



Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan reaffirm commitment to stronger bilateral cooperation



Banking Mohtasib Pakistan calls on CJP



PMYP, PPAF, Arid Uni join hands to transform peanut economy

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PM reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to achieving polio free future

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the government was taking every possible measure to protect Pakistan's children from the debilitating disease of polio and secure their future.

Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to achieving a polio-free future, the prime minister emphasized that polio eradication remained a key national priority and urged all stakeholders to further intensify their collective efforts.

He was talking to a delegation of Polio Oversight Board which called on him at the PM House. The delegation included Mike McGovern, Chair of Rotary's Polio Oversight Board; Chris Elias, President of Global

Development at the Gates Foundation; Dr. Hanan Balkhy, Regional Director of WHO EMRO; and representatives from UNICEF, Gavi, and other partners supporting Pakistan's polio eradication efforts.

The prime minister welcomed the delegation and thanked all partners for their continued cooperation with the Government of Pakistan in the fight against polio.

He directed that special attention be given to polio hotspots in southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and called for the adoption of an effective strategy to address the challenge.

The prime minister expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Rotary International, the Gates Foundation, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Polio Oversight Board calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Iran warns against unilateral action in Strait of Hormuz

PEAK POINT



Strait of Hormuz taken without coordination with Iran after reports of an attack on a tanker off the coast of Oman. Al Jazeera reported that, according to the IRIB state broadcaster, Boroujerdi said: "any action in the Strait of Hormuz without coordination with Iran is doomed to failure". He insisted on Iran's control of the waterway, saying the decision was "made at the highest levels of the system" and influenced by the US-Israel's latest war against the country. "The law on the management of the Strait of Hormuz will also be approved by the parliamentarians at the earliest opportunity, and the relevant bodies will be obliged to fully implement its provisions," Boroujerdi said. He added that Iran "pursues any action related to the Strait of Hormuz within the framework of its national interests and security". Talks to reach a final deal between Tehran and Washington won't start if US threats continue, Iran's foreign minister said on Tuesday.

9 cops martyred in terrorist attack on police post in Ziarat

PEAK POINT



Shahid Rind, said that 15 Fitna al Khawarij terrorists had been killed in a clearance operation initiated following the attack.

Fitna al Khawarij is the term used by the state to designate members of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

Sources said that the armed men attacked the police post late at night. Police fought a gun battle with the terrorists for some time, but the latter eventually managed to enter the premises. Ziarat Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abdul Qudoos Achakzai confirmed the number of casualties in the incident, adding that it occurred in the Mangi Dam area. The DC said the whereabouts of five policemen were still unknown, adding that additional personnel had been dispatched to the area. He said an operation to recover the missing police officials was under way. Separately, Rind said that the martyrs included the SHOs of the Mangi and Kawas police stations, and Anti-Terrorist Force (ATF) In-charge Head Constable Saifullah. In a statement, he said the bodies were being taken to the District Headquarters Hospital for legal proceedings.

Jl chief announces countrywide protests against 'extortory' petroleum levy on Friday

PEAK POINT



LAHORE: Jamaat-i-Islami Pakistan (JI) Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on Tuesday announced nationwide protests and sit-ins on Friday, July 10, against what

he described as the government's "extortory" petroleum levy. Addressing a press conference in Lahore, Rehman said the petroleum levy had become an "unbearable burden" on ordinary Pakistanis, claiming that the government was collecting Rs118 per litre in taxes and levies on petrol. "Nearly Rs8.5 trillion has been collected through the levy to meet revenue targets rather than improving petroleum infrastructure," he alleged.

He also criticised the collection of around Rs60 billion under the Climate Support Levy, alleging that the funds were not being spent on environmental protection or climate-related projects.

Under IMF conditions, the government doubled the climate support levy to Rs5 per litre with effect from July 1, while correspondingly reducing the petroleum levy.

As a result, the petroleum levy on diesel currently stands at about Rs80 per litre.

One killed, four injured in Bannu quadcopter attack

PEAK POINT

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: One person was killed, and four others were injured in a quadcopter attack in the Bakakhel Customs area of Bannu, police said on Tuesday. According to Bannu Regional Police Officer Rab Nawaz Khan, terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij carried out the attack by dropping an explosive device within the jurisdiction of Baka Khel police station. Fitna-al-Khawarij is a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). He said that preliminary information indicated that an explosive.

Nato showcases big arms deals in Ankara before summit with Trump

PEAK POINT

NEW YORK: Nato leaders began unveiling arms deals worth tens of billions of dollars in Turkey on Tuesday, driving home the message that they are heeding US calls to spend more to defend Europe before a summit with President Donald Trump.

To upbeat tunes and slick videos at a defence industry forum in the capital Ankara, Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte announced a series of initiatives as the sum of various deal values was projected onto a screen. He called for a defence industry "revolution" across the alliance, warning over Russia's massive military spending as well as China, North Korea and Iran. "We don't have the luxury of time. We need capabilities now to ensure we remain ready. The security situation demands it," Rutte said.

"The hum of machinery must become a roar." United States. Weak economic growth and the need



It was a rallying cry for Western arms firms to ramp up investment to increase capacity, and for governments to place long-term orders and create the conditions for companies to thrive. Europe's defence sector has often been criticised as fragmented and saddled with red tape and rivalries between companies and countries. That has left Europe more reliant on purchases of weapons from the

to maintain generous state welfare provisions have also made defence spending a tougher sell in Europe. The deals, which had been mostly kept under wraps to make a splash at the summit, included European countries buying surveillance drones from US company Northrop Grumman, and Nato buying planes from Sweden's Saab.

Saab shares were the biggest gainers in Europe, up

more than 5 per cent as investors bet on the company benefiting from European rearmament. Morgan Stanley upgraded the stock.

US defence company Lockheed Martin and Germany's Rheinmetall signed a draft deal to jointly produce Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) missiles in Germany, a move that would mark the first non-US manufacture of the short-range ballistic missile.

Rutte said Nato allies will invest more than \$40 billion in the next five years in their anti-drone capabilities. The announcements follow Trump's frequent criticism of Europe for insufficient defence contributions and over-reliance on the US to defend them through Nato, which has protected the continent since the early years of the Cold War. Trump reinforced the message in a video.

ECP warns KP, Islamabad again over delays in local govt polls



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday again warned the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and the federal authorities against delaying local government (LG) elections, directing them to submit all pending delimitation notifications ahead of the next hearing on July 28. The tenure of LGs in KP ended on March 15 this year. According to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act, 2013, local representatives are elected for a four-year term.

The term of the last local government in Islamabad expired in February 2021, and since then, elections have been delayed under various pretexts. As a result, around 2.5 million residents of Islamabad continue to face issues ranging from water shortages.



SPORTS



Pakistan Women's U-19 squad announced for South Africa series



PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The Women's National Selection Committee has named a 17-member Pakistan Women's U-19 squad for the South Africa series set to take place in Karachi from 14 to 24 July.

The five-match T20 series between the two sides will be played at the National Bank Stadium, with the first ball of each match set to be bowled at 8pm local time.

South Africa Women's U-19 team will embark on their maiden tour of Pakistan and will arrive in Karachi on 10 July.

Both sides will take part in training sessions from 11 to 13 July before the first T20 takes place on Tuesday, 14 July.

Pakistan team will be led by Fizza Fiaz, who was part of the side that won the series 3-2 against Bangladesh U19 in Bangladesh in December 2025.

The right-handed batter featured in two matches in the five-match T20 series, scoring 72 runs, including a half-century.

The 19-year-old also featured in the National Women's T20 Tournament and participated in the National Women's U19 Tournament 2025-26 as well.

For the forthcoming T20 series, 11 of the 17 squad members featured in the previous series against Bangladesh. Alongside captain Fizza, Aqsa Habib, Areesha Ansari, Komal Khan, Mahnoor Zeb, Memoona Khalid, Raahima Syed, Ravail Farhan, Rozina Akram, Shahar Bano and Zoofishan Ayyaz are among the announced Pakistani squad.

Among the team management, Aisha Jalil (manager), Muhammad Masroor (head coach), Shoaib Khan (batting coach), Naeem Tayyab (bowling coach), Jaweria Rauf (fielding coach), Eman the team's preparations for the upcoming series.

Fizza Fiaz (captain), Alzoha Hammad, Aqsa Habib, Areesha Shaker (physiotherapist) included.

Ronaldo says his last WC is over but Portugal decision can wait



PEAK POINT
PORTUGAL: Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo's final World Cup ended with a Spanish sting in the tail, courtesy of Mikel Merino's last-gasp winner that earned a 1-0 round-of-16 win on Monday, but he was unwilling to make a hasty call on his international future.

Ronaldo told reporters in the mixed zone that Spain enjoyed "a bit of luck" to score through substitute Merino in the dying moments of a match he felt could have swung either way.

"I'm sad to be leaving the World Cup like this," he said.

"I gave it my all. I did my best and I'm leaving with a clear conscience. It was my last World Cup, yes, but I'll now have time to reflect and be with my family. I won't be making any rash decisions."

The 41-year-old stopped short of confirming whether he had played his final game for Portugal, saying he did not want a personal decision to overshadow the team's campaign. "I don't make decisions in the heat of the moment," he said.

Ronaldo, who helped Portugal win the 2016 European Championship plus the Nations League in 2019 and 2025, said he was proud of his contribution to the national team.

'I am fine, Shukria': Wasim Akram shuts down death rumours



PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram has dismissed rumours widely circulating on social media, claiming that he passed away and calling out people for believing in fake news.

"If you people cannot identify fake news in today's modern age, then what are we old men in our sixties?" the cricket legend said in a video posted on Instagram to respond to an AI-generated video claiming that he had a heart attack.

Furthermore, he expressed shock at the social media users for asking him: "Are you alive?" "No, brother, I am making this video after passing away!" he said sarcastically.

Referring to the video, Akram — widely regarded as Swing of Sultan — said that the creator of the AI-generated video must have put in a "lot of effort" in bringing in former cricketers Shahid Afridi and Shoaib Akhtar to spread this fake news.

thing good, they would have been highly successful in life," he added.

At the end of the video, he thanked the followers for showing concern, saying: "I am fine, thank you."

Separately, Shaniera Akram — wife of the former Pakistan captain — also dropped a video on her Instagram account showing her husband working out in the gym.

Along with the video, she captioned, "In response to the FAKE news and AI videos circulating, I just took this video for you, and as you can see, he is in the gym and seems to be ok!"

Noskova, Paolini and Cobolli march into Wimbledon last eight



Former Afghanistan pacer Shapoor Zadran passes away at 38

PEAK POINT
AFGHANISTAN: Former Afghanistan fast bowler Shapoor Zadran has passed away at the age of 38 following a prolonged illness, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) confirmed on Tuesday.

Zadran had been battling Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), a rare and severe immune system disorder that can trigger life-threatening inflammation and damage multiple organs.

According to reports, he had been receiving treatment in the Delhi-NCR region for the past several months.

He first fell ill in October last year and, after medical advice in Afghanistan, travelled to India for specialised treatment. Although his condition initially improved and he was discharged from hospital, he suffered a relapse around 20 days later.

Widely regarded as one of the pioneers of Afghanistan cricket, Zadran played a pivotal role in the national side's rise on the international stage.



Fireworks, cheers and Viking pride sweep Norway after famous victory



IOC lifts suspension of Russian Olympic Committee

MUHAMMAD HARIS
SPAIN: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has provisionally lifted the suspension of the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC), which had been in place since October 2023. The IOC said the decision followed a legal review confirming that the ROC no longer includes sports organizations from territories under the jurisdiction of Ukraine's National Olympic Committee and has



committed not to conduct activities there. The IOC has also withdrawn its previous recommendations regarding the participation of Russian athletes, citing the need to

ensure equal access to qualification events for the 2028 Olympic Games and Winter Youth Olympic Games. However, decisions on hosting events in Russia inviting Russian officials and allowing Russian national symbols at competitions will remain with individual international federations and event organizers. The IOC said it will not hold its own events in Russia or invite Russian government officials to IOC events.



Senate Panel reviews disaster management and employee welfare bills amid concerns over fund oversight and workers' rights

NADEEM TANOLI
ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat examined two important bills aimed at improving disaster management systems and reforming government employee welfare benefits. Lawmakers raised concerns over the monitoring of disaster funds and financial challenges linked to employee welfare schemes, directing further review before making final decisions. The Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat, chaired by Senator Rana Mahmood Ul Hassan, examined "The

National Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025" and "The Federal Employees Benevolent Fund and Group Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2026" during its meeting at Parliament House. The biggest concern emerged around disaster management funds, where lawmakers stressed the need for stronger financial monitoring and accountability. Members said that money allocated for disaster response must be properly audited to ensure that public funds are used effectively during emergencies. During discussions on the National Disaster Management

Amendment Bill, lawmakers highlighted the importance of improving oversight of Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs). Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri emphasized that disaster related funds should be audited by the Auditor General of Pakistan to bring greater transparency and prevent misuse. Officials from the Law Division informed the committee that amendments related to provincial matters require approval from all provincial assemblies under Article 144 of the Constitution. After detailed discussion, the committee decided to send the bill to

the Senate Standing Committee on Inter-Provincial Coordination for further consultation with provinces. The committee also reviewed the Federal Employees Benevolent Fund and Group Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which proposes changes to the welfare scheme for government employees. The proposed bill aims to give government employees more options regarding their contributions after retirement. Under the proposal, employees could receive their contributed amount after retirement or allow those funds to remain available for the benefit of

their families. However, government officials opposed the proposal, stating that the current system works as a support mechanism for families of employees who die or become unable to continue service. Officials raised concerns that changing the structure could create financial pressure on the welfare fund. Members of the committee decided that the matter requires further examination and agreed to form a sub-committee to study the existing system, review financial implications, and suggest possible reforms. The committee also directed the Federal Employees

Benevolent Fund and Group Insurance (FEB&GI) authorities to engage with the bill's mover and explore practical solutions that protect both employees and the sustainability of the welfare scheme. The committee's discussions reflected broader concerns about balancing public welfare, financial responsibility, and accountability in government systems. Lawmakers emphasized that both disaster management funds and employee welfare programmes involve public money and must operate with transparency.

Late-night operation: 4 shisha cafes sealed in ICT over NOC violations

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: A late-night operation, led by the Assistant Commissioner Shalimar, resulted in the sealing of four shisha cafes in the capital. The action was taken against one cafe in F-10 operating without a No Objection Certificate (NOC) and three cafes in E-11 whose NOCs had expired. According to the district administration, the

operation was carried out as part of ongoing inspections to ensure that businesses comply with legal requirements and regulatory approvals. During the inspection, officials found that one cafe in Sector F-10 was operating without obtaining the required NOC from the relevant authorities. In a separate action in Sector E-11, three shisha cafes were found to be operating with expired



NOCs. As a result, all three establishments were sealed on the spot for failing to meet the required legal conditions.

Officials said the operation was conducted during late-night hours to check business activities and verify compliance with administrative regulations. The district administration stated that commercial establishments were required to maintain valid permits and approvals to continue operations. The administration said monitoring and inspection activities

would continue across different sectors of the federal capital. Businesses found operating without valid permissions or in violation of official regulations might face legal action, including sealing of premises and other penalties under the law. The Assistant Commissioner Shalimar directed inspection teams to continue checking commercial outlets and ensure that all businesses followed the rules set by the

authorities. Officials also renewed expired documents and obtained the necessary approvals before operating. The district administration reiterated its commitment to enforcing regulations and maintaining compliance across the capital. It added that similar inspections would continue in various sectors to identify and address violations.

Opinion & Editorial

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Encroached public spaces

Every few months, Karachi goes through a cycle of development for its multiple infrastructural problems. One of them is the anti-encroachment drive that its people are now deeply familiar with: bulldozers roll in, stalls are removed and officials announce that the roads are finally clear. The most recent instalments of this cycle happened in North Nazimabad and along Mauripur Road. But by now, everyone knows what will happen next. Eventually, security will become lax, some palms will be greased and the stalls will reappear soon enough. The problem is bigger than a few vendors on a footpath. In areas like Shara-e-Faisal, Saddar, Tariq Road and Liaquatabad, to name a few, the roads have vanished behind herds of stalls and carts and have been swallowed by parking mafias. These significant public spaces have turned into private turfs, resulting in endless congestion that disrupts the traffic flow of the entire city. The frustrating part is that the problem is easily solvable. Karachi's roads aren't too small for its traffic, they're just never actually empty. If officials take honest charge and clear these roads - for the longer run - commuters will save hours upon hours that they spend stuck in a flood of cars instead.

Looking for an Alexander

Jawed Naqvi
CORES of public intellectuals, former diplomats and erstwhile denizens of the deep state from India and Pakistan renewed a call recently for the resumption of peace talks and friendlier relations between their strained countries. They sought restoration of full diplomatic ties and reopening of trade routes with improved transportation links. They sought to make it easier to get visas to encourage and enable people from both countries to visit each other. The statement argued that continued tension hurts millions of young people. The activists asked leaders to put the welfare of the people ahead of conflict. What could be worthier than the charter of utterly reasonable demands for a more harmonious and integrated South Asia? It's an increasingly overdue need. However, the call for peace came at a time when Pakistan had locked up the main opposition party in the person of its charismatic leader. India on its part has preferred a similar route but by locking out the opposition from its critical role inside and outside parliament. In a blow to the pit of popular will that could main a democracy, India's election commissioner is now handpicked by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while the judiciary appears to have surrendered to his right-wing agenda. Similar undermining of democratic institutions has

been observed in Pakistan. Therefore, the question compels to be posed. How many of the peaceniks have the wherewithal or the interest to change the domestic realities that deter peace, and how many see India-Pakistan peace as a possibility despite regressive governments in their corners? There is a third category in my field of vision, one which prefers cross-border support for democracy in their troubled neighbourhood. Camaraderie of the people is most needed, according to this lot, to shore up democracy on both sides. There was indeed a time when Ayub Khan's military regime saw Indians linking up with Pakistani masses to challenge the usurper. A popular poem by India's Majrooh Sultanpuri harks to the time. Borrowed from mediaeval poet Kabir's dohas, the lines expressed solidarity boldly with those fighting Ayub — "Jala ke mishal-i-jaa'n hum junoo'n sifaat chale/Jo gar ko aag lagae hamarey saath chale". To clarify, Majrooh was also an ardent critic of Jawaharlal Nehru whom he described in a potent poem as a grovelling slave of the British Commonwealth. Majrooh spent time in jail for writing the poem but used the incarceration to pen unforgettable lyrics for a blockbuster movie of the 1950s, Andaz.

That there are two opposite views among progressive activists on this issue dawned on me the day I sped off from JNU in Delhi with Pakistan's leftist poets Fahmida Riaz and Ahmed Faraz in my jeep to rescue them from a right-wing mob incensed by a poem Fahmida recited at the university mushaira. 'Tum bilkul hum jaisey nikley' would become hugely popular with progressive intellectuals across India. But Faraz was livid with Fahmida, saying she had got him involved in an event staged by leftist critics of the Vajpayee government, which had issued them their visas. Fahmida asserted that it was only by standing with the comrades in India and by fighting their battles with empathy and moral support jointly that one could hope for genuine peace. Both poets had fought dictatorships in Pakistan but took opposite positions on the question of democracy on the other side of the fence. On the larger canvas of bilateral ties — or their absence — the call for peace seems an old one, but the circumstances are newly minted. On the larger canvas of bilateral ties (or their absence) the call for peace seems an old one, but the circumstances are newly minted. India and Pakistan have been at daggers drawn virtually since their birth, but May 2025 was when Modi ordered air and missile strikes inside Pakistan and called it Operation Sindoor. India blamed Pakistan for the terror attack in Pahalgalam in April last year. The military stand-off was touted as its revenge.

Assignment, revisited

Muhammad Hamid Zaman
One day, when I was in middle school, I went to a museum as part of the school trip. Next day, as an assignment, I had to write an essay on it. I am not sure what I wrote, but I am quite sure it was nothing extraordinary. It was probably about the bus ride, a few things we saw, what I ate, what my friends said, and how grateful I was to have this opportunity. Over the next few years, I got a chance to visit a few more museums around the country, including the ones in Lahore and Taxila. Going to these places, I felt that a museum was a place that displayed some precious artefacts, celebrated the glory of the past and recognised the contribution of important people. And that was it. Some museums that I went to were in better state than others, but they all had the same central theme of celebration. If I had to write another essay after every visit, it would have been probably just a longer version of one that I wrote when I was in middle school. None of those trips, by the way, were particularly inspiring. I started loving museums much later in life when I learned the basic lesson that a museum is not just a window (into one's past), it is also a mirror (reflecting who one is). It is a place not just to talk about what an incredible journey a country has had, but also how it also took several wrong turns. I have been fortunate to go to the Museum of Memory and Human Rights in Santiago, Chile that focuses on the tragedy, trauma and injustice of the Pinochet years. The day I was there, there were school children visiting, looking at letters of other Chilean children just like them, who wrote to their parents who were never going to come back. It is hard not to feel a deep pit in one's stomach looking at the photos, letters and toys of the traumatised children. I have been to the Royal Museum of Central Africa outside Brussels that tries to confront the horrors of Belgium's colonial past.

Any attempt to deny Pakistan's water rights will be considered act of war: Danyal



PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Danyal Chaudhry, on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to safeguarding its water rights, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity, warning that any attempt by India to deprive Pakistan of its lawful share under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) would be considered an "act of war." In a statement, Barrister Danyal strongly condemned India's unilateral actions concerning the treaty, terming them a clear violation of international law,

treaty obligations, and the established principles governing shared international watercourses. He emphasized that the IWT is a legally binding international agreement that cannot be suspended or rendered ineffective through unilateral action. "Any attempt to undermine the treaty, threatens the water security of over 240 million Pakistanis and undermines the credibility of the international treaty system", he said. He further said IWT is not a favour granted by any nation, it is a legally secured right. Any attempt to block, divert, or weaponize Pakistan's share of water will constitute a grave threat to our security and will be considered an act of war. Barrister Danyal said Pakistan reserves the right to pursue all diplomatic, political, and legal remedies available under international law. He reiterated that while Pakistan remains committed to peace and dialogue in accordance with the UN Charter, its desire for peace should never be misconstrued as weakness. Referring to the 276th Corps Commanders' Conference chaired by

Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir at GHQ, he said the forum endorsed the decisions of the National Security Committee and reaffirmed the Armed Forces' resolve to protect Pakistan's water rights at all costs.

He said the government, parliament, armed forces, and the people stand united under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in defending the country's water security. He also welcomed China's principled position in support of international law and peaceful dispute resolution.

The Parliamentary Secretary called upon the United Nations, friendly countries, and all stakeholders to play their role in preserving the treaty's integrity.

"Lasting peace in South Asia can only be achieved through respect for international law, faithful implementation of treaty obligations, and meaningful dialogue", he added.

Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan reaffirm commitment to stronger bilateral cooperation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov on Tuesday reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral ties, expanding economic cooperation, and enhancing regional connectivity.

Speaking at the delegation level talks with the Kyrgyz President, President Zardari said Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan share deep-rooted brotherly relations based on common faith, shared history, and cultural links.

President Zardari, who is on on four-day official visit to Kyrgyzstan, stressed the need to further deepen cooperation by increasing trade, improving connectivity through more direct flights, and exploring new avenues of collaboration.

This is the first visit by a Pakistani president to the Kyrgyz Republic in 21 years, marking a historic milestone in the bilateral relationship.

The visit follows the successful trip of

President Zhaparov to Pakistan in December 2025 and reflects the sustained upward trajectory of high-level engagement between the two countries.

The president said both countries should work together to achieve shared progress, noting that neighbours must strengthen cooperation for mutual prosperity.

He also congratulated Kyrgyzstan on its election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2027-2028 term, describing it as a reflection of the international community's confidence in the country's constructive role in promoting peace, security, and multilateral cooperation. President Zardari said Pakistan looks forward to working closely with Kyrgyzstan on regional and international issues. He highlighted the historic links between the two countries through the ancient Silk Route and expressed confidence that the longstanding relationship could be strengthened further.



CHOLPON-ATA: President Asif Ali Zardari and President Sadyr Jhaparov greeting each other with a warm handshake during an official engagement in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan.

PMYP, PPAF, Arid Uni join hands to transform peanut economy

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, the chief guest, on Tuesday launched the Climate Resilient Peanut Value Chain Development for Rural Enterprise and Economic Graduation Project at the signing of a partnership agreement between the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS AAUR). Funded by PPAF and to be implemented with the technical assistance of PMAS

AAUR. The ceremony was attended by PPAF Chief Executive Officer Nadir Gul Barech as guest of honour and PMAS AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Qamar uz Zaman, the project's Patron in Chief.

The three year project will initially be launched in the peanut growing areas of Gujjar Khan in Rawalpindi district and Fateh Jang in Attock district to promote climate smart agriculture, improve productivity, strengthen value addition, create rural enterprises, generate employment and increase farmers' incomes



through research, innovation, entrepreneurship and market linkages.

Addressing the ceremony, Rana Mashhood said the government is investing heavily in education, technical skills, innovation and agricultural research to build

Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani holds meetings at Aiwan-e-Sadr

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday held separate meetings with religious, political and literary personalities at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Among those who called on the Acting President were Shahzad Murad Nazir, of Darbar Mohra Sharif, Murree, former MPA Mian Jhangir Pirzada Bhutta, Mr Faisal Sakhi Butt and Rao Waqas, a press release issued by the President House Media Wing said.

Mr. Gilani also met poet Mr Rahman Faras, who presented copies of his books to him. The Acting President appreciated his literary contributions and wished him continued success.

During the meetings, matters of mutual interest, the overall national situation and issues relating to public welfare came under discussion. Yousuf Raza Gilani also referred to the forthcoming visit of the Secretary General of the Muslim World League (Rabita-e-Alam-e-Islami), Sheikh Dr. Mohammed Al-Issa later this week.

Banking Mohtasib Pakistan calls on CJP

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Sirajuddin Aziz, Banking Mohtasib Pakistan, called on the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, here at the Supreme Court of Pakistan on Tuesday.

During the meeting, matters relating to the strengthening of banking dispute resolution and ongoing reform initiatives in the banking sector were discussed. The interaction followed the recent high-level consultation convened by the Chief Justice, in his capacity as Chairman of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP), to identify legislative and procedural reforms aimed at improving the efficiency of banking litigation and promoting Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms.

During the meeting, the



Banking Mohtasib apprised the Chief Justice of the institution's disposal performance, stating that 36,280 complaints were disposed of during 2025 despite 13,793 complaints having been brought forward and 35,130 fresh complaints received during the year, resulting in an eight percent reduction in overall pendency. The institution also provided relief amounting to Rs. 1.87 billion to banking customers, with the entire complaint redressal mechanism remaining free of charge for complainants.

IT Minister, UN Chief discuss global AI governance



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Tuesday, met United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.

The meeting focused on strengthening international cooperation and global partnerships.

The two sides held detailed

discussions on global challenges, with particular emphasis on the governance of artificial intelligence (AI).

During the meeting, the UN Secretary-General acknowledged Pakistan's leadership and its efforts to promote peace.

He praised the country's role in advancing regional and global peace and stability.

Shalimar Police Station launches major campaign against criminals

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Shalimar Police Station launches major campaign against criminal elements. SHO Shafqat Faiz's major initiative to eliminate crime and establish law and order. Rule of law established in the area, effective Patrolling and blockade by Shalimar Police tightened. Citizens pay tribute to the police for indiscriminate action against massage centers and shisha cafes. Citizens demand certificates of appreciation from IG Islamabad and higher author-



ities for SHO Shafqat Faiz. Determination of a crime-free society. Zero tolerance policy maintained against law-breaking elements. Timely actions of Shalimar Police Station eliminate street crime and hoodliganism. Regional residents fully cooperate with the police.

PMYP, PPAF, Arid Uni join hands to transform peanut economy

ations and industry relevant skills so graduates remain competitive in rapidly changing international markets.

Highlighting reforms in technical education, Chief PMYP said the government, in collaboration with NAVTTC and leading Chinese institutions, had introduced 21 modern technical trades aligned with international industry requirements.

Nearly 50 Pakistani universities are also being connected with Chinese universities to strengthen research collaboration, technology transfer and academic partnerships.

Rana Mashhood said that government planned to train up to 10,000 youth in advanced agricultural technologies.

He added that a leading Chinese agricultural university would collaborate with PMAS AAUR and other Pakistani institutions to establish state of the art research facilities and promote joint scientific research.

Referring to the success of Pakistan's olive industry, Mr Khan said similar interventions in the peanut sector could significantly improve farmers' incomes, promote agribusiness and expand export potential.