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PM Shehbaz hails Pakistan's 'remarkable progress' in indigenous autonomous capabilities in defence, security fields

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that Pakistan has made "remarkable progress" in developing indigenous defence capabilities.

He made the remarks at the Indus Robotics and Autonomous Systems (RAS) Expo 2026 being held today and tomorrow at the Pak-China Friendship Centre in Islamabad.

Addressing the event, PM Shehbaz noted that Pakistan has "made remarkable progress in developing indigenous autonomous capabilities in the field of defence and security under the dynamic leadership" of Chief of Defence Forces

(CDF) and Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir.

"Our armed forces have adopted cutting-edge technologies, some of which I just witnessed on display outside this hall. Remarkable achievement," the premier said.

He added that he also took a look at simulators which were "100 per cent manufactured and assembled in Pakistan". He noted that drones had achieved 60pc indigenisation and "many other important machines" have been made in Pakistan. The prime minister recalled that the "valiant armed forces resolutely guarded our physical and cyber frontiers through the highly.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir attending the Indus RAS Expo 2026.

Pakistan condemns Houthi threats against Saudi Arabia, Red Sea shipping

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has strongly condemned threats issued by the Houthi militia against Saudi Arabia and commercial shipping in the Red Sea, warning that any danger

to Pakistan-flagged vessels would be regarded as a matter of national security. According to the Foreign Office spokesperson, threats directed at Saudi Arabia and international commercial shipping are unacceptable.

The spokesperson said Pakistan reserves the right to take all necessary and lawful measures to safeguard its maritime interests and ensure the security of its vessels.

The Foreign Office reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia. It also stressed the importance of protecting freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and ensuring the uninterrupted flow of global trade.

Pakistan urged all parties to respect international law, exercise restraint and take immediate steps to reduce regional tensions in order to preserve peace and stability in the strategically important maritime corridor.

US continues strikes on Iran for 11th consecutive night, triggering air defences in Tehran

PEAK POINT



WASHINGTON: Fresh US strikes triggered air defences in Tehran on Wednesday after President Donald Trump warned he was "not finished" with a war on Iran that has already cost his nation \$37.5 billion.

After the foes' fighting over the strategic Strait of Hormuz led to the collapse of a preliminary deal, the Middle East war has expanded to include the region's other key chokepoint for global oil supplies. The US military said its latest attacks hit targets such as "military logistics infrastructure" while Iranian state media reported strikes around the country, including Bushehr, which hosts a nuclear power plant. "News sources reported minutes ago that air defence activity was heard in the west, east and northeast of Tehran," state TV posted on Telegram. As the war nears the five-month mark and November legislative elections approach, Trump has faced intense political pressure to end the conflict, which is unpopular even with segments of his base. Critics have pointed to the cost of the war that Pentagon Chief Pete Hegseth said on Tuesday had soared to \$37.5 billion, defending a request for tens of billions in additional funding for the military. The US military said on Tuesday it had launched an eleventh consecutive night of strikes against Iran, saying it targeted military sites to further degrade Iran's ability to threaten commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. Trump said on Tuesday that the next US target could be an underground complex known as Pickaxe Mountain, a subterranean nuclear site near Natanz.

Rain-related fatalities during ongoing monsoon spell rise to 18 in KP

PEAK POINT



LOWER SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: The death toll from rain-related incidents during the ongoing monsoon spell and flash floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has

risen to 18. According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department, the current rain spell, which began on July 19, is expected to last till July 23 in KP. The latest rain-related fatalities in the province were reported from Upper South Waziristan, where four people were killed in a roof collapse incident. Additional Deputy Commissioner Fazal Wadood told Dawn. He said the incident occurred in the Bangiwalla village on the outskirts of Sarogha tehsil during heavy rainfall. The victims belonged to the same family, including a couple and their son and daughter, he added. Separately, a report released by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) this morning said that 14 people had died and 19 had been injured in rain-related incidents across the province since July 19. The report did not mention the South Waziristan fatalities which take the death toll recorded between July 19 and July 22 thus far to 18.

Washington plans to announce nuclear agreement with Riyadh, US media reports

PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: The United States plans to announce an agreement with Saudi Arabia on Wednesday that would give the country a civilian nuclear programme, according to media reports, amid renewed fighting between the Gulf oil giant and Houthi rebels in Yemen. Citing two unnamed US officials, the New York Times reported on Tuesday the Trump administration plans to formally sign and announce the deal with the Saudis on Wednesday, President Donald Trump's.

10 terrorists killed, 2 female suicide bombers and their facilitator apprehended in Balochistan operations: ISPR

PEAK POINT

BALUCHISTAN: Security forces have killed 10 terrorists and apprehended two female suicide bombers, along with their facilitator, during operations carried out in Balochistan's Surab and Mastung districts over the past 48 hours, the military's media affairs wing said in a statement released on Wednesday afternoon.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), seven terrorists were killed in Surab while three in Mastung, where the two suicide bombers and their facilitator were also apprehended.

"weed out remnants of terrorists and their facilitators".



The state uses the term Fitna-al-Khawarij for the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and has designated Balochistan-based groups as Fitna-al-Hindustan to highlight India's alleged role in terrorism and destabilisation across Pakistan. The ISPR said that as part of actions targeting these groups, security forces had carried out multiple intelligence-based, area sanitisation and target-

ed operations in Mastung and Surab over the last 48

hours, killing 10 terrorists. It further stated that the two female suicide bombers and their facilitator apprehended during operations in Mastung belonged to Fitna-al-Hindustan.

"Weapons, ammunition and improvised explosive devices used by terrorists were also recovered," the statement added.

It further stated: "Sanitisation operations are being conducted to elimi-

nate any other India-sponsored terrorist found in the area.

"Relentless counter-terrorism campaign under vision 'Azm-i-Istehkam' — as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan — by the security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign-sponsored and -supported terrorism from the country."

The latest sweeps by the security in Mastung and Surab take place as Balochistan continues to face security challenges.

Earlier this month, security forces and law enforcement personnel jointly launched Operation Shaban in Balochistan in retaliation for a deadly attack on a police post at the Mangi Dam pumping station in Ziarat on July 6.

Petrol pumps to shut nationwide for 24 hours as dealers strike over daily pricing

PEAK POINT



KARACHI: The Petroleum Dealers Association announced on Wednesday that petrol pumps across the country would remain closed for 24 hours starting Thursday morning at 6am until Friday 6am, in protest against the government's policy of revising petroleum product prices on a daily basis. Addressing a press conference, association representative Malik Khuda Bakhsh said the daily price fluctuation mechanism was unacceptable and that consultations had been held with a committee following an OGRA meeting earlier in the day. "We are going on strike tomorrow for 24 hours," he said. The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) updates petroleum products prices on a daily basis on its website to ensure transparency and allow the immediate impact of international price fluctuations to be passed on to consumers.



SPORTS



Pakistani team reopens remote Hindu Kush mountain pass after 27 years



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: A Pakistani expedition has successfully crossed and summited the remote Phargam An Pass (5,100 metres) in the Hindu Kush for the first time in 27 years, while women climbers reached the summit for the first time, officials said on Tuesday.

The expedition, supported by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA), Babar, Amina Shabbir and tude route linking the Laspur Madeeha Syed.

Valley in Upper Chitral with the Golain Valley in Lower Chitral. The team navigated glaciers, steep snow slopes, loose rock and avalanche-prone terrain to reach the summit before descending into the Golain Valley.

Kamran Khan was the first climber to reach the summit, accompanied by Mehrosh Akhtar, Samar Khan, Noman Khan, Noormal Rehman, Zohaib Khan, Omar Khitab Sheerani, Sohniya Babar, Amina Shabbir and tude route linking the Laspur Madeeha Syed.

The expedition also marked the first successful ascent of the pass by women, with Mehrosh Akhtar among those making history. Chitrali sisters Smell Rose and Madhu Shala Akhtar also took part in the expedition.

Led by local guide Zamurd Khan, the team said changing mountain conditions, including rockfalls and retreating glaciers, had significantly altered the route since previous crossings. During the expedition, climbers rediscovered a memorial plaque dedi-

cated to Austrian mountaineer Georg Kronberger, who died in the area in 1975.

Officials said the expedition was part of the KPCTA's Tirich Mir Project, which seeks to identify and document historic trekking routes and promote sustainable adventure tourism in Upper Chitral.

They said reopening Phargam An Pass would help showcase the region's mountaineering potential while preserving its exploration heritage.

Malaika Khilji becomes first woman from Balochistan to summit Khosar Gang Peak



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: In a historic achievement for Pakistan's mountaineering community, 14-year-old student Malaika Khilji from Balochistan has become the first woman from the province to summit Khosar Gang Peak.

The expedition, organized under the auspices of the Alpine Club of Pakistan, marks a significant milestone in the country's climbing history, said a statement issued here.

After successfully reaching the summit, Malaika Khilji hoisted Pakistan's green and white flag, a gesture symbolizing her love for the country and the determination of Pakistani youth.

The Alpine Club of Pakistan congratulated Balochistan's "proud daughter" Malaika Khilji and her family on this historic accomplishment.

Malaika Khilji's success sends a powerful message to the world that the true identity of Balochistan lies in its talented, courageous, and hopeful young people.

"Malaika Khilji's achievement is not just a feat of mountaineering, but also a strong message of hope, perseverance, and patriotism," the statement added.

Faiqa focused on clock, not CWG podium



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: There is a version of this story that ends with a medal, and Faiqa Riaz has already told you it isn't this one. She has seen the start list. She knows who is in lane four, and lane six, and she has done the arithmetic that every sprinter outside the handful of nations that treat 100 metres as a

matter of national prestige eventually learns to do: run your race, know your rivals, and don't confuse ambition with delusion. "The line-up is stacked," Faiqa told Dawn on Tuesday, and there is no self-pity in it, just the flat, practised honesty of someone who has been reading entry lists crowned at her own trials in 11.12 seconds. Australia and Jamaica, because it would hardly be a major championship without them.

"There are athletes from Saint Lucia and Jamaica," the 26-year-old said. "Who are comparable to some of our male athletes here." It is meant as a measure of the gap, not a complaint about it. So when the Commonwealth Games open in Glasgow on Thursday, and Scotstoun Stadium hosts the women's 100m heats on July 27 — one of those brutal, one-and-done formats where the semi-finals and final arrive a day later regardless of whether your legs are ready for them — her target will not be a place on the podium.

Pakistan and West Indies end four-day warm-up match in draw



Thousands welcome home Argentina squad, without Messi, despite World Cup loss

PEAK POINT

BUENOS AIRES: Thousands of fans braved the cold and rain Monday to give a rapturous welcome to the Argentine football squad who landed back home without star Lionel Messi, after their World Cup final loss to Spain.

It was not the homecoming Argentines had hoped for, four years after millions celebrated their team's tournament victory in 2022, but fresh scenes of joyful chaos filled the street as they danced, sang and set off fireworks to thank the players.

The Argentine Football Association (AFA) said earlier that some squad members would not be on the flight, and iconic team captain Messi was not seen descending from the aircraft in images broadcast on local television.

Coach Lionel Scaloni and the rest of the team were wel-

comed with a red carpet outside the aircraft and a military band.

They then boarded a bus, waving to frenzied fans along the way.

Despite falling short of a second straight champi-

onship, "Argentines will celebrate anyway," said housewife Marga Ledezma. The 36-year-old thanked Messi for "all the years he made us happy," urging him not to quit playing for Argentina, but admitting this would be difficult as he was 39.

Argentina lost 1-0 to Spain in a game that has been

criticised in international media for a plethora of fouls and displays of poor sportsmanship from the Albiceleste.

"I think they criticise us because we know what it's like to suffer, that we get up,



onship, "Argentines will celebrate anyway," said housewife Marga Ledezma.

The 36-year-old thanked Messi for "all the years he made us happy," urging him not to quit playing for Argentina, but admitting this would be difficult as he was 39.

Argentina lost 1-0 to Spain in a game that has been

we fall down again, and we keep going," said Ledezma.

"This team united us all, and we should be grateful for that. We will always be there for them, rain or shine. I would say thank you to Messi and that he gave it his all," said Leonardo Barrientos, 36, who works in a textile workshop.

Pakistan women qualify for Junior Asia Cup after 14-year hiatus





PIEAS holds 12th convocation, confers degrees on 270 graduates

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Board of Governors (BoG) of Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS) University and Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar Wednesday urged young engineers and scientists to capitalize on emerging opportunities in research, innovation and advanced technologies to help build a

knowledge-based, innovative and self-reliant Pakistan.

Addressing the 12th Convocation of PIEAS at the Inam-ur-Rehman Auditorium, he congratulated the graduating students on their academic achievements and advised them to embrace unprecedented opportunities available in science and technology. PIEAS holds 12th convocation, confers degrees on 270 graduates



"Today, our young engineers and scientists have access to opportunities and platforms that previous generations could only dream

said. The convocation, held under the auspices of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), was attended by Scientist Emeritus Dr. Inam-ur-Rehman (SI), members of the Commission, director generals, directors, distinguished faculty members, graduates and their families. Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar, who was the chief guest, conferred degrees upon 270 graduates in various disciplines of engineering and applied sciences, including Electrical

Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Materials and Metallurgy Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Physics, and Computer and Information Sciences. Expressing satisfaction over the growing participation of women in higher education, the chairman said female graduates constituted a significant proportion of this year's graduating class, reflecting the expanding role of Pakistani women in science, engineering and emerging technologies.

Big operation by Islamabad Customs Enforcement, non-tax paid cigarettes worth millions of rupees seized



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Collectorate of Customs Enforcement, Islamabad, acting on intelligence-led information, conducted a success-

ful anti-smuggling operation at Chakri and Balkasar. These sustained enforcement actions, carried out under the supervision of the senior leadership of Customs Enforcement, underscore the

Collectorate's unwavering commitment to eradicating illicit trade and safeguarding the national economy. During the operation, Customs Enforcement teams successfully intercepted and seized eleven (11) Mazda trucks fully loaded with counterfeit cigarettes.

The cumulative estimated value of the seized goods and the offending vehicles exceeds PKR 400 million, representing a significant blow to organized smuggling networks operating in the region.

CDA, volunteers clear two tonnes of garbage from Rawal Dam



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: More than 200 volunteers removed around two tonnes of solid waste from the banks of Rawal Dam during a cleanup

drive organised by the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) in collaboration with Jazz World on Wednesday.

The campaign, launched on the directives of CDA Chairman and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, was aimed at promoting environmental protection and raising public awareness about responsible waste disposal.

CDA, volunteers clear two tonnes of garbage from Rawal Dam

The drive was led by MCI Chief Officer Dr. Anam Fatima and brought together representatives of CDA, MCI, Jazz World, non-governmental organisations, students and members of civil society.

Opinion & Editorial

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And now Burnham

Former Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham strode through the gates of Buckingham Palace on Monday and into 10 Downing Street as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the seventh person to have held the post in the past decade. He began the day by chopping mushrooms at a homeless shelter - signaling his desire to make homelessness one of his signature issues - before meeting with the king to formally accept the premiership. Hours later, he was on the phone with US President Donald Trump, discussing the FIFA World Cup and the Hormuz Strait. As Mayor of Manchester, Burnham established a reputation as an everyman. His speech outside No 10 continued to build on that image - no lectern, no notes, no teleprompter. And it began with a striking analogy of the revolving-door nature of his job. "I am acutely conscious that I am the sixth person in the last ten years to walk up this street, the seventh prime minister since 2016," he told the nation before outlining his vision for the future. Why that matters is because Burnham's predecessor, Keir Starmer, was widely derided for lacking vision. Burnham, just by virtue of having a plan, is already looking to be one of the best British prime ministers in a decade.

The Balochistan tragedy

Zahid Hussain

THE rising death toll from the reported clashes between security forces and outlawed terrorist groups tells less than half the story of Balochistan. The strategically important province has been suffering for decades, and the crisis continues to worsen. Blocking the news cannot alter the reality on the ground. The situation points to a fractured state that is losing both public trust and effective control.

Unfortunately, there is little attempt to address the political and social causes of the crisis. The state's reliance on kinetic tactics shows that it has learned few lessons from the failed policies over the past two decades. After scores of policemen were killed in Ziarat earlier this month, the prime minister briefly interrupted his foreign tours to visit Quetta and reiterated that his government would fight until the last terrorist.

We have heard this refrain for years, even as terrorism is taking hold across the province. The latest wave of attacks underscores the growing operational capacity of the groups. Security forces say they have killed hundreds of terrorists in operations, yet there has been no tangible sign of the violence abating. If anything, it is spreading. Viewing the Balochistan crisis solely through a security prism has only deepened people's alienation.

Although Balochistan has

experienced three phases of armed unrest since the creation of Pakistan, the roots of the current phase began two decades ago in the Musharraf era with the killing of Akbar Bugti. That action by the state triggered violence across many parts of the province. Balochistan had remained relatively quiet after civilian rule was restored in 1988, bringing Baloch nationalists into the political mainstream. It is true that their major demands, including those related to royalties from natural gas and the fair allocation of resources remained unfulfilled, but democracy at least gave the Baloch people a sense of political participation in the system. Tensions began to mount when the Gen Musharraf-led military government in 2004 announced controversial plans to expand the security presence that were widely viewed as an attempt to tighten federal control over the province. The apprehension was not without basis. The problem of Balochistan is a long-standing one and it is reflected in the direct consequences of an overly centralised system. The fresh deployment of security personnel further fuelled discontent. The power imbalance has been far starker in Balochistan than in any other province. Unfortunately, there is little attempt to address the political and social causes of the crisis. I recall visiting Akbar Bugti at his home in Dera Bugti in late 2005, some

months before his death. The town looked as if it were under siege. Heavy artillery and armoured vehicles had been deployed along the roads from Sui to Dera Bugti. Some of the buildings around his residence had been damaged by intermittent firing by security forces. I stayed in Dera Bugti for three days and had several conversations with Bugti, who was then one of the province's most powerful tribal chieftains. Having also served as its governor and chief minister, he was well versed in the political developments unfolding around him and, backed by armed tribesmen, appeared prepared for a clash with the state.

Although the dispute over royalties from the Sui gas field had been simmering for years, the government's questionable actions to expand the security footprint in the area escalated the stand-off. However, there was still room for negotiations. A Senate subcommittee comprising Baloch senators and members of the government benches had recommended increasing royalties from the Sui gas field and addressing the socioeconomic issues that underpinned Balochistan's grievances. It is unfortunate that the government took no action on the report. The province supplied much of Pakistan's gas and possessed substantial mineral resources, but remains, to this day, one of the country's most economically backward areas.

Courtesy Dawn

Bad advice to aspiring students

Muhammad Hamid Zaman

IN late summer and early fall, I experience an uptick in emails from prospective students who are interested in doing graduate work with me. Getting emails at this time of the year is neither unique to me as a professor, nor to this particular year. However, there are trends in the last two years that are quite troubling. Nearly all the emails that I am getting from our part of the world (mostly from Pakistan, but occasional ones from other countries in South Asia) have uncanny similarities. The emails start with the prospective student introducing themselves and then have a specific paragraph about my work and what part of my work 'inspires' them. The sentence structure of these emails is almost identical. The worst part is that all of these students are 'inspired' (their words not mine) by the results of the exact same paper that came out last year! I try my best to respond to every email inquiry about graduate school - even if my response is short and points the students to resources in my department. But lately, I have been wondering if someone is sharp enough to (supposedly) read my papers, why can't they figure out what the admission process is? And how come they all seem to read only one particular paper, even when their training and background has little to do with that study?

Intrigued by one such email, I responded back to a prospective student and scheduled a zoom call. The student was polite, respectful and eager to join the graduate programme. There was, however, one problem. This particular student (despite the text of their email) had no idea about my research or my recent papers - including the paper that was mentioned in the email as a source of their inspiration! The conversation, while pleasant, was quite short. I have not heard from the student since. Because the emails come from students at different universities, and similar emails come from students in other countries in the region, it is not difficult to figure out that most of these prospective students are using generative AI to write such emails and have chosen the convenient path.

Courtesy Tribune

Pakistan ready to extend cooperation with Iran in all fields, Naqvi tells Iranian counterpart



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that Pakistan was ready to extend cooperation with Iran in all fields. He made the remarks as he met with Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni, who is currently in Pakistan on an official visit. A smartly turned-out contingent of the Federal Constabulary presented a guard of honour to the visiting minis-

ter upon his arrival, according to a statement issued by the interior ministry. It said that the two ministers held one-on-one talks, followed by delegation-level discussions. It said that the two ministers reviewed bilateral relations, trade, regional developments and avenues for cooperation.

According to the interior ministry, both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, prevention of illegal immi-

gration and efforts against human trafficking. The two ministers also emphasised the need for joint efforts to curb drug smuggling and terrorism "originating from the Afghan border", while agreeing to improve coordination between the relevant institutions of both countries. "Pakistan is ready to increase cooperation with Iran in all fields," Naqvi was quoted as saying. He also praised the role of Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Momeni, saying they had made "extraordinary efforts for peace". "I hope good news will come soon and peace will be established," he added. Momeni had arrived in Pakistan on an official visit on Monday night. On Tuesday, he met Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, where matters of mutual interest, regional and bilateral security, and effective border management were discussed, according to Inter-Services Public Relations.

Aurangzeb seeks \$10bn support facility from US

PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday asked US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to provide Pakistan with \$10 billion Exchange Stabilisation Support Facility to help strengthen the national economy.

The request, first reported by Reuters, was confirmed by officials at Pakistan's embassy in Washington. However, they did not provide any details. The US Treasury also declined to comment.

An official readout issued by the embassy noted that Aurangzeb had sought US support for Pakistan's road-to-market, based on improved access to international capital markets, higher foreign exchange reserves, and enhanced sovereign credit ratings.

However, the statement made no mention of the \$10bn request.

According to the news agency, Islamabad is seeking the bilateral stabilisa-

tion facility, with a maturity of up to five years.

The proposed facility would be a financial mechanism under which the US government, through the Treasury's Exchange Stabilisation Fund, would provide loans or other backstop facilities to Pakistan to bolster its foreign exchange reserves, ease debt pressures, and help stabilise the economy.

Such facilities are primarily used to prevent currency instability and, where necessary, support a partner country's currency through intervention in foreign exchange markets. Diplomatic sources in Washington told Dawn there were "strong chances" that the \$10 billion stabilisation request would be approved.

One source noted that the Trump administration "has a keen interest in remaining engaged" with Pakistan and has "more than once pledged" to help strengthen the country's economy.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muahmmad Aurangzeb, holding a meeting with representatives of the U.S. International Development Finance Cooperation (DFC) in Washington, D.C. to discuss priority private sector-led investment in Pakistan.

Tarar calls for greater investment in education, scientific research and innovation across muslim world

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Wednesday said that nations investing in knowledge and human capital were the ones shaping the future, and called for strengthening education, scientific research and innovation across the Muslim world.

Addressing the Inter-Islamic Forum for the Advancement of Education, Scientific Research and Innovation at the OIC-COMSTEC Secretariat, he said

access to quality education and scientific knowledge empowered individuals, reduced inequality, promoted tolerance, strengthened democratic values and contributed to peace, justice and sustainable development.

He reaffirmed the government's unwavering support for initiatives promoting higher education, scientific research, technological advancement, innovation and human resource development.

The forum, organized by OIC-COMSTEC, brought together distinguished poli-



cymakers, parliamentarians, diplomats, university leaders, scientists and scholars from Pakistan and across the Muslim world to explore avenues for enhancing collaboration in higher educa-

tion, scientific research and innovation.

Among the participants were Mohamed Adan Khalif, Governor of Mandera County, Kenya; Tuan Jaziri Alkaf, Senator of Malaysia

Marri criticizes KP government's rain preparedness, seeks relief for affected families

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) Central Spokesperson Shazia Marri on Wednesday criticised the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government over its handling of the aftermath of recent heavy rains, calling for immediate relief and compensation for affected families.

In a statement, Marri said the recent rainfall had exposed shortcomings in the province's infrastructure, including roads, drainage systems and other civic facilities, causing hardship for residents.

She said despite being in power for an extended period, the provincial government had failed to improve basic public infrastructure and services, blaming the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government of prioritising



political rhetoric over public welfare.

The PPPP spokesperson also criticised the PTI's performance on governance and institutional matters, stating the party had failed to meet public expectations and had focused on political confrontation instead of addressing citizens' concerns.

Expressing grief over the loss of lives in Peshawar and other parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to the recent rains, Marri extended condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the recovery of those injured.

Pakistan, Iran agree to expand rail connectivity, trade cooperation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi said on Wednesday that Pakistan and Iran have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations, expanding railway cooperation and enhancing regional connectivity.

During a meeting with Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni, Hanif Abbasi welcomed him to Pakistan and said the visit was an important step towards further deepening the longstanding brotherly ties between the two neighbouring countries.

Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, also attended the meeting, said a news release.

The minister paid tribute to



the resilience, determination and steadfastness demonstrated by the Iranian nation, government and leadership during the recent crisis. Hanif Abbasi also expressed respect for Iran's Supreme Leader and paid homage to the innocent civilians who lost their lives during the crisis. The two leaders reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen the religious, historical and cultural bonds between Pakistan and Iran and stressed the importance of promoting peace, stability.

Women University Mardan holds 6th advanced studies and research board meeting

PEAK POINT

MARDAN: Women University Mardan successfully convened the 6th meeting of the Advanced Studies and Research Board (ASRB) under the chairpersonship of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana. The meeting focused on strengthening post-graduate research standards and reviewing academic matters in accordance with the University's research regulations. During the meeting, the Board reviewed and approved research proposals and other academic matters of 32 post-graduate students, comprising 4 students from the Department of Mathematics, 4 students from the Department of Education, and 24



students from the Department of Islamic Studies.

The Board thoroughly examined the submitted cases and emphasized adherence to quality research practices and academic excellence. The meeting was coordinated by Ms. Haleema Ikram, Director ASRB, and attended by distinguished external experts including Dr. Rubi Bilal of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.

and Chairman of MyProdigy Foundation Malaysia; Prof. Dr. Shahid Mahmud, Honorary Advisor, OIC-COMSTEC; Dr. Salma Noor, Founder and Patron of Dream Team CBO; Vice Admiral (R) Abid Hameed HI(M), Rector, Bahria University, besides ambassadors, vice chancellors, eminent scientists, scholars and delegates from Kenya, Malaysia and other OIC member states.

In his welcome address, Coordinator General OIC-COMSTEC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary

welcomed the distinguished guests and participants, emphasizing that education, science, technology and innovation remained the most effective instruments for achieving sustainable development and socio-economic progress in the Muslim world.

He highlighted COMSTEC's expanding portfolio of initiatives, including scholarships, fellowships, research collaboration, capacity-building programmes and the COMSTEC Consortium of Excellence.