



Gilani calls for strategic leadership, innovation, strong governance in universities



Govt bound to facilitate PTI founder's private treatment if needed: Tariq Fazal



Govt takes measures to mitigate flood-related losses: Jam Kamal

Founded By:
(Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

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

Executive Group Editor
Arif Mehmood Khan



Friday 21 August 2026

Rabi-ul-Awaal 07, 1448

A.H.VOI No: 06

Issue No. 176

Pages 4 Rs. 20

PM again invites opposition to dialogue for strengthening economy, democracy

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday once again invited the opposition to sit with the government for constructive dialogue, saying that political matters should be resolved through talks to further strengthen Pakistan's economy and democracy.

Chairing a meeting of the federal cabinet, the prime minister said the government had always been ready for dialogue and he had repeatedly expressed this position on the floor of the National Assembly as well as before the cabinet.

"I once again invite the opposition to come and sit together. Matters should be resolved through dialogue so that Pakistan's

economy and democracy can be further strengthened," he said, adding that it was now up to the opposition to decide how soon it was ready for constructive engagement. The prime minister also welcomed the reduction of Rs 32 per litre in the price of diesel, and said the achievement was particularly significant in view of the difficult situation prevailing in the Gulf region and disruptions to global oil supplies. He appreciated the efforts of the ministry of petroleum and its team in securing the reduction, noting that Pakistan was a net energy importer and was therefore particularly vulnerable to disruptions in international energy supplies. Referring to the prevailing situation in the Gulf and around the Strait of Hormuz, he said oil supplies.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs the Federal cabinet meeting.

Fazl announces 'united opposition' after meeting Achakzai, Qaiser

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Thursday announced a "united opposition" after meeting National Assembly opposition

leader and Tehreek Tahafuz Ayeen-e-Pakistan (TTAP) chief Mehmood Khan Achakzai. The development came a day after Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), a key coalition partner in the centre, and the opposition parties had agreed to cooperate on legislative matters in parliament. The JUI-F chief, along with a delegation comprising Kamran Murtaza and Maulana Abdul Wasay, held an important meeting with TTAP chief Achakzai, PTI's Asad Qaiser and Akhunda Hussain Yousafzai in the chamber of the opposition leader. Speaking to journalists outside Parliament House after the meeting, Fazl said, "JUI-F and TTAP have agreed to form a joint opposition." The JUI-F chief called his meeting with the opposition leader "good". He said that they principally agreed to move towards a joint opposition. "We want to play a joint parliamentary role," said the JUI-F chief, adding that further consultations on the move will continue.

Pakistan protests US envoy's Kashmir remarks

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday summoned the US Charge d'Affaires in Islamabad and lodged a strong diplomatic protest over remarks by US ambassador to India Sergio Gora, who described Jammu and Kashmir as an "important part of India" during his maiden visit to Srinagar. The Foreign

Office said the US diplomat was summoned over what Islamabad termed "factually incorrect remarks" regarding the status of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan "strongly condemned and categorically rejected" the characterization of Jammu and Kashmir as a part of India, reiterating that the territory was an internationally recognized disputed territory whose final disposition remained to be determined in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The demarche came hours after Gora, who is also US President Donald Trump's Special Envoy for South and Central Asian Affairs, visited Srinagar on the first leg of a two-day trip to the Indian illegally-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. During his meeting with IIOJK Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in Srinagar, Gora described Kashmir as an "important part of India", while praising what he called improvements in the security situation in the region. He also indicated that Washington could review its travel advisory for the territory. "I am here, visiting for the first time. It is an incredibly beautiful place," Gora said while speaking to reporters after meeting Abdullah.

SC returns govt's review plea against Imran's transfer to Shifa Hospital

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday returned a review petition filed by the federal government against its Aug 18 order for shifting

incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan to Shifa International Hospital. The SC registrar's office returned the petition, citing incomplete paper books as the reason. An informed source told Dawn that the review petition may be filed afresh with certain amendments along with an appeal against the registrar's objections. Reacting to the development, PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja said the state had "withdrew its review petition" after the court's objections. "There is no excuse whatsoever for not complying with the SC order of Aug 18. Imran Khan sahib must be transferred to Shifa International Hospital forthwith. Today is the day," he said. On Tuesday, the SC had ordered the government to shift Imran to Shifa International Hospital within two days for examination and treatment by a multidisciplinary medical board.

Gold mine collapse kills over 100 in Central Africa

PEAK POINT

BOUAR: A landslide at an illegal gold mine has killed at least 100 people in the Central African Republic on the border with Cameroon, the latest of many such accidents in the mineral-rich nation. Search operations are still underway after the accident at the Zambouy mining site, about 50 kilometres (31 miles) from the Central African town of Baboua, on Tuesday afternoon. Video images shared on social media showed part of the ground at the huge open-pit mining site, where hundreds of artisanal miners work, breaking away and burying people in its path.

ECP agrees to Punjab's proposal to hold local body polls between Dec 15, 2026, and Jan 15, 2027

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday agreed to the Punjab government's proposal to hold local government elections in the province between December 15, 2026, and January 15, 2027.

In a press release, the commission said an important meeting was held at the ECP's headquarters to discuss fixing a date for the local government elections in Punjab. The meeting was chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja. A four-member Punjab cabinet committee, headed by Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq and comprising Mines and Minerals Minister Sardar Sher Ali Gorchani, Agriculture Minister Syed Muhammad

Ashiq Hussain Shah and Education Minister Rana



Sikandar Hayat, also attended the meeting, along with the Punjab chief secretary and local government special secretary. Meanwhile, ECP members, the ECP secretary, and other senior officials of the Commission also attended the meeting. "The chief election commissioner highlighted the importance of establishing local governments and said that holding local government elections is a constitu-

tional requirement under Article 140-A of the

Constitution of Pakistan," the statement said. "Under Section 219(4) of the Elections Act, the Election Commission is bound to hold local government elections within 120 days of the expiry of the term of local governments," Raja was quoted as saying. According to the press release, the commission was briefed that the delimitation process in Punjab had been completed. "Under

Section 219(3) of the Elections Act 2017 and Section 59 of the Punjab Local Government Act, consultation with the provincial government is necessary for announcing the date of local government elections," it stated.

It added that the Punjab cabinet committee briefed the commission that the chief minister of Punjab was committed to holding local government elections in the province and had given the committee full authority to hold consultations. "The provincial government has to initiate the process for local government elections and would also require time for the proper provision of resources. In addition, the services of teaching staff are required extensively during the local government election process," Rafiq was quoted as saying.

5 terrorists killed in intelligence-based operation in Balochistan's Panjgur



PEAK POINT

QUETTA: Security forces killed five terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Killi Suran area of Panjgur under Operation Raddul Fitna 3, it emerged on Thursday.

Security forces said that intelligence was received regarding the movement of terrorists planning an attack. They said that five terrorists were killed in the incident while several others were wounded.

Security forces also said that a large quantity of weapons, ammunition and equipment was recovered from the terrorists. They added that the killed terrorists were involved in robbery, extortion, kidnapping for ransom, targeted killings and attacks in Panjgur.



SPORTS



Iranian team arrives in Islamabad for joint Kabaddi training camp, friendly matches



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Iranian team has arrived in Islamabad, to participate in a Joint Kabaddi Training Camp and Friendly Kabaddi Matches with the Pakistan National Kabaddi Camp Trainees/Team, as part of their preparations for the 20th Asian Games, Aichi-Nagoya, Japan 2026.

The Joint Kabaddi Training Camp is being organized under the guidance of Ch. Shafay Hussain, Chairman, Pakistan Kabaddi Federation, and Ch. Salik Hussain, President, Pakistan Kabaddi Federation, said a press release.

The camp will provide both Kabaddi teams with valuable preparation, competitive exposure, and an opportunity to further strengthen sporting cooperation between Pakistan and Iran.

The Joint Kabaddi Training Camp will commence on the evening of August 20, while the Friendly Kabaddi Matches will be held from August 24 to 26 at 7pm here at Hamidi Hall of Pakistan Sports Complex.

This visit and the joint sporting activities between Pakistan and Iran will contribute to strengthening bilateral relations and promoting friendship, goodwill, mutual

understanding, and people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and its neighboring Muslim country, Iran. Such sporting exchanges provide an excellent platform for fostering cooperation, brotherly relations, and mutual respect between the two Nations.

This will help highlight the positive image of Pakistan, showcase Pakistan's hospitality and sporting capabilities, and further promote the soft image of Pakistan at both National and International levels. The Pakistan Kabaddi Federation (PKF) expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Pakistan Sports Board, all security-related

departments and agencies, and sponsors for their invaluable support, cooperation, and assistance in organizing and successfully conducting this Joint Kabaddi Training Camp.

Their continued cooperation and efforts have played a vital role in making this important sporting activity possible and successful. We sincerely appreciate their support and contribution towards promoting sports, strengthening Pakistan-Iran sporting relations, and supporting the preparations of the Pakistan National Kabaddi Team for the 20th Asian Games, Aichi-Nagoya, Japan 2026, it said.

Mountaineer Asma Mushtaq loses life during descent from Spantik



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani mountaineer Asma Mushtaq lost her life during the descent from Spantik peak (7,027 metres) in the Karakoram range, the Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) said Thursday.

According to the ACP, Mushtaq successfully reached the summit of Spantik in good health. However, during her descent at approximately 6,400 metres, she suffered a serious high altitude medical emergency and could not survive despite the immediate efforts of her mountain guides.

ACP President Maj. Gen. (retd) Irfan Arshad Khan, and the entire team of the club expressed profound grief and sorrow over her tragic passing. The club acknowledged the courage and dedication of the mountain guides who stayed with her and did everything within their ability to assist her under extremely challenging conditions. "The President and entire team of ACP extend their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, friends and loved ones of Mrs. Asma Mushtaq. We stand with the family and the entire mountaineering community during this difficult time," said ACP Senior Vice President Karrar Haidri.

ICC rescinds demerit point imposed on Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium after PCB appeal



PEAK POINT

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday rescinded a demerit point imposed on Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium and another on Toronto's King City Stadium following decisions on three pitch-rating appeals

submitted by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and Cricket Canada (CC).

However, it maintained the decision to impose three demerit points and an "Unfit" rating on the Maple Leaf Cricket Ground in Toronto following decisions on three pitch-rating appeals

June, according to a report citing concerns raised by match officials and captains over the surface used for the series decider, which Pakistan won by four wickets to clinch the three-match series 2-1. The PCB has successfully challenged a similar ruling in the past. In 2022, the ICC awarded a demerit point to Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium following the on Lahore's Gaddafi Test against England, Stadium — following an "Unsatisfactory" rating for the third Men's ODI between Pakistan and Australia on June 4 — has been rescinded, with the panel noting that "the pitch did not demonstrate excessive unevenness or spin".

The sanction was announced in June after match referee Graeme Labrooy submitted a report citing concerns raised by match officials and captains over the surface used for the series decider, which Pakistan won by four wickets to clinch the three-match series 2-1. The PCB has successfully challenged a similar ruling in the past. In 2022, the ICC awarded a demerit point to Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium following the on Lahore's Gaddafi Test against England, Stadium — following an "Unsatisfactory" rating for the third Men's ODI between Pakistan and Australia on June 4 — has been rescinded, with the panel noting that "the pitch did not demonstrate excessive unevenness or spin". The sanction was announced in June after match referee Graeme Labrooy submitted a

First Test: Cox, Root half-centuries give England lead before Pakistan fight back



Bangladesh Premier League will not take place this season, says BCB president

PEAK POINT

BANGLADESH: The Bangladesh Premier League will not take place this season, the country's cricket board (BCB) president Tamim Iqbal told reporters on Thursday, citing various issues that plagued the previous seasons including allegations of match fixing and corruption.

The BPL, launched in 2012, is the most popular domestic competition in Bangladesh, but has struggled to replicate the financial success of other franchise-based Twenty20 leagues in countries like India and Australia.

"I don't think so. The BPL will not happen this year," Tamim told reporters at an event in Mirpur.

National newspaper "Prothom Alo" said the BCB has faced a loss of nearly 400 million Bangladeshi taka (\$3.27 million) during the

last two BPL seasons.

"If I was a player, I'd be disheartened too," Tamim added.

"But they also know that this tournament should be staged in a way that the BCB can be proud of. Are we

tion probe into the BPL.

Several matches were rescheduled during the previous edition as domestic cricketers boycotted games over BCB official Nazmul Islam's comments criticising players and questioning their finan-



proud of what has happened over the last few years? Perhaps not."

The BCB suspended a player and multiple team officials over betting violations in May, after an anti-corruption

cial value. Tamim said the BCB will bring back the BPL.

"I don't want to hurry. I want to do it right. If that takes six or 12 months, I'll take that time," he added.

Suns finish strong as Saints' season fades away





Youth and Parliamentarians call for stronger Tobacco control in Pakistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: An Orientation Session with Youth Mentors and Parliamentarians was held in Islamabad under the theme "Youth for a Tobacco-Free Pakistan: From Awareness to Action." The session brought together parliamentarians, health experts, tobacco-control representatives, youth mentors, civil society and the Aurat Foundation (AF) team to discuss stronger measures to protect Pakistan's young population from tobacco and emerging nicotine products. The session was attended by Ms. Syeda Amnah Batool, MNA and Focal Person, Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP); Ms. Sabheen Ghouri, MNA and Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Information and Technology; Mr. Jamal Ahmed Khan Raisani, MNA;

and Mr. Tanveer Aslam Raja, MPA. Mr. Aftab Ahmed from the Tobacco Control Cell (TCC), Prof. Dr. Mati-ur-Rehman, Senator Faisal Javed Rana and Mr. Anees Ahmed from the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK) also participated, along with youth mentors and the Aurat Foundation team including CEO Mr. Naeem Ahmed Mirza, Mr. Syed Safdar Raza Team Lead Anti-Tobacco Project, Ms. Mumtaz Mughal Director Programs and Ms. Fatima Jafri Program Officer Anti-Tobacco Project. During the session, participants stressed that tobacco control must remain a public-health priority, particularly given the increasing exposure of young people to tobacco and new nicotine products. The participants emphasized the need to move beyond awareness towards concrete policy and



legislative action. A key demand emerging from the session was to increase Graphic Health Warnings (GHWs) on tobacco product packaging from the existing level of 70% to 85%. Participants highlighted that larger and more prominent health warnings can strengthen public awareness about the harmful consequences of tobacco use and help discourage initiation among young people. The participants also called for stronger and regular

effective implementation of tobacco-control measures. They also emphasized the importance of engaging young people in policymaking and advocacy so that their voices and experiences are reflected in national and provincial tobacco-control strategies. Health experts underscored the harmful effects of tobacco and nicotine and stressed that prevention among young people must be strengthened through evidence-based policies, awareness campaigns and effective enforcement. The session further recognized youth mentors as potential change-makers and tobacco-control advocates who can take accurate information to their peers, educational institutions and communities. Participants agreed that empowering young people with knowledge and advocacy skills is essential for

building a sustained movement for a tobacco-free Pakistan. The participation of the Parliamentarians, Tobacco Control Cell, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and Aurat Foundation provided an important platform for strengthening coordination among government, civil society, health experts, parliamentarians and youth. The session concluded with a collective call for stronger tobacco-control policies, an increase in Graphic Health Warnings to 85%, effective tobacco taxation, stronger enforcement and meaningful youth engagement. Increase Tax on Tobacco and Nicotine products were emphasized. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to working together to protect Pakistan's young generation and advance the vision of a Tobacco-Free Pakistan.

WPC holds focus group discussion on gender-responsive budgeting in parliament

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) of the National Assembly, under the chairpersonship of its Secretary, Dr. Shahida Rehmani, MNA, in collaboration with Resource and Support Hub (RSH) Pakistan, held a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on Gender-Responsive

Budgeting (GRB) here on Thursday. The consultation brought together Members of Parliament and representatives of RSH Pakistan to discuss strengthening gender-responsive financing, budget tracking, parliamentary oversight and accountability, particularly in relation to gender-based violence (GBV), safeguarding and protection.

The session was attended by Ms. Saba Sadiq, MNA and

Parliamentary Secretary for Human Rights; Ms. Shumaila Rana, MNA; Ms. Naeema Kishwar Khan, MNA; Ms. Mussarat Rafique Mahesar, MNA; Mrs. Farakh Khan, MNA; Ms. Huma Chughtai, MNA; Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb, MNA; Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro, MNA; Ms. Shahnaz Saleem Malik, MNA; Ms. Muneeba Iqbal, MNA; Ms. Erum Hamid Hameed, MNA; Ms. Khalida

Ateeb, Senator; Ms. Husna Bano, Senator; Ms. Minail Khan, Chief Technical Advisor, NA Secretariat; Ms. Asma Kiran, Country Lead, RSH Pakistan; and Mr. Ifikhar Khan, Consultant, RSH Pakistan.

Secretary WPC, Dr. Shahida Rehmani emphasised that Gender-Responsive Budgeting should not be treated merely as a technical exercise. She stressed that

Parliament must ensure that gender-related legislative commitments are adequately financed, effectively implemented and translated into meaningful outcomes for women and girls. She also highlighted the need to look beyond budget allocations and examine the complete accountability chain, from allocation and release to expenditure, service delivery, implementation and parlia-

mentary scrutiny. MNAs stressed the need for a strong and effective mechanism to monitor gender-responsive budget allocations in every Ministry and Department. They proposed that a designated focal person on gender budgeting should be nominated in each Ministry and Department to facilitate coordination, monitoring, reporting and implementation of gender-tagged allocations.

Opinion & Editorial

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

The cost of escalation

The quasi-peace, quasi-conflict scenario in the Middle East is getting nasty. In the absence of some shrewd handling of eventualities from the warring sides, escalation is on the rise. It possesses all the potential to break out into a major conflagration. Noticeable developments over the last few days suggest that there is a serious trust deficit, and unverified reports are driving the theatre of warfare. A case in point is the renewed tensions between the UAE and Iran, as well as an emerging standoff between Iran and NATO. Allegations that Tehran had fired missiles over Abu Dhabi's territorial waters swiftly met with a rejoinder from the Emirates in the form of the complete suspension of trade and financial contacts. Though the Islamic Republic has denied any such misadventure on its part, the clarification was too little and too late. Likewise, NATO's warning that it is prepared to take on Iran and invoke Article 5 of the treaty, if the US or any of the alliance member states is attacked, is a prelude to disaster. That squarely means there is no medium at work to undertake any damage-control measures. This is where the mediators must come back to work, and the onus is on both Iran and the United States to explicitly make it public that parleys are the way to go, and hold fire forthwith.

Burning the buffers

Khurram Husain
HERE is an interesting question: if they decide to throw caution to the winds and pump growth this fiscal year, what sort of growth rates could they fetch given the state of the fiscal and foreign exchange buffers these days? A tentative answer suggests they could realistically produce up to two consecutive years of six per cent GDP growth before the buffers are fully exhausted. This is the outer envelope of what is possible at the moment, but there are ways to extend this horizon by as much as one more year.

My calculation is a relatively simple one. Let's start with the last growth episode we saw that was fuelled by burning the country's fiscal and FX buffers. The boom began in September 2020, when the Quantum Index of Manufacturing first turned positive after a long spell in negative territory. It continued for 22 months till June 2022, when it turned negative again. Then came a 12-month hangover, during which QIM remained negative while reserves continued to burn.

Over these 22 months of boom times, the fiscal buffer burned by Rs2.7 trillion — roughly Rs125 billion a month of primary deficits — and the reserve buffer burned by \$2.9bn, about \$130 million a month. These are average figures and they hide an important detail. The real reserve burn began in August 2021, a full year after the

boom started. Until then, the reserves were still rising, driven by surging remittances and borrowing. But once the peak hit, the burn rate leapt up sharply to \$1bn per month, or \$16bn between September 2021 and the trough of January 2023.

There seems to be a reason why this happened. The first year of the boom saw idle capacity activated and the financing requirements of this period were mainly working capital and raw material imports. But once the output gap closed, around September 2021, imports leapt up. It is important to mention, though, that at least half of this rise was driven by the oil import bill from this point onwards. It is equally important to point out that non-oil imports ran 44pc higher during these months than the baseline established in the pre-Covid months.

Burning your buffers to fuel growth is a little like burning your furniture to heat your house.

Then came the hangover months from July 2022 to June 2023. Growth in the preceding two years had burned away the reserves and the fiscal buffers of the state, and a sharp contraction was now necessary as well as an emergency return to the IMF. From July 2022 the economy was hit by a wave of debt-related outflows since creditors, many of them short-term, refused to roll over their commitments. Debt repayments and related outflows had totalled \$10.8bn in

the first year of the growth boom. They rose to \$14bn in the second year. By the time the hangover came, they leapt up to cross \$18bn. Some of this was short-term money they had borrowed to keep financing the drains from the growth phase, and seeing the reserves dwindle and a severe power struggle grip the country, paralysing its decision-making, creditors bolted for the exit. Over this period, official FX reserves fell from \$9.8bn to \$4.4bn, not even enough for one month of import cover.

Official reserves today are at \$18.4bn while the primary balance is around 2.5pc of GDP, or Rs3.2tr in total. If we take June 2023 as our baseline and assume we can gun growth till these FX reserves and the primary balance have returned to their baselines, we can get a rough estimate of how much headroom exists in which to pump growth. With these FX reserves, they can sustain a growth boom like the last one for roughly 24 to 32 months, or 2 — 2.5 years. This is because past cycles show that the real burn in the reserves begins in the second year or sometimes even later of the growth boom. With \$18bn in hand and an endpoint of \$4.4bn (the June 2023 reserves level), this gives them headroom of around \$14bn which can sustain the FX requirements of a growth boom for anywhere between 14-20 months at burn rates from the last growth boom.

Courtesy Dawn

The Security Council's colonial hangover

Durdana Najam

Start with the bodies. Millions of them, piled up across eight decades, while the world's most ambitious peace institution sat in its marble tower on the East River. Vietnam burned for years without the Security Council ever attempting real intervention. Congo has hosted UN peacekeepers since 1960 and still cycles through war after war: presence without protection. In Rwanda, eight hundred thousand people were slaughtered in a hundred days, and at the height of the killing the Council actually voted to shrink its peacekeeping force, ignoring the desperate warnings of its own commander on the ground. In Bosnia, the UN-declared "safe area" of Srebrenica became a massacre site under the UN's own flag, as Dutch peacekeepers stood aside while roughly eight thousand men and boys were executed.

Then came Iraq. In 2003, the United States and Britain invaded without Council authorisation, after failing to win it, claiming weapons of mass destruction that were never found. The state collapsed. The region still lives with the wreckage more than twenty years on. Libya followed in 2011: a narrow mandate to protect civilians, stretched by NATO into a war for regime change, a lesson Russia and China have never forgotten and have used ever since to justify blocking action on Syria, Yemen, Sudan, and now Gaza and Iran. Different decades, different flags, the same pattern: silence, a mandate bent out of shape, or a decision simply ignored by whoever is strong enough to ignore it. That is the part that hurts most, because the Council was never meant to be a bystander. Under the UN Charter, it alone can order sanctions, authorise force and issue decisions every member state is legally bound to obey. No other body on earth carries that kind of power. Imagine what an independent, genuinely representative Council, freed from five self-appointed guardians, could have done with it.

Courtesy Tribune

Gilani calls for strategic leadership, innovation, strong governance in universities



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Thursday emphasised the need for effective leadership, sound governance and strategic planning to strengthen Pakistan's higher education sector and transform universities into centres of excellence, research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Addressing a gathering on "Strategic Planning and Leadership Excellence" as Chief Guest, organised by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) through the National Academy of Higher

Education, the Chairman Senate said that universities today have responsibilities far beyond imparting knowledge.

He said higher education institutions must equip young people with critical thinking, creativity, ethical values, leadership skills and the capacity to respond to a rapidly changing world. Gilani calls for strategic leadership, innovation, strong governance in universities. The Chairman Senate appreciated HEC, particularly the National Academy of Higher Education, for bringing together Vice

Chancellors and Pro Vice

Chancellors from Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Rawalpindi region.

He termed the initiative timely and important, saying that such programmes provide an opportunity for university leadership to exchange experiences, strengthen governance practices and develop effective institutional strategies.

Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani observed that strategic planning is not merely an administrative exercise but an essential requirement for institutional growth and excellence. He stressed that strong universities require a clear vision, transparent governance, responsible use of resources and an institutional culture that promotes innovation, collaboration and research.

He particularly appreciated the participation of women universities in the programme, saying that the advancement of women through higher education is fundamental to national development. "When we invest in women's education,

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expresses displeasure over non-receipt of answer to question

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has expressed displeasure during Question Hour over the non-receipt of an answer to a question raised by Member National Assembly Muhammad Ilyas Chaudhary regarding the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination and the absence of officials of the concerned ministry in the House. The Speaker asked Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry and Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar why the answer to the question regarding the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination had not been provided to the House for the last four consecutive sittings. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that the question had been raised during



the 26th sitting of the National Assembly; however, despite the passage of several sittings, the answer had still not been received by the House, which was a matter of serious concern with regard to parliamentary proceedings. The Speaker directed Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry to immediately summon the Secretary, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary and the concerned Section Officer of the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination to the House and instruct them to remain present in the House.

Rare Jinnah photographs remind youth of Pakistan's struggle and sacrifices': Aurangzeb Khichi

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi Thursday said that rare photographs of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah are not merely a record of history but also a powerful message for Pakistan's younger generation, reminding them of the struggle, dedication and sacrifices behind the creation of Pakistan. He expressed these views while inaugurating a rare and historic photographic exhibition, "Quaid-i-Azam: The First Governor-General of Pakistan 1947-1948," at the National Art Gallery of the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). The exhibition, held as part of PNCA's commemorative activities marking Pakistan's 79th Independence Day, presents a visual chronicle of the life and official engagements of the country's founding leader through the lens of his official photographer, Ziauddin Barni. The federal minister

emphasized the importance of preserving and presenting historical material to strengthen national awareness and inspire younger generations to understand the values of leadership, determination, public service and commitment embodied by Quaid-i-Azam. He said such exhibitions provided young people an opportunity to connect with Pakistan's history in a meaningful and visual manner and helped keep the legacy of the nation's founder alive for future generations.

The exhibition is being held under the patronage of PNCA Director General Muhammad Ayoub Jamali and has been curated by Mariam Ahmed. It was first showcased in 2023 at the Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi, in collaboration with Dawn Media, and was curated by Abdul Hamid Akhund and Hameed Haroon. The photographs provide a rare glimpse into the formative years of Pakistan through the camera of Ziauddin Barni.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi inaugurating the rare photographic exhibition "Quaid-i-Azam", The First Governor-General of Pakistan 1947-1948" at the National Art Gallery, PNCA.

No auto multinational exited Pakistan in three years: Haroon Akhtar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan on Thursday said no multinational company from Pakistan's automotive sector had exited the country during the last three years.

Replying to a question in the Senate, he said strong economic policies and incentives for investors were expected to attract further investment in the country in the coming days.

In a written reply, he said the Engineering Development Board (EDB) regulated only the automotive sector and, according to its record, no multinational automotive company had left Pakistan during the period. The advisor said investment facilitation fell under the mandate of the Board of Investment (BoI), while information regarding company closures was maintained by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP). He said, in accordance with directions from the Prime

No deadline on shifting Imran to hospital, awaiting SC order on review plea: Rana Sanaullah

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: There is no deadline for shifting Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan to a hospital, Prime Minister's aide Rana Sanaullah said on Thursday, as the government awaits the Supreme Court's order on its review petition.

Talking to journalists at the Parliament House in Islamabad, Senator Sanaullah, who holds the portfolio of Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs, said before transferring the former premier, the government's review petition should be decided first.

"There is no deadline for transferring the PTI founder to a hospital [...] the government has again filed the review petition and expects a decision 'today or



tomorrow," Sanaullah said.

"Let the decision on the review petition filed by the government come. This will make things clear," he said.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered Imran to be shifted to Shifa International Hospital within two days, with the deadline set to expire tonight, but the government filed a review plea, saying that such an order "could not have been passed" had the court noted certain statutory provisions.

Govt takes measures to mitigate flood-related losses: Jam Kamal

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Thursday said that the government has taken coordinated measures to mitigate flood-related losses and support recovery of rice, maize, and potato exports.

In a written reply, the minister said that the Export Enhancement Roadmap for Agriculture and Food Processing has been principally approved, targeting an increase in agrofood exports from USD 7.1 billion to USD 13 billion by 2029-30.

He said that an Implementation Plan with defined actions and timelines is being finalized by the Ministry of



Commerce in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Additionally the ministry and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) have been facilitating the exporters of rice, maize and potato in their participation in trade exhibition and promotional activities in Pakistan and abroad, he added.

Govt bound to facilitate PTI founder's private treatment if needed: Tariq Fazal

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Thursday apprised the Senate that the government would be bound to provide the PTI founder treatment at Shifa International Hospital or another better-equipped medical facility if the healthcare facilities required for his treatment were not available at government hospitals.

Responding to a point of order raised by the Leader of the Opposition in Senate, the minister said the government had no intention of opposing

or creating hurdles in the provision of necessary medical treatment to the PTI founder.

He said the government had already made it clear that the decision of the Supreme Court of Pakistan regarding the matter would be implemented.

Dr Tariq Fazal said under the prevailing rules, convicted prisoners were provided medical treatment at government hospitals, and a legal point regarding the extent of such arrangements was before the Supreme Court for clarification.

He said if the Supreme



Court determined that the required treatment could be provided outside the existing mechanism, the government would comply with its decision.

The minister reiterated that if a medical facility required by the PTI founder was not available at a government hospital, the government would be obligated to

arrange the required treatment at Shifa International Hospital or an even better medical facility.

Turning to concerns raised about the health of Dr Yasmin Rashid, Dr Tariq Fazal said the government was concerned about her condition and would again take up the matter with the Punjab government and jail administration. He assured the House that the government would make sure that all medical facilities permissible under jail rules were provided to her.

The minister said Dr

Yasmin Rashid had previously been provided hospital treatment and other medical facilities, adding that he would inform the opposition about progress on the matter after obtaining an updated position from the authorities concerned.

Referring to the May 9 incidents, he described the day as one of the darkest in Pakistan's history and said attacks were carried out on sensitive installations, police and national assets, including the attack on the Corps Commander's House in Lahore.