

PM directs for expediting implementation of ease of doing business Act 2025

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the relevant authorities that the implementation of the government's policy initiatives and the Ease of Doing Business Act, 2025 be expedited. Chairing a review meeting regarding ease of doing business, the prime minister instructed that third-party validation by international organizations be ensured to assess the effectiveness and implementation of the ease of doing business measures.

He said that fully utilizing Pakistan's vast potential for both domestic and foreign investment remained one of the government's top priorities. He also directed that a comprehensive report on the implementation of ease



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding Ease of Doing Business.

Security forces kill 24 terrorists in KP's Bannu, adjoining areas: ISPR

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Security forces have killed 24 terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district and its adjoining areas in the last 24 hours, the military's media affairs wing said in a statement on Friday afternoon.

The statement by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that recently, there had been a "surge" in terrorist activities against police and suicide bombings in Bannu.

In these incidents, the statement said, "Indian proxy Fitna-al-Khawarij targeted law enforcement agencies and innocent civilians".

Fitna-al-Khawarij is the term that the state uses for the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban.

"Security forces have initiated extensive joint intelligence-based operations to hunt the perpetrators of these heinous attacks and their support infrastructure."

"Accordingly, in the last 24 hours, following fierce fire exchanges in Bannu district and adjoining areas, 24 khawarij belonging to Indian proxy Fitna-al-Khawarij have been sent to hell," the statement said.

China and Pakistan call on US, Iran to resume talks, cease hostilities

PEAK POINT

CHINA: China and Pakistan on Friday called on the United States and Iran to end fighting and return to the negotiating table, after they met in Shanghai, according to a government statement issued by Beijing.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar jointly "expressed concern over the deterioration of the current situation, calling on the involved parties to immediately cease hostilities... (and) return to dialogue", the statement by Beijing's foreign ministry said.

Both countries have sought to mediate in the months-long Middle East conflict, which rekindled with renewed fighting over the Strait of Hormuz a month after the signing of a preliminary deal aiming to end the war. That agreement was "hard-won", Wang said. "Peace is before our eyes, (we) cannot fall at the last hurdle and even more so cannot lose what we have gained," he added. It should be mentioned that DPM Dar was in Shanghai for the World Artificial Intelligence Conference.

another night of strikes on Iran "to further degrade Iranian military capabilities", including on Qeshm Island and near Bandar Abbas, home to Iran's largest port and key navy and Revolutionary Guards facilities.

"US forces, including fighter jets, aerial drones, and warships, launched precision munitions that hit dozens of Iranian military targets such as coastal surveillance and air defense sites, military logistics infrastructure, and maritime capabilities," the US Central Command said in a statement.

Iran has fired missiles and drones at US military bases in neighbouring states, including an air base in Jordan.

In the early hours of Friday, Iran's military said it had attacked US facilities in Bahrain and Kuwait. Several explosion-like sounds were heard in the Qatari capital Doha, according to a witness, and the Ministry of the Interior said a child was injured by shrapnel.

Iranian media reported that five bridges were hit in the latest round of US strikes, as well as the train station in coastal Bandar Khamir and Iranshahr Airport in southeastern Iran.

However, the PPP chairman clarified that neither the government nor the protesters had responded to his proposal.

"If this is not the way, I ask the government and protesters to tell me what the alternative is," he said.

"Protesting is the right of the people, but protests that disrupt the supply of food, fuel and medicine do not affect the government; only the people bear the burden," the PPP chairman stated.

Bilawal acknowledged that it was the government's responsibility to establish its writ; however, he also questioned its response. "The government is not punishing the protesters; it is punishing all Kashmiris."

Bilawal promises to be 'voice' of people of AJK in Centre

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Friday promised to be the voice of the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) in the Centre and globally by bridging the "gap" between the federal capital and the people.

Addressing the rally, the PPP chairman said: "We have seen both good and bad times in AJK, but I have not witnessed the conditions that I am seeing today." He termed the prevailing situation a "test" for the AJK government, the state of Pakistan and all political parties.

"It is the primary duty of a politician to be the voice of the people in the Centre and on international forums, but they are not fulfilling their responsibilities," he said, adding that

Islamabad ATC initiates proclamation proceedings against KP CM Afridi, others for failing to appear in court

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Friday initiated proclamation proceedings against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, PTI leader Junaid Akbar, and Abdul Ghani Afridi, over their continued failure to appear before the court despite the issuance of non-bailable arrest warrants in a case related to the Nov 26 protest. ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra took up the case, examining a progress report submitted by the Islamabad police regarding the investigation into a first information report (FIR) registered at Margalla police station over the Nov 26 incidents. According to the report, submitted through the office of the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of the Islamabad police, the investigation into the case has been completed. A reply was filed in response to the court's notice seeking an explanation for the delay in the submission of the challan against the accused. The report stated that the court had issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Sohail Afridi, Junaid Akbar and Abdul Ghani Afridi through its order dated June 23, 2026. However, despite repeated efforts by the police, the warrants could not be executed and the accused failed to appear before the court.



SPORTS



All-rounder Mohammad Nawaz sanctioned for breaching ICC's anti-doping code

ICC disqualifies cricketer Muhammad Nawaz for three months

PEAK POINT

DUBAI: International Cricket Council (ICC) has banned Pakistani all-rounder Mohammad Nawaz for violating anti-doping rules.



According to the ICC, Mohammad Nawaz has been punished for violating anti-doping rules during the T20 World Cup. Mohammad Nawaz has been disqualified for three months.

Mohammad Nawaz's provisional suspension lifted after accepting punishment and undergoing rehab programme.

Mohammad Nawaz had already completed two and a half months of probation. Nawaz will not be required to complete the remaining three months of probation after completing the rehab programme for the banned substance.

Mohammad Nawaz's disqualification began on May 1 and Mohammad has taken voluntary probation.



PEAK POINT

DUBAI: All-rounder Mohammad Nawaz has been sanctioned by the International Cricket Council (ICC) after testing positive for a cannabis-related substance, the cricket governing body said on Friday.

In April, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had sent the player's medical history to the ICC after it was reported that he failed a dope test conducted during the T20 World Cup staged in Sri Lanka and India.

In a press release issued on Friday, the ICC said that the 32-

year-old cricketer had tested positive for Carboxy-THC — a metabolite of THC, the psychoactive component in cannabis — after a doping test carried out after Pakistan's T20 World Cup 2026 match against the Netherlands in Colombo on Feb 7.

Carboxy-THC is classified as a Substance of Abuse under the ICC's Anti-Doping Code.

"Nawaz admitted to the offence and demonstrated that the substance had been used out-of-competition, in a manner unrelated to sport performance," it said.

The ICC handed the player a "three-month period of ineligibility"

but noted that this was back-dated to May 1 as Nawaz began a voluntary provisional suspension on that date.

Additionally, he committed to a substance abuse rehabilitation programme, the completion of which reduced the period of ineligibility to one month, it said.

Having accepted the sanction and committed to the rehabilitation programme, the player's provisional suspension has been lifted after having been served for two-and-a-half months, the ICC added.

"Subject to Nawaz completing a substance abuse treatment programme to the ICC's satisfaction,

Nawaz will not be required to serve any further period of ineligibility," it said.

However, in line with the anti-doping code, his records from the Netherlands match — and subsequent matches until May 1 — have been disqualified.

In the past, two pacers — Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif — had faced two- and one-year bans, respectively, after failing drug tests prior to their participation in the ICC Champions Trophy in 2006.

Former Test spinner Yasir Shah had also received a three-month ban for failing a dope test in 2015.

Pakistan win seven medals, best Under16 team title at Asian Ju-jitsu Championship



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan concluded a historic campaign at the Asian Ju-jitsu Championship 2026 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, winning seven medals and securing the Best Under16 Team of Asia title.

Pakistan won seven medals, best Under16 team title at Asian Ju-jitsu Championship

Pakistan's final tally stood at two gold medals, three silver medals and Ebad ur Rehman won two bronze medals, claimed silver medal, along with the Best Under16 Team of Pakistan's overall Asia title. According to information received here, on the final day of competition, Ebad ur Rehman won a bronze medal in the South Asian Under18 Fighting Jujitsu System (85kg) event after defeating his Indian opponent. In Federation Tariq Ali, Championships.

and Trade and Investment Counsellor at the Embassy of Pakistan in Kazakhstan Rizwana Qazi.

Chairman of the Pakistan Jujitsu Federation congratulated the athletes, coaches and officials, saying the achievement was the result of years of dedication, strategic planning and collective commitment. Taking Tariq Ali, Secretary General of the Pakistan Jujitsu Federation and team leader, said the performance demonstrated the growing strength of Pakistan's Jujitsu programme and would motivate the team ahead of future Asian and World Championships.

Pakistan team departs for World Junior Squash C'ships in Canada



2026 World Cup final: What to know ahead of Spain-Argentina clash

PEAK POINT

LONDON: The 2026 FIFA World Cup final brings together two of international football's most successful nations, Spain and Argentina, whose rivalry has been remarkably even over the decades. Spain are seeking their second World Cup title, while defending champions Argentina are bidding for a fourth crown and a second consecutive triumph.

If successful, Argentina would become the first nation since Brazil in 1962 to retain the World Cup and only the third team to win back-to-back titles after Italy (1934, 1938) and Brazil (1958, 1962).

Here is a look at both teams' route to the final and their head-to-head record. Spain's road to the final Spain opened their Group H campaign with a goalless draw against tournament debutants Cape Verde before

defeating Saudi Arabia 4-0. Mikel Oyarzabal scored twice, while teenage star Lamine Yamal netted his first World Cup goal.

Spain secured top spot in the group with a 1-0 victory over Uruguay, courtesy of

The Round of 16 proved far tighter, with Mikel Merino's 90th-minute winner sealing a 1-0 victory over Portugal and bringing Cristiano Ronaldo's World Cup career to an end.

Spain faced a tougher test



Alex Baena's first-half strike, eliminating the South Americans in the process.

The knockout stage began with a commanding 3-0 win over Austria. Oyarzabal scored twice, while Pedro Porro added his first international goal as Spain controlled the match from start to finish.

in the quarterfinals against Belgium. Fabian Ruiz gave Spain the lead before Belgium responded with the tournament's first goal conceded by La Roja. Merino once again proved decisive, converting a late rebound in the 88th minute to secure a 2-1 victory and send La Roja into the semifinals.

Fifa World Cup trophy to arrive in style in bespoke Louis Vuitton trunk



Kazi Asad visits FGP, discusses media-policy collaboration for sustainable development

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prominent political and media figure Kazi Asad Abid visited the office of Freedom Gate Prosperity (FGP) on Friday and held detailed discussions on media and policy collaboration for sustainable development.

The meeting was attended by FGP Chief Executive Officer Muhammad Anwar, former Managing Director of Daily Pakistan Islamabad and noted businessman Pervaiz Zulfiqar, Strategic Policy Advisor at FGP Shafqat Aziz, and Head of Economy at FGP Dr. Shahbaz Tariq.

The participants exchanged views on governance, economic reforms, climate resilience, the media's role in national



development, and opportunities for collaborative initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Kazi Asad Abid said the media must move beyond event-based reporting and play a more effective role in

shaping informed national discourse on key issues. He emphasized that meaningful progress depends on sustained dialogue, institutional cooperation, and informed public participation.

Welcoming the visiting

delegation, Muhammad Anwar highlighted FGP's commitment to promoting evidence-based policy dialogue and multi-stakeholder partnerships. He said sustainable development could only be achieved through stronger

collaboration among public institutions, academia, the private sector, the media, and development organizations.

Pervaiz Zulfiqar stressed that responsible journalism and constructive public engagement are essential for

strengthening democratic institutions and fostering informed debate on national priorities.

Shafqat Aziz highlighted the growing importance of strategic communication in advancing national development objectives. He said stronger collaboration between development organizations and media institutions could enhance public understanding of climate change, economic empowerment, governance reforms, and environmental sustainability. Dr. Shahbaz Tariq emphasized that research-driven policy dialogue and informed economic discourse are essential for developing practical solutions that promote inclusive growth and create greater opportunities for Pakistan's youth.

AGPR fails to issue revised payslips, gets one week deadline

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: The Accountant General Pakistan Revenues has failed to complete revised payslips for some Senate Secretariat employees and has now been given one week to settle the issue. AGPR officials requested additional time when the matter came before the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue.

The committee, however, refused to allow the issue to remain unresolved indefinitely. It directed AGPR to complete the required work within seven days and warned that it would review the matter again after the deadline. The dispute concerns revised payslips for directors' staff and private secretaries working in the Senate Secretariat. A payslip is an official record showing an employee's salary,

allowances, deductions and final payment. An incorrect or delayed payslip can create problems in salary calculations, arrears, pensions, taxes and other financial records. The matter had earlier been referred to the committee by the Senate Finance Committee, showing that it had already remained unresolved before reaching the latest meeting. However, the official briefing did not explain how

long the employees had been waiting, how many workers were affected or what errors required correction. AGPR officials also failed to provide a clear reason in the meeting record for why the revised payslips had not yet been issued. The lack of details raised questions over whether the delay was caused by missing records, administrative mistakes, approval problems or slow processing. The committee made it clear that employees should not continue to suffer because government officials failed to complete their paperwork. It ordered AGPR to implement the required changes and provide the revised salary records within one week. The committee will review the matter again after the deadline to check whether the directions have been followed. The meeting was chaired by Senator Saleem

Mandviwalla and attended by Senators Muhammad Talha Mahmood, Shazaib Durrani, Dilawar Khan, Rubina Khalid and Jan Muhammad. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani and senior officials from the Finance Ministry, State Bank, FBR and other departments were also present.

Opinion & Editorial

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A vote against Israel

The shifting sands of allegiance toward Israel in American politics are worth noting. Though it is unprecedented to expect an anti-Jewish sentiment at the statecraft level in the US, evolving cross-currents at the helm of affairs suggest a change of heart. Thus, it was momentous to see nearly half of the Democrats in the US House of Representatives support a bill calling for the censure of the Zionist state for its indulgence in a bloodbath in Gaza. Irrespective of the fact that the amendment to cut off aid to Tel Aviv was defeated, it sent a strong message exhibiting the growing divide between conventional politics and the emerging wave of progressiveness in Middle Eastern affairs. Republican Thomas Massie and Democrat Katherine Clark, along with Ilhan Omar and the likes, are significant additions to these voices of conscience. They are determined to uphold America's sense of moral duty in the realm of human rights, standing fast against any country that does not comply with US laws, interests, and values. Moreover, the fact that 104 votes were cast against the conventional consensus is remarkable, given the near-unanimous support that US legislators traditionally provided. Had the amendment been carried, it would have blocked \$3.3 billion in annual security assistance to Israel while barring any other funding in the appropriations bill from being used for the country.

Strategic sanity

Khurram Abbas

THE Stockholm International Peace Research Institute has published its Yearbook 2026. SIPRI assesses that India has now operationally deployed 12 out of 190 nuclear warheads on a single nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine conducting deterrence patrols. This is a major strategic shift: for decades, New Delhi has stored its warheads and delivery systems separately, a deliberate posture designed to prevent accidental use. This shift in nuclear posture will have far-reaching implications for strategic stability in South Asia.

While Pakistan's Foreign Office has shown no surprise over the development, strategic thinkers in Islamabad have focused on certain issues. First, the shift in India's nuclear posture has raised concerns about New Delhi's declared no-first use policy. Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh publicly cast doubts on India's long-standing nuclear NFU policy during an August 2019 visit to Pokhran. This aligns with the BJP's 2014 election manifesto that promised to "study in detail India's nuclear doctrine, and revise and update it, to make it relevant to challenges of current times". Hence, India's actions suggest a profound shift from NFU to 'strategic ambiguity' in New Delhi's nuclear policy.

Second, while the number of deployed nuclear warheads may vary, India's strategic posture shows aggressive

intent. Since 2016, ties between India and Pakistan have been viewed largely through the lens of crisis escalation and political tensions. In the absence of structural dialogue, this altered strategic posture of New Delhi has understandably set off alarm bells in Islamabad.

Third, the development has compressed the crisis response window. Already, South Asia is witnessing accelerated crisis response due to AI-enabled command systems. New Delhi's sea-based nuclear deterrence, with operational nuclear warheads can further increase the risk of miscalculation, accidental escalation and perhaps forced pre-emption in a nuclearised environment. Moreover, the primary challenge of deploying nuclear weapons at sea relates to the problem of command and control. Delegating authority to a submarine commander at sea could lead to the risk of unauthorised or accidental use. In this hostile environment, the best, most practical option for Pakistan and India remains the resumption of dialogue. Similarly, India's strategic thinkers are largely referring to their country's sea-based nuclear posture to deter Chinese threats. However, this argument stands in contrast to the current geopolitical environment and trajectory of Sino-India ties. Sino-India ties have improved significantly since the Modi-Xi Kazan summit in 2024. The two sides have signed a landmark border patrol agreement and improved bilateral trade of

over \$150 billion in 2026. On the contrary, India-Pakistan relations are going through the worst phase of their history in view of the absence of direct trade, a downgraded diplomatic presence in each other's capitals, frequent armed hostilities and people-to-people disengagement. Islamabad believes that New Delhi is using China to please the West in the context of the US-China competition at the global level. Moreover, India has not publicly announced a bifurcated or separate deterrence posture or command-and-control framework for China and Pakistan. In fact, Islamabad believes that the operational deployment of New Delhi's nuclear warheads is meant to circumvent Pakistan's full spectrum deterrence. New Delhi, through these measures, is primarily challenging Pakistan's traditional deterrence policy.

Although Islamabad does not want to get drawn into another arms race, the altered strategic realities will likely compel it to take several precautionary diplomatic and security measures, which may risk another arms surge in the region. Moreover, one of the more worrisome factors is that New Delhi's sea-based nuclear capability coupled with operational nuclear warheads might incentivise Indian policymakers to engage in more frequent low-level crises or coercive diplomacy at the conventional level because of New Delhi's confidence in 'assured second-strike' capability.

Courtesy Dawn

The architecture of inequality

Syed Mohammad Ali

Inequality today is not only persistent; it is structurally embedded and self-reinforcing. Drawing on the work of more than 200 scholars, the World Inequality Report 2026 examines the scale, drivers and consequences of global inequality. It demonstrates how inequality is not simply the outcome of market forces but is shaped by the institutions, policies and power structures that determine how resources and opportunities are distributed. These findings reveal a striking concentration of income and wealth. An average person in North America and countries such as Australia earns roughly thirteen times more than someone in Sub Saharan Africa and about three times more than the global average. Yet, inequality is not only a divide between countries; it is also deeply embedded within them.

Inequality is also shown to extend far beyond income. Gender remains a major divide, with women earning significantly less than men, particularly when unpaid care work is considered as well. These disparities reflect deeper social structures, including gender norms that shape how societies value labour and distribute economic opportunities.

Access to human capital represents another profound inequality. Education spending per child in poorer countries remains dramatically lower than in wealthier ones, creating unequal starting points for future generations. Such gaps influence who can access opportunities, participate in the global economy and benefit from technological transformation. Even the climate crisis demonstrates the unequal nature of global systems. Evidence presented in the report shows that the world's wealthiest groups are responsible for a disproportionate share of emissions linked to private capital and consumption. Thus, environmental challenges cannot be separated from the concentration of wealth and economic power either. These findings challenge conventional claims that primarily attribute inequality in developing countries to weak governance, inefficiency and corruption.

Courtesy Tribune

Ulema, Mashaikh announce support for govt efforts on peace, national security



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of Ulema and Mashaikh, chaired by Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf on Friday announced support for the state's positive steps aimed at promoting peace, religious harmony, social stability and national security in the country.

Muhammad Yousaf said Pakistan gained immense respect after the "Marka-e-Haq" and that the efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Hafiz Syed Asim Munir for establishing peace were appreciated around the world. He said India's false propaganda was defeated. The minister said the Pakistani armed forces were presenting testimonies in defence of the country and that the gathering of Ulema was held to acknowledge

their sacrifices.

He added that the Ulema had always remained at the forefront in protecting the ideological borders of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The meeting resolved to continue full cooperation with the Government of Pakistan in every positive initiative and reaffirmed commitment to the supremacy of the Constitution and the stability of state institutions.

The participants appreciated the efforts of the Pakistani armed forces for peace, stability and national unity and expressed their unwavering support.

The Ulema and Mashaikh also expressed complete solidarity with the government and security forces against terrorism, extremism and destructive activities.

They paid tribute to the sacrifices of the armed forces, law enforcement agencies and security forces for maintaining peace.

Finance minister to visit Washington for trade, tariff talks with US

PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb is expected to arrive in Washington on Saturday for a three-day visit during which he will hold talks with officials on trade, finance and investment as Pakistan and the United States continue negotiations on a broader bilateral economic partnership, diplomatic sources told Dawn.

According to the sources, Aurangzeb is scheduled to meet officials from the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), the US Export-Import (Exim) Bank, the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

A key focus of the visit will be discussions on the framework of a potential bilateral trade agreement aimed at expanding trade and investment between the two coun-



tries. The talks are expected to cover tariffs, market access, investment opportunities and broader economic cooperation.

Meetings with the Exim Bank and the DFC are also expected to explore avenues for financing infrastructure, energy and private-sector investment projects.

Aurangzeb's visit comes as Pakistani and US officials continue negotiations that began in Washington last week over tariffs on Pakistani exports and a wider trade agreement. The latest round of talks follows months of negotiation over the global tariff regime announced by US President.

ERC orders high alert as monsoon risks intensify

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Emergency Response Committee, constituted on the directions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to oversee national preparedness and coordinated response during Monsoon 2026, on Friday directed all federal and provincial stakeholders to maintain a high state of operational readiness as it reviewed monsoon preparedness, emergency response plans and inter agency coordination at the National Emergency Operation Centre of the National Disaster Management Authority Headquarters in Islamabad. The Committee's third meeting was chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal and attended by Chairman NDMA Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik, Hl(M), senior NDMA officials, representatives of federal ministries, departments and other key stakeholders.

The Committee undertook a comprehensive review of preparedness measures put in place across the country. It assessed contingency plans, deployment of emergency response resources, coordination with district

administrations, public awareness initiatives and arrangements for timely response to emerging emergencies during the monsoon season. The status of relief supplies, emergency communication mechanisms, evacuation plans and inter agency coordination was also reviewed to ensure swift and effective response capabilities. Chairman NDMA Inam Haider briefed the participants on the round the clock operational activities of the National Emergency Operation Centre. Haider informed the Committee that the Centre continues to monitor weather developments through its integrated multi hazard monitoring system and is issuing timely impact based forecasts, advisories and early warnings to all stakeholders. The Committee directed all concerned departments to remain on high alert throughout the monsoon season.

It laid particular emphasis on strengthening institutional coordination, ensuring uninterrupted communication among response agencies, protecting vulnerable communities and critical infrastructure, and maintaining the operational readiness of rescue and relief resources.

Ayaz pays tribute to security forces for successful IBO in Bannu

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has paid rich tribute to the Security Forces for successfully carrying out an Intelligence-Based Operation (IBO) in Bannu, during which 24 terrorists belonging to Fata A Al Khawarij were exterminated. Ayaz Sadiq commended the security forces for their exceptional professionalism, courage and unwavering commitment in thwarting the nefarious designs of the Indian proxy terrorist group, Fata A Al Khawarij. He said that the timely and effective operations conducted against Indian-sponsored terrorists reflect the high level of professionalism, preparedness and resolve of Pakistan's Security Forces.

Ayaz Sadiq said that the successful operation is a manifestation of the nation's firm resolve to eradicate the menace of terrorism.

He emphasized that Pakistan's security forces have consistently demonstrated extraordinary courage, professional excellence and an unflinching commitment to safeguarding the country's sovereignty.

First RoRo vessel carrying over 2,000 EVs berths at Karachi Port, Junaid Anwar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry on Friday announced the arrival of M.V. Grande Shanghai, carrying more than 2,000 electric vehicles (EVs) on Pakistan's first-ever Roll-on/Roll-off (RoRo) shipment.

In a statement, the minister said the 220-metre RoRo vessel had successfully berthed at the Karachi Gateway Terminal Multipurpose Limited (KGTML) terminal of Karachi Port Trust (KPT), describing the development as a significant milestone for Pakistan's maritime and logistics sectors.

He said the vessel's arrival followed his approval of RoRo



shipments of electric vehicles during a meeting of a committee on maritime issues held last month.

The minister said the successful handling of the vessel reflected the growing capability of port infrastructure to accommodate specialised cargo operations in line with international standards.

He noted that the country's first RoRo shipment of electric vehicles also highlighted Pakistan's gradual integration into the global clean mobility.

Leghari reviews measures to strengthen data governance in power sector

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari on Friday directed that meetings of the Data Governance Council be held on a regular basis to review progress on key initiatives and maintain implementation momentum. Chairing the inaugural meeting of the Pakistan's first-ever Public Sector Data Governance Council, the minister reviewed measures to strengthen data governance and improve data management across the power sector. During the meeting, the minister was briefed on the proposed institutional structure of the Council. He



directed that the appointment of the Executive Director be completed at the earliest so that the Council can begin functioning at full capacity. He further instructed the formation of an Executive Working Committee to support the implementation of the Council's decisions and monitor progress on ongoing work. The minister said reliable and integrated data was indispensable.



ISLAMABAD: On directions of Prime Minister, Federal Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan Iqbal presented 3rd meeting of Emergency Response Committee at NDMA HQs.

Haroon Akhtar invites Chinese companies for joint innovation, manufacturing

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production, Haroon Akhtar Khan on Friday invited Chinese companies to not only invest in Pakistan but also innovate, manufacture and grow together.

Addressing the Pakistan-China Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Business-to-Business (B2B) Investment Conference, Haroon Akhtar said Pakistan envisioned a new era of cooperation with China where both countries

would jointly advance science, strengthen healthcare, create opportunities and improve the lives of millions of people.

He said every great nation was transformed by leaders who refused to accept the limits of the present and possessed the courage to shape the future by turning vision into action and ambition into national progress.

Paying tribute to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the SAPM said Pakistan was fortunate to have visionary leadership that consistently encouraged

institutions to think bigger, move faster and compete globally.

He said the prime minister had made it clear that Pakistan could not achieve sustainable prosperity by following outdated models and must instead embrace innovation, strengthen its industrial base, invest in science and technology, and build partnerships capable of unlocking the country's full potential.

Haroon Akhtar said Pakistan was determined not merely to participate in the industries of the future but to

help shape them. He added that the prime minister's recent visit to China had opened a new chapter in Pakistan-China economic cooperation by creating fresh opportunities for investment, technology transfer and industrial collaboration.

He said the prime minister's emphasis on implementation reflected true leadership, adding that success should be measured not by the agreements signed but by the transformation delivered.

Highlighting China's remarkable development, Haroon Akhtar described the

country's transformation as one of the defining development stories of modern times, driven by visionary leadership, long-term planning and relentless innovation in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing and healthcare.

He said Pakistan greatly valued China's experience and looked forward to expanding cooperation in research, technology transfer, innovation and high-value manufacturing.

The SAPM said the government was creating an investment-friendly environ-

ment through the National Industrial Policy, National Tariff Policy and the Regulatory Guillotine Initiative to strengthen industrial competitiveness, simplify regulations and make Pakistan a more attractive destination for investors.

"Our objective is simple—less bureaucracy, more facilitation; less complexity and more competitiveness," he said.

Haroon Akhtar said healthcare had become one of the world's most important drivers of innovation, industrial growth and economic.