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Ministry of Commerce sanctions Rs.10 Billion to support export sectors

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JI announces sit-ins across all four provinces on August 16

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on Sunday announced simultaneous sit-ins across all four provinces on August 16 in protest against higher fuel prices and the petroleum levy, accusing the government of using the levy to conceal corruption.

Addressing a press conference in Peshawar, he argued that petrol should cost around Rs225 per litre and criticised the government for failing to reduce fuel prices despite the end of the recent conflict in the region.

Global oil prices had surged during the US-Iran conflict and disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, through which a significant share

of the world's oil shipments passes.

He alleged that the government had generated substantial revenue through the petroleum development levy and claimed the mechanism was being used to hide corruption.

Announcing the next phase of the party's protest campaign, he said sit-ins would be held simultaneously across all four provinces on August 16.

The demonstrations would be staged outside the Chief Minister House in Punjab and Governor Houses in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he detailed. He defended the planned protests, saying public demonstrations were traditionally held on roads, and urged citizens to participate.



PESHAWAR: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman addressing a press conference.

15 India-backed terrorists killed in Balochistan IBOs: security sources

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Security forces have eliminated 15 India-backed terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij during multiple intelligence-based operations (IBOs) across several districts of

Balochistan, security sources said on Sunday. The IBOs, conducted as part of Operation Rad-ul-Fitna-3, were carried out in the districts of Mastung, Bolan, Washuk, Awaran, Sibi, Khuzdar, Harnai, and Nushki of the province, the sources added. The operations have also led to the recovery of a large quantity of weapons and ammunition. Security forces have inflicted significant damage on the militant network operating in the province, the sources said. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has praised security forces for their successful IBO in Balochistan, in which 15 terrorists were killed. Commending the forces for their professional capabilities, Naqvi said they had thwarted the nefarious designs of Fitna al-Hindustan and Fitna al-Khawarij. He described the security personnel fighting terrorism as the pride of the nation, praising their courage and dedication in countering terrorism threats. Naqvi said the government remained committed.

Iran says Strait of Hormuz to remain closed until US 'corrects its behaviour'

PEAK POINT



IRAN: The Strait of Hormuz will remain closed until the United States "corrects its behaviour", Iran's state broadcaster IRIB reported, quoting Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

said on Sunday that the Strait of Hormuz would remain closed until its conditions are accepted, as it accused the enemy of shifting its war objectives towards reopening the strategic waterway. According to the post on X, IRGC spokesman Brigadier General Mohebbi said the enemy had abandoned all its previous war objectives and was now focusing its efforts on reopening the Strait of Hormuz. "The enemy, abandoning all its previous war objectives, has now put all its efforts into opening the Strait of Hormuz, which was open before the war," Mohebbi said. "We will keep the Strait of Hormuz closed until the enemy accepts all our conditions," he added. "We will continue the resistance until the enemy is defeated," Mohebbi said. Brig Gen Hassan Zadeh, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Mohammad Rasoulullah Corps in Tehran, said the US and Israel had "completely failed" to achieve their objectives against the Islamic Republic, according to the Tasnim News Agency on Sunday. The news outlet reported that Zadeh said Iran's "popular strength and comprehensive readiness of the Basij" had made the country one of the major powers in the region and the world.

Pakistan dismisses Afghan Taliban claim of weapons smuggling as 'frivolous'

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad has rejected the Afghan Taliban regime's claim that weapons are being smuggled from Pakistan into Afghanistan for so-called "subversive activities", calling the allegation "frivolous, baseless and contrary to established facts". In a statement, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said that Afghanistan is already awash with enormous quantities of sophisticated weapons and military equipment abandoned following the withdrawal of US and coalition forces. It added that the weapons and equipment left behind are estimated to be worth \$7.2 billion, while Afghanistan also possesses large stocks of Soviet-era weaponry accumulated over decades of conflict. The statement came hours after the Afghan Defence Ministry claimed to have discovered and seized "dozens of tons of light and heavy weapons" allegedly "smuggled from Pakistan". Pakistan said attempts to establish a Pakistani connection to the weapons appeared designed to divert international attention from a more serious and documented concern. It said terrorist groups continued to find space, facilitation.

2 tribal elders shot dead in KP's South Waziristan

PEAK POINT

LOWER SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Two tribal elders were shot dead by unidentified armed men in the Zarmilan area of Toi Khulla tehsil of Lower South Waziristan on Sunday, police said.

Lower South Waziristan District Police Officer (DPO) Shah Hassan told Dawn that the victims were travelling in a car from the Gul Kach area towards the Zarmilan area when unidentified gunmen opened fire on their vehicle at Darozanda. The two men sustained multiple bullet wounds and died at the scene.

Afghanistan's \$1 trillion mining sector plagued by opacity, Taliban's insurgent-style governance: US think tank

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Since returning to power in August 2021, the Taliban have centralized control over Afghanistan's estimated trillion-dollar mineral wealth, treating the sector as a primary revenue stream rather than a foundation for long-term national development.

According to a research conducted by US-based think tank Jamestown, the Taliban's management of Afghanistan's extractive industries operates with severe opacity and closely resembles the group's former insurgent financing methods. Rather than depositing revenues transparently into public accounts, funds are reportedly being captured by elite networks.

The report notes that in

late June, the Taliban leadership deployed approximately 1,000 special forces officers to Badakhshan province to consolidate authority over local mining sites and bring them directly under central command.



late June, the Taliban leadership deployed approximately 1,000 special forces officers to Badakhshan province to consolidate authority over local mining sites and bring them directly under central command.

Afghanistan holds over 1,400 mineral deposits across its 34 provinces containing critical minerals such as copper, lithium, zinc, lead, antimony, cobalt, and rare earth elements, as estimated by the U.S.

Geological Survey. These vast reserves have drawn significant interest from regional and global actors, including the People's Republic of China (PRC), India, Pakistan, and the United States.

To date, the Taliban have awarded at least 205 mining contracts to more than 150 companies, announcing \$6.5 billion in deals in September 2023. In May 2024, the Taliban-controlled Ministry of Mines

and Petroleum claimed to have secured over \$7 billion in investments from China, Qatar, Türkiye, Iran, and the United Kingdom, though contract terms remain undisclosed. The sector's governance suffered a further setback with Afghanistan's suspension from the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in June 2024.

Transparency declined further following the July 2024 appointment of Hedayatullah Badri—a UN-sanctioned Taliban figure—as Minister of Mines and Petroleum. Official disclosures reveal that while over 95 percent of reported 2024 mining revenues were disclosed during the first seven months of the year, only about \$1 million was publicly accounted for over the subsequent five months.

Goods, oil transporters' strike threatens industry, exports



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: A countrywide strike by goods transporters and oil tankers started affecting industrial and export supply chains on Saturday, with operators vowing to continue the protest until the outcome of talks with the government on Monday, while manufacturers warned that prolonged disruption could halt production and jeopardise export commitments. Pakistan Goods Transporters Alliance Chairman Nisar Hussain Jafry told Dawn that "our countrywide strike will continue as our leadership intends to meet the ministers concerned with petroleum, transport and ports on Monday". He said the movement of more than 400,000 goods-carrying vehicles, ranging from small to large, had been suspended.



SPORTS



PCB grants NOCs to 12 players for CPL 2026 and county cricket



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) issued No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to 12 national cricketers, allowing them to participate in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) 2026 and the County Championship.

Among the players given the go-ahead by the cricket board was left-arm spinner Noman Ali, who was roped in by Lancashire for the remainder of the County Championship, with his NOC valid until September 27.



The left-arm spinner is now all set to make his Lancashire debut against Northamptonshire on August 20, with the fixture also serving as the club's Red Ball Celebration match at Old Trafford.

Besides Noman, 11 national cricketers — Shadab Khan, Sufiyan Muqeem, Sahibzada Farhan, Naseem Shah, Hunain Shah, Hasan Nawaz, Usman Khan, Maaz Sadaqat, Mohammad Haris, Usman Tariq and Usama Mir — were granted the NOC for the CPL 2026, which got underway on Friday.

Amongst the 11 CPL-bound national cricketers, Shadab, Muqeem, Farhan, Naseem, Hunain, Hasan, Usman and Maaz were issued NOCs, valid from August 19 to September 21.

The development came the following day Geo Super had reported that the national players set to feature in the CPL 2026 will be granted NOCs only after completing their commitments in the National Champions Cup 2026-27, scheduled to be played in September 21.

Multan from August 11 to 18.

Out of the 11 national cricketers, Shadab, Muqeem, Saim, Naseem, Usman and Maaz are part of the fixed playing XIs for different teams at the four-team List A tournament.

Meanwhile, wicketkeeper batter Haris was issued the NOC from August 7 to September 20, mystery spinner Tariq from August 8 to 18, while leg-spinner Mir is eligible to participate in the overseas league from August 7 to September 21.

Pakistan hockey team leaves for World Cup in Netherlands and Belgium



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan's national hockey team has departed from Lahore airport for the Netherlands and Belgium to take part in the Hockey World Cup, with the players aiming to deliver a strong performance in the tournament.

The World Cup will be held in the Netherlands and Belgium from 15 to 30 August. The national squad will enter the competition determined to perform well and achieve success on the international stage.

The Pakistan Hockey Federation has also released an allowance of Rs20 million to the players ahead of the team's departure.

The foreign daily allowance has been transferred to the players' bank accounts.

The federation said all logistical arrangements for the national team's participation in the World Cup had been completed. Travel, accommodation and food arrangements for the players and coaching staff have also been finalised.

The team will now focus on its preparations and matches as it begins its World Cup campaign in Europe.

Pakistan clinch historic silver at ITF Masters World Team Championships



PEAK POINT

JEDDAH: Pakistan has won a gold and two silver medals at the third International Nuclear Science Olympiad (INSO-2026), held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Backed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the competition was held from August 2 to 8, and brought together around 120 students

and experts from 19 countries, including China, Japan, Russia, Türkiye, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Saudi Arabia. Muhammad Ali from Government College University (GCU), Lahore, won a gold medal, while Muhammad Usman and Seerat Fatima Bhatti secured silver medals for Pakistan.

Syed Shuja Haider also represented Pakistan at the Olympiad.

for secondary-school students, promoting scientific excellence and international cooperation in nuclear science and technology. The Olympiad provides young students with an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of nuclear science and its peaceful applications.

The achievement reflects Pakistan's continued emphasis on developing young scientific talent and encouraging students to pursue education and careers in nuclear science and technology. In another significant development, Pakistan was announced as the host of the fourth International Nuclear Science Olympiad in 2027.

Book honouring Arshad Nadeem's Olympic glory launched in Lahore



Jahangir Khan lauds Lahore's new squash facility



Pakistan's Muhammad Zubair becomes Tekken 8 champion at Esports World Cup in Paris

PEAK POINT

PARIS: Pakistan's Muhammad Zubair emerged victorious in the Tekken 8 championship at the Esports World Cup (EWC) in Paris on Saturday, becoming the new World Champion of the popular fighting game.

Zubair achieved a clean victory over South Korea's LowHigh in the grand final of the tournament held from Aug 5-8, after having just scraped through during the early stages.

"He came out of nowhere and took the crown!" EWC posted on social media following the player's triumph.

In Friday's second group stage, Zubair decisively defeated another Pakistani eSports icon and Tekken star — Lahore-born Arslan "Ash" Siddique — before once again beating the eight-time Evolution Championship Series (Evo) winner in a thrilling 5-4 semifinal on

Saturday. Arslan is one of Pakistan's most prominent esports figures and one of the leading names in the global fighting game community.

World Champion was awarded a cash prize of \$250,000.

Ash, meanwhile, settled for fourth place after losing the decider to Australia's



Advancing into the grand final, Zubair faced off against LowHigh in a decisively less close game, sweeping his opponent with a 5-0 victory.

The newly-crowned

Yagami. In June, he had won the 2026 Evo series in Las Vegas, considered the world's largest fighting game tournament, with his fourth consecutive title.



Pakistan SMA symposium 2026 held in Islamabad, Brings together National and International Experts

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan SMA Symposium 2026, organised by STRIVE - Strive Eradication of Disability Foundation, was held at Serena Hotel Islamabad, bringing together leading doctors, professors, researchers, medical experts, academics, civil society representatives, volunteers and families affected by Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). The symposium focused on raising awareness about SMA, promoting early diagnosis, discussing modern treatment options, genetic screening, medical research and the challenges faced by patients and their families. The gathering also provided an important platform for medical professionals and researchers to exchange views on the future of SMA care and research in Pakistan. Chief Health Sector Reforms Unit (HSRU) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr Syed Ejaz Ali Shah, Chairman Zakat and Ushr Council Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Imtiaz Khan, and Chairman STRIVE Muhammad Yasir Khan were among the prominent participants. Doctors, medical specialists,

researchers, representatives of civil society, SMA-affected families and people associated with different fields of life also attended the event. A notable feature of the symposium was the participation of professors, heads of departments and academic experts from various universities in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The experts shared their views on SMA, genetic disorders, medical research, recent developments in treatment and the future direction of medical science. Researchers working on SMA at the international level also participated in the symposium. Experts and researchers from Poland, the United Kingdom and other European countries joined the gathering, giving the Pakistan SMA Symposium an international academic and research dimension. The participation of foreign researchers provided an opportunity to strengthen links between ongoing efforts in Pakistan and international research and developments in the field of SMA. Participants stressed the importance of greater cooperation between Pakistani institutions and international research communities to



improve knowledge, diagnosis and care for people living with rare diseases. Addressing the gathering, Chief HSRU Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr Syed Ejaz Ali Shah paid tribute to parents and families of SMA patients for their continued struggle and resilience. He said the efforts of families working for the better lives and futures of their children deserved recognition and appreciation. Dr Shah emphasised that awareness about complex and rare diseases such as SMA must be accompanied by effective support for patients and their families. He highlighted the importance of collective efforts involving healthcare professionals, families, government institutions and other stakeholders. Chairman STRIVE Muhammad Yasir Khan said SMA was not merely a medical condition but had become a wider strug-

gle requiring the combined efforts of patients, parents, doctors, researchers, government institutions, media, civil society and social organisations. He said STRIVE was working to take awareness about SMA to different parts of the country, promote early diagnosis, encourage research and help create better pathways for patients to access treatment and necessary healthcare facilities. Yasir Khan also announced that STRIVE would organise a major SMA Summit on October 30 and 31, 2026, at Tulip Marquee Islamabad. He said the proposed summit would be one of the largest gatherings of its kind in Pakistan and would bring patients, parents, doctors, medical specialists, national and international researchers, policymakers, universities, civil society organisations, volunteers and other relevant stakeholders together

under one roof. During the symposium, speakers discussed the symptoms of Spinal Muscular Atrophy, the importance of timely diagnosis, genetic screening, modern treatment, patient care, research and future strategies for addressing SMA in Pakistan. Doctors and researchers emphasised that early diagnosis, proper medical guidance and access to modern treatment can play an important role in improving the quality of life of children and individuals affected by SMA. They also stressed the need for greater public awareness so that families can recognise the condition and seek appropriate medical advice at an early stage. Participants observed that Pakistan requires further efforts in public awareness, medical facilities, genetic diagnosis, research and policy-making related to SMA. Strengthening these areas, they said, could help provide better support to children living with the condition and their families. The symposium also highlighted the importance of building stronger cooperation between universities, healthcare institutions, researchers, policymakers and international organisations. Such collaboration, participants said, could help Pakistan benefit from global scientific developments while encouraging local research into rare diseases. At the conclusion of the event, participants expressed their commitment to expanding awareness, research and advocacy for the rights and needs of people affected by SMA. They stressed the importance of developing stronger links between government institutions, universities, the medical community, media, civil society, patients and their families. The organisers said the Pakistan SMA Symposium 2026 was more than a single event, describing it as an important step towards creating a collective voice and sustained movement for greater awareness, research, early diagnosis and improved support for SMA patients in Pakistan. The gathering also reflected growing efforts by medical professionals, researchers, families and civil society organisations to place rare diseases on the national health agenda and to promote a more informed, inclusive and supportive healthcare environment for affected individuals and their families.

Opinion & Editorial

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Theatre of the absurd

US President Donald Trump signed two new executive orders in yet another attempt to feed his obsession with ending birthright citizenship. This comes just five weeks after the Supreme Court, by a 6-3 vote, rejected his previous order as unconstitutional. The Chief Justice affirmed in the ruling that the 14th Amendment's protections extend to all children born on American soil. Legal scholars have further clarified that only the children of diplomats or "invading forces" are exempt under the law — the former because they are born with diplomatic immunity, and the latter because they are subject to the jurisdiction of their parents' nation. At 735 words, the 14th Amendment is also the longest amendment, and since the Constitution has no pictures or mention of the Trump name, the president is unlikely to get through any attempt to read, or have it read to him. The only way to challenge the amendment is through an overriding amendment, which would need two-thirds majorities in Congress and three-quarters of the 52 states to pass corresponding legislation, both of which are impossible as things stand. The president is thus only wasting taxpayers' money on litigation that is doomed to fail, making it clear that this is simply a performative exercise to distract from the scandals and corruption dogging his administration.

Counterterrorism paradox

Muhammad Amir Rana
Pakistan's security forces are fighting terrorism with commitment and high intensity. From sanitisation campaigns and intelligence-based operations to targeted raids and large-scale engagements, the tempo of action is rising. Yet terrorist violence is not receding.

July recorded the year's highest number of attacks, underscoring the grim reality that the security situation is deteriorating, particularly in KP and Balochistan, despite mounting operational pressure on terrorist groups.

The return of violence to areas once declared cleared of terrorism is especially troubling. Last week, Swat suffered a devastating suicide bombing outside the Kabal police station. The attacker struck as participants were leaving the Swat People's Peace Uprising, organised by residents and civil society groups alarmed by renewed terrorist activity in the valley. Seventeen people, including police personnel and civilians, were killed, while more than a dozen were wounded. Though there is confusion about whether the TTP had targeted the peace rally or the police station, whatever the group's intentions, the attack raises a significant question about how and why the terrorists are increasing their operational base.

Balochistan, meanwhile, experienced one of its worst months of violence in recent years. July saw coordinated,

high-impact attacks across Mastung, Lasbela, Ziarat, Kech and Khuzdar. These incidents demonstrated both the geographic reach of armed terrorist groups and their ability to challenge the state simultaneously in dispersed locations.

The security response was substantial. According to data maintained by the Pak Institute for Peace Studies, 26 anti-militant operations were recorded across Pakistan in July, compared with 24 in June. Conducted mainly by the army, Frontier Corps and police, counterterrorism departments, these operations killed 205 terrorists. Eighteen operations took place in Balochistan and eight in KP. In Quetta and the adjoining Shaban and Hanna Urak areas alone, six operations reportedly killed 68 militants.

The country lacks a coordinated strategy that converts operational success into durable peace.

These figures reveal both capability and imbalance. Only five suspected terrorists were arrested during the month, all in Karachi. They were allegedly affiliated with the banned Balochistan Liberation Army, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar and Lashkar-i-Jhangvi. The overwhelming ratio of deaths to arrests suggests an increasing reliance on lethal force and a weakness in the investigative, prosecutorial and intelligence-gathering dimensions of counterterrorism.

Arrests can expose facilitators, financiers, recruiters

and communication networks; dead militants rarely do. Meanwhile, human rights groups continue to express concern over enforced disappearances, deepening mistrust in already alienated communities.

In KP, the threat remains centred on the banned TTP and allied factions, including the Hafiz Gul Bahadur group. Since violence resumed in 2021, attacks have been concentrated largely in the southern districts and former tribal areas.

Since early 2026, however, the operational map has widened. Militants are increasingly testing settled districts and extending networks towards Balochistan and potentially southern Punjab. Their continued mobility and logistical reach, despite sustained operations, show that they retain recruitment, facilitation and support structures. Their tactics are also evolving. Suicide bombings, targeted killings and assaults on police and military installations remain central, but militants are increasingly experimenting with quadcopters and drones for explosive attacks. Government officials, civilians and public infrastructure are also being targeted. The objective is broader than producing casualties: it is to erode state authority, frighten communities and disrupt everyday governance. Public anger over counterterrorism methods adds another layer of risk.

Courtesy Tribune

One result, many questions

Dr Irfan Habib Ullah

Some years ago, while serving as a departmental students' advisor, I was visited by a group of disappointed students with a complaint that a teacher had "failed" them. I first corrected their wording, explaining that teachers award marks while students fail examinations through inadequate preparation or performance. The discussion took a different turn, however, when they revealed that 40 out of 55 students had failed. A failure rate of nearly 73% raised a more fundamental question. Among the unsuccessful students were several whom I had taught before and knew were not academically weak. Although I knew the instructor as well, I withheld judgement. I reflected on a simple scientific principle: when the vast majority of results in an experiment go wrong, a responsible investigator examines not only the subjects but also the method, the process and the system itself. Education, perhaps, deserves the same intellectual honesty.

If, in a laboratory, 40 out of 55 experimental samples fail to produce the expected result, a responsible researcher does not simply blame the samples. The apparatus is checked. The methodology is reviewed. The measurements are verified. Even the experimental design is questioned.

Similarly, when the overwhelming majority of a class fails, the conversation cannot end with the students alone.

The examination paper, marking criteria, teaching methods, classroom engagement, curriculum delivery and communication between teacher and students all deserve careful scrutiny. Unfortunately, our academic culture often prefers a simpler explanation. Students are questioned; systems rarely are. There is also a curious belief held by some educators that a high failure rate is evidence of high academic standards. The assumption appears to be that the more students fail, the greater the teacher's intellectual authority.

Courtesy Tribune

Pak-Saudi-Turkiye defence pact open to any other country in region, 'purely defensive': DPM Dar



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister said on Sunday that the defence pact signed between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye remained "open to any country in the region" willing to uphold its fundamental principles. He also clarified that the agreement was "purely defensive" in nature. The indication that an expansion of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, signed in the Saudi city on Friday, was possible came a day after the Turkish foreign minister said Egypt could be joining the pact.

The pact aims to strengthen collective deterrence and empowers its signatory states to treat an attack against one of them as an attack against all of them.

Dar further elaborated on the pact, which he referred to as the Makkah Accord, in a post on X. "The Makkah Joint Defence Agreement [...] reflects the depth of the brotherly relations between the leadership and peoples of the three countries. "The Makkah Accord is the culmination of years of discussions and coordination, with a common desire to strengthen strategic cooperation in addressing multifarious peace and security challenges and advancing regional peace, stability and prosperity," he said. He clarified that the pact did not abrogate or replace any existing bilateral or multilateral agreements between the signatory countries, or with other countries or organisations. Reiterating that any external armed attack on any one of the three

countries would be considered an attack on all under the pact, he said it was consistent with the inherent right of individual and collective self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter.

Moreover, he said, the accord was "purely defensive" in nature. "It is not targeted against any country and its sole purpose is to further strengthen our ongoing efforts towards peace, stability and prosperity in the wider region."

"The Makkah Accord remains open to any country in the region willing to uphold its fundamental principles and resolve differences through mutual respect, cooperation and peaceful means," he said, adding that the pact was consistent with the fundamental pillars of Islamabad's foreign policy. "Pakistan looks forward to continuing to work closely with all brotherly countries in the region towards lasting peace and stability."

Maritime Minister urges recognition of traditional knowledge in coastal policy

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has called for greater recognition of traditional ecological knowledge held by coastal communities, saying it can strengthen climate adaptation, marine conservation and sustainable fisheries.

In a statement marking the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, observed under the United Nations' 2026 theme, "Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-being," the minister highlighted the broader importance of traditional and Indigenous knowledge systems and their transmission across generations. He said traditional coastal communities had developed generations of knowledge about tides, fishing grounds, marine species, weather



patterns, mangroves and coastal ecosystems.

"Traditional knowledge is not merely a legacy of the past. It is a living resource that can contribute to climate resilience, sustainable fisheries and the protection of our marine ecosystems," Junaid Chaudhry said.

He said communities along the coast from Karachi and the Indus Delta to Gwadar and Jiwani remained closely dependent on fisheries, mangroves, wetlands and other marine resources. The minister said fishing communities in Karachi's

Naqvi visits Lahore airport, directs measures to expedite immigration process

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday visited Allama Iqbal International Airport in Lahore, directing authorities to expedite the immigration process and facilities for passengers.

During the visit, the interior minister inspected immigration counters and asked staff about the procedures and issues faced by passengers.

Naqvi also spoke to passengers about the time taken for immigration clearance at the airport. Passengers told the minister that the process was taking around 30 minutes and called for further improvement in arrangements. Taking notice of passengers' concerns, Naqvi directed officials to expedite the immigration process and keep all immigration counters operational to avoid unnecessary delays.

A passenger also complained about an agent allegedly demanding money, prompting a notice from the minister who referred the matter to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) director and directed the agent's arrest.

Naqvi said that passengers with incomplete travel documents would not be allowed to travel, while those possessing complete documents would not be stopped from travelling. He said that modern technology had made the immigration process easier, while strict action was being taken against those attempting to travel on fake documents.

In April, a high-level meeting chaired by Naqvi approved the installation of advanced screening machinery to improve the checking system at airports across the country.

Officials at the meeting had agreed that joint counters would be established, introducing a single-point checking mechanism to reduce delays.

"A unified checking system on a single scanner will save significant time," Naqvi had said during the meeting, adding that better coordination among institutions was essential to reduce crowding and long queues at airports.

"We are committed to offering the public modern, fast, and convenient travel facilities," he had said.

Syedaal calls Makkah Defence Agreement milestone for regional peace, stability

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Nasar has termed the Makkah Defence Agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye an important and historic development for regional and global peace and stability. He expressed these views during meetings with Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs Senator Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat Senator Rana Mahmood-ul-Hassan, parliamentarians, lawyers, intellectuals, representatives of civil society, members of the business community, chambers of commerce, and other prominent personalities. During the meetings, the participants exchanged views on the country's political and economic situation, law and order, national development, and important developments in the region.

Syedaal Khan Nasar said the agreement would not only promote defence cooperation among the three countries but also strengthen unity.

Ministry of Commerce sanctions Rs.10 Billion to support export sectors

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan has announced that the Ministry of Commerce has sanctioned Rs.10 billion (Rs10,000 million) for the textile and apparel industry and other export sectors under the Duty Drawback and Technology Upgradation Schemes, aimed at improving industrial liquidity and supporting export growth.

Sharing the development on his official X (twitter), Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan said:

"Pleased to share that the Ministry of Commerce has sanctioned Rs. 10,000 million for textiles and apparel and other export sectors under duty drawback and technology upgradation schemes."



I hope this will improve the liquidity of industry and enable them to enhance exports."

The sanctioned funds are expected to provide much-needed liquidity support to export-oriented industries and facilitate technological upgradation, enabling exporters to improve their competitiveness and expand their presence in international markets.

The initiative reflects the government's continued focus on strengthening Pakistan's export sectors.

Siddiqui hails historic 'Makkah Joint Defence Agreement' as milestone for Muslim unity, security and lasting peace

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training and Chairman Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P), Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, has paid rich tribute to the historic 'Makkah Joint Defence Agreement' concluded between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, and commended the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and brotherly Muslim countries for their strong and welcoming response to the agreement. In a special statement issued on Saturday, Minister described the agreement as a landmark development and a significant milestone



towards strengthening the defence, security and collective resilience of the Muslim Ummah, while advancing the cause of lasting peace and stability in the region. He said that the strategic defence agreement reached among three major Muslim countries in the holy city of Makkah, coupled with its warm reception and endorsement by the OIC and other brotherly Muslim nations.



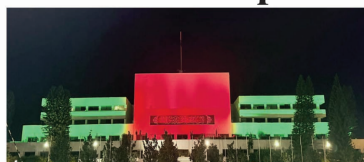
LAHORE: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi checking document of a passenger during visit to Allama Iqbal International Airport here on Sunday.

Strong Parliament & constitutional supremacy essential for stable, prosperous Pakistan: NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that the establishment of the Constituent Assembly was a historic milestone in Pakistan's national and parliamentary history, which laid a strong foundation for the country's constitutional, democratic and parliamentary system. He said that parliamentary democracy is the foundation of the State of Pakistan, as the Parliament of Pakistan came into being on August 10, while the State of Pakistan was formally estab-

lished in the same Parliament on August 14, 1947. He further said that the supremacy of the Constitution, rule of law and promotion of parliamentary democracy are essential for national unity, stability, sustainable development and public prosperity. NA Speaker expressed these views in his message on the 79th anniversary of the establishment of the Constituent Assembly. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that the first session of the Constituent Assembly, held in Karachi on August 10, 1947, was a manifestation of the democratic vision of the Founding



Fathers of Pakistan. He said that the Constituent Assembly paved the way for the establishment of a modern and democratic state by laying the foundations for constitution-making, legislation and the parliamentary system. He said that this historic day provides an opportunity to reaffirm our

commitment to respecting constitutional institutions, promoting democratic values and upholding the sanctity of public representation. He stressed the importance of acquainting the younger generation with Pakistan's constitutional evolution, parliamentary history and democratic

traditions so that they can play an effective role in the state institutions of the country. NA Speaker said that Parliament is the representative institution of the aspirations of the people and, through effective, timely and people-oriented legislation, seeks to address the issues confronting the public. He said that the present Parliament is taking serious measures to make the legislative process more effective and enhance transparency in parliamentary proceedings. He urged all political forces to uphold the national interest and promote the parliamentary traditions of mutual

respect, dialogue, tolerance and consensus. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that strong democratic institutions are the foundation of national stability and progress. He said that a vibrant and effective Parliament is a guarantee of a strong, stable and prosperous Pakistan. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that modern technology, artificial intelligence (AI) and digital systems have been introduced at the National Assembly Secretariat to ensure timely access to information, enhance institutional capacity and bring innovation to parliamentary affairs.