



Gilani reaffirms Pakistan's unwavering support for Kashmiris' right to self-determination



FM Aurangzeb in US to hold talks on trade, finance, investment



Qaiser holds meeting with Chinese delegation

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Iran attacks Bahrain and Kuwait, where power, water plant alight

PEAK POINT

IRAN: Kuwait City: Kuwait said Iran hit a power and water plant Sunday causing a fire, the latest attack on energy infrastructure in the small Gulf state, as Bahrain also accused Tehran of targeting civilian sites.

It was the third attack in as many days on a power and water facility in Kuwait, according to authorities, which also reported that an oil facility had been hit on Saturday.

Kuwait has asked residents to limit their power usage as repeated Iranian attacks add further strain to its power network.

Iran had earlier said it carried attacks on US assets in Kuwait, as tensions flared between the two foes over the Strait of Hormuz for more than week.

"As a result of the Iranian aggression on Kuwait, a power and water distillation plant, for the second time in two days, has been subjected to an attack that caused a fire in some facilities of the station," the Kuwaiti ministry of electricity, water and renewable energy said in a statement on X. "A large number of power generator units were affected, prompting an emergency protocol to be launched," it added. Firefighters are working to extinguish the blaze, it added.

Earlier, Kuwait and Bahrain's militaries said they were responding to Iranian aerial attacks, and air raid sirens sounded in the two Gulf countries as Tehran pressed its retaliatory strikes across the region. An AFP journalist reported warning sirens.



Smoke billows near the oil facility in Mangaf, Kuwait.

Turkish FM urges return to US-Iran memorandum, warns escalating hostilities threaten regional stability

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan on Sunday called for a return to the memorandum of understanding between the United States and Iran, warning that escalating hostilities

were undermining regional stability and urging renewed diplomatic efforts. Speaking to Qatar TV during a visit to Doha, Fidan said Qatar was using all available diplomatic channels to help resolve the crisis, while Türkiye remained in close coordination with the Gulf state. "I am pleased to see that Qatar is once again trying to do everything it can to resolve this crisis by using all constructive methods and all available channels. Hopefully, we will receive good news in the coming days," Fidan said. "Türkiye is also in close coordination with Qatar on this issue," he added. Fidan said the conflict between the United States and Iran had affected the regional economy and warned that the risk of a broader confrontation could further destabilise the region. Recalling attacks on regional infrastructure, he stressed the need to revive diplomatic efforts and return to the previously negotiated understanding between Washington and Tehran.

Security forces counter unprovoked firing by Afghan Taliban targeting Kurram border posts

PEAK POINT



KURRAM: Security forces launched an effective and full-scale retaliatory response to unprovoked firing by the Afghan Taliban at border posts in Kurram, security sources said on Sunday. The Afghan Taliban used heavy weapons, mortars and other arms to target border posts, after which Pakistani

security forces responded immediately and forcefully, targeting Afghan Taliban border posts, mortar positions and defensive checkpoints with both light and heavy weapons, including artillery, security sources said. Pakistani security forces maintained complete control over border areas while delivering a strong response to the cross-border aggression, the security sources said, as a result of which the Afghan Taliban were forced to abandon multiple posts and flee. The border situation is being continuously monitored, and security forces are fully prepared and on alert to issue an immediate and decisive response to any act of provocation by the enemy, security sources said. On the night of February 26, following unprovoked firing by the Afghan Taliban from across the border, Pakistan launched Operation Ghazab lil-Haq against terrorist hideouts. On April 2/3, security forces foiled an attempt by the Afghan Taliban and terrorists to attack a border post in KP's Ghulam Khan Sector, in which 37 of the attackers were killed and more than 80 were injured. Providing an update then, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar had said 796 terrorists and Afghan Taliban operatives had been killed while over 1,043 had been injured since Operation Ghazab lil-Haq was launched.

NCCIA summons Imran's sister, Noreen, for giving 'false, offensive, inflammatory' content

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) has summoned Noreen Niazi, sister of former incarcerated prime minister Imran Khan,

to appear before it on Monday, July 20, over allegations of disseminating "false, offensive and inflammatory" content against state institutions. "You have been found to have disseminated false, offensive and inflammatory social media content to defame state institutions and spread fake narratives," stated the NCCIA notice dated July 18 said. The agency directed her to appear at its G-13/3 office in Islamabad in connection with an inquiry. "In case of non-compliance, it will be assumed that you have nothing to present or state in your defence," the notice further stated, adding that non-compliance was punishable under Section 174 of the Pakistan Penal Code. While the notice did not specify the content in relation to which Niazi has been summoned, it was issued after a clip of her making claims in relation to last year's brief military conflict between Pakistan and India was widely shared on social media. In the clip, she is seen alleging during an interview.

Gwadar becomes key trade gateway

PEAK POINT

GWADAR: Commercial operations at Gwadar Port continue uninterrupted despite the prevailing regional maritime tensions, with another transshipment vessel arriving at the port to handle cargo, underscoring growing international confidence in Pakistan's deep-sea port. According to official details, the Bangladesh-flagged vessel M/V Jahan Brothers II berthed at Gwadar Port on Saturday after sailing from Singapore. The ship is carrying 53,064.660 tonnes of prime steel billets, which are ultimately destined for Al Hamriyah Port in the United Arab Emirates. The cargo.

Bilawal seeks 'better results' in upcoming AJK elections as PPP hopes to form govt

PEAK POINT

MUZAFFARABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Sunday expressed his hope of forming a government in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), seeking "better results" from the public in the upcoming elections than in the previous one.

He made the remarks while addressing a public rally in AJK's Kotli ahead of the regional elections set for July 27.

The PPP chairperson said that his party had contested the last election in AJK even when the PTI was in power in the Centre.

"During the last elections, the PPP had the majority seats and the party had won the elections, but now the conditions are different," he said.

"For the past six

months, the PPP has been identified as Javed Badhanvi. Expressing his



our friend, Shehbaz Sharif, has been in power at the Centre for some years," he elaborated, referring to the ruling coalition led by PML-N. Contending that there will be "no difficulties like before," he told the public: "You have to furnish better results in this election than before."

Bilawal also criticised the registration of a murder case against one of his party's candidates, who he

hope of forming a government in AJK, the PPP chairman said that to get the required majority, his party need each and every seat in the AJK Assembly from Kotli.

The Bhutto scion made pledges to the people of AJK similar to those he made during the PPP's election campaign in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) last month.

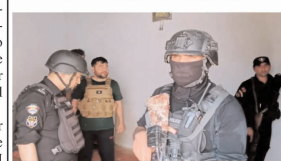
He said that there

would be no need to protest and shut down the whole of AJK if its representatives had their representation in Islamabad to raise their issues in the National Assembly or Senate on a provisional basis.

"The land of Kashmir 100 per cent belongs to the people of Kashmir, and I promise that I will continue defending the right to ownership of the people of Kashmir," the PPP chairman vowed.

He claimed that throughout Pakistan, the PPP was the only political party that ensured employment for the people, promising employment opportunities for the youth of AJK. "If you give an opportunity to the son of Shaheed Bibi (Benazir Bhutto), I will try to create employment opportunities for the youth of AJK."

One terrorist killed, 8 others held as joint operation continues in Bannu



PEAK POINT

BANNU: An intelligence-based operation (IBO) continued for the third consecutive day across parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district on Sunday, where one terrorist was killed and eight individuals were taken into custody, according to police. The operation was led by Bannu District Police Officer (DPO) Captain (ret'd) Muhammad Furqan Bilal, and jointly conducted by the district police, Elite Force, Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) and the army in the village of Gera Shah Jahan.

During the operation, the army cordoned off the area and established blocking positions at key locations.

A statement from the DPO's office said a terrorist was killed while he was attempting to plant an improvised explosive device.



SPORTS



Pakistan's football TRIONDA shines at UN FIFA youth event



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to youth well being, inclusion and peace through sports at a United Nations Youth Office and FIFA side event in New York, proudly showcasing TRIONDA, the official match ball of the FIFA World Cup 2026 manufactured in Pakistan, as a symbol of the country's enduring sporting legacy, craftsmanship and its vision of empowering young people through sports, according to a press release received here on

Saturday.

Addressing the event titled "One World, One Game, One Goal: Football as a Catalyst for Youth Mental Health and Well Being," Rana Mashhood highlighted Pakistan's remarkable contribution to world football through its continued production of official match balls for several FIFA World Cups.

He said Pakistan has maintained its globally recognised tradition of manufacturing FIFA World Cup match balls, reflecting the skill, dedication and excellence of Pakistani workers.

Describing TRIONDA as

more than a football, he said it symbolises opportunity, unity and the power of sport to bring people together across borders, cultures and communities.

Rana Mashhood said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the Prime Minister's Youth Programme is harnessing the transformative power of sports to strengthen young people's confidence, resilience, sense of belonging and mental well being.

He said sports provide a powerful platform for promoting inclusion, healthy lifestyles and

youth empowerment while helping build peaceful and resilient societies.

Emphasising Pakistan's youth centric vision, he said meaningful investment in sports is essential to ensuring that no young person is left behind and that every young Pakistani is equipped to contribute positively to society.

Conveying a message on behalf of Pakistan's leadership and youth, Rana Mashhood said, "When young people play together, they learn to stand together, and a generation that stands together can build a more peaceful and inclusive world."

Pakistani athletes win six medals at South Asian Karate Championship



PEAK POINT

DHAKA: WAPDA Pakistani athletes delivered an impressive performance at the 10th South Asian Karate Championship, winning six medals while representing Pakistan at the regional event held in Dhaka.

According to the channel report, the five-day championship brought together top karate athletes from across South Asia, with Pakistan's contingent producing a strong medal-winning display.

Meer Hamza Kasi emerged as one of the standout performers, claiming the gold medal in the Under-21 category. He also secured a bronze medal in the senior 75kg category, completing an outstanding campaign.

Meer Wais Khan won the silver medal in the 61kg category, adding to Pakistan's medal tally. WAPDA's female athletes also made a significant contribution to the team's success. Hafiza Iqra Munawar claimed a bronze medal in the 45kg category, while Rabia Farooq earned bronze in the 50kg division. Laiba Zia also secured a bronze medal in the 55kg category. The WAPDA Sports Board congratulated the athletes on their outstanding achievements, praising their performances for bringing pride to both the organisation and Pakistan on the regional stage.

Fatima, Muneeba to lead Pakistan women in Sri Lanka series



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Saturday announced its women's ODI and T20I squads for the upcoming six-match tour of Sri Lanka, with Fatima Sana retaining the ODI captaincy while Muneeba Ali

Siddiqui will lead the T20I side in Fatima's absence.

The tour, scheduled from July 23 to August 4 in Hambantota, includes three ODIs and three T20Is. The ODI series forms part of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2025.

29, making it crucial series. For the ODI in Pakistan's qualification campaign. The selectors have made eight changes to the T20I squad that featured at the recently concluded ICC Women's T20 World Cup, reflecting a renewed emphasis on youth development as she heads to England to feature in the Hundred, becoming the first Pakistani

Eman Naseer, women's cricketer to Humna Bilal, Maham Anees, Momina gious competition. Riasat, Najiha Alvi, The 24-year-old Shawaal Zulfiqar, enters the series in Umm-e-Hani, outstanding form Waheeda Akhtar have after claiming 11 wickets and scoring 85 runs, including a half-century, at the are yet to make their ICC Women's T20 T20I debuts and World Cup, where they could earn their maiden international in the Team of the caps during the Tournament.

WAPDA athletes win 6 medals in 10th South Asian Karate Championship



Atif Rana banks on emerging talent as Lahore Qalandars leave for Guyana for GSL 2026

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Lahore Qalandars owner Atif Rana has reaffirmed the franchise's commitment to developing Pakistan's next generation of cricketers, saying the team's squad for the ExconMobil Global Super League (GSL) 2026 has been built around young and emerging talent to prepare future stars for international cricket. "The Qalandars' squad is based on youth and emerging talent, who will be provided international exposure to showcase their abilities on the biggest stages and develop into future stars for Pakistan," Atif Rana said as the Lahore Qalandars team departed for Guyana on Saturday. The franchise will be led by experienced New Zealand all-rounder Michael Bracewell in the prestigious tournament, scheduled from July 23 to August 1 at the Guyana National Stadium, where champion franchises

from across the world will compete. Highlighting another key objective of the tour, Atif Rana expressed confidence in head coach Shaun Tait, saying the former Australian fast bowler's experience would play a crucial

standing fast bowlers under his guidance, so Pakistan's fast-bowling resources continue to grow," he added. Team Director Sameen Rana described Bracewell's appointment as captain as a strategic move. "Michael



role in nurturing Pakistan's future pace attack. "Shaun Tait is a highly experienced coach who has helped develop quality fast bowlers in Bangladesh. We are also focusing on producing out-

Bracewell's experience, leadership and all-round abilities make him the ideal captain to lead our young squad against world-class opposition in the Global Super League," said Sameen Rana.

Ex-Test cricketer Amir Nazir mentors future stars at Central Park summer sports camp





PAEC Chairman urges young scientists to become tech innovators

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar, on Saturday urged Pakistan's young scientists to become creators of technology rather than mere consumers of innovations developed elsewhere, stressing that sustained investment in science, research and human resource development is essential for securing the country's future competitiveness. He was addressing the closing ceremony of the 51st International Nathiagali Summer College (INSC) on Physics and Contemporary Needs. The Summer College concluded after two weeks of scientific deliberations on emerging frontiers of science and technology. Organized by PAEC from July 6 to 18, the prestigious event brought together leading scientists, researchers and young scholars from Pakistan and around the world to exchange knowledge and explore emerging technologies shaping the future. Addressing the participants, the Chairman said the world is undergoing a defining technological transformation driven by artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, biotechnology and clean energy technologies, where nations increasingly compete through ideas, innovation, talent and technology rather than natural resources. He said Pakistan possesses the talent, institutions

and determination to emerge as a knowledge-producing nation capable of developing indigenous technologies and contributing solutions to global challenges. Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar said the International Nathiagali Summer College has, for more than five decades, played a vital role in nurturing a scientific culture by connecting young researchers with world-renowned scientists and promoting innovation, collaboration and critical thinking. He noted that many former participants now serve in leading research institutions, universities, industries and strategic organizations, reflecting the College's enduring contribution to Pakistan's scientific development. The Chairman said this year's academic programme focused on technologies that are directly relevant to Pakistan's future, including Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Advanced Manufacturing Techniques, Nuclear Techniques in Agriculture and Biotechnology, Nuclear Techniques in Health and Environment, and Advances in Plasma Science and Fusion Technology. He said these emerging fields will strengthen industrial competitiveness, enhance food security, improve healthcare, protect the environment and support future energy solutions. He said the themes of the Summer College closely complement the Government of Pakistan's Uranium Pakistan initiative,



which envisions sustainable economic growth through innovation, digital transformation, industrial modernization and investment in human capital. He added that platforms such as INSC directly contribute to this national mission by developing highly skilled scientists and strengthening Pakistan's innovation ecosystem. Highlighting the international dimension of the programme, the Chairman said the Summer College generated meaningful outcomes beyond the lecture hall by opening new avenues for prospective collaboration with the Institute of Cotton Research, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Anyang, China, in agriculture and biotechnology. Technical meetings with distinguished international faculty also explored opportunities for joint research, technology development and long-term institutional cooperation, further strengthening Pakistan's scientific diplomacy and international partnerships. This year's Summer

College brought together 45 distinguished scientists from 20 countries, while around 300 selected participants attended the programme in person and hundreds more joined virtually through live streaming facilitated by the Higher Education Commission (HEC). Reaffirming PAEC's commitment to the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology, Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar said the Commission continues to contribute to Pakistan's socio-economic development through clean nuclear power generation, comprehensive cancer care delivered by its nationwide network of 21 Atomic Energy Cancer Hospitals, development of improved crop varieties for enhanced food security, and advanced research in artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, advanced materials and semiconductor sciences. Addressing the young scientists, the Chairman urged them to view the knowledge gained during the Summer

College as the beginning of a lifelong journey of discovery and innovation. He said Pakistan's future would be shaped by those who possess the vision and determination to create new knowledge, develop indigenous technologies and transform innovative ideas into practical solutions. Congratulating the organizing committee, international faculty, partner institutions and participants on the successful conclusion of the Summer College, the Chairman expressed confidence that continued investment in scientific research, innovation and human resource development would enable Pakistan to play an increasingly important role in shaping future technological advancements. In his address, Member Science PAEC, Dr. Shakeel Abbas Rofi said that by organising this event we wanted to explore the emerging needs of Pakistan and to the same end, new courses related to health and environment were added besides emerging technologies, Artificial Intelligence and use of nuclear techniques in agriculture to achieve food security. "Lively discussions over tea, technical meetings, curiosity of the participants and generosity of the faculty in answering those curiosities remained the signature note of the INSC-2026. We were successful in transforming scientific meetings into scientific communities and long lasting partnerships," Dr. Shakeel Rofi said

and especially thanked Chinese and Malaysian experts for their remarkable contribution for opening up new avenues of cooperation with Pakistan in the fields of agriculture, environment, isotopic hydrology and fuel cell technology. He also thanked Dr. Gerd Helmer from Medical University Vienna for extending complimentary access to Pakistani research institutes to his AI lab on radiotherapy. Earlier, Scientific Secretary INSC, Dr. Rahat Ullah briefed about key themes of the College and remarkable achievements gained during the two weeks of interactive sessions. A poster competition was also held which was evaluated by the experts panel comprising foreign faculty. The first prize of the poster competition was won by Ms. Salka Javed from Islamic International University Islamabad for her poster on water quality. The second prize was won by Ms. Rubab Mansoor from Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad for her work on the effects of microplastics on the environment in Northern areas. The third prize was bagged by Ms. Amina Zakaullah from COMSATS University Lahore. At the end of the ceremony, Chairman PAEC Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar distributed prizes among the winners of the poster competition and gave away commemorative shields to the national and international faculty members.

Opinion & Editorial

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Stepping stone

Pakistan's IT exports hit a new record in the recently ended fiscal year, crossing \$4.6 billion, and monthly exports hit \$416 million in June. The new record amount represents a 21% increase over the past fiscal year, while the June figure was up 23% year-on-year. Technology is now the country's largest services export, representing 46% of the sector. Meanwhile, the trade surplus on technology was a whopping \$3.9 billion, which is also the largest among all service sectors. But it is also worth remembering that all of these achievements represent just a tiny fraction of what is possible. The global IT services outsourcing market is projected at approximately \$462 billion in 2026, and is expected to double within the decade. Meanwhile, India, which has about six times our population, has over 43 times our IT exports. While it makes sense for the government to keep growth targets in check, the conservative targets are actually very understated. Even if we face strong headwinds, our young population and ever-growing workforce of IT graduates have already come together to build one of the world's largest freelancer communities. In fact, freelancers generated over \$1 billion in export earnings this year. Freelancers and firms alike have been looking beyond the traditional Western hubs and tapping markets in the Asia-Pacific region and elsewhere.

Meta and Google argued that her difficulties had other causes, including bullying and a troubled home life. Her lawyers instead focused on platform design: autoplay, infinite feeds and notifications intended to keep users engaged. After more than 40 hours of deliberations, the jury found both companies negligent.

What made the verdict historic was that it emerged from the first US jury trial of its kind, holding the companies responsible not for material posted by users, but for the design and operation of the platforms themselves.

Kaley's case was not an isolated tragedy. In 2024, Mark Zuckerberg was confronted in the US Senate by parents holding photographs of children who had died after being exploited or harmed online. Turning towards them, he apologised.

The harms extend far beyond addiction. Social media gives predators direct

Safety by design

Asad Baig

IN a Los Angeles courtroom, Kaley G.M., 20, described a childhood consumed by social media. She began using YouTube at six and Instagram at nine. On one occasion, she said, she spent 16 hours on Instagram. By 10, she had uploaded 240 videos and created nine other accounts to like and comment on. She told jurors that the platforms disrupted her sleep, education and friendships, and worsened anxiety, depression and body-image problems.

Meta and Google argued that her difficulties had other causes, including bullying and a troubled home life. Her lawyers instead focused on platform design: autoplay, infinite feeds and notifications intended to keep users engaged. After more than 40 hours of deliberations, the jury found both companies negligent.

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The harms extend far beyond addiction. Social media gives predators direct

access to children, allowing grooming, sexual exploitation and sextortion to begin through a message, a compliment or a fake friendship. Children are also exposed to cyberbullying, self-harm content, violent material and impossible standards of beauty. Sleep, education and real relationships are displaced by endless scrolling.

The danger is not simply that children see harmful content. It is that the platforms are built to keep them there.

The danger is not simply that children see harmful content. It is that the platforms are built to keep them there.

Yet the platforms have known about these dangers for years. Their response has been moderation, reporting tools, parental controls and age limits. It has failed. Harmful material continues to slip through, predators return under new accounts, and children routinely bypass age restrictions.

The failure is increasingly difficult to disguise.

In 2024, the US Federal Trade Commission found that major platforms had failed to provide adequate safeguards for children and teenagers.

In 2026, European regulators preliminarily found that Meta had failed to stop children under 13 from using Instagram and Facebook, while Ofcom reported that 73 per cent of UK children aged 11 to 17 had encountered at least one form of harmful content online in the preced-

ing four weeks. Platform accountability has delivered promises after scandal, rather than protection before harm.

This record has pushed governments towards prohibition. Australia became the first country to require platforms to take reasonable steps to prevent children under 16 from holding accounts. The rules took effect in December 2025. Britain has since announced plans for a similar measure, expected to come into force in spring 2027, alongside restrictions on livestreaming and contact between children and strangers.

Pakistan is moving in the same direction. A resolution submitted to the Punjab Assembly seeks a nationwide restriction on social media accounts for children under 16 without verified parental consent. It asks the federal government to legislate, the PTA to enforce age checks and platforms to remove harmful content more quickly.

A ban offers a simple answer to a frightening problem. Its political value, however, may be greater than its protective value.

It allows governments to appear decisive while avoiding the harder work of enforcement, platform accountability and sustained child protection.

Pakistan's economic, linguistic and administrative inequalities make it difficult to enforce any uniform age-verification system fairly.

Courtesy Dawn

Revolution? No thanks

Ali Hassan Bangwar

FOR over three quarters of a century, Pakistanis have pinned their hopes on the promise of a dignified life. They have placed those hopes in successive governments and in saviours of every stripe - whether emerging from the opposition or from the general public - all of whom have won the support of a desperate and repeatedly betrayed populace. Despite repeated betrayals of hope, people continued to wonder whether the successive regimes will finally deliver a dignified life and a viable future. Unsurprisingly, none did. Instead, each new leader, each self-proclaimed saviour, and each fresh promise only deepened the public's misery.

Notwithstanding repeated betrayals, hope survives - not because it has escaped being repeatedly stabbed in the back, but because, for a complicit population, hope rather than political agency remains the only thing to which it can attach its future. In doing so, people fail to recognise what Nietzsche suggested: hope is often the worst evil, an opiate that prolongs suffering. Today, three messianic hopes dominate public expectations: revolution, reform and collapse.

Why don't people get disillusioned by hope? Because they share in the culpability. Messianic hope not only absolves people of responsibility for their own lives but also unfairly serves them to the detriment of others. That is, we love every hope, every leader who costs society so that he and we benefit. Our hopes, too, are hypocritical. For a fraction of that benefit, we tend to become the courtiers of leaders, who sit atop the courtship hierarchy of brute power. Most among us, for vested interests, coerce our fellows so much that we too are upgraded to the positions of those we once prostrated ourselves to. This reveals two realities. One, the herd of saviours in every locality of the country ignites betrayed hopes of revolution in people's lives. Two, they flow from and are extensions of the brute masters.

Courtesy Tribune

FM Aurangzeb arrives in US on 3-day visit, expected to hold talks on trade, finance, investment



PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb arrived in Washington on Saturday evening for a three-day visit during which he is expected to hold talks with US officials on trade, finance and investment. Pakistan and the United States will resume negotiations on Monday on a broader bilateral economic partnership, diplomatic sources told Dawn. During his visit, Aurangzeb is scheduled to meet officials from the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), the US

Export-Import Bank, the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), sources said. A key focus of the visit will be discussions on the framework for a potential bilateral trade agreement aimed at expanding trade and investment between the two countries. 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 in Pakistan.

Aurangzeb's visit comes as Pakistani and US officials continue negotiations over the global tariff regime announced by US President Donald Trump on April 2, 2025, under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), which initially imposed a 29 per cent tariff on Pakistani exports. A Pakistani delegation

that visited Washington in July 2025 succeeded in persuading US officials to reduce the proposed tariff from 29 per cent to 19pc.

The tariff landscape has since changed following a US Supreme Court ruling earlier this year that invalidated the IEEPA-based tariffs. In response, the Trump administration invoked Section 122 of the Trade Act to impose a temporary global tariff of 10pc, which is due to expire on July 24 after the statutory 150-day period. Pakistan is also among nearly 60 countries facing USTR investigations under Section 301 over alleged forced labour and related trade practices. Islamabad has submitted detailed responses to the USTR, including an additional submission this week ahead of the latest negotiations.

Under the ongoing Section 301 process, Pakistan faces a proposed additional tariff of 10pc, while India and 53 other countries are subject to proposed tariffs of 12.5pc.

Gilani reaffirms Pakistan's unwavering support for Kashmiris' right to self-determination

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said Youm-e-Ilhaq-e-Pakistan symbolises the enduring bond between the people of Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir and reflects the Kashmiri people's steadfast commitment to their internationally recognised right to self-determination.

In his message on the occasion of Youm-e-Ilhaq-e-Pakistan, the Senate chairman said the Jammu and Kashmir dispute remained an internationally recognised issue and that its peaceful and lasting resolution, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, was essential for sustainable peace and stability in South Asia.

He urged the international



community to take meaningful notice of the human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and support efforts to ensure the realisation of the Kashmiri people's legitimate rights.

Gilani reaffirmed that Pakistan's Parliament had consistently stood with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and would continue to raise their voice at national, regional and international parliamentary forums.

He reiterated Pakistan's unwavering political, diplomatic and moral support.

Dr. Musadik Malik addresses 5th China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for Int'l Cooperation

PEAK POINT

XIZANG, CHINA: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik, addressed the 5th China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation during his visit to the Xizang Autonomous Region of China.

The Forum brought together policymakers, experts, and stakeholders from across the region to discuss cooperation on sustainable development, ecological conservation, and the shared challenges facing mountain ecosystems.

Addressing the Forum, Dr. Musadik Malik said that the gathering was not only a celebration of the shared cultural heritage, diversity, friendship, tourism, and civilizations of the region, but also a reaffirmation of the common responsibility to protect humanity and nature.

He expressed gratitude to the Chinese government for hosting the Forum and acknowledged the enduring friendship

between Pakistan and China, describing China as a trusted partner that has consistently stood by Pakistan through both prosperous and challenging times.

The Federal Minister highlighted the deep geographical and ecological linkages between Pakistan and China through the Himalayan and Trans-Himalayan mountain systems. He noted that Pakistan is home to approximately 13,500 glaciers, making it one of the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of glacial melt and climate change.

Dr. Musadik Malik warned that rising greenhouse gas emissions and increasing global temperatures are accelerating glacier melt, resulting in devastating floods followed by prolonged droughts. He stated that over the past fifteen years, approximately 6,000 people have lost their lives in flood-related disasters in Pakistan, while nearly 20,000 people have been injured or disabled. He further noted that around 40 million people have been displaced.



XIZANG, CHINA: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik, addressed the 5th China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation during his visit to the Xizang Autonomous Region in China.

Maryam Nawaz reiterates support for Kashmiris on Accession to Pakistan Day

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Sunday reaffirmed Pakistan's diplomatic, political and moral support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, saying a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute in line with the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions is essential for lasting regional peace.

In a message issued on the occasion of Accession to Pakistan Day, the chief minister said the resolution passed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir on July 19, 1947, in favour of accession to Pakistan reflected their long-standing aspirations and demonstrated their enduring bond with Pakistan.

Maryam Nawaz said the government and people of Pakistan would continue extending diplomatic, political and moral support to the Kashmiri people. She added that Pakistan would keep raising the issue of the Kashmiris' right to self-determination at international forums.

She said the people of Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir had been waiting for decades.

Qaiser holds meeting with Chinese delegation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Saturday held a meeting with a high-level delegation of Shandong Hi-Speed Group (SDHS), led by Xu Xiang, Chairman of SDHS, along with Wang Zhenrong, Country Director, and representatives of Tabani Group. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the ongoing Pakistan-China B2B Investment Conference in the Pharmaceutical, Healthcare and Biotechnology sector. Senior officials of the Board of Investment also attended the meeting. At the outset, the delegation thanked the Minister for taking time out of his busy schedule to meet them during the important bilateral investment engagements. He highlighted his long-standing and cordial



relations with Chinese business leaders and acknowledged the role of Tabani Group in facilitating business linkages between Pakistan and China. He emphasised the deep-rooted strategic partnership between the two countries and the expanding scope of economic cooperation under evolving regional dynamics. The delegation from Shandong Hi-Speed Group provided a comprehensive briefing on their global portfolio. As one of China's leading state-owned infrastructure and investment enterprises.

Governor Kundi reaffirms Pakistan's unwavering support for Kashmiris

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday reaffirmed Pakistan's continued diplomatic, political and moral support for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), saying their right to self-determination must be realized in accordance with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.

In a special message on the occasion of Accession to Pakistan Day (July 19), the Governor said July 19, 1947, was a historic and decisive day in the history of the subcontinent when the people of Kashmir adopted the historic resolution in favour of accession to Pakistan, expressing their commitment to Pakistan and their



right to self-determination. He said Accession to Pakistan Day reflected the enduring bond between the people of Kashmir and Pakistan, adding that Kashmir was Pakistan's "jugular vein" and the Kashmiris' struggle for self-determination was a recognized right under the UNSC resolutions. Governor Kundi said a just and lasting solution to the Kashmir dispute was possible only in accordance with the UNSC resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Bilal Azhar Kayani condemns Noreen Niazi's statement as 'shameful and anti-State'

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance, Bilal Azhar Kayani, has strongly condemned recent remarks by Noreen Niazi, sister of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, calling them "highly regrettable and shameful" and said they reflect a mindset that has consistently undermined Pakistan's defense, diplomatic relations and economy for political gain. Addressing the media here on Sunday, Kayani

said her negative statement on Pakistan's victory in 'Marka-e-Haq' last year was unacceptable. "Can such a statement be acceptable in any context? Does it suit any Pakistani to say this? We do not want to call anyone anti-state, but you decide for yourself, if this is not anti-state, then what is it," he questioned. The State Minister linked the remarks to what he described as a pattern by the PTI leadership over the past decade. He cited the May 9 attacks on military installa-

tions and martyrs' memorials, the public display of the cipher to allegedly damage diplomatic ties, and letters to the IMF intended to push Pakistan toward default. "This is a continuation of the same philosophy and mindset. Their objective has been clear: to put Pakistan's defense, diplomacy and economy at stake just to get Imran Khan released and back in power," Kayani said.

He questioned what message such remarks send to the Pakistan Air Force pilots who

shot down Indian aircraft with skill and bravery last year, and to the officers and soldiers who sacrifice daily to defend the country.

"I come from a district, Jhelum, where the graves of our martyrs are draped in the national flag. That district takes pride in those sacrifices for Pakistan. What message are you giving to the families of those martyrs? Are you saying they were wrong? Are you saying you are disappointed that Pakistan won that war?" he asked.

Kayani noted that no clarification or retraction had been issued since the statement was made.

"Not once has she said 'that was not what I meant,' because that was exactly what she meant. This is the same narrative we have been pointing out for years in PTI's actions," he said.

The minister said legal action had been initiated over the remarks and stressed that such narratives have no place

in any society or state.

"Alhamdulillah, Pakistan achieved victory in Marka-e-Haq and gave a befitting response to Indian aggression. Unfortunately, not everyone could digest that victory," Kayani said.

He added that the anger and hatred visible in the tone of the remarks toward the armed forces was itself revealing. "The condemnation of this statement cannot be strong enough, and legal proceedings.