



Aleem Khan expresses grief over the martyrdom of NHMP Inspector Yasir Arafat



Minister calls for integrated, people-centric disaster management system



Naqvi visits NADRA headquarters, orders action against illegal foreigners

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PM directs strict action against smuggling, hoarding of petroleum products

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday instructed that stringent measures should be taken against the smuggling and "illegal hoarding" of petroleum products, a statement issued by his office said.

The statement was released by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) after the premier chaired a meeting in Islamabad with a focus on the petroleum products' supply chain and austerity measures that were announced in view of the ongoing Middle East conflict.

The conflict began with the US and Israel launching attacks on Iran on February 28. The world has faced a fuel crisis since, primarily resulting from the disruption of traffic in the

Strait of Hormuz — a corridor that had been the route for 20 per cent of global liquefied natural gas and a quarter of seaborne oil until the war began.

In view of the situation, the government announced unprecedented austerity measures on March 9 and initially also hiked petrol and diesel prices by Rs55 per litre. But, according to PM Shehbaz, he has rejected proposals for a further hike in the prices of two oil products thrice since then.

The meeting that he chaired on Tuesday reviewed measures to provide relief to low-income groups in the present situation, the PMO statement said. "The prime minister directed the relevant ministries to consult provinces on the matter.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on the supply chain of Petroleum products and Austerity measures in wake of current regional situation.

Pakistan's efforts to defuse US-Iran tensions in wider regional interest: Ambassador

PEAK POINT



DUBAI: Pakistan's Ambassador to the US Rizwan Saeed Sheikh has said Pakistan's role as a mediator in the US-Iran tensions is in the broader interest of the region. In an interview with Fox News, he expressed gratitude for the trust that both parties placed in Pakistan. The ambassador said Pakistan has a long-standing history of diplomacy based on peace. "Pakistan's recent offer is made in good faith and includes other regional countries as well," he said.

Rizwan said we are keen to advance matters in the broader interest of the region and remain hopeful in this regard. He emphasised that diplomacy is a gradual process that requires time. The envoy said Pakistan is committed to providing all possible facilitation for result oriented dialogue. However, he said, the responsibility for decisions lies with the parties. "Pakistan believes in negotiations and diplomacy," he maintained. It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan has already concluded hosting a quadrilateral meeting with Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Turkiye, represented by their foreign ministers.

China to 'strengthen' cooperation with Pakistan on Iran as Dar visits Beijing

PEAK POINT

strategic communication foreign minister at

CHINA: China on Tuesday said it would strengthen cooperation with Pakistan on Iran as Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar arrived in Beijing on a brief visit for detailed discussions on the ongoing conflict. At the invitation of China's FM Wang Yi, Dar is undertaking a one-day visit to China for "in-depth discussions on regional developments", according to the Foreign Office (FO). Shortly after Dar departed for the trip, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said China and Pakistan will "strengthen" their cooperation on Iran. "The two foreign ministers will strengthen



and coordination on the Iran situation and... make new efforts toward advocating for peace," Mao told a press conference, calling China and Pakistan "all-weather" strategic partners.

Dar landed in Beijing in the late afternoon and was greeted by high-ranking Chinese officials. He was later received by the Chinese

Diaoytai State Guest House for their bilateral meeting.

The discussions in Beijing are likely to focus on developing a framework and guiding principles for a prospective Iran-United States dialogue to end the war, a diplomat closely following the developments said.

The trip marks his second official visit to

Beijing this year, the FO noted in a post sharing Dar's departure from Islamabad. Both leaders will review "bilateral ties" and discuss regional and global issues of mutual interest.

In an earlier statement, the FO stated that Pakistan and China enjoy an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

, characterised by "close coordination and regular consultations" on regional development and international issues. Dar's Beijing visit will last only a few hours, where he will further deliberate on ideas discussed during his telephone conversation with FM Wang last week. Initiating peace talks in the war involving Iran.

Pakistan gains international recognition for role in Middle East peace efforts

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leadership has received international recognition for its role in facilitating peace efforts in the Middle East, particularly in advancing US President Donald Trump's 15-point plan for regional stability.

US Representative Ryan Zinke, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, praised Pakistan's initiative in a post on X, stating: "As a member of @HouseForeignGOP, I applaud Pakistan's leadership and initiative in hosting peace talks and delivering President Trump's 15-point plan.

Election petition against Ataulh Tarar dismissed

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The Election Tribunal has dismissed a petition challenging the victory of Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ataulh Tarar from NA-127 in the 2024 general elections. The petition, filed by Malik Zaheer Abbas Khokhar, who had contested against Federal Minister Ataulh Tarar in NA-127, sought to overturn the election result but was declared false, non-maintainable, and without merit. The tribunal noted that petitioner Khokhar repeatedly sought adjournments and failed.

Trump to UK PM: Learn to fight for yourselves, US won't help anymore

PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: United States President Donald Trump has triggered a geopolitical storm with a provocative ultimatum to traditional allies, urging them to secure their own energy interests in the volatile Strait of Hormuz rather than relying on American protection. In a sharply worded statement posted on Truth Social that blended a pitch for US fuel exports with a rebuke of allied "courage," Trump's remarks signalled a stark shift from decades of transatlantic security guarantees. By calling on countries such as the United Kingdom to "go to the Strait and just TAKE IT," Donald Trump signalled a more transactional "America First" approach. Meanwhile, in a press briefing on Tuesday, US Secretary of



War Pete Hegseth said that the next few days in the Middle East conflict will be decisive, adding that there had been major desertions from the Iranian armed forces. "We have more and more options, and they have less ... in only one month we set the terms, the upcoming days will be decisive," Hegseth said. "Iran knows that, and there's almost nothing they can militarily do about it," he added. Hegseth, in a press briefing on Tuesday, US Secretary of

spoke with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, saying "I urged for de-escalation and restraint, the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, and the need for all parties to fully respect international law." He added that the "loss of innocent lives, including in the Minab school, is deeply regrettable." To de-escalate the situation, Costa wrote, he urged Iran to "stop the unacceptable attacks on countries in the region and to engage positively on the diplomatic track, notably with the UN to ensure the freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz."

morale of the Iranian military. This, he said, was triggered widespread desertions, key personnel shortages and causing frustration amongst senior leaders.

He also said he had visited troops in the Middle East on Saturday to witness the military operation against Iran. President of the European Council Antonio Costa, in a post on X, termed the current situation in the Middle East as "extremely dangerous." Costa wrote that he

Iran war could result in significant economic loss for the Middle East: UNDP



PEAK POINT

DUBAI: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) warned on Monday that the ongoing war by the United States and Israel against Iran could result in a significant economic setback for the Middle East, with Arab nations potentially losing up to \$200 billion in economic growth. The ongoing conflict has already driven up global energy prices, further straining the global economy. An earlier UN report highlighted that the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz has contributed to rising food and fertiliser prices. This trend is expected to disproportionately affect poorer nations. In a report issued today, titled "Military Escalation in the Middle East: Economic and Social Implications for the Arab States region".



SPORTS



PSL 11: United under pressure as in-form Zalmi eye early dominance



PEAK POINT
LAHORE: The early narrative of the Pakistan Super League 2026 is already beginning to take shape, and Tuesday night's clash between Islamabad United and Peshawar Zalmi at Gaddafi Stadium Lahore promises to be a pivotal chapter in that unfolding story.

For Islamabad United, this is more than just another league fixture and it is an early test of character. A defeat in their opening match has left them playing catch-up, with a dented net run rate adding to the urgency. Historically, United have thrived under pressure, but their recent form suggests a side search-

ing for rhythm rather than dictating it. Much of their hope will rest on captain Shadab Khan, whose all-round influence remains central to United's ambitions. His ability to break partnerships with the ball while accelerating the innings in the middle overs makes him their most decisive asset. Alongside him, the consistency of Andries Gous and the wicket-taking threat of Salman Irshad will be crucial if United are to reset their campaign. In contrast, Peshawar Zalmi arrive in Lahore with confidence and momentum firmly on their side. Their recent performances reflect a settled unit growing in belief with each outing.

At the heart of their resurgence is skipper Babar Azam, whose form continues to define Zalmi's batting identity. Elegant yet ruthless, Babar's presence at the crease often dictates the tempo of the innings. Zalmi's strength, however, lies beyond individual brilliance. With aggressive stroke-makers like Mohammad Haris complementing Babar, and a bowling unit led by emerging performers such as Ali Raza, they appear more balanced and assured at this stage of the tournament. Conditions at Gaddafi Stadium are expected to favour batting, with a fast outfield and the likelihood of dew making chasing a

tempting option. The contest could ultimately hinge on key battles in the middle overs, particularly Shadab's variations against Babar's composure. Whichever side controls this phase is likely to dictate the outcome. While Islamabad United possess the depth to turn their fortunes around, momentum, form, and confidence tilt the balance slightly in Zalmi's favour. Yet, in a league known for unpredictability, counting United out would be premature. One thing is certain: under the Lahore lights, this encounter carries all the ingredients of a high-scoring, high-pressure spectacle.

Fakhar Zaman suspended for two PSL matches for ball-tampering



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Lahore Qalandars batter Fakhar Zaman has been suspended for two Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches after he was found guilty of breaching the code of conduct, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced on Tuesday. The incident occurred in the final over of Sunday's match between Karachi Kings and Lahore Qalandars, with the former needing 14 runs to win. Fakhar, Lahore captain Shaheen Afridi and fast bowler Haris Rauf were involved in a brief discussion, during which Fakhar and Rauf passed the ball between them. The umpire then approached Rauf and asked to see the ball. Following consultations with the square-leg umpire, the officials awarded five penalty runs to Karachi and ordered the ball to be changed. The penalty proved costly as Karachi went on to chase down a target of 129 with three balls to spare, Abbas Afridi hitting a four and a six to seal a four-wicket victory. On Monday, the PCB had officially charged Fakhar with ball-tampering. In a press release issued on Tuesday, the PCB said, "Fakhar Zaman has been suspended for two HBL PSL matches after he was found guilty of a level 3 offence for breaching Article 2.14 of the applicable code of conduct for players and player support personnel during the Lahore Qalandars vs Karachi Kings match on Sunday.

Raza admits hosting visitors but cites lack of awareness of new PSL rules



PEAK POINT
LAHORE: Zimbabwe all-rounder Sikandar Raza has said that neither he nor Lahore Qalandars captain Shaheen Shah Afridi were aware of the updated Pakistan Super League (PSL) security protocol prohibiting players from hosting close relatives or friends in their hotel rooms. Raza made the remarks at a post-match press confer-

ence on Sunday following Lahore Qalandars' four-wicket defeat to Karachi Kings in PSL 11 at Gaddafi Stadium. According to a letter sent by Punjab police to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), four visitors — described as close relatives or friends of Raza — were allegedly escorted to his room No. 865 on the eighth floor of the team hotel on Saturday night, despite repeated refusals by the Lahore security and anti-corruption unit. The Lahore Qalandars liaison officer and team owner Sameen Rana reportedly made requests to allow the meeting, which were turned down. However, the visitors were taken to the room at around 11:05pm and remained there until 1:25am, prompting the Lahore police to lodge a formal complaint with the PCB, terming it a serious breach of established security protocols.

Raza, who was born in Pakistan, clarified that he had always followed previous PSL standard operating procedures (SOPs), which allowed family and friends to meet players inside the hotel, though players were barred from leaving the premises. "By birth I am a Pakistani, so some family members or friends have to meet me and it has happened in the last five editions of the PSL," he said. "In the past the protocols were that we cannot go out of the hotel to meet anyone but someone can meet us in the hotel, and that I had fully respected."

Socceroos power past Curaçao 5-1 in dominant Melbourne display



Pakistani players confident ahead of AFC Asian Cup Qualifier

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Pakistani footballers Jeevan Khan, Shayek Dost and Ali Raza have expressed confidence and determination ahead of their AFC Asian Cup qualifier against Myanmar, vowing to deliver a strong performance.

Speaking to the media here at the Pakistan Sports Complex on Sunday, Jeevan Khan said the ongoing training camp had been a valuable learning experience. He noted that the squad includes several talented players and highlighted the guidance he has received from senior teammates, particularly Shayek Dost.

He added that the recent National Challenge Cup has helped maintain players' match fitness, ensuring the team is well-prepared for the upcoming fixture. Khan also observed a shift in Pakistan's playing style under head coach Nolberto Solano, emphasizing a transition from a traditionally defensive approach to a more attacking brand of football. He expressed optimism that this change would translate into improved results.



Shayek Dost, meanwhile, underlined the intensity of the team's recent training sessions, stating that players are fully fit and ready for the challenge. He described the preparations as comprehensive and voiced confidence in the team's ability to perform well. He also pointed out that local players have been given a significant opportunity in this match, with overseas-based players rested by the coach. Dost called it a crucial moment for domestic players to showcase their abilities and contribute positively to the team's outcome.

Reflecting on previous encounters with Myanmar, Dost acknowledged them as a competitive side but stressed that Pakistan could achieve a different result with greater passion and energy.

Putintseva wins in Charleston



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Friendly nations' envoys visit NEOC for disaster management briefing



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors and senior diplomats from 65 friendly nations, including envoys from 40 Pakistani missions abroad, visited the National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) at NDMA Headquarters on Tuesday for a strategic briefing on Pakistan's proactive disaster management framework. Chairman NDMA, Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik, presented a comprehensive overview of Pakistan's transition to a proactive, technology-driven disaster management system, emphasizing the importance of strengthening interna-

tional cooperation in disaster risk reduction. Chairman NDMA highlighted that these indigenously developed systems enable anticipatory actions, informed decision-making, and coordinated responses across all tiers of governance. Chairman NDMA also shared ongoing efforts to extend technical expertise, early warning solutions, and capacity-building support to partner countries, underscoring readiness for collaboration in NEOC replication, data sharing, joint training, and coordinated responses to shared risks. He also informed the forum about ongoing progress on Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) related to proactive disaster Management and climate resilience. The NDMA team briefed participants on its Disaster Early Warning and Technology Ecosystem, showcasing advanced operational dashboards, integrated digital platforms, and real-time monitoring capabilities at the NEOC. Delegates received a detailed demonstration of Pakistan Disaster

Lens 2026, a flagship platform offering high-resolution forecasts and risk analytics to support precision-based preparedness and response planning. Global Disaster Lens 2026, which monitored international disaster and climate patterns in real time, were also presented during session positioning Pakistan as a contributor to global disaster intelligence and climate resilience. The Ambassadors were further briefed on NDMA's Disaster Early Warning (DEW-2) system, which outlined potential hazards and climatic risks for the next three months.

The briefing also covered NDMA's public outreach initiatives, including mobile-based early warning dissemination and the launch of the Global Disaster Early Warning (GDEW) Application, designed to provide information on global hazard calendars, Comprehensive International Simulation Exercises (CISE), global best practices and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) performance.

Minister calls for integrated, people-centric disaster management system

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik on Tuesday stressed the need for a comprehensive, integrated and people-centric approach to disaster management, highlighting the importance of timely response, effective early warning systems and strong coordination among all stakeholders. Addressing a ceremony here, the minister said that Pakistan, being among the most climate-vulnerable countries, was facing increasing risks from torrential floods, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) and extreme weather events, particularly in northern regions. He underlined that while various initiatives had been undertaken to enhance disaster preparedness, there was a need to further



strengthen the effectiveness of early warning systems to ensure timely evacuation of communities at risk. Dr Malik said that response time in case of sudden disasters such as GLOFs was often limited to 20 to 25 minutes, which required a well-connected and fully functional system linking monitoring infrastructure with district administration and local communities. He emphasised that modern technology, including satellite systems, drones and real-time data integration, could play a vital role in improving disaster response mechanisms.

Naqvi visits NADRA headquarters, orders action against illegal foreigners

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday visited the headquarters of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and presided over a high-level meeting.

During the briefing, NADRA Chairman Lt. Gen. Muhammad Munir Afzal informed the Minister about the authority's performance, ongoing initiatives, and upcoming projects.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi appreciated NADRA's performance and its effective public service delivery. He directed NADRA to fully assist law enforcement agencies in the repatriation of illegal foreigners.

He also ordered the immediate identification and removal from the national database of individuals who had illegally obtained Pakistani citizenship.

Mohsin Naqvi noted that NADRA's services have significantly improved over the past two years and instructed the introduction of more modern facilities for public convenience.

He directed that state-of-the-art NADRA offices in major cities should be constructed on NADRA's own land instead of rented buildings, and called for a detailed master plan in this regard.

The Interior Minister assured full coordination with relevant departments and cooperation at the ministerial level.

During the briefing, NADRA officials said that the authority has taken several measures to improve citizen services. They stated that support from other departments is necessary for the effective implementation of facial recognition for biometric verification.

NADRA has canceled the identity cards of hundreds of thousands of deceased individuals, the briefing added. A 30-day timeframe has been set for resolving issues related to ID cards.

Officials further stated that, with the support of the PTA, mobile SIMs issued in the names of deceased individuals are being blocked.

Director General FIA Dr. Usman Anwar and senior NADRA officials were also present on the occasion.

Alem Khan expresses grief over the martyrdom of NHMP Inspector Yasir Arafat

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Alem Khan, has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the tragic martyrdom of Inspector Yasir Arafat of National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP), who lost his life in a road accident on the Hazara Motorway while performing his official duties.

In a formal condolence statement, the Federal Minister hailed Inspector Yasir Arafat as a national hero who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty while serving humanity, said a press release.

"The entire Ministry of Communications stands in solidarity with the bereaved family during this difficult hour," the Minister stated, praying for the departed soul and for the family to bear this loss with fortitude. Abdul Alem Khan emphasized that the welfare and care of the martyr's widow and children would be the foremost responsibility of the department. Taking serious notice of the incident.

Sindh schools to operate as usual, with Saturday closure only: Sharjeel Memon

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Memon on Tuesday announced that all educational institutions across the province will continue to operate as usual, with closures observed only on Saturdays.

Speaking at a press conference alongside Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar in Karachi, Memon said no government department would submit requests outside the approved budget and that fuel consumption would be optimised in view of diesel prices reaching historic highs. He stressed that these measures aim to reduce the burden on the public.

Memon stated that the Sindh Cabinet had approved a compre-



hensive survey of Katcha areas, with the Revenue and Forest departments playing key roles. He noted that these areas often exist only on maps and lack official survey numbers.

Also Read: 'New wheat procurement policy to safeguard farmers'

The cabinet also approved a grant of Rs50 million for the Aurat Foundation and decided to establish the Sachal Sarmast Library in Khairpur. Additionally, a state-of-the-art museum.

Chan calls on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Central Secretary Information of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Nadeem Afzal Chan Tuesday called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor House in Islamabad.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, the overall political situation in the country, and party affairs were discussed in detail.

Both leaders emphasized that, in the current circumstances joint efforts are essential to address public issues and to strengthen the democratic process.



The discussion also focused on party organizational matters, public outreach campaigns and political strategy.

Faisal Kundi said that the PPP firmly believes in public service and the promotion of democratic values. He highlighted the crucial role of media in effectively conveying the party's stance.

UCC declares Shaharyar as a criminal of the Christian community

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The United Council of Churches has declared a man named Shaharyar, who enticed and married a thirteen-year-old Christian girl Maria, as a criminal of the Christian community, demanding that he be given at least fifteen years of imprisonment and that the conversion of the religion of children under 18 be deemed unacceptable. Christian leaders stated that Christians are peaceful and patriotic citizens of this country and fully respect the Constitution of Pakistan. The case of thirteen-year-old Christian girl Maria Bibi from Lahore, in which the accused Shaharyar was given six months of imprisonment by the Federal Constitutional Sharia Court, is now being presented to



the public court to seek redress for the wrongs done to the Christian community. This announcement was made at a press conference organized by the United Council of Churches at the Universal Gospel Assembly Church G7 Islamabad. The press conference was attended by Executive Director of the United Council of Churches Pastor Samson Sohail, Bishop Tariq Jan, Bishop Shahid Mahmood, Bishop Farukh Javed, Pastor Emmanuel Iqbal, Pastor Zulfiqar Danish, Senior Pastor Inayat Jalal.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday visited the headquarters of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and presided over a high-level meeting.

BISP, VEON & Jazz explore AI-driven digital inclusion for women



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: In a significant move to strengthen digital inclusion and financial empowerment of women, Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, on Tuesday held a high-level

meeting with VEON Group CEO Kan Terzioglu and Jazz leadership to expand collaboration on innovative, technology-driven initiatives.

The meeting, attended by Jazz World CEO Amir Ibrahim and Chief Corporate and Regulatory Officer Syed Zaheer Mehdi, focused on exploring joint efforts to improve payment mechanisms, enhance digital and financial literacy among BISP beneficiaries, and create skill development opportunities.

BISP, VEON & Jazz explore AI-driven digital inclusion for women

Both sides discussed leveraging modern digital and social media platforms to raise awareness, with particular emphasis on the use of artificial

intelligence to design accessible learning tools for women across the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Rubina Khalid underscored the importance of institutional collaboration in achieving impactful outcomes.

She reaffirmed that ensuring transparent and dignified disbursement of financial assistance to deserving women remains BISP's top priority. She also highlighted the need to expand employment opportunities for women through skill development and AI-based audio and video tutorials in regional languages to boost digital and financial literacy. VEON Group CEO Kan Terzioglu appreciated BISP's ongoing reforms.