



DPM/FM, Tajik FM reaffirm longstanding brotherly ties between two countries



Mohsin Naqvi inaugurates hospital during visit of FC Headquarters in Turbat



PML-N believes in performance, service delivery: Talal Ch

Founded By:
(Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
Website: www.peakpoint.pk

Executive Group Editor
Arif Mehmood Khan



Monday 27 July 2026

Safar 12, 1448 A.H

VOI No: 06

Issue No. 154

Pages 4 Rs. 20

Ravi, Chenab flood levels likely to reach medium to high

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: While a vast area of Punjab, covering nearly 400 square kilometres, has come under water following ongoing torrential rains and the overflow of several drains carrying water far beyond their designed capacity, the Chenab and Ravi rivers are expected to reach medium to high flood levels over the next 24 hours. The warning at a time when the flooding has already caused widespread damage to standing crops, livestock and infrastructure prompted district administrations in several areas to expedite flood-response measures, including the establishment of relief camps. "The situation is very alarming this time, as a vast area of around 400sq-kms has come under water in Sheikhpura, Muridke,

Gujranwala, Narowal, Sambrial and Pasrur, which fall within the Lahore and Gujranwala divisions.", "The current situation resembles an inland sea because of the vast expanse of floodwater," the official added, requesting anonymity.

The situation is both unprecedented and highly challenging during the ongoing monsoon season, according to the official.

"Let me tell you that the flow in the Ravi at Shahdara (Lahore) is 22,000 cusecs, whereas at Balloki (downstream) it has surged to 87,000 cusecs. The question is: where did the additional 65,000 cusecs come from? It is water flowing into the river through drains and rainfall," he explained.



LAHORE: The warning at a time when the flooding has already caused widespread damage to standing crops.

Security forces have killed 16 terrorists so far during ongoing Operation Al-Azm in Balochistan: state media

PEAK POINT



RAWALPINDI: Security forces have so far killed 16 terrorists during the ongoing Operation Al-Azm in Balochistan, state media reported on Sunday, citing security forces.

"Continuing intelligence-based operations under Operation Al-Azm against Fitna-al-Hindustan in Balochistan, security forces [have] killed 16 terrorists, destroyed multiple terrorist hideouts and recovered weapons and explosive materials," state-run Pakistan TV reported. The government uses the term "Fitna al-Hindustan" for Balochistan-based groups to highlight India's alleged role in terrorism and destabilisation across Pakistan.

Operation Al-Azm was launched after a shooting on a Karachi-bound coach coming from Quetta claimed three lives and injured five others on Wednesday. It takes place as Balochistan continues to face security challenges, with the military saying on Wednesday that 10 terrorists had been killed and two suicide bombers and their facilitator had been apprehended during operations in Balochistan's Mastung and Surab in a span of 48 hours.

Iran warns of wider war across region if US resumes strikes

PEAK POINT



TEHRAN: Iran's army warned on Sunday that the Middle East war would widen if the United States chose to press ahead with attacks on Tehran, AFP reported.

"I believe that if the Americans once again fall for the Zionists' deception, or move in line with them, and insist on continuing the war, particularly through air strikes, geographically this will expand further," army spokesman Mohammad Akraminia told Iranian state TV.

Akraminia added that the war had already expanded to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait at the entrance of the Red Sea, referencing the military flare-up between Yemen's Houthis and Saudi Arabia. "The scope of our operations now encompasses the entire region, from US bases in Jordan to the countries along the Persian Gulf," he said.

According to the army spokesman, the situation in the Middle East for the US was "difficult and unsettled."

He predicted that Washington was now looking "for a new strategy," saying, "We are prepared for each of the options and scenarios that appear likely."

Meanwhile, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said that Israel wanted to keep the US in the region by "provoking" President Donald Trump and providing false information, Tasnim news agency reported.

PPP and PML-N set for close contest in Mirpur Division elections today

PEAK POINT



MUZAFFARABAD: Election authorities have begun distributing polling material across

Mirpur Division ahead of the general elections in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), with voting scheduled to take place on July 27 under extensive security arrangements. Polling will be held for four constituencies in Mirpur district, three in Bhimber and six in Kotli. Election material is being dispatched in phases to the relevant constituencies across the three districts.

Election Commission officials said the distribution process was continuing according to constituency-wise schedules, while comprehensive security measures had been put in place to ensure the safe delivery of election material to polling stations.

Police, Rangers and other law enforcement agencies have been placed on high alert, and a comprehensive security plan has been implemented to ensure a transparent and peaceful electoral process.

Additional personnel have also been deployed, with enhanced monitoring at sensitive polling stations.

11 killed, 25 injured in rain-related incidents across Pakistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: At least 11 people were killed and 25 others injured in rain-related incidents across Pakistan during the past 24 hours, taking the nationwide monsoon death toll to 97 since June 26, according to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

The latest fatalities included seven in Punjab, two in Sindh, and one each in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan, the NDMA said in its daily situation report. The authority said 25 people were injured over the reporting period, including 20 in Punjab, three in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and two in Sindh. The cumulative number.

Tarar claims man arrested for spreading anti-state material online in exchange for Indian funding

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on Sunday announced the arrest of a man allegedly involved in the spread of anti-state content on social media in exchange for funding from India. In a televised message aired on state media, the information minister said that security forces had some time back arrested a man working in digital marketing services whose business activities were allegedly found to have links in India. The minister accused the arrested suspect of receiving payments from India in exchange for running a "network of misinformation" in Pakistan. The minister observed that Indian-funded troll farms operating on social media often sought digital marketing services.

Tarar alleged that the digital marketing professional with the help of bot farms had

spread and made viral on social media "anti-state con-

where they talked about views (on posts), and money



tent and content against Pakistan, its security, government, army, army chief and government institutions". The minister also showed screenshots of transactions and posts that were allegedly part of the misinformation campaign which promoted sectarian violence, recent unrest in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and anti-state and anti-army elements. "The man had a WhatsApp chat with his Indian operator,

and account details were being exchanged," Tarar claimed.

"Small amounts of funds were transferred so that the payments would not be detected by financial monitoring units," Tarar said, adding that the government was now investigating digital payment gateways.

The information minister also claimed that the individual had confessed that "most of the content he received

was about the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC)", which the government declared a proscribed organisation following its call for widespread protests on June 9.

At this, the minister shifted his attention to what he described as the "JAAC-anti-state nexus", claiming that the now-proscribed group "wants to harm the Kashmir cause, and they want to weaken Pakistan's relationship with Kashmir".

Drawing a connection between the arrested suspect and JAAC, the minister claimed that the government now had "irrefutable evidence" of the group's ties to India. Over the past month, the regional administration and the JAAC have been at odds over various issues, most notably the committee's demand to abolish the 12 seats in the region's Legislative Assembly.

WB terms performance of PRIAT project satisfactory



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A World Bank-backed flagship agriculture project in Punjab has delivered strong early results, with sharp gains in water productivity, crop diversification and farmers' incomes, indicating that climate-smart agriculture and efficient irrigation can significantly strengthen Pakistan's farm sector amid growing water scarcity. According to the latest World Bank Report, the Punjab Resilient and Inclusive Agriculture Transformation (PRIAT) project remains on track to achieve its development objectives, retaining "Satisfactory" ratings for both progress and implementation while maintaining an overall Moderate risk profile. The report states that the project has improved.



"Pakistan and Tajikistan will take cooperation in education, Trade and Media to new heights," Says Yousuf Sharifzoda

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Pakistan, Yousuf Sharifzoda, has said that Pakistan and Tajikistan possess enormous potential to expand cooperation in the fields of education, trade, tourism and media, and that both brotherly countries should work together to further strengthen their bilateral ties. He said Tajikistan is opening the doors of world-class education to Pakistani students, while enhanced media and people-to-people exchanges will further deepen relations between the two nations. The Ambassador expressed these views while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Pakistan-Tajikistan Educational and Media Consultancy Office in Islamabad, where he formally inaugurated the new facility.

The consultancy office will provide admissions guidance, educational counselling and student support for Pakistani applicants seeking admission to the prestigious Avicenna Tajik State Medical University and other leading higher education institutions in Tajikistan. It will also serve as a platform for promoting media cooperation and professional exchanges between Pakistan and Tajikistan. The ceremony was attended by senior journalists, educationists, business leaders and media professionals. Among those present were Muhammad Siddiq Anzar, Central Chairman of the All Pakistan Newspapers and Electronic Media Employees Confederation (APNEC); Kaleem Shameem, President of the Media Workers Organization; Muhammad Shiraz, Malik Munir Ahmad, Sobia Khan, Mehwish



Mumtaz Baig, Imran Ashraf, Shakeel Ahmad, Secretary General of PFUJ; Tariq Usmani, President of RIUJ; senior journalists Tazeen Akhtar and Gulzar Gilani, along with other distinguished guests. Maroof Abdul Rahman, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Tajikistan, accompanied Ambassador Sharifzoda. Prominent businessman Alhaj Chaudhry Abdul Rahman, along with Muhammad Asif Noor and Muhammad Khan, also

attended the event and held discussions with the Ambassador on expanding bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Tajikistan. In his address, Ambassador Sharifzoda said that Tajikistan offers high-quality, internationally recognised educational opportunities to Pakistani students and stressed that expanding academic collaboration between the two countries is the need of the hour. He noted that Avicenna Tajik State Medical

University is one of the oldest and most prestigious medical institutions in the region, attracting a large number of international students every year. He further said that Pakistan and Tajikistan share deep historical, religious and cultural ties, which can be strengthened further through education, trade, tourism and media collaboration. He reaffirmed the Embassy of Tajikistan's commitment to promoting comprehensive cooperation between the two friendly countries. During the interactive session, journalists asked questions regarding bilateral trade, investment, tourism, media exchanges and educational cooperation. Responding to the queries, the Ambassador said there is tremendous scope for expanding collaboration and emphasised that the private sector, media organisations and educational institutions should play a

proactive role in bringing the two countries closer. Participants welcomed the establishment of the consultancy office, expressing confidence that it would provide Pakistani students with authentic information, transparent admission guidance and professional counselling. They also noted that the media consultancy initiative would create new opportunities for cooperation between journalists and media institutions of both countries. The ceremony concluded with a visit to the newly inaugurated office, where participants reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening Pakistan-Tajikistan friendship and expressed hope that the institution would play a significant role in promoting educational, media, trade and cultural relations in the years ahead.

Citizen Facilitation Center issues 2,226 public service documents in one week, 604 int'l driving permits

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad district administration has reported continued delivery of public services through its Citizen Facilitation Center, where 2,226 documents and certificates were issued over the

past week. The weekly performance report showed that the center processed 604 international driving permits, 859 domiciles, 204 character certificates, 149 birth certificates, and 207 MRCs and DRCs, reflecting the range of services available to residents

under one roof.

According to the district administration, the Citizen Facilitation Center has been established to provide multiple public services at a single location, reducing the need for residents to visit different offices for routine document

ation and certification requirements. The weekly report revealed that 604 international driving permits were issued during the reporting period. In addition, 204 character certificates were provided to applicants, while 859 domicile certificates were

processed and delivered. The center also issued 149 birth certificates during the week. Another 207 cases related to Marriage Registration Certificates (MRCs) and Death Registration Certificates (DRCs) were completed and handed over to

citizens. The report further stated that 47 surety bond cases were processed during the same period. Meanwhile, officials handled 156 document attestation cases, enabling applicants to obtain verification of important records through the facility.

Opinion & Editorial

ISLAMABAD
DAILY PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD
Arif Mehmood Khan
Group Editor: 0333-5366814
Samra Athar Kakakhel
Resident Editor
Nadim Tanoli
Joint Editor: Mob-0301-7777874
Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
www.peakpoint.pk

Credit rating upgrade

For the first time since 2016, Pakistan has regained a 'B' sovereign credit rating from S&P Global Ratings. The upgrade from our previous 'B-' rating is proof of growing international confidence in our economy. A major factor behind the upgrade has been increased foreign reserves, which had dwindled to \$6.7 billion in December 2022 but now stand at \$25.3 billion. Tax revenue as a percentage of GDP is also up - though not as much as local and foreign experts would have liked. Meanwhile, the fiscal deficit situation continues to improve, coming down to 4% from almost 8% during FY2022-23. S&P Global noted that "improved institutional stability" and the successful implementation of IMF-backed reforms have contributed to the improving perception of Pakistan's economy, as have the recent Eurobond and Panda bond issuances. The upgrade reflects the success of painful but necessary economic policy decisions taken over the past few years. It should also lower borrowing costs, boost investor confidence and open doors to new financing opportunities. However, it is also worth clarifying that a 'B' rating is not particularly high on the scale. In fact, it is still below 'investment grade' - meaning S&P still considers Pakistan to be relatively high-risk for investors - and is only the 15th-highest of the 20 ratings on the scale.

"From venture to cannibal"

Amina Abdul sattar

Recently, I read a story by Khadija Saadat Hasan Manto, which portrayed the situation from nearly 78 years ago. At a time when Hindus and Muslims lived together, I wondered why, even after so many decades, we still need to write about the same issues. We still need to write articles and make videos on the same topics. I came across a reel in which a woman asked another woman, "If men disappeared from this world, who would protect women?" Her witty answer left the audience surprised when she replied, "If men vanished, then from whom would women need protection?" When I was young, I did not even know the terms harassment and rape, yet I heard these words everywhere. I constantly heard people around me saying that women should be careful of men. Whenever a woman went outside alone, everyone became worried because society was not safe for girls. As Muslims, our religion has already granted women sufficient rights. During the era of Hazrat Umar (RA), a woman could walk alone wherever she wanted, even at night. That was the true respect for women and the true system of governance because all laws were implemented in practice. Since my childhood, I have been hearing heartbreaking news about rape cases, and unfortunately, they continue to increase day by day. In 2018, when seven-year-old Zainab was brutally raped and murdered, it was an unbearable tragedy for all of us. After this case, the whole country united, the criminals were punished according to the law, and several legal reforms were introduced. As citizens, we hoped such crimes would decrease. But who knew that Pakistan still has so many people who prey on women? The Noor case once again shook the nation. Noor was a 27-year-old

young woman who could not protect herself from a predator. Her family had to appear in court many times, and after a long struggle, they finally got justice. There are hundreds of cases that remain unreported because of the fear of society. Within just four years, around 14,000 cases involving violence against women have been reported in Pakistan. Even in their own country, Pakistani women are not safe. It is not about age, independence, strangers, or being alone. We have witnessed countless cases where women were assaulted by their own relatives. Sometimes, even children become victims of these horrific crimes and are brutally murdered. When the Motorway case was reported in Lahore, many people criticized the woman for travelling alone. Instead of blaming the perpetrators, they questioned her clothing and why she was driving alone. To be honest, these are nothing but lame excuses because we have already seen many women being raped even when they were fully covered. On the other hand, many women have been abducted even when they were with their family members. These are all just lame excuses. No doubt, many responsibilities are placed on women, but men also have responsibilities. Men must also lower their gaze and control their actions. Not all men - but why is it always men who consider women their property? Once our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "Treat women well, for they are entrusted to you by Allah." As men are advised to fear Allah in the matter of women, now, vice versa, women are frightened of men. Last week, I was discussing such attacks with someone. He told me such incidents had become very rare. However, the very next day, I heard about the case of a doctor who was set on fire by a man. Social media spreads awareness about

these issues, yet every day Pakistan witnesses cases of child rape. Pakistan is not safe for children either, as many of them are sexually assaulted every single day. We used to teach our children to stay away from strangers, but we often failed to protect them from people they already knew. We have seen many cases in which children were abused or murdered by their own relatives. Recently, social media was flooded with the news of Umar Rathore's case. He was murdered six years ago by someone known to the family. Although his family was educated, aware of the law, and fought tirelessly for justice, his killers have still not received the death sentence. From Umar Rathore's case, we can learn several lessons. First, never place blind trust in anyone, even if they are relatives. Second, in Pakistan, even influential families often struggle to obtain justice. Third, not only girls but boys are also abducted, abused, and murdered. We have countless unforgettable cases that are still waiting for justice. Recently, we were devastated by the deaths of Muntaha, Kulsoom, Wali, Shakeel, and many others. Some families received justice, but many are still waiting. These crimes can certainly be reduced through stronger governance and effective implementation of the law, although they may never be eliminated entirely. As parents and citizens, do we not also have responsibilities? Parents should monitor their children's activities. Their mobile phones should remain under parental supervision because children may sometimes be exposed to pornographic content. Parents should also educate them about good touch and bad touch, understand the causes of their children's frustration, and address any unusual behaviour immediately. Parents must raise their sons to respect women. If boys are brought up

believing they are kings or the heads of the family, they may develop a false sense of superiority. Society often tells men that they are rulers, but they also need to be taught that women deserve equal respect, dignity, and rights. Since childhood, we have witnessed men attacking women - sometimes with acid, sometimes through abuse, and often through sexual violence. To be honest, it is heartbreaking to be a Pakistani woman today. We cannot step outside without fearing for our safety. Universities are not always safe. Madrasas are not always safe. Workplaces can be unsafe. In some cases, the bodies of women are found in gutters or stuffed into sacks. After reading Raja Gidh by Bano Qudsia, I was surprised that she used the word "cannibal" for a man. But now, after years of witnessing such incidents, I find myself using the word "cannibal" for those men who prey on the human body. I used to believe that women should never have to struggle for their rights because they are born with those rights. But now I feel that many men have taken away those rights and continue to violate them. In the end, I would simply say that when Saadat Hasan Manto was pressured to stop writing about society, he refused and said: "I only hold up a mirror to society. If you stop doing filthy things, I will stop writing filthy content." Today, women raise their voices and write against the actions of those men because of the crimes they commit against women. Stop committing crimes against women, and we will no longer have to raise our voices against you. Note: The words "vulture" and "cannibal" in this article are used only as metaphors for those men who commit such horrific crimes. They do not refer to all men. One factual note before you publish.

Foreign Office, COMSTECH launch first 2026 issue of Journal of Science Communication and Diplomacy



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COM-STECH) Saturday launched the first 2026 issue of the Journal of Science Communication and Diplomacy at a ceremony held here, marking two years of the journal's successful publication. Foreign Secretary Ambassador Amna Baloch, who was the chief guest at the ceremony, called for stronger sci-

ence diplomacy and emphasized that today's global challenges require collective solutions through enhanced scientific cooperation and evidence-based policymaking. The ceremony was attended by ambassadors, diplomats, scientists, academics, heads of national organizations, members of the journal's editorial board, and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and COMSTECH. Ambassadors from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Tajikistan and Mauritius, diplomats from Jordan and Azerbaijan, as well as senior officials of the ECO Science Foundation,

Higher Education Commission, Pakistan Academy of Sciences and representatives of other leading scientific and academic institutions also attended. Addressing the ceremony, Foreign Secretary Ambassador Amna Baloch underscored that today's global challenges require collective solutions and highlighted the increasingly important role of science diplomacy in bridging science and foreign policy. She emphasized the need for enhanced scientific cooperation within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and greater participation of developing countries in shaping the governance of emerging technologies. She also appreciated the collaboration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and COMSTECH in publishing the journal, describing it as a significant initiative to strengthen science diplomacy and international cooperation. Speaking on the occasion, Coordinator General COMSTECH Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary said science diplomacy had become one of the most effective instruments for addressing global challenges.

DPM/FM, Tajik FM reaffirm longstanding brotherly ties between two countries

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Foreign Minister of Tajikistan Sirojiddin Muhriddin, reaffirmed the longstanding, brotherly and close ties between Pakistan and Tajikistan.

They also expressed their shared commitment to further expanding cooperation in trade, investment, connectivity, energy, culture, and people-to-people exchanges.

The DPM/FM met with the Tajik foreign minister on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

They underscored the



importance of sustained high-level exchanges to further strengthen the bilateral partnership.

Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhriddin reaffirmed Tajikistan's support for Pakistan's continued efforts to promote peace, stability, and the peaceful resolution of regional issues. The two leaders also exchanged views on regional and global developments and emphasized the importance of cooperation at multilateral forums to advance peace, stability, and prosperity.

Mangroves Vital for Coastal Protection, Sustainable Fisheries: Junaid Anwar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry on Sunday highlighted the vital role of Pakistan's mangroves in protecting the Arabian Sea coastline, sustaining fisheries and strengthening climate resilience. In a statement issued on the eve of World Mangrove Day, he called for concerted efforts to protect and restore the country's mangrove ecosystems and unlock their potential for the blue economy. The minister noted that Pakistan is home to the world's largest arid-climate mangrove forest, concentrated in the Indus Delta in Sindh, with smaller patches in Balochistan. He said Pakistan currently ranks around seventh globally in mangrove forest area and could move to fourth or fifth place through sustained restoration efforts. Junaid Chaudhry said mangroves act as a natural shield against shoreline erosion, flooding and storm surges while protecting coastal communities, ports and marine biodiversity. He warned that degradation of these ecosystems threatens food security and the livelihoods of fishing communities, as mangroves serve as breeding and nursery grounds

for fish, shrimp, crabs and other species that support fisheries and emerging aquaculture.

He estimated that Pakistan's mangrove carbon market could generate \$20-50 million annually, depending on carbon-credit prices and volumes.

The minister said Balochistan's roughly 4,058 hectares of mangroves could also contribute to national carbon-market initiatives. He added that mangroves can sequester roughly four times more carbon than terrestrial forests.

Acknowledging past degradation caused by encroachments, pollution and reduced Indus flows, Junaid Chaudhry outlined rehabilitation efforts by the Karachi Port Trust (KPT) and provincial authorities.

He said KPT had recovered mangrove areas from squatters, launched afforestation drives along Mai Kolachi Road and nearby coastal areas, and organised weekly clean-ups. KPT had also appointed environmental activist Almas Kasmani as its ambassador for coastal mangrove restoration. The minister said she had already restored 4,000 mangrove plants and set a target of planting

Mohsin Naqvi inaugurates hospital during visit of FC Headquarters in Turbat

PEAK POINT

QUETTA: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Frontier Corps Balochistan (South) Headquarters in Turbat and inaugurated the latest hospital of FC.

During the visit, Mohsin Naqvi met with doctors, nurses and paramedics and urged them to serve suffering humanity fully.

The interior minister inspected OPD, various wards, MRI, CT scan rooms and the operation theatre.

Mohsin Naqvi appreciated the performance of IG FC Balochistan (South) and the team for completing the modern hospital in a short period. He said that he was very happy to see the FC Hospital functional so soon as there was a dire need for a hospital equipped with modern treatment facilities in Turbat.

Mohsin Naqvi said the local population of Turbat will also have access to this best treatment facility.

Mohsin Naqvi inaugurates hospital during visit of FC Headquarters in Turbat

PEAK POINT

QUETTA: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Frontier Corps Balochistan (South) Headquarters in Turbat and inaugurated the latest hospital of FC.

During the visit, Mohsin Naqvi met with doctors, nurses and paramedics and urged them to serve suffering humanity fully.

The interior minister inspected OPD, various wards, MRI, CT scan rooms and the operation theatre.

Mohsin Naqvi appreciated the performance of IG FC Balochistan (South) and the team for completing the modern hospital in a short period.

He said that he was very happy to see the FC Hospital



functional so soon as there was a dire need for a hospital equipped with modern treatment facilities in Turbat. Mohsin Naqvi said the local population of Turbat will also have access to this best treatment facility.

On this occasion, the interior minister was briefed about the medical facilities provided in the FC Hospital. IG FC Balochistan (South) Major General Bilal Sarfaraz Khan also briefed Mohsin Naqvi on the professional training and field operations.

Miftah blames taxes, OMC margins for high petrol prices

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Awaam Pakistan Party (APP) Secretary General and former finance minister Miftah Ismail has claimed that taxes and oil companies' profit margins are the main reasons behind high petrol prices in Pakistan, alleging that the government continues to protect Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) instead of providing relief to consumers.

Speaking on ARY News programme Sawal Yeh Hai, Ismail said the cost of petrol reaches around Rs220 per litre, including import duties, by the time it arrives at Karachi Port.

"The amount above Rs220



consists of taxes and the profits of oil companies," he said, adding that the government does not compromise on OMC profit margins. He alleged that authorities consistently side with oil companies when it comes to protecting their earnings, while placing a heavy tax burden on consumers. Criticising the government's taxation policy, Ismail said any proposal to reduce petrol prices



TURBAT: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi unveiling a plaque to inaugurate FC Hospital here on Sunday.

KP Governor Kundi says over 1,300kg of explosives used in Tank checkpoint attack

PEAK POINT

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday said that more than 1,300 kilograms of explosives were used in the recent attack on a Tank checkpoint that resulted in the martyrdom of 15 people, including 14 security personnel.

The governor made the remarks while speaking to journalists at the Regional Police Office in Dera Ismail Khan after attending a security briefing on the law and order situation in the region.

DI Khan's District Police Officer (DPO) Ziauddin Ahmad and Tank DPO Abdul Samad Khan were also present on the occasion.

Kundi described Friday's attack on the Manji Khel checkpoint in Tank as a tragic incident in which he said personnel of the Pakistan Army, police and the forest department embraced martyrdom in the line of duty.

More than 1,300 kilograms of explosives had been used in the attack, he said, adding that it showed the scale and sophistication of the terrorism threat.



The KP governor called for a unified national response to terrorism, saying the federal and provincial governments, security forces and the public must stand together to counter militant

threats and ensure lasting peace in the province.

He said Pakistan was confronting both internal and external security challenges and the country's security forces continued to make

sacrifices to protect national sovereignty and to ensure public safety.

He said India was using Afghan territory through terrorist groups to destabilise Pakistan, while claiming that weapons abandoned in Afghanistan by international forces were frequently being used in terrorist attacks inside Pakistan, particularly in KP. Kundi said the people of the province and the country's security forces had demonstrated remarkable resilience and that attacks such as the one in Tank could not weaken the morale of

either the forces or the public. "I met the injured personnel, and their courage and determination are commendable," he said.

The governor said he would convey the recommendations presented by the regional police to the federal government, as well as raise with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and the provincial government the matter of scaling up compensation and support packages for injured security personnel. He said the welfare of the families of martyrs and injured personnel.