



CJP visits SHC, emphasizes citizen-centric judicial infrastructure



Pakistan to launch its first moon mission by 2035: Ahsan Iqbal



Pakistan, Bangladesh to boost trade, energy cooperation, industrial linkage

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Tuesday 05 August 2025 Safar 10, 1447 A.H VOI No: 05 Issue No. 216 Pages 4 Rs.10

PM orders advance weather alert system for tourist destinations

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN

GILGIT: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday stressed that an advanced weather alert system must be established for tourist destinations based on seasonal forecasts, and local populations should be resettled away from natural water passageways to help prevent emergencies in the future. Chairing a meeting regarding the recent floods and rehabilitation work in Gilgit Baltistan, the prime minister said that keeping climate change in view, early warning systems, preparedness for relief operations, and construction of climate-resilient infrastructure in vulnerable areas should be ensured. NDMA and the Ministry of Climate Change should jointly establish a forecasting and monitoring center

for Gilgit-Baltistan in the coming months, the prime minister said adding that a comprehensive system must be developed for immediate rescue and assistance in emergency situations. He instructed NDMA to ensure close cooperation with provincial governments and relevant institutions to enhance rescue and relief efforts. "All rehabilitation measures for those affected by the recent monsoon must be completed promptly," the prime minister said emphasizing that a survey of damage to roads and infrastructure should be conducted, and communication links in all affected areas must be restored on a priority basis. The prime minister also expressed sorrow over the loss of lives during recent rains and floods in the area.



GILGIT: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding the recent floods and rehabilitation work in Gilgit Baltistan.

Dar, Rubio discuss bilateral ties, regional issues



SAMRA ATHAR

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a telephonic conversation with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio to discuss bilateral relations and regional developments, according to an official statement. The two leaders exchanged views on a range of bilateral matters as well as current regional and international issues. Both sides agreed to remain in contact and continue cooperation on areas of mutual interest. The phone call comes amid a series of high-level engagements between the two countries. In June, US President Donald Trump hosted Pakistan's army chief for an unprecedented lunch at the White House, where the two sides discussed the Iran-Israel conflict and other strategic issues.

Field Marshal's successes reflect shift in America's India policy: report

SIDRA SADOZAI

ISLAMABAD: Field Marshal Asim Munir, Pakistan's army chief, could hardly have wished for more. Wracked by debt and insurgent violence, his country had been sidelined in geopolitics as America and other rich countries courted India, Pakistan's arch-rival. And yet there he was, enjoying a private lunch with Donald Trump in the White House on June 18, just over a month after Pakistan's brief conflict with India. Then, at the end of July, came further snubs for India: branding it a "dead economy", Mr Trump imposed tariffs of 25 per cent while hailing a new trade deal with Pakistan. The Economist writes, "The Field Marshal's fortunes reflect a shift in American policy that affects India, China and the Middle East. America's close



ties to Pakistan deteriorated after American forces killed Osama bin Laden in his Pakistani hideout in 2011. America then lost interest after leaving Afghanistan a decade later. But to India's dismay, America and Pakistan are now rebuilding ties with a focus on trade, counter-terrorism and consultation on Middle Eastern policy. America may even sell arms again to Pakistan (it cur-

ident too, opening a fourth period of military rule since independence in 1947.

The future of the world's second-largest Muslim country and its relations with America, India and China thus depends increasingly on one question: what exactly does Field Marshal Munir want? The man himself declined an interview request (as he has done for all media since his appointment in 2022). But Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, Pakistan's military spokesman, tells The Economist that talk of his boss becoming president is "non-sense". He also challenges the idea that the Field Marshal is more ideological than recent predecessors.

Unlike most of them, the Field Marshal is the son of an imam. He was educated in a madrasa and can recite.

Mohsin Naqvi pays tribute to police martyrs on Yaum-e-Shuhada

JAVED KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi has paid rich tribute to all police martyrs on the occasion of Police Martyrs' Day. He said that August 4 is dedicated to the brave guardians of internal security, who sacrificed their precious lives to uphold the writ of the state. In his special message on this occasion, the Interior Minister said: "We salute those great defenders who attained the rank of martyrdom and became eternal.

Desecration of Al-Aqsa Mosque dangerous attempt to provoke religious sentiments: FO

AYESHA REHAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday strongly condemned the provocative and deeply offensive desecration of Al-Aqsa Mosque by thousands of Israeli settlers, calling it a dangerous and deliberate attempt to provoke religious sentiments across the world, escalate tensions, and alter the status of Al-Aqsa Mosque. Foreign Office spokesperson Shafiq Ali Khan, in a statement, condemned in the strongest possible terms the storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque by thousands of Israeli settlers, including senior Israeli ministers, officials, and members of the Knesset, shielded by brutal Israeli occupying forces. "The presence and statements of senior Israeli offi-



cials, and the repugnant declaration that "the Temple Mount is ours," are a dangerous and deliberate attempt to provoke religious sentiments across the world, escalate tensions, and alter the status of Al-Aqsa Mosque," he remarked. He said that Israel's expansionist attempts were a deliberate effort to destabilise the

regional and sabotage any meaningful path to peace. These provocations risk igniting a catastrophic spiral of violence across the region, he added. The spokesperson asked the world not to remain silent in the face of such systemic, illegal, inhumane, and unlawful aggression. Such actions constitute a blatant violation of interna-

Pak, UK agree to enhance cooperation in all fields including defence



HUMA REHAN

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan and United Kingdom (UK) on Monday agreed to enhance cooperation in all fields including defence. The agreement reached at meeting between British High Commissioner Ms. Jane Marriott and Minister for Defence Production Muhammad Raza Hayat Harraj, said a press release issued here. Upon arrival at the ministry, the Minister warmly welcomed the dignitary and highlighted the importance of relations of both the countries. The Minister said that Pakistan considers United Kingdom a close friend and a genuine development partner. He pointed out that frequent interaction had been useful in coordinating our approaches to various bilateral regional and international issues.



India beat England by six runs in fifth-Test thriller

PEAK POINT

LONDON: Mohammed Siraj was the hero as India beat England by just six runs in a thrilling fifth Test at the Oval on Monday to end the series level at 2-2. England, set 374 to win, were bowled out for 367, with fast bowler Siraj taking 5-104, including a sensational burst of 3-9 on Monday's final morning. It is India's narrowest winning margin in a Test match. "To be honest, it is so amazing," Siraj told Sky Sports. "From day one to here, everyone fought so hard so we are very happy. "I just wanted to make sure I hit the right areas, the wickets would fall, and anything else would be a bonus.

"When I woke up I believed I could do it." After resuming on 339-6, England lost four wickets for 28 runs on the final morning of a dramatic series. The home side were soon 354-8 after Siraj, the leading bowler on either side this series, struck twice to remove Jamie Smith and Jamie Overton. When injured England last man Chris Woakes came in to bat with his left-arm strapped up owing to an injured shoulder, England still needed 17 more runs for victory. Gus Atkinson hit a six off Siraj before England got the target down to single figures. But Siraj set the seal on a superb series by bowling Atkinson (17) as he knocked over the batsman's off stump to spark delirious scenes among the India team and their supporters in south London. India were without Jasprit Bumrah at the Oval after deciding to stand by a decision to only play the world's top-ranked Test bowler in three games of this five-match series.

Dr. Muhammad Ali praises progress during U23 football tryouts

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice-President of the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF), lauded the organization of the Under-23 national team tryouts held recently. In a statement, Dr. Ali highlighted the unanimous approval of four assistant coaches by PFF President Syed Mohsen Gilani and the Executive Committee (ExCo) prior to the selection process. Over 500 players were evaluated in two days — an impressive feat reflecting the PFF's renewed commitment to promote football across Pakistan. "This is a significant and commendable step forward for our sport," Dr. Ali stated. "As Vice-President of PFF, I sincerely appreciate these efforts to promote football swiftly and effectively." Dr. Ali further reaffirmed the Federation's collective resolve: "We remain committed to working under the leadership of Syed Mohsen Gilani to further elevate football in our country."

Pakistan beat West Indies by 13 runs to clinch T20I series

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN

DUBAI: Sahibzada Farhan and Saim Ayub shared a brilliant 138-run opening stand as Pakistan defeated West Indies by 13 runs to clinch the three-match T20I series 2-1.

After winning the toss and opting to bat first, Pakistan made a strong start as openers Saim Ayub and Sahibzada Farhan laid a solid foundation.

Pakistan won the series opener by 14 runs but dropped the second match by two wickets to set up a Sunday night decider at Lauderhill, Florida. Pakistan went 189 for four as Farhan hammered the hosts for 74 runs on 53 balls, smashing five sixes and three fours, while Ayub lasted 19 overs, finishing on 66 from 49 balls with two sixes and four fours.

Farhan was caught by West Indies captain Shai Hope at long off from a delivery by Shamar Joseph on the second ball of the 17th over.

Hasan Nawaz entered but was retired after only 15 runs, caught by Romario Shepherd at long off from a delivery by Nawaz.



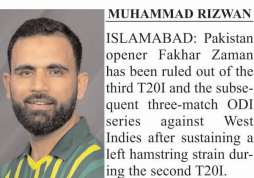
Roston Chase on the penultimate ball of the 18th over.

Mohammad Haris was run out for only two runs by Gudakesh Motie to 44. Ayub caught Hope Sufiyan Mueqem two balls later for a duck, leaving the hosts 41 runs shy with 16 balls remaining.

Alick Athanaze lasted 13 overs before being taken for 60, caught by Khushdil Shah bowled by Rutherford smashed a six to reach a half-century before exiting on 51 as West Indies couldn't pull off another last-over comeback.

Fakhar Zaman ruled out of WI tour

MUHAMMAD RIZWAN



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan opener Fakhar Zaman has been ruled out of the third T20I and the subsequent three-match ODI series against West Indies after sustaining a left hamstring strain during the second T20I.

The injury occurred in the 19th over while Fakhar was chasing a ball in the outfield. Upon medical assessment, it was determined to be a mild strain. Immediate treatment and initial management have been provided by the team's medical staff, said a press release.

Fakhar will return to Pakistan on the evening of August 4 and will continue his rehabilitation under the supervision of the PCB medical team at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Lahore.

Road to FIH Hockey World Cup 2026: Euro Hockey C'ship Preview

JAVED KHAN



ISLAMABAD: The Men's and Women's Euro Hockey Championship 2025 will be hosted by Monchengladbach, Germany, starting August 8. Meanwhile, Europe's premier hockey tournament running August 8 to 17, with the champions punching their tickets to the FIH Hockey World Cup Belgium & Netherlands 2026, said a press release. Both men's and women's tournaments will feature 8 teams, split into Pool A & B, with the top two from each pool advancing to semi-finals while the bottom two teams will play for classifications and world ranking points. Women's Pools- Pool A: France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands; Pool B: Belgium, England, Scotland, Spain. Men's Pools- Pool A: Austria, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain; Pool B: England, France, Germany, Poland. The men's tournament will begin the competition with Pool B action on August 8.

Siraj stars as India beat England by six runs in fifth-Test thriller to draw series

PEAK POINT

DUBAI: Mohammed Siraj was the hero as India beat England by just six runs in a thrilling fifth Test at the Oval on Monday to end the series level at 2-2. England, set 374 to win, were bowled out for 367, with fast bowler Siraj taking 5-104, including a sensational burst of 3-9 on Monday's final morning.

It is India's narrowest winning margin in a Test match. "To be honest, it is so amazing," Siraj told Sky Sports. "From day one to here, everyone fought so hard, so we are very happy. "I just wanted to make sure I hit the right areas, the wickets would fall, and anything else would be a bonus. "When I woke up, I believed I could do it." After resuming on 339-6, England lost four wickets for 28 runs on the final morning of a dramatic series. The home side were soon 354-8 after Siraj, the leading bowler on either side this series, struck twice to remove Jamie Smith and Jamie Overton. When injured England last man Chris Woakes came in to bat with his left arm strapped up owing to an injured shoulder, England still needed 17 more runs for victory.

Gus Atkinson hit a six off Siraj before England got the target down to single figures. But Siraj set the seal on a superb series by bowling Atkinson (17) as he knocked over the batsman's off stump to spark delirious scenes among the India team and their supporters in south London. India were without Jasprit Bumrah at the Oval after deciding to stand by a decision to only play the world's top-ranked Test bowler in three games of this five-match series.



Siraj, who featured throughout, ended the series with 23 wickets at 32.43. Smith and Overton had struggled to get the ball off the square on their Surrey home ground on Sunday. And with play starting Monday beneath grey skies, conditions favoured India's quicks. Overton pulled the first ball of the day, from Prasidh Krishna, for four — a shot greeted by huge cheers from England fans in an impressively large Oval crowd — and under-edged the second for another boundary. Siraj took up the attack from the Pavilion End and promptly twice beat Smith on the outside edge. And with the third ball of his over Siraj had Smith caught behind, without the batsman adding to his score, to leave England 347-7. The next delivery saw new batsman Atkinson edge the lion-hearted Siraj just short of the slip cordon. But it was his Surrey county colleague Overton who fell next, lbw for nine to a Siraj ball angling into his pads. Overton reviewed but Kumar Dharmasena's decision was upheld on umpire's call. Tailender Josh Tongue was then given out lbw to Krishna but the batsman's review saw the decision overturned.



SDPI, Soochow University Think Tank ink MoU to explore research collabs for Green CPEC, Water & Climate Sustainability

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Soochow University Think Tank, China, aimed at fostering joint research and academic collaboration on sustainable development, economy, energy transition, green CPEC and climate change challenges.

The signing ceremony was moderated by Zainab Naeem, Associate Research Fellow at SDPI, who highlighted SDPI's multidisciplinary research portfolio and its regional presence through

a network of think tanks across South Asia.

Dr. Wenkang Lu of Soochow University, a historic public institution in China offering over 30 academic disciplines, said the collaboration would open doors to meaningful joint initiatives. "Our university shares common goals with SDPI on economy, sustainable development, and political research issues. This MoU will pave the way for building a strong think tank partnership in the future," he remarked.

Dr. Khalid Waleed, Energy Economy Expert at SDPI, shared the institute's



history, policy contributions, and role in shaping Pakistan's energy and sustainability landscape. He noted SDPI's involvement in key national policies such as the New EV Policy, National Circular Economy Policy, National

Industrial Policy and contributions to global reports like the World Energy Investment 2025.

Former Chairman NDMA and Lieutenant General (R) Muhammad Afzal emphasized the importance of sus-

tainability in Pakistan, citing environmental degradation, urban flooding, and greenhouse gas emissions as major challenges. "Carbon and plastic credits can help mitigate these issues, and SDPI is doing commendable work in

this regard," he said.

Dr. Hassan Daud Butt, Visiting Fellow at SDPI, described the institute as a trusted research hub for both public and private sectors, where empirical evidence is rooted in ground reality. Senior journalist Sana Ullah from Dawn News underscored the value of Chinese expertise for Pakistan in tackling governance, climate change, and urban flooding crises. During his concluding remarks, SDPI Executive Director Dr. Abid Qaiyum Sulteri praised Soochow University's vision of connecting globally while developing local solutions.

Massive Financial Irregularities Surface in Health Ministry Audit: Over Rs. 6 Billion in Unresolved Paras and Lax Accountability

NADEEM TANOLI
ISLAMABAD: A detailed reply tabled in the National Assembly has unveiled alarming audit findings against the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (NHSR&C), exposing a pattern of financial mismanagement, unauthorized expenditures, and unresolved audit paras amounting to more than Rs. 6 billion over the past three years. The revelations follow a parliamentary question by MNA Sher Afzal Khan, seek-

ing clarification on audit findings and actions taken against negligent officials. The ministry's response—supported by a comprehensive Annex-A—shows that the Audit and Inspection Report for the fiscal year 2024-25 has not even been initiated by the Directorate General of Audit. However, the audit for FY 2023-24 alone reveals 11 serious paras, ranging from the non-utilization of Rs. 4.03 billion in developmental funds to irregular procurements and payments, unauthorized vehicle use, and questionable financial deci-

sions taken at the end of the fiscal year. Among the most damning findings is the non-utilization and surrender of Rs. 4.028 billion in development funds, as well as a Rs. 1.77 billion reappropriation of funds to attached departments at the fiscal year's end—an act typically criticized as budget manipulation. Other significant irregularities include Rs. 71.7 million in questionable payments to Novartis Pharma, and Rs. 42.3 million spent on irregular procurement of computer stationery and other items. Despite the gravity of

these findings, no meaningful disciplinary action has yet been taken, as nearly every para from FY 2023-24 is marked "response awaited" from the Director General (Audit), with the Departmental Accounts Committee (DAC) meeting still pending. This reflects not only negligence within the ministry but also a dismal lack of urgency in addressing financial impropriety. The audit paras for FY 2022-23 are no less revealing. The reports highlight a Rs. 216.8 million unaccounted stock of contraceptive items, delayed

project executions causing escalated costs, and non-recovery of Rs. 22.3 million in unutilized funds from the Pakistan Public Works Department (PWD). Cases of irregular honoraria payments, unauthorized use of vehicles, and non-verification of store stocks also feature prominently. In several instances, DAC recommended conditional settlements, such as subject to tax certificate verification or audit confirmation of records. Yet, many paras still "stand," meaning the irregularities remain unresolved. Notably, a case con-

cerning unauthorized retention of two government vehicles continues to appear across multiple years—suggesting that previous directions for recovery or settlement were never implemented. The absence of accountability has sparked concerns among lawmakers and governance observers. Critics argue that such blatant financial disorder in a critical ministry not only reflects poor internal controls but also undermines public trust, especially in a sector responsible for national health policy and funding.

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Pakistan's AI moment

Amir Jahangir
In a rare moment of national alignment around a long-term vision, Pakistan's federal cabinet has approved its first National Artificial Intelligence Policy. This comprehensive and forward-looking blueprint aspires to position the country as a digitally sovereign state in the global AI ecosystem.

With the global AI market expected to contribute \$15.7 trillion to GDP by 2030 and reshape industries and societies alike, the timing couldn't be more consequential. For Pakistan, a country with a youthful population, digital potential and development gaps, artificial intelligence isn't just a technological imperative. It's an economic, governance and societal necessity.

The policy's ambition is impressive. It forecasts that AI adoption could increase Pakistan's GDP by 7-12 per cent and create 3.5 million jobs by 2030. Its structured approach revolves around six policy pillars: innovation ecosystems, human capital readiness, AI security, sectoral transformation, infrastructure development and international collaboration. Each pillar is backed by dedicated funds, capacity-building initiatives, regulatory frameworks and outcome-based targets. From the outset, the strategy is bold in vision and broad in scope. A National AI Fund (NAIF) will finance research and commercialisation, with 30 per cent of Ignite's R&D funds allocated to AI development.

Centres of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence (CoE-AI) will be set up across seven cities to drive localised innovation and industry-academia collaboration. A national skilling program will train 200,000 individuals annually, provide 3,000 scholarships and ensure inclusivity for women and persons with disabilities. By 2027, the government intends to achieve end-to-end AI deployment across its own ministries and departments.

And yet, the boldness of the document is matched by the complexity of its execution, and therein lies the policy's biggest challenge. One of the most pressing concerns is the fragmented institutional ecosystem that typically hinders long-term national plans in Pakistan. The policy outlines a multi-stakeholder approach but lacks the legal and operational clarity to define how ministries, regulators, provinces, academia and the private sector will coordinate at scale. The creation of an independent AI Authority, backed by enabling legislation, could provide much-needed continuity, accountability and cross-sector alignment. Similarly, while funding plans exist, the financing model is underdeveloped. Relying solely on Ignite's allocations will be insufficient to build competitive AI capacity, primarily when global rivals are investing billions in compute infrastructure, talent, and sovereign AI models. A blended financing strategy, combining public allocations, venture capital,

diaspora-backed instruments and development finance, should be established immediately. Tax incentives for AI-focused startups and adoption credits for industries can catalyse broader private-sector participation. Perhaps the most critical and underexplored dimension is data governance. Pakistan currently lacks a national data protection law, and its fragmented data architecture makes building large-scale AI models domestically both complex and risky. The policy gestures toward creating centralised repositories and localised large language models (LLMs), but without strict data localisation, privacy protections and clear data-sharing protocols, Pakistan will remain dependent on foreign platforms. A Pakistan Data Governance Act, aligned with global standards like the EU's GDPR, is overdue and essential. To its credit, the policy makes space for AI ethics and regulatory frameworks, especially concerning generative AI, cybersecurity and misinformation. It proposes sandboxes for regulatory testing, AI system transparency through public registries, and oversight for high-risk applications. But these frameworks are only as strong as their institutional backing. A Pakistan AI Ethics Council, independent of the state, should be formed to develop ethical standards, issue public audits and advise on human rights and human freedom implications, particularly in surveillance, policing and facial recognition.

Courtesy The News

Reforming the civil service

Malecha Lodhi

THE institutions of governance have long needed reform and restructuring. This is apparent from the deterioration in public service delivery and people's eroding confidence in the state machinery.

Weakening of the state's institutional capacity has affected the quality of advice available to governments and meant even the most well-crafted policy cannot be effectively implemented. The increase in the size of the civil service over the years — with federal employees now around half a million — has not made it fit for purpose or produced improvements in efficiency and reskilling of personnel. It has had the opposite effect. Around 2.4m civil servants are employed in provincial governments. Acknowledging the need for change, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif recently convened a meeting where he heard proposals for reform from a committee set up earlier and chaired by Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal. The committee met over a dozen times and came up with recommendations for "transition to a smart civil service", which were placed before the PM. Iqbal's committee has now been given a month to translate these into an action plan for the PM's approval. Before discussing the key proposals, it is important to place this issue in its historical context. The declining capacity of the state machinery is the cumulative result of several factors. Among these, two stand out. One, postponed reforms and two, politicisation of the civil service. After independence, governance required transforming the colonial-era administrative system into one responsive to public expectations and the needs of a developing country. For decades, this task was ignored, which left the administrative system unable to meet the requirements of modern governance. When reform was attempted in 1973, it was limited and controversial. Various government commissions and committees were set up in the 2000s and subsequently, whose recommendations were usually not implemented.

Courtesy Dawn

Pakistan to launch its first moon mission by 2035: Ahsan Iqbal

PEAK POINT

CHINA: Pakistan aims to send its first lunar mission by 2035, with the national space agency, Suparco,



receiving formal instructions to lead the ambitious venture, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal said.

Iqbal made the remarks during a high-level meeting in Beijing with Shan Zhongde, Chairman of China's Atomic Energy Authority and Space Agency on Monday. The discussion focused on expanding collaboration in space and nuclear energy to support Pakistan's nation-

al development goals.

He added that under the "Uraan Pakistan" initiative, space sciences have gained new momentum under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The federal minister further said Pakistan recently launched three satellites in collaboration with China and plans to send its first astronaut to the Chinese space station by 2026.

Highlighting the growing impact of climate change, Iqbal emphasised the urgency of adopting alternative energy sources to address vulnerabilities in food, water, and health security.

He called for deeper collaboration between Pakistan and China in peaceful nuclear energy and advanced technology, including quantum computing. "The K-2, K-3, and C-5 nuclear power plants

stand as shining examples of this strategic cooperation," he added.

Iqbal said that Pakistan has established a Quantum Computing Center and is actively aligning science and technology sectors with its economic development priorities. He urged greater educational opportunities for young Pakistani scientists through Chinese exchange programs.

The minister also acknowledged that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has played a vital role in removing bottlenecks in Pakistan's infrastructure and energy sectors. Chairman Shan Zhongde appreciated Pakistan's continued progress under CPEC and affirmed China's full cooperation in advancing Pakistan's space research and peaceful nuclear capabilities. He reiterated the commitment to further strengthen economic and strategic ties between the two countries.

Pakistan, Bangladesh to boost trade, energy cooperation, industrial linkage

SIDRA SADOZAI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan met with the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Pakistan, Md. Iqbal Hussain Khan, to explore deeper bilateral cooperation in trade, energy, logistics, and industrial linkages. During the meeting, High Commissioner Khan shared insights from his recent visits to Pakistan's industrial hubs, noting enthusiastic engagement from local business chambers, said a release issued here on Monday. The discussions focused on Bangladesh's growing industrial needs, particularly for Pakistani coal and limestone to support its power generation and soda ash production. Key points of discussion included boosting agricultural trade, particularly Pakistan's imports of pineapples from Bangladesh and



potential exports of mangoes, pending final technical approvals. The discussions also covered opportunities in textiles, mineral exports like high-quality limestone from Sindh, and Halal-certified meat products, with both sides committing to address logistical challenges and streamline business visa processes to facilitate smoother trade exchanges. Minister Jam Kamal emphasized the strategic potential of the relationship, stating: "Through focused collaboration in energy, logistics and food security,

CJP visits SHC, emphasizes citizen-centric judicial infrastructure

JAVED KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Yahya Afridi, accompanied by Justice Junaid Ghaffar, Chief Justice of the High Court of Sindh, and Judges Justice Zafar Rajput and Justice Iqbal Kalthoro, held a meeting today with the District and Sessions Judges of the Karachi Division at the Sindh High Court building. According to a press release issued here Monday, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Sindh apprised the Chief Justice of Pakistan regarding the proposed construction of a state-of-the-art Judicial Complex in Karachi, comprising 125 fully equipped courts along with all requisite amenities. The project is intended to address the growing needs of the judicial system in Karachi and is expected to commence shortly.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan welcomed the initiative and underscored the importance of sustainable, scalable, and forward-looking infrastructure planning. He stressed that future forecasting must be integrated into the

design to ensure the long-term viability of the complex. In this regard, he recommended that structured consultations be held with all relevant stakeholders—including judges and members of the district bar—to gather practical input keeping in view the technicalities so that a refined proposal may be placed before the government for timely execution.

Highlighting the ongoing efforts to automate Pakistan's justice sector, the Chief Justice further emphasized that the development of judicial infrastructure must follow a citizen-centric approach. In this context, he called for the inclusion of a modern Facilitation Centre within the Judicial Complex to assist litigants and the public at large, ensuring improved access to information and services focused on facilitating litigants, lawyers and general public.

The visit reaffirmed the judiciary's commitment to institutional development, participatory planning, and the delivery of accessible and efficient justice.



Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan in a meeting with district and sessions judges of Karachi Division, Hon'ble Chief Justice and Judges of High Court of Sindh were also present in the meeting at Sindh High Court Building Karachi.

NA Speaker pays tribute to martyred police personnel

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday paid heartfelt tribute to the brave officers and personnel of the Pakistan Police who embraced martyrdom in the line of duty, marking Police Martyrs Day with solemn reverence.

Honoring the fallen heroes, in his police martyrs day message, Speaker Sadiq acknowledged their unwavering commitment to safeguarding the nation and protecting citizens across all regions. "Their sacrifices are a powerful testament to the police force's resolve in upholding peace and ensuring the safety of the people of Pakistan," he stated.

Expressing solidarity with the families of the martyrs, the Speaker assured them that the nation stands united in remembering and honoring the legacy of these courageous individuals. "Their sacrifices will never be forgotten," he affirmed. Speaker Sadiq lauded the role of police personnel in the fight against terrorism.

CM Balochistan expresses solidarity with Kashmiris on 'Youm-e-Istehsal, condemns Indian actions in IIOJK

PEAK POINT

QUETTA: Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has strongly condemned India's actions in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and expressed unwavering solidarity with the Kashmiri people on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir to be observed on August 5. In a statement issued here Monday, the Chief Minister described August 5, 2019, as a "black day" in the history of Kashmir, marking the day when India unilaterally revoked the region's special constitutional status under Article 370. He termed the move illegal and a blatant attempt to further cement India's oppressive control over the disputed



territory. "The abrogation of Article 370 was not only a gross violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions but also a direct assault on the basic human rights of the Kashmiri people," Bugti said. He highlighted the ongoing human rights abuses in the valley, including extrajudicial detentions, suppression of freedom of speech, media blackouts, and attempts to alter the demographic makeup of the region.

IBSA Welcomes Alamgir Shaikh's Appointment to World Pool Board

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Billiards and Snooker Association (IBSA) has warmly congratulated Alamgir Shaikh on his appointment to the Board of Directors of the World Pool Association (WPA). IBSA President Dr. Shehzad Waseem, along with Senior Vice President Saleem Akhtar Rana, General Secretary Muhammad Faheem Anwar Khan, and other officials expressed confidence that his inclusion will play a pivotal role in advancing cue sports across the Asian region. They noted that Shaikh's vast experience and unwavering commitment to the sport will prove invaluable on the global stage. In an official state-



ment, the World Pool Association announced that Alamgir Shaikh has been nominated by the Asian Confederation of Billiard Sports (ACBS) as its new representative to the WPA Board. According to the WPA, "Mr. Shaikh brings with him decades of experience in cue sports administration and has been a driving force in the development of billiards and pool across Asia.

Nation to observe Youm-e-Istehsal tomorrow to highlight Indian unilateral actions usurp Kashmiris fundamental rights

ARSHAD MALIK

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit Baltistan & SAFRON Engr Amir Muqam said that the whole nation will observe Youm-e-Istehsal tomorrow to highlight the dirty face of India and its unilateral actions usurp Kashmiris' fundamental rights since August 5, 2019. Addressing a joint press conference with All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) Convener Ghulam Safi here on Monday, the minister said that Kashmir is a common cause of all political parties and adding that all concerned

federal departments and all provincial governments, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir Government will arrange the necessary arrangements to observe "Youm-e-Istehsal" at national level. The minister revealed that through these programs, the voice of the Kashmiris will be conveyed to the entire world and the Pakistani nation will continue to pursue the just settlement of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute. Amir Muqam directed all the relevant institutions to work together in harmony to observe Youm-e-Istehsal in an effective manner. He said that



India's actions since 5 August 2019 demonstrate complete disregard for international law, the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, and the UN Security Council resolutions. He said that this year the

importance of Youm-e-Istehsal has become manifold due to Pakistan's victory in Bunyanum Marsoos.

He said that Pakistan stands in solidarity with the brave Kashmiri people in

their historic struggle to materialize their dream to accede to Pakistan despite facing brutal atrocities, discrimination and injustice at the hands of Indian occupying forces. APHC Convener Ghulam Safi strongly condemned India's persistent and unjustified actions regarding the abrogation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir's (IIOJK) status, declaring that India's August 5 action was the beginning of one of the darkest and most repressive chapters in modern history. He said that "August 5 will be remembered as a deeply painful and tragic day

in the collective memory of the Kashmiri people. It was on this day that the Modi-led government who by violating all legal, moral and international standards, revoked the constitutional and special status of Jammu and Kashmir."

He said the abrogation of Article 370 did not merely alter the legal identity of the state but effectively gave a free hand to Indian forces to commit widespread atrocities. "Since then, hundreds of unarmed Kashmiris have been killed extrajudicially, thousands imprisoned in far-flung Indian jails and numerous homes razed.