

PM reaffirms Pakistan's appreciation for Saudi Arabia's 'steadfast support, generous assistance'

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reaffirmed Pakistan's "deep appreciation for Saudi Arabia's steadfast support and generous assistance" to the country and its "pivotal role in promoting peace and stability in the region".

He made the remarks as Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki paid him a farewell call at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad after completion of his official tenure in Pakistan, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement.

Ambassador Al-Malki has been serving in Pakistan since 2017.

The PMO said PM Shehbaz congratulated the ambassador on the successful completion

of his official assignment and lauded the outgoing envoy for his "outstanding contribution towards further strengthening the deep-rooted fraternal and strategic ties" between the two countries.

The premier also conveyed regards and wishes for the health and well-being of Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

The outgoing ambassador, meanwhile, expressed profound gratitude to the prime minister and the government for the "warmth, cooperation, and hospitality extended to him throughout his assignment". He described his stay in the country as "a deeply memorable and rewarding experience".



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan H.E. Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki pays a farewell call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Imran;s hospital visit: Ex-PM's sister again moves SC for early hearing of contempt plea against govt

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Dr Uzma Khan, the sister of incarcerated former premier Imran Khan, submitted a second application to the Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday seeking the early hearing of a contempt petition against government functionaries accused of flouting the court's directive to move the PTI founder to Islamabad's Shifa International Hospital.

On August 18, a three-member SC bench issued several directives on pleas concerning Imran's health and instructed authorities to move him to Shifa International Hospital, a private facility. However, the government instead took the PTI founder to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims), a government hospital, for a check-up and then transported him back to the prison.

Last week, Uzma had filed a petition before the SC against the authorities for violating the court's Aug 18 order. On Tuesday, the PTI resubmitted the petition to the SC's registrar, while Uzma also filed an application for the early hearing of the contempt petition. On Aug 24, the SC had fixed the contempt plea for Sept 16.

Claims that CDF Munir visited Iran as envoy for US 'incorrect, misleading': FO

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) on Thursday termed claims that Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir visited Iran as an "envoy" of the United States "misleading and factually incorrect".

The army chief met the Iranian leadership during his day-long visit to Tehran on August 24, undertaken as part of Pakistan's diplomatic efforts to end the stalemate in the ongoing US-Iran conflict. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi had also accompanied him.

Addressing a weekly press briefing in Islamabad on Thursday, FO Spokesperson Tahir Andrabi noted that the discussions held during CDF Munir's visit to Tehran "focused on regional de-escalation, breaking the military stalemate and exploring a negotiated settlement to restore peace and stability".

"I will also highlight that claims by certain quarters that the COAS and CDF visited Iran as envoy of President Trump or the US are misleading and factually incorrect, as his visit was undertaken purely in the context and backdrop of Pakistan's "sincere and constructive role in bridging the difference between Washington and Tehran". He noted that the Iranian leadership appreciated Pakistan's efforts towards de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the conflict.

NA health panel visits Pims, says fire in nursery may have been caused by 'technical fault'

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Members of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination said on Thursday that the fire at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims), which claimed the lives of 14 infants, may have been caused by a "technical fault".

Health Minister Mustafa Kamal had attributed Wednesday's incident to a spark in the air conditioner.

But standing committee chairperson Mahesh Kumar Malani told the media in Islamabad on Thursday that "we have to see whether the fire was the result of negligence or a natural cause. It appears that there may have been a technical fault". He added that the source of the fire had yet to be ascertained.

"Some said that a spark was caused by an old air conditioner, [but] it had not been working for some time. The other two were portable," he said. Malani said one of the doctors had stated that a spark was caused by a bundle of wires while the nurses.

Trial for accused mastermind of 9/11 attacks set for June 2028

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: A US Air Force judge on Wednesday ordered Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the accused mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, and three co-defendants to go on trial before a military tribunal in June 2028.

The trial-scheduling order entered by Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Michael Schramma marked the latest milestone in a military prosecution beset by two decades of legal deadlock surrounding the four detainees held in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Last month, a US appeals court refused to allow.

Nepal flood death toll rises to 270 as around 1,000 remain missing

PEAK POINT

NEPAL-TIBET: Devastating floods on the Nepal-Tibet border have killed at least 270 people, Nepali police said in an update on Thursday, a day after the disaster.

Chinese state media had earlier reported "major casualties" from a mudslide at a Tibet border hub with three dead, taking the total killed to at least 273.

A terrifying clip of surveillance video from the Chinese side of the frontier shows a massive wall of mud and debris crashing over a building several stories high on Wednesday morning, engulfing it as dozens of people ran for their lives below. The surge swept away buses and cars like they were toys.

Many of the missing

are foreign tourists, officials said of the disaster, including 579 Nepali and foreign tourists, remained



which the US Geological Survey believes was caused by a glacial collapse that sent a flow of debris engulfing areas along the way.

The tsunami-like rumble of water and mud struck villages and towns on the path of two rivers — Bhote Koshi and Trishuli.

As per earlier figures, when Nepal's death toll stood at 160, 823 people, out of contact, according to the country's disaster agency. These included nearly 100 Chinese nationals, according to Beijing's foreign ministry. The Chinese embassy was "seeking further verification" from Nepali authorities, ministry spokesman Lin Jian told reporters. Later, about 100 missing Indian visitors and 25 Chinese workers were located by

rescuers in Nepal, authorities said.

Across the border, Chinese state media said 558 people, including 260 foreigners, were still missing.

Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra Shah left by road for Bidur in one of the worst-affected districts of Nuwakot to assess the flood situation, his office said on social media.

Raju Bhadel, 56, a businessman in Nuwakot, recounted receiving a call from his brother-in-law in distress.

"They were crying and said their entire house had been swept away. Three family members were rescued, but his brother is still missing," he said. Also at Nuwakot, teacher Manok Mishra witnessed "nine trucks being swept away by the floods including people".

11 terrorists killed in intelligence-based operations in KP, Balochistan



PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed 11 terrorists during intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, state-run Radio Pakistan reported on Thursday, citing security sources. According to the state broadcaster, the terrorists belonged to Fima al Khawarij and Fima al Hindustan. The state uses the term Fima al Khawarij for the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and refers to designated Balochistan-based groups as Fima al Hindustan to highlight India's role in terrorism and destabilisation against Pakistan.

"In Bannu, security forces conducted an IBO against Fima al Khawarij, killing two terrorists and recovering weapons and ammunition," Radio Pakistan reported.



SPORTS



Abbas's treble strike rocks England in second Test



PEAK POINT

LORDS: Mohammad Abbas took three wickets, including the prize scalp of Joe Root, as Pakistan reduced England to 80-4 at lunch on Thursday's first day of the second Test at Lord's.

Veteran seamer Abbas did the bulk of the damage in a superb burst of three wickets for four runs in 16 balls as England collapsed to 36-3, with captain Root out for just four.

And at lunch Abbas had figures of 3-34 in eight overs as England were granted little on-field relief from the latest of several drinking incidents after fast

bowler Brydon Carse was handcuffed outside a nightclub over the weekend and subsequently dropped from the Test squad.

Pakistan were woeful in all departments during an innings and 103-run defeat in the first of a three-Test series at Headingley last week. They did, however, have the worst of the conditions, after losing the toss. It was a different story in London, with returning Pakistan captain Babar Azam, the only change to either side after he missed the first Test with a finger injury, calling correctly to give the tourists first use of a green-tinged pitch under grey skies that also

promised to aid his seamers.

England, 1-0 up in a three-match contest, were also unchanged following just their third win in 11 Tests. Victory at Lord's would give England their first Test series win since beating New Zealand in 2024.

The 36-year-old Abbas, well used to playing in England following spells with several counties, was soon into his stride on a Lord's ground where he was named player of the match after taking eight wickets in Pakistan's last Test at the 'Home of Cricket' — a nine-wicket success in 2018.

After rain delayed the start of

play by over an hour, Abbas struck with one of his worst deliveries of the session when Emilio Gay glanced a legside ball only for diving wicket-keeper Mohammad Rizwan to hold an excellent one-handed catch.

Ben Duckett, the hosts' other left-handed opener, fell for 17 when lbw on a Pakistan review to an Abbas nip-back ball.

Root was dropped in the slips off Mohammad Ali in another example of the fallible fielding that had contributed to Pakistan tumbling to the bottom of the World Test Championship table in Leeds.

Pakistan women ready for Asia Cup



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Fatima Sana-led Pakistan women's team will take the field against Thailand in their first match of the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup 2026 on Tuesday, 1 September, while the tournament is set to kick off on Friday. Meanwhile, Thailand will be up against Hong Kong, China women in the opening match of the tournament.

In Pakistan the action will be live-streamed on Tamasha and broadcast on PTV Sports. The ball-by-ball live scores will also be available on the Asian Cricket Council's official website. All the fixtures in the 15-match tournament will take place at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium (DICS) and will begin at 7.30pm Pakistan time. Pakistan, who are placed in Group A, are set to face India on 5 September in their second match and will play Hong Kong, China on 7 August. Defending champions Sri Lanka are placed in Group B with Bangladesh, Indonesia and United Arab Emirates. The semi-finals of the eight-team tournament will be played on 10 and 11 September, respectively with the final slated for 13 September. Pakistan squad reached United Arab Emirates on 26 August after preparing for the tournament with a 10-day training camp at the National Cricket Academy.

Ramiz Raja voices concern over pacer Shaheen Afridi's attitude, treatment



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan cricketer Ramiz Raja has raised concerns about Shaheen Afridi's recent struggles, saying the left-arm pacer's difficulties may not be entirely related to his recovery from a knee injury. During a recent appearance on an international podcast alongside former England greats Michael Vaughan, Alastair Cook, David

Lloyd and Phil Tufnell, Raja was asked about Afridi's absence from Pakistan's red-ball side. The discussion came amid concerns over the decline in pace bowling during the ongoing Test series. The panel also highlighted the performance of left-arm spinner Ali Usman, who claimed a five-wicket haul at a venue traditionally regarded as favourable to fast bowlers.

The performance prompted questions over the current standards and effectiveness of pace bowling in Test cricket, with the hosts wondering what had happened to Pakistan's once-renowned fast-bowling talent.

While acknowledging that Afridi may still not be fully fit, Raja suggested that there were also perceptions of an attitude issue surrounding the pacer.

The former captain pointed to concerns over Afridi's mood, his treatment within the team environment and possible administrative shortcomings, arguing that such factors could influence a player's performances on the field. However,

Raja stressed that he did not know Afridi well enough to make a definitive judgement, while noting that there was a general feeling within the dugout that the pacer was not always fully engaged.

"I don't know what's happened with him, so obviously he's not 100% after that knee injury. But people say there's an attitude problem as well. I don't know; I don't know him well enough," Raja said.

"But there's just a general feeling in the dugout that he's not 100% there all the time, so mood swings, not being treated properly and administrative lapses do figure into his performance on the field as well," he added.

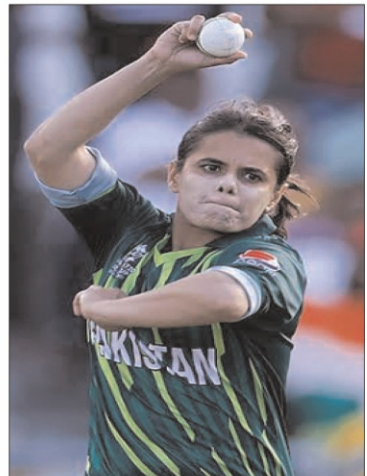
PHF, FIH hold high-level talks on strengthening Pakistan hockey



Aiman Anwer Announces Retirement from International Cricket

MUHAMMAD HARIS

SPAIN: Pakistan women's cricketer Aiman Anwer has announced her immediate retirement from international cricket. Bringing an end to her playing career for the national team. According to the Pakistan Cricket Board the fast bowler represented Pakistan in eight One-Day Internationals and 37 T20 Internationals. While stepping away from international cricket Aiman has already started a new chapter in the game. She is now working as a cricket referee and recently made her debut as a women's referee at the ongoing National Women's Under-19 Tournament in Karachi. Aiman successfully completed her referee induction course in January, paving the way for her transition from the field to an official role in cricket. Her move into refereeing gives her an opportunity to remain closely



connected with the sport and contribute to the development of women's cricket in Pakistan.

'Smart cricketer' Dinusha helps Sri Lanka draw second India Test





5 year smog fight produces key gains as 30 kilns converted and 10,000 vehicles checked

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's continuing smog problem has forced the government to tighten checks on vehicles, industries, brick kilns, construction sites and waste burning, with more than 10,000 vehicles inspected in Islamabad during 2025-26 alone. The government also confirmed that all 30 brick kilns operating in the Islamabad Capital Territory have been converted to zigzag technology, a cleaner method aimed at reducing harmful emissions. The figures were presented to the National Assembly in response to a question from Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb about the steps the government had taken during the last five years to control the country's recurring smog problem and the results achieved. According to Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Senator Musadik Masood Malik, smog is mainly a winter air pollution problem caused by several sources at the same time. These

include vehicle smoke, industrial emissions, brick kilns, burning of crop waste, burning of household and city waste, construction dust and weather conditions that trap polluted air close to the ground. The government said its most visible action in Islamabad has been a major inspection drive against vehicles producing excessive smoke. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency, working with Islamabad Traffic Police and the Islamabad Capital Territory Administration, carries out roadside inspections of commercial diesel vehicles. Vehicles that fail to meet required emission standards can be fined and, where necessary, impounded. More than 10,000 vehicles were inspected during 2025-26. Government and private organisations have also been directed to maintain their vehicles regularly and have their emissions tested through laboratories certified by the environmental agency. Brick kilns have

also come under strict scrutiny. The government reported that all 30 brick kilns operating in Islamabad have now been converted to zigzag technology. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency continues to monitor their emissions to check whether they are following environmental standards. Industrial pollution remains another major concern. Steel and marble industries are monitored regularly, with continuous surveillance of steel furnaces and chimneys through installed monitoring systems. Marble processing units are also inspected routinely. Where violations are found, authorities can issue Environmental Protection Orders and seal facilities that fail to comply with environmental requirements. The government has also increased checks on construction activity, where dust can add to already polluted air. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency conducts inspections at major construction sites and requires companies to use measures

that control and reduce dust. Open burning of municipal waste is another target. The environmental agency is coordinating with the Islamabad Capital Territory Administration and the Capital Development Authority to discourage open waste burning. Where necessary, restrictions under Section 144 can also be recommended to stop activities that contribute to smog. Despite these steps, the government's own explanation shows that smog is not caused by a single source. Traffic, industries, brick kilns, waste burning, crop residue and construction dust can all add pollution to the air, while weather conditions can make the situation worse by keeping polluted air trapped over populated areas. The government is therefore also working to improve its air quality monitoring system. The Air Quality Monitoring System network in Islamabad is being expanded, and its technical and institutional capacity is being strengthened. The government is also trying

to improve cooperation with provincial environmental authorities because air pollution can travel across provincial boundaries. The environmental regulatory system is also being reviewed in line with international practices. Public awareness has also been included in the strategy. Authorities are using television, newspapers, social media and other platforms to inform people about the health and environmental dangers of smog and ways to reduce pollution. Tree plantation programmes are also being carried out with the Capital Development Authority and other stakeholders as part of efforts to improve urban air quality. The government says these measures have produced improvements in environmental compliance and strengthened its ability to manage air pollution in Islamabad. It listed the conversion of all 30 brick kilns to zigzag technology, inspection of more than 10,000 vehicles during 2025-26, continued monitoring of industrial emissions and enforcement

action against violations among the major achievements. The government also claimed better control of construction dust and open waste burning, along with greater public awareness about smog prevention. However, the scale of the measures also shows how difficult the smog problem remains. With thousands of vehicles requiring checks, industrial units under surveillance and multiple pollution sources contributing to poor air quality, authorities face the challenge of ensuring that these measures continue throughout the year rather than only during severe smog episodes. The expansion of air quality monitoring and coordination with provincial environmental authorities is expected to help the government identify pollution problems earlier and take action more quickly. The question and reply were laid before the National Assembly during its 29th session.

NBF, Zawiya host reception for Abid Rasheed's 'Khair-ul-Bashar'

PEAK-POINT

ISLAMABAD: The National Book Foundation (NBF) under the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, in collaboration with literary and cultural organisation Zawiya, organised a literary and spiritual gathering to launch the Hand-on-Naat collection Khair-ul-Bashar by renowned Pakistani poet Abid Rasheed, followed by a Naat Mushaira at the Ahmad Faraz Auditorium.

Renowned poet and intellectual Ifthikhar Arif presided over the ceremony, while Dr Ehsan Akbar attended as the chief guest. Dr Arshad Mahmood Nashad and Dr Mehnaz Anjum highlighted various literary and artistic dimensions of Khair-ul-Bashar and discussed the distinctive features of Abid Rasheed's Naat poetry. The ceremony opened with recitation from the Holy Quran and Naat-e-Rasool-e-Maqbool (PBUH), presented by Qari Sibghatullah.

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Joint opposition

The opposition alliance took a decisive turn by agreeing to act in unison on the parliament floor to address prevailing politico-economic challenges. A major leap forward was the formal entry of Maulana Fazlur Rahman's JUI-F, which, in league with the six-party TTAP, is poised to call the shots. In another significant gesture, the PTI welcomed the JUI-F to act as a vanguard force in leading the opposition. During an hours-long session in the parliament chamber on Monday night, the joint opposition formulated a list of demands aimed at restoring stability, ending political repression, and tackling the economic crisis. The JUI-F's endorsement of the call for the release of all political prisoners and the implementation of the 18th constitutional amendment in letter and spirit is expected to serve as the glue holding this alliance together, despite the political parties holding differing views on other issues. A striking outcome of the meeting was the decision to resist the creation of new provinces for the time being, leaving the matter for an opportune moment in the future. The alliance warned that hasty moves on delimitations would fuel mistrust among federating units. Likewise, the opposition urged a political solution to the unrest in Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, advocating for an end to the reliance on kinetic operations.

March with hope, but verify

Jawed Nagvi

IT'S always uplifting to be hopeful, more so when the young ones give us an elusive glimpse into their hope. But youth is not a worldview or an ideology. Young ones have handed us despair too. They're on the march against America's alliance with Zionism. But they're also part of the 90 per cent Israelis who advocate genocide in Palestine. Closer to home, the RSS cultivates youth as did the Nazis. To belong to the young communist league in the USSR was to embody the future of a dream that faded too soon.

Young activists invoke mixed responses in South Asia where politics has suspended its left-right discourse for something called centrist and pragmatic politics. Pragmatism is too often a ruse for putting lipstick on the pig. The posture is worrisome but there are other reasons to be prepared for a determined pushback from the state if the wayward rulers with their monopoly over the means of coercion feel truly threatened, say, by the youth as glimpsed partly in Delhi's Cockerack event.

Consider the facts carefully. Twelve Latin American countries have recently veered to the right, reversing the region's previous 'pink tide' of left-leaning governments. A wave of election cycles has fundamentally altered the region's political landscape. Notable among the renegades are Colombia, Peru, Argentina, El Salvador,

Chile, Ecuador, Bolivia, Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras and Paraguay. Factors are not too different from South Asia's. High inflation, social inequality, corruption and post-pandemic economic stagnation are listed as driving the massive anti-incumbent sentiment. The 'Trump Effect' is cited as a factor even if the enduring impression in Europe and Asia is of the US being evicted from its comfort zone in the oil-rich Gulf.

Many leaders in Latin America are actively copying the 'Bukele model' of mass incarceration and hard-line security borrowed from the El Salvadoran dictator. South Asia has not remained untouched. The deposed leader of one country is languishing in jail and that of another country is a fugitive from those who drove her from office with street power. The right-wing Indian prime minister has coined a new description for what could be his next target — the thinking youth. So, who are the 'dimaghi Naxals' Modi has warned the country about? Che Guevara and John Keats lived a century apart but they may have offered a likely pointer to who exactly could be in Narendra Modi's crosshairs. 'If you tremble with indignation at every injustice then you are a comrade of mine,' said Che. 'Where but to think is to be full of sorrow,' mused Keats, describing the human condition to a bohemian nightingale.

Has the new generation found the courage and the commitment to face the consequences of a massive pushback?

Before joining the jubilant crowds at the resignation of Modi's powerful education minister whose removal the Cockerack protesters had sought, it would do no harm to remember that Indira Gandhi was similarly forced to remove two of her chief ministers — Chimanbhai Patel in Gujarat and Abdul Ghafoor in Bihar — in the run-up to the Emergency. With her back to the wall after a court verdict sought her removal from power, she went for the trigger and jailed her opponents. Mrs Gandhi was essentially a democrat, not the best in the world but also not the worst. There was no other valid reason for her to hold elections after having vanquished the violent surge against her. How can we know that Modi would not consider harsher measures should things come to the crunch?

The political circumstances seem a lot more fraught today than they were in 1975 on the eve of the Emergency. A commission of inquiry probes Indira Gandhi's excesses following her defeat in the 1977 elections (which she had called in the alleged belief she would sweep the polls). Whatever the Shah Commission found on her was not enough to send her for more than a night's stay in Tihar jail.

Courtesy Dawn

Brain, not brawn

M Nadeem Nadir

To opt between brain and brawn has always been a litmus test to establish the nature of a government's priorities in policymaking.

To promote sports among the youth, particularly students, the Punjab Government marked Independence Day by arranging various sports activities in all its districts. Commendable, indeed. In a district, a one-off cycle race was the talk of the town. The cyclists were given T-shirts and caps bearing the pictures of the ruling party stalwarts.

Before that, the contests for Urdu and English speech, milli nagma singing and the quiz programme related to the Pakistan Movement for Independence were also held among schools — first at the tehsil level and then at the district level. A prize distribution ceremony was held at the district level on the penultimate day.

The intriguing part of the whole exercise is that whereas the winners of the cycle race walked away with cash, those in the speech, milli nagma and quiz contests were given only consolation prizes. This caused a slight disappointment among the young winners of the literary contests, who had spent hours preparing their respective content. Particularly, the English speech contestants had to work exceptionally hard, given the generally low standard of English in public schools. Because of the dearth of opportunities and training, they had to memorise the lengthy speeches, learn the exact pronunciation and align the body language with the elocution. But in the end, they were marginalised.

Some of us might know about the Spartans of the ancient Greek city-state of Sparta. Thanks to the Hollywood movie 300 starring Gerard Butler. Spartans were a people known for body might and military readiness. However, none of us knows the exact name of any Spartan. They are not part of any of our textbooks.

Courtesy Tribune

Govt hints at uniform gas pricing, says existing system needs to be 'revisited'



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The government on Thursday hinted at introducing a uniform average gas price for all consumers, replacing the existing slab-based pricing system for different categories that involves cross-subsidies and budgetary subsidies.

The average prescribed gas price, determined by the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) based on the revenue requirements of gas companies, currently stands at around Rs1,700 per million British thermal units (mmBtu). However, gas is sold

to consumers at different rates, ranging from Rs500 to Rs4,300 per mmBtu as consumption rises.

The regulator and the International Monetary Fund have asked the government to eliminate subsidies, recover the true cost of gas supply from all consumers and provide direct subsidies where necessary.

On Thursday, the matter came under discussion as Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik met with the Sui Southern Gas Company's (SSGC) board of directors.

"The existing system of gas subsidies via pricing slabs needs to be

revisited," the minister was quoted as saying in an official statement. "He emphasised the need to transition to a single, fair gas price for all consumers, while vulnerable segments be protected through targeted social protection programmes. This transition would spur greater economic activity while quelling migration of customers to alternative fuels," the statement said. He directed the SSGC board to develop a comprehensive strategy and sustainable business model, with a special focus on controlling unaccounted-for gas (UFG), to transform the company into a financially viable organisation while keeping public service as its foremost priority. The meeting, which he presided over, also reviewed the company's performance, key achievements, operational challenges and future reform priorities. Meanwhile, the SSGC managing director briefed the minister on the company's milestones, achievements and challenges. The management highlighted a significant improvement.

Mohsin Naqvi orders crackdown on human trafficking, hawala hundi mafia

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday visited Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Zonal Office in Lahore.

During his visit, Mohsin Naqvi chaired a special meeting at FIA Zonal Office.

Mohsin Naqvi also reviewed FIA Zonal Office upgradation project and directed to complete the project as soon as possible.

Mohsin Naqvi ordered a crackdown on mafias involved in human trafficking and hawala hundi.

The Interior Minister said the entire chain of human trafficking and hawala hundi mafias should be brought under the grip of law. The meeting decided to replace old cameras at immigration counters at airports across the country and gave approval to



install latest technology cameras at immigration counters.

It was decided to avail Pak ID app services for registering complaints in the meeting.

Mohsin Naqvi said FIA is providing all possible facilities and resources to officers and staff and will do more.

A full-scale crackdown against criminal gangs is your job and its results should be visible, Mohsin Naqvi said. The Director FIA briefed the meeting on progress and performance of Zonal Office Lahore Upgradation Project.

Gilani calls for greater parliamentary unity to address global challenges

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, on Thursday called for greater parliamentary unity and collective action to address global challenges, including armed conflicts, terrorism, climate change and economic inequality.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 2nd Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) in Phnom Penh, in the presence of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and President of the Senate of Cambodia Samdech Mola Borvor Thipadei Hun Sen, he lauded the participation of Prime Minister Hun Manet as a strong symbol of Cambodia's commitment to parliamentary dialogue and cooperation.

Welcoming the Cambodian leadership, Chairman Gilani thanked the King of Cambodia for his message and expressed appreciation to the Senate and people of Cambodia for hosting the conference.

He also acknowledged the leadership and hospitality of Samdech Hun Sen in bringing parliamentary Speakers together on a common platform.

Speaking on the theme, "Solidarity for Peace and Shared Prosperity - Strengthening International Law and Resolving Conflicts Peacefully," Gilani called for greater parliamentary unity and collective action to address global challenges, including armed conflicts, terrorism, climate change and economic inequality. He stressed that parliamentary diplomacy must move "from commitment to action, from dialogue to delivery, and from promises to results." He proposed that the ISC develop mechanisms for rapid parliamentary responses to emerging crises and strengthen adherence to international law as the foundation for peace and stability. Citing Pakistan's experience, he said parliamentary diplomacy could create new avenues for dialogue when traditional channels faced limitations.

He also highlighted Pakistan's cooperation with Saudi Arabia and Türkiye for regional peace and stability. Quoting Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Chairman Gilani said leadership for peace required courage and conviction, and urged parliamentarians to lead with unity and vision.

Ayaz assumes office of acting President

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has assumed the office of Acting President of Pakistan. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has assumed the responsibilities of the Acting President as the President of Pakistan is currently on leave to visit the Republic of Austria from 27 to 31 August 2026. Meanwhile, the Chairman Senate has also proceeded abroad on an official visit. In view of the absence of both the President and the Chairman Senate, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly, will perform the functions of the President until the return of the President or the Chairman Senate to Pakistan. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq will continue to discharge his responsibilities as Acting President in accordance with the constitutional provisions governing the performance of the functions of the President during such an absence.

Maritime Minister orders fire safety audits across ministry organisations

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Maritime Affairs, Junaid Anwar Chaudhry on Thursday directed all organisations under the administrative control of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs to immediately conduct comprehensive fire safety audits of their buildings and premises following the recent incident at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Hospital. The exercise will cover offices, hospitals, residential buildings, workshops, warehouses, oil piers and other facilities, with a focus on identifying and promptly addressing risks to life and property. According to a letter addressed to heads of organisations, Karachi Port Trust Hospital has been given particu-



lar priority.

The audits will assess the availability, condition and functionality of fire extinguishers, alarms, smoke detector hydrants, sprinklers and other firefighting equipment.

They will also examine electrical wiring, distribution systems, generators, UPS units and other potential fire hazards.

The organisations have further been directed to verify that emergency exits, escape routes, stairways and fire exits.

Free medical camp provides accessible healthcare to more than 540 patients

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: A free medical camp was organized at Northwest General Hospital II on August 27, 2026, as part of Northwest General Hospital & Research Centre's ongoing commitment to providing accessible and quality healthcare to the community. More than 540 patients suffering from various health conditions benefited from the camp. The initiative provided patients with free medical consultations and complementary medicines, while essential diagnostic investigations were offered at highly subsidized rates. X-rays and ultrasound services were available at a 50% discount, while other necessary laboratory and diagnostic



tests were provided at affordable prices, helping make quality healthcare more accessible to underserved members of the community. The camp offered consultations across a wide range of specialties, including General Medicine, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Gynecology, General Surgery, Orthopedics, Ophthalmology, ENT, Neurosurgery, Nephrology, Pediatrics, and Urology.



PHNOM PENH, Cambodia: Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, led all speakers and delegates participating in the 2nd Inter-Parliamentary speakers' conference (ISC) on a courtesy call on with Samdech Mola Borvor Thipadei Hun Sen, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Youth Climate leaders deliver low-cost solutions at PMYDC regional Youth Climate Summit 2026

PEAK POINT

KHANASPUR, GALIYAT: The PMYDC Regional Youth Climate Summit 2026, organized by IM/Sciences in collaboration with Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, the Directorate of Youth Affairs KP, the Pakistan Development Foundation and Broadify Digital, brought together 45 youth participants from the YDC & GYM Club of IM/Sciences and the GYM Club of SBBWUP for a three-day summit focused on research, teamwork, climate learning and the development of practical, low-budget solutions to local

environmental challenges. Designed as a platform for the next generation of climate-conscious leaders, the summit moved beyond conventional discussions about climate change. Through team collaboration and field research, young participants were encouraged to identify real problems in their communities, understand their social and economic dimensions, and then develop practical solutions that could be implemented with limited financial resources. As part of the field research, participants worked in teams along the Pipeline Track and Ayubia Bazar, engaging with local con-



ditions and stakeholders to identify key environmental challenges. The research covered issues including waste management and plastic waste, water scarcity and water recharge, tourism-related environmental pressures, deforestation, and changing weather and environmental conditions. The three-

day programme combined field research with expert sessions and collaborative solution-building. Dr. Waseef Jamal addressed climate leadership and disaster risk reduction, while Mr. Mukhtar Ahmed explored the relationship between poverty and climate-related social and economic

shocks. Mr. Bilal Sethi discussed climate justice, unequal responsibility and climate finance, while Mrs. Zainab Fida focused on water scarcity, groundwater recharge, rainwater harvesting and community-based water management. The Director of Youth Affairs KP, while expressing his thoughts,

said: "This summit proves that when we empower our youth, they don't just talk about climate change — they go to the ground and create practical, low-cost solutions for their communities. Together, through institutional collaborations, we can build climate-conscious leadership and a sustainable future for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Directorate of Youth Affairs KP remains committed to providing platforms where young people can turn their ideas into real action for a greener and more resilient KP." Dr. Waseef Jamal, Chief Organizer of the PMYDC Regional Youth Climate Summit 2026.