



Naqvi orders new security plan for Diplomatic Enclave



Commerce Minister directs stronger efforts to expand Pakistan's exports



CM Maryam reaches China on four-day official visit

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Pakistan keen to elevate Pakistan-Saudi ties into strategic economic partnership: PM

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said Pakistan was keen to elevate its economic relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia into a mutually beneficial strategic economic partnership in line with the vision of Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman.

A high-level Saudi business delegation, led by Chairman of the Saudi-Pak Joint Business Council, Prince Mansour bin Mohammad Al Saud called on the prime minister here at the PM House, a news release said. During the warm and cordial meeting the Prime Minister conveyed his respectful regards to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al

Saud, and to Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman.

While recalling the longstanding brotherly ties between Pakistan and the Kingdom, the prime minister discussed avenues for expanding economic cooperation and investment between the two brotherly countries.

In this regard, he recalled Prince Mansour's earlier visits to Pakistan and expressed the hope that the current visit would build on those discussions and culminate in the signing of MoUs and agreements across multiple sectors. The Saudi side conveyed interest in investment opportunities in agriculture, ports, highways, and airport outsourcing, real estate sector as well as in the energy, power distribution.



A high-level Saudi business delegation, led by His Highness Prince Mansour bin Mohammad Al Saud, Chairman of the Saudi-Pak Joint Business Council, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House, Islamabad.

Imran's hospital transfer: PTI resubmits contempt plea after SC raises objections

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: The PTI on Tuesday resubmitted a contempt of court petition by PTI founder Imran Khan's sister to the Supreme Court (SC) against the alleged violation of its August 18

order for the ex-premier's transfer to a private hospital. Later, Imran's sister Uzma Khan also filed an application for the early hearing of the contempt petition. The contempt plea was re-submitted shortly after the SC returned it after raising certain objections. PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said that the SC registrar had informed him that the petition was being returned, with one of the objections being that the list of charges levelled against the respondents had not been dispatched. He had also said that the PTI was going to resubmit the petition after removing the objections raised. Last week, Imran's sister Uzma Khan had filed a petition before the SC against authorities for violating the court's August 18 order. In its order, the court had ordered the government to shift Imran to Shifa International Hospital, a private facility, within two days for examination and treatment by a multidisciplinary medical board.

'Significant progress': Islamabad, Tehran discuss Hormuz reopening, 'expedited' end to Iran-US conflict

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran held discussions on reopening the Strait of Hormuz and bringing an "expedited termination" of the US-Iran conflict in the Middle East, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday. The discussions took place during Chief of

Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's day-long visit to Iran, where he met the country's top leadership, the military's media wing said in a statement.

The army chief landed in Tehran on Sunday for a visit, which the military's media wing said was part of Pakistan's diplomatic efforts to help break the deadlock in the conflict. During the visit, Field Marshal Munir called on Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian, Iranian supreme leader's representative on the Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei, Parliament Speaker Bagher Ghalibaf, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghehi and Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni. "Comprehensive discussions focused on measures to prevent further escalation, reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and expedited termination of the conflict," the ISPR said. The two sides also exchanged views on regional peace and the ways to arrive at a negotiated settlement to the disputes, it added. CDF Munir's visit comes amid renewed tension in the region after Washington announced an expanded round of sanctions, which US officials said were designed to cut off Tehran's.

'The matter is being viewed positively': Official says Bangladesh interested in joining Makkah defence pact

PEAK POINT



BANGLADESH: Bangladesh has expressed interest in participating in the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and

Turkiye, a top diplomat said Monday.

"We have expressed our interest in the Makkah Defence pact [...] Bangladesh is now a country of recognition. The partners in West Asia (Middle East), the partners in the Muslim world around the globe are now inviting the leadership of Bangladesh, especially the leadership of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, to be with them in many places," said Humayun Kabir, who was appointed as state minister for foreign affairs last week.

"If there is one [agreement] in West Asia, if there is a security agreement between Islamic countries, then it is not unusual to go there. Let's see. The matter is being viewed positively," said Kabir, who previously served as an adviser to Rahman. Pakistan, Türkiye and Saudi Arabia signed the joint defence agreement at a trilateral summit in Makkah on August 7, pledging to strengthen collective security, deepen defence cooperation.

Bannu police protest over transfer of seven K-P officials, boycott duties

PEAK POINT

MIRANSHAH: A protest by police personnel in Bannu over the transfer of seven Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) police officials on Tuesday disrupted policing and traffic in parts of the district, with the Police Peace Committee calling for a boycott of duties and demanding that the transfer orders be withdrawn. The protesters gathered at the police lines in Bannu after the Police Peace Committee called on personnel to register their protest against the transfer orders and stop performing their duties. The Police Peace

FM Dar discusses bilateral ties, regional developments in call with Turkish counterpart

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar discussed bilateral ties and regional developments during a telephone conversation with his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said on Tuesday.

According to a statement issued by the MoFA, the discussions focused on bilateral relations, regional developments and other matters of mutual interest.

"The two ministers also discussed the upcoming meeting of the Regional Four (R4) Foreign Ministers and other forthcoming multilateral engagements. They agreed to remain in close contact," it said. Regional Four to meet later this month.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Egypt are set

to hold another round of high-level consultations in sation on August 19. The four countries have been



Istanbul later this month, as Islamabad steps up diplomatic coordination with key regional powers following the signing of a landmark defence agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. Turkish FM invited Dar to Istanbul for a meeting of the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Türkiye, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. The invitation was extended during a telephone conversation

under the R-4 framework, which was launched earlier this year to intensify consultations on regional crises. "particularly the conflict involving the United States and Iran and broader efforts to promote regional stability. The grouping has held several meetings since March, with its fourth ministerial meeting taking place in Cairo in June. Read: Ishaq Dar to visit

Istanbul for quartet talks

The latest meeting of the four foreign ministers was held in Amman on August 5 on the sidelines of a ministerial meeting in Jerusalem. Dar, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, Turkish FM Fidan and Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty discussed the regional situation and called for continued consultation and coordination.

The Istanbul meeting, however, assumes added significance because it will be the first major R-4 engagement since Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye signed the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement on August 7.

The agreement commits the three countries to collective defence, with an armed attack against one member to be treated as an attack against all.

Body of US climber who died in Broad Peak avalanche airlifted from base camp to Skardu



PEAK POINT

GILGIT: The body of US climber Sarah Mallory Geis, who was among the 10 mountaineers who lost their lives after being struck by an avalanche on Broad Peak last month, was airlifted to Skardu on Tuesday and taken to Combined Military Hospital.

The 10 members were part of an expedition led by world-renowned British-Nepali mountaineer Nirmal Purja. They were struck by the avalanche on July 30, and later, Purja's company declared that there were no survivors. Up until now, Geis was one of the last two climbers from the expedition whose bodies could not be retrieved. The body was found by three local porters on Friday, 22 days after she went missing in the avalanche.



SPORTS



Babar Azam set to return for second Test against England at Lord's



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan captain Babar Azam is set to return to the playing XI for the second Test against England at Lord's after completing a positive training session, bowling coach Umar Gul said.

According to Cricinfo, Babar has been recovering from a finger injury suffered during Pakistan's tour of the West Indies and aggravated when he was struck on the same finger during a practice match at Beckenham.

Gul said Babar batted for a full session in the nets, facing fast bowlers, spinners and throw-

downs, and looked in good form. "We are hopeful he will be available for the game. He looked good today and batted well in the nets," Gul said.

Babar's return would be a major boost for Pakistan, whose batting struggled badly in the first Test at Headingley. England bowled Pakistan out twice in less than 86 overs, leaving the visitors with plenty to improve ahead of the second Test.

Babar was Pakistan's leading run-scorer in the preceding Test series against the West Indies, scoring 193 runs in four innings, including two half-centuries.

His return is also expected to bring a change at the top of Pakistan's batting order. Azam has scored a fifty or century in half of those innings.

However, Gul cautioned that Pakistan could not depend solely on Babar's return and urged the team to improve in all departments.

"We will have to learn from the mistakes we made in the previous game. To win a Test match, you have to perform in all departments," he said. Gul stressed that Pakistan's bowlers would have a particularly important role in the conditions at Lord's.

New Zealand beat Pakistan 4-2 to set up ninth-place play-off



PEAK POINT

AMSTELVEEN: Pakistan's hopes of securing a ninth-place finish at the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2026 suffered a setback on Monday as New Zealand defeated the Green Shirts 4-2 in their classification match at Wagener Stadium.

New Zealand made a blistering start, with Dylan Thomas finding the net just 20 seconds into the match. Scott Boyde and George Baker added further goals in the second quarter to give the Kiwis a commanding 3-0 lead at half-time. Pakistan responded strongly after the break, with Sufyan Khan reducing the deficit in the 33rd minute before Afriz scored five minutes later to make it 3-2.

However, New Zealand regained control when Kane Russell converted a penalty corner in the 49th minute to restore their two-goal advantage. Pakistan pushed for another comeback but could not breach the New Zealand defence in the closing stages.

The victory lifted New Zealand to the top of Pool G with nine points and earned them a ninth-place play-off against Ireland on Friday. Pakistan, meanwhile, will face South Africa in the 11th/12th-place match at Wagener Stadium on Friday.

Pakistan reaches F-Class summit with historic Bisley world title



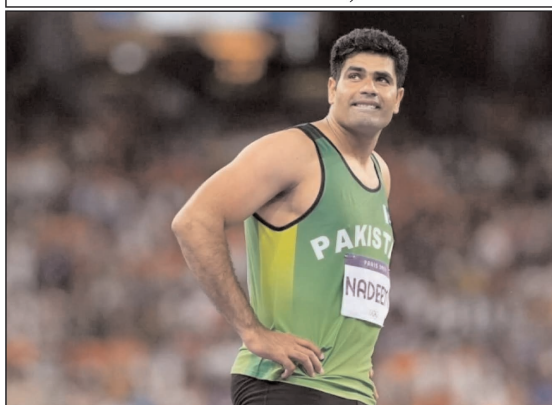
PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan has announced its arrival among the world's leading F-Class shooting nations, with Lt Col Junaid Ali crowned FTR individual world champion at the 7th F-Class Shooting World Championship 2026 at Bisley, United Kingdom, as Pakistan also secured a team silver and 13 individual medals. The

remarkable achievement comes just three years after Pakistan launched its international F-Class programme in 2023, highlighting the rapid development and growing competitiveness of its shooters. The prestigious championship brought together 207 elite competitors from 24 countries at the historic Bisley range. Junaid produced the standout performance, recording the highest aggregate score across the 800, 900 and 1,000-yard distances. His success reflected exceptional consistency, precision, wind-reading ability and composure under intense competition.

Pakistan's strength was also evident in the FTR World Championship Team Event, where the national team won silver among teams representing 11 countries, including several established F-Class powers and former world and European champions. The Pakistani contingent collected 13 individual medals, four gold, four silver and five bronze medals, across the three distances. Junaid led the medal tally with three gold, one silver and one bronze before completing his campaign as the overall FTR world champion. Sepoy Muhammad Waleed added a gold and bronze, including a historic 900-yard gold that marked Pakistan's first-ever gold at the FTR World Championship medal and title in the discipline. Pakistan's emerging talent also impressed.

Arshad defies NOC rules, trains abroad



Ahtesham Humayun claims silver medal at ITF J30 Akouda



TSGPA appoints Mohsin Nawaz as sports psychologist for World Nomad Games 2026

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The Traditional Sports & Games Pakistan Association (TSGPA) has officially appointed civil award recipient Mohsin Nawaz as its Official Sports Psychologist. This marks the first time in Pakistan's history that TSGPA has formally appointed a sports psychologist to support its national sporting contingent. The historic decision represents a significant structural shift in how Pakistan prepares its athletes for international multi-sport competitions, recognizing the vital role of mental preparation and psychological resilience alongside physical performance. Nawaz, who was honored with the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz by the President of Pakistan, is also an official Brand Ambassador for Austrian-based Kahles Optics, South African-based Peregrine Bullets, and the HawkSmith Gun Club in DHA, Karachi. He brings a wealth of expertise in

high-performance conditioning, stress control, and elite cognitive training. TSGPA highlighted that his extensive background in athlete performance management and psychological resilience was the primary catalyst behind his

selection. Following the announcement, TSGPA Chairman and Head of Delegation Mr. Nawab Furqan Khan, alongside President of Pakistan's traditional sports ecosystem Under his official mandate, Nawaz will formulate, build, and execute structured sports psychology programs for TSGPA athletes.



and psychological preparation have long been standard protocols across mainstream international federations, the practice is a pioneering milestone for Pakistan's traditional sports ecosystem. Under his official mandate, Nawaz will formulate, build, and execute structured sports psychology programs for TSGPA athletes.



Grade 20 officer denied allotted House as Senate orders possession within 24 hours

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Housing and Works ordered the Ministry of Housing and Works and the Estate Office to vacate and hand over an officially allotted residence to a Grade 20 Senate officer within just 24 hours, taking serious notice of the officer being denied possession for an extended period. The committee also demanded a complete compliance report, making this one of the strongest interventions during its review of federal housing issues and long-delayed residential projects. The Senate Standing Committee, chaired by Senator Nasir Mehmood, met at Parliament House to exam-

ine progress on housing schemes managed by the Pakistan Housing Authority Foundation and the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority. Senator Saifullah Abro raised the issue of the Grade 20 officer, after which the committee took serious notice of the failure to hand over the residence despite its allotment. The committee directed the Ministry of Housing and Works and the Estate Office to immediately take action and ensure the designated official residence is vacated and handed over to the officer within 24 hours. The committee also made it clear that official accommodation matters must be handled according to rules and without discrimination. It stressed the

importance of transparency, merit, and strict adherence to the law in the allocation and possession of government residences. The strong direction came as the committee was already examining several long-standing problems involving federal housing projects, including delays in infrastructure, land inquiries and legal disputes. The committee reviewed the PHA F Officers Residencia project on Kurri Road, where residents face problems related to water supply, storm water drainage, street lighting and other basic community facilities. The committee was informed that efforts were under way to address these complaints following meetings and discussions between the relevant authorities. The

access road emerged as a major unresolved issue. Capital Development Authority Member Planning M. Umair assured the committee that the access road problem would be addressed on a priority basis. The committee then gave the CDA a clear deadline of three months to construct the access road and report back on the progress. The committee also examined the Green Enclave I and Sky Gardens schemes of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority, including pending inquiries and court-related matters. Representatives of the National Accountability Bureau told the committee that inquiries into these schemes had been continuing

since 2018 under the relevant laws and court directions. NAB officials explained that restrictions had previously been imposed on certain land transfers during the inquiry process. However, after inquiries were completed in areas where land records had been cleared, the required no-objection certificates were processed. The committee was also briefed about the legal position of Shamlat land. The Director General of FGEHA clarified that Shamlat land cannot be transferred to private individuals. He also briefed the committee about development permissions granted in Moza Kathar and Moza Mangal. The discussion highlighted the long running problems surrounding land,

development and legal issues in federal housing schemes. While some matters have moved forward after inquiries and legal processes, several issues continue to require coordination between housing authorities, the CDA and other government institutions. The committee also took up a general public matter and directed the Secretary Housing to resolve the issue on a priority basis. The Secretary Housing assured the committee that the matter would be fully resolved by January 2027. The committee appreciated the efforts of the Secretary Housing and his executive leadership in speeding up public welfare projects and addressing pending issues.

Danyal seeks direct Pak Nepal flights to boost ties

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Nepal on Tuesday called for stronger bilateral cooperation in trade, tourism, education and people-to-people contacts, with Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry stressing the restoration of direct flights between the two countries to improve connectivity and make air routes economically viable. The issue was discussed

at a meeting of the Pakistan-Nepal-Bhutan Parliamentary Friendship Group at Parliament House, Islamabad, chaired by Convener and MNA Dr Mahesh Kumar Malani.

Barrister Danyal said restoration of direct air links would open new avenues for trade and tourism while facilitating greater people-to-people contact between Pakistan and Nepal.

He stressed that improved air connectivity



is essential to deepening bilateral relations and creating economically viable routes between the two countries.

The meeting reviewed Pakistan-Nepal relations, trade links and avenues for expanding mutual cooperation.

Nepal's Ambassador to Pakistan, Rita Dhital, said the two countries enjoyed longstanding and brotherly relations and had considerable potential to take bilateral ties to new heights through expanded cooperation in diverse fields.

She said there are vast opportunities for strengthening people-to-people connections and called for greater engagement between the two countries.

Participants also emphasised expanding cul-

tural exchange programmes, increasing educational scholarships and promoting closer people-to-people contacts as part of efforts to strengthen bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by parliamentarians Shahzada Muhammad Gushtasap Khan, Muhammad Mubin Arif, Muhammad Usman Badini, Shaista Khan, Dr Darshan, Isfandyar M. Bhandara, Ramesh Lal and MS Farah Naz Akbar.

Opinion & Editorial

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School children's safety

A child's journey to school should never be a gamble. Yet in Pakistan, thousands of students travel every day in overcrowded vans, ageing Suzuki vehicles and rickshaws that are often poorly maintained and sometimes fitted with dangerously installed LPG cylinders. That this has been allowed to become routine is itself a serious failure of regulation. The Lahore Traffic Police's decision to crack down on overloading and the use of LPG cylinders in school transport is therefore long overdue. The order that children must not be carried beyond a vehicle's capacity, that LPG cylinders be prohibited in vehicles transporting schoolchildren and that children not be seated in the front of rickshaws is basic safety enforcement. It should never have required a fresh campaign to establish these rules. Instead, small Suzuki vans are routinely packed with far more children than they were designed to carry. Children are squeezed into every available space, while schoolbags are sometimes hung from the sides of vehicles. The use of LPG adds another layer of danger. The problem is not LPG itself but the reckless manner in which cylinders are often installed, refilled, stored and maintained. Old cylinders and unauthorised refilling facilities create risks that are entirely preventable.

World Humanitarian Day: Pakistan's Tradition of Service and Our Collective Responsibility

By: Choudhary Muhammad Rasheed Sal



World Humanitarian Day is observed every year on 19 August to honour humanitarian workers, volunteers and aid personnel who dedicate their lives, time and resources to helping people affected by wars, natural disasters, poverty, hunger, displacement and other humanitarian crises. The day reminds us that humanity transcends religion, nationality, language and borders. Helping a person in distress is a shared responsibility of us all. The significance of World Humanitarian Day in PakistanFor decades, Pakistan has faced earthquakes, devastating floods, epidemics, poverty, unemployment and numerous social and humanitarian challenges. In every difficult hour, the Pakistani people have demonstrated a remarkable spirit of sacrifice, compassion and solidarity. During natural disasters and other crises, ordinary citizens, welfare organisations, students, teachers, doctors, young volunteers and social groups have come forward to support affected communities. The tradition of serving humanity is also deeply rooted in Pakistan's religious and cultural values. Islam places great emphasis on human dignity, helping the needy, caring for orphans and vulnerable people, giving charity and standing with those facing hardship. Consequently, Pakistan has a strong tradition of Zakat, charity, community kitchens, medical camps, blood donations and relief operations during natural disasters. The Pakistani Nation in Times of CrisisThe devastating 2005 earthquake remains one of the most powerful examples of Pakistan's collective humanitarian spirit. People from across the country travelled to affected areas, donated relief supplies and participated in rescue and rehabilita-

tion efforts. Similarly, during severe floods in different periods, Pakistani citizens and welfare organisations have played an important role in providing food, clean water, medicines, shelter and other essential supplies. These experiences demonstrate that the spirit of supporting one another during difficult times remains alive in Pakistani society. However, the growing humanitarian and economic challenges of the modern era require us to transform this spirit into a more organised, sustainable and effective system of social support. Moving Beyond Relief Towards Self-RelianceHumanitarian service is not limited to emergency relief. Providing food to a deserving family for a few days is certainly valuable, but genuine humanitarian assistance becomes far more meaningful when that family is helped to rebuild its life and become self-reliant. Therefore, welfare activities in Pakistan should focus not only on relief but also on rehabilitation, education, healthcare, employment and economic empowerment. Supporting a poor child's education, teaching a young person a marketable skill, creating a livelihood opportunity for a family or ensuring timely medical treatment can have a far greater and longer-lasting impact than temporary assistance. The Role of Young People and Educational Institutions Pakistan's young population represents a tremendous force for humanitarian service. Educational institutions should cultivate a culture of volunteerism, social responsibility and community service among students. Universities and colleges can promote blood donation drives, tree plantation campaigns, environmental protection initiatives, health and hygiene awareness programmes, support for deserving students and volunteer networks for disaster response. If the energy, education and technological skills of young people are systematically connected with humanitarian work, Pakistan can develop a strong and organised cul-

ture of volunteerism. Social Media and Responsible HumanitarianismIn the digital age, social media has become a powerful tool for humanitarian assistance. During a crisis, information can reach millions of people within minutes, relief activities can be coordinated and the needs of affected communities can be highlighted. However, this power comes with responsibility. Fake images, misinformation and fraudulent appeals can mislead the public and divert assistance away from those who genuinely need it. Media organisations and social media users must therefore prioritise accurate information, responsible communication and respect for the dignity and privacy of victims during humanitarian crises. The Role of the MediaThe role of the media during humanitarian crises should go beyond simply reporting events. Journalism must give affected people a voice, highlight their problems, monitor relief efforts and hold government and non-governmental organisations accountable for their performance. Responsible journalism should not turn human suffering into a spectacle. Instead, it should promote public awareness, collective responsibility and solutions. While reporting on victims, journalists must also protect their dignity, privacy and emotional well-being. This is not merely a matter of professional ethics; it is a fundamental responsibility of humane journalism. A Shared Responsibility of Government and SocietyPakistan cannot effectively respond to humanitarian crises without cooperation among the government, welfare organisations, private sector, media, educational institutions, religious and social organisations and ordinary citizens. Effective disaster preparedness, timely relief, transparent systems and long-term rehabilitation are essential. At the same time, social protection mechanisms for vulnerable groups—including

children, women, older people, persons with disabilities and extremely poor families—must be strengthened. Humanitarian assistance should not be treated as an occasional response to a crisis. It should become part of a broader national strategy for social protection, resilience and human development. Humanity Is Not a One-Day CommitmentThe most important message of World Humanitarian Day is that humanity cannot be confined to a single day. Feeding a hungry person, visiting a sick individual, helping a deserving student continue education, donating blood, supporting a vulnerable family or simply listening to someone in distress are all acts of humanity. We should also recognise that humanitarian service does not always require significant financial resources. Sometimes a small act of kindness, a timely decision or a few words of hope can change someone's life. ConclusionWorld Humanitarian Day reminds us that humanity is both our common identity and our collective responsibility. Pakistan has repeatedly demonstrated its spirit of sacrifice, compassion and solidarity in times of crisis. The challenge now is to transform this spirit from temporary relief into a permanent, organised and effective part of our social system. Let us resolve not merely to speak about humanity but to make it a part of our everyday conduct—to create ease for those in need, support the vulnerable and help ensure that every member of society has the opportunity to live with dignity and basic rights. A strong Pakistan is built not only through a strong economy and strong institutions, but also through a compassionate, responsible and humane society. When humanity remains alive, society becomes stronger; when society becomes stronger, Pakistan becomes stronger.

Commerce Minister directs stronger efforts to expand Pakistan's exports



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan chaired an internal meeting with the Ministry's Foreign Trade Wings to review Pakistan's export performance, bilateral trade engagements and progress on trade agreements.

The Minister expressed satisfaction over encouraging export growth in several emerging markets and directed officials to build on this momentum through market diversification, stronger business-to-

business linkages and closer engagement with overseas trade missions.

He emphasized identifying new opportunities for Pakistani rice, textiles, agricultural products, pharmaceuticals, processed food, light engineering goods and services, said a release issued here on Tuesday.

Commerce Minister directs stronger efforts to expand Pakistan's exports Jam Kamal Khan directed the Foreign Trade Wings to prepare country-specific action plans cover-

ing priority products, market-access barriers, logistics and banking challenges, potential buyers and pending institutional engagements.

He stressed that trade agreements must provide balanced and commercially meaningful benefits to Pakistan. Existing arrangements should be regularly evaluated, while pending Joint Trade Committee and Joint Working Group meetings should be expedited. The Minister also called for closer coordination among the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, overseas missions, chambers of commerce and trade associations to translate diplomatic engagements into tangible export and investment outcomes. "Pakistan's exporters have demonstrated strong potential in both traditional and emerging markets. Our focus must be on removing barriers, diversifying exports and converting every trade engagement into measurable economic gains," Jam Kamal Khan said.

Ayaz launches monsoon tree plantation campaign at Parliament House

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday inaugurated the monsoon tree plantation campaign by planting an olive sapling at the lawn of Parliament House.

Members of Parliament, senior officers of the National Assembly Secretariat and representatives of the media participated in the plantation ceremony in large numbers.

A special prayer was also offered for the progress, prosperity and security of the country. Speaking on the occasion, Ayaz Sadiq said that tree plantation was essential for environmental protection and a secure future for coming generations.

He stressed that tree plantation must be promoted to make Pakistan green and prosperous. Ayaz Sadiq He said that trees play a vital role in mitigating the adverse impacts of

climate change. The Speaker urged Members of Parliament and the public to actively participate in tree plantation campaigns.

He said that olive oil was one of the best edible oils and that Pakistan's climate was highly suitable for olive cultivation. By promoting olive cultivation, he said, Pakistan could move towards self-sufficiency in the edible oil sector. Ayaz Sadiq further observed that tree plantation not only contributed to environmental improvement but also supported economic growth. He called upon the government and the people to work together to make the country greener, adding that planting more trees was the need of the hour for a clean, healthy and prosperous Pakistan.

The Speaker also thanked Member of the National Assembly Faisal Ameen for presenting the olive sapling for plantation.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday inaugurated the monsoon tree plantation campaign by planting an olive sapling at the lawn of Parliament House.

Private medical colleges barred from charging over Rs2.1m without approval: Mustafa Kamal

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Health Minister Mustafa Kamal told the National Assembly (NA) on Tuesday that the government capped annual fees at private medical colleges at Rs2.1 million, with institutions barred from charging more without approval, as authorities moved to tighten oversight of medical education costs, state-run Radio Pakistan reported.

Responding to a Calling Attention Notice on high fees at medical colleges and private hospitals during the NA session, Kamal said a com-

mittee formed by the prime minister had reviewed medical college fees and set a standard fee structure.

He said private medical colleges accounted for 65% of the country's 22,000 medical seats, while the remaining 35% were in government institutions.

Parliamentary Secretary for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Nelson Azeem said the committee had initially fixed the fee at Rs1.8 million per student. Some colleges challenged the decision, arguing that they

offered better facilities and services and faced higher expenses. The committee asked them to justify their demands on the basis of their facilities and expenses.

A total of 61 medical colleges submitted appeals along with relevant documents. After reviewing the appeals, the committee found the cases of 35 institutions justified and allowed them to charge Rs2.1 million. Azeem said a portal had also been established for students and their parents to submit complaints against medical colleges.

CM Maryam reaches China on four-day official visit

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz reached China on a four-day official visit on Tuesday. CM Maryam was welcomed by senior Chinese officials and diplomatic officials at Urumqi International Airport. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz will attend four important meetings on the very first day of her visit.

Maryam Nawaz will begin her engagements at the Kunlun Hall, the conference center of the Xinjiang State Guesthouse. A high-level delegation led by Qin Xiaojiang and Party Secretary of Xinjiang Province, will meet Maryam Nawaz. Deputy Party Secretary of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Regional Committee, He Zhongyu, will meet Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz will hold an important meeting with a delegation of Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC) A dinner will be hosted in honor of Chief Minister Maryam.

Interior Minister orders new security plan for Diplomatic Enclave

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday visited the Diplomatic Enclave in Islamabad to review ongoing development work and assess progress on key infrastructure projects. During the visit, Mohsin Naqvi inspected construction activities and directed officials to speed up work while ensuring environmental protection and improved facilities for residents.

The minister reviewed progress on the boundary wall, remodelling of security checkpoints, cycling track, and walking track being developed inside the Diplomatic Enclave. He stressed that construction on the boundary wall should continue without interruption and instructed authorities to ensure that no trees are cut during the execution of the projects. Mohsin Naqvi also directed officials to develop the cycling



and walking tracks according to modern planning standards to provide better recreational facilities within the enclave. He further instructed the concerned departments to widen roads in the area to improve traffic flow and accessibility. During the visit, Mohsin Naqvi asked the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Security to prepare a revised and comprehensive security plan for the Diplomatic Enclave. He said the enclave should have a security framework that meets current requirements while supporting the needs of diplomatic missions and residents.

Govt high-level team visit PBM HQ to strengthen support for vulnerable citizens

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) is set to undergo a comprehensive review of its operations, human resource needs, budgetary constraints and administrative challenges, on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, with a high level government team visiting its headquarters on Tuesday to assess institutional capacity and identify measures to strengthen and streamline welfare services for poor and vulnerable citizens. The government team, comprising Federal Minister for Public Affairs Rana Mubashir Iqbal, State Minister for Power and Public Affairs Abdur Rehman Kanju, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Talha Burki and Additional



Secretary PM Office Mohib Ali Phulpoto, held an extensive meeting with PBM Managing Director Senator Capt. Shaheen Khalid Butt and senior management.

The meeting reviewed PBM's operational framework, achievements, institutional strengths and weaknesses, neglected and under-resourced areas, emerging requirements and future priorities. PBM management briefed the visiting team on key challenges, particularly human resource requirements.

Governor stresses skills development, media literacy to empower youth

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday stressed the need to equip fresh graduates with market-oriented skills, practical training and employment opportunities, saying the country's youth were its most valuable asset and should be empowered to contribute positively to national development. He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of the Pakistan Youth Vision Parliament, led by its Chairman Hafiz Huzaifa Shah, at the Governor House. The delegation presented a survey report highlighting issues faced by youth and fresh graduates in vari-



ous districts of the province.

The delegation briefed the Governor on challenges confronting fresh graduates in securing employment, the relationship between teachers and students, the growing spread of fake news and misinformation on social media, and other issues affecting the younger generation. The Governor said educational institutions, the government.

for medical education abroad. He added that Pakistani students spent around \$800 million in foreign exchange on medical education overseas. He said the number of seats in government medical colleges remained limited, while the government had imposed a three-year moratorium on the establishment of new private medical colleges. The moratorium, he clarified, did not apply to government institutions. Government medical colleges were increasing their intake as they expanded.