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Founded By:
(Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
Website: www.peakpoint.pk

Executive Group Editor
Arif Mehmood Khan



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PM directs formation of committee to review PML-N lawmakers' suggestions for GB's welfare

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that effective communication between the Centre and the leadership of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) was indispensable, directing that a committee be formed to review suggestions from PML-N lawmakers from the region for its welfare.

He made the remarks while meeting with PML-N members of the GB Assembly in Islamabad, according to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, Minister for GB and Kashmir Affairs Amir Muqam, and PM's

Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah. "The development and progress of GB is among the federal government's top priorities," the statement quoted PM Shehbaz as saying.

He added that the government gained "direct insight" into people's expectations, issues and priorities via the members of the assembly, as their elected representatives.

"Regardless of our affiliation with any political party, our sole objective is to serve the people and bring ease to their lives," he said. The prime minister stressed the need for effective communication between federal and local leadership, calling it indispensable to resolve people's issues, improve governance.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of newly elected members Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly belonging to the PML-N met Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

More wreckage of crashed cargo plane found, search for crew ongoing: PAA

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Aviation Authority (PAA) said on Friday that the search for the crew of a cargo plane that crashed into the Arabian Sea was ongoing, adding that additional wreckage had been located.

In a statement, the authority said the search and rescue missions by the Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency in the deep sea were still in progress.

"The search for the crew members is continuing with full vigour through the coordinated employment of aerial and sea-borne assets," it said.

"Additional parts and debris of the ill-fated aircraft have been located and retrieved for subsequent analysis by the investigation team," it said, adding that updates would be shared as the search and rescue operations continued.

On Tuesday night, a K2 Airways Boeing 737-400 cargo aircraft en route from Sharjah to Karachi had disappeared from radar over the Arabian Sea, about 300 kilometres west of Karachi.

IRGC commander vows revenge for 'cowardly assassination' of supreme leader

PEAK POINT

TEHRAN: The IRGC's top commander has pledged vengeance against the US and Israel for the killing of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, saying it won't "be erased from the historical memory".

According to Al Jazeera, Brigadier-General Ahmad Vahidi called for the "full realisation of justice and a fitting response to the criminals, especially the child-killing American army".

"The criminal leaders of America and all enemies of the Islamic Revolution and the Resistance Front must know that by the cowardly assassination of this divine leader they will never ... bring the flag of resistance to the ground," Vahidi said in a statement carried by Sepah news agency. "Avenge the martyrs and the punishment of the perpetrators ... will remain a definitive, legitimate, and an unforgettable demand." Vahidi's comments come after Khamenei was buried in his hometown of Mashhad on Thursday, four months after he and four family members died in US-Israeli air strikes.

Additionally, the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council stated in a post carried by Fars that retaliation "will be carried out against attacks on infrastructure, and the criminal Zionist regime will not be safe from the response of the fighters either."

Diplomacy is happening behind the scenes right now to ease tensions in the US-Iran conflict, CNN reported Friday.

Bangladesh's Hasina plans December return with party colleagues to surrender

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Ousted Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, facing a death sentence back home where her party is banned, told Reuters she and senior party colleagues plan to return from exile in India around December and surrender.

The South Asian nation's longest-serving leader said she and members of her Awami League aim to return voluntarily to the country they fled two years ago and present themselves in court, testing Bangladesh's handling of its most prominent political opponent. A return could sharpen political divisions in the garment-export powerhouse as the government in Dhaka seeks to restore stability after two years of upheaval. On the other hand, it could improve strained ties with India, which deteriorated sharply after New Delhi gave her refuge.

Bangladesh has repeatedly urged India to extradite her. Hasina, who has fielded written questions from news outlets but not previously given an interview during her exile, said she has not consulted with any foreign government on whether or when to return.

4 terrorists killed in operation near Karak-Kohat border: police

PEAK POINT

KOHAT: Four terrorists were killed in a joint intelligence-based operation in the Khattak Dam area near the border between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Karak and Kohat districts, according to police.

In a statement, Karak police said that credible information was received regarding the presence of terrorists in the area at around 5am.

It said that an operation was carried out in tandem with the Kohat police.

"During the operation, terrorists opened fire.

13 more terrorists killed in Op Shaban in Balochistan over 24 hours: security sources

PEAK POINT

BALUCHISTAN: At least 13 more India-backed terrorists have been killed during ongoing Operation Shaban in Balochistan, raising the total number of militants killed in the operation to 39, security sources said on Friday. The operation was launched in the aftermath of the attack on the Mangi Dam police station and is being carried out jointly by the Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps (FC) and Balochistan Police, security sources said. Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry on Wednesday said that India-backed terrorists attacked the checkpoint, but police personnel fought the terrorists bravely and killed 15 militants during the initial engagement. At the time, the military

spokesperson said nine police personnel embraced



martyrdom in the initial fighting, adding that militants had taken police personnel hostage before security forces reached the area. The military spokesperson had said security forces carefully tightened the cordon around the militants because "our children were being held hostage."

He said that security forces remained engaged with the militants in the mountains of Ziarat from

July 6. "When the terrorists realised the cordon had

tightened, these cowards martyred 18 police personnel."

Lt Gen Chaudhry said 27 police personnel embraced martyrdom in the Mangi checkpoint attack, while 26 militants were killed in that operation. Meanwhile, security sources said today that an attack on a police station in Khuzdar was also repelled, adding that Pakistan Army and FC troops carried out

an operation in response, with reports indicating that eight militants were killed.

They further said that, since July 5, a total of 75 militants had been killed during Operation Shaban and other intelligence-based operations.

They further said that, since July 5, a total of 75 militants had been killed during Operation Shaban and other intelligence-based operations.

Separately, security sources also reported that five to six militants were killed in helicopter operations. "Eastern neighbour" behind attacks While security forces inflicted heavy losses on terrorists in ongoing operations, 42 people, including security personnel and civilians, were martyred in three recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan. Addressing a meeting of the Provincial Apex.

Mufti Taqi Usmani declares crypto-based purchases impermissible under Islamic law

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Islamic scholar Mufti Taqi Usmani has declared purchasing goods with cryptocurrency "impermissible", citing research conducted by experts so far which found that cryptocurrency does not qualify as "wealth", it emerged on Friday. The fatwa was originally issued by Darul Uloom, Jamia Darul Uloom, Karachi, and dated 24 Zilhaj 1447 AH (June 10, 2026). Apart from Mufti Usmani, a former judge of the Federal Shariat Court, five other prominent scholars are its signatories.

Responding to a question about purchasing books with cryptocurrency, the fatwa said: "It is not permissible for you to purchase the books in question using cryptocurrency."

SPORTS



South Africa Women's U-19 team arrives in Karachi for T20 series

PHF names 18-member women teams for int'l tournaments



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has announced the 18-member National Women's Under-21 and Youth Under-18 Hockey 5-a-side team for the upcoming international tournaments in Muscat, Oman. The team was named following the selection by the PHF Selection Committee comprising Olympians Nasir Ali and Naeem Akhtar and the subsequent approval by PHF President Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani. According to the Pakistan Hockey Federation, the Women's Junior (U-21) AHF Cup will be held from July 12 to 18 while the U-18 Youth Hockey 5s Asia Cup will take place from July 20 to 25, 2026.

The selected squad includes: Goalkeepers: Maria Mehak (Sargodha), Khadija Latif (Gojra); Defenders: Rabeesha Parveen (Bahawalpur), Zulaira Sadaf (Sargodha), Larab Parveen (Karachi), Javeria Resham (Bahawalpur), Sana Khalid (Gojra); Midfielders: Farwa Haider (Gojra), Saira Younis (Lahore), Shareen Fatima (Wah Cantt), Areeba Aslam (Wah Cantt), Iffat Zohra (Karachi), Larab Abid (Bahawalpur); Strikers: Shariqa (Lahore), Sobia Afzal (Pak Wapda), Inaya Batool (Wah Cantt), Saliba Gulfam (Islamabad), Shresh Kanwal (Pak Navy).

PEAK POINT

T20 series against Pakistan.

Both the Pakistan and South Africa Women's under-19 teams series.

KARACHI: The South Africa Women's under-19 cricket team arrived in Karachi on Friday for its first-ever tour of Pakistan, where the team will play a five-match

warm welcome at Jinnah International Airport from officials of the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) Women's wing upon arrival.

The visiting squad received a warm welcome at Jinnah International Airport from officials of the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) Women's wing upon arrival.

The series is scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm as both sides

fine-tune their preparations for the five-match T20 series will get underway on Tuesday, July 14, at the National Bank Stadium.

All matches in the series are scheduled to start at 8:00 pm.

Housing Minister reaffirms govt commitment to sports development



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Housing & Works, Mian Riaz Hussain, met with the President of the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF), Syed Mohsen Gilani, who called on him to discuss the progress of football in Pakistan and ongoing efforts to revive the sport across the country.

During the meeting, Syed Mohsen Gilani expressed his gratitude to the

Federal Minister for his unwavering support and commitment to the promotion of sports, particularly football.

He briefed the Minister on the recent positive developments within Pakistan football, including initiatives aimed at strengthening grassroots and creating greater opportunities for young athletes.

The PFF President also informed the Minister about the progress of the FIFA

Arena Mini Pitch Project for Danish School Hasilpur in the District Bahawalpur under the FIFA Arena Programme.

He appreciated the Minister's valuable support in facilitating this important initiative, which will provide world-class football infrastructure and encourage youth participation in sports in the region of South Punjab.

On the occasion, Minister Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada lauded the efforts of the Pakistan Football Federation in revitalizing football and nurturing young talent. He remarked that the youth of Pakistan possess immense potential and, if provided with the right opportunities and

facilities, can make a meaningful difference at both national and international levels.

The minister shared that he has personally been a sportsman throughout his school and college years and has actively participated in various sports.

He emphasized his firm belief that healthy minds thrive in healthy bodies, adding that sports play a vital role in developing disciplined, confident, and productive citizens.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment to the promotion of sports, the Minister assured Syed Mohsen Gilani of his full support for future initiatives aimed at the development of football and youth engagement.

Pakistan taekwondo team departs for South Korea



'You made us proud': Egypt gives heroes' welcome to World Cup team

PEAK POINT

MEXICO: Waving flags, singing patriotic songs and carrying banners proclaiming "Egypt's men made us proud", thousands of supporters welcomed Egypt's national football team home on Friday after the Pharaohs produced the finest World Cup campaign in the country's history.

Crowds gathered outside Alamein International Airport on Egypt's Mediterranean coast to greet the players and coaching staff after their return from North America, where Egypt won at the World Cup for the first time in four attempts and reached the last 16. Fans also held pictures of captain Mohamed Salah bearing the words "Thank you".

The celebrations continued as the squad boarded an open-top bus and paraded through New Alamein, waving to cheering supporters

lining the streets. President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi is due to receive the team and its technical and administrative staff on Saturday.

Among the crowds were supporters carrying large posters of coach Hossam

The homecoming came despite a heartbreaking 3-2 defeat by Lionel Messi's Argentina in the last 16. Egypt led 2-0 until the closing stages before conceding three goals in the final 11 minutes, but still returned



Hassan draped in a Palestinian flag, reflecting appreciation for his support of the Palestinian cause during the tournament. Egypt's all-time leading scorer carried a Palestinian flag on the pitch on several occasions and voiced support for Palestinian rights during press conferences.

home with pride after its best-ever World Cup run, having beaten New Zealand in the group stage and Australia on penalties in the round of 32. Before the team's return, the Egyptian Football Association renewed the contracts of Hossam Hassan and his twin brother Ibrahim Hassan.

Punjab win Prime Minister's National Under-21 Women's Hockey Championship



Empowering People and Harnessing Demographic Potential Key to Pakistan's Sustainable Future: Speaker NA

Inclusive policies, awareness and collective efforts essential to address population challenges: Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has emphasized that empowering people, particularly the youth, and adopting inclusive, forward-looking policies are essential for transforming demographic challenges into opportunities for sustainable development and national progress. In his message on the occasion of World Population Day,

observed globally on 11 July, the Speaker highlighted this year's theme, "Realizing the hopes and aspirations of young people—today and for the future," and stated that the empowerment of youth through quality education, accessible healthcare, skills development and meaningful employment opportunities is vital for building a prosperous and resilient Pakistan. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

said that the observance of this day aims to raise awareness about population-related challenges, highlight the importance of sustainable development, and encourage collective efforts to ensure a better future for all. He said that Pakistan, being among the world's most populous countries with a significant population growth rate, faces considerable challenges in ensuring adequate provision

of education, healthcare, housing and employment opportunities. He emphasized that these challenges can be effectively addressed through strategic policymaking, human capital development and by harnessing the potential of the country's young population. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq stressed that addressing population-related challenges requires a coordinated approach involving

Parliament, the government, provincial administrations, civil society, academia, religious scholars, media and all segments of society. He underscored the importance of creating greater awareness, particularly at the grassroots level, to promote informed decision-making and encourage collective responsibility towards sustainable development. The Speaker further stated that

Parliament remains committed to supporting initiatives and legislative measures aimed at promoting social inclusion, improving public services and ensuring sustainable development for present and future generations. He expressed confidence that through collective efforts, Pakistan can achieve balanced growth, economic stability and enhanced opportunities for its people.

Senate Panel orders inquiry into Islamabad girl case, questions police handling of investigation

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control has raised serious questions over the handling of an alleged abduction and forced marriage case involving a girl from Islamabad, directing the formation of an independent inquiry committee to examine all facts, including whether the marriage took place with free consent. The committee stressed that the investigation must be transparent and based on evidence before reaching any conclusion. The issue was discussed during a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control, chaired by Senator Faisal Saleh Rahman, where lawmakers reviewed law enforcement performance, public safety matters

and important legislation. During the discussion, Senator Saifullah Abro raised concerns over the police response in the case, saying that despite repeated attempts to contact senior officials, his calls were not answered. He questioned the conduct of some police officers involved in handling the matter and demanded a proper investigation into the case's circumstances. The committee was informed by SP City Dr. Ayaz Hussain that an FIR was registered on May 5 and that the investigation later included the couple's marriage certificate as part of the record. Officials told the committee that the woman had approached the court herself and requested protection from her parents due to alleged threats to her life. Officials further informed lawmakers that the

woman had recorded her statement under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure before a court in Khanewal and that she was over 18 years old. After reviewing the matter, the committee decided that the Minister of State for Interior could form a special inquiry committee consisting of three senior police officers including one female officer of at least Grade 18 and two male officers along with a senior officer as committee head. The committee said the inquiry should examine every aspect of the case, including whether the marriage was conducted with free consent and whether further legal action was required based on the findings. Members stressed that the investigation must remain fair, independent and free from pressure. Minister of

State for Interior Muhammad Talal Chaudhry supported the inquiry process and said that all facts would be presented to the public after a transparent investigation. He added that criticism of law enforcement institutions should be based on verified information and that officials should be allowed to complete investigations according to the law. The committee also discussed concerns raised by Senator Abro regarding the delay in receiving a complete police report. He maintained that the police department had not yet provided the detailed report requested by the committee. Apart from the case, the committee reviewed security arrangements for Senator Saifullah Abro. Officials informed members that security arrangements in Islamabad had been finalized, while approval for

Frontier Constabulary personnel was still in process. The committee expressed concern that security arrangements for Senator Abro in Sindh had not been implemented despite earlier recommendations. Senator Abro said he had provided names of preferred security personnel more than two months earlier but no notification had been issued. The DIG Larkana assured the committee that the proposed names would be reviewed and security personnel acceptable to the senator would be provided. The committee also approved the Islamabad Capital Territory Waterside Safety Bill, aimed at improving safety at water bodies in the federal capital and preventing drowning incidents. Members noted that the legislation had remained pending for more

than two years after the previous assembly was dissolved. The proposed law includes measures for life-saving services, emergency preparation, risk assessment and the creation of a dedicated fund for water safety. The committee approved the bill after discussions with relevant authorities. The committee also unanimously approved the Members of Parliament Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which proposes allowing blue passports for dependent children under 28 years of age of parliamentarians, similar to benefits available to dependent children of Grade 22 government officers. Members also discussed broader issues related to public security, misuse of official security personnel and the need for better monitoring of police resources.

Opinion & Editorial

Pakistan's Kashmir lawfare moment

Hassan Aslam Shad
A S someone who has practised international law for years, I have come to appreciate how infrequently genuine diplomatic openings appear. Countries often wait decades for such moments, and even fewer manage to convert them into an opportunity. Pakistan is now standing at one of those rare junctures.

For decades, Islamabad has been at the receiving end of international opprobrium and has complained that its opinion carries little weight. Recently, Pakistan's role in helping defuse tensions between the US and Iran has changed perceptions in global capitals. As a result, Pakistan's diplomatic stature has risen significantly.

The more important question is what comes next. Diplomatic goodwill has a short shelf life. The time has arrived to think differently about Kashmir. Pakistan has not pursued a sustained lawfare strategy through international institutions with sufficient seriousness. Put simply, lawfare is the deliberate use of legal institutions to achieve political objectives. For example, legal proceedings pursued as part of a lawfare strategy can shape international opinion, affect international talks, and provide states with opportunities to strengthen their political position. In some cases, lawfare enables smaller states to exert influence beyond their material power. A sustained lawfare strategy must be pursued through international institutions with sufficient seriousness. International

law provides useful examples. In the Chagos Archipelago case, Mauritius lacked the political influence to persuade the British government to change its position. Instead, it built support from other countries over time. This eventually led the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to request an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice in 2019. Although the opinion was not legally binding (note that ICJ advisory opinions are non-binding), it shifted the discussion and exerted significant international pressure on Britain to defend its position. Another example is the ICJ's 2004 advisory opinion concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Much to Israel's chagrin, it haunts it to this day. Kashmir now needs to be viewed through the same lens. For too long, Pakistan has operated within a framework largely imposed by India. On Aug 5, 2019, India revoked the special status of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, catching Pakistan's strategic community off-guard. Pakistan still lacks a consistent international legal strategy capable of changing the contours of the debate. What is needed is a carefully planned lawfare initiative that refocuses attention on Kashmir's unresolved status and the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

This option is provided for in Article 96 of the UN Charter. This article of the Charter allows the UNGA to request an advisory opinion from the ICJ. Unlike other UN procedures, it does not

require Security Council approval, and no veto can block it. As a result, it affords a practical legal avenue that has received relatively little attention. Thus, Pakistan's first objective should be securing a UNGA resolution requesting an advisory opinion from the ICJ. All it needs is a simple majority of countries present and voting. This is fundamentally a diplomatic challenge before a legal one. Success will depend on Islamabad's ability to assemble a broad coalition capable of persuading the UNGA that the legal questions surrounding Kashmir warrant clarification by the world's highest judicial body. The OIC countries can play an important role, but the Global South's role will be decisive. Pakistan should engage them well before any resolution reaches the UNGA floor. How the questions are framed will be especially important. Rather than asking the ICJ to rule on sovereignty over Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan should focus on the Kashmiris' right to self-determination and the legal consequences of its continued denial. The UNGA would debate whether the people of Kashmir possess an internationally recognised right to self-determination, what legal consequences arise from the continued failure to implement that right, and what legal consequences follow from measures altering the demographic or constitutional character of a disputed territory.

Courtesy Dawn

The dilemma of underage social media use

Omay Aimen

S ocial media was once celebrated as the great equaliser of the digital age, being a space where knowledge could travel without borders, families could remain connected across continents, and young minds could access opportunities unimaginable to previous generations. That promise has faded in today's digital world. For millions of children, social media is no longer just a communication tool but an algorithm-driven system built to capture attention and maximise engagement. With rising concerns over mental health, exploitation, misinformation and addiction, governments are rethinking the balance between digital freedom and child protection. Pakistan now faces the same question: whether children under sixteen have the maturity to safely navigate platforms designed to keep them constantly engaged. Protecting childhood is not a restriction on freedom but an investment in the nation's future. Pakistan should therefore consider introducing a legal framework that limits social media access for under-16s while preserving access to educational and other beneficial digital resources.

The case for age restrictions is supported not only by cultural concerns but also by an expanding body of international research. Digital platforms expose adolescents to endless streams of curated content that often encourage unhealthy social comparison, unrealistic beauty standards, and the pursuit of online validation through likes and followers. According to UNICEF's 2025 report, Childhood in a Digital World: Screen Time, Digital Skills and Mental Health, internet access among children has expanded dramatically over the past two decades, making digital exposure nearly universal for teenagers. The US Surgeon General's 2023 Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health further highlights that social media may contribute to body dissatisfaction, anxiety, depression, disrupted sleep and declining attention spans.

Courtesy Tribune

Arif Mehmood Khan
Group Editor: 0333-5366814
Samra Athar Kakahel
Resident Editor
Nadim Tanoli
Joint Editor: Mob-0301-7777874
Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
www.peakpoint.pk

K-IV: delay or design?

F ive months prior, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal set December 2026 as an updated deadline for the completion of the K-IV water supply project. Given the endless discrepancies in progress and expectations, and funding and delays, the deadline was considered to be a huge stretch - which was highlighted by the KWSC back in early June as well.

Therefore, it comes as absolutely no surprise that federal government officials have now earmarked 2029 as yet another extended deadline for the K-IV project, gradually proving right all the sceptics who wonder whether the project will ever get to see the light of day or not. After countless empty promises that have become tiresome to hear, it seems that the project is inching not towards completion but recklessness. Karachi is in a shambles. Every street, every corner is either dug up, cordoned off or falling apart - all for the sake of a promise that the government refuses to deliver on.

The reasons presented have been consistent throughout: legal hurdles, issues with interdepartmental coordination, inadequate funding and troublesome execution. But till when is the public supposed to bear the cost of these vague phrases that throw around the blame as if it's without consequences?

Musadik Malik stresses climate preparedness, collective action ahead of monsoon



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik has stressed the need for inclusive dialogue, climate preparedness and coordinated action to address the country's growing environmental challenges, saying proactive planning is essential ahead of the monsoon season.

He expressed these views during an interactive session with climate experts, environmental activists and media representatives at the Climate Action Centre here on Friday.

The Minister said Karachi's diversity of people and ideas had motivated his visit, adding that while the city represented a wide range of perspectives, this diversity was not adequately reflected in its infrastructure and development. He said the government was committed to listening to climate experts and civil society to formulate practical and effective climate policies.

Referring to the approaching monsoon season, Dr Musadik said the government was closely monitoring preparedness measures and reviewing steps required to minimise the impact of heavy rains and other climate-related emergencies before the peak of the season.

He said northern parts of the country were expected to receive heavy rainfall and could face flooding due to accelerated glacier melting caused by rising temperatures. He added that the government was closely monitoring the situation and that

the country's reservoirs and dams had the capacity to store substantial volumes of water for improved water management during periods of excessive rainfall.

The Minister cautioned that some regions could experience drought because of below-normal rainfall, while urban areas remained vulnerable to cloudbursts and intense downpours that could lead to urban flooding. He said both floods and droughts posed serious threats to agriculture, food security, infrastructure, livelihoods and the national economy, highlighting the need for coordinated response mechanisms.

During the question-and-answer session, Dr Musadik said meaningful environmental progress required collective efforts despite limited resources. He stressed the importance of involving local communities in identifying solutions to environmental challenges, saying sustainable climate action could only succeed.

DPM Dar directs officials to ensure best Pakistani hospitality, enjoyable stay for OIC Conference delegations

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Friday appreciated the relevant officials for their hard work in managing the preparations for hosting the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Women, and directed them to ensure enjoyable stay and the best of Pakistani hospitality to the foreign delegations arriving from around the world to attend this important event. The deputy prime minister chaired the 8th meeting of the High-Level Committee overseeing preparations for the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Women, to be held in Islamabad on 12-13 July 2026, a DPM's Office news release said. The Committee reviewed the final preparations for the



Conference. The Secretary, Human Rights, gave a detailed briefing on the arrangements for the conference programme, delegate facilitation, protocol, security, logistics, media arrangements, and inter-ministerial coordination, to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the Conference.

The meeting was attended by the Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, SAPM Tariq Bajwa, the Federal Secretaries of Foreign Affairs and Human Rights, and other senior officials from relevant ministries.

BOI Minister chairs regulatory reforms meeting on dairy and beverage sector

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BOI), Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Regulatory Reforms (CCoRR) to review regulatory challenges and propose reforms in the dairy and beverage sector.

The meeting was attended by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production, Haroon Akhtar Khan, along with senior officials from BOI and relevant federal and provincial departments, as well as key private sector stakeholders, said a release issued here on Friday.

The meeting followed deliberations from the previous session, which focused on the fisheries sector, while today's agenda centred on the dairy and beverage sector—one of Pakistan's most critical economic segments.

The sector contributes approximately 14.04% to the national GDP and supports the livelihoods of nearly 8 million rural families.

Pakistan ranks as the 4th largest dairy producer globally.

The reforms team presented a comprehensive regulatory mapping, identifying 40 regulatory requirements across 25 departments, including 17 federal requirements (9 departments), 17 provincial requirements (10 departments), and 4 requirements at the local government level.

Significant structural inefficiencies were highlighted, particularly in Sindh, where establishing a food processing unit requires 235 documents, with 57% duplication and an estimated processing time of 2040 days. The reforms team proposed eliminating 5 regulations, simplifying 9, digitizing and streamlining 18, and retaining 8. Implementation of these reforms is expected to reduce documentation requirements from 235 to 83, generate economic savings of Rs. 58.4 billion, and reduce processing time to 634 days. Speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh emphasized.

APNS welcomes appointment of Raisa Adil as PIO; hopes for resolution of print media issues

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) on Friday welcomed the appointment of Raisa Adil as the new Principal Information Officer (PIO) of the Press Information Department (PID). In a joint statement, APNS President Senator Sarmad Adil and Secretary General Muhammad Athar Kazi expressed optimism that during her tenure, the newly appointed PIO would play a pivotal role in safeguarding the freedom of the press and addressing the challenges faced by the print media industry.

They expressed confidence that the ideal working relationship and mutual cooperation between the government, PID, and the print media would continue to flourish under her leadership. Meanwhile, the APNS office-bearers also acknowledged and appreciated the services of the outgoing PIO, Mubashir Hassan, thanking him for the extensive support and cooperation extended to the newspaper industry throughout his tenure.

Govt's top priority to provide basic healthcare at people's doorstep: Tariq Fazal

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Friday said providing basic healthcare facilities at people's doorsteps was the government's foremost priority. Addressing the inauguration ceremony of a digitalised health centre in Phulgram, he said nearly 50 per cent of Islamabad's population lived in rural areas. Patients from these areas had to travel to major hospitals in the city for treatment, while Islamabad's hospitals also catered to patients from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Jhelum, Murree and Kotli Sattian. He said the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) previously received around 400 to 500 patients daily, but the number had



now increased to between 8,000 and 10,000 patients a day.

The minister said the federal government had allocated Rs 1,163 billion for the health sector. He added that Islamabad had 22 Basic Health Units (BHUs), many of which were not fully functional, adding that making these facilities operational was the need of the hour.

He said Federal Health Minister Mustafa Kamal was doing commendable work to improve the health sector.

Governor Kundi calls for expansion of Nadra Facilitation Centers in KP

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday called for expanding the network of NADRA's Citizen Facilitation Centres (CFCs) across remote and underdeveloped areas of the province to ensure easy access to identity registration and other public services.

The Governor made the remarks during a meeting with NADRA Chairman Lieutenant General Muhammad Munir Afzar here. PPP Parliamentary Leader in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Ahmad Karim Kundi was also present.

The meeting discussed the



availability of NADRA facilities and the expansion of Citizen Facilitation Centres in KP.

The Governor was informed that the provincial government had provided land for the establishment of a NADRA centre in Dera Ismail Khan city.

Kundi urged NADRA to begin construction of the new office without delay so that citizens could benefit.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BOI), Mr Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Regulatory Reforms (CCoRR) along with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Mr Haroon Akhtar Khan.

Parliamentary panel to visit Quetta as Balochistan security tops agenda

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Signaling growing parliamentary concern over the country's security landscape, the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control on Friday decided to hold a special meeting in Quetta to undertake an on-ground assessment of the law and order situation in Balochistan, marking a significant shift from the proposal to receive a briefing within Parliament House.

The decision came during the committee's 28th meeting, chaired by Raja Khurram Shahzad Nawaz, MNA, at Parliament House, where

lawmakers also reviewed key legislative proposals, infrastructure delays in Islamabad, the regularization of illegal housing schemes, and long-standing land record disputes affecting residents of the federal capital.

The committee confirmed the minutes of its previous meeting held on June 9, 2026, and expressed satisfaction over the implementation of its earlier recommendations after reviewing the compliance report submitted by the relevant authorities.

Security issues dominated the proceedings as members deliberated on the prevailing law and order situation in both Balochistan and



Azad Jammu and Kashmir. While some lawmakers suggested an in-camera security briefing in Islamabad, the committee ultimately agreed that a visit to Quetta would provide members with first-hand insight into the situation and enable them to formulate

informed recommendations for the government.

On the legislative front, the committee considered three government-sponsored measures: the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2025, the West Pakistan Motor

Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2025, and the Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Following detailed discussions, the committee deferred consideration of both the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill and the ICT Local Government (Amendment) Bill for further examination.

Officials from the ICT Excise and Taxation Department informed members that the Ministry of Law and Justice had advised that the objectives of the West Pakistan Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill had already been incorporat-

ed into the Finance Act, 2026-27, making separate legislation unnecessary. Consequently, the committee recommended that the bill be treated as withdrawn.

The committee also expressed serious concern over the prolonged delay in the construction of Sher Dhamial Road and Siga Bintrar Road in Islamabad. Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) attributed the delay to inadequate budgetary allocations but assured lawmakers that additional funds would be provided subject to resource availability. Directing the CDA to prioritize completion.