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Solangi holds farewell meeting with outgoing Kazakh envoy

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PM directs acceleration of digital reforms

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Monday, highlighting the government's priority of facilitating citizens in accessing public services, directed that all government digital platforms must be made more effective in line with contemporary needs. The prime minister chaired a review meeting on ongoing reforms at the National Information Technology Board (NITB) and the progress of Islamabad Technology Park's construction, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister directed NITB to focus on providing citizens with easy, efficient, and modern digital services.

He emphasized that all relevant institutions must work in a coordinated manner to ensure timely, transparent, and accessible digital services. He noted that the transition of

federal ministries to e-office systems was one of the most significant reforms to date and directed that its use be ensured across all subordinate departments and state-owned enterprises. Ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahad Khan Cheema, Dr. Musadik Masood Malik, Shaza Fatima Khawaja and senior officials from relevant institutions attended.

The prime minister further asked the acceleration of digitization process in government institutions, including the digitalization of records of all public properties at the earliest. The meeting also reviewed progress on Islamabad Technology Park's construction.

Expressing displeasure over delays in the completion of Islamabad Technology Park, the prime minister directed that construction must be expedited and the park be made operational on a priority basis, with its management fully outsourced.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding reforms in NITB and the construction of Islamabad Technology Park.

AJK elections: Rana Sanaullah says LA-14 winner has joined PML-N

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: PML-N's Rana Sanaullah announced on Monday that Sajid Iqbal Abbasi — who won the LA-14 seat on Jammu Kashmir Awami Dast-o-Bazu Party's ticket in recent

elections in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) — had joined his party. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the PM's adviser on political affairs reiterated that the PML-N was set to form the government in AJK as it had secured 25 seats in the elections. He expected the party's total strength to reach around 33 after the allocation of reserved seats, close to a two-thirds majority in the 53-member legislative assembly. The elections in AJK were held in phases, with the Election Commission citing security concerns. The PML-N had already bagged 25 seats in the elections before Abbasi's joining. The party's main contender, the PPP, won only 12 constituencies and has alleged rigging and electoral malpractices. Meanwhile, elections for seven seats in AJK are yet to be held due to the security situation. Sanaullah said in his press briefing that the people had given the PML-N the mandate in AJK. He expressed confidence that the upcoming elections for the seven remaining seats could help the party achieve the two-thirds majority target.

Trump threatens Oman with bombing if it 'gets in the way' over Strait of Hormuz

MAHPARA ZAMIN



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump warned Oman against interfering in efforts involving Iran and the Strait of Hormuz, saying the United States would "bomb the s*** out of them" if Muscat "gets in the way", Fox News said on Monday.

"If Oman gets in the way, we'll bomb the s*** out of them," Trump said, referring to Oman's discussions with Iran over the Strait of Hormuz. He made the remarks to Fox News as Iran and Oman worked on arrangements for shipping through the strategic waterway. Iran has said the talks with Oman over a proposed transit route through the strait had reached an understanding. Trump also said he was in "no hurry" over the broader confrontation with Iran and confirmed that a backchannel with officials from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps remained open. He described Iran as "dying" and said Tehran was playing its hand like "good poker players", projecting strength publicly while facing mounting pressure behind the scenes. Trump called on Iran to "wave the white flag", signalling that he expected Tehran to surrender rather than continue resisting US pressure. Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Deputy Commander-in-Chief Major General Mostafa Izadi said that during the US-Israeli war on Iran, over 200 enemy aircraft were shot down, the Fars news agency reported. "In the recent war, not only did Iran not disintegrate and no damage was inflicted on the Islamic system, but it demonstrated.

Imran's vision almost normal now, Adiala jail authorities tell Supreme Court

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Adiala jail authorities submitted a report to the Supreme Court on Monday, stating that former prime minister and PTI founder

Imran Khan's eye condition had improved significantly and his vision was almost normal now. The report was submitted a day before the court was set to commence the hearing of Imran Khan's plea for his treatment at Islamabad's Shifa International. The jailed ex-premier, who has been in jail since August 2023, has been taken to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) in Islamabad for eye treatment multiple times after his eye ailment — right central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO) — came to light in late January.

Meanwhile, the PTI and the government have been engaged in a blame game, with the latter accusing the former of a lack of transparency in not ensuring appropriate treatment for Imran. The opposition has also demanded that the former premier be shifted to Shifa International Hospital, be treated in the presence of his personal physicians and allowed to meet his family.

2 terrorists killed in intelligence-based operation in Balochista's Killi Zaik: State Media

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed two terrorists and injured three others during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Killi Zaik area of Balochistan, state media reported on Monday, citing security sources. "According to security sources, the operation was conducted following reports of terrorist presence in the area," state-run Pakistan TV said on the social media platform X. "Ammunition, hand grenades and materials used for making.

Iran says 'no such thing' as 60-day deadline in MoU with US

PEAK POINT

IRAN: Esmail Baqaei, Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson, said on Monday that there was "no such thing as a 60-day deadline" under the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United States.

Iran's semi-official outlet ISNA said Baqaei made the remarks when asked about the timeframe mentioned in negotiations with Washington during a press briefing. The remarks also came as the 60-day window expired. "There is no such thing as a 60-day deadline in the text of the MoU, and the Islamic Republic of Iran never formulates its policies under pressure, ultimatums or time constraints," Baqaei was quoted as saying. "All decisions are made solely based on evaluations of national interests and national

security. What was anticipated in the MoU was merely a

primary focus of the entire country is on managing cur-



60-day window for talks on two axes — sanctions relief and the nuclear issue which could be extended if no result was reached," he said.

"Due to the blatant and widespread violation of the June 18 MoU by the US just a few weeks after its signing, no talks were initiated, and consequently, the issue of the 60-day period completely lost its relevance," ISNA quoted him as saying. "The

rent affairs, while simultaneously the armed forces are closely monitoring all movements with full vigilance," he added. The MoU between the US and Iran was signed on June 18 after weeks of intensive diplomacy. It was aimed at reopening the Strait of Hormuz and ending the Middle East conflict — which began with US-Israeli strikes on Iran in February — after a further 60 days of negotiations.

However, renewed hostilities erupted on July 7, when Iran attacked commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, including a Qatari liquefied natural gas tanker, accusing the US of violating the understanding. The attack prompted multiple waves of US strikes on Iranian military targets. The conflict also spread to new fronts, with the Houthis rebels in Yemen imposing a naval blockade on Saudi Arabia, extending the war to a second major shipping chokepoint considers missing pilots to be prisoners in Qatar Baqaei also said that Iran will consider three missing pilots to be prisoners in Qatar, despite Doha's denials, until it clarifies their fate. Tehran has said the Iranians went missing while carrying out an operation against the United States' Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar on March 2, shortly after the outbreak of the Middle East war.

Pakistan's largest refiner expands US crude imports amid Hormuz disruption



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The country's largest refiner Cnergyco is buying more US crude as Islamabad seeks to diversify the country's energy supplies after disruption caused by the Iran war exposed its dependence on Gulf routes. Pakistan also wants to increase imports from the US to help narrow its trade surplus and secure reductions in trade tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump. Cnergyco, which first bought US crude last year, is also considering spot purchases against longer-term contracts with Vitol and other suppliers based on "pricing, reliability and supply security", Vice Chairman Usama Qureshi told Reuters.

Cnergyco imported about 8.1 million barrels of US crude over nine months, including 7.1m worth about \$750m in the fiscal year ended June, Qureshi said.



SPORTS



Afridi-led Gold qualify for final of National Champions Cup



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Shaheen Shah Afridi-led Sparco Paints Pakistan Gold qualified for the final of the National Champions Cup 2026-27 after they thumped UOL Pakistan Whites by five wickets, chasing the 173-run target with 132 balls to spare here at the Multan Cricket Stadium.

Rivaj Pakistan Greens led by Shadab Khan will now face Shaheen's outfit in the final of the tournament at the same venue on Tuesday with the coin toss scheduled for 2.30pm and first ball expected to be bowled at 3pm.

Gold had lost their opening two

matches and were faced with the equation of not just winning the game but also with a better net run rate than that of Blues and their today's opponents Whites.

They were required to hunt the 173-run target in 32.1 overs but they did it in 28, finishing level with Whites and Blues on points but slightly better net run rate. Gold's Haider Ali starred with 69 not out at no.5 after the top three had perished by the end of the powerplay in the chase. On Sunday, player of the match and captain Shaheen won the toss and invited Whites to bat first. He led the charge with figures of 8-0-26-3 and was ably supported by

pacers Mohammad Imran (5-0-25-1) and Razaullah (6-1-25-1) along with the spin duo of Mubasir Khan (10-0-29-2), Faisal Akram (9-4-1-48-2). Whites kept on losing wickets at regular intervals as only Hasan Nawaz (55, 74b, 3x4s, 2x6s) and Saim Ayub (28, 39b, 4x4s) crossed the 20-run mark, while the highest stand in their innings came between Hasan and Saad Masood for the sixth wicket. Hasan walked in to bat in the 13th over after Shahzaib Khan, Haseebullah and Usman Khan had returned to the dugout for single-digit scores. Soon Hasan also saw the back of Saim in

22nd. With the Gold bowlers charged up, Hasan and Saad (20, 21b, 2x4s) added 45 runs together adding some competitiveness to the contest. Shaheen removed Hasan for his second scalp and Mohammad Wasim Jnr (18, 29b, 2x4s) for his third, while Faisal Akram claimed Saqib Khan and Ali Raza as Whites lost their last four wickets for 24 runs. In turn, Haider and Saad Khan made sure Gold do not stutter in their chase after no.3 Kamran Ghulam had contributed a 26-ball 30, while the opening duo of Shamyl Hussain and Mohammad Akhlaq scored 15 each in the total of 61-3.

Babar fitness clouds Pakistan's England opener



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan face a late selection decision over Babar Azam ahead of the opening Test against England at Headingley on Wednesday, with the former captain's availability in doubt after he was struck on his injured right hand during a warm-up match in Kent while batting.

Babar had sustained the hand injury during Pakistan's second Test against the West Indies, which Pakistan won to level the two-match series. The batter was subsequently hit on the same hand after scoring five runs for Pakistan against the Professional Cricket Club (PCC) Select XI. He left the field after the blow and, as a precaution, did not take any further part in the match. Pakistan nevertheless completed a comfortable preparation victory, with Saud Shakeel scoring a determined century and Imam-ul-Haq contributing a solid half-century. The setback has prompted Pakistan's selectors to delay their final decision on the team for the first Test as they assess whether Babar will be fit enough to take his place in the side.

"Whether he will play or not will be decided on the match day. But today he has done little of throw-down batting practice and medical team is working with him," Pakistan pacer Mohammad Abbas told reporters at Headingley on Monday.

England hand Pakistan 4-1 defeat in FIH Hockey World Cup opener



PEAK POINT

AMSTELVEEN: England began their FIH Hockey World Cup campaign with a convincing 4-1 victory over Pakistan at the Wagener Hockey Stadium.

Pakistan made a positive start, relying on high passes to put England under pressure and earned an early penalty corner in

the fifth minute. However, the opportunity went begging after the injection was Ali Raza kept not stopped cleanly. England gradually asserted control and broke the deadlock in the 13th minute when Stuart Rushmere found the net after 12 minutes and 15 seconds.

Pakistan struggled to create clear chances after his side failed to

place their protective equipment behind the designated goalpost during a penalty-corner situation.

England eventually doubled their lead shortly before half-time, with Sam Ward scoring in the 29th minute to give the Three Lions a 2-0 advantage at the interval.

England continued to dominate after the restart and extended their lead in the 32nd minute when Sam Hooper converted their second penalty corner.

Pakistan earned a penalty corner of their own soon afterwards, but England goalkeeper James Mazarelo made a crucial save to deny them their first goal.

Australia ponder way forward after 'most humbling' Test defeat to Bangladesh



PSB, ACTIVIT ink MoU to strengthen sports



Fatima Sana returns to lead Pakistan in Asia Cup, Asian Games as squads announced

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Fatima Sana will return as Pakistan women's captain for the Women's Asia Cup and the Asian Games after missing the recent Twenty20 International series against Sri Lanka due to her commitments in The Hundred, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced.

Fatima will lead a 15-member squad for both tournaments, with Pakistan set to feature in the eight-team Asia Cup in Dubai from Aug 28 to Sept 13 before travelling to Japan for the Asian Games women's cricket event.

Pakistan have been placed in Group 'A' of the Asia Cup alongside India, Thailand and Hong Kong-China. They will begin their campaign against Thailand on Sept 1 before facing India on Sept 5 and Hong Kong-China on Sept 7. The semi-finals are scheduled for Sept 10 and 11, with the final to be played on

Sept 13 at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Pakistan's Asian Games campaign will begin with a quarter-final against Thailand on Sept 17 at Korogi Athletic Park in Aichi. India will face

2010 and 2014 Asian Games but finished fourth at the 2022 edition.

Eleven players — Fatima, Muneeba Ali Siddiqui, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Ayesha Zafar, Gull Feroza, Saira Jabeen, Eymaan Fatima, Eman



Japan, Bangladesh will meet China and Sri Lanka will play Malaysia in the other quarter-finals. Should Pakistan qualify for the semi-finals, they will face either Sri Lanka or Malaysia on Sept 20. The bronze-medal and gold-medal matches are scheduled for Sept 22.

Pakistan won gold at the

Naseer, Umm-e-Hani, Tubha Hassan and Nashra Sundhu — have been selected for both tournaments.

For the Asia Cup, Najiba Alvi, Waheeda Akhtar and Sadia Iqbal have been included, while Aliya Riaz, Tasnia Rubab and Humna Bilal have been selected for the Asian Games squad.



ICT cannot be used to justify federal control over provincial subjects, Committee Says

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: The federal government cannot keep nationwide ministries such as Education, Health and Environment alive simply by claiming they are needed to manage Islamabad Capital Territory, a Senate sub-committee has declared. It said ICT matters belong strictly to the ICT Division and cannot be used as a reason to retain ministries dealing with subjects already transferred to the provinces. The Senate Sub Committee on Devolution, chaired by Senator Barrister Zamir Hussain Ghumro, strongly questioned the continued existence of federal ministries, divisions and organisations dealing with subjects that the committee said had already been

devolved. The committee said the federal government was using Islamabad Capital Territory responsibilities as a reason for keeping several nationwide ministries and institutions. It rejected this argument. According to the committee, issues that specifically concern Islamabad should be handled through the ICT Division. It said there was no constitutional justification for maintaining full national ministries for provincial subjects simply because the federal government also has responsibility for Islamabad. The committee specifically referred to Education, Health, Environment and EOBI while discussing the issue. It said retaining such nationwide structures to manage ICT affairs was invalid. The com-

mittee linked the issue to the wider constitutional devolution process. Members were informed that under Article 270AA of the Constitution, notifications issued during the devolution process required the complete transfer of concurrent legislative subjects and the abolition of 17 federal ministries. The committee said subjects transferred to provinces should not continue to be controlled through federal ministries. It argued that keeping federal structures alive after devolution defeats the purpose of transferring authority to the provinces. The panel also linked the issue with the federal government's growing expenditure. It said Pakistan could no longer afford unnecessary federal structures dealing with subjects that should be managed

elsewhere. According to figures presented before the committee, federal expenditure stands at about Rs 19 trillion while total tax and non tax revenue is about Rs 20 trillion. The committee called for federal expenditure to be reduced to around Rs 13 trillion. Members argued that shutting down duplicate structures and completing constitutional devolution could help reduce government spending and strengthen the financial position of provinces. The committee also said the federal government was paying around Rs 8 trillion in interest on loans and warned that excessive spending was pushing the country deeper into debt. It said a smaller federal government could reduce dependence on borrowing and repeated IMF support. The

committee identified a wide range of ministries, organisations and institutions that it believes require examination under the devolution framework. These included Health, Education, National Food Security, Water Resources, Climate Change, Housing, Special Initiatives, Culture and Heritage, Evacuee Trust Board, Zakat and Ushur, Naya Pakistan Housing Authority, EOBI, Narcotics, Police Service and PMDC. It also named Korangi Fish Harbor, Press Information Department, SIDCL, Railways, Industries, Statistics, Petroleum, Inter Provincial Coordination, Planning and Development and WAPDA. The committee said institutions working on purely provincial subjects should be devolved while bod-

ies dealing with subjects under Part II of the Federal Legislative List should be handled through the Council of Common Interests. It directed that federal ministries, divisions and state owned enterprises created or retained on provincial or CCI subjects should be shut down or devolved where constitutionally required. However, the committee stressed that employees should not be harmed during this process. The government was told to protect staff while changing or closing institutions. The committee also ordered the federal government to amend its Rules of Business within 15 days. It asked for a report explaining how responsibilities would shift according to the constitutional division of powers.

Pakistan-China B2B cooperation to drive investment, technology transfer, export growth: Haroon

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production and Federal Minister Haroon Akhtar Khan on Monday said Pakistan-China Business-to-Business (B2B) cooperation was opening new avenues for investment, technology transfer, local manufacturing and export growth. The minister made these remarks while chairing a meeting to review

progress on Pakistan-China Business-to-Business (B2B) cooperation and the implementation of Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) signed between businesses of the two countries, said a news release. Senior officials from all relevant ministries, departments, government institutions, and stakeholders attended the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Haroon said that the Prime Minister's visit to China and

the Pakistan-China B2B conferences had opened new avenues for economic cooperation between Pakistan and China. He noted that the B2B engagements had resulted in significant progress on multiple MoUs and joint ventures worth hundreds of millions of dollars across various sectors. The advisor emphasized that the prime minister had given clear directions to translate Pakistan-China agreements and MoUs into concrete and

actionable projects. "Signing MoUs alone is not enough; the real success lies in translating these agreements into practical initiatives and ensuring the commencement of investments and joint ventures," he said. Haroon directed that, in accordance with the PM's instructions, continuous follow-up of all MoUs would be undertaken to ensure timely progress and implementation. He reaffirmed that the government

was fully committed to transforming Pakistan-China B2B cooperation into tangible investment, joint production, technology transfer, and increased exports.

Haroon described the B2B engagements in the lithium-ion battery, agriculture, and pharmaceutical sectors as an exceptional and historic development, adding that the strong participation of Chinese businesses in these sectors represented a signifi-

cant industrial opportunity for Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan would further strengthen business-to-business linkages with China to promote technology transfer, local manufacturing, and exports. "Bringing Chinese investment and technology to Pakistan and linking it with local production and exports is a key priority of the government," Haroon Akhtar Khan added.

Opinion & Editorial

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Our moon mission

The Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco) has named the nation's first lunar rover, selecting the name submitted by a 17-year-old from Bahawalnagar. While hardly original, Jinnah-1 is still a fitting name for the first 'made-in-Pakistan' vehicle to traverse the lunar surface. Despite decades of disappointments that betrayed his vision for the country, at least we can be sure Quaid-e-Azam would be proud of this achievement, which is scheduled to take place in 2029. The Pakistani lander will piggy-back on China's Chang'e-8 mission to the Moon's south pole, which is itself a notable scientific effort. The collaborative mission is also a good example of the strength of Pakistan's bilateral relationship with China. If all goes well, the lander will make significant contributions to the world's understanding of lunar plasma, radiation and surface geology. It will map terrain and test technologies essential for future human presence on the Moon. The 35kg rover is expected to cost around Rs400 million - including research and development - and will be operated by Pakistani specialists. But the mission is not just about building a lander. That is arguably the easy part. Challenges abound, from the sheer technical difficulty of a soft landing to the intense competition from established spacefaring nations.

A True Son of Pakistan: Why Sardar Muhammad Ilyas Khan Truly Deserves the Hilal-i-Imtiaz

By Raja Mohsin Ijaz

There are moments when a nation does more than confer an honour; it recognises a lifetime of service and, in doing so, reminds itself of the values it wishes to celebrate. The decision to confer the Hilal-i-Imtiaz upon Sardar Muhammad Ilyas Khan is one such moment. It is not simply recognition for a successful businessman. It is an acknowledgement of a life defined by hard work, integrity, enterprise and an enduring commitment to Pakistan. Nearly five decades ago, a young man from Azad Kashmir travelled to Saudi Arabia with determination and faith in his own abilities. Over the years, through discipline, perseverance and vision, he built an impressive career, eventually rising to senior leadership roles associated with Tamimi Global (Al-Tamimi Group) and the Centaurus Group. Yet the most meaningful measure of his success is not the positions he attained or the businesses he helped build. It is the number of lives touched by the opportunities created through his work. For thousands of Pakistanis, employment opportunities in Saudi Arabia have meant much more than a monthly salary. They have meant children's education, homes for families, financial security and the dignity that comes from being able to provide for those who depend on them. The remittances sent back to Pakistan are important to the national economy, but behind every figure lies a human story. In that sense, Sardar Muhammad Ilyas Khan's contribution has



reached far beyond the corporate world and into the homes of ordinary Pakistani families. What makes his journey particularly significant, however, is what he did after achieving success abroad. He did not allow distance to weaken his relationship with Pakistan. Instead, he brought investment, confidence and ambition back home. The Centaurus complex in Islamabad remains a visible symbol of that faith. More than a commercial landmark, it represents the conviction of an overseas Pakistani that Pakistan is a country worth investing in, building in and believing in. Patriotism is often expressed through words, but the strongest form of patriotism is sometimes measured in actions. Investing one's own resources, creating employment and accepting the risks of doing business in one's homeland are powerful expressions of confidence in a country's future. Sardar Ilyas Khan has expressed that confidence not through slogans, but through decades of practical contribution. Those familiar with his career also point to qualities that cannot be measured on a balance sheet: fairness, discipline, loyalty and respect for people. His leadership has been characterised by a

belief that employees are not merely part of an organisation but individuals whose dignity and wellbeing matter. His contribution to society has therefore taken a practical form—creating opportunities, supporting livelihoods and helping people build independent futures. Perhaps the most enduring testament to his life is the legacy carried forward by his sons. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, CEO of the Centaurus Group and currently serving in a national tourism role, has taken forward the family's tradition of enterprise while contributing to efforts to promote Pakistan's tourism potential and international image. Dr Sardar Rashid Ilyas Khan has continued to strengthen the family's business legacy, while Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has also contributed in the public sphere. Their individual journeys may be different, but the values of enterprise, responsibility and service that unite them were first established by their father. A person's greatest legacy is not always measured by what he leaves behind in material terms. Sometimes it is measured by the principles he passes on to the next generation. In that respect, Sardar Muhammad Ilyas Khan's achievement is especially significant: he has built not only businesses, but also a culture of responsibility and service within his family. The decision to honour him with the Hilal-i-Imtiaz therefore carries meaning beyond one individual. It sends a welcome message that Pakistan continues to value those who create jobs, invest in the country, strengthen

communities and contribute without constantly seeking recognition. At a time when public life can often be dominated by rhetoric and visibility, there is something deeply reassuring about celebrating a man whose record has been built over decades rather than moments. For millions of overseas Pakistanis, his story carries an even broader message. It demonstrates that success abroad and service to Pakistan need not be separate journeys. One can build a life overseas while remaining deeply connected to the homeland, and one can transform personal success into investment, employment and opportunity for others. The Hilal-i-Imtiaz does not create Sardar Muhammad Ilyas Khan's legacy; that legacy was built long before the honour was announced. What the award does is give national recognition to a lifetime of contribution. He left Pakistan nearly five decades ago to build a future. He succeeded, but he never left Pakistan behind. He carried his homeland with him, created opportunities for his fellow Pakistanis and, when success came, brought a significant part of it back home. That is why this honour feels not only deserved, but deeply meaningful. Sardar Muhammad Ilyas Khan did not spend a lifetime asking Pakistan to remember him. He spent a lifetime giving Pakistan reasons to remember. And today, through the Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Pakistan has answered with a simple but powerful message: your service was seen, your contribution mattered, and your country is grateful.

Naqvi seeks two-year reform plans from all Interior Ministry depts



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Demanding a comprehensive two-year transformation plan for their respective departments, Federal Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi has directed the heads of all departments under the Ministry of Interior to strengthen cooperation, communication, and coordination.

Naqvi gave the instructions at an important meeting of the heads of the ministry's affiliated organisations in Islamabad on Monday. He directed the department heads to take effective

steps to protect data and improve cybersecurity.

The meeting reviewed progress on plans to improve the performance of the ministry's institutions, strengthen coordination, and introduce reforms in line with modern needs.

The interior minister said the work of the Ministry of Interior was different from that of other ministries and involved unusual responsibilities.

He said newly established bodies, including the Land Port Authority, would be given full support. All insti-

tutions would be provided with the resources they needed, while their heads were expected to work together and support one another.

Naqvi directed the heads of all affiliated organisations to submit comprehensive two-year transformation plans for their respective institutions. He said the government's goal was to fully modernise all institutions under the Ministry of Interior and make each one an example of effective and public-friendly service. He said all organisations must ensure the delivery of better facilities and quality services to the public and meet the targets set for them.

The minister also called for greater independence among the institutions, saying they should be empowered to make decisions on their own instead of sending every matter to the ministry. He instructed officials to submit proposals for necessary changes to laws and reforms without delay wherever required. Naqvi said that not a single case of drug smuggling had been reported.

JI inconveniencing the very citizens it claims to be protesting for: Saeed Ghani

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: PPP leader and Sindh Labour Minister Saeed Ghani on Monday questioned the Jamaat-i-Islami's (JI) rationale for staging sit-ins against the petroleum levy, saying that the party was inadvertently inconveniencing the citizens it claimed to be protesting for.

The JI has been staging sit-ins across the country since Sunday against the levy imposed on petroleum products and other taxes. Speaking to the media in Karachi, Ghani said the JI's intentions to protest over public concerns and to ease their issues were a "good thing" to which he had no objection. "But, they choose those 18 points in Karachi where Karachi will get fully blocked, and then demonstrate there. What difference does it make to Shehbaz Sharif, to whom you are



making demands?"

Ghani said that by closing down roads, demonstrating and inconveniencing the people, the JI was forcing the same people suffering due to high petrol prices to use "four more litres of petrol a day". He questioned their rationale, saying, "The people you are talking about making petrol cheaper for — if you ask them, they are cursing you out."

The minister criticised that the party justified their methods by saying that it would make no difference to the government until the people faced difficulty.

SCP explores collaboration with UK judicial institutions for professional development of judges, bar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Chief Justice of Pakistan on Monday received the Mr. Justice Martin Griffiths, Judge of the High Court of England and Wales (King's Bench Division), here at the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Justice Griffiths, who is currently visiting Pakistan, is a member of the International Committee of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, United Kingdom, and chairs the Wales Training Committee of the Judicial College.

Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui, Justice Mianqul Hassan Aurangzeb, Judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the Director General and Director, Federal Judicial Academy, the President, Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan, and the Director, Legal Education, Pakistan Bar Council, were also present on the occasion. The discussions focused on strengthening institutional collaboration between Pakistan and the United

Kingdom, particularly in the areas of judicial training, professional development and capacity building.

The possibility of developing structured collaboration between the Federal Judicial Academy and the Judicial College of England and Wales for judicial education and training of judges was discussed. The participants emphasised the value of sharing training methodologies, institutional experience and best practices to further strengthen judicial capacity and professional development.

The meeting also explored opportunities for collaboration between the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple and Pakistan's legal profession for capacity building, particularly in advocacy training, continuing legal education and professional development of lawyers. In this context, Justice Griffiths' role as a member of the International Committee of the Inner Temple was noted.

PM's dialogue offer to opposition still stands: Tariq Fazal

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Monday informed the Senate that the government was ready for dialogue with the opposition, saying Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's offer for talks still stood and had not expired. Responding to a point of order raised by Senator Mohsin Aziz, the minister said dialogue within Parliament remained the only viable way to resolve political differences and move the democratic system forward. He recalled that during this year's budget session, the prime minister had personally approached the Leader of the Opposition and proposed that the government and opposition should sit together and discuss their differences. Following the prime minister's initiative, he said, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, Rana Sanaulah Khan, the government's parliamentary leadership and he himself had visited the opposition leader's chamber to take the process forward. Tariq Fazal said discussions were held over identifying.

Solangi holds farewell meeting with outgoing Kazakh envoy

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Spokesperson to the President Murtaza Solangi on Monday held a farewell meeting with outgoing Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin at the President's Secretariat.

During the meeting, bilateral relations between the two countries came under discussion, along with the need for greater connectivity to promote regional peace and prosperity.

Mr Solangi emphasised the need to enhance land, air and sea links and noted that Pakistan could serve as a natural maritime gateway for landlocked Kazakhstan to global markets through its seaports. The discussion also covered opportunities to expand cooperation in trade,



investment, mineral resources, health, education, tourism and people-to-people exchanges. Sports diplomacy, particularly in boxing, mountaineering and traditional sports, also came under discussion. The spokesperson appreciated Ambassador Kistafin's efforts during his tenure in Pakistan towards strengthening bilateral diplomatic and economic ties and wished him success in his future assignments. The ambassador said that he had spent five years.

Five M.Phil scholars successfully defend their theses at WUM

PEAK POINT

MARDAN: The Department of Botany, Women University Mardan, successfully conducted the M.Phil thesis viva voce examinations of five scholars under the supervision of Dr. Sabaoon.

The viva voce examinations were conducted by a distinguished academic panel comprising Dr. Yamin Bibi, Department of Botany, Rawalpindi Women University, as the external examiner; Dr. Hira Bashir, Head of the Department of Botany, Women University Mardan; and Dr. Haleem, Director ORIC, Women University Mardan.

The scholars Elsa Azam, Khadija Noor, Nasreen, Muniba



Hoar, and Suhana Bibi successfully defended their M.Phil theses. During the viva, the scholars presented their research findings and responded to questions from the examination panel, demonstrating their understanding of their respective research areas and the scientific significance of their work. The examination panel appreciated the scholars' research efforts.



ISLAMABAD: Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, presenting a souvenir to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Martin Griffiths, Judge of the High Court of England and Wales, at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Speaker NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq meets Speaker KPK Assembly Babar Saleem Swati

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq held a meeting with Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Babar Saleem Swati at Parliament House. The meeting discussed parliamentary affairs, legislation and other matters of mutual interest in detail. The participants agreed to further strengthen linkages and parliamentary cooperation among the federal, provincial and other legislative institutions. The meeting

also discussed matters relating to the strengthening of parliamentary institutions, promotion of democratic values, resolution of public issues and effective performance of legislative institutions. Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq stressed the importance of coordination and exchange of experiences among parliamentary institutions, stating that strong parliamentary institutions are the guarantee of democratic stability. He said that mutu-

al consultation and exchange of experiences among all legislative institutions is essential. Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that the Speakers' Conference is an effective platform for further expanding parliamentary cooperation. He said that production orders of opposition members have been issued without discrimination, reflecting a commitment to parliamentary traditions and democratic values. On the occasion, Speaker Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Babar Saleem Swati appreciated the strong parliamentary cooperation extended by the National Assembly Secretariat. He also appreciated the role of Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in promoting parliamentary cooperation and strengthening linkages among legislative institutions. Later, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also held a meeting with Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Imran Nadeem at

Parliament House. The meeting discussed parliamentary affairs, legislation and matters of mutual interest in detail. The two leaders agreed to further strengthen linkages and parliamentary cooperation between the federal and provincial legislative institutions. Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that the Speakers' Conference is an important platform for promoting cooperation among legislative institutions. Speaker National Assembly

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq congratulated Imran Nadeem on assuming the office of Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly and expressed his best wishes for him. Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Imran Nadeem appreciated the role of Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in conducting the proceedings of the National Assembly in an orderly manner, promoting parliamentary cooperation and strengthening linkages among legislative institutions.