

Ayaz takes notice of fake appointment letter case involving resident of Ghotki



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DPM, senior executives of Koc Holding discuss cooperation in energy, mining sectors

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PM invites Turkish businessmen to invest in Pakistan's industrial, power sectors

PEAK POINT

ISTANBUL: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif invited Turkish businessmen and investors to invest in Pakistan's sectors of industry, mines and minerals, power, information technology and participate in the country's privatization process.

He was speaking at a Pakistan-Türkiye Business Conference attended by Turkish and Pakistani ministers and businessmen. He said Pakistani delegation was in Türkiye to explore economic opportunities.

Türkiye, under the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, had made tremendous strides in industry, automobile sector, textiles, and agriculture in the last 20 years, he noted, adding that Pakistan wanted to learn from the

success of Türkiye in the process of privatization and setting up special economic zones.

He declared that his government had earmarked 1000 acres for Turkish investors in President Tayyip Erdogan's special economic zone in Karachi. Similarly, in the field of mine and minerals there was great scope, he said, adding, "Now is the time to explore these natural resources through our joint cooperation. Similarly, opportunities existed in the field of artificial intelligence and information technology. Pakistan has a young population. We are a country of 240 million people and 60 percent of it is youth and we wanted to take advantage of their talent." The Prime Minister said Pakistan wanted to privatize its loss-making power sector entities.



ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar addresses a joint press conference alongside IT Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja in Islamabad on Sunday.

Iran says military using ceasefire to strengthen combat capabilities

PEAK POINT



TEHRAN: Iran's military says it is using the ceasefire to strengthen its combat capabilities, warning that any "enemy mistake" would be met with a "crushing and decisive response".

Al Jazeera reported. Brigadier-General Mohammad Akraminia said the army was using the pause in hostilities to strengthen its armed forces. "We will not waste a single moment or neglect this," he said. "If the enemies make a mistake, they will definitely face a crushing and decisive response from the Iranian armed forces," he said. Thousands of US and Israeli air attacks hit a range of military targets, energy facilities and civilian infrastructure during weeks of war that began with the killing of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on February 28. The attacks killed more than 3,000 people in Iran, according to state media. OPEC+ approves further oil output increase as Hormuz exports start to recover. OPEC+ has agreed a further increase in output targets from August, the group said in a statement on Sunday, adding to global supply at a time when oil prices are falling due to the gradual reopening of the Strait of Hormuz for oil exports.

Islamabad frontrunner to host US-Iran talks

PEAK POINT



WASHINGTON: Islamabad is emerging as the leading venue for the next round of technical negotiations between the United States and Iran.

The resumption of the talks is part of ongoing efforts to keep the diplomatic process on track and resolve longstanding disputes between Washington and Tehran. "There are two possible venues for the technical talks — Islamabad and the Burgenstock resort in Switzerland," one diplomatic source said. "Islamabad, however, is the more likely option."

The technical talks are expected to take place on July 11, although a final decision on the venue has yet to be announced. According to diplomatic sources, the negotiations will focus on Iran's nuclear programme, sanctions relief and Iranian assets frozen abroad. The discussions are also expected to address regional security issues, including efforts to preserve stability in the Strait of Hormuz and maintain the recently agreed ceasefire in Lebanon. The July 11 meeting is intended to advance the framework established under the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, signed two weeks ago, which gave both sides 60 days to negotiate a comprehensive agreement on Iran's nuclear programme and related issues. The talks were temporarily delayed because of the multi-day state funeral ceremonies for Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Iranian officials have indicated that the composition of Tehran's delegation will be announced after the funeral ceremonies conclude.

Owner's consent mandatory for telecom infrastructure on private property: Tarar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar on Sunday made it clear that owner's consent is mandatory for the installation of telecom infrastructure on a private property. He said this while addressing a news conference alongside Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications Shaza Fatima Khawaja in Islamabad. The law minister further explained that the revised draft of the "The Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) (Amendment) Bill," clearly states that owner's consent is mandatory before any right-of-way can be granted over a private land. "The draft bill also provides clearer definitions of key terms, including right-of-way, above-ground and underground infrastructure, and the placement of telecommunications equipment, in order to eliminate ambiguity," he added. The law minister said the previous draft was passed by the National Assembly with six amendments. He said concerns were later raised in the Senate Standing Committee regarding its wording. Speaking on the occasion, IT Minister Shaza said the original law, enacted in 2006, requires amendments to address modern connectivity needs. She further said Pakistan's data consumption has increased by around 25% over the past two years, underscoring the need to expand spectrum capacity and strengthen telecommunications infrastructure.

3 girls killed, 4 injured in suspected quadcopter attack in Lower SW

PEAK POINT

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Three girls were killed and four other members of the same family were injured in a suspected quadcopter attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Lower South Waziristan early on Sunday morning, according to local sources. Munitions were suspected to have been dropped by a quadcopter drone on the house in the Nargasi area of Birmal tehsil, the sources said.

The incident reportedly occurred at the residence of a member of the Dinor subtribe.

Türkiye objects to Pakistan's revised methodology in soda ash case

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Türkiye's Ministry of Trade has formally objected to a change in methodology adopted by Pakistan's National Tariff Commission (NTC) in an ongoing anti-dumping investigation into soda ash imports, arguing that a revised profit margin assumption used to calculate injury margins departs from the Commission's established practice. In a letter dated July 2, 2026, addressed to the NTC in Islamabad, the Directorate General for Imports at Türkiye's Ministry of Trade said the commission's decision to apply a 10% "reasonable profit" margin on the cost of production and sales, rather than the 5% margin it has historically used, could distort the injury margin calculation and lead to a "wrong conclusion". The

case stems from an anti-dumping investigation in their comment to The



launched by the NTC on July 18, 2025, into soda ash imports from Kenya and Türkiye following a petition filed by two Pakistani producers, Lucky Core Industries Limited and Olympia Chemicals Limited. On January 15, 2026, the Commission issued a preliminary determination, publishing findings that supported allegations of dumping, injury to the domestic industry and a

causal link between the two. determinations are made following due diligence and in line with the applicable legislative framework." He further added that the case is currently undergoing the commission's established process, under which all stakeholders' arguments are assessed on their merits. "The investigation is presently at the final determination stage and, once completed, the commission's findings will be published. Until then, it would not be appropriate to comment on or debate a matter that remains confidential and under consideration." Türkiye's Ministry of Trade said it had previously submitted comments on both the initiation of the investigation and the preliminary determination. However, its latest letter focuses on what it describes as a key methodological issue.

PAF officer martyred while saving woman in Islamabad: police



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistan Air Force (PAF) officer was martyred after intervening to protect a woman during an abduction attempt on Islamabad's Ninth Avenue, police said on Sunday. Group Captain Asim Tariq was travelling along Ninth Avenue in the federal capital when he saw a woman getting off a motorcycle while the rider was pulling her hand, police said. Acting as a responsible citizen, he turned back and stopped near the motorcycle. The woman then ran to the other side of his vehicle. Police said the suspect, identified as Saad, began arguing with Group Captain Tariq before opening fire. The PAF officer later succumbed to his injuries, while the suspect fled the scene.



SPORTS



Babar Azam named captain of West Indies, England Test squads



PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Babar Azam has been named captain of the Test squads for the tours of both West Indies and England, the Pakistan Men's National Selection Committee announced on Sunday.

A 16-member squad has been named for the West Indies series, while a 17-member squad has been announced for the England series. The announcement was made during a press conference at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Sunday, while the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced the squad lineup in a press release.

Pakistan will play a two-match

Test series against the West Indies from July 25 to August 6, followed by a three-match Test series in England from August 19 to September 13. The PCB statement added that left-arm spinner Ali Usman, right-handed batter Muhammad Awaiz Zafar, right-arm fast bowler Ubaid Shah and wicket-keeper batter Muhammad Ghazi

are the uncapped players in the squad. Previously, sources had reported that several key decision-makers were not in favour of either reinstating Azam as captain or handing the additional responsibility of

Test leadership to T20 skipper Salman Ali Agha. In February, Rizwan

Azam was moved down the batting order for Pakistan's final T20 World Cup group game against Namibia for scoring too slowly.

He returned to form in April, however, with a blistering century off 52 balls driving Peshawar Zalmi to victory during the Pakistan Super League match against the Quetta gladiators.

16-member squad (in alphabetical order) for West Indies series: Babar Azam (captain), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Fazal, Ali Usman, Azan Awaiz, Imam ul Haq, Khurram Shahzad, Mohammad Abbas, Muhammad Awaiz Zafar, Muhammad Ghazi Ghorri (wicket-keeper), Rizwan

Mohammad Awaiz Zafar, Muhammad Ghazi Ghorri (wicket-keeper), Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha, Shan Masood and Ubaid Shah. 17-member squad (in alphabetical order) for England series: Babar Azam (captain), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Fazal, Ali Usman, Azan Awaiz, Imam ul Haq, Khurram Shahzad, Mohammad Abbas, Muhammad Ali, Mohammad Rizwan (wicket-keeper), Muhammad Awaiz Zafar, Muhammad Ghazi Ghorri (wicket-keeper), Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shakeel (subject to fitness), Shan Masood and Ubaid Shah.

Pakistan U-21 hockey squad named for Oman Tour 2026



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) on Sunday officially announced the 20-member national Under-21 hockey squad for the Oman Tour 2026, following successful trials held at the Naseer Bunda Hockey Stadium in Islamabad.

The final selection was approved by PHF President Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, on the recommendations of the national selection committee headed by Olympian Samiullah Khan. The committee also included Olympians Nasir Ali, Naeem Akhtar, Kashif Jawad, and M. Khalid.

Star forward Hamza Fayyaz will lead the team as captain, while Samiullah has been appointed vice-captain for the tour.

Full Squad:

Goalkeepers: Ehtisham Khan, Ahsan Mahmood, Defenders: Abdullah Farooq, Asam Haider, M. Zain, Halfbacks: Ali Hamza, Ali Raza, Ali Mehdi, Ali Ansar, Samiullah (Vice-Captain), Azir Khan, Midfielders: Saifullah, Muhammad Shehir, Yahya Najib, Humair Arshad, Forwards: Hamza Fayyaz (Captain), Ghulam Mustafa, M. Ahmed, Saif Ahmed, Hassan. The team will now begin preparations ahead of its tour to Oman, where it will compete in international fixtures aimed at testing young talent and building future national strength.

'Country Roads' stars as unofficial US anthem at World Cup



PEAK POINT

MEXICO: At this World Cup, the host US team's stirring unofficial anthem is... a 1971 folk song?

John Denver's "Take Me Home, Country Roads" has been an unexpected hit among fans, with US matches culminating in 70,000-strong sing-alongs.

Evoking a kinder, gentler America of a bygone era, the ring-

ing renditions have stirred emotions in a country riven by sharp political division under President Donald Trump.

"You can all kind of unite under it's, you know, America the beautiful and everyone can kind of sing it in harmony no matter who you are," said US fan Drew Bastinelli, who came from Oregon to attend celebrations in Washington

for the nation's 250th birthday. Packed stadiums singing as one about home being "the place I belong" feels like a breath of fresh air at a time when Americans are deeply anxious over concerns like inflation, health care, and an unpopular war with Iran.

Trump-backed "Freedom 250" festivities in Washington

have drawn partisan crowds, with thin turnout for a much-touted Great American State Fair on the National Mall. World Cup stadiums, in contrast, have been filled day after day with jubilant fans.

The "Country Roads" appeal lies in the way it conveys "a kinder, simpler era with less conflict and division," said Doug Hartmann, a sociology professor at the University of Minnesota.

"It is not just nostalgia that is at work in this song but also its ambiguity, its vagueness -- the fact that 'country roads' and 'home' are not clearly defined... means that everyone can hear and place and feel themselves therein."

Naqvi inspects Jeddah Stadium site as PCB backs Saudi cricket vision



Tour de France stage under threat due to forest fires: official

PEAK POINT

FRANCE: Forest fires ravaging a region in southern France are threatening a stage of the Tour de France cycling race, with a decision to be taken later in the day over whether the stage goes ahead, a top local official said Sunday.

The decision over the running of stage three of the race will be taken "by the end of the day" after being discussed in the afternoon, said Pierre Regnault de la Mothe, the prefect -- the top Paris-appointed official -- of the Eastern Pyrenees department.

The fire currently burning in the area has already swept across approximately 1,500 hectares of land and required the mobilisation of some 700 firefighters.

It is located about 70 kilometres (43.5 miles) from Les Angles, where riders late Monday afternoon



are due to finish the third stage of the event which is set to start in Granollers in Spain.

The prefect has also ordered the closure of the main road that provides access -- notably from the coast -- to the route of Monday's stage due to the fire.

"The fire has flared up again -- all resources are being mobilised to contain it," added Regnault de la Mothe.

Eala excels at Wimbledon as champions fall





Rwanda High Commission in Pakistan celebrates Kwibohora 32 with Grand Reception in Islamabad

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The Rwanda High Commission in Pakistan hosted a grand reception at the Serena Hotel, Islamabad, to commemorate Kwibohora 32, marking the 32nd Liberation Day of the Republic of Rwanda. The event brought together members of the Rwandan community in Pakistan, Friends of Rwanda, senior government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, ambassadors, high commissioners, business leaders, entrepreneurs, academics, media representatives, and other distinguished guests. The reception celebrated Rwanda's remarkable journey of transformation, resilience, unity, and sustainable development over the past three decades. Guests

gathered to honor the country's achievements while reaffirming the growing ties and cooperation between Rwanda and Pakistan. In her welcome remarks, H.E. Harerimana Fatou, Rwanda High Commissioner to Pakistan, highlighted the significance of Kwibohora as a defining moment in Rwanda's history and reflected on the country's extraordinary progress since liberation. H.E. recognized the brave Rwandans who stopped the Genocide against the Tutsi and liberated the country. She paid tribute to the Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) and the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives during this period of struggle, stating that their devotion, courage, and heroism will



never be forgotten. H.E. further highlighted that, through the hard work, determination, and visionary leadership of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), led by H.E. Paul Kagame, Rwanda has undergone a historic transformation and today stands as a gateway to Africa, driven by innovation, resilience, and determination. Barrister Aqeel Malik, Minister of State for Law and Justice, graced the event as the Chief Guest. In his remarks, he reaffirmed the strong and growing friendship between Pakistan and Rwanda, highlighting the expanding cooperation in defence, trade, health, education, agriculture, tourism, and parliamentary diplomacy, as well as close collaboration at the United Nations and other international forums

on peacekeeping, climate action, and sustainable development. Reflecting on Kwibohora (Liberation Day), he noted that it commemorates Rwanda's liberation on 4 July 1994 and marks the beginning of the country's remarkable journey of unity, reconciliation, resilience, and socio-economic transformation. He paid tribute to those who liberated the country, praised Rwanda's achievements over the past three decades, and expressed confidence that Pakistan-Rwanda relations would continue to deepen for the mutual benefit of both nations. A ceremonial cake-cutting marked the celebration of Rwanda's 32nd Liberation Day, symbolizing the country's continued progress and the shared

joy of the occasion. The reception was attended by a large and distinguished audience, reflecting the strong goodwill and friendship that Rwanda enjoys within Pakistan's diplomatic, governmental, and business communities. Guests experienced Rwanda's rich cultural heritage through vibrant Rwandan music, creating a warm and festive atmosphere throughout the evening. A dedicated Rwandan coffee stall offered guests, especially the youth, an opportunity to enjoy Rwanda's world-renowned specialty coffee, showcasing one of the country's finest exports and promoting its growing reputation for high-quality agricultural products.

FCE used Rs10.032m student funds for Bills, Rs5.471m still unrecovered

NADEEM TANOLI
ISLAMABAD: The Federal College of Education has come under scrutiny after audit officials revealed that over Rs 10.032 million from student funds was used for electricity bills, fuel expenses, and even donations, while Rs 5.471 million has still not been recovered. The matter was discussed in the 47th meeting of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), chaired by acting chairman Syed Naveed Qamar, where

concerns were raised over the misuse of funds meant exclusively for student welfare. According to audit paras, the institution used student funds to pay Rs 4.076 million for electricity bills and Rs 5.856 million for POL (fuel and power). In addition, Rs 100,000 was disbursed as a donation for flood affectees, which the audit noted was outside the defined scope of student welfare funds. The total amount identified as irregular use stood at Rs 10.032

million. The audit further pointed out that Rs 5.471 million of the amount taken from the student fund has not yet been returned. Officials informed the committee that partial recovery has been made during the current financial year and that efforts are continuing to recover the remaining amount. During the briefing, the management of the Federal College of Education explained that the institution had faced financial constraints over the past

several years due to rising utility costs and limited budget allocations. It was stated that student funds were used temporarily on an emergency basis to keep the college functioning. Members of the committee expressed concern over the absence of proper rules and standard operating procedures for the use of student funds. It was observed that such funds must strictly be used for student welfare activities and not for operational expenses like electricity and fuel. The

committee was informed that a Student Fund Utilization Committee, which includes student representation, has now been formed to ensure better oversight and transparency in future spending. Officials also shared that Rs 0.5 million was spent on a student convocation in the last financial year, while Rs 1.5 million has been allocated for student activities in the upcoming budget to strengthen welfare-related programs. The Public

Accounts Committee directed that student funds must only be used for their intended purpose and stressed the need for full recovery of outstanding amounts. The committee also emphasized that proper monitoring mechanisms should be put in place to avoid misuse in the future. The matter has been recommended for settlement subject to verification that the funds are restored and properly utilized for student welfare.

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1,000 days and counting

Over 1,000 days have passed since Israel started its campaign of terror against innocent civilians in Gaza. While the initial attacks were supposedly in retaliation for the Hamas strikes of October 7, 2023 on Israel, three years on, few people will still draw the connection. At this point, Israeli soldiers are just massacring Palestinians because they enjoy committing murder. And most of the world's champions of human rights are sitting silent - some are still selling Israel arms and ammunition. It is almost as if Palestinian lives have no value for them. After all, over 73,000 Palestinians - including more than 21,500 children - have been killed since Israel began its bombardment, according to the Palestinian government. Independent sources also lend credence to these figures. More than 1,000 of those killed were infants under the age of one. Over 520 babies were born and then killed during this genocide. Yet, Israel is still not an international pariah, and even labeling it as a genocidal state is somehow still a cause for debate, even though the world's foremost experts on genocide, along with many survivors of the Holocaust and other genocides, all agree that Israel's conduct meets the definition. The US, in particular, has provided diplomatic cover and military support, making it complicit in every bomb that falls.

Public narrative vs silent reality

Nadeem Ul Haque
EVERY two months, the State Bank of Pakistan announces an interest rate. The announcement is treated as serious economic medicine. Hiking of the rate is presented as a fight against inflation and cuts as a spur to growth. Either way, the public narrative is the same: adults are managing the fragile economy with a sophisticated tool. What rarely gets mentioned is the trillions of rupees the SBP, quietly and regularly, pumps directly into the banking system with no public scrutiny or debate. On current ledger this funding is a staggering Rs16 trillion, while the press conference talks about need for continued tightening.
SBP raises interest rates to make money more expensive and slow down spending, because excessive spending drives up prices. That is the stated logic. But its actual operations contradict its stated policy as it pumps trillions into the system. More money circulating fuels spending, driving inflation higher.
This glaring contradiction requires understanding what that money is actually for. It is not going into productive investments and factories. It is financing the government's deficits. Here is how the cycle works. The government spends more than it collects in taxes. To cover the gap, it borrows from banks. The injections exist because the banking system is the government's primary lender,

and it borrows so heavily that banks run dry. SBP then steps in and refills their coffers. The government stays funded. The banks stay liquid. And the illusion of financial stability is maintained.
When a government cannot control spending, it forces SBP to finance its spending, regardless of what the central bank says its policy is. The interest rate becomes a meaningless number on a press release. SBP's unwritten policy appears to be simple: keep the government funded, whatever the cost. Furthermore, changes in interest rates are supposed to change behaviour. SBP's continuous lending to the banks generates substantial profits for it, which flow back to the government as non-tax revenue. This circular loop results in the net cost of borrowing for the government being virtually zero - less than 0.5 per cent. At a price that doesn't inflict pain why would anyone's behaviour change?
Is the State Bank fighting inflation or financing government?
Industrialists and chambers of commerce continuously lobby for lower interest rates. They are wrong, but not for the reasons they think. If SBP were to stop injecting money into the banking system, the interest rate would not fall but rise.
Banks would have to compete fiercely for whatever money exists in the market. And the interest rate, the price of money, would be bid

up to levels higher than what SBP has announced. The rate we see is already an artificially suppressed number. The IMF, supposedly the guardian of sound monetary policy, looks the other way, while trillions are injected to defend the interest rate just announced.
The lobby demanding cheaper credit is, without knowing it, already receiving a subsidy. The market-clearing rate would be higher than the announced policy rate, not lower. The debate for rate cuts rests on a misunderstanding of how the current rate is being manufactured.
This brings us to another belief that policymakers and commentators here routinely get wrong: the idea that Pakistan's inflation is caused by supply shocks, energy prices or global commodity markets which are forces beyond SBP's control. Hence, the monetary policy cannot be blamed. This narrative is convenient - and wrong. Supply shocks can cause a one-time spike in prices, but cannot sustain inflation (a compounding increase in prices) month after month. Sustained inflation requires fuel which SBP provides by creating money, the trillions it injects into the financial system.
The bank officially claims to operate under a framework of 'inflation targeting'. It sets an inflation target range (currently between 5pc and 7pc) and uses interest rates as its principal instrument to hit it.
Courtesy Dawn

Death: a publicity stunt?

Ali Hassan Bangwar
Recently, a father in Multan, crushed by poverty, tried to bury his deceased son without a shroud. Others intervened and ensured a dignified burial. This isn't the news. Isn't it, you hearless? You all might question it. What is the news then? Is it the lawmaker's statement declaring the act a publicity stunt, stating that life for the people isn't that hellish yet in our country? It isn't the news, as the public usually finds itself trotted - not by words alone, but largely by actions. That is, how people, particularly the marginalised, are treated in policies and practices, and how they are viewed in the power corridors, isn't something new. Then what, if anything, is the news amidst all this? Of all that is loudly talked about and valiantly practised by those in positions of power, if anything here is novel or newsworthy, it is neither the death of the son nor the poverty of his father - it is the way the deceased was buried. The dead son questioned the system in a way he never could while alive.
Death from hunger, poverty and systematic oppression isn't something new, and therefore isn't newsworthy - not for a callous society and not for its cunning elite. Earlier, people used to dread death. For it defied all their dreams, relations and aspirations. Today, they dread life instead. Living - for a larger population - is no longer a luxury, nor does it inspire hope in our part of the world. Those who can't afford minimal survival solicit death. They see death as their only escape from the struggles of life. But hold on a while. Could death, amidst a life already in freefall, ever be easy or free of cost? Could it escape the burden of life? For the poor, it doesn't. It demands what their lives had demanded: a piece of cloth renamed as a shroud.
Therefore, highlighting the death of an otherwise inglorious life in social media is, for the oppressive system, unjustified - a scheme, a protest staged against it, a publicity stunt.
Courtesy Tribune

Govt plans annual evaluation of judges, says Azam Tarar



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Saturday said the government was committed to improving legal education, strengthening the professional training of lawyers and ensuring the effective administration of justice.

Addressing the inauguration of the Lawyers Education Academy at the Punjab Bar Council and a certificate distribution ceremony for successful participants of the Bar Vocational Course, the minister said work was underway on introducing a comprehensive health insurance pol-

icy for lawyers and their families. He said the federal and Punjab governments were extending full support to the welfare of the legal fraternity.

Tarar said lawyers would be provided treatment for cancer, kidney, liver and heart diseases at both public and private hospitals under the proposed health scheme. He added that the Punjab government had released Rs1.35 billion in grants for bar associations and announced an additional Rs20 million for the Bar Vocational Course.

The minister said the establishment of the Directorate of Legal Education at the Pakistan Bar Council was a major reform aimed at modernising legal education. He described the legal profession as a sacred responsibility and urged lawyers to strengthen their institutions and resolve disputes through institutional forums.

On judicial reforms, Tarar said a seven-member committee had been constituted to ensure transparency

and merit in the appointment of High Court judges. The committee will interview candidates and submit its recommendations to the Judicial Commission.

Questioning why High Court judges should not undergo interviews when Civil Judges and Additional Sessions Judges are required to pass examinations, the minister said judicial appointments must be based strictly on merit.

He added that the government was introducing, for the first time, a constitutional mechanism for the annual evaluation of judges' performance through a Judges Evaluation Committee.

Under the proposed system, a Judges Evaluation Committee will review the performance of judges at the end of each year. If a judge's performance is found unsatisfactory, the committee may send a reference to the Judicial Commission and recommend removal, he added. Commenting on constitutional reforms, Tarar.

Ayaz takes notice of fake appointment letter case involving resident of Ghotki

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has taken strong notice of the misuse of the name of the National Assembly Secretariat through a forged appointment/offer letter and the alleged misuse of the official status of the National Assembly.

It has come to the notice of the National Assembly Secretariat that a person namely Abdul Wajid, a resident of district Ghotki, falsely represented himself as a Grade-17 employee of the National Assembly and used a forged appointment letter issued in the name of the National Assembly Secretariat, which also bore forged signatures of the Speaker National Assembly. According to reports, the said individual not only misled government officials and police authorities by claiming this fake status and allegedly obtained undue



privileges and protocol, but was also reportedly involved in harassing and pressuring citizens through various means, causing concern and unrest among the public. The National Assembly Secretariat clarifies that Abdul Wajid has no connection whatsoever with the National Assembly Secretariat, and there is no record of his appointment or employment in the National Assembly. The appointment letter being used by him is completely fake and has no legal or official standing. On the directions of Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Acting Secretary National Assembly.

IPP announces candidates for 35 Azad Kashmir seats

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) officially announced its candidates for 35 constituencies in the upcoming Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) elections.

IPP Central President, Abdul Aleem Khan, formally distributed the party tickets to the nominated candidates during a high-level meeting, said a press release.

He was accompanied by Sardar Tanvir Ilyas, the President of IPP Azad Jammu & Kashmir, who is himself spearheading the party's campaign by contesting from three separate constituencies: LA-15, LA-22, and LA-25.

According to the official party announcement, party tickets have been issued to Muhammad Maroof for LA-02, Tasleem Arif for LA-03, Taimoor Hassan for LA-04, Ifthikhar Hussain for LA-05, and Ali Shan Soni for LA-06. The nominations continue with Zulfikar Ali for LA-08, Tahir Fareed for LA-09, Muhammad Yousuf for LA-10, Muhammad Talib for LA-11, Sabiha Siddique for LA-12, Nisar Ansar for LA-13, and Raja

Fahim Farooq for LA-14. For the remaining regional seats, the party has fielded Ejaz Ahmed in LA-16, Aamir Nazeer in LA-17, Murtaza Ahmed in LA-18, Shahzad Aziz in LA-19, Bilal Shakeel in LA-21, Sardar Rais Inqilabi in LA-23, Sardar Inayatullah in LA-24, Sardar Tabarakullah in LA-27, Kausar Taqdees Gillani in LA-28, Saeed Awan in LA-29, Maqbool Gujjar in LA-30, and Raja Mazhar Qayyum in LA-31.

The party has also finalized its list for the Jammu and Kashmir refugee constituencies based in Pakistan. These include Abdul Qadeer for LA-35, Adeb Amjad Butt for LA-36, Muhammad Tahir Khokhar for LA-39, Saleem Butt for LA-40, Saeed Dar for LA-41, Bilal Butt for LA-42, and Hamza Bazmi for LA-43. Furthermore, strategic nominations have been completed for the specific refugee seats allocated across Lahore, Multan, Rawalpindi, and Balochistan.

Concluding the announcement, IPP Central President Abdul Aleem Khan congratulated all the nominated candidates and extended his best wishes for their upcoming electoral campaigns.



ISLAMABAD: IPP Central President, Abdul Aleem Khan, formally distributed the party tickets to the nominated candidates during a high-level meeting.

Govt to spend Rs1.6bn to boost weather forecasting, early warning systems

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan plans to strengthen its weather forecasting, disaster preparedness and climate resilience capabilities through a series of projects and policy initiatives.

According to the Annual Plan 2026-27, a copy of which is available with Wealth Pakistan, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has been allocated Rs1.6 billion to improve forecasting systems and disaster risk management. The allocation includes Rs344

million for the proposed National Centre for Rainfall Enhancement to support water security, climate adaptation and agricultural productivity.

Weather surveillance radar projects in Multan and Sukkur have been earmarked Rs195 million and Rs5 million, respectively, to improve real-time weather monitoring and early warning capabilities.

Another Rs1 billion has been allocated for the modernisation of Hydromet Services in Pakistan project,

which aims to upgrade hydrometeorological infrastructure, improve forecasting accuracy and strengthen climate-related data systems.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination is projected to receive Rs2.5 billion, with the bulk of the allocation focused on forestry, biodiversity conservation, afforestation and ecosystem restoration.

Key initiatives include the Pakistan Climate Innovation and Green Growth Initiative to equip

Govt strengthens educational support for workers' families

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: In line with the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and the Government's unwavering commitment to the welfare and uplift of the working class, the Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, has issued special directives to the Secretary of the Workers Welfare Fund, Zulfikar Ahmad, to ensure the implementation of a landmark initiative aimed at providing educational facilities to an additional 100,000 children of registered workers across the country, from Grade 1 to 12.

This initiative is not merely an expansion of educational opportunities; it is a reflection of the State's trust, respect, and commitment to securing a brighter future for the working class and their families, said a press release issued here.

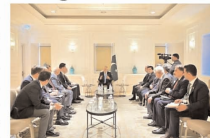
Federal Minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain stated that this historic decision is a practical manifestation of the Government's

DPM, senior executives of Koc Holding discuss cooperation in energy, mining sectors

PEAK POINT

ISTANBUL: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Saturday met with senior executives of Koç Holding on the sidelines of the Pakistan-Türkiye Business Conference, including Yagiz Eyüboğlu, President, Energy Group; Polat Sen, President, Durable Goods Group; Can Dincer, CEO of Arçelik; Melih Poyraz, CEO of Aygaz; and Ramazan Yön, CEO of Demir Export.

Discussions focused on enhancing cooperation in energy, manufacturing, mining, and industrial investment, while exploring new opportunities to deepen the Pakistan-Türkiye economic partnership.



DPM/FM apprised the business leaders of Türkiye regarding investment friendly environment in Pakistan. He encouraged them to explore and benefit from Pakistan's vibrant economy by investing in Pakistan either in solo or joint ventures.

Koç Holding is one of the leading Business Group of Türkiye with an estimated net worth of \$25 billion dollars. Their management has shown keen interest for making invest in Pakistan.

Governor says Pakistan emerged stronger after regional tensions, urges joint efforts for peace in KP

PEAK POINT

BUNER: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday said Pakistan had successfully thwarted attempts to malign it on the international stage and demonstrated responsible diplomacy that earned global recognition as a promoter of peace. Addressing a Pakistan Peoples Party workers' convention in Buner district, the Governor said efforts were made to declare Pakistan a terrorist state in the wake of the Pulwama incident, but those attempts failed. He said Pakistan gave a strong response to aggression against it, after which world leaders contacted the country's leader-



ship to seek a ceasefire. Kundi said Pakistan played a constructive role in promoting peace during recent regional tensions, adding that the international community, including the United States, China, Russia and Gulf countries, had appreciated Pakistan's balanced and responsible stance. He said Prime Minister, Field Marshal, Deputy Prime Minister.

youth with green skills and support entrepreneurship through a Green Innovation Fund. A National Forest and Tree Cover Assessment using remote sensing and machine learning technologies is also planned to improve forest monitoring and restoration planning.

The programme will further introduce specialised initiatives under the Upscaling of Green Pakistan Programme, including the Pollution Load Assessment Network for environmental monitoring in Islamabad, a

Botanical Garden in the federal capital and conservation efforts in the Margalla Hills National Park.

The government also plans to advance climate-smart agriculture, efficient water management, disaster risk reduction, green industrialization, circular economy initiatives and domestic carbon market mechanisms to support sustainable economic growth.

The focus on resilience reflects Pakistan's increasing exposure to climate-related disasters. The Annual Plan

notes that major floods in 2010, 2011, 2014, 2022 and 2025 caused extensive human and economic losses, damaging infrastructure and livelihoods across the country.

Citing the World Bank's 2022 report, the plan says Pakistan suffers average annual losses of around \$2 billion from floods and earthquakes. These losses could rise to \$250 billion by 2030 and \$1.2 trillion by 2050, with damage in priority sectors reaching up to 30% of GDP in a peak disaster year.