

AJK PM Gilani calls on PML-N leadership in Lahore, seeks guidance on reform agenda

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Newly-elected Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Ifthikhar Gilani called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif at Jati Umra Lahore on Sunday and discussed his 100-day reform plan for the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif was also present on the occasion.

The AJK prime minister and the speaker thanked the PML-N leadership for its support, while the party leadership expressed its best wishes to them.

During the meeting, PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif directed the AJK government to put Azad Kashmir on the path of innovation and development, similar to the development model pursued in Punjab.

The PML-N leadership stressed the need for the immediate resolution of public issues in Azad Kashmir.

During the meeting AJK PM presented his 100-day reform agenda which covered reforms in several key sectors, including health, education, sanitation and infrastructure. The meeting included discussions on the formation of the new Azad Kashmir cabinet and the running of government affairs. The leaders also considered key political matters and the priorities of the new AJK administration. According to sources, Nawaz Sharif gave guidance on the formation.



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Rescuers race to find thousands missing after Nepal-China glacier collapse

PEAK POINT

NEPAL: Rescuers in Nepal and China raced on Sunday to find thousands of people missing after a glacier collapse unleashed a catastrophic mudslide across the Himalayas, as they faced challenging weather conditions and rising water levels. Authorities said the death toll rose to 750 by Sunday morning, with more than 3,000 people missing on both sides of the Nepal-China border after a torrent of ice, rock, mud and debris swept through mountain valleys and rivers on Wednesday, causing widespread devastation. The Red Cross has estimated that more than 90,000 people are likely to have been affected by the disaster, which China has linked to the effects of climate change. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his Nepalese counterpart during a Saturday telephone call that the mudslide was their "most severe cross-border disaster" in recent years and that rescue operations had risen to an unprecedented level of difficulty and complexity, state broadcaster CCTV reported. Nepal's disaster authority said 734 people had died, 2,498 remained missing, and 7,514 had been rescued.

CDF Munir, Dar arrive in Turkiye ahead of first Makkah defence pact meeting

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Asim Munir and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar arrived in Turkiye on Sunday, where Pakistani, Turkish and Saudi officials are set to hold a meeting tomorrow under their trilateral defence pact. Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), in a brief statement issued in the evening, said CDF Munir arrived "in Turkiye on an official visit". Meanwhile, the Foreign Office (FO) earlier in the day said Dar, who is also the foreign minister, reached Istanbul after concluding his visit to the United Kingdom. The Turkish foreign ministry confirmed that the first meeting of the "Strategic Political and Defence Committee" established under the defence pact will be held in Istanbul on August 31 (Monday). On its side, Turkiye said its Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, Defence Minister Yasir Guler and Chief of Turkish General Staff Gen Selcuk Bayraktaroglu will participate in the meeting. While FO did not share specific details of Dar's visit — saying "official engagements" were on his itinerary — the Turkish ministry said "officials" from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were to attend the meeting. Upon his arrival in Istanbul, Dar was received by Turkish Deputy Chief of Staff for Administration Brig. General Senol Varol, Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkiye Dr Yousaf Junaid, Ambassador Cihad Enginyar of the Turkish foreign ministry.

Rulers of Muslim nations should recognise 'true enemy', says Iran's supreme leader

PEAK POINT

TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader Khamenei said on Sunday that rulers of Muslim countries should recognise what he called "the true enemy," accusing the US and Israel of being "sworn enemies" of Islamic unity.

"My emphatic and repeated recommendation to the rulers of Islamic countries, particularly those in West Asia and along the Gulf, is to identify your true enemy, understand its plan and confront it," Khamenei said in a message marking "Islamic Unity Week," according to Iran's state-run broadcaster IRTB.

Unity among Muslims is essential "for achieving the beloved and dominant Islamic civilisation," he stated. The US and Israel are "the sworn enemies of this unity and friendship," Khamenei claimed, saying that Washington and Tel Aviv are not only "enemies" of Iran but also of the "entire" Islamic world.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has described the Minab school massacre as an "eternal wound" on Iran.

PTA tells telcos to enforce uniform SIM policy

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The telecom sector regulator has directed all three telcos to implement a uniform policy on SIM expiry and recharge amounts, after finding that two telcos were not complying with the prescribed terms and conditions. A senior Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) official said consumers had lodged complaints against Zong and Telenor Pakistan, which has now been acquired by PTCL. The complainants had demanded that prepaid balance should remain valid for the entire active life of the SIM. "The complaints were that these two companies demanded that consumers maintain...

Fuel protest: JI chief warns of sit-ins in Pindi, Islamabad if permission denied for Liaquat Bagh rally

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naecum Rehman on Sunday warned of staging sit-ins in Rawalpindi and Islamabad if the administration denied permission for the party's public gathering at Liaquat Bagh.

The JI's sit-ins in provincial capitals against the petroleum development levy and rising fuel prices, launched on August 16, have entered their 15th consecutive day.

The party has also announced a nationwide shutter-down strike on September 3 against the petroleum development levy as it steps up pressure on the government.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore, Hafiz Naecum accused the administration of employing delaying tactics and refusing to grant permission to that his party was succeeding in raising public awareness.

He said a public gathering would be held in Rawalpindi later in the day and that he would also meet members of the business community.

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Three brothers killed in IED attack in Balochistan's Dukka

PEAK POINT

QUETTA: Three brothers were killed, and another person was injured when a vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED) in Dukka district of Balochistan on Sunday, Dukka Superintendent of Police (SP) Mansoor Ahmed Buzdar confirmed.

According to SP Buzdar, the incident took place in the Kili Bakhtiar Khan area of Luni tehsil when the vehicle came under attack while passing through a stream. He said four people were travelling in the vehicle for agricultural work when the explosion occurred as they crossed the stream near Kili Bakhtiar Khan. The three brothers were killed at the scene. They were identified as Rehmatullah, Daurani and Naimatullah.



SPORTS



Second Test: England beat Pakistan at Lord's to claim three-match series



PEAK POINT

LONDON: England beat Pakistan by 194 runs in the second Test of the three-match series at Lord's on Sunday, taking an unassailable lead of 2-0.

Chasing a mammoth target of 389, Pakistan were bowled out for 194 despite an exceptional 97 from Saud Shakeel, which ultimately went in vain, while opener Imam-ul-Haq did not come out to bat in the second innings due to injury.

Pakistan endured a disastrous start to their chase. Opening batter Azan Awaiz became the first wicket to fall on the third delivery of

the fifth over, with Robinson trapping him leg before wicket for six off 14 deliveries, including one boundary.

Robinson struck again on the final delivery of the same over, removing Abdullah Shafique for a duck. Pakistan were subsequently reduced to 14/3 after 7.1 overs when Jofra Archer dismissed captain Babar Azam for six off eight deliveries, with the right-hander hitting one boundary.

Pakistan then showed resilience in the second session as Shakeel produced an impressive batting display, bringing up his 11th Test half-century.

The left-hander also shared a crucial partnership for the fourth wicket with Shan Masood. Shakeel adopted a positive approach, rotating the strike effectively and keeping the scoreboard moving alongside Shan.

However, their promising 97-run partnership was eventually broken when Robinson struck for the third time in the innings. The England pacer dismissed Shan for 26, with the left-hander hitting two boundaries during his stay at the crease.

Pakistan suffered another setback soon after, with Robinson claiming his fourth wicket by trap-

ping Mohammad Rizwan leg before wicket for one off nine balls. The dismissal left the visitors struggling at 115/5 after 32.5 overs. Ali Usman provided and Shakeel some sort of support in the final session, putting together a crucial 31-run partnership before being removed by Jofra Archer for 16. Shakeel continued to fight for his side despite wickets tumbling at the other end, aiming to bring up his fifth Test century.

However, his efforts fell short when Josh Tongue dismissed him for 97 off 122 deliveries, with his innings featuring 13 fours and two sixes.

Danish Elahi leads Pakistani runners at Sydney Marathon



PEAK POINT

SYDNEY: Danish Elahi was the fastest Pakistani runner at the Sydney Marathon on Sunday, completing the 42.195-kilometre race in 3 hours, 29 minutes and 7 seconds as a sizeable Pakistani and Pakistani-origin contingent took part in one of the world's major marathon events.

Elahi finished ahead of Noshervan Nawazish Ali, who clocked 3:49:11, while Dr Rabia Naem was the fastest Pakistani woman, completing the race in 3:52:25.

Muhammad Naveed Hasan finished in 3:55:58, followed by Aamar Butt in 3:57:06 and Hira Diwan in 3:57:24.

The Sydney Marathon attracted more than 40,000 runners from more than 140 countries, according to the organisers, and is now part of the Abbott World Marathon Majors. The race takes runners across the Sydney Harbour Bridge and through some of the city's most recognisable landmarks before finishing near the Sydney Opera House.

Elahi, who was running his seventh marathon, had said before the race that he would wear shalwar kameez as part of an effort to present a positive and softer image of Pakistan.

Mohammad Amir breaks silence on Pakistan comeback ahead of 2027 World Cup



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan pacer Mohammad Amir has dismissed speculation about a possible return to the national team for next year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Amir, who officially announced his retirement from international cricket on arm pacer explained in 36 Tests, 61 ODIs December 14, 2024, that players featuring

as locals in English domestic competitions, including county cricket and The Hundred, must sign a document confirming they will not represent another country as a local player.

"I am a British local now. When you play in competitions such as the County Championship and The Hundred as a local player, you have to sign a document stating that you cannot play for another country as a local. So, the Pakistan chapter I had before is now closed," Amir said.

The 34-year-old made his international debut for Pakistan in 2009 and went on to represent the country in 36 Tests, 61 ODIs and 71 in T20Is.

Amir represented Pakistan in three ICC World Cups, featuring in the 2009 and 2010 T20 World Cups before playing in the 2019 ODI World Cup.

He took six wickets in seven matches during Pakistan's victorious 2009 T20 World Cup campaign and followed that with eight wickets in six matches in the 2010 edition.

At the 2019 ODI World Cup, Amir emerged as Pakistan's leading wicket-taker, claiming 17 wickets in eight matches. His best figures in the tournament came against Australia, when he returned 5/30.

ing 119 wickets in Tests, 81 in ODIs and 71 in T20Is.

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Conquerors, Challengers record thrilling one-run wins in U19 event



Army, Islamabad Jinns score wins in National Rugby Championship

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Army and Islamabad Jinns recorded emphatic victories as the 12th Servis Tries PRU 15-a-side National Rugby Championship 2026 continued with two more matches at the Pakistan Rugby Academy, Lahore Cantt. In the opening encounter, Islamabad Jinns produced a dominant attacking display to defeat Police 69-13. Shakir led the charge with four tries, while Kashif, Muhammad Ali and Zain contributed two tries each. Sajid and Ali Khan also crossed the line once apiece. Police managed two tries through Rizwan but struggled to contain the Jinns, who established a commanding 36-8 lead by half-time.

Army were equally impressive in the second match, overpowering Desert Camels Fort Abbas 48-5 after taking a 26-0 advantage into the interval. Mudassar,

Sadaqat and Ali were among Army's key scorers, while Ali Hassan registered Desert Camels' only try. The matches were witnessed by Pakistan Rugby Union President Rizwan Malik, Secretary Salman Sheikh, Shakeel

with opportunities to showcase their skills. He also acknowledged Servis Tries for its continued partnership with the Pakistan Rugby Union, noting that the company's consistent backing had contributed significantly to the



Malik, Moazzam Ali Shah and a large gathering of rugby players and officials.

Rizwan Malik praised the quality and competitiveness of the championship, describing the tournament as an important platform for promoting rugby and providing players

successful staging of the prestigious national championship. "The consistent support of Servis Tries has played an important role in the successful organization and continuation of this prestigious national rugby championship over the years," Rizwan Malik said.

Parry clinches first title with WTA Monterrey win





Motorway Police launches 'Be Our Eyes' campaign to curb traffic violations

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) has launched the "Be Our Eyes" campaign to promote public participation in ensuring

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compliance with traffic laws and making travel safer on national highways and motorways. Under the initiative, citizens can promptly report traffic violations witnessed during their journey.

Notifications issued over replacement, suspension of PIMS staff

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Dr. Muhammad Salman, Chief Executive Officer, National Institute of Health, Islamabad has been transferred and placed at the disposal of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, as Executive Director (BS-21) on deputation basis for a period of three years. Dr Salman will also hold the additional charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer, National Institute of Health, Islamabad till suitable arrangements are made, a notification of Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination said. An inquiry committee formed earlier under Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's directive over PIMS tragic incident, submitted its report with recommendations,



which were endorsed and the prime minister further directed for its immediate implementation. According to a set of notifications, Dr. Altaf Hussain (BS-20), Professor of ENT, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, is assigned additional charge of Joint Executive Director (BS-20), non-medical, Dr. Nuzhat Yasmeen, Professor (BS-20/Paediatrics Medicine) PIMS is assigned additional

charge of Associate Professor Paediatrics, Children Hospital and Dr. Amina, Medical Officer (BS-17), Paediatrics, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, given the charge of Senior Registrar (BS-18), Department Obs/Gynae, MCH.

They will hold the charges for a period of three months or until the availability of regular incumbents, whichever is earlier, with immediate effect and until further orders. Separately, a notification also issued placing Hassan Ashraf (BS-17), Assistant Registrar (UG), Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University as additional charge of Assistant Director Security (BS-17) for a period of three months or till availability of regular incumbent, whichever is earlier, with immediate effect and until further orders.

Opinion & Editorial

A Mother's Voice: Breaking the Silence for Her Son



Azhar Ahmad
The bond between a mother and her son is often described as one of life's most profound relationships. Beyond the instinctual acts of feeding, protecting, and comforting, a mother serves as her child's very first window into the world. Among the countless lessons she imparts, none is more transformative than teaching him how to communicate. This education does not begin with the alphabet and formal grammar; it begins in the quiet, unscripted moments of infancy and evolves into a lifelong foundation for emotional intelligence, resilience, and human connection.

The Language of the Cradle: Long before a child understands the cognitive meaning of words, a mother establishes a complex system of non-verbal communication. From the moment of birth, a mother responds to her son's cries, gauges, and subtle shifts in body language. When a baby boy fusses and his mother gently wraps her arms around him while speaking in a soft, rhythmic tones, she is teaching him a fundamental truth: his voice has power, and his environment will respond to his needs. Psychologists refer to this early interaction as serve and return. The infant serves a cue—a smile, a babble, a pointed finger—and the mother returns it with an enthusiastic expression or a descriptive word. If the boy points at a bright red ball, she doesn't just look; she validates his curiosity by saying things that is a big red ball. This simple exchange does dual work, built maps vocabulary to physical objects while simultaneously showing the boy that his interests are worth sharing. Through this delicate dance, she lays the groundwork for reciprocal dialogue, teaching him that communication is an act of mutual respect and attention.

Cultivating Emotional Literacy: As the boy grows into toddlerhood and early childhood, the nature of communication shifts from survival and basic needs to the exploration of feelings. In many cultures, young boys are subtly conditioned to suppress vulnerability. They are told to be brave or man up, phrases that often inadvertently shut down emotional expression. A mother who actively teaches her son to communicate acts as an essential counterweight to these restrictive societal scripts. She accomplishes this by building his emotional vocabulary. When her son throws a temper tantrum over a broken toy, she resists the urge to simply discipline the behavior. Instead, she helps him name the underlying storm: I see you are feeling frustrated because your truck broke. By giving a name to the abstract chaos inside him, she demystifies his emotions. Over time, this deliberate labeling teaches the boy to use words rather than outbursts to express discomfort, anger, and fear. He learns that feeling afraid and sad is not a sign of weakness, but a human experience that can be articulated, shared, and resolved through honest conversation.

The Power of Active Listening: To teach a boy how to speak effectively, a mother must first teach him how to listen. Children are meticulous observers; they learn far more from what their parents do than what they say. When a mother stops what she is doing, kneels to eye level, and gives her son her full, undivided attention, she models the art of active listening. Through this daily modeling, the son absorbs the nuances of empathy. He notices how his mother waits for him to finish his sentences, even when she stumbles over his words or takes a long time to find the right expression. He learns that listening is not merely waiting for your turn to speak, but a deliberate effort to understand another person's perspective. As he enters school and forms friendships, this learned behavior becomes his social superpower. He becomes the friend who notices when someone is excluded, the teammate who listens to instructions, and the peer who can navigate disagreements without resorting to aggression.

Bridging to the Wider World: As the son transitions into adolescence, the communication dynamic inevitably shifts. The boy who once shared every detail of his day may become guarded, retreating into the privacy of his own mind. Here, a mother's approach to communication must adapt from direct teaching to subtle guidance. Instead of interrogation, she offers a safe harbor. She initiates conversations during low-pressure moments while driving in the car, preparing dinner, and walking the dog. These side-by-side interactions reduce the intensity of eye contact, making it easier for a teenage boy to open up about complex topics like peer pressure, identity, and academic stress. During these formative years, she teaches him the critical boundaries of communication. She guides him on how to advocate for himself respectfully, when dealing with authority figures, how to voice dissent without being disagreeable, and how to navigate the digital world with digital empathy and caution. She ensures he

understands that words possess immense weight; they can build bridges or tear down reputations. A Lifelong Legacy: The definitive success of a mother teaching her son to communicate is felt long after he has grown and left the home. It manifests in the way he treats his colleagues, navigates romantic partnerships, and eventually, how he speaks to his own children. By taking the time to teach her son how to express his thoughts clearly, listen intently, and honor his emotions, a mother equips him with the ultimate tool for a meaningful life. She transforms an infant's instinctual cry into a man's articulate voice, ensuring that he can walk through the world not only understanding others, but deeply and truly understood.

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Beyond Price Notifications: A National Reset for Pakistan's LPG Market

Written by Owais Mir
The decision before the Prime Minister and the Minister for Petroleum is not what LPG should cost for one month. It is whether Pakistan will build a market capable of delivering an honest price, secure supply, and safe fuel throughout the year in a sustainable manner. For millions of households beyond the natural-gas network, as well as restaurants, small businesses, and industrial users, liquefied petroleum gas is essential energy. Yet the public debate still begins and ends with a monthly price notification—far too narrow a response to a structural market problem. A notified price cannot protect consumers when imports are weakly documented, local and imported costs create arbitrage, terminal storage is insufficient, licenses are held without serious operating capacity, and unsafe cylinders remain in circulation. References to an LPG "mafia" cannot substitute for regulation. Pakistan needs a federal market reset built around seven key decisions. Create One Transparent Pricing Framework: Pakistan needs one coherent national pricing framework for locally produced and imported LPG, without concealing their different costs. OGRA should publish source-wise price

build-ups for indigenous production, seaborne imports, and land-route imports, and determine a consumer reference price or monitored corridor from the weighted supply mix. Taxes, duties, and policy charges should be rationalised to remove unintended arbitrage, while vulnerable households should receive targeted support rather than a blanket subsidy that weakens the market signal. Curb Indiscriminate Growth of Storage and Filling Plants: More terminal storage does not justify indiscriminate growth of small storage and filling plants. Before licensing further capacity, OGRA should complete a national and provincial assessment of demand, existing utilisation, transport routes, emergency coverage, zoning, fire protection, and population exposure by digitalizing the sector. New facilities should be encouraged in underserved areas and paused in saturated locations. Pakistan should not repeat the CNG experience: unchecked expansion can produce financially distressed plants, weaker safety incentives, and coercive commercial relationships with distributors. Need-based planning protects both responsible investment and public safety. Build Strategic Storage at Terminals and Key Inland Hubs: Pakistan requires

additional storage where it strengthens national resilience: at import terminals, bonded facilities, and strategic inland hubs. An evidence-based minimum stock obligation should reflect seasonal demand, import lead times, logistics, and emergency needs, while terminal capacity should be available on transparent, non-discriminatory terms. Verified inventory and automatic measurement would allow the government to identify supply risks before shortages and price spikes reach consumers. Lock in Imports Through a Government-Supported Supply Plan: Imports should follow a rolling national demand-supply balance approved by the Petroleum Division, supported by pre-qualified suppliers, predictable procurement windows, quality verification, port and foreign-exchange coordination, bonded storage where appropriate, and an emergency mechanism before winter pressure arrives. Every imported tonne should be digitally traced from contract, customs value, and product specification to terminal receipt, and onward to end-users, giving Customs, FBR, OGRA, and the Petroleum Division one integrated record, similar to the oil supply chain. Move from ~500 Fragmented Entities to ~40

Accountable Operators: The licensing and trading universe is widely described within the industry as comprising roughly 500 entities across the chain. OGRA should publish an authoritative audit and progressively rationalise the active marketing and importing segment towards about 40 technically capable, well-capitalised, and traceable corporate operators. Renewal should depend on audited accounts, tax compliance, disclosed ownership, storage access, trained personnel, digital reporting, quality controls, and safety performance. This must be a transparent qualification exercise—not arbitrary cancellation or a route to oligopoly—with legitimate distributors remaining registered. A licensee must be an operating entity, not a tradable "plot file." Use Bulk LPG and LPG Air Mix (SNG) as Tactical Balancing Tools: Bulk LPG and synthetic natural gas (SNG) produced through LPG-air mixing can serve off-grid communities, commercial clusters, and selected industrial users, while helping manage seasonal or local shortages. They should remain tactical tools, supported by project-specific economics, safety controls, transparent tariffs, controlling deforestation/climate change effects, performance bench-

marks, and periodic review—not permanent substitutes for reform of the wider gas and LPG markets in strategic terms. Make Cylinder and Supply-Chain Safety Non-Negotiable: A substandard cylinder and attached accessories are a serious hazard. OGRA, PSQCA, provincial authorities, and law-enforcement agencies should operate one cylinder-safety programme covering approved design, manufacturer identification, digital serialisation, periodic testing, recall, and verified destruction of condemned stock. Large or non-standard cylinders should not reach consumers without certified fitness, while cross-filling, illegal decanting, counterfeit valves, and roadside filling should attract meaningful permanent penalties. Safety performance must directly affect license renewal. The Way Forward The Prime Minister should direct a time-bound LPG Market Reform Programme, led by the Minister for Petroleum and jointly delivered by the Petroleum Division, OGRA, Finance and Commerce Divisions, FBR/Customs, PSQCA, the Competition Commission, and provincial authorities. First 30 Days: Publish one national demand-supply balance, source-wise price build-up, licence audit, storage map,

and cylinder-safety baseline. By Day 60: Approve the pricing framework, import calendar, operator qualification criteria, and strategic-stock methodology. By Day 100: Launch end-to-end digital traceability, risk-based licence renewal, and a national cylinder testing and recall campaign. Next 12-24 Months: Complete qualification-based consolidation, commission priority terminal storage, enforce minimum stocks, and review SNG and bulk-LPG schemes, publishing progress on a public dashboard. Success should be measured not by notifications or licences, but by whether consumers receive safe LPG at a price reflecting real costs, winter demand is met from visible stocks, imports are traceable from invoice to end-user, and unsafe or speculative operators can no longer exploit regulatory gaps. LPG is called the poor man's fuel; that description carries an obligation to make it available, honestly priced, and safe. Pakistan does not need another isolated notification or a new policy—it needs institutional discipline from import contract to consumer cylinder in an end-to-end manner.

'They can come to Pakistan today': Khawaja Asif disputes claim of Imran's sons of expired Nicops



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Sunday said that PTI founder Imran Khan's sons — Qasim and Sulaiman Khan — could visit Pakistan "today if they wished", citing the validity of their National Identity Cards for Overseas Pakistanis (Nicops).

The government has consistently maintained that Imran's children can enter the country based on their Nicops with no visa

required. However, the sons claimed earlier this month that their Nicops have expired and accused the government of denying them visas.

In a post on social media platform X, the defence minister recalled that the ex-premier's sons had last travelled to Pakistan on their Nicops in November 2022, when the PTI founder got injured in an assassination attempt.

"They can visit Pakistan today if they wish. Both Nicops are valid," Asif stated.

He also shared partially censored Nicop numbers for both Kasim and Sulaiman, stating that the document was valid until Nov 8, 2032 for Kasim and Jan 6, 2030, for Suleman. The minister dismissed the perception

that the government was denying them visas as "incorrect", accusing Imran's family and PTI of concocting the narrative.

"Holders of Nicops can travel to Pakistan whenever they wish. There is no need for a visa," he maintained.

A day earlier, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MOIB) had addressed the potential arrival of Imran's sons, noting that they may enter the country through their Nicops, but that access to the country may not guarantee access to prison visitation.

As Kasim and his older brother Suleiman live in London with their mother and Imran's former spouse Jemima Goldsmith, they will have to travel to Pakistan to meet Imran, who is imprisoned at

Rawalpindi's Adiala jail.

In December 2025, Kasim had said that he and his brother had applied for their visas. However, in February, Kasim claimed that the government was "deliberately" refusing to process his and his brother's visas. The next month, Goldsmith made a "direct appeal" to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to grant her sons visas. In response to the appeal, Information Minister Attaulah Tarrar said that Imran's children were welcome to visit Pakistan on their Nicops. Meanwhile, Goldsmith alleged that the government was recommending that her sons travel to Pakistan on Nicops as they would have "no British protection", expressing fear that they may be arrested on arrival.

Gilani leads delegation for courtesy call on King Norodom Sihamoni

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan and Founding Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC), Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, led a delegation for a courtesy call on King Norodom Sihamoni of Cambodia in Phnom Penh on the sidelines of the 2nd ISC.

The Chairman conveyed gratitude for the King's warm hospitality and for Cambodia's successful hosting of the conference.

Gilani leads delegation for courtesy call on King Norodom Sihamoni

He said parliamentary leaders from across the world gathered in Phnom Penh, united by a shared commitment to dialogue, peace and cooperation. He noted the journey from Islamabad to Phnom Penh reflected growing



trust and shared purpose. He praised Cambodia's progress in peace, reconciliation and national unity as an inspiration.

Gilani leads delegation for courtesy call on King Norodom Sihamoni

Gilani stressed that in a world facing conflicts and economic challenges, parliaments must keep dialogue alive and build bridges among nations.

He underlined that the ISC provides a vital platform to promote peace and cooperation.

He also announced with pleasure that the 3rd ISC will be hosted by Indonesia.

CDWP approves five development projects worth Rs60.259b under Uraan Pakistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives/Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday chaired a meeting of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) that approved five development projects worth Rs60.259 billion.

The forum okayed three projects valued at Rs11.714 billion and recommended two major projects worth Rs 48.545 billion to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for consideration, a news release said.

The projects form part of the government's development and reform agenda under Uraan Pakistan, aimed at strengthening human capital, modernizing infrastructure and governance, and promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

The CDWP approved the revised project for the Establishment of Medical & Nursing College at Gilgit, worth Rs4.924 billion. While reviewing the project, Ahsan Iqbal stressed the need to expand medical and nurs-

ing education opportunities in remote and underserved areas to develop a skilled local healthcare workforce and improve healthcare delivery in rural and mountainous communities. He directed that the project be completed at the earliest, noting that it had been initiated in 2017 and faced delays due to inadequate funding.

The forum also approved the Establishment of National Defence University (NDU) FCS Campus at Defence Complex Islamabad (DCI) at a cost of Rs2.753 billion.

Ahsan Iqbal directed the relevant authorities to collaborate with the Planning Commission on research aligned with national development goals, including achieving a \$1 trillion economy and \$100 billion in exports by 2035, and to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in this regard.

He also directed that Planning Ministry staff be included in relevant training programmes for capacity building, stressing that universities should provide evidence-based solutions to national challenges through high-quality research.

Dar felicitates Turkish leadership, people on Victory Day

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Sunday, extended his heartfelt felicitations to the leadership, the Government and the brotherly people of Turkey, on the auspicious occasion of the 104th anniversary of Victory Day.

"We join our Turkish brothers and sisters in celebrating this historic victory and honor the memory of Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and all the heroes and martyrs of Turkey's War of Independence, and salute the enduring spirit of the Turkish nation," the DPM/PM said in a post on X.

He further said Pakistan and Turkey are bound by an exceptional bond of brotherhood, founded on mutual trust and deep-rooted affection between our peoples, adding their bilateral relationship had continued to evolve into a comprehensive and multifaceted partnership.

He prayed that the enduring bonds of friendship between Pakistan and Turkey might continue to grow from strength to strength!

Naqvi's security drive delivers results as Islamabad declared safer than London and Toronto

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's hard work day and night has paid off, as Islamabad has been declared the 83rd safest city out of 401 cities in the World Safety Index.

Islamabad has become a safer city than London, Moscow, Toronto, Glasgow and Istanbul.

According to data, Islamabad recorded 27 percent reduction in crime during 2026. Suspects involved in all murder cases reported this year were arrested, and 100 percent success was achieved.

Important murder cases, including Group Captain Asim Tariq, H-9 triple murder and businessman Amir Awan, were successfully solved. Many important cases, including the Al Falah



Bank robbery, were solved in a short period of time through professional investigation. More than 14,645 cases were registered during anti-crime operations. More than 887 absconders from justice, 1,595 habitual criminals and 944 declared suspects were arrested.

As many as 1,144 drug peddlers were arrested under the 'Nasha Ab Nahi' campaign, and a large quantity of drugs were recovered. As many as 1,592 accused were arrested for illegal weapons possession.

Steps afoot to revive sick industry, ensure ease in businesses, easy access to finances: Haroon Akhtar

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Adviser to Prime Minister (Federal Minister) for Industries & Production Haroon Akhtar Khan has said on Saturday that government was taking several steps to promote industrialisation, revive sick industrial units, reduce the cost of doing business and provide easier financing to the private sector.

He said new policies were being prepared for Battery Energy Storage Systems, solar panels, mobile phone manufacturing, electric vehicles, agricultural machinery, fertiliser, automobiles and other sectors. The aim, he added, was to promote local manufacturing and reduce



dependence on imports. He said a new Auto Policy was also in its final stages, which would include special incentives for electric two-, three- and four-wheel vehicles. He was talking to business community here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI). Federal Secretary Industries Saif Anjum, SMEIDA Chief Executive Officer Nadia Jahangir.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal chairs the CDWP meeting, where five development projects worth Rs. 60.259 billion were considered, with three approved and two recommended to ECNEC.

Ethiopian coffee arrives in Islamabad as first Habesha Café opens in twin cities

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Ethiopian coffee entered Pakistan's café scene on Sunday with the launch of the first dedicated Ethiopian coffee café in Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

The opening ceremony, led by Ethiopia's Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Oumer Hussien Oba, highlighted cultural links and growing people-to-people connections between the two countries.

The new café, named Habesha, was inaugurated in the presence of members of the Ethiopian community, embassy officials and media



representatives. The event began with a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony, introducing guests to one of

Ethiopia's most recognized cultural traditions.

Speaking to journalists after the ceremony,

Ambassador Dr. Oumer Hussien Oba said the opening marked the arrival of Ethiopian coffee in Pakistan

through the first café of its kind in the twin cities.

He noted that Ethiopia is widely known as the birth-

place of Arabica coffee and described the launch as an opportunity to share the country's heritage with Pakistani consumers.

The ambassador said the project carries added importance because it is owned by an Ethiopian-Pakistani couple, reflecting growing ties between the people of both nations. He added that the café's name, Habesha, is linked to Ethiopia's historic identity and is familiar to many Pakistanis due to their respect for Hazrat Bilal Habashi (R.A.) and King Nejaishi, who provided refuge to early Muslim migrants during the First Hijra.