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Pakistan, Google sign MoU for AI centre, free Gemini access for students

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Google signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Friday under which Google will provide Pakistani students with free one-year access to advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools including Gemini, and work with the government to establish an AI Centre of Excellence in Islamabad, according to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The MoU comes days after Google opened its first office in Pakistan, with the company saying the move reflected its confidence in the country's digital future and talent. Google has also partnered with the government on digital-skilling programmes and other initiatives supporting developers, startups, gaming,

hardware manufacturing and online safety. The MoU was signed during a reception hosted by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in honour of the Google team. Under the agreement, the two sides will work to expand Google's Career Certificates programme in Pakistan, with Google targeting 150,000 certificates in 2026 to help develop digital skills. They also agreed to increase Pakistani students' access to Google's advanced artificial intelligence tools, with students set to receive free one-year access to tools including Google AI Plus and Gemini. Pakistan and Google will also cooperate on establishing an AI Centre of Excellence in Islamabad, which will train young people and other human resources in skills aligned with global market requirements.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses the signing of an MoU between Government of Pakistan and Google, aimed at accelerating national digital transformation, expanding digital skills, and fostering AI-driven innovation across key sectors, besides boosting Pakistan's IT exports and overall digital economy to \$30 billion by 2030.

US threatens Iran with blockade, 'toughest ever sanctions' as China pushes diplomacy

PEAK POINT



TEHRAN: US Treasury chief Scott Bessent said the United States will impose "the toughest sanctions in history" on Iran, a move he suggested would lessen the need for new major military operations. Bessent's comments on Thursday followed President Donald Trump's threat a day earlier of "Economic Warfare" and a warning of economic consequences against any country that provided "any type of lifeline to Iran." Bessent promised details next week. Oil prices rose to more than a three-week high on Thursday following those US threats of financial penalties aimed at forcing an end to a nearly six-month-old war that has stranded millions of barrels of Middle Eastern oil. "I'm not sure why oil has popped up on this," Bessent told CNBC. "If we are doing the maximum economic pressure, then that means that likely there will not be a large-scale kinetic restart," he said, using a term referring to military force. Thousands have been killed in the conflict, which drew in Gulf nations and shocked markets as Iran flexed its ability to curb shipping through the Strait of Hormuz — a waterway that carried.

Govt announces public holiday on Aug 26 for Eid Miladun Nabi

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The government on Friday declared a public holiday on Aug 26 (Wednesday) on the occasion of Eid Miladun Nabi. Muslims around the world celebrate the birth of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) on the 12th of Rabiul Awwal — the third month of the Islamic lunar calendar. A notification issued by the Cabinet Division, a copy of which is available with Dawn, said, "The prime minister has been pleased to declare Aug 26, 2026 (Wednesday) as a public holiday on the occasion of Eid Miladun Nabi.

CDF Munir says foreign-sponsored proxies being used by hostile elements to destabilise Balochistan

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir has said that foreign-sponsored proxies are being employed by hostile elements to destabilise Balochistan, obstruct its development and "create a wedge between the state and its people", the military's media affairs wing said on Friday. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), he made the remarks while interacting with the political leadership of Balochistan. It said that CDF Munir underscored that the "present and the future of Balochistan and Pakistan are one and forever." "He highlighted that Balochistan is blessed with talented, resilient, patriotic and proud people. He emphasised that clear national narrative and enduring peace and stability are fundamental to unlocking the province's true economic potential, attracting investment and translating its abundant human and natural resources into tangible prosperity for its people," the statement said. CDF Munir also stressed that there was no dearth of talent or opportunities among Balochistan's youth, who "remain the most vibrant and promising segment of our society". He emphasised that empowering the youth and providing them opportunities for contributing to national progress remained central to sustainable development. "CDF Munir stated that Fitna al Khawarij and Fitna al Hindustan are foreign-sponsored proxies being employed by hostile elements.

Minister says Imran taken back to Adiala jail after visit to Pims, declared 'medically fit' by doctors

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said on Friday that PTI founder Imran Khan underwent a medical check-up at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) before being shifted back to Adiala jail, adding that he was declared "medically fit". The information minister's initial statement on the matter did not specifically name the hospital where Imran was taken. The SC's orders from earlier this week had directed the government to take Imran to Shifa International Hospital, which is a private institution. Media reports also said that Imran was taken to the private health facility amid tight security. However, Tarar clarified that Imran was taken to Pims, a government-run facility where the PTI founder has undergone treatment for an eye ailment in recent months. In a post on X, the information minister said, "In the light of the Supreme Court's order, the prisoner was taken to the hospital under appropriate security arrangements during the night between August 20.

PTI slams govt for 'flouting' SC order, taking Imran to Pims instead of Shifa International Hospital

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The PTI on Friday slammed the government for "flouting" the orders issued by the Supreme Court for moving incarcerated party founder Imran Khan to Shifa International Hospital. On Tuesday, the SC had directed the government to move Imran to Shifa International Hospital, a private facility. All eyes were on the hospital with a heavy police presence stationed on Thursday night. However, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar revealed on Friday that Imran was instead taken to the government-run Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims). It is worth mentioning that the SC had ordered that Imran's medical reports or information

concerning his health should not be used for political purposes.



On Friday, Imran's sister Uzma Khan, who was present for his medical examination, addressed a press conference in Islamabad alongside his personal physician, Dr Faisal Sultan. She said they had received a phone call on Friday to reach Adiala jail, where Imran is incarcerated. "So we reached the Adiala jail at around 8:30pm," she added. Uzma said they were then taken to a deputy superintendent of police's room, whom she identified as Sibtain. "Later, Sibtain sahib asked Dr Sultan to go outside the room with him and me to stay in the room. Then, after around 10 to 15 minutes, a female assistant sub-inspector took me to a car." She added that all this while, police did not answer any of her queries,

including those about Dr Sultan. Uzma said she was then taken to Pims.

"I asked them why you have brought me here; the SC has instructed for (Imran's) treatment at Shifa International Hospital. At that, they told me we were there for a follow-up regarding Imran's eye."

Imran has been taken to Pims for treatment multiple times after his eye ailment — right central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO) — came to light in late January.

Recounting her visit to Pims on Friday night, Uzma said, "There was darkness all around."

She said she was taken to an office as a man used the torch from his mobile phone to light the way. She said she assumed the office belonged to the head.

49 terrorists killed in IBOs in KP, Balochistan: ISPR

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Security forces have eliminated 49 terrorists in separate intelligence-based operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, the military's media wing said on Friday.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), "over the last few days, security forces conducted a series of high-tempo joint intelligence-driven operations along with police, as part of relentless counter-terrorism campaign aimed at eliminating Indian proxies, Fitna al-Khawarij and Fitna al-Hindustan". The state uses the term Fitna al-Khawarij for the banned Trebeck-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and refers to designated Balochistan-based groups as Fitna al-Hindustan to highlight India's role in terrorism and destabilisation across Pakistan.

ISPR said that the operations resulted in "major successes, inflicting significant blows to the terrorist networks".





SPORTS



England beat Pakistan in first Test at Headingley



PEAK POINT

LEEDS: England defeated Pakistan by an innings and 120 runs in the opening Test of the three-match series at Headingley on Friday.

Trailing a 238-run deficit, Pakistan were bowled out for 118 in their second innings, handing the hosts a convincing victory.

Pakistan got off to a shaky start to their second innings as Jofra Archer dismissed experienced opener Imam-ul-Haq (zero) in the second over. Archer struck again in his next over, dismissing another opener, Azeem Shafique (nine), as Pakistan slipped down to 13/2.

Following the early setbacks, in-form Abdullah Shafique (15) joined Masood in the middle, and the duo mustered 38 runs for the third wicket until the former fell victim to Robinson in the 14th over. The Green Shirts resumed their second innings after the lunch break from 59/3 and lost all of their remaining seven wickets in the afternoon session of the third day for 76 runs despite wicketkeeper batter Mohammad Rizwan's resilience, who remained their top-scorer with a 39-ball 41.

Besides Rizwan, only Shan Masood, Abdullah Shafique and Saud Shakeel could amass double

figures, making 29, 15 and 14, respectively.

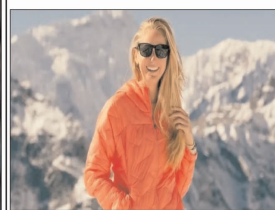
The pace trio of Robinson, Archer and Tongue jointly led England's bowling charge in the second innings with three wickets each, while fellow speedster Gus Atkinson chipped in with one.

At the start of the third day, England resumed their first innings at 364/8 and added 45 runs before being bowled out for 409 in 89.5 overs.

Jamie Smith and Jofra Archer initially frustrated Pakistan with a 28-run partnership that took England past 400 and further extended their lead.

Khuram Shahzad eventually broke the stand, dismissing Smith for 25 off 52 balls, including two boundaries. Archer continued to add runs before Josh Tongue joined him and struck Abbas for a boundary as England moved beyond 400. Shahzad then claimed his third wicket by dismissing Tongue for eight off 10 balls, with two boundaries. Ali Usman was Pakistan's standout bowler, finishing with 5/95 in 24 overs to claim his maiden five-wicket haul in Test cricket. Shahzad took three wickets, while Mohammad Abbas and Mohammad Ali claimed one each.

Body of US climber who died in Broad Peak avalanche found



PEAK POINT

GILGIT: The body of US climber Sarah Mallory Geis, who was part of a 10-member expedition team that died in an avalanche on Broad Peak on July 30, was recovered on Friday.

The avalanche struck on July 30, cutting off contact with the 10-member international expedition led by world-renowned British-Nepali mountaineer Nirmal Purja on Broad Peak, one of the world's highest mountains. Purja's company later confirmed there were no survivors. The bodies of eight members of the expedition, including Pakistan's Sohail Sakhi, were found in subsequent missions, but those of Geis and Nepal's Nawang Thindu Sherpa had remained missing. Officials had earlier said that a leg believed to be Geis had been found.

On Friday, Alpine Club of Pakistan President (retired) Major General Irfan Arshad Khan said in a statement that the US climber's body was found on the slopes of Broad Peak by local rescue volunteers. He said that the body was in the process of being shifted to base camp. ACP General Secretary Ayaz Shigri told Dawn that local porters, who were with a trekking team.

Challengers edge Stars in a thrilling one-wicket win



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: The second round of the National Women's U19 Tournament saw Challengers pipping Stars by just one wicket in a thrilling contest at the Oval Academy Ground, while Conquerors handed Strikers a 58-run defeat at the National

Academy Ground. Earlier, Challengers were set a target of 96 by Stars, which they chased in 24.5 overs with one wicket in hand. Opening batters Pakeeza Shabbir (21, 31b, 3x4s) and Esha Tir Razia (10, 22b) gave their team a 34-run start before Stars took eight for 28 to enforce a collapse.

No.9 Maryam Ahmed (16 not out, 23b, 2x4s) and no.10 Farya Sadaqat (15, 14b, 2x4s) then stitched a match-winning 32-run stand between them. With just two needed for the win, Stars' pacer Barirah Saif bowled Farya but no. 11 Huba Nadeem made sure to remain not out in the two balls she faced as Challengers got over the line.

Earlier, Challengers' skipper Memoona took 24.5 overs with one off-spin wicket in hand. Opening batters four wickets as Stars Pakeeza Shabbir (21, 31b, 3x4s) and Esha Tir Razia (10, 22b) gave their team a 34-run start before Stars took eight for 28 to enforce a collapse. No.9 Maryam Ahmed (16 not out, 23b, 2x4s) and no.10 Farya Sadaqat (15, 14b, 2x4s) then stitched a match-winning 32-run stand between them. With just two needed for the win, Stars' pacer Barirah Saif bowled Farya but no. 11 Huba Nadeem made sure to remain not out in the two balls she faced as Challengers got over the line.

Pakistan Men's Under-19 training camp held in Lahore ahead of England tour



RAWALPINDI: Federal Parliamentary Secretary Information & Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry distributing hockey kits to Rawalpindi players.

Pakistan hosts World Taekwondo C'ship as athletes from more than 38 Asian countries compete

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan is hosting the World Taekwondo Championship, bringing together athletes from more than 38 Asian countries for competitions across multiple categories.

The event has attracted participants and officials from across the region, marking a significant moment for international sports activity in the country. The championship is currently underway in Lahore, where athletes are competing in a series of matches and demonstrating their skills in different weight and performance categories. The event has drawn attention from sports officials and taekwondo representatives from across Asia.

Punjab Sports Secretary Fazal ur Rehman attended the championship as the chief guest. He was welcomed by Pakistan Taekwondo Federation Chairman Colonel

Wasim Raja and Dr. M. Abdullah Tabassum, who received him at the venue and presented him with a bouquet. During the event, athletes from more than 38 countries continued to take part in competitive contests,



reflecting the growing participation of Asian nations in taekwondo. Organizers said the championship provides a platform for players to compete against international opponents and gain experience at a high level.

On the occasion, Chairman Colonel Wasim Raja presented a commemorative

souvenir to Punjab Sports Secretary Fazal ur Rehman in recognition of his participation in the event.

Speaking to the media, Fazal ur Rehman said that hosting the World Taekwondo Championship in

Pakistan is an important development for sports in the country. He noted that organizing international tournaments can help expand sporting activities and create opportunities for young athletes to showcase their talent on a wider stage. He further stated that the arrival of international players.



Senate Panel blocks PMDC 5 year BDS move, Questions approval process

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services blocked the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council's move to increase the Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme from four years to five years, while raising serious questions about how the major change was approved and notified. The most controversial point came when the committee chairman questioned whether PMDC had issued the notification before obtaining approval from its Academic Committee. Members also raised concern that students, parents and private medical and dental insti-

tutions had not been adequately consulted before introducing a change that would add another year of study and fees. During the meeting, PMDC officials defended the proposal, saying dental education had changed internationally and that an additional year was needed to bring Pakistani qualifications closer to standards followed in several other countries. PMDC President Prof Rizwan Taj told the committee that Pakistani dental graduates had faced problems with recognition abroad. According to his briefing, Saudi Arabia had refused to accept some Pakistani dental

graduates, including doctors from the armed forces, because of differences in the duration of dental education. He said many countries run five year dentistry programmes and told the committee that PMDC had formed a three member committee which recommended increasing the duration of BDS. Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal also said Pakistani dental graduates going abroad might be required to study for an additional year before their qualifications are accepted. However, committee members were not convinced that simply adding another year would improve the qual-

ity of dental education. Senator Rubina Khalid said PMDC should focus on improving the curriculum, clinical training and academic quality instead of placing the cost of another year on parents. She said families were already struggling with high medical and dental college fees and should not be forced to bear an additional year of expenses. The chairman also questioned how such a major change involving a programme followed for decades could be decided after only a limited number of meetings. Representatives of the Pakistan Association of Private Medical and Dental Institutions expressed

strong dissatisfaction and said they had not been taken into confidence before the decision. They also told the committee that the Prime Minister had directed PMDC to consult them before making changes. A PAMI representative further argued that Pakistan could continue with the existing four year structure by improving its curriculum and said a large number of countries also follow four year dental programmes. This was presented as PAMI's position during the meeting and was not independently verified in the material provided. Senator Shahzaib Durrani also questioned what would happen to

existing four year BDS graduates if a five year programme was introduced and sought clarity about their future recognition. After detailed discussion, the committee unanimously directed the Health Ministry and PMDC to retain the four year BDS programme. It said major changes in medical and dental education should come only after proper consultation with students, parents and other stakeholders. The committee instead called for improvements in the existing curriculum, stronger clinical training and better academic standards before any major structural change is introduced.

NUST hosts largest-ever cohort of international interns; Rector interacts with participants

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Rector, Dr Muhammad Zahid Latif, interacted with participants of the NUST Internship Programme for International Students (NIPIS-2026) during an interactive session. The interaction was also attended by Pro-Rector (RIC), Dr Rizwan Riaz. Speaking to the interns, Rector highlighted the value of international student engagement in building people-to-people connections, promoting cross-cultural understanding and encouraging academic collaboration. He shared that initiatives such as NIPIS contribute to NUST's growing international footprint by bringing together talented students from around the world and creating opportunities for ac-



ademic and cultural exchange. Dr Zahid also spoke about NUST's knowledge ecosystem, its academic and research landscape and the University's vision for the future. The ses-

sion concluded with a candid interaction, during which the interns shared their experiences at NUST, reflected on their academic journeys and engaged with Rector on a range of topics related to higher education, research and their future academic pursuits. A flagship international internship initiative of NUST, NIPIS has been hosting students from friendly countries since 2018, providing them with opportunities to gain academic and research exposure while experiencing Pakistan and its rich cultural heritage. This year, the programme is hosting its largest cohort since inception, bringing together 51 international interns from 15 countries for a unique academic, research and cultural experience at NUST.

Opinion & Editorial

ISLAMABAD
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PPP's locus standi

The PPP is thinking out loud, apparently seeking a pound of flesh from its ally at the Centre, the PML-N. Its position on the floor of the house that no legislation will be passed without consensus does not raise eyebrows. But interestingly, it has come at a time when the demand for new provinces is on the table. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the PPP chairman, has tried to take the high moral ground by saying that no decision on new administrative units will be made in contravention of the people's desire. That squarely means the PPP will resist new delimitations in Sindh, where it commands a majority. That is tantamount to having your cake and eating it too. The Bhutto party, which has ruled the province for nearly two decades at a stretch, seems unbothered by its dilapidated status. Now it is set to obstruct moves by other political forces in the province for its devolution into smaller administrative units.

The federal coalition partner flexed its legislative muscles too, objecting to the tabling of the bills in the parliament, stating it wasn't taken into confidence. Yet, it voted for the bills, invoking the law of necessity. In other words, the PPP is desperate to play on both sides of the wicket. Its hobnobbing with the PTI after more than three years of estrangement is also a case in point.

Curing the cause

Murad Moosa Khan

MENTAL health is often presented as an individual problem. We tend to think of depression, anxiety or trauma as conditions within a person's mind, to be treated through medications or therapy (or both). While these interventions are important, they are only part of the story. In countries grappling with poverty, inequality, violence and political instability, psychological distress is not only an individual issue but a social and political one as well.

In Pakistan, discussions around mental health are mostly focused on 'raising awareness, reducing stigma, closing the treatment gap by training more psychiatrists, psychologists and counsellors'. While essential they do not fully answer a fundamental question: what happens when the social conditions themselves generate psychological suffering?

'Liberation psychology' offers a compelling perspective. Developed by the Jesuit priest and social psychologist Ignacio Martín-Baró in El Salvador during the civil war of the 1970s and 1980s, liberation psychology was framed on a radical premise that psychology cannot be separated from the realities of oppression, injustice and inequality. On the other hand, conventional psychology focused on the individual, helping him/her to adapt to unjust social conditions instead of questioning or transforming them. Liberation psychology does

not reject therapy or clinical care. Rather, it asks us to widen our lens. If communities experience chronic poverty, displacement, discrimination, conflict or violence, then improving mental health also requires addressing these structural realities.

Liberation psychology encourages us not simply to ask 'what is wrong with this individual?', but rather 'what has happened to this person and what conditions continue to produce this suffering?' Several Latin American countries have demonstrated how this broader perspective can shape mental health responses. In Colombia, decades of armed conflict left millions displaced and traumatised. Community-based psychosocial programmes were developed that combined mental health support with truth-telling, collective memory and rebuilding social trust. Mental health was connected with reconciliation and community healing rather than simply treating individual symptoms. In Chile, following the Pinochet dictatorship, psychologists worked with human rights organisations for survivors of torture and political violence, recognising that trauma was inseparable from justice, acknowledgement and accountability. Recovery involved not only counselling but also restoring dignity and recognising historical harms. In the 1980s, Brazil's psychiatric reform movement challenged institutional models of mental healthcare, shifting away from isolated psychiatric

hospitals towards community mental health centres. It recognised that social inclusion, employment, family support and community participation are integral to psychological well-being.

Liberation psychology is relevant for Pakistan, where millions live under economic insecurity, climate disasters and violence.

These examples demonstrate that mental health interventions are most effective when they engage with the social realities. Mental health should not remain confined to hospitals and clinics in major cities; it should become part of schools, primary healthcare, disaster preparedness, workplaces and local governance. This perspective is particularly relevant for children and young people. Research consistently shows that adverse childhood experiences — including violence, neglect, poverty and displacement — have lifelong consequences for mental and physical health. Preventing childhood trauma therefore requires more than expanding counselling services. It requires safer schools, stronger child protection systems, social protection and the policies that reduce violence in homes and communities. Liberation psychology is highly relevant for Pakistan, where millions live under economic insecurity, unemployment, climate disasters, gender-based violence, displacement, sectarian tensions and political uncertainty. Millions are struggling to meet basic needs.

Courtesy Dawn

Leapfrogging into the future

Shahzad Chaudhry

On many counts, Pakistan is still a laggard. Human resource indices are among the lowest; water availability per capita now places it among water-scarce nations; yield per acre, compared to India, pales despite similar land and climatic conditions and a common agricultural tradition. Industry continues to exit, and the job market is sluggish. Growth rates are Nehruvian — three per cent — while population grows at 2.6 per cent annually. Net growth remains abysmal or negative. Pakistan is burdened with an increasing debt pile and is forced to compromise on its sovereignty; in many cases in its foreign policy and in steering the economy. Straitjacketed, it is impossible to plan Pakistan's political or socioeconomic future.

With so much wrong and little space to remedy the fault lines, a scary future beckons a state looking at a bloated midriff — sixty-five per cent of the population is under twenty-five, of whom twenty-five million school-going children do not attend school. With the population envisaged to touch 400 million by 2050, the number of working-age people entering the job market may climb to around 4 million per year. It is expected that with the economy at hand, only 1.5 million of those hopefuls will find jobs. Uneducated, or partly educated, without skills, this bulging midriff will only explode into unknown proportions.

It is not that these facts are new to policy circles, but it is the inaction to break out of the logjam that pulls the nation into further mire. Perhaps the odds are so heavily stacked that a recovery may seem improbable. Hence, business as usual and a one-day-at-a-time approach of those in power. In the meantime, society, state, and the economy continue to unravel around us. Borrowed money remains only borrowed with heavy and limiting conditions on its use, if at all. The avenues of growth dwindle fast with every passing day while barely keeping afloat counts as success.

Courtesy Tribune

Aurganzeb, ICCD discuss expanding cooperation in Islamic finance, halal markets



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD) on Friday discussed ways to expand economic cooperation, promote halal markets and strengthen Islamic finance and private-sector collaboration.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurganzeb, held a meeting with Secretary General, Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development

(ICCD), Shaikh Yousef Hassan Khalawi to discuss the opportunities for cooperation.

The ICCD Secretary General was accompanied by CEO, Al Baraka Bank Pakistan, Muhammad Atif Hanif and Director, International Relations of ICCD, Ms. Aalia Jaffar, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

On the occasion, the finance minister underscored the importance of strengthening linkages between Pakistan's business community and

international business networks. He highlighted the potential for greater engagement and collaboration through the Chamber's global outreach and platforms.

Khalawi briefed the finance minister on the expanding international outreach of the Islamic Chamber and its engagement with business communities, including those in non-OIC countries.

He highlighted the Chamber's efforts to connect Muslim business communities globally with private-sector and institutional partners and promote greater halal economic cooperation. They discussed the growing global halal economy and opportunities for Pakistan to strengthen its presence across sectors including halal food, fashion, halal tourism, services and other consumer markets.

The finance minister emphasized the importance of moving beyond a broad half concept towards identifying specific products.

Khawaja Asif says PTI founder in good health, urges against politicising illness

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Friday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder was in good health and urged the PTI not to politicise his health issues for political gains.

Responding to a point raised by the PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan in the National Assembly, the minister said PTI founder's sister had recently met him in jail and could testify about his health condition.

He said the former prime minister's personal physician had also been given access to information regarding his health.

Khawaja Asif said PTI founder had some minor blood-pressure and other age-related health issues, but there was no indication of any serious health threat. He said the former prime minister had also been exam-



ined by doctors and was recovering.

He said reports regarding PTI founder's health would also become public and there was no need for unnecessary concern.

The minister said health issues should not be used as a political tool, recalling that political leaders across parties had faced imprisonment and health-related difficulties in the past. Khawaja Asif also referred to his own experience in prison, saying that when he required surgery he was taken to a government hospital and did not demand treatment at a private facility.

CJP engages with Probationary Officers on constitutional governance and responsive public service

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: As part of their mandatory exposure visits to State institutions, a delegation of Probationary Officers undergoing the 54th Common Training Programme (CTP) at the Civil Services Academy (CSA), Lahore, called on the Chief Justice of Pakistan at the Supreme Court Friday. The delegation was led by Farhan Aziz Khawaja, Director General, CSA, and accompanied by faculty members.

During an interactive session, the Chief Justice highlighted the salient features of parliamentary democracy and the trichotomy of powers, explaining the complementary roles of the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary in upholding constitutional governance and the rule of law. His Lordship also apprised the probationary officers of the various tiers of the judicial hierarchy and explained the respective jurisdictions of the various courts. Referring to institutional coordination and justice sector reforms, the Chief Justice highlighted the role of the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee

(NJPMC) being the highest judicial policy forum. The delegation was also apprised of measures being undertaken to improve court infrastructure and public facilitation, including uninterrupted power supply, e-libraries, clean drinking water and improved facilities for women court users, supported through the Access to Justice Development Fund.

The Chief Justice further informed the delegation that 2026-27 has been earmarked for the Gender-Responsive Justice Initiative, with particular focus on Women Facilitation Centres designed to provide women litigants with essential facilitation and support services under one roof. The initiative forms part of the judiciary's broader effort to make justice more accessible, inclusive and responsive to the needs of women and other court users. The interaction reflected the Supreme Court's continuing engagement with future public-sector leadership and its emphasis on constitutional governance, institutional coordination, citizen-centric justice reforms.



ISLAMABAD: Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr Justice Yahya Afridi, presenting a souvenir to Mr. Farhan Aziz Khawaja, DG Civil Service Academy who led the delegation of 54th Common Training Program, at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Mohsin Naqvi pays tribute to terrorism victims, calls for global unity against terrorism

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday paid tribute to victims of terrorism and the families of those who lost their lives, marking the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.

He said Pakistan stands with all those affected by terrorism and stressed the need for collective international action to eliminate the threat.

In his message, Mohsin Naqvi saluted the sacrifices of all victims and martyrs of terrorism. He said terrorism has no religion, nationality, or borders and must be recognized as a crime against humanity. The minister said the sacrifices made by victims of terrorism will always be remembered and remain an important part of the global struggle against violence. He added that those who laid down their lives in the fight against terrorism hold a place of honor in the nation's memory. Mohsin Naqvi said the government stands with the families of terrorism victims and will continue to support them. He emphasized that the international

PIC imposes 30-Day salary penalty on Rawalpindi Cantonment Board chief engineer

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) has imposed a penalty equivalent to 30 days' salary on Atiq Ur Rahman, Chief Engineer, Rawalpindi Cantonment Board, under Section 20(1)(f) of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017. The Commission issued the penalty after noting the continued failure to submit a written response to the rejoinder and show cause notice and the non-appearance of the Chief Engineer before the Commission. Order of the Commission states that on July 7, 2026, no one appeared before the Commission to file a reply



to the rejoinder. Consequently, a show cause notice was issued to Atiq Ur Rahman, directing him to submit a written reply to the notice as well as a response to the rejoinder. On July 28, 2026, Atiq Ur Rahman appeared in person before the Commission. On his request, he was granted an opportunity to file both the reply to the rejoinder and the reply to the show cause notice.

Three Zoology scholars successfully defend M.Phil Theses at WUM

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: The Department of Zoology, Women University Mardan, successfully conducted the M.Phil thesis defenses of Ms. Ayesha Siddiq, Ms. Asiya Madood, and Ms. Farkhanda Bibi. The scholars presented their research on animal parasitic diseases and bee pollination and successfully defended their work before the examination committee. The university appreciates the dedicated supervision of Dr. Komal Aman, Research Supervisor, and the valuable academic assessment of Dr. Madihal Iqbal, Assistant Professor, Abasyn University, who served as External



Examiner. The achievement reflects the collective efforts of the scholars, supervisor, examiner, Department of Zoology, and university administration. The university extends its appreciation to the Honourable Vice Chancellor, Zoology faculty, Ms. Haleema, Mr. Adnan, and all administrative and supporting staff for their continued support.

Malaysian Parliamentary delegation led by Malaysian Interior Minister call on NA Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: the six-member Parliamentary delegation led by Malaysian Interior Minister Saifuddin Nasution bin Ismail called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at the Parliament House, Islamabad, today. The Speaker warmly welcomed the Malaysian Interior Minister and the visiting delegation. The meeting focused on the longstanding fraternal relations between Pakistan and Malaysia, bilateral cooperation, parliamentary ties and matters of mutual inter-

est. Welcoming the delegation, Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq underscored the significance of strengthening parliamentary cooperation between Pakistan and Malaysia. He said that regular parliamentary exchanges and interaction between parliamentarians of the two countries would contribute to consolidate bilateral ties. He added that Parliamentary Friendship Groups could play an important role in promoting greater parliamentary interaction and cooperation. Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

also stated that both countries have vast potential for enhancing trade, investment and business-to-business linkages between the two countries. He emphasized the need to expand bilateral cooperation in education, trade and other areas of mutual interest, while strengthening people-to-people ties. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq emphasized that unity and mutual cooperation among Muslim countries are essential for the progress, prosperity and stability of the Muslim world. He said that unity of the Muslim Ummah

is vital for promoting common interests, peace, development and stability among Muslim countries. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also stated that Pakistan desires peace and priorities diplomacy for resolution of conflicts. He stressed that all countries must demonstrate responsibility and utilise diplomatic means to achieve lasting peace in the region. The Speaker also stated that Pakistan has repeatedly conveyed to Afghanistan its concerns over the targeting of innocent Pakistani citizens from Afghan soil. He

expressed concern over the use of Afghan territory for terrorist activities against Pakistan. On climate change, Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq stated that the world is facing a serious global challenge that requires coordinated and collective efforts by the international community. Malaysian Interior Minister Saifuddin Nasution bin Ismail thanked the Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq for the warm hospitality extended to the delegation and appreciated the close and cordial relations between Pakistan and

Malaysia. He remarked that Pakistan is a beautiful country and Islamabad is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. The Malaysian Interior Minister also emphasized the need for collective efforts to address the challenges posed by climate change. He stressed that the international community should give greater focus to diplomacy and dialogue for the promotion of global peace and stability. He appreciated Pakistan's efforts in promoting peace and diplomacy amid recent regional tensions.