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Imran Khan's anti-Army narrative now a national security threat: DG ISPR

PEAK POINT
RAWALPINDI: Pakistani military's spokesman on Friday strongly criticised jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan for spreading what he called an "anti-army" narrative.
Speaking at a press conference in Rawalpindi, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said that one individual has become a national security threat, cautioning that the public will not be allowed to be incited against the Pakistan Army. He also congratulated the nation on the establishment of the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) headquarters, calling it a "long-awaited necessity" to achieve synergy

and jointness in Pakistan's military operations.
"This has been widely discussed in the media. The nature of warfare has evolved – operations now span multiple domains. It's no longer just land, sea, and air; warfare also occurs in space, cyberspace, the informational domain, and relies heavily on intelligence," he said. He added, "Wars today are violent, short, and intense.
To ensure efficiency and effectiveness, the CDF headquarters was essential, as seen in other countries as well."
The DG ISPR highlighted the character and role of Pakistan's armed forces. "We do not represent any region, ethnicity, religious group, or political ideology.



Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry Speaking at a press conference in Rawalpindi.

PM speaks with Malaysian counterpart, expresses solidarity over losses in floods

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday held a telephonic conversation with the Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim to express solidarity over the recent Cyclone-induced floods. The prime minister, on behalf of the people and Government of Pakistan as well as on his personal behalf, expressed his heartfelt condolences to the Malaysian Prime Minister over the loss of precious lives and damages done to the property as a result of heavy rainfall, floods and landslides in the wake of recent cyclone. While offering prayers for those who had lost their lives and wishing an early recovery of the displaced and injured, the Prime Minister conveyed complete solidarity with the Malaysian people at this time of grief, a press statement issued by the PM House said.
He offered Pakistan's full support for relief and rescue operations as well as any assistance that the Malaysian side requires to deal with this natural disaster.
Prime Minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim thanked the Prime Minister of Pakistan for his kind and thoughtful telephonic call, which he said, reflected the close brotherly ties between Pakistan and Malaysia.

Field Marshal Asim Munir appointed Pakistan's first Chief of Defence Forces, notification issued

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Thursday appointed Field Marshal Asim Munir as Pakistan's first Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), marking a historic development in the country's military structure.
The appointment, approved by President Asif Ali Zardari following a summary submitted by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, stipulates that Field Marshal Munir will simultaneously serve as Chief of Army Staff.
The Ministry of Defence issued a notification for the appointment of the Chief of Defence Forces soon after approval from the president.
The president granted approval under Article 243 of the Constitution and Clause 8A of the Army Act.
President @ A L I Z a r d a r i approves the summary submitted by the Prime Minister for the appointment of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir Ni(M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff, concurrently as Chief of Defence Forces for a period of five years.
The creation of the Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces. The tenure of the CDF will commence immediately upon issuance of the notification and is set for a period of five years.
In a related development, the government has also approved a two-year extension for Air Chief Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu beyond his current tenure, which is scheduled to conclude in March 2026. The announcement ends weeks of speculation regarding the appointment of the country's first Chief of Defence Forces and marks a notable reshaping of Pakistan's military hierarchy. Earlier, Adviser to Prime Minister.



Rana Sanaullah says jail rules must be followed in Imran Khan family meetings

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah on Friday said any meetings with undertrial prisoners, including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's family, must follow legal and prison rules. Speaking in the Senate in response to a point of public interest raised by opposition Senator Mishaal Azam, he said such meetings cannot be allowed if they risk disturbing public order or creating unrest. He added that if the opposition wishes to form a parliamentary.

Imran warned against governor's rule in KP, says Aleema Khan

PEAK POINT
LAHORE: Aleema Khan, the sister of PTI founder Imran Khan, has said that the incarcerated PTI founder has warned the authorities that if governor's rule is imposed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, "then see what happens."
Speaking to the media outside the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC), Aleema Khan said the PTI founder is being kept in solitary confinement and is now being tortured. "Imran Khan is the voice of the people, and they are trying to silence that voice."
She said the PTI founder had told them he would "never.

Pakistan to keep Afghan border closed without terror assurances: FO

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has once again reiterated its clear stance that the border will remain closed until the Afghan government provides firm assurances to prevent terrorist infiltration into Pakistan.
During the weekly press briefing, Foreign Office Spokesperson Tahir Hussain Andrabi said the issue is not limited to the TTP or TTA alone, adding that Afghan nationals have also been involved in serious crimes in Pakistan. He stressed that the border closure should be viewed in this context.
He clarified that Pakistan has no disagreement with the Afghan people, whom it considers brothers and sisters, and that the border closure is purely due to security reasons. The spokesperson said Pakistan has always remained positive regarding humanitarian corridors for the Afghan people. However, border policy is linked to Afghanistan's practical cooperation in ending terrorism originating from its soil. Until firm guarantees are given that terrorists and violent elements will not enter Pakistan, the Pak-Afghan border will remain closed. Responding to a question, he said media reports about Pakistan's talks in Saudi Arabia are known.
Tahir Hussain Andrabi added that the Turkish president had announced two weeks ago that a high-level Turkish delegation would visit Islamabad.
The delay may be due to scheduling issues or a lack of cooperation from the Taliban. He emphasized that Pakistan closed the border for its own security and does not want its citizens to become victims of terrorism.
On President Putin's visit to India, the spokesperson said it was a bilateral matter between two sovereign states, and Pakistan has no specific position on possible India-Russia defense agreements, as states are free to strengthen bilateral relations.
He also expressed concern over discriminatory policies against Muslims in India, stating that state patronage has emboldened extremist groups. Referring to the 33rd anniversary of Babri Mosque's demolition tomorrow, he said the incident remains a source of pain and concern.



Govt to launch AI-based app to prevent illegal immigration: Mohsin Naqvi

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to launch an AI-based application as a pilot project in Islamabad from January to curb illegal immigration and stop attempts to travel abroad on fake documents.
The decision was made during a high-level meeting chaired by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Chaudhry Salik Hussain. Senior officials from the Interior Ministry, FIA, NADRA, and the Passport and Immigration Department attended the session. According to officials, the AI app will help authorities identify in advance which passengers are eligible to travel and which are not. Once the passports of deported individuals are cancelled, the system will ensure no new visas are issued to them, preventing repeat attempts. The ministers also decided to introduce major reforms in the immigration system to facilitate passengers.





SPORTS



Karachi Blues clinch Quaid-e-Azam Trophy title with dominant win over Sialkot



PEAK POINT
LAHORE: Karachi Blues outclassed defending champions Sialkot by a massive 218 runs in the final of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, sealing their 22nd title at the Gaddafi Stadium on Friday evening.

Karachi lifted the trophy along with a prize purse of Rs7.5 million, while Sialkot received Rs4m as runners-up.

Abdullah Fazal, named Player of the Final, earned a Rs100,000 award, while Ali Usman (best

bowler) and Saad Baig — who swept the honours for best batter, best wicket-keeper and Player of the Tournament — received Rs250,000 each.

Sialkot, chasing an improbable 533 for victory, resumed the final day on 12 without loss and were dismissed for 314 in 71.1 overs. Though Afzaal Manzoor, Abdullah Shafique, and Hamza Nazar registered half-centuries, Karachi's pace spearhead Saqib Khan delivered another decisive spell to secure the title for Saud Shakeel's side.

Saqib, who claimed his third five-for of the tournament and finished with 47 wickets overall — just one behind leading wicket-taker Ali Usman (48) — struck early on day five, ending a 35-run opening stand between Mohammad Hurraira (39 off 65, five fours) and Azan Awais (11 off 18).

Abdullah Shafique (58 off 98, six fours and a six) added partnerships of 46 with Hurraira and 40 with Abdul Rehman (18 off 22, three fours), but Karachi continued to chip away, reducing

Sialkot to 144-5 in 38.2 overs. From there, Afzaal (63 off 48, 13 fours) and Hamza (56 off 84, nine fours) staged resistance, combining for a 112-run sixth-wicket stand off 107 balls.

But Rameez Aziz broke through in the 57th over, triggering a collapse in which Sialkot lost their last five wickets for 58 runs.

Saqib finished with match figures of 9-165 from 44 overs, while Mushtaq Ahmed and Rameez Aziz picked up two wickets apiece.

Bangladesh women's U19 level T20 series 1-1



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Bangladesh Women's U19 staged a comeback in the five-match T20 series to level it 1-1 as they beat Pakistan Women's U19 by three wickets, chasing the 81-run target with six balls to spare at the Cox's Bazar Academy Ground on Friday afternoon. According to details, the third match of the series is scheduled on Sunday, at the same venue, with the coin toss to take place at 11:30am PKT. For Bangladesh, opening batter Sumaiya Akter Suborna top-scored with 32 off 38 balls hitting a solitary four and batted till 17th over to keep the innings intact. Following the 29-run second-wicket stand between Sumaiya and Achena Jannat Emanta (9, 23b), Bangladesh slipped to 36-4 in 10.1 overs. Farzana Yeasmin Media then helped Sumaiya take the team score to 63 before Pakistan struck thrice in successive overs from 16 to 18 reducing Bangladesh to 70-7. Requiring 11 off the last two overs, Sadia Akter (13 not out, 10b) hit two fours apart from her two singles and Jarin Tasnem Labonno's one, taking their team over the line.

ICC penalises Fakhar Zaman for showing dissent in tri-nation series final against Sri Lanka



PEAK POINT
LAHORE: Pakistan batter Fakhar Zaman has been fined 10 per cent of his match fee after the International Cricket Council ruled that he showed dissent during the Tri-Series final against Sri Lanka on 29 November.

The ruling came from the Emirates ICC International Panel of Match Referees, which confirmed a Level 1 breach of the ICC

Code of Conduct. The ICC said Zaman violated Article 2.8 of the Code, which deals with showing dissent at an umpire's decision during an international match. The breach also resulted in one demerit point being added to his disciplinary record.

The sanction was proposed by Reon King of the Emirates ICC International Panel, while umpires

Ahsan Raza, Asif Yaqoob, third umpire Rashid Riaz and fourth umpire Faisal Afridi collectively levelled the charge. Zaman admitted the offence and accepted the punishment, removing the need for a formal hearing.

Under ICC regulations, a Level 1 offence may result in an official reprimand, a fine of up to 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and the addition of one or two demerit points. In this case, Zaman received the minimum financial penalty alongside a single demerit point. Pakistan went on to win the Tri-Series final by six wickets, securing the title despite the disciplinary episode involving their opener.



LAHORE: Chairman, Pakistan Cricket Board Mohsin Naqvi presenting Quaid E Azam trophy to winning team Karachi Blue here on Friday.

Australia race clear of England to seize control of second Ashes Test

PEAK POINT
DUBAI: A relentless Australia seized a 44-run lead over England in the day-night second Ashes Test in Brisbane on Friday, with aggressive opener Jake Weatherald and Steve Smith leading the charge.

By stumps the hosts had not only reeled in England's first-innings 334 but raced clear, ending a draining day two on 378-6 in front of a big and boisterous crowd at a humid Gabba.

A decent lead is shaping as pivotal, with the pitch likely to deteriorate in the coming days.

The hosts are 1-0 up in the series after beating England in Perth inside two days.

"That was a crucial last hour there for us. To get to the end of play six down gives us a bit of time in the morning in that day session," said Marnus Labuschagne,

who cracked 65. At close Alex Carey, who was dropped first ball and again on 25, was not-out 46 with Michael Neser on 15, but England's pace cartel made in-roads under lights in the evening session in a sem-

balance of a fightback. Travis Head, Australia's wrecking-ball hero in the first Test, fell before tea for 33.

Weatherald, in only his second Test, slammed 12 fours and a six in a punchy knock of 72 before being trapped lbw by Jofra Archer with an angled yorker.



KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Sports Sardar Muhammad Bakhshah Mehar along with Olympian Arshad Nadeem briefing media about arrangements of 35th National Games in National Stadium here on Friday.



NSU secures prominent position in Global Sustainability Rankings

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The National Skills University (NSU) Islamabad — one of Pakistan's youngest yet rapidly emerging public-sector universities — has achieved a remarkable milestone by securing the second position in Islamabad in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings 2025. The achievement further strengthens NSU's growing international reputation and its commitment to promoting sustainability. At the national level, the university ranked

12th, placing it among Pakistan's leading higher education institutions focused on environmental sustainability. NSU's main campus, located in Sector H-8 Islamabad, has swiftly transformed into a model of environmentally responsible infrastructure. This accomplishment is particularly notable given that the university is only six years old. Its reputation has now expanded well beyond Pakistan's borders. The European Training Foundation (ETF) has recognized NSU as a Center of Excellence in Professional



Skills, while UNESCO-UNEVOC has acknowledged it as a hub of advanced skills development and innovation. During the past year alone, NSU received two international awards under the UNESCO-UNEVOC Co-Action Programme, further underscoring its rising global standing. These distinctions reflect the university's strong commitment to quality, innovation, and continuous

improvement, earning the confidence of stakeholders at both national and international levels. Education experts credit NSU's rapid progress to the leadership of its founding Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, and the dedicated team working under his guidance. They note that sustainability, green infrastructure, and skills-based education have been effectively woven into the institution's core culture. Under his leadership, NSU has secured globally recognized accolades that highlight its firm dedication to

sustainable development and innovation. This year's UI GreenMetric Ranking assessed 1,745 universities from 105 countries, making it the world's most extensive and comprehensive system for evaluating sustainability in higher education. In such a highly competitive global environment, NSU's impressive performance is not just a local achievement but a testament to the potential of a skills-driven and eco-friendly university to play a transformative role in Pakistan's educational future.

CDA, business community agree to form working group for market issues

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Friday met Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi, Prime Minister's Coordinator for Tourism Affairs Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, office-bearers of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), representatives of traders' associations and senior officials to discuss longstanding issues faced by the business community in the capital.

coordination with traders and industrialists.

A working group will be constituted to take up the "legitimate demands" of ICCI, traders, and industry representatives. Monthly follow-up meetings—scheduled for the first week of every month—will review progress on pending matters.

Randhawa said the CDA was committed to improving civic and business-related services in Islamabad and would maintain continuous communication with market stakeholders. He added that representatives of Markaz and major



commercial areas would be included in the city's upgrade plan to ensure that on-ground issues were addressed directly. The chairman said CDA was funding ongoing development schemes through its own resources and was digitising records as part of efforts

to transition toward a cashless system.

He added that he would personally visit commercial centres and work with local market committees to resolve complaints. Participants also appreciated CDA's recent anti-encroachment actions across

the capital. Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi thanked Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for supporting efforts to resolve problems faced by traders and industrialists. He said the business community, ICCI and traders' associations were essential partners in sustaining economic activity in Islamabad, adding that most issues could be settled through regular consultation.

Tourism Coordinator Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said supporting business activity remained a government priority, and assured full cooperation to CDA.

Tahir Mahmood called for a confidence-building environment by formally involving the business community in consultations. He also flagged several issues affecting traders, including concerns related to property transfer fees.

The meeting was attended by IG Islamabad Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, Member Administration Talat Mahmood, Member Engineering Syed Nafasat Raza, Member Planning Dr Khalid Hafiz, Member Environment Esfandyar Baloch, DC Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon and other senior officials.

ICCI President Sardar

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From home to nation: the cost of silence

ASHEFAK SIYAL
People who do not question are easily governed. Yet, in much of our society, a culture of silence endures — a silence that begins at home, deepens through fear and matures into collective inaction. Even as children are taught about equality and justice in textbooks, they are simultaneously conditioned to obey without question. When a child challenges a parent or teacher, they are told to stay quiet — reminded that questioning elders is disrespectful. This early silencing of curiosity discourages independent thought and breeds submission, which later becomes a lifelong habit.

Children are naturally inquisitive. They ask about everything — life, truth and morality. As they grow, their curiosity turns toward their surroundings: they ask why electricity is stolen through kunda connections, why their parents bribe the gas meter reader, or why politicians disappear after elections. These innocent questions often embarrass adults, who respond with shallow reasoning or anger — silencing the child to hide their own helplessness or complicity.

In many Pakistani households, curiosity is mistaken for defiance. Parents, shaped by generations of social conditioning, fear that a questioning child might grow disobedient. But this suppression is the first step in perpetuating a society already

weakened by corruption, nepotism and injustice. Children learn more from what they see than what they are told. When they watch their parents offer bribes or dump garbage on the street without guilt, they internalise dishonesty as convenience and corruption as survival. Ironically, the same parents who preach prayer and honesty often prioritise ritual over morality. They remind children to pray five times a day but rarely explain that religious duties are between a person and God, while deceit and injustice toward others carry graver moral weight. Religion becomes ritual, not reflection; worship becomes habit, not humility.

Thus, a child raised in such contradictions learns obedience, not morality — silence, not courage. By the time they reach college or university, the damage is done. The silence cultivated at home travels with them into institutions that should have nurtured critical thought. Schools and universities — meant to be nurseries of ideas — become factories of conformity for students trained to avoid questioning. Once, Pakistan's campuses echoed with debate and reform through student unions. Those platforms nurtured political awareness and civic courage. Today, most are banned or tightly controlled. Students who question are labelled "troublemakers", facing suspension or even arrest. Yet, history shows glimpses of courage — the Lawyers'

Movement during General Musharraf's regime; protests by teachers, doctors and journalists against injustice. But these moments remain exceptions, not the norm. The culture of speaking truth to power is not deeply rooted in our social fabric. We complain privately but act rarely. Charity begins at home — and so does resistance. A household that tolerates dishonesty cannot produce honest citizens. A family that mocks civic duty cannot expect reformers. Parents must teach children that moral integrity is not situational — it is absolute. Throwing garbage on the street, bribing officials or stealing utilities are acts of dishonesty as sinful as neglecting prayer. When children see their parents obey the law and respect others' rights even when unseen, they learn justice as a personal duty. If children are taught early that collective problems require collective solutions, they will grow into responsible citizens. Encouraging them to speak up about a broken sewer, a corrupt official, or social injustice cultivates accountability. But when silence is glorified as "wisdom" and compliance mistaken for "respect", society breeds timidity, not courage. Children silenced at home remain silent in schools; students who fear teachers never challenge principals; citizens who fear rulers never challenge corruption. This unbroken chain of submission sustains authoritarianism.

Courtesy Tribune

Duty to care

FAISAL BARI

IT was the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Dec 3. With it came the usual platitudes, speeches and ceremonies. We still have such a long way to go before PWDs can enjoy all the rights, privileges and opportunities that any society should offer all citizens.

It is not that we have not had progress. Some headway has been made. Though we do not have robust data as yet on PWDs, some government surveys, and even the census, have started factoring in disability status and functioning. The same has been initiated in some administrative data-gathering efforts at the government school level. Hopefully, such data-gathering efforts will become more comprehensive over time.

Initially, education policies did not even mention children with disabilities, who were not in the picture for quite a while post-independence. When they did appear in official documents, it was usually implied that education for PWDs was an act of charity and beneficence to make the children independent only to the extent of not remaining a 'burden' on their families or the state. For a long time, even when government documents said that education should be the right of each child (this was prior to the 18th Amendment when education was made a basic right), it was not extended to children with disabilities. Regarding them, the conversation was usually that the government did not have money to provide facilities to children with disabilities and that the private sector should come forward to perform this act of charity to ensure some training skills for them. These documents do not make for pleasant reading today.

By the 1990s, education policies in the country were acknowledging that children with disabilities needed access to education facilities. But it was still not seen as a right and most of the thinking was about separate institutions for these children.

Courtesy Dawn

Karachi's death holes

THE lidless manholes in Karachi lay bare the failure of the city administration to provide even the bare necessities of daily living to residents. This week, a regular shopping trip left another family scared for life. A manhole near Nipa in Gulshan-i-Iqbal swallowed their toddler, Ibrahim; his body was found 15 hours after the fatal incident. This death and the delay in carrying out a search operation — the city rescue helpline claimed that civic bodies and the town administration did not provide rescuers with information related to the drain's entry and exit flow — sparked widespread fury. Yet, despite protests, sit-ins, and the clamour for accountability in both mainstream and social media, an apology from the mayoral office was late in coming. However, the customary suspension of officials and promises of an impartial inquiry and structural changes to prevent further tragedies did follow. Sewer fall accidents are all too common in the metropolis. In 2023, some 68 people were reportedly lost to manholes. This year, as per reports, gaping drains and sewers consumed 24 residents of which five were children. The ring of impunity that the Sindh government is used to has led to its inability to read the mood or recognise suffering.

Tarar defends FBR's authority to seek bank data as Senate sends issue to committee



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar Friday robustly defended the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) legal authority to obtain and communicate bank information to taxpayers, telling the Senate that such inquiries were fully protected by law and consistent with global anti-money laundering regimes.

Responding to a calling-attention

notice moved by Senator Asad Qasim regarding FBR text messages sent to filers revealing their bank balances and transaction amounts, Tarar said financial scrutiny was an integral part of tax regulation.

"You cannot say FBR should not ask questions," he asserted. "Banks are legally bound to provide information, and worldwide, tax evasion is now treated as a predicate offence under AML frameworks."

He said modern compliance mechanisms required transparency between taxpayers and regulators. "If someone has five crore rupees in their account but has not declared it, and FBR sends a reminder, there should be no objection," he maintained.

Earlier, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry confirmed that the FBR had issued messages to both filers and non-filers where discrepancies were detected between declared income and bank data.

He cited Section 165A of the Income Tax Ordinance, which authorises banks to share deposit information, along with provisions granting FBR access to data from FIA, the State Bank, National Database and Registration Authority and utilities.

Dismissing allegations of privacy breaches, he said: "If my account information is sent, it comes only to me. There is no broadcast of anyone's data." Despite the government's stance that the legal framework was clear.

N-15 to serve as alternative route to KH till China's border: Aleem

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Friday said that the new N-15 Highway from Mansehra, Naran, Jalkhad & Chilas will serve as alternative route to Karakoram Highway till border of China and new avenues of tourism, trade, and defence will be opened by upgrading the northern areas.

The minister was chairing a high-level meeting of National Highway Authority (NHA) in which important decisions were made to improve connectivity in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Northern Areas, said a press release. The meeting held a detailed review of the plan to construct a new four-lane N-15 Highway will meet international standards to provide best trade corridor.

Aleem Khan said that the N-15 project would be a unique and revolutionary initiative in terms of requirements of present era and future demands. He added that compared to the existing Karakoram Highway, this route would significantly reduce travel distance and time while the new road would be so wide and high-quality that a speed limit of 60 to 80 kilometres

per hour could easily be maintained. He further stated that the Highway from Mansehra to Chilas would remain accessible throughout the year, reducing travel difficulties and greatly enhancing winter tourism in the Northern Areas, as well.

The minister directed that the project be designed according to international standards in the broader national interest as it would have far-reaching positive effects on the communication network in the Northern Areas and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that the N-15 project would bring a significant positive change to the lives of the people of the Northern Areas. Assigning tasks to NHA officers, he instructed that planning for resorts, hotels, lake-view points and shopping areas alongside the Highway should also be undertaken to boost tourism and economic activity in the region. He added that wherever technically feasible.

N-15 Highway should be constructed as a two-way of four-lane road. Aleem Khan directed that the feasibility and other assessment reports of the N-15 project be finalized immediately.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan chairing a high-level meeting of National Highway Authority (NHA).

Future Titans Unleashed: EO Islamabad's GSEA Ignites Pakistan's Brightest Young Innovators

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The National Incubation Center (NIC) Islamabad buzzed with electrifying energy as the Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) Islamabad brought together Pakistan's brightest young innovators for the highly anticipated Global Student Entrepreneur Awards (GSEA) Pitch Competition. With bold ideas, breakthrough technology, and unstoppable passion, student founders took center stage—turning the event into a powerful showcase of the country's next generation of

changemakers. The GSEA, EO's flagship global initiative, empowers student entrepreneurs by giving them a platform to pitch, gain mentorship, and connect with influential industry leaders across borders. Ten Startups. Fifteen Minutes. One Chance to Impress. From AI-powered solutions to sustainability-focused ventures, ten dynamic startups from top institutions—including NUST, Riphah International University, Pak Austria Fachhochschule, Fatima Jinnah Women University, AIR University, and



NUML—battled it out in a fast-paced pitch showdown. A distinguished panel of judges brought sharp industry expertise to the competition: Ms. Rohma Labeed, Accelerate Prosperity Bilal Farooq Khan, Ecosystem Support Consultant, AP Ms. Amber Nosheen, Director, Prosol Ms. Mariam Abdullah

Al-Zarooni meets with Gilani to discuss matters of mutual interest

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Philanthropist and Chairman of the Al-Zarooni Group of Companies (UAE), Sohail Al-Zarooni on Friday met with Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, at his residence to discuss the matters of mutual interest.

The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, including opportunities for collaboration in philanthropy, economic development, and initiatives aimed at strengthening people-to-people ties between the UAE and Pakistan, said a press release.

Both leaders emphasized the importance of fostering cooperative efforts that contribute to social welfare, investment, and long-term regional partnership.

Al-Zarooni expressed appreciation for the warm welcome and reiterated his commitment in sup-



porting initiatives that enhance bilateral goodwill.

Chairman Senate commended Al-Zarooni's longstanding humanitarian contributions and highlighted the potential for meaningful cooperation.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both sides reaffirming their commitment for working together on initiatives that promote prosperity, understanding, and long-term partnership between the UAE and Pakistan.

Pakistan, Italy agree on technical cooperation to strengthen marble industry

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan on Friday held a meeting with the Salvatore Parano Head of the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) and discussed bilateral cooperation aimed at strengthening Pakistan's marble sector.

Federal Secretary for Industries and Production, Saif Anjum, and CEO PASDEC also attended the meeting, said a news release.

During the discussion, both sides reviewed opportunities to improve Pakistan's marble industry through enhanced skills development, value addition, and the adoption of advanced technolo-



gies. Haroon Akhtar said that a team of experts from Italy will be invited to assess Pakistan's marble industry and provide actionable recommendations.

He added that the government aims to strengthen the national marble sector through consultation with international experts and local stakeholders.

He further said that prime minister has directed the formulation of a comprehensive Marble Industry Policy.

Musadik Malik highlights climate threats at WWF Indus River Dolphin conference

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik, addressed a conference organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) to mark 25 years of efforts to conserve the Indus River Dolphin on Friday.

In his address, Malik highlighted the direct link between rising temperatures, accelerating glacier melt, and unchecked pollution.

He expressed serious concern over the deteriorating water quality of the River



Ravi, noting that it has become unfit for agricultural use, let alone drinking. The Minister also warned about the escalating economic and human toll of climate-related disasters, revealing that recent floods have resulted in losses exceeding 9.5 percent of Pakistan's GDP. He added that over 4,700 people have lost their lives.

Abbasi, Founder & MD, Direct Trading* H a t i m Tabani, Director, Tabani Group of Companies* Dr. Muhammad Usman, Consultant, Quest AI Ms. Muazzima Batool Agha, Community Engagement Manager, NIC Islamabad NIC Islamabad supported the event as the official venue and strategic partner. And the Winners Are...The evening concluded with a vibrant awards ceremony celebrating exceptional entrepreneurial talent: Winner: Office Flow AI — led by Ms. Alina Nasir Prize: PKR 100,000 Recognized for outstanding innovation and a scalable business model. Runner-Up: HemAid — represented by Mr. Shaheer Ahmed Prize: PKR 50,000 Honored for impactful problem-solving and strong growth potential. Both teams received certificates, exclusive mentorship access, strategic guidance, and coveted networking opportunities with industry experts—support designed to help them scale to the next level. "These students aren't just pitching ideas—they're building the future."