they can change the course of nations.

On the other hand, if we look at Pakistan, we have been facing oppression since 1947. We still have not achieved true freedom. Dictators came and went, ruling according to their wishes, while we remained silent. They changed laws that harmed the people, and still we did nothing. For decades, our Baloch brothers have been

abducted without charges, murdered without reason, and kidnapped for no fault of their own. Our Pashtoon youth are forced to pick up weapons for safety instead of pens for education. They spend their days fighting for basic rights in courts, instead of protesting for public welfare. In recent years, the cruelty in KPK has been undeniable, where thousands of innocent people lost their lives. For nearly 35 years, one political party has dominated Pakistan, yet our youth remain unaware and unawakened. Since 2022, PTI has been continuously targeted by unselected forces. Their women and children face harassment, and many incidents of brutality occur despite PTI having no involvement. Just recently, Imran Khan's sisters were arrested again. Even Imran Khan's name is banned across electronic and social media. What kind of injustice is this — and still we remain silent?

We also witnessed the Muridke incident, where members of a well-known religious and political party were beaten, their modest women arrested, and even the young daughter of Saad Rizvi taken into custody. Yet the nation stayed asleep. The disappearance of party leaders goes unnoticed simply because they do not belong

to the dominant political class that treats Pakistan as their personal property. We have lost journalists who dared to speak against the feudal system and refused to accept slavery. They were kidnapped, silenced, or forced into exile. Arshad Sharif's killers remain unknown. Imran Riaz, Ibrahim Sami, and many others have been abducted multiple times simply for telling the truth. As we can see in this time how Bangladesh's courts are active in taking decisions for justice but on the contrary side, we can see the 27th of amendment in our constitution which has weakened our justice system. In one side of this era, non-elected lady has been sentenced for death and on the other side of this modern era, another non-elected lady became a chief minister of Punjab. In such dark times, the brave actions of the youth in Bangladesh should give us hope. They were not cowardly, hopeless, or lazy. At a time when Muslims around the world — in Gaza, Kashmir, Sudan — are suffering, we remain silent, but Bangladesh has shown the world how a nation stands for its rights. Bangladesh, you have set an example. We salute your courage.

The price of disorder

SULEMAN ZIA
Pakistan's roads reflect the broader dysfunction of its governance system: disorganised, improvised and reactive. Every few months, a new chief traffic officer (CTO) assumes office in Lahore or Karachi, promising reform, digitisation and discipline. Yet despite these recurring campaigns, little changes in the experience of daily commuters. Traffic remains chaotic, enforcement is inconsistent and citizens are caught in a system where fines have increased but compliance mechanisms remain inaccessible. The result is a model of governance that prioritises appearances over systemic reform. The latest wave of fine increases began in Karachi, where the city's traffic police announced a sharp rise in penalties for common violations, including lane indiscipline, signal breaking and helmetless riding. These measures were justified as deterrents to reckless driving and as a means to 'restore civic discipline'. Yet the reforms have exposed a deeper flaw: the lack of a functioning, accessible system for payments and compliance. In both cities, citizens report malfunctioning online challan portals, unresponsive helplines and long queues at manual counters. The online Fine Payment App frequently crashes or fails to register payments, while integration with mobile banking platforms remains unreliable. For many motorists, especially delivery riders and daily-wage workers, paying a fine can mean losing a day's income or relying on informal agents to process challans. These inefficiencies turn deterrence into an administrative ordeal. A fine can only serve its purpose if it is accompanied by a transparent and functional system of compliance. The dysfunction extends to the process of obtaining or renewing a driving license. Despite efforts to digitise, licensing offices remain plagued by procedural confusion and a lack of infrastructure. Courtesy Dawn

Aurangzeb vows to deepen cooperation on fiscal governance, revenue reforms



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, here on Thursday, expressed Pakistan's commitment to expanding institutional cooperation and dialogue with friendly nations, particularly in the areas of fiscal governance and revenue reforms.

The minister was speaking to a 13-member delegation from the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) of Nigeria, led by Barrister Imo Effiong

Akpan, Federal Commissioner.

Senior officials of the Finance and Revenue Division were also present during the meeting, according to a press release issued by the Finance Ministry.

Aurangzeb apprised the delegation of Pakistan's macroeconomic progress and the government's reform agenda under the leadership of the Prime Minister.

He underscored improvements in key macroeconomic indicators over the past 18 months, including increased stability in the external

account, moderation in inflation, improved fiscal discipline, and enhanced market confidence, reaffirming the government's commitment to maintaining the reform momentum through responsible economic management and sustained engagement with international financial institutions.

He also highlighted the major structural reforms underway, including the broadening of the tax base, enhanced digitization, real-time risk-based compliance, and improved documentation as part of Pakistan's taxation reforms. He outlined progress in the energy sector aimed at addressing circular debt, improving governance, implementing cost-reflective tariffs, and moving towards market-based operations.

The minister further referred to reforms in state-owned enterprises, including the transition to a holding company structure and accelerated privatization, with 24 state-run enterprises already transferred to the Privatization Commission.

Pakistan, Sri Lanka vow to deepen sports ties for stronger people-to-people bonds

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar, and Sri Lanka's Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Sugath Thilakarathne agreed on Thursday to strengthen sports cooperation stressing that games serve as a powerful medium for fostering people-to-people connections and enhancing mutual understanding between the two nations.

The meeting focused on promoting cricket, enhancing cooperation in various sporting disciplines and strengthening broader bilateral ties, with Minister Attaullah Tarar noting that Pakistan and Sri Lanka share relations founded on trust, respect and common values.

Tarar emphasized that cooperation in sports not only fosters unity among the younger genera-



tion but also serves as a powerful bridge, strengthening the bonds of friendship between the peoples of both nations.

The minister expressed gratitude to the Sri Lankan government and its leadership for fostering stronger cooperation in the field of sports. He emphasized that Pakistan is undertaking significant initiatives to advance sports diplomacy in the region.

The minister said that the Sri Lankan Deputy Minister's visit to Pakistan, despite the ongoing budget session.

Federal Minister for Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar emphasizes collective responsibility and continued progress

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, addressed a gathering organized by the National Commission on the Rights of Child in Islamabad today to mark World Children's Day 2025, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to ensuring that every child grows up safe, healthy, educated and protected from all forms of harm. The event was also attended by Barrister Aqeel Malik, Minister of State for Law and Justice; Ayesha Raza Farooq, Chairperson NCRC; Pernille Ironside, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan; representatives from civil society organizations, government officials and children invited from across the country. The Minister emphasized that World Children's Day reminds us of our shared responsibility to protect the rights and dignity of every child, with government, institutions, civil society, communities, and families all playing a role.

He noted that Pakistan's ratification of the

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child demonstrates the country's commitment to safeguarding children without discrimination, and highlighted the progress made in strengthening systems that support and protect them. "These efforts reflect our national commitment to keeping children at the center of decision-making and social development," he stated. At the same time, the Federal Minister acknowledged ongoing challenges, including barriers to education, health, nutrition, protection, and legal identity. Addressing these requires sustained political will, strong institutional collaboration, and active involvement of parents and communities. "Pakistan stands with the international community in observing World Children's Day and remains determined to ensure that every child, regardless of background, has equal access to opportunity, protection, and development," he affirmed. While addressing the event, Barrister Aqeel Malik, Minister of State for Law and Justice.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar Highlights shared responsibility and ongoing efforts to protect children on World Children's Day 2025.

ADB approves \$330m loan for clean energy transmission project in Pakistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday approved a \$330 million loan for Pakistan's Clean Energy Transmission Project.

Under this project, a 290-kilometer long, 500-kilovolt transmission line will be laid, upgrading the grid from Islamabad to Faisalabad.

According to the announcement, the initiative will reduce dependence on imported fuel and improve energy security. Once completed, the project will help provide electricity to consumers at lower rates and resolve power-sector bottlenecks from north to south.

ADB stated that this project will be an important step toward sustainable development in Pakistan's energy sector and the promotion of clean energy. According to the press release, the ADB financing package includes a \$285 million loan from its ordinary capital resources and a \$45 million concessional loan. The funding will help NGC upgrade transmission infrastructure.

Chairperson BISP reaffirms commitment to child rights on World Children's Day

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Thursday emphasized that the true progress of any society is only possible when the fundamental rights of its children are fully protected.

In her special message on World Children's Day, she said that today serves as a powerful reminder to renew the national pledge to safeguard the wellbeing and future of every child in Pakistan.

Senator Rubina Khalid stated that every child has an equal right to health, safety, education, learning, and the opportunity to be heard. She highlighted that ensuring these rights remains central to



BISP's mission of providing education, health, and equal opportunities to all children from deserving families.

The Chairperson revealed that under the BISP Taleemi Wazaif Programme, more than 18.7 million children have been enrolled in schools, supported by an investment of over Rs. 216 billion to promote quality education.

She added that the outstanding achievement of 503 students securing A+ grades and top positions in matric examination.

Urban Tree Plantation Drive launched along Railway tracks

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi has announced the official launch of the first phase of tree planting along railway tracks under the Urban Tree Plantation Drive.

The initiative, launched in collaboration with Pakistan Railways and the Punjab Government, aims to enhance greenery and promote environmental sustainability across the province. It forms part of a broader effort to strengthen green infrastructure, contribute to climate resilience, and improve the travel experience for passengers. During the inauguration ceremony, the Railways Minister marked the beginning of the first phase of the



drive, which will cover multiple railway routes across Punjab. The first phase includes Mandi Bahauddin, Malakwal, Sargodha, and Bhulawal.

In Mandi Bahauddin, the campaign was formally inaugurated in the presence of the Deputy Commissioner.

Abbasi stated that the drive is being carried out under the Chief Minister of Punjab's.

CJP chairs meeting to review progress on judicial reforms

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: In line with his vision for a citizen-centric justice system, the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Yahya Afridi, chaired the eighth interactive progress review session at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by Justice Mohammad Ali Mazhar, Chairman, National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC) and senior officials, technical experts, and section heads to assess monthly progress under the Reform Action Plan (RAP) and to issue directions on pending initiatives and upcoming milestones. Other participants

included the Registrar Supreme Court, Director General (Reforms), IT Advisor Mr. Hamayun Zafar, section heads of the Supreme Court, the Director General of the Federal Judicial Academy, and the Secretary of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP). The Chief Justice reviewed the progress achieved under the reform framework.

Of the 86 initiatives identified in the RAP, 36 have been completed, 45 are under implementation, and 13 are scheduled to begin shortly. These indicators reflect the judiciary's continuing effort to modernize processes,



enhance institutional efficiency, and strengthen public-facing services.

The CJP examined updates on case disposal, case categorization, record digitization, IT integration,

financial controls, audit mechanisms, and public facilitation initiatives. He noted with satisfaction that case categorization is underway, and that more than 126,000 records have been

digitized out of the targeted 61,900, with the remaining work expected to be completed within the stipulated timeline. He kicked off the Standardization and quality assurance process today.

Progress on automation, including software enhancements, improved IT integration, and QR-coded certified copies, was also reviewed. For launching the E Courts project, focused group discussions will be held at the Federal Judicial Academy in collaboration with the Ministry of IT and Telecom, as well as Pakistan Digital Authority, which will give a master plan for end-to-end digitization of all courts from

the district judiciary to the Supreme Court across the country. Capacity-building sessions on data management and analysis initiatives were also discussed.

The Public Facilitation component was reviewed in detail. The Chief Justice acknowledged improvements in the system for receiving calls and complaints, as well as the proactive outreach mechanism through which citizens are contacted for feedback. Progress on ADR and mediation initiatives, and updates on performance and security audits were also presented. Underscoring the importance of transparency, the Chief Justice.