



Pakistan invites Chinese investment in ports, logistics sector: Junaid Anwar



Petroleum minister, Kuwaiti exploration company discuss expanding energy cooperation



Abbasi felicitates Belgium on National Day

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PM launches AI-powered PM Office System to digitally track, monitor directives

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday launched the Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based Prime Minister Office System (PMOS), describing it as a transformative digital platform that will modernise governance by recording, communicating, monitoring and tracking every directive issued by the Prime Minister from issuance through implementation, verified completion and post-completion monitoring.

Addressing the launch ceremony at the Prime Minister's Office, the prime minister directed all relevant authorities to ensure the immediate and full implementation of the new AI-based system, making it clear that traditional paper-based working would be

replaced by digital processes.

"From today onwards, I will not expect any of you with a file in your hands. Everything will be discussed through this mechanism," the prime minister said.

He praised Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja and Secretary IT for their efforts in developing and operationalising the system.

He urged all ministries and government departments to adopt the platform, saying it would significantly improve the government's ability to deliver results. "This would make service delivery easier," he remarked.

The ceremony was attended by Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding the launch of AI-based Prime Minister's office system (PMOS).

Monsoon rains kill 12 in KP in past 3 days; nationwide flood warning issued

PEAK POINT



PESHAWAR: The ongoing torrential rainfall in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has killed 12 people in three days, while 18 people have been injured, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority

(PDMA) said on Tuesday. Power supply has been disrupted in several regions of the province due to the weather conditions. Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) said. Furthermore, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) issued a nationwide alert warning of flash floods, urban flooding and landslides from July 21 to 24. The PDMA report, detailing losses and damages for the Sunday to Tuesday period, showed that five men, two women and five children had been killed by the heavy rains. Half of the deaths were reported from Khyber district, where a vehicle carrying Afghan families was swept away in a flash flood on Monday. Two children lost their lives in Mardan and a man died in Peshawar over the past three days. Furthermore, 10 men, four women and as many children were injured during the same period. Khyber accounted for half of those wounded, followed by Mardan where five were hurt in rain-related incidents, and four injured in Torghar.

Iran targets American military assets in Gulf, warns of more attacks as US strikes Iran for 10th consecutive day

PEAK POINT



TEHRAN: Iran targeted US radar and air defence installations in the Gulf on Tuesday, warning Washington of "more decisive and powerful" attacks to come as the US military completed a fresh round of strikes on the country. Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they had attacked and stopped two "non-

compliant oil tankers" attempting to transit the Strait of Hormuz, part of an effort to tighten its grip on the vital waterway while the war reignited. Following the deaths of at least three US soldiers in the past several days, the United States launched a new round of attacks against Iran late on Monday which it said were "designed to further degrade Iranian military capabilities used to attack commercial shipping" in the strait. It later said that it had completed the strikes during which US forces "struck Iranian military command centres, maritime capabilities, missile and drone launch sites, and air defence systems to degrade Iran's ability to continue attacking commercial vessels flowing through the Strait of Hormuz". "Commercial vessel transits through the vital international maritime corridor continue," it said. "American forces remain postured and prepared to hold Iran accountable for unwarranted aggression toward civilian mariners seeking to freely and openly transit the strait," it added. Hours after the first statement, the Iranian army said it had targeted US assets in Kuwait and Bahrain, including air defence systems, radar installations and administrative buildings.

UN says 144 migrants reported dead or missing off Mauritania

PEAK POINT



GENEVA: The United Nations said Tuesday that 144 refugees and migrants were reported dead or missing after "tragic maritime incidents" off the coast of Mauritania last week.

The UN refugee agency UNHCR said that overall, three rescue and disembarkation operations were conducted between July 14 and 18 in Nouadhibou, Mauritania, bringing 387 people of various nationalities safely ashore. But 143 people were reported dead or missing on one of the boats, which had departed from Bufalo in Gambia headed for Spain and was rescued on Saturday after nearly 25 days stranded at sea, the agency said. Only 38 people were brought safely ashore from that vessel, it said, adding that two children who had lost all of their family members during the journey were among the survivors. Another death was reported on a ship from which people disembarked on July 14, it said. "The refugees and migrants were reported dead or missing after attempting the perilous sea journey from West Africa towards Europe, highlighting the continued human cost.

PML-N supremo Nawaz kicks off party's election campaign in AJK

PEAK POINT

MUZAFFARABAD: The PML-N on Tuesday formally kicked off its election campaign in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), with party supremo Nawaz Sharif addressing supporters in the regional capital. Flanked by Punjab Chief Minister

Maryam Nawaz, the ex-premier began his address by noting that he was among the people of Muzaffarabad after several years. He expressed his affection for the people of Kashmir and highlighted the absence of a motorway between Kohala and Muzaffarabad. "A most beautiful motorway should be constructed along the Jhelum River from Mansehra to Muzaffarabad.

Iranian interior minister meets PM Shehbaz, CDF Munir in Islamabad

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni met Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir on Tuesday at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional and bilateral security, and effective border management were discussed, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). The visiting Iranian dignitary appreciated Pakistan's consistent efforts and its diplomatic role in easing regional tensions, encouraging de-escalation and serving as an anchor for peace. The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the resolve to maintain close coordination and cooperative mechanisms to safeguard regional security and promote mutual prosperity, the



ISPR added. Earlier today, Momeni held a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House. The premier expressed concern over the escalation in the Middle East and reiterated Pakistan's willingness to sincerely mediate in the conflict between the United States and Iran. According to an official press release issued by the Prime Minister's Office, "The Prime Minister shared his deep concern over the recent escalation in the Gulf region and urged all sides to exercise restraint and refrain from actions that

other senior government officials were also present.

During the meeting, the prime minister welcomed the Iranian interior minister and his delegation to Pakistan.

Recalling his visit to Tehran earlier this month to attend the funeral ceremony of late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif conveyed his respectful regards and good wishes to Supreme Leader Sayyid Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei and President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian.

Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni thanked the prime minister for the warm welcome extended to him and his delegation in Islamabad. He conveyed the greetings and best wishes of the Iranian leadership and said he was leading a delegation of senior government officials to enhance bilateral ties.

AJK election commissioner says polls to be held in three phases beginning July 27



PEAK POINT

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Election Commission on Tuesday announced that elections in the region, which were originally slated for July 27, would now be held in three phases ending on August 10. AJK Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice (ret'd) Ghulam Mustafa Mughal made the announcement at a press conference, citing the need to ensure the availability of army personnel for security duties at the insistence of participating political parties. The election commissioner said that polls will be held in three phases: CEC Mughal explained that the decision was made so that contingents of the army could be "available in all divisions in sufficient numbers" to ensure peaceful polling amid the ongoing situation in AJK.



SPORTS



Pakistan women crush Oman 6-0 in opener of Asian Hockey5s Challenger



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan made a flying start to their campaign in the Women's Asian Hockey5s Challenger, defeating hosts Oman 6-0 in their opening match in Muscat on Monday.

Pakistan dominated proceedings from the opening whistle, launching relentless attacks and

denying Oman any opportunity to settle into the contest.

Sobia Afzal emerged as the star of the match, completing a superb hat-trick with field goals in the 1st, 5th and 20th minutes.

Farwah Haider added two field goals in the 14th and 16th minutes, while Javeria Rahim converted a penalty stroke in the 12th minute to complete the scoring.

Pakistan maintained complete control throughout the 20-minute encounter, with a disciplined defence ensuring Oman failed to score. Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) President Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani congratulated the team on the emphatic victory. PHF Development Committee Chairman Olympian Islahuddin Siddiqui, Olympian Hasan Sardar,

Selection Committee Chairman Olympian Samiullah Khan and other federation officials also praised the team's impressive performance and extended their best wishes for the remaining matches.

According to the tournament schedule, Pakistan will face Iran on July 21 at 8:00 pm, Oman on July 23 at 7:30 pm and Iran again on July 24 at 7:30 pm.

Audit reports of all Pakistan Sports Board expenditures sought



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Inter-Provincial Coordination sub-committee has sought audit reports of all expenditures, complete details of development and non-development funds from the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB).

In a meeting held at the Parliament House under the chairmanship of Mehreen Razaq Bhutto in Islamabad on Tuesday, a detailed review of the performance, expenses, training programs and issues related to the promotion of sports was taken up. At the beginning of the meeting, Mehreen Bhutto inquired about the absence of the DG Pakistan Sports Board, to which the Federal Secretary Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) said that he was abroad in connection with the Commonwealth Games, while Shahid Islam would represent the PSB in his place. On a question regarding the inquiry against Shahid Islam, the Secretary IPC said that an investigation was conducted against him in the matter of an award, but he was found innocent. Mehreen Razaq Bhutto expressed strong reservations about the large number of officers posted on deputation in the PSB and said that officers coming from outside take away privileges, therefore only qualified and expert people should be appointed in the institution.

Pakistan to face Sri Lanka in CAVA Volleyball Championship 2026 opener



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The CAVA Men's Volleyball Championship 2026 will begin tomorrow (Wednesday) in Islamabad, with six teams competing for the regional title.

The participating teams are Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

It is important to note, Indian team withdrew from the event.

A trophy unveiling ceremony was held ahead of the tournament, attended by the captains of the visiting teams.

Speaking at the ceremony, Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) Chairman Chaudhry Yaqoob said Pakistan has established itself as a safe and successful host of international sporting events.

Pakistan will open its campaign against Sri Lanka on the first day of

and security guarantees from Pakistan.

He added that the government had made comprehensive security arrangements for the Indian team and stressed that Pakistan does not mix politics with sports.

However, he alleged that India continues to politicise sporting events unnecessarily.

The PVF chairman also expressed disappointment over the facilities at Islamabad's Liaquat Gymnasium.

He recalled that Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal had announced the venue's upgradation during the previous international event, but said air-conditioning could not be installed before the start of the championship despite that commitment.

Pakistan women to face Sri Lanka in 1st ODI on today

PAKISTAN WOMEN'S SQUAD FOR SRI LANKA TOUR 2026	
ODI SQUAD	T20I SQUAD
Fatima Sana (c)	Muneeba Ali Siddiqui (c)
Ayesha Zafar	Ayesha Zafar
Gull Feroza	Eman Naseer
Maham Anees	Eyman Fatima
Momina Riasat	Humna Bilal
Muneeba Ali Siddiqui	Maham Anees
Najjha Alvi	Momina Riasat
Nashra Sundhu	Najjha Alvi
Sadaf Shamas	Nashra Sundhu
Saira Jabeen	Saira Jabeen
Sidra Amin	Shawaal Zulfikar
Syeda Aroob Shah	Tasmia Rubab
Tasmia Rubab	Tuba Hassan
Umm-e-Hani	Umm-e-Hani
Waheeda Akhter	Waheeda Akhter

Pakistan Celebrates World Chess Day



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Chess Federation of Pakistan (CFP) marked World Chess Day by reaffirming its commitment to promoting chess nationwide and nurturing the country's next generation of champions. President of the Chess Federation of Pakistan, Syed Zeeshan Naqvi, graced the ceremony as the chief guest while CFP Vice President Rehan Azam, federation officials, players and chess enthusiasts also attended the event. Speaking on the occasion,

Syed Zeeshan Naqvi said the federation is taking practical and long-term steps to expand and strengthen chess at the grassroots and national levels. He said the record participation in the recently concluded National Chess Championship reflects the growing popularity of the game and will provide a major boost to chess in Pakistan. He added that the increasing interest among young players would create greater opportunities for emerging talent to compete

and excel at both national and international levels. Naqvi reaffirmed the federation's commitment to organizing more tournaments, training programmes and development initiatives to nurture future champions and raise Pakistan's profile in the global chess community. The ceremony concluded with a cake-cutting to commemorate World Chess Day, with participants expressing their resolve to work collectively for the continued growth and success of chess in Pakistan.

Pakistan quartet march into Round of 32 at World Junior Squash Championships





Minority caucus blasts top officials for snubbing Parliament, halts HEC scholarship discussion

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Parliamentary Minority Caucus strongly criticized the repeated absence of senior government officials, accusing them of ignoring issues affecting minority communities. The forum ordered formal action against the Inspector General of Islamabad Police after he failed to attend another meeting, while discussions on minority scholarships and the implementation of the minority job quota were postponed in protest. The meeting, chaired by Convenor Senator Danesh Kumar, was attended by Senator Khalil Tahir Sandhu, MNA Nelson Azeem and MNA Neelam. Members expressed serious concern over the absence of the Inspector General of Islamabad Police, the

Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue and the Chairman of the Higher Education Commission. They described the continued absence of the Islamabad Police chief as a non-serious attitude towards a parliamentary forum representing both houses of Parliament and a disregard for issues concerning minority communities. Senator Danesh Kumar directed that a formal expression of displeasure be conveyed to the Inspector General. He also ordered that letters highlighting the police chief's repeated absence be sent to the Chairman Senate, the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Prime Minister of Pakistan. As a mark of protest against the absence of the Inspector General and the Chairman of the Higher Education

Commission, the Caucus deferred discussions on HEC minority scholarships and the implementation of the five percent minority quota in Islamabad Police. The meeting also focused on a dispute between the Federal Board of Revenue and the Evacuee Trust Property Board over tax deductions from funds meant for minority welfare and the maintenance of religious sites. Members questioned why taxes had been deducted from money allocated for the welfare of minority communities and the preservation and rehabilitation of their places of worship. They also asked why the Evacuee Trust Property Board had remained tax exempt since 2015 but had only recently become subject to deductions. Officials of the Federal Board of Revenue

told the Caucus that the Evacuee Trust Property Board falls under the State Owned Enterprises Act and is therefore considered a taxable entity under the Income Tax Ordinance rather than being automatically exempt from taxation. The officials explained that the dispute had already been heard by the Tax Tribunal and referred to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee. They added that the Evacuee Trust Property Board later challenged the tax decision before the High Court, which suspended the implementation of the Federal Board of Revenue's order until the case is decided. Lawmakers questioned why tax deductions continued despite the legal proceedings and why the deducted money had not been returned after the High

Court suspended the implementation of the tax order. Federal Board of Revenue officials responded that the matter is currently before the court and assured members that the deducted amount would be refunded if the final verdict favours the Evacuee Trust Property Board. The Federal Board of Revenue further informed the meeting that if the Evacuee Trust Property Board is to receive permanent tax exempt status, it must be included in the relevant legal schedule through a Money Bill. Since the current Finance Bill has already become law, such a proposal can only be considered in the next budget. Representatives of the Evacuee Trust Property Board, however, argued that the Finance Minister already has the legal authority under existing law

to declare an institution tax exempt without waiting for the next budget. The Evacuee Trust Property Board requested the Caucus to direct the Federal Board of Revenue to immediately return the deducted funds and proposed an in-camera meeting to resolve the dispute. After detailed discussions, Senator Danesh Kumar directed the Federal Board of Revenue to review the tax deductions and, if the issue remains unresolved, convene an in-camera meeting involving all stakeholders. He further instructed the tax authority to resolve the matter through mutual consultation, submit a comprehensive report to the Caucus and return the deducted funds to the Evacuee Trust Property Board until the courts deliver a final judgment.

ISSI, PAIDAR commemorate South Africa's National Day, Nelson Mandela International Day

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with the Pakistan Africa Institute for Development and Research (PAIDAR), on Tuesday commemorated South Africa's National Day and Nelson Mandela International Day, with speakers highlighting the enduring legacy of

Nelson Mandela and reaffirming Pakistan's longstanding friendship with South Africa. The event, organized by the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at ISSI, was attended by Acting High Commissioner of South Africa to Pakistan Rudolph Pierre Jordaan as the chief guest and Additional Foreign Secretary (Africa)



Ambassador Hamid Asghar ISSI Director General
Khan as the guest of honour, Ambassador Moin ul Haque said Pakistan and South Africa enjoyed warm and longstanding relations founded on the shared values of justice, freedom, equality and mutual respect. Recalling Pakistan's steadfast support for South Africa's struggle against apartheid, he highlighted the growing cooperation between the two countries in bilateral and multilateral forums. Paying tribute to Nelson Mandela, he described him as a global

symbol of reconciliation, resilience, and moral courage whose enduring legacy continues to inspire humanity and strengthen the bonds of friendship between Pakistan and South Africa. Acting High Commissioner R. Pierre Jordaan thanked ISSI for commemorating Nelson Mandela International Day alongside South Africa's National Day.

Opinion & Editorial

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Habit or crisis?

The comical mimicry of an average Karachi man notoriously involves a muffled, sibilant speech with a lot of rolled r's to replicate their manner of speaking as they chew on chhalia (betel nut) as part of their daily routine. The habit of consuming tobacco products has become so ingrained in society that, for a most part, it represents its culture. Similarly in the rest of Sindh, street corners and roadside kiosks almost always have people lingering – some holding a cigarette, others enjoying a paan. The morbid result of these practices is now starting to show in healthcare statistics as roughly a 25% increase in oral cancers throughout the province, particularly among young people. According to healthcare professionals, the widespread use of gutka, mawa, paan, chhalia and other tobacco products is contributing to this increase – an emergency made all the more dire by the country's distinct lack of dedicated cancer hospitals. What currently exists in the province is a list of private-run or donation-based institutions and even they do not necessarily offer comprehensive cancer care. Some offer radiation therapy but lack the proper equipment and experience for chemotherapy or palliative care for all types of cancers under one roof.

Lessons from Spain's win

Jawed Naqvi
SPAIN have won the FIFA World Cup for a second time but their Sunday victory over Argentina became more rewarding by bringing a much-needed smile to the harrowed Palestinian people in their undeterred fight against the genocidal occupation of their homeland. It might seem a curious alignment of obviously distant spaces between Europe's Spain and Asia's occupied Palestine. But then, everyone knows that sports have always been intertwined with their strange political connections. Sunday's World Cup final represented a contemporary intertwining of sports and politics.

What happened on the field was a stymied Argentina succumbing to a team that moved like a symphony. Off the field, we saw the politically motivated mistreatment of the Iranian team by the host country under President Donald Trump's watch. Even here, though, the Iranians made their point with quiet grace. The perennially sanctioned country, facing daily bombardments from the US-led military, didn't shirk from sending a team to the enemy country to stake its claim as a qualified contestant in the fixtures. On the other hand, the outlandishly pampered Israel with its fabled clout and connections was never barred from the contest on political grounds as has happened, for example, with

Russia. Only it failed to qualify while Iran passed the gruelling test. And that's an important comparison to note.

Since 1979, when US sanctions were first placed on Iran, the country has picked up a steady tally including 21 gold medals at the Olympics. By contrast, Pakistan won its last hockey gold in 1984. More recently, it won gold in a javelin event in 2024. India took its last hockey gold in 1980 when all major players were boycotting the Moscow Olympics, again for political reasons. India also got a gold for an air rifle event in 2008 and a javelin throw in 2020. Both countries spend a fortune on military preparedness. Economising on defence budget without compromising sovereignty is another lesson our countries could learn from Iran, should they feel the need to invest in sports and education as they ideally should.

So, what triggered the polarisation over football following their Sunday contest? It's a given that Argentinian captain Lionel Messi is one of all-time greats. But his country's public embrace of Israel coincided with Spain's strident opposition to the Trump-backed war on Palestine's Gaza Strip. It's no secret that Benjamin Netanyahu's support for Argentina in the World Cup final was driven primarily by politics, not sports. It was a public show of support for Argentina

President Javier Milei, a newfound ally of Israel. Netanyahu said it loudly: "President Milei has revolutionised Israel's relationship with Argentina, and we have no greater nor better friends. Which is why we support them [in Sunday's match]."

What happened on the field was a stymied Argentina succumbing to a team that moved like a symphony. On the other hand, a broader pro-Palestinian sentiment in football came with Lamine Yamal, the Spanish sensation. Yamal famously waved a large Palestinian flag while riding on an open-top bus during Barcelona's La Liga title victory parade earlier this year.

As in politics, preferences for sports stars and teams change with time and occasion. Spain is riding a crest of successes in football. In 2023, it lifted the FIFA women's cup for the first time by defeating England 1-0 in Sydney. The British press at the time found a handy digression to mask the embarrassment by targeting a kissing scandal in the Spanish team. And now it's the Yamal effect carrying the day. But in 1986, the politically preferred football team was Argentina. While Spain remains the toast of the global resistance to Trump's brand of buccaneer imperialism today, Maradona's Argentina was celebrated for its football skills and politics alike.

Courtesy Dawn

Geopolitics of energy arbitration

Muhammed Siddique Ali Pirzada

International energy arbitration is no longer governed by contract law alone. It is increasingly shaped by geopolitics. Wars now determine far more than energy prices. They influence whether long-term supply contracts remain performable, whether arbitral proceedings can continue, and whether the awards they produce can ultimately be enforced. The Russia-Ukraine war exposed this transformation. Sanctions fractured contractual performance, complicated enforcement against state entities, and elevated public policy from a peripheral concern to a central feature of international arbitration. The conflict also raised whether awards arising from sanctions-affected contracts can survive review against EU public policy at the enforcement stage. That question is now before the CJEU in Reibel v Stankoimport. The Advocate General's February 2026 opinion confirmed that sanctions-affected disputes remain arbitrable in principle while indicating that EU public policy may nevertheless constrain enforcement. Arbitration's promise of finality is increasingly contingent upon geopolitical realities beyond the tribunal's control. The Gulf conflict accelerated this shift. Unlike Russia-Ukraine, where disruption was principally regulatory and financial, strikes on Qatar's Ras Laffan LNG complex and Iran's South Pars facilities directly targeted the infrastructure sustaining global energy trade. Combined with instability in the Strait of Hormuz, uncertainty now extends to whether contractual performance remains possible. Energy arbitration now confronts disputes in which commercial obligations, physical disruption and geopolitical conflict have become inseparable. Force majeure doctrine addresses exceptional interruptions rather than prolonged geopolitical fragmentation. Under English law, relief depends upon establishing that the qualifying event caused non-performance and that reasonable mitigation was undertaken.

Courtesy Tribune

Gilani calls for deepening Pakistan–Canada partnership through parliamentary diplomacy, trade, people-to-people engagement



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to further strengthening its longstanding friendship with Canada through enhanced parliamentary diplomacy, expanded trade, and closer people-to-people contacts.

Addressing a reception hosted in honour of Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms Anita Anand, the Chairman Senate extended heartfelt greetings on behalf of the Senate, the Parliament, and the people of Pakistan. He said that

Pakistan and Canada have enjoyed nearly eight decades of cordial relations built on mutual respect, shared interests, constructive political dialogue, expanding economic cooperation, educational exchanges, and the invaluable contribution of the vibrant Pakistani diaspora in Canada. Gilani described bilateral trade as the cornerstone of Pakistan-Canada relations, noting that Canada remains one of Pakistan's trusted economic partners. He highlighted Canada's important role as a supplier of agricultural commodities, including canola, soybeans, and chickpeas, which contribute significantly to Pakistan's food security, agricultural sector, and industrial growth. Referring to the growing economic partnership between the two countries, he appreciated the positive outcomes of Minister Anita Anand's engagement with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Ottawa, which helped further strengthen bilateral trade relations.

He particularly welcomed the successful arrival of the first shipment of Canadian canola at Karachi Port on 12 January 2026, describing it as a tangible symbol of expanding economic cooperation.

Emphasizing the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in the contemporary global landscape, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said that legislatures have an increasingly vital role in promoting dialogue, mutual understanding, peace, and sustainable development.

As the Founding Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC), he invited Canada to actively participate in the initiative, expressing confidence that stronger parliamentary engagement would further deepen bilateral relations and contribute to addressing common global challenges.

The Chairman Senate also highlighted the vast untapped potential for collaboration in sectors including energy, clean technology,

Pakistan invites Chinese investment in ports, logistics sector: Junaid Anwar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has invited Chinese investors to expand investment in Pakistan's ports, logistics and maritime sectors, saying the government was committed to transforming the country into a regional transit trade, logistics and industrial hub. Addressing the Regional Transit Trade Hub Initiative in Beijing, organised by Jiang Tonland International Holdings, the minister said Pakistan and China shared an "All-Weather Strategic Partnership" that was entering a new phase centred on connectivity, trade facilitation, logistics, industrial development and sustainable economic growth.

He said the global trading system was being reshaped by



digitalisation, smart logistics, resilient supply chains, green shipping and multimodal transport, making stronger regional partnerships and innovation increasingly important, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

Junaid Chaudhry said Pakistan's strategic location positioned it as a natural gateway for regional and international trade. He said maritime institutions, including the Karachi Port Trust, Port Qasim Authority, Gwadar Port Authority and the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation,

Petroleum minister, Kuwaiti exploration company discuss expanding energy cooperation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik on Tuesday met Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUPPEC) Vice President for Operations Tariq Ibrahim to discuss expanding cooperation in Pakistan's energy sector, according to state broadcaster PTV. During the meeting, the two sides discussed opportunities to strengthen collaboration between Pakistan and KUPPEC, particularly in Pakistan's energy sector. Malik said Kuwait was "a close friend of Pakistan" and noted that the two countries shared "a 50-year partnership in the energy sector." He said the government remained committed to expanding its long-standing energy cooperation with Kuwait. PTV quoted Vice President Ibrahim as saying KUPPEC was exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan's upstream oil and gas sector. The petroleum minister also assured the company of the government's support, saying Pakistan would provide "every possible cooperation"

and a favourable environment for investment. He added that the country remained committed to facilitating international investors in the energy sector. The meeting came as Pakistan's fuel supply chain starts showing signs of stress again as policy delays, the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and low stocks have sparked fears of an oil shortage in the country. Industry officials warned that a combination of critically low petrol stocks, delayed imports, rising international oil prices and unresolved financial issues could push the country towards another supply crisis. The warning came at a time when motor gasoline (petrol) inventories have dropped to around 379,442 tonnes, including the local refinery production, which was enough for only 14 days of consumption based on current demand trends. Industry data showed that petrol sales during the first 13 days of July averaged 25,000 tonnes per day, almost 16% higher than the projection and 26% above the same period of last year. The spike in consumption was linked to expectations of another hike in petroleum



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik met with Mr Tariq Ebrahim, Vice President Operations of Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUPPEC).

Abbasi felicitates Belgium on National Day

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Tuesday extended heartfelt congratulations to King Philippe, the Government and the people of Belgium on the occasion of Belgium's National Day. In a congratulatory message, the minister said that the longstanding relations between Pakistan and Belgium, founded on mutual respect, friendship and cooperation, had continued to grow stronger over the years. He said Pakistan was keen to further expand collaboration with Belgium in diverse fields, including economic, trade, education and people-to-people exchanges. Hanif Abbasi said Belgium as an important partner of Pakistan within the European Union and noted that significant opportunities existed to further enhance bilateral cooperation for the mutual benefit of both countries. The minister also conveyed his best wishes for lasting peace, stronger bilateral relations and shared prosperity between Pakistan and Belgium.

Governor Kundi calls for economic diplomacy, investment-friendly environment

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday said Pakistan's role on the global stage had become more significant than ever, urging stronger economic diplomacy, sustainable peace and an investment-friendly environment to unlock the country's economic potential.

Addressing a conference titled "From Marka-e-Haq to Global Mediation, Diplomacy and Economic Opportunities" at the Governor House, he said the recent regional and international developments had demonstrated Pakistan's responsible conduct, diplomatic maturity and balanced approach. The conference was organized by the International



Research Council for Religious Affairs in collaboration with the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF). The Governor said Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir had played an effective role in advancing Pakistan's diplomatic engagement at the international level.

He said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa served as a historic gateway connecting South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East, adding that with effective planning,

JCP recommends confirmation, appointment of judges to Lahore, Balochistan High Courts

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), chaired by the Chief Justice of Pakistan, on Tuesday recommended the confirmation of an additional judge of the Lahore High Court, the appointment of 10 additional judges to the Lahore High Court and three additional judges to the High Court of Balochistan, besides considering proposed amendments to the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (Appointment of Judges) Rules, 2024. The Commission met at the Supreme Court building in Islamabad in its respective compositions under Article 175A(2) of the Constitution, for the Lahore High Court and for the High Court of



Balochistan. During the meeting, it reviewed several agenda items. The Commission considered proposed amendments to the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (Appointment of Judges) Rules, 2024, and decided to circulate the proposals among all remaining members of the Commission, including representatives of the Federal Shariat Court and the high courts, for their consideration and approval.

Iranian Interior Minister Iskandar Momeni pays tribute to Pakistan's Martyrs during Islamabad visit

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Iranian Interior Minister Iskandar Momeni visited the Pakistan Monument in Islamabad on Tuesday as part of his official visit to Pakistan, where he paid tribute to the country's martyrs and highlighted the enduring significance of their sacrifices.

Accompanied by Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, Momeni was received at the Pakistan Monument with full official protocol. A smartly turned-out contingent of the Federal Constabulary presented a guard of honour in his honour, underscoring the importance of the visit and the close ties between Pakistan and Iran.

The Iranian interior minister laid a floral wreath at the Martyrs' Memorial and offered Fateha in remembrance of those who laid



down their lives for the nation.

He paid rich tribute to the martyrs, acknowledging their extraordinary sacrifices and unwavering commitment to safeguarding Pakistan's peace and security.

During his visit, Momeni also toured the Pakistan Monument, where he was briefed on its historical background and national significance. He expressed appreciation for the monument and the Martyrs' Memorial,

describing them as enduring symbols of Pakistan's history, resilience, and national unity.

The visiting minister also viewed the panoramic landscape of Islamabad and the Margalla Hills from the Shukarparian viewpoint, admiring the capital's natural beauty and scenic surroundings.

Inspector General of the Federal Constabulary Riaz Nazir Gara, the Deputy Inspector General of Islamabad Police, and other senior officials were present on the occasion. The visit reflected the warmth of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran and reaffirmed the two neighbouring countries' commitment to strengthening cooperation across a range of sectors, including security and regional collaboration.