



Bugti says talks possible within onstitution, rules out compromise on state security



Pakistan, Turkiye agree to enhance cooperation in social protection sector



DPM Dar for revitalizing SAARC to advance regional connectivity

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Wednesday 15 July 2026

Muharram 29, 1448

A.H

VOI No: 06

Issue No. 144

Pages 4 Rs. 20

PM Shehbaz meets UN secretary-general candidate Michelle Bachelet

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday met former Chilean president Michelle Bachelet, a candidate for United Nations secretary-general, and reaffirmed Pakistan's support for multilateralism and the central role of the U.N. in addressing global challenges.

The meeting was held at the Prime Minister House in Islamabad. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Foreign Secretary Anna Baloch were also present.

Welcoming Bachelet to Pakistan, Sharif said the country strongly supported a rules-based international system centred on the United Nations.

He stressed the need for member states to uphold the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter and ensure the effective implementation of Security Council resolutions and other international agreements.

The prime minister also called for balanced progress across the three main pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, development and human rights.

Sharif said stronger international cooperation was needed to accelerate implementation of the global development agenda and address challenges facing developing countries. Bachelet appreciated Pakistan's longstanding contributions to the United Nations and acknowledged its role in promoting regional and international peace.



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Michelle Bachelet, candidate for the position of the UN Secretary General, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Kh Asif terms Maulana Fazl's remarks on Pakistan Army personnel 'insulting'

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Reacting to a statement made by JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said on Tuesday that the remarks made by the

seasoned politician were an affront to the sacrifices given by Pakistan Army personnel. In a series of tweets on social media platform, X, the minister said that he was not expecting Fazl, who is also an eminent religious scholar, to make such kind of remarks. "He ought to have been more careful in the selection of his words," he added.

He further said that the statement that Pakistan Army personnel laid down their lives because they were paid for that was unjustified and had hurt the sentiments of families of the martyrs. "No soldier sacrifices his life merely for the sake of salary. But because he is a follower of a particular ideology and is attached to his motherland," he opined. Asif said that the war on terrorism was continuing and jawans of Pakistan Army and law-enforcement agencies as well as ordinary citizens were laying down their lives. "The statement made by the JUI-F chief is not political, but is an act of moral degradation."

6 more terrorists killed in ongoing Operation Shaban: security sources

PEAK POINT



BALUCHISTAN: Six more terrorists were killed on Tuesday during the ongoing Operation Shaban, taking the total number of terrorists killed in the operation to 85 across Balochistan since July 5, security sources said.

The joint operation by the Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps (FC) and Balochistan Police was launched in the aftermath of the terrorist attack on Mangi Dam Police Station and remains underway, with forces intensifying action against terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij across the province. Fitna al-Khawarij is the term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Terrorists ambushed police personnel deployed in the Kach Mangi Phase III area of Ziarat last Tuesday, triggering hours-long gun battles that left nine police officers, including two station house officers, dead. The attackers also abducted several civilians and police personnel after the assault. The military subsequently launched a series of counterterrorism operations across Balochistan. According to security sources, forces were targeting terrorists through air and ground operations, with effective action inflicting heavy losses on terrorist groups. "Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps Balochistan and police continue their joint Operation Shaban in Balochistan, with security forces carrying out effective operations against Fitna al-Khawarij in the area," a security source said.

Rangers personnel martyred in Rawalakot attack by banned JAAC armed groups

PEAK POINT



MUZAFFARABAD: Armed groups of the banned Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) attacked security forces and civilians in Rawalakot, killing

one Rangers personnel and injuring another, security sources said on Tuesday. After failing to achieve their "nefarious agenda", armed groups of the banned group opened fire on a civilian area near the Matial Maira Bus Terminal in Rawalakot on the morning of July 14, the sources said in a statement. The purpose of the firing was to provoke the public and revive participation in the sit-in, they added. When police moved in to control the law and order situation following the attack, armed groups targeted police personnel with automatic weapons and ammunition, the sources said, adding that the Rangers personnel deployed to assist the police also reached the site to help restore law and order. According to the security sources, the armed groups not only opened direct fire on law enforcement personnel with modern weapons but also used improvised explosive devices. One Rangers personnel was killed and another injured.

21 of 26 WFP vehicles carrying aid enter Afghanistan via Torkham border

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Twenty-one of a total of 26 vehicles loaded with World Food Programme (WFP) aid items crossed into Afghanistan via the Torkham border on Tuesday. Since October 2025, the Torkham border — a key trade route between Pakistan and Afghanistan — has been closed due to the "escalating security situation" along the border. Torkham officials and agents said that all 26 vehicles carrying humanitarian assistance comprising food items for Afghanistan arrived in Torkham from Karachi on Monday. The vehicles then underwent the necessary electronic scanning.

CDF Munir meets Turkish President Erdogan, armed forces chief in Ankara: ISPR

PEAK POINT

TURKIYE: Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir is currently on a high-level official visit to Turkiye, which aims to enhance the deep-rooted strategic and defence ties between the two brotherly nations, the media's military wing said on Tuesday.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that during his visit, the CDF had a series of high-level engagements with Ankara's political and military leadership.

"Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir called on President HE Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Minister of National Defence, Yasar Guler, to discuss matters of mutual interest and regional security," an ISPR statement read.

"These high-level deliberations underscored the

shared vision of both nations to foster a more robust strate-



gic partnership in the evolving geopolitical environment." A post on the Turkish Presidency's X account, which also had a picture of the two, said Erdogan received Munir at the Ankara airport.

ISPR added that Field Marshal Munir was welcomed with a guard of honour at the Turkish General Staff Headquarters and had a "detailed meeting" with Chief of the Turkish General

Staff General Seluk Bayraktaroglu, where they

discussed "regional security dynamics and professional matters of mutual concern". The CDF was also awarded the Turkish Armed Forces Distinguished Service Medal by General Bayraktaroglu in recognition of his "meritorious services and commitment to bolstering bilateral military cooperation", the statement read.

Additionally, Field Marshal Munir met General Metin Tokel, Commander of

the Turkish Land Forces, at their headquarters. Separately, an X post by the Turkish embassy in Pakistan said CDF Munir was accorded the guard of honour.

"Rooted in brotherhood, mutual trust and a shared strategic vision, the enduring defence and military cooperation between Turkiye and Pakistan continues to grow stronger," the embassy's post said.

Separately, an X post by the Turkish armed forces said "bilateral and inter-delegation meetings" were held between the two sides. "The Field Marshal visited Antikabir, the Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, where he laid a floral wreath and paid respects to the founder of modern Turkiye, acknowledging his visionary leadership and the deep-rooted historical bonds between the two nations," ISPR said.

ECP starts consultations with KP govt to fix date for LG polls in 23 districts



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has formally started consultations with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to finalise the date for local government elections in 23 districts of the province. The tenure of LGs in KP ended on March 15 this year. According to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act, 2013, local representatives are elected for a four-year term. Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja chaired a meeting to this effect at the ECP Secretariat on Tuesday. Members of the commission, the ECP secretary, the KP chief secretary, the local government secretary and senior ECP officials attended the meeting. According to a press release, the chief election



SPORTS



South Africa begin women's U19 T20 series with a four-wicket win over Pakistan



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: South Africa got off to a triumphant start in the University of Lahore presents Rivaj women's U19 T20 series with a four-wicket win over Pakistan as they chased the 104-run target with 24 balls to spare here at the National Bank Stadium in Karachi on Tuesday night.

Left-arm pacer Shahar Bano's all-round effort comprising two for 16 in three overs with the ball and a fiery seven-ball 18-run cameo at no.7 with the bat went in vain as Pakistan fought hard.

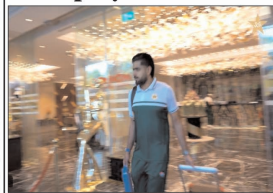
Bano first entered the fray with Pakistan 82-5 and thumped two

four and a six while batting right-handed and with the ball she removed Chanel Venter and Miya Lalor (14, 11b, 1x4, 1x6) after South Africa went from 78-3 to 94-5. Player of the match Venter starred with a 32-ball 41 hitting three fours and two sixes as she steered South Africa's chase along with her opening partner Chris-Mari Bezuidenhout (22, 20b, 4x4s) as the duo shared a 47-run stand. Left-arm spinner Maham Nazakat, in her maiden appearance for Pakistan women's U19, made immediate impact in her first over – the seventh of the innings – as it yielded two wickets and four

runs. Bezuidenhout was run-out by Aqsa Habib, while Maham trapped Makwana Moriri leg-before. Another run-out by off-spinner Memoona Khalid in her follow-through led to South African skipper Mieke van Voort falling for a two-ball duck. Though South Africa were cruising, Pakistan bowlers still managed to apply some pressure with Bano striking twice, while Maham returned to castle no.7 Ashleigh van Wyk with a superb ball for a duck. South Africa's wicketkeeper-batter Jae-Leigh Filander remained unbeaten for nine off 19, while Danelli Boshoff hit the win-

ning runs remaining unbeaten for six off seven. Earlier, Pakistan lost their top three for naught as before. Another run-out by off-spinner Memoona Khalid in her follow-through led to South African skipper Mieke van Voort falling for a two-ball duck. Though South Africa were cruising, Pakistan bowlers still managed to apply some pressure with Bano striking twice, while Maham returned to castle no.7 Ashleigh van Wyk with a superb ball for a duck. South Africa's wicketkeeper-batter Jae-Leigh Filander remained unbeaten for nine off 19, right-arm pacer Miya Lalor dismissed two batters.

Pakistan team depart for West Indies to play two Tests



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Test squad on Monday morning departed for the West Indies, two play two matches as part of ICC World Test Championship (WTC) series. According to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), the national squad left Islamabad International Airport and will travel to the Caribbean via Doha and London before arriving in the West Indies. The tour will see Pakistan play matches in Port of Spain, the capital of Trinidad and Tobago, as well as Tarouba. Before facing the West Indies, Pakistan will take part in a four-day practice match from July 18 to 21. The warm-up fixture is expected to help players adjust to Caribbean conditions and fine-tune their combinations ahead of the highly-anticipated series. The two-Test contest, scheduled from July 25 to August 10, forms part of the ongoing ICC World Test Championship. After West Indies series, Pakistan is scheduled to visit England for a three-match Test series beginning from August 19.

Schedule for West Indies series:

25-29 July – First Test, Brian Lara Cricket Academy, Tarouba 2-6 August – Second Test, Queen's Park Oval, Port of Spain, Port of Spain Schedule for England series.

Pakistan crowned best under-16 team of Asia with four medals at Asian Ju-Jitsu C'ship



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan made a historic start to the Asian Ju-Jitsu Championship 2026 by winning two gold and two silver medals on the opening day and securing the prestigious "Best Under-16 Team of Asia" title in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

According to information made available here by Pakistan Ju-Jitsu Federation, the country's golden

moment came in the event as Abdul Under-16 Duo Show Irfan claimed the silver medal, while hosts Zunaira Zulfiqar and Kazakhstan settled for bronze. The outstanding performance to clinch the gold medal and become Asian champions. Their triumph was celebrated with the hoisting of Pakistan's national flag and the playing of the national anthem during the medal ceremony.

Pakistan added another impressive result in the same event as Abdul Under-16 Duo Show Irfan claimed the silver medal, while hosts Zunaira Zulfiqar and Kazakhstan settled for bronze. The outstanding performance to clinch the gold medal and become Asian champions. Their triumph was celebrated with the hoisting of Pakistan's national flag and the playing of the national anthem during the medal ceremony.

categories.

Chairman of the Pakistan Ju-Jitsu Federation hailed the achievement, saying it reflected the federation's long-term planning, the commitment of the coaching staff and the dedication of the athletes. He described winning the Under-16 Asian titles and the Best Under-16 Team of Asia award as a proud moment for the nation.

Secretary General of the Pakistan Ju-Jitsu Federation and team leader Tariq Ali said the team's remarkable start highlighted the bright future of Pakistan Ju-Jitsu.

He expressed confidence that the young athletes would continue their winning momentum in the remaining events of the championship.

PAKMAF contender series: Twin sisters, Star Duo Power Pakistan toward IMMAF World Championships



Shaun Tait joins Lahore Qalandars as Bracewell named GSL captain



France, Spain battle for place in World Cup final

PEAK POINT

ARLINGTON: France and their deadly attack led by Kylian Mbappe will attempt to reach a third consecutive World Cup final on Tuesday as they take on a Spain team that combines flair with defensive steel.

More than a month after the expanded 48-team tournament kicked off, the first semi-final at the AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, promises to be a mouthwatering spectacle.

France coach Didier Deschamps insisted on Monday that European champions Spain would be favourites, despite his own team's dazzling performances.

"They attack well, they defend well, they don't concede goals. It could be a spectacular match," he said.

France have reached the past two World Cup finals, winning in 2018 in Russia and losing on penalties to Lionel Messi's Argentina four years ago in Qatar in an

epic final despite a hat-trick from the left side of the attack.

Many observers feel Spain, who have built momentum during the tournament, have the quality to win a second title -- but first they need to stop France's star-studded frontline.

Real Madrid forward Mbappe, 27, has scored

teammate Desire Doue on the left side of the attack.

Deschamps has chosen Barcola for his speed in an area of the pitch where he will face Spain star Lamine Yamal.

Defeat to Argentina in the final in Doha four years ago was a bitter experience for France, and the desire for



eight goals to lead the Golden Boot race alongside Messi.

Mbappe has an impressive supporting cast including Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele and Michael Olise.

AFP learned that France will start pacy winger Bradley Barcola instead of his Paris Saint-Germain

a rematch is strong -- if Messi can lead his team past England in their semi-final in Atlanta on Wednesday.

Adding to France's motivation, France coach Didier Deschamps, part of an elite group to have won the World Cup as a player and a coach, is leaving after the tournament following 14 years in charge.



TIKA establishes memorial forest in Pakistan in commemoration of July 15 martyrs

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) commemorated the martyrs of July 15 Democracy and National Unity Day through a tree-planting ceremony held here at Ankara Park. As part of the project, a total of 500 saplings were planted, with approximately 100 saplings planted together with participants during the event.

The ceremony was organized in cooperation with Pakistan's Ministry of

Climate Change and Environmental Coordination and the Capital Development Authority (CDA). Around 200 participants attended the event, including the Minister of State for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Shehza Mansab Ali Khan; the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan, Dr. Irfan Neziroglu; CDA Chairman Lt. Sohail Ashraf; as well as representatives of public institutions, universities, civil society organizations, humanitarian organiza-



tions, students, and members of the Turkish community in Pakistan.

TIKA establishes memorial forest in Pakistan in commemoration of July 15 mar-

tyrs
In his opening remarks, Ambassador Dr. Irfan Neziroglu recalled that exactly ten years ago, the Fetullah Terrorist Organization

(FETÖ) attempted to overthrow Türkiye's democratically elected government by targeting the institutions representing the nation's will, including the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and the Presidency.

He underlined that Pakistan was the first country to designate FETÖ as a terrorist organization and expressed Türkiye's appreciation for Pakistan's steadfast support in the fight against the organization. Emphasizing that the relationship between the two

countries goes beyond friendship, Ambassador Neziroglu described the bond between Türkiye and Pakistan as one of true brotherhood.

In her remarks, Minister of State Dr. Shehza Mansab Ali Khan highlighted the significance of planting trees on the occasion of the July 15 Democracy and National Unity Day, noting that contributing to nature represents a meaningful legacy for future generations. She also thanked TIKA for taking this valuable initiative.

Rs530m Paid, Yet property transfer stuck for 20 years as railways withholds NOC

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: A property bought from the government for Rs530 million has remained stuck for nearly 20 years because Pakistan Railways has not issued the No Objection Certificate required for the transfer of its lease. The buyer says the full purchase price was paid and lease payments have continued regularly since 2014. Despite this, the property has still not been formally transferred. The long delay came under sharp criticism during a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on

Privatization, chaired by Senator Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan. The dispute concerns the former Hyatt Regency Hotel building, which was privatized in 2004 for Rs530 million. A decision had been taken in 2003 to convert the building into a National Commodity Exchange. However, more than two decades after the privatization decision, the transfer of the lease remains incomplete. Representatives of the Pakistan Mercantile Exchange told the committee that all financial obligations had been fulfilled. They said

the full payment had been made and lease charges had been paid regularly since 2014. According to them, the application for transfer of the lease has remained pending for almost 20 years. The case raises a serious question: how can a buyer pay hundreds of millions of rupees to the government but still wait two decades for the required paperwork? Pakistan Railways officials gave a different explanation. They said the original lease agreement was signed in 2004 for a period of 10 years. According to the Railways, the matter later

became part of court proceedings and the original purchaser was required to apply for the transfer of the lease. Railways officials also referred to proceedings before the Supreme Court. However, representatives of the Pakistan Mercantile Exchange rejected this interpretation. They said no Supreme Court order had directed the termination or cancellation of the lease agreement. The opposing claims created confusion over whether the delay was caused by court proceedings, an expired lease, missing

paperwork or failure between government departments. Committee Chairman Senator Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan expressed serious concern over the matter. He said the issue should not have remained unresolved for so long after full payment by the purchaser. The chairman directed the Privatization Commission to formally write to Pakistan Railways and seek the required NOC. He also announced that the matter would be taken up in a joint meeting with the Senate Standing Committee on Railways. The committee

said practical steps were needed to settle the dispute instead of allowing it to remain buried in official files. Members stressed that long delays after privatization damage investor confidence and create doubts about the government's ability to complete major financial transactions. The case will now be examined jointly by the Privatization and Railways committees, with Pakistan Railways expected to explain why the lease transfer has remained blocked for nearly two decades.

Opinion & Editorial

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World Cup last four

The 2026 World Cup has reached its semifinal stage, and the four teams left standing make a strong case for themselves. France meets Spain, and England faces Argentina, with the bracket delivering the top four ranked sides in the world for the first time in the tournament's history. Argentina arrives as defending champion and looks the part, grinding past Switzerland in extra time behind Julián Alvarez and Lautaro Martínez after Lionel Messi's group stage brilliance set the tone early. England has leaned on Jude Bellingham's late-tournament heroics to survive Norway, even as manager Thomas Tuchel called the win lucky and pushed his side publicly toward sharper football. France and Spain bring the tournament's most complete squads, with Kylian Mbappé's finishing and Spain's midfield control promising the most technically accomplished tie of the round. None of this has unfolded without argument over officiating. VAR intervened aggressively through the group stage and into the round of 16, most notoriously in Egypt's exit against Argentina, where a 2-0 lead vanished after review flagged a goal nearly twenty seconds before the goal that erased it. Egypt's federation called it an injustice. FIFA defended the decision rather than examining it, even as interventions climbed past one hundred through the round of 16, a rate higher than the previous World Cup.

The wound in Balochistan

Arifa Noor
BALOCHISTAN bled again this past week — for the rest of the country. In reality, it is the part of the homeland that has rarely ever stopped bleeding over the past 20 years. But for those of us who live a long way from the province, we only become aware of the festering wound when the sepsis sets in. And that is what happened last week with the incidents in Quetta and Ziarat. The manner in which the events unfolded in Ziarat was heart-breaking and by the time the attack took place in Lasbela, the death toll was far too horrific to even comprehend.

But there is a greater tragedy. And that is the inability of those in power to approach the crisis in Balochistan with any empathy and political will to heal. The causes of the ailment have been discussed at length — the alienation of the people; the rise of the middle class youth and the roots of its anger; the absence of a genuine political process. It is a political problem that needs a political solution, along with counter-insurgency operations.

The people need healing and for that there has to be a dialogue with those in the political mainstream and also those who have been imprisoned. Instead, there are unrepresentative governments, harsh language, jail sentences, enforced disappearances and sheer use of violence. And it hasn't

worked. Last week's events illustrated as much.

This is not just anecdotal information. Research reports show the increasing number of attacks in Balochistan. A recent report — Cognitive Warfare and Insurgent Legitimacy by the Institute of Regional Studies — details the TTP's communication strategy, pointing out that while attacks in KP fell by 57 per cent in the first quarter of 2026, they increased by 84pc in Balochistan. But it is not just about the attention-drawing attacks; even otherwise, there is hardly any state writ in the province outside of a few areas. By all accounts, it is next to impossible to drive around the province, despite the chief minister's claims that he drove to Ziarat in a non-bulleted proof car. But then, he and other government officials are unwilling to acknowledge the crisis there, let alone addressing it.

Those in power are unable to approach the crisis in Balochistan with the political will to heal. This time, as previously, they spared little effort to demonstrate that there is going to be no change in strategy. From the prime minister to provincial officials to those who manage security, each tragedy provides an opportunity to express grief, condemnation and announce a resolve to go after each and every terrorist. There is no debate on the failures and the need for a change in tactics or strategy. The state reaction is now a

formality bereft of any meaning. Despite this, the recent attacks have not only highlighted familiar issues but have also brought into focus some new aspects.

The presence of organisations such as the TTP or other similar terrorists in parts of Balochistan is now confirmed. If earlier this was whispered, it is now being publicly acknowledged by the government and the military whose media talk after the three recent attacks made this clear, as did other statements. It appears that in Ziarat are being linked to them rather than Baloch militants. And the presence of the Taliban appears to be in the Pakhtun parts of Balochistan. People familiar with the province say that their presence dates back to the fall of Kabul but that their 'activity' is more recent. Second, the anger of the people on the appearance of the terrorists and what they see as the 'betrayal' or apathy of the government officials is more than obvious. From the protest sit-ins to their statements on social media, the anger is palpable. Their anger is not just about attacks and the loss of life but also the manner in which the ill-equipped policemen were left to defend themselves. Questions were also raised about why the men were sent there, why there was no back-up and why did requests for help go unanswered.

Courtesy Dawn

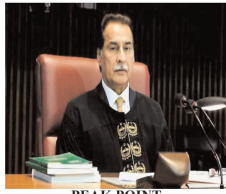
The myth of technology objectivity

Muhammed Hamid Zaman

Like people across the globe, I too have been afflicted by the football world cup fever. I have particularly enjoyed seeing people in Boston donning colourful jerseys supporting their favourite teams. One day I ran into enthusiastic Norwegian fans at a train station as they waited for their team to come out of the nearby hotel. There are plenty of people from Cabo Verde who call Boston home, and their energy has been infectious. On Fridays, I have noticed a substantial uptick of people wearing red at my mosque, supporting Morocco and praying for their success. And like people across the world, I have been disturbed by how FIFA has conducted itself, on and off the pitch. In the last few days, I have also been wondering about the broader question of technology and decision-making. How video assisted referee (VAR) technology has been used in particularly games is being discussed in newspapers, podcasts and on social media. Supporters for more technology argue that it allows for checking things that a referee may miss, and that VAR increases the likelihood of a fairer game. They say that VAR fixes the issues of human error. There is merit in that argument. But what we have seen in the last few weeks is that while VAR may find faint connection with a strand of hair (e.g. Croatia-Portugal match), the choice about when to use VAR is entirely human. In some cases, the referees may choose to use VAR to rewind to a particular play to an extraordinary length (e.g. Egypt-Argentina match) and in another instant in the same game, VAR may not be used at all. It is hard to imagine how such subjectivity in decision-making creates a fairer game. One cannot help but recognise that technology alone cannot create systems of fairness, for as long as those using it, creating it or designing it will suffer from explicit or implicit biases. In fact, technology can further amplify the bias by cloaking it in the veil of fairness or independence, thereby making accountability even more difficult for those who are clearly wronged.

Courtesy Tribune

Youth equipped with modern skills are essential for national development and economic stability: Ayaz Sadiq



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq has said that more than 60 percent of Pakistan's population consists of youth; therefore, equipping them with technical, vocational, and professional skills in line with the demands of the modern era is indispensable for national development, economic stability, and global competitiveness. He stated that rapid revolutionary changes are taking place in the field of technology, and those nations are progressing that are investing in equipping their youth

with knowledge, skills, and modern technology. He expressed these views in his message on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day, which is observed globally every year on 15 July under the auspices of the United Nations. The Speaker National Assembly said that this year's theme for World Youth Skills Day, "Skills for a Shared Future," reflects the reality that a sustainable and prosperous future can only be built through youth equipped with modern skills. He noted that the current era is characterized by artificial intelligence, digital technology, automation, and innovation; therefore, it is imperative for youth to acquire skills in these fields so that they may effectively meet future challenges. He further stated that Pakistani youth possess immense potential to lead the country toward a technology-driven economy and play a pivotal role in national development. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq appreciated the government's initiatives

aimed at equipping youth with technical, vocational, and modern skills, stating that such programs are playing an important role in aligning young people with the needs of the future. He emphasized the need to further strengthen effective linkages among educational institutions, technical training centers, industries, and the private sector in order to provide the younger generation with modern knowledge and skills in accordance with national and international requirements. The Speaker National Assembly said that Parliament is committed to effective legislation for the promotion of technical and vocational education, modern skills, research, and innovation among youth. He stated that the National Assembly's Young Parliamentarians Forum is actively contributing to the promotion of modern technology, digital skills, and creative capabilities among youth through various training workshops and awareness programs.

Pakistan, Turkiye agree to enhance cooperation in social protection sector

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Turkiye have agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in social protection, family welfare and poverty alleviation, besides expediting the finalisation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the relevant ministries of the two countries.

The understanding was reached during a meeting between Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection Syed Imran Ahmad Shah and Turkiye's Minister of Family and Social Services Mahmur Özdemir Göktaş on the sidelines of the 9th Ministerial Conference on Women of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

During the meeting, Syed Imran Ahmad Shah said Pakistan and Turkiye enjoy a historic relationship founded on mutual trust, shared values and unwavering support for each other in difficult times.



He briefed the Turkish minister on Pakistan's social protection framework, highlighting the role of the Benazir Income

Support Programme (BISP), Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund and other institutions in supporting vulnerable segments of society and reducing poverty. The minister said Pakistan is keen to benefit from Turkiye's experience in digital social protection systems.

Productive meeting at Azerbaijan-Pakistan joint chamber focuses on upcoming Baku business delegation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Executive Member of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), Shumaila Siddiqui, held a productive meeting with President Ahsan Bakhtawari at the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry (APJCCI) to discuss preparations for the upcoming business delegation to Baku, Azerbaijan. Ms. Nazia Khan also participated in the meeting. The discussion focused on strengthening bilateral trade, investment, and commercial cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan by facilitating direct engagement between the business communities of both countries. Participants explored opportunities to promote business-to-business (B2B) partnerships, encourage joint ventures, and expand collaboration in key sectors including trade, industry, tourism, agriculture, and investment. Both sides emphasized the importance of the forthcoming delegation as a significant step toward enhancing economic ties and creating new

opportunities for entrepreneurs from Pakistan and Azerbaijan. The visit is expected to include meetings with leading business organizations, investors, and government representatives in Baku, providing an ideal platform for networking and mutually beneficial partnerships. President Ahsan Bakhtawari reaffirmed APJCCI's commitment to strengthening economic relations between the two brotherly countries through trade missions, investment forums, and regular business exchanges. He noted that sustained collaboration between the private sectors of Pakistan and Azerbaijan would contribute to increased bilateral trade and long-term economic growth. Executive Member ICCI Shumaila Siddiqui appreciated APJCCI's efforts in promoting bilateral cooperation and expressed confidence that the upcoming business delegation would create new opportunities for Pakistani businesses to expand into the Azerbaijani market. The participants expressed confidence.



Productive meeting with President Ahsan Bakhtawari at the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Joint Chamber to discuss the upcoming business delegation to Baku. Looking forward to strengthening bilateral trade, investment, and business collaboration between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, Executive Member of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), Shumaila Siddiqui also present.

DPM Dar for revitalizing SAARC to advance regional connectivity

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday underscored the need for a revitalized SAARC, guided by the principles of its Charter, to advance regional connectivity, sustainable development, and the collective well-being of the peoples of South Asia. The Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the region's immense demographic and economic potential and reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast commitment to the SAARC process. Talking to the Secretary General of SAARC, Md. Golam Sarwar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the DPM/FM commended the Secretary General's efforts to promote regional cooperation. The Secretary General expressed appreciation for Pakistan's consistent support for SAARC and its institutions. He thanked DPM/FM for Pakistan's constructive role in promoting regional and global peace. DPM/FM wished the Secretary

Bugti says talks possible within Constitution, rules out compromise on state security

PEAK POINT

BALUCHISTAN: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti Tuesday said Pakistan and Balochistan were inseparable and that the provincial government was prepared for dialogue with all sides as long as talks remained within the framework of the Constitution. Addressing participants of the 20th National Workshop Balochistan, Bugti said there could be no negotiations with groups seeking to break up the country or undermine its sovereignty. "The state is above everything, and there can be no compromise on national security," he said. Bugti said violence, social media propaganda and what he described as attempts to present militant narratives as



legitimate political voices were being used to promote hatred against the state. He alleged that such tactics were part of broader efforts to weaken and divide Pakistan. The chief minister rejected the argument that uneven development was the main cause of violence in Balochistan. He said Turbat and several other parts of the province had seen significant development, but separatist and militant movements had not ended there. Bugti said anti-state groups were not seeking.

Five M.Phil scholars successfully defend theses at Women University Mardan

PEAK POINT

MARDAN: The Department of Chemistry, Women University Mardan, successfully conducted the M.Phil Thesis Viva Voce Examinations under the supervision of Dr. Monazza Serwar. The viva examinations were evaluated by Prof. Dr. Saira Arif, Department of Chemistry, COMSATS University Islamabad, who served as the External Examiner. The M.Phil scholars Laiba, Javeria, Aimen, Omi Aimen, and Reishma Wajid successfully defended their research theses and qualified for the award of the M.Phil degree. Their research focused on the development of innovative materials with



enhanced photochemical properties for applications in sustainable energy technologies, photocatalysis, wastewater treatment, and pollutant degradation. The findings of these studies are expected to contribute significantly to scientific advancement by providing sustainable solutions to contemporary energy and environmental challenges. The Honorable Vice Chancellor.

TRNC reaffirms Two-State solution for cyprus, calls for end to isolation at OIC Ministerial conference

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Minister of Labour and Social Security of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), H.E. Oğuzhan Hasipoğlu, reaffirmed the TRNC's unwavering commitment to women's empowerment, social justice, and international cooperation while addressing the 9th Session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States in Islamabad. Addressing minis-

ters and delegates from across the Islamic world, Minister Hasipoğlu expressed gratitude to the Government of Pakistan for its warm hospitality and to the OIC Secretariat for successfully organizing the ministerial conference. He noted that despite decades of unjust embargoes, political isolation, and international restrictions, the Turkish Cypriot people have continued to strengthen democratic institutions, uphold the rule of law, and safeguard human dignity. Highlighting the indispensable role of women



in nation-building, the Minister paid tribute to Turkish Cypriot women for their remarkable contributions to education, healthcare, academia, politics, entrepreneurship, public administration, and civil society. He emphasized that the TRNC Government remains committed to advancing gender equality

through policies that expand women's participation in economic and social life, including employment support, social security incentives, entrepreneurship programs, and comprehensive services for women affected by violence. Speaking on the conference theme of women's socio-economic and political empowerment, Minister Hasipoğlu stressed that empowering women is fundamental to achieving sustainable development, building resilient institutions, and ensuring inclusive social progress. He called for

stronger cooperation among OIC member states through the exchange of best practices, vocational training, entrepreneurship initiatives, and enhanced social protection mechanisms. Addressing the Cyprus issue, Minister Hasipoğlu reiterated the Turkish Cypriot side's longstanding position that two sovereign states and two distinct peoples exist on the island of Cyprus. He reaffirmed the TRNC's support for a lasting and realistic settlement based on the sovereign equality and equal international status.