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Pakistan, Kazakhstan agree to expand cultural cooperation, heritage exchanges

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Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye sign tripartite defence agreement in Makkah

PEAK POINT

SAUDI ARABIA: Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye on Friday signed a joint defence pact in Makkah that empowers member states to treat an attack against one of them as an attack against all of them.

The Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, which seeks to strengthen the collective security of the three states, was signed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Saudi Crown Prince and PM Mohammad bin Salman, and Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the "Makkah Al-Mukarramah Summit for Joint Defence" held at Al-Safa Palace.

The three countries announced the signing of the agreement in a joint statement

published by the Foreign Office (FO) and Saudi Arabia's official SPA press agency.

The statement said the pact reflected the three countries' "shared commitment to further strengthening their collective security and to promoting peace, security, and stability in the region and beyond, in pursuit of a secure and prosperous future".

"The agreement is intended to strengthen collective deterrence against any act of aggression, and stipulates that any armed attack against any one of the three states shall be regarded as an attack against them all." It also "provides for the enhancement of all aspects of defence cooperation" among the three countries, the statement added.



MAKKAH: Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Mr Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkiye signed the Makkah Joint Defence agreement.

10 terrorists killed in 2 separate operations in KP: ISPR

PEAK POINT



RAWALPINDI: The military's media affairs wing said on Friday that 10 terrorists were killed in two separate engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa a day earlier.

Public Relations (ISPR) said the terrorists belonged to Indian-sponsored Fitna al Khwarij — a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan. It said that in the first encounter, a group of terrorists attempted to attack security forces' checkpoints in Azam Warsak area in South Waziristan. "The attempt was effectively thwarted by own troops. During ensuing fire exchange, eight khwarij were sent to hell through effective and precise engagements by own troops," it said. "In another encounter that took place in Dir district, own troops successfully neutralised two more khwarij," it added. ISPR said that weapons and ammunition were also seized from killed terrorists, who remained "actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area". It said sanitisation operations were being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

Trump signs orders to limit US birthright citizenship, despite Supreme Court ruling

MAHPARA ZAMAN



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump signed two executive orders on Thursday in a new but narrower attempt to curtail birthright citizenship, once again challenging a provision of the US Constitution even though the Supreme Court rejected his previous effort.

Limiting birthright citizenship has been one of the top priorities in the Republican president's crackdown on immigration, with the White House taking particular aim at what it calls "birth tourism," in which pregnant foreigners travel to the US to give birth. After his June 30 setback in the Supreme Court, Trump called on Congress to act, but on Thursday he opted for executive orders, which set policy but do not carry the same weight as laws passed by Congress.

The Supreme Court had struck down as unconstitutional Trump's earlier executive order, which targeted a wide swath of immigrants in the country illegally or temporarily. The administration argues the new directive falls outside the purview of the Supreme Court ruling, as it seeks to reinterpret the narrow, historical exceptions to citizenship at birth and expand who is ineligible. "That practice of birth tourism is, as of the signing of this order, hereby banned," White House aide Stephen Miller said at the Thursday signing ceremony in the Oval Office.

The Centre for Immigration Studies, which supports lower levels of immigration, estimated in an analysis in 2020 that between 20,000.

Pakistan urges renewed commitment to South Sudan peace process, emphasizes fair election

PEAK POINT



UNITED NATIONS: Amid an escalating political and security crisis in South Sudan, Pakistan has called for recommitment to the Revitalized

Peace Agreement, stressing that successfully completing the country's democratic transition hinges on holding fair elections.

"Elections remain an important element in bringing the transition to a legitimate conclusion," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the UN Security Council on Thursday, noting that the political, legal, security and financial requirements necessary to hold them remain outstanding. "These gaps need to be filled," he stressed. At the same time, the Pakistani envoy voiced serious concerns regarding the deteriorating political tensions, inter-communal violence, and ongoing hostilities in regions like Jonglei and the Upper Nile.

"We call on all parties to implement an immediate and sustained cessation of hostilities, refrain from inflammatory rhetoric and return to dialogue."

Schedule for 3rd phase of AJK polls revised over law and order concerns

PEAK POINT

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Election Commission on Friday revised the schedule for the third phase of elections in the region, saying polling would only be held in Poonch Division's Bagh and Haveli districts on August 10 amid concerns over the law and order situation. Elections are being held across AJK in three phases amid tensions between protesters and the authorities. Polls in Mirpur and Muzaffarabad divisions were held on July 27 and August.

UNSC condemns Swat suicide blast after Pakistan sounds alarm on Afghan terrorist havens

PEAK POINT

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on Thursday strongly condemned the suicide bombing in Swat last week, calling it a "heinous and cowardly" terrorist attack after Pakistan warned the body that multiple terrorist groups continue to operate from safe havens inside Afghanistan.

In a press statement issued by the Office of the UN secretary general's spokesperson, the council said it condemned "in the strongest terms" the "heinous and cowardly" suicide attack outside the police station in Swat's Kabal on Aug 2.

"This reprehensible act of terrorism resulted in the grievous loss of at least 16 Pakistani nationals, mostly

civilians, and injuries to dozens of others. Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has claimed responsibility for this terrorist attack," it added.



i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has claimed responsibility for this terrorist attack," it added.

The UNSC also expressed solidarity with Pakistan, saying, "The members of the Security Council express their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the government and the people of Pakistan, and wish a

speedy and full recovery to those who were injured."



The statement reaffirmed the international body's longstanding position that terrorism "in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security".

It further stressed the importance of bringing those responsible to justice, declaring: "The members of the council underlined the need to

hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice."

They urged all UN member states, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant UNSC resolutions, to cooperate actively with the government of Pakistan in this regard. The council also reiterated that "any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed" and reaffirmed that all countries must combat terrorism in accordance with the UN Charter and international law, including international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

JI protests cause traffic disruptions across Karachi

PEAK POINT



KARACHI: Several major thoroughfares in Karachi were blocked or affected by traffic disruptions on Friday as Jamaat-i-Islami held protest sit-ins in the city as part of a nationwide demonstration against the petroleum levy. A day earlier, the party announced that it would stage sit-ins at 510 locations across the country by blocking major roads.

In a traffic advisory issued, the Karachi traffic police warned that traffic flow could be affected due to the protests and sit-ins, with slow-moving traffic, temporary diversions and partial road closures expected on several major thoroughfares. The affected areas included Mazar-i-Quaid, Numaish Chowranghi, Saddar, Sharee Faisal.



SPORTS



Tapmad secures exclusive rights to stream Pakistan's domestic cricket season



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Tapmad has acquired the live streaming rights from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for the 2026-27 men's and women's domestic cricket season in a move aimed at expanding digital access to Pakistan's domestic competitions.

Under the agreement, Tapmad will stream live matches throughout the season, while the Tamasha app will serve as the company's official syndication partner.

As per the agreement, more than 250 domestic fixtures will be

made available to cricket fans through the two digital platforms.

The live coverage will include the National Champions Cup, the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Gold and Silver competitions, and the President's Trophy.

The National T20 Cup, along with Under-15, Under-17 and Under-19 tournaments, will also be broadcast live.

Women's domestic cricket will receive extensive coverage under the agreement. Fans will be able to watch the Women's

One-Day Tournament, the

Women's T20 competition and the Women's Under-19 T20 Championship live throughout the season.

PCB Commercial Director Dr Ali Adnan Zaidi welcomed Tapmad's investment, describing it as an important step towards increasing the visibility of domestic cricket.

He said the partnership would help strengthen the game's digital presence and make competitions more accessible to supporters.

Usama Sharron, Senior

General Manager for Domestic Cricket, said the initiative would play a significant role in introducing domestic cricket to a new generation of fans.

Tapmad Chief Executive Officer Yasir Pasha said domestic cricket is the foundation of Pakistan's success and deserves world-class digital coverage.

Both organisations said the partnership between Tapmad and Tamasha is expected to increase viewership and bring Pakistan's domestic cricket to a wider audience across the country.

South Korea beat Pakistan 6-2 in final match



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: South Korea defeated Pakistan 6-2 in the fourth and final match of the series, but the Green Shirts secured the series 3-1 after winning the opening three fixtures.

The Pakistan hockey management fielded several Under-21 players in the last fixture as part of its long-term development strategy, giving young talent valuable international exposure and experience ahead of future competitions.

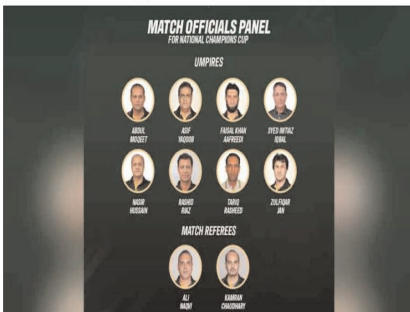
The hosts made an aggressive start, scoring two goals in the first quarter to take early control of the match.

South Korea extended their dominance in the third quarter with three more goals before adding another in the fourth quarter to seal a convincing 6-2 victory.

Pakistan managed to score once in the second quarter and added another goal in the third, but the hosts were unable to recover from South Korea's commanding lead.

Despite the defeat in the final match, Pakistan emerged victorious in the four-match series with an overall 3-1 triumph.

PCB announces match officials for National Champions Cup in Multan



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced the panel of match officials for the National Champions Cup, which will be held at Multan Cricket

Stadium from 11 to 18 August.

The tournament will feature seven List A matches, with each fixture scheduled to begin at 3pm.

The PCB has appointed two match referees and eight International Cricket umpires to oversee the

International Panel of Match Referees.

The umpiring panel includes ICC International Panel umpire Asif Yaqoob, along with Faisal Afridi, Nasir Hussain and Rashid Riaz Waqar, who will officiate during the tournament.

The remaining umpires appointed for the competition are Abdul Muqet, a member of the PCB International Panel, as well as Syed Imtiaz Iqbal, Tariq Rashid and Zulfiqar Jan.

The PCB said the experienced panel of officials will supervise all matches during the week-long tournament as domestic teams compete for the National Champions Cup title.

Aisam and Aqeel power Pakistan into ITF Masters World Team C'ship final



Bangladesh says star cricketer Shakib will not play again after Hasina event

PEAK POINT

BANGLADESH: Bangladesh said on that Friday former star cricketer Shakib Al Hasan had no prospect of returning to play after he joined a media event with ousted former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, a convicted fugitive. Shakib joined the event by telephone in New Delhi on Wednesday, where Hasina addressed journalists, two years after she was forced from power following a deadly crackdown on student-led protests.

Bangladesh Minister for Youth and Sports Aminul Haque said the government had previously taken a more open approach towards Shakib, who was a lawmaker for Hasina's former ruling Awami League party.

Shakib, who is currently in Sri Lanka, was among dozens facing murder investigations for a deadly police

crackdown on protesters that toppled Hasina's government.

"We had been looking at the matter with considerable flexibility and tolerance. After this, I do not think there is any room to think

played more than 400 international matches and represented Bangladesh at five World Cups.

Rights groups have long accused Hasina's former administration of abuses including the murder of



that way anymore," Haque said in a statement. "Someone who has taken the stage with the autocrat no longer has any opportunity to return." Shakib, 39, is Bangladesh's most successful cricketer and one of the country's best-known sporting figures. He has

rivals, suppression of opposition parties, rigged courts and one-sided elections.

A court in Dhaka found Hasina guilty in absentia in November 2025 of crimes against humanity and sentenced her to be hanged. She remains in hiding in India.

Waseem mulls overseas camp for next fight





Photo exhibition highlights Pakistan's rich cultural heritage, Minister announces Rs 500,000 grant for RIPJA

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi on Friday announced a grant of Rs. 500,000 for the Rawalpindi-Islamabad Photo Journalists Association (RIPJA) and said the Ministry would sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the association to jointly promote Pakistan's culture and heritage.

Photo exhibition highlights Pakistan's rich cultural

heritage, Minister announces Rs 500,000 grant for RIPJA

He made the announcement while inaugurating the 16th Annual Photo Exhibition, titled "Culture & National Heritage of Pakistan - Our Identity, Our Pride," organised by the Rawalpindi-Islamabad Photo Journalists Association (RIPJA) in collaboration with Al-Sadat Group at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

The event was attended by Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence Senator Talha



Mahmood, Chairman Al-Sadat Group Syed Sadaqat Shah, Ambassador of the Philippines to Pakistan Dr. Emmanuel R. Fernandez and was presided over by RIPJA President Sajjad Haider. A large number of senior photo-

journalists, media professionals and guests also attended the exhibition.

Speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister Aurangzeb Khan Khichi said Islamabad was home to more than 10 officially recognised heritage

sites that reflected the rich history and cultural legacy of the region.

He said the Ministry had launched restoration and conservation projects to protect these landmarks for future generations, adding that these heritage sites were not merely monuments but a vital part of Pakistan's identity and national pride.

The minister announced a grant of Rs 500,000 for RIPJA and said an MoU would be signed between the Ministry and the association to work together for the promotion of Pakistan's culture

and heritage through photography, public awareness and preservation initiatives.

Senator Talha Mahmood described photojournalists as the "eyes of the nation" and appreciated their professional commitment.

He announced that he would provide the necessary equipment for the RIPJA media room to facilitate the work of photojournalists.

Chairman Al-Sadat Group Syed Sadaqat Shah praised photographers for capturing powerful images and projecting Pakistan's culture in a positive light.

Senate opens MDCAT review after rising concerns over admission test system

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD/KARACHI: The Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) system came under fresh parliamentary scrutiny as the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination decided to examine complaints related to the examination process and the functioning of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC). The Committee decided to visit

the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council and review issues linked with MDCAT after concerns were raised regarding student complaints and the regulatory body's response mechanism. Senator Anusha Rehman Ahmad Khan informed the Committee that the report of the MDCAT Sub Committee would be submitted shortly, after which further discussion would take place. During the meeting, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri highlighted complaints regarding the responsiveness of the Public

Relations section of PMDC towards students. She recommended that the concerned PMDC officials should also be called in the upcoming meeting to explain the situation and address student concerns. The meeting was held in Karachi under the chairmanship of Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti. It was attended by Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, Senator Nadeem Ahmed Bhutto, Senator Nasir Mehmood Butt and Senator Anusha Rehman Ahmad

Khan through Zoom. Federal Minister for National Health Services Syed Mustafa Kamal, Sindh Labour Minister Saeed Ghani and senior health officials also attended the meeting. The Committee's decision to examine MDCAT matters comes as thousands of medical students depend on the admission test for entry into medical and dental colleges. Members stressed that student concerns must be properly heard and that institutions responsible for medical education should

maintain transparency and effective communication with candidates. Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri's concerns focused particularly on the communication gap between PMDC and students. The Committee decided that relevant officials should appear before it so that complaints could be examined and solutions could be discussed. The Senate Committee also reviewed other health-related matters during the meeting, including HIV response, pharmaceutical

pricing and trainee doctors' issues. However, on MDCAT, the Committee kept its focus on reviewing the Sub Committee report and understanding the challenges faced by students during the admission process. The Committee directed concerned organizations to submit progress reports on discussed matters before the next meeting, keeping transparency and improvement of health-care education systems as a priority.

Opinion & Editorial

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Political path ahead

The incarceration of Imran Khan, in defiance of the jail manual, is now becoming a source of irritation and embarrassment. The former PM's sons, Kasim and Sulaiman, have once again flagged the issue as they went on to elucidate on international media that their father is being held "incommunicado", and that the orders of the relevant courts are being thrown to the wind. The PTI chief is allegedly being held in solitary confinement for the last eight months, and has also been denied access to family, lawyers and personal physicians. Moreover, the scions of Khan stated that the express orders allowing them to have telephonic conversation twice a month is also not forthcoming, nor are they being granted a Pakistan visa to see their jailed ailing father. Last but not least, the family's request to have Imran treated at a private hospital is also not being entertained despite orders from the superior judiciary for abidance as per law. This long list of grievances places the government on the wrong side of the law. Apart from deepening mistrust with the opposition, it has resulted in furthering political instability. The PTI's protest campaign on Khan's completion of his third year in prison is gradually stirring unrest. Just the other day, a rally in Karachi was tear-gassed and scores of workers arrested.

Pakistan's privacy debate

Salma Khan

EVERY discussion about data protection in Pakistan reaches the same conclusion: we still don't have a comprehensive data privacy law.

Technically, that's true. The Personal Data Protection Bill has sat in draft form since 2018, and after years of delay it's easy to assume Pakistan's approach to data governance is on hold.

That assumption can now be challenged.

While attention stayed fixed on the stalled privacy bill, another development moved far faster. In late June, the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT) released the draft National Data Governance Policy 2026 for public consultation. That consultation closed on July 10. This week, MoITT and the Pakistan Digital Authority (PDA) held a high-level meeting, chaired by Federal Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja, to finalise the policy ahead of cabinet approval and gazette notification.

It isn't law yet, but we cannot treat it as a mere policy draft either.

Many Pakistani tech companies already maintain strong governance practices because foreign clients demand it. The policy isn't a privacy law, it doesn't tell private companies how to collect or use their customers' data. Instead it focuses on something narrower but, in many respects, more conse-

quential: government data. That distinction matters because government data rarely stays inside the government.

Across Pakistan, private companies build digital services for public agencies, host government systems, operate call centres, manage cloud infrastructure and process citizen information on the state's behalf. Many businesses think of themselves as serving a government client; fewer recognise they're becoming part of its data governance framework.

The finalised policy makes that explicit. Its obligations extend beyond ministries and departments to contractors, processors, concessionaires, grantees and other entities processing government data or performing public functions for the federal government. For many technology companies, compliance won't begin with a regulator knocking; it begins with revised procurement requirements and contractual terms. Pakistan's privacy debate has largely been framed around one question: when will parliament finally pass a comprehensive data protection law? The finalised policy raises an equally important one that's already here: how should organisations manage government-held information when governance obligations arrive through contracts rather than legislation?

The answer has practical consequences. The policy classifies government data by

sensitivity and restricts where certain categories may be stored or processed. It tightens controls on cross-border transfers of sensitive information and expects contractors to notify PDA, the body designated to enforce the framework, promptly following qualifying security incidents. Citizens also gain visibility into who accessed their data and why, making audit trails more than good internal practice, none of it dependent on a private-sector privacy law. It flows instead through the relationship between the state and the organisations it works with.

One detail from this week's meeting stands out. PDA Chairman Dr Sohail Munir was clear the policy does not centralise government data or permit unrestricted sharing. Ownership stays with individual entities; a new mechanism, the WASL framework, enables secure exchange between them based on classification and governance standards, not a single pooled database. That's a more federated, realistic model than many expected, a sign the drafters were listening during consultation. This reflects a broader shift in how governments think about data. For years, information collected by public bodies was treated as just another operational asset. The finalised policy takes a different view, describing government data as a strategic national asset held in trust for the people.

Courtesy Dawn

Quetta mine tragedy-a warning for Pakistan

Syed Mohammad Ali

Barely a week after the recovery of the final bodies from the Sorange coal mine near Quetta, Pakistan's latest mining disaster is already fading from the headlines. Yet the deaths of 34 miners should not simply become another statistic. As with previous mining disasters, expressions of grief, promises of investigations and compensation for bereaved families have followed. The real test, however, is whether this tragedy finally prompts the reforms needed to improve mining conditions in the country.

The HRC's 2022 fact-finding report, 'Beneath the Surface: Rights Violations in Balochistan's Coal Mines', documented hazardous working conditions, weak labour protections and the limited livelihood options facing coal miners in the province. It pointed out how shortages of trained mine inspectors, infrequent inspections and weak enforcement of safety regulations have allowed these dangerous conditions to persist.

The HRC's recommendations were neither radical nor prohibitively expensive. They included strengthening the Mines Inspectorate capacity and effectiveness, ensuring adequate ventilation and continuous methane monitoring, improving emergency response capacity, extending social security protections to miners, and ratifying the ILO's Convention on safety and health in mines. Till today, most of these recommendations remain only partially implemented.

The Quetta tragedy, therefore, reflects a broader governance failure. Nonetheless, the government has increasingly identified critical minerals, including rare earth elements, as strategic resources capable of attracting foreign investment and strengthening industrial development. Our decision-makers view these resources as an opportunity to position Pakistan within rapidly evolving global supply chains amid the energy transition and intensifying geopolitical competition.

Courtesy Tribune

Pakistan, Kazakhstan agree to expand cultural cooperation, heritage exchanges



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi on Friday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening cultural diplomacy and people-to-people contacts with Kazakhstan as he held a farewell meeting with Kazakhstan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin, to discuss expanding bilateral cooperation in culture, heritage, education and tourism. Welcoming the Ambassador, the minister appreciated his valuable contributions to pro-

moting Pakistan-Kazakhstan cultural relations during his tenure and expressed confidence that the close cooperation established between the two countries would continue under his successor.

The meeting reviewed ways to further strengthen collaboration in cultural heritage preservation, educational cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

Ambassador Kistafin highlighted the deep historical, cultural and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Kazakhstan, as well as the wider Central Asian region, stressing the

need to revive and further strengthen these longstanding relations. He expressed optimism that direct flights between Kazakhstan and Pakistan would commence next year, facilitating greater tourism, trade and cultural exchanges. He also highlighted Kazakhstan's educational cooperation with Pakistan through scholarship opportunities for Pakistani students. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi said that, as agreed between the two sides, the visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Kazakhstan is expected to take place next year, providing an important opportunity to further expand bilateral cooperation.

The Ambassador informed the minister that Astana is home to several renowned cultural institutions, including the Opera Theatre, Ballet Theatre and National Theatre, and proposed organizing joint cultural performances during the Prime Minister's visit.

He said performances by artists and musicians from both countries would symbolize.

Naqvi sets sept 30 deadline for completion of Islamabad Safe City expansion

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, accompanied by Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, visited the Islamabad Safe City Headquarters on Friday and chaired a special meeting to review progress on the Safe City Expansion Project, directing officials to complete the ambitious initiative by September 30.

During the briefing, officials informed the minister that overall work on the expansion project has reached 85 percent completion. Installation of the new surveillance network is also 85 percent complete, while 415 kilometres of optical fibre have been laid to support the upgraded system. Work on the data centre, cyber architecture, and cybersecurity infrastructure has also reached approximately 80 percent completion. Expressing satisfaction over the pace of work,



Naqvi stressed that the remaining tasks must be completed within the stipulated timeframe. He said the government's vision is to transform the Islamabad Safe City into a modern, smart, and world-class institution comparable to those in developed countries. The interior minister said the technologically advanced Safe City system would significantly strengthen public safety through enhanced surveillance, effective monitoring, and rapid emergency response capabilities.

He noted that the project would play a vital role in improving law enforcement.

Ahsan urges institutions to seize AI revolution, transform education, healthcare

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday urged institutions to rapidly build their capabilities in artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies, saying the country had a historic opportunity to "catch up" with the developed world as AI was set to bring revolutionary changes across every sector of life. Addressing the 1st International Dental Conference organised by Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University, the minister said the world was undergoing an unprecedented transformation driven by knowledge, innovation, the dig-



ital revolution and artificial intelligence, which he described as a change "greater than the invention of the internet."

"When such a major transformation takes place, it becomes an equaliser," he said, adding that nations that adapted quickly to new technologies emerged as winners, while those that failed to build new capabilities were left behind. "This is Pakistan's opportunity to catch up for the lost time by embracing the new technological."

Rich tribute paid to Justice Musarrat Hilali on her retirement as Judge SCP

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A Full Court Reference was held at the Supreme Court of Pakistan Friday in honour of Justice Musarrat Hilali on the occasion of her laying down the robes of judicial office, marking the culmination of a distinguished and illustrious judicial career.

Rich tribute paid to Justice Musarrat Hilali on her retirement as Judge SCP

The Reference was attended by the Judges of the Supreme Court, the Additional Attorney General, representatives of the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Pakistan Bar Council, senior members of the legal fraternity, officers of the Court, media representatives, and other distinguished guests. Addressing the gathering, the Additional Attorney General, the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, and the Vice Chairman of the Pakistan Bar Council paid glowing tributes to Justice Hilali's professional integrity, judicial acumen, and unwavering commitment to the administration of justice. They acknowledged the respect and admiration she earned across the Bench and the Bar through her principled

conduct, independence, and distinguished service, and conveyed their heartfelt best wishes for the next chapter of her life. In his address, the Chief Justice of Pakistan paid rich tribute to Justice Hilali, describing her judicial journey as one defined by courage, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to justice. He observed that her career was remarkable not only for the high judicial offices she adorned but also for the barriers she broke and the enduring example she set for generations of lawyers, particularly women aspiring to leadership within the legal profession. The Chief Justice further observed that Justice Hilali's career stands as a beacon of the growing participation and leadership of women in Pakistan's justice sector. Her professional journey, the CJP noted, demonstrates that integrity, dedication, and professional excellence remain the true hallmarks of judicial leadership and can inspire future generations of women to pursue careers of distinction in law and justice. He also acknowledged Justice Hilali's valuable contributions to strengthening the principles of judicial responsibility.



ISLAMABAD: Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan and Judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and Judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan presenting the bouquet to Ms. Justice Musarrat Hilali on eve of laying the robes of office at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Petroleum Levy on diesel still below pre-Gulf crisis level: Khurram Schehzad

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Petroleum Levy (PL) on diesel remains lower than its level before the Gulf crisis, as the government had temporarily reduced the levy to provide relief to consumers amid a sharp rise in international diesel prices, said Adviser to the Finance Minister, Khurram Schehzad here Friday.

Schehzad posted on X that the temporary reduction was aimed at preventing the full impact of higher global oil prices from being passed on to transporters, farmers, and other diesel users.

He noted that the revenue estimates for the current fiscal year, approved by the National Assembly, are based on an average Petroleum Levy rate of Rs80 per litre on both diesel and petrol.

"Meeting these revenue targets is essential to finance budgeted expenditures and maintain fiscal stability," Schehzad said.

The adviser added that as international oil prices ease, a gradual restoration of the levy toward its budgeted level.

Women University Mardan holds first M.Phil Viva in Islamic Studies

PEAK POINT

MARDAN: The Department of Islamic Studies at Women University Mardan successfully conducted the M.Phil thesis viva voce examinations of its first batch, marking an important academic milestone for the department. The successful scholars were Ms. Tehmina Begum, Ms. Quratlain, Ms. Ayesha, and Ms. Nadra, who successfully completed the final requirement for the award of the M.Phil degree. The department appreciated the dedicated supervision of Dr. Maryam Noreen and the valuable evaluation by Dr. Khadija Aziz, External Examiner. Dr. Rashida Parveen, Head of the Department of



Islamic Studies, congratulated the successful scholars and expressed sincere gratitude to the Honorable Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Razia Sultana, for her continuous encouragement and support in promoting academic excellence and research. She also wished the scholars continued success in their future academic and professional endeavors.

No dialogue resumption proposal in meeting with Tariq Fazal & Amir Dogar: NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has stated that he had not extended any invitation to Opposition for resumption of talks or negotiations with the government during his meeting with MNA Malik Muhammad Amir Dogar on Thursday. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that his meeting with Malik Muhammad Amir Dogar and Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhary was also present on the occasion.

The meeting was held in connection with matters relating to the upcoming session of the National Assembly. He further, stated that no discussion or proposal regarding the resumption or initiation of dialogue between the treasury and opposition benches took place during the meeting. During an informal interaction with Media on Friday, NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that he had only asked for the names of Opposition members who would participate in the Independence Day ceremony "Apart from this, there was

no other conversation," he clarified. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq further stated that if any discussion regarding negotiations had taken place between Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhary and Malik Muhammad Amir Dogar, he was not aware of it. NA Speaker said that he had made multiple efforts in the past to facilitate dialogue between the government and opposition and had now stopped extending invitations for talks. "I have become tired of extending invitations for negotiations," he said. Speaker Sardar Ayaz

Sadiq also noted that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif had also repeatedly invited the opposition to engage in dialogue on the floor of Parliament. NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq emphasized that every issue could ultimately be resolved through sitting together and finding common ground, but dialogue could not take place merely through statements made in the media. "Dialogue requires sitting together at the table," he observed. Regarding the parliamentary committee consti-

tuted in the past in connection with political dialogue, the Speaker said that the opposition members whose position had led to the formation of the committee had not approached him with any request for its restoration. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also observed that the PTI have chosen its Leader of the Opposition with the expectation that he would engage in negotiations, but perhaps he had not been granted permission in this regard. Responding to a question regarding the staff attached to PTI chairpersons

of standing committees, the Speaker said that the staff would be returned if the respective committee chairpersons relinquished it, and the National Assembly Secretariat would utilize the staff accordingly. NA Speaker also reiterated his willingness to meet the Leader of the Opposition. He said that if the Leader of the Opposition did not wish to come to his chamber, he could come to a committee room instead, adding that he himself would vacate the chamber to facilitate the meeting. However, Speaker Sardar Ayaz.