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**Gilani calls for timely redressal of public complaints**

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## Pakistan, Turkiye have vast potential in digital technology for swift justice delivery: PM

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday emphasized the growing scope of cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye in the judicial sector, particularly through the use of digital technologies to ensure faster and more efficient delivery of justice. He was speaking during a meeting with Kadir Ozkaya, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Turkiye, who called on him along with a high-level delegation. Highlighting the deep-rooted brotherly ties between the two countries, the prime minister said that Pakistan and Turkiye were steadily advancing toward a comprehensive economic partnership. He said Pakistan and Turkiye could benefit from each other's

experiences to improve citizens' access to justice. "The Memorandum of Understanding signed during the recent visit of the Turkish delegation is the first step in this direction". The prime minister noted that Pakistan and Turkiye could benefit from each other's experiences in legislation and its implementation in areas such as climate change, counter-terrorism, immigration, and other sectors. In his remarks, the head of the Turkish Constitutional Court thanked Pakistan for its warm hospitality during the visit. "Love for Pakistan resides in the veins of every Turk," said Kadir Ozkaya adding that the Constitutional Court of Turkiye was 64 years old and was ready to initiate a pilot project with Pakistan to share its vast experience.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Turkiye led by President of the Constitutional Court H.E Kadir Ozkaya called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## 'Dangerous escalation': Pakistan condemns Iranian strikes on SA's energy facilities

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday expressed concern and also condemnation of Iranian missile and drone strikes on Saudi Arabia's energy facilities, terming the attacks as "a dangerous escalation" that undermined regional peace and stability. In a statement, the Foreign Office (FO) said, "The government of Pakistan expresses its deep concern and unequivocal condemnation of the missile and drone attacks carried out by the Islamic Republic of Iran last night against energy facilities in the Eastern Region of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia." The statement said that Pakistan also mourned the loss of life resulting from these attacks and strongly deplores the damage inflicted on vital infrastructure. The statement also conveyed Pakistan's condolences to the families of the victims, adding that the country firmly stood in solidarity with the government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during this difficult time. "The government of Pakistan considers these attacks a serious violation of Saudi Arabia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and a dangerous escalation that undermines regional peace and stability," the FO said.



## Iran War 2026: Iran calls off ceasefire talks with US, NYT reports

PEAK POINT



TEHRAN: The US and Israel launched a major combat attack on Iran on February 28. The ongoing aggression has martyred several Iranian leaders including Ali Khamenei.

Aziz Nasirzadeh, the Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics, Mohammad Pakpour, the Commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), Abdolrahim Mousavi, the Chief of the General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Ali Larjani, the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council and adviser and other Iranian military and political leaders have been martyred in the Iran war. Iran has responded swiftly and has targeted key Israeli cities with a barrage of Ballistic missiles.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) announced missile and drone attacks against Israel in retaliation for the strikes, according to the Tasnim news agency. Tehran in retaliatory strikes have been targeting US, Israel installations in the region.

The Strait of Hormuz has been closed by the IRGC. The efforts are underway for a ceasefire by the mediators, sources said. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian stated on Tuesday that he is ready to sacrifice his life for Iran, writing on X that more than 14 million citizens have already declared their readiness to do the same.

## Army brass condemns Iran attacks on Saudi facilities as 'unnecessary escalation' spoiling mediation efforts

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The military leadership on Tuesday strongly condemned the recent Iranian attacks on Saudi Arabia's petrochemical and industrial complexes, terming them an "unnecessary escalation" that threatened to spoil mediation efforts to bring the Mideast crisis to an end. Iran earlier attacked a petrochemical complex in Saudi Arabia's Jubail industrial city, located in the Eastern province. The Foreign Office expressed "its deep concern and unequivocal condemnation" of the missile and drone attacks. In a statement issued today, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the army's top brass also condemned the attacks in the 274th Corps Commanders' Conference at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi. "The forum noted with concern and vehemently condemned latest attacks on KSA's petrochemical and industrial complex as an unnecessary escalation which spurs sincere efforts to resolve the conflict through peaceful means. Forum noted that restraint and calibration so far exhibited by KSA, despite grave provocations, enabled mediation and diplomatic resolution.



## Five policemen injured in IED attack targeting police patrol in Lakki Marwat

PEAK POINT

LAKKI MARWAT: At least five policemen including an officer were injured in an explosion in the Shahbazkhel town of Lakki Marwat district, police said on Tuesday.

A spokesperson for the district's police, Qudratullah, confirmed that the attack was carried out by Fitna-al-Khawarij on the Bannu-DI Khan section of the Peshawar-Karachi Indus Highway. Fitna al-Khawarij is a term the state uses for terrorists belonging.

## 5-point plan result of Pak-China close coordination, says envoy

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: China and Pakistan have jointly proposed a five-point initiative aimed at restoring peace and stability in the Gulf and the broader Middle East, amid escalating tensions involving the United States, Israel, and Iran.

According to an Op-Ed by Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong, the initiative was issued in Beijing on March 31 following close coordination between the two countries. The proposal calls for an immediate ceasefire, early resumption of peace talks, protection of civilian infrastructure, safeguarding of maritime shipping routes, and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter. The ambassador said the plan reflects not only the shared position of Beijing and Islamabad but



also the broader expectations of the international community, adding that it has received "wide attention and support". Highlighting the long-standing ties between the two countries, he described China and Pakistan as "iron-clad friends" that have maintained close coordination on key global and regional issues. Since the outbreak of the conflict involving the US, Israel, and Iran, China has engaged with relevant parties to promote a ceasefire and encourage dialogue,

while Pakistan has facilitated mediation efforts, he added.

The envoy noted that both sides remained in close contact through diplomatic channels in Beijing and Islamabad, as well as at the UN Security Council. Their foreign ministers also held multiple discussions to coordinate positions and push for de-escalation.

Placing the initiative in a broader context, the ambassador linked it to Chinese President Xi Jinping's Global Governance Initiative, which emphasises multilateralism, sovereign equality, and adherence to international law. Pakistan has expressed support for the framework, including at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin.

The five-point plan has drawn positive responses from several countries and international organisations, the ambassador said, describing it as a step toward mobilising global support for peace.

He stressed that military force cannot resolve conflicts and that dialogue remains the only viable path forward, warning that continued instability could disrupt global energy supplies and supply chains.

Looking ahead, the ambassador said China and Pakistan would continue to deepen bilateral cooperation and coordination, particularly as the two countries mark 75 years of diplomatic relations, while working together to promote reforms in global governance and uphold international justice.

## Australia's most decorated soldier Ben Roberts-Smith arrested over alleged war crimes in Afghanistan



PEAK POINT

AUSTRALIA: Australia's most decorated living soldier was arrested on Tuesday and will be charged with five counts of war crime murders relating to the killing of unarmed civilians while on deployment in Afghanistan.

The man, whom police identified as a 47-year-old former Australian Defence Force (ADF) member and media named as Ben Roberts-Smith, was arrested at Sydney Airport on Tuesday morning.

He will be charged with five counts of war crimes in connection to the murder of five people in Afghanistan between 2009 and 2012, Australian Federal Police (AFP) said. The maximum penalty for each charge is life imprisonment.



# SPORTS



## Binance and Islamabad United launch season-long fan campaign featuring Binance Pay and exclusive player access

**MAUKA DEKHO, PHIR SHOT KHELO**  
AAP KA FINANCIAL FREEDOM, AAP KAY STYLE MAI  
ABHI SIGNUP KARO

RISE WARNING: All guaranteed returns. Digital asset prices can be volatile. The value of your investments may go down or up and you may not get back the amount invested. You are solely responsible for your investment decisions and Binance is not liable for any losses you may incur. For financial advice, please consult your financial advisor.

**PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD: Binance, the world's leading global blockchain ecosystem and cryptocurrency exchange by trading volume and users, today announced the expansion of its partnership with Islamabad United through the launch of a season-long fan engagement campaign. The initiative introduces Binance Pay within the campaign and offers supporters new ways to connect with the team.

The initiative focuses on bringing the cricket community together through shared participation, experiences," said Tarik Erk, inviting both new and existing

users to take part in a structured, season-long campaign tied to Islamabad United's matches. As part of this, users can participate in the \$25,000 Powerplay Challenge, where they earn runs by inviting friends to join Binance and complete onboarding activities, with performance tracked on a leaderboard. Additional campaign activities are also available throughout the season, with more details found here.

"At Binance, we are always looking for ways to bring digital innovation closer to everyday experiences, even in a season where traditional access to the stadium is limited."

As part of the campaign,

Senior Executive Officer, Abu Dhabi. "Through our continued partnership with Islamabad United, this campaign is focused on creating meaningful and accessible ways for fans to engage with the team throughout the season."

Ahsan Latif, CEO of Islamabad United, added: "Our partnership with Binance continues to evolve in ways that put fans first. This initiative allows us to stay connected with our community and offer new experiences, even in a season where traditional access to the stadium is limited."

As part of the campaign,

Binance Pay will be integrated into the fan experience, enabling supporters to access official Islamabad United merchandise through a seamless digital payment solution. Fans who use Binance Pay for merchandise purchases during the campaign will receive a 15% discount.

Importantly, the campaign also introduces alternative ways for fans to engage with the team in light of ongoing stadium attendance restrictions. Top participants in the campaign will be rewarded with exclusive experiences, including opportunities to meet Islamabad United players.

## Muneeba, Sidra lead their sides to six-wicket victories



LAHORE: A scintillating third consecutive half-century from Muneeba Ali powered Invincibles to a commanding six-wicket victory over Strikers, while an unbeaten knock from Sidra Amin guided Stars to an equally emphatic win against Challengers in the National Women's T20 Tournament 2025-26 at the Ghani Glass Cricket Ground on Monday. In the day's opening fixture, Strikers posted a competitive 161-7 after electing to bat first. Aliya Riaz led the charge with a brisk 47 off 28 balls, striking six fours and a six. She was ably supported by Sadaf Shamas (33 off 26, three fours, two sixes) and Dua Majid (30 off 21, six fours). For Invincibles, left-arm spinner Moina Riasat was the standout performer with three wickets, while Saima Malik chipped in with 2-18.

In reply, Muneeba Ali continued her rich vein of form, smashing 90 off 55 deliveries, laced with 16 boundaries. She laid the foundation with a 60-run opening stand alongside Gull Feroza (23), before combining with Iram Javed for a match-defining 94-run partnership for the third wicket. Iram remained unbeaten on 34 off 29 balls. Invincibles comfortably chased down the target in 18.3 overs, with nine balls to spare.

## Karachi Kings captain David Warner arrested for drunk driving



**PEAK POINT**  
SYDNEY: Karachi Kings captain and star Australian cricketer David Warner was arrested for drunk driving in Sydney and while he has returned to play the Pakistan Super League, he will have to appear before a court sooner or later.

Warner was arrested and taken to Maroubra Police Station, where he returned a reading of 0.1. He is all set to appear in court in May.

"About 5:30 pm today (Sunday 5 April 2026), police were conducting stationary random breath testing on Malabar Road, Maroubra. A van was seen to allegedly stop short of the testing site and officers approached the vehicle and subjected the driver, a 39-year-old man, to roadside testing, which returned a positive result," the statement added.

Warner retired from international cricket in 2024 and transitioned into a media role after bringing his playing career to an end.

Warner shocked the selectors by announcing his retirement just four weeks before he was due to feature in Australia's ODI series against the West Indies in January 2024.

## Injured Naseem Shah out of action

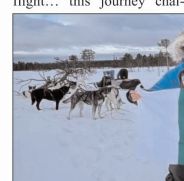


## Pakistan's Samar Khan completes 300km Arctic dogsled challenge

**PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistani adventure athlete and snowboarder Samar Khan has completed Fjallraven Polar 2026, crossing the finish line of a 300km dogsled expedition across the frozen Arctic tundra. Sharing the milestone on Instagram, Khan described the journey as far more than a physical test, saying it pushed her through "exhaustion, doubt, and limits I didn't know existed". She wrote that the expedition had taken her through days in the freezing wilderness, where the silence of the Arctic forced her to confront both hardship and self-belief.

Khan described the experience as a test of "resilience, courage and belief", framing the achievement not just as a moment of completion of an endurance challenge, but as the end point of a longer struggle that had begun before she even left for the expedition. She revealed that

visa uncertainty had cast doubt over the trip and said she received her stamped passport only one day before her flight. "From visa uncertainties to receiving my stamped passport just one day before my flight... this journey chal-



lenged me long before it even began," she wrote. For Khan, the finish was not only personal. "Still taking it all in... but this moment belongs to Pakistan," she said, framing the finish as a moment of national pride as well as individual accomplishment. She also thanked the Fjallraven team and Sweden in Pakistan for helping expedite her visa

process and make the journey possible for a Pakistani athlete. Fjallraven Polar is a long-distance Arctic expedition centred on dogsled travel across harsh, sub-zero terrain, demanding sustained physical endurance and mental

resilience from participants over multiple days. The post closed on a message aimed at others who may have been told they could not pursue difficult or unconventional ambitions, with Khan presenting the feat as proof that limits can be challenged. She wrote: "For everyone who's ever been told 'you can't', This is your sign. You can !!!"

## Sindh Strikers dominate National Talent Hunt Boxing Championship





# Parliament panel to probe poverty data and women focused welfare spending

**NADEEM TANOLI**  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's poverty data and welfare spending have come under renewed scrutiny as a parliamentary committee prepares to examine whether government programs are accurately capturing ground realities and effectively reaching women, raising concerns about transparency, accountability and policy effectiveness. The Special Committee on Gender Mainstreaming is set to review poverty mea-

surement methodologies and question the integration of gender disaggregated data, amid growing debate over whether official statistics reflect the actual economic hardships faced by women across the country. Lawmakers are expected to challenge how poverty is calculated and whether gender-specific vulnerabilities are being adequately addressed in national data systems. The committee will also take up the performance of major welfare institutions, includ-

ing the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund and Pakistan Bait ul Mal, with a particular focus on the extent to which women are benefiting from these programs. The review comes at a time when concerns are increasing that large scale social protection initiatives may not be delivering targeted outcomes despite significant public spending. Officials from the Ministry of Planning and the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics are expected to brief the committee on technical frame-

works used to measure poverty, including how gender based indicators are incorporated. However, lawmakers are likely to question whether these frameworks translate into meaningful policy decisions or remain largely theoretical exercises. The committee will further assess the implementation status of its previous recommendations, signaling frustration over slow progress and gaps between policy commitments and actual delivery. The review is expected to high-

light whether institutional coordination between planning, statistics and welfare ministries is effectively addressing gender disparities. A senior observer, speaking anonymously, described the situation as "a structural issue where data is presented but impact remains unclear," while another noted that "without accurate gender disaggregated data, policy decisions risk overlooking the most vulnerable segments of society." The meeting is also expected to set the tone for

future oversight, with lawmakers emphasizing the need for measurable outcomes rather than procedural reporting. The Special Committee on Gender Mainstreaming will review poverty data methodologies, assess implementation of previous recommendations and evaluate the performance of key welfare programs, with a focus on improving transparency, accountability and gender inclusion in national policy frameworks.

## NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker condole the demise of former MNA Mir Babul Khan Jakhrani

**PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of the former Member National Assembly, Mir Ahmed Nawaz Khan known as Mir Babul Khan Jakhrani, father of Chief Whip for the Pakistan Peoples Party in National Assembly/ MNA, Mir Aijaz Hussain Jakhrani. He extended his heartfelt condolences to MNA Mir Aijaz Hussain Jakhrani and the bereaved family. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq paid rich tribute to the political and social services of the late

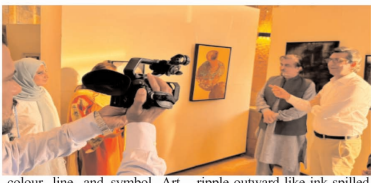


Mir Babul Khan Jakhrani. He remarked that the deceased was a dignified political and social figure whose contributions to public service will be remembered for a long time. NA Speaker stated that parents are a precious blessing from Almighty Allah and their loss is an irreparable tragedy and a profound shock. He expressed

his grief to MNA Mir Aijaz Hussain Jakhrani and his family, stating that he equally shares their sorrow in this difficult time. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also offered prayers for the departed soul, praying that Allah Almighty grant him the highest ranks in Jannat-ul-Firdous and bless the bereaved family with patience and strength to bear this irreparable loss. Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, has also expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of former MNA Mir Babul Khan Jakhrani.

## Art exhibition "Souch say Saqafat tak" blooms in Islamabad with fresh voices of Pakistani art

**PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD: In a luminous fusion of youth, memory, and imagination, the art exhibition "Souch say Saqafat tak" has unfurled its wings at the Islamabad Art Gallery in F-9 Park, bringing together the first public showings of fresh graduates from art schools across Pakistan. The exhibition, a collaborative venture between Islamabad Art Gallery and Khyal Art Space, opened on 6th April 2026 and will waltz through the entire month of April, inviting viewers into a delicate tapestry of dreams, dissent, and desire stitched in



colour, line, and symbol. Art exhibition "Souch say Saqafat tak" blooms in Islamabad with fresh voices of Pakistani art. The crisp, sunlit walls of the gallery now breathe with the pulse of untested yet deeply felt creative journeys, as the works of these young artists

ripple outward like ink spilled on the fabric of the nation's cultural conscience. The show is curated by Raheel Arshad, whose vision wove the disparate threads of emerging voices into a single, shimmering narrative of identity and belonging.

# Opinion & Editorial


  
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## Battering rains

**H**eavy spells of rain and storm-like weather continue to batter parts of Pakistan with a ferocity that the country's infrastructure and institutions have repeatedly proven unequal to. Since March 25, K-P alone has recorded 50 deaths and 111 injuries from rain-related incidents, with 26 of the dead being children. Balochistan has recorded 12 fatalities, including eight children, with 160 homes damaged and flash floods severing road links between entire districts and the rest of the country. Nationwide, weather-related deaths have climbed past 70 since mid-March, with Karachi recording its highest-ever April rainfall in a single day. These events have consequences that outlast the weather. Flooded farmland and destroyed crops set back rural livelihoods that were already precarious. Severed roads isolate communities from markets and supply chains, inflicting severe economic damage. With the meteorological department warning of yet another western disturbance expected to persist through April 9, Pakistan finds itself braced for the next blow before it has finished counting the cost of the last. It is consistently the poorest who die - those living in mud-brick housing in flood-prone districts, in areas where the state's presence is felt merely through a relief truck.

## Tight rope act

**Arifa Noor**  
**W**ITH a war in the region, Pakistan has been at the centre stage of all conversations, negotiations and talks about and around the conflict. For this, there has also been much praise and some heartburn (from some in the neighbourhood). However, Islamabad still needs to be careful; it continues to perform a tight rope balancing act domestically and internationally, as this conflict goes on. And if the hostilities continue, staying upright will be a trick and a half. This is primarily linked to the country's precarious economic situation and an 'unpopular' government struggling to gain a foothold with the people. And as some or many economic experts point out, there is little to fall back on if the world is facing uncertainty in terms of oil prices or other shocks. However successful this government may have been, as we are told continuously, in every aspect. Consider the management of the petrol prices. The somersaults by the government have been quite remarkable. It began by being one of the first in the region to act decisively once the international prices went up by hiking the price by Rs55. At that point, the government defended its move by arguing that it was not possible to take any other decision, but for the next couple of weeks, it moved to

a different tactic. The prime minister himself came on air to announce that he was not passing on the price, while a story in Dawn reported that he told his colleagues that he and the army chief had agreed to not pass on petrol price hikes for the near future. Government representatives were at pains to explain this 'subsidy' could not go on forever but there was little clarity on how long this would last and what would come next. Then came a spate of meetings as Islamabad tried to convince the provincial governments to share the burden, from funding the subsidy to providing relief. But even then, few expected the bombshell. Late Thursday night, which just passed, three government ministers announced a raise in prices that overshadowed the previous hike. The next day wasn't easy for the people or for the government, it seems, because within 24 hours, the prime minister turned up on television again. He announced a new lower price, explaining that he had reduced the tax on the fuel. The government was targeted for being indecisive — and rightly so. The government was targeted for being indecisive — and rightly so. The explanation from government quarters that the tax could only be lowered after permission from the IMF (which apparently came a day later) is not really being bought. In addition, it has highlighted once

again the government's failure in reducing its expenses or widening the tax base, which forces it to impose high indirect taxes on fuel. This was emphasised by an interview of the petroleum minister in which he acknowledged that there should be accountability of those who agreed to these revenue targets and then failed to meet them. In fact, questions are being raised whether the government is a house divided or if there are serious reservations within about some key people. It is hard to say how serious the blame game is. But it is worth asking whether recriminations will intensify if oil prices go up further and other economic shocks make the tight rope walking even more difficult. After all, news about the possible impact on exports, balance-of-payments and inflation is yet to become visible. Add to this, the people and the situation becomes even more wobbly. Can the petrol price be the final straw on the camel's back? No one can predict for sure but the fear is always there that the next economic shock will lead to chaos on the streets. That the powers that be share this fear is evident from their overreaction to any protest. Just consider that the Federal Constitutional Court has taken notice of the Imran Rehai Force, a kooky idea of Chief Minister Sohail Afridi that even the PTI didn't take seriously. Courtesy Dawn

## The carbon footprint of war

**Naveed R Khan**  
**O**ne important aspect of the ongoing conflict between the US, Israel, and Iran, which is being ignored completely, is its environmental impact. A conscious mind can estimate that environmental debris now has long-term consequences, even if the conflict is resolved immediately. The oil facilities being hit and set ablaze release huge quantities of CO2, soot, sulfur dioxide and other hazardous gases into the atmosphere. These pollutants will travel far beyond the conflict zone, carried by regional wind systems, turning regional destruction into a wider environmental hazard and potentially affecting neighbouring countries. Recent escalation in burning oil infrastructure in the Middle East, along with reports of toxic smoke and "blackened rain", demonstrates how warfare can trigger sudden spikes in pollution. According to a report by the Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOBS), more than 300 environmentally relevant incidents have already been recorded during the current conflict across Iran and the wider region. This raises a rarely discussed problem in climate debates: the carbon footprint of war. Military operations, infrastructure destruction, and the fires that follow can release massive volumes of emissions. Unfortunately, these emissions are often not reported and excluded from national climate reporting frameworks under the UNFCCC. The current climate policy accounts for CO2 emissions from industries and vehicles, but the environmental costs of armed conflict remain largely invisible. The CEOBS assessment suggests that, beyond immediate air pollution, the conflict is also generating broader ecological threats, including marine pollution from damaged ships, oil spills in the Persian Gulf, and contamination from military facilities that discharge fuels, heavy metals and hazardous chemicals into the surrounding environment. Courtesy Tribune

## Ahsan Iqbal stresses investment in early childhood education for national development



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal has emphasized the need to invest in early childhood education to build a strong, prosperous and developed Pakistan.

He stated that nations prioritizing early education are better positioned to achieve long-term sustainable development.

He expressed these views while addressing the opening session of the 5th International Conference on "Early

Childhood Development" held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU).

Childhood Development" held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). Highlighting the importance of early years, Ahsan Iqbal said that early childhood education forms the foundation of a strong society. He noted that providing quality learning opportunities, a supportive environment and proper training at this stage helps nurture responsible and capable citizens. The federal minister also urged teachers and the media to play an active role in raising awareness about the importance of early childhood education, so

that it receives greater attention and investment at all levels.

Experts from Pakistan and abroad participating in the conference emphasized that early childhood is a critical period for learning, as children's cognitive abilities develop rapidly during these years. They highlighted the need to focus on children's mental, emotional and social development. The speakers called for aligning early childhood education curricula with modern requirements, enhancing teacher training, ensuring active parental involvement and promoting play-based learning methods to make education more effective and engaging for young learners. They also noted that while the use of technology in early education can be beneficial, it must be balanced to ensure that children's natural growth and development remain the top priority.

The conference featured prominent speakers, including Dr Zafar Mirza, Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood, Nasruddin Rupani, Prof. Muhammad Rafique Tahir, Pernille Ironside, Dr Allen Thom, and Dr Khadija Khan among others.

## Asian Development Bank to support Pakistan's solar transition, power sector reforms

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is expected to provide financial and technical support for the transition of solar power to battery energy storage systems, as well as for integrated planning, digitisation, and data governance in Pakistan's power sector.

This was indicated on Tuesday during a meeting of the ADB delegation with the Power Division, ahead of an upcoming visit by the ADB's vice president to Pakistan later this month.

"ADB is conducting studies on the impact of rooftop solar and battery energy storage systems (BESS) in the power sector," said Emma Xiaoqin Fan, the country director of the Manila-based lending agency, according to the Power Division, following the meeting between Power Minister Awais Leghari and Fan. The meeting discussed ongoing reforms and future cooperation in the power sector, the Power Division said.

The minister said that Pakistan's power sector had recently shown strong resilience despite global energy challenges, attributing this stability to greater use of indigenous resources, including local coal, hydel, and solar energy.

He added that the government was focused on increasing the share of indigenous fuels for power generation to keep electricity prices affordable.

Fan acknowledged the government's proactive measures and noted that these efforts in the power sector have significantly improved the overall resilience of the national economy.

She said ADB is interested in delving deeper into the requirements of the energy sector and supporting new initiatives such as digitisation, integrated planning, data governance, privatisation, and institutional governance in Pakistan. The country director added that ADB is already providing technical assistance for AMI meters and is conducting.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari in a meeting with Ms. Emma Xiaoqin Fan, Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), here in Islamabad.

## Govt working to keep economy stable: Bilal Azhar Kayani

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani on Tuesday informed the National Assembly that the government is working to keep the economy stable and meet key targets.

Responding to a calling attention notice regarding shortfall in tax revenue during the first eight months of the current financial year, he said factors such as moderate inflation and fluctuations in GDP growth had affected overall revenue collection. He added that the government's main goal remained achieving a primary budget surplus in line with commitments under the International Monetary Fund programme, carefully balancing fiscal and external accounts amid global challenges. The minister said that international developments, including geopolitical tensions, had also influenced economic indicators, requiring a cautious and balanced approach.

He said the government had introduced enforcement measures to improve tax collection, including digital invoicing.

## Vice Chief of Turkish General Staff calls on Khawaja Muhammad Asif

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chief of the Turkish General Staff General Levent Ergün called on Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif here Tuesday.

During the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interest, with particular focus on further strengthening defence and military cooperation between Pakistan and Türkiye, said a press release.

The Defence Minister warmly welcomed the visiting dignitary and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to deepening the long-standing brotherly relations with Türkiye.

He highlighted the importance Pakistan attaches to its strategic partnership with Türkiye and appreciated the growing collaboration in defence, training, and defence industry cooperation.



Both dignitaries reaffirmed that Pakistan and Türkiye share a similar outlook on regional and global affairs and remain closely aligned in their diplomatic perspectives.

General Levent Ergün expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality extended to the Turkish delegation and underscored Türkiye's desire to further enhance bilateral defence ties and expand cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the positive trajectory of Pakistan-Türkiye relations.

## Pakistan ready for UAE, Eurobond repayments, says Aurangzeb

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that "everything is in place" to make repayments to the UAE and over Eurobonds, stressing the need for framing policies keeping in view the volatile regional situation.

Talking informally to media men in Islamabad on Tuesday, Aurangzeb maintained that Pakistan has secured the UAE and Eurobond repayments. The government has plans to float Panda Bonds worth one billion dollars and is on course to meet the International Monetary Fund targets despite economic impediments, he added.

The minister vowed that foreign exchange reserves will be



kept stable and maintained in line with the IMF targets. All pledges regarding Pakistan's timely external payment obligations will be fulfilled, and preparations are underway for commercial financing and bond issuance. Talks are currently ongoing with a consortium of banks to secure commercial financing, reflecting efforts to diversify funding sources, he said.

Aurangzeb further revealed that preparations for issuing Panda Bonds will resume by April-end, with the government.

## Gilani calls for timely redressal of public complaints

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Ombudsman of Pakistan, Naveed Kamran Baloch, called on Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, at the Parliament House.

The meeting marked a goodwill visit following Kameran Baloch's assumption of office, during which he briefed the Chairman on the performance of the Federal Ombudsman's institution, the system for addressing public complaints, and the delivery of administrative justice, said a news release issued here on Tuesday.

During the briefing, Federal Ombudsman Naveed Kamran



Baloch informed the Chairman that the institution successfully handled over 262,000 complaints related to maladministration in 2025, achieving compliance on approximately 97% of its decisions. He highlighted that the Federal Ombudsman, through its extensive regional network across the country, is providing prompt, affordable, and effective administrative justice directly.

## UK appreciates Pakistan's mediation efforts, energy cooperation discussed

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik held a meeting with Jane Marriott, the High Commissioner of the United Kingdom to Pakistan, to discuss the evolving regional situation, its implications for global energy markets, and avenues to strengthen bilateral cooperation in Pakistan's energy and minerals sectors.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on the regional crisis and its impact on petroleum supply chains, price volatility, and overall energy security, said a news

release.

The High Commissioner appreciated Pakistan's constructive diplomatic role and thanked it for its mediation efforts aimed at easing tensions and promoting global peace, noting that Pakistan has effectively utilised its goodwill and relations with key stakeholders, including the United States and Iran.

She also discussed Pakistan's petroleum supply situation and commended the Government's efficient handling of the supply chain, observing that, despite international uncertainty, Pakistan



successfully ensured the uninterrupted availability of petroleum products and avoided market distortions.

Federal Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik stated that

Pakistan remains committed to supporting peace and stability through dialogue and diplomatic engagement. He emphasised that the Government is actively

working to facilitate a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

Speaking on domestic energy management, the Minister noted that Pakistan had taken timely measures to maintain supply continuity. "We do not want to repeat the path of populism, as witnessed in 2022, which can undo hard-earned economic achievements," he said. He added that the Government prioritized keeping the supply chain intact, as a supply disruption would have been worse than any price shock.

The Minister expressed gratitude to friendly coun-

tries, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman for facilitating petroleum supplies during the period of uncertainty. Recalling Qatar's support in the past, he noted that Qatar supplied LNG to Pakistan at around \$10 when global prices were near \$30, and also demonstrated cooperation by renegotiating contractual arrangements.

Highlighting the role of Pakistan's domestic exploration and production sector, the Minister praised local E&P companies for stepping up during the challenging.