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Syrian Ambassador calls on SAPM/MoS Fahd Haroon

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PM directs survey of properties for loans under Apna Ghar Scheme

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed the provincial chief secretaries to conduct a comprehensive survey of properties that could be made available for providing loans to people seeking to build homes under the Prime Minister's Apna Ghar Scheme. Chairing a review meeting on access to finance plan 2026-28, the prime minister said that providing affordable housing to low-income and middle-class segments was the government's top priority. During the meeting, the prime minister was informed that 147,504 applications had so far been received under the Prime Minister's Apna Ghar Scheme, of which 53,127 applications have been

approved. The total value of approved applications under the Prime Minister's Apna Ghar Scheme stands at Rs313.42 billion, while loans amounting to Rs45.43 billion have been disbursed to 8,739 applicants. A system is being developed to identify plots across the country that meet mortgage requirements, with Islamabad serving as the pilot city, the meeting was informed. It was informed in the meeting that an effective mechanism will be devised to involve renowned housing developers in the process to further streamline the Apna Ghar Scheme. The prime minister stressed the banks and financial institutions to play their role in extending loans to farmers, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and the housing sector.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on Access to Finance for Agriculture, Housing and SMEs sector.

Pakistan welcomes UK-led sanctions on illegal Israeli settlements in occupied West Bank: FO

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday welcomed the United Kingdom-led decision to impose trade sanctions on Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, saying that the illegal settlements undermined efforts towards a two-state solution, the Foreign Office (FO) said. UK imposed the trade measures on Tuesday, alongside Canada and France. The decision was announced by British Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband, who accused the Israeli government of turning a "blind eye" to what he called "ethnic cleansing" by settlers in the West Bank. Meanwhile, a joint statement by the foreign ministers of 12 nations, including Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden, also expressed an intention to follow suit and stressed that the Israeli government's actions in the West Bank undermined the possibility of a two-state solution. In a statement on its X account, the FO welcomed the decision and said: "The continued expansion of illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory constitutes a blatant violation of international law as well as relevant UN Security Council resolutions."

Iran attacks American base in Jordan, ships near Hormuz after US hits oil tankers

PEAK POINT



TEHRAN: Iran's Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) said it fired ballistic missiles at a base in Jordan used by the US military and attacked 10 ships on Wednesday, after the US said it had destroyed five Iranian oil tankers, in a sharp escalation of the six-month-old war. Increased attacks by both the US and Iran have shattered a month of relative calm, hitting military, shipping and energy assets, sending oil prices surging and drawing in regional allies in recent days. The US military's Central Command posted video of the strikes, which it called a response to IRGC targeting a US Navy warship twice with ballistic missiles over the previous two days. No Americans were harmed, the US said. "Iran continues to try to hit US naval ships, and for every time they do that or try to do that, they're going to lose tankers," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters during a visit to Colombia. Iran then carried out a ballistic missile attack on a base used by US forces near Al Azraq in Jordan, according to an IRGC statement on state media. Although Iran said its missiles inflicted heavy damage, Jordan said its air defences intercepted 18 of the 20 Iranian missiles, with two falling in unpopulated areas, and that there were no casualties. A US official said Iran's strikes in Jordan were ineffective and all American troops were accounted for. The IRGC said on Wednesday it also attacked 10 ships, including two US Vessels.

Asif warns Makkah defence pact could become operational after Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has cautioned that the tripartite Makkah Defence Alliance between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye could become operational if there was a "spillover" of the conflict in Yemen into Riyadh. The development comes as Yemen's Houthi rebels launched attacks on oil installations in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, injuring 73 people. Meanwhile, the defence pact, signed on Aug 7, aims to strengthen collective deterrence and empower its signatory states to treat an attack against one of them as an attack against all of them. Asif answered in the affirmative, saying there was no "ambiguity" as the pact stipulated that aggression against one party was equivalent to aggression against all. "This is a joint defence pact. And unprovoked aggression or spillover of whatever is happening in Yemen into Saudi Arabia, definitely, the pact will become operational; there should be no doubt in this," he said. "We are bound by the terms and conditions of this pact."

ATC blocks passport, issues non-bailable arrest warrants against PTI minister

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: An Anti-Terrorism Court in Islamabad on Wednesday ordered the passport of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) provincial minister Meena Khan Afridi to be blocked and seized in connection with a May 9 case. Meena Khan is wanted in a case registered in Islamabad over the May 9 incidents. The court also issued non-bailable arrest warrants for the PTI leader after finding that he had deliberately remained in hiding to avoid arrest. Following the court's order, proceedings to place Meena Khan's passport on the blacklist.

Security forces kill 11 terrorists during IBOs in Balochistan's Kharan, Washuk districts: ISPR

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed 11 terrorists and recovered 2.9 tonnes of explosives in separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Balochistan's Kharan and Washuk districts, the military's media affairs wing said on Wednesday. According to a statement by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the security forces conducted the IBOs in Kharan and Washuk on September 6 and 7, respectively, on the "reported presence of terrorists belonging to Indian proxy, Fitna al Hindustan and neutralised 11 Indian-sponsored terrorists". The state has designated Balochistan-based groups as Fitna al-Hindustan to highlight India's alleged role in terrorism and destabilisation across Pakistan. ISPR said terrorists attempted to establish a roadblock in Kharan

and disrupted local traffic on Sunday. "The security forces

ISPR said, adding that security forces recovered 2.9



promptly intercepted and engaged the terrorists, whereby, killing eight Indian-sponsored terrorists," it added. The forces conducted another "deliberately planned" IBO in Washuk district on Monday on reports of the presence of terrorists, the statement said. "During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively busted terrorists' hideout and after an intense fire exchange, three terrorists were sent to hell,"

tonnes of explosives being used for preparing improvised explosive devices (IEDs). It further said that sanitisation operations were being conducted to eliminate "any other Indian-sponsored terrorists" found in the area. ISPR reaffirmed that the security forces and law enforcement agencies would continue the "relentless counterterrorism campaign" under Azm-i-Istehkam, approved by the Federal

ECP disqualifies opposition's three former MNAs over failure to declare assets



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday disqualified the opposition benches' three former members of the National Assembly (MNAs) for failing to submit their statements of assets and liabilities. The disqualified former lawmakers are Zartaj Gul, Sahibzada Muhammad Hamid Raza and Abdul Latif Chitrali. According to the Election Commission, action was taken against the three former MNAs for failing to submit the required Form B detailing their assets and liabilities. The ECP announced its decision under an order dated August 7, 2026. The commission ruled that the three former lawmakers will remain barred from contesting elections until they submit the required statements of assets and liabilities.



SPORTS



Pakistan collapse to 100-7 against England in third Test



PEAK POINT

BRIMINGHAM: Pakistan slumped to 100-7 at lunch on the opening day of the third Test at Edgbaston on Wednesday after yet another dramatic collapse during their sorry tour of England.

Pakistan, already 2-0 down in the three-match series, made four changes to the side that suffered a heavy 194-run defeat in the second Test at Lord's, after which head coach Sarfaraz Ahmed was sacked.

But they again had few answers to the new-ball duo of Ollie Robinson and Jofra Archer, Ayub was out for a duck, lbw to a before Josh Tongue got in on the

act, as the England quicks made the most of helpful, overcast conditions after home captain Joe Root won the toss.

Pakistan were in desperate trouble at 26-4 inside 10 overs but Saud Shakeel, fresh from his 97 at Lord's, held firm with an unbeaten 37. Robinson, a thorn in Pakistan's side throughout the series, made the initial breakthrough in a miserly return of 2-9 in eight overs, with Archer (2-18) and Tongue (3-23) also impressive.

Pakistan's latest slump started when recalled opener Saim Robinson and Jofra Archer, Ayub was out for a duck, lbw to a before Josh Tongue got in on the

32-year-old took his 100th Test wicket. Express quick Archer then undid Azan Awaish with a short ball the opener could only lob to a diving Tongue at midwicket.

Abdullah Shafique nicked Robinson to gully and Pakistan, yet to make 200 in any of their four previous innings this series, were four wickets down when the experienced Shan Masood holed out, tamely attempting to pull Archer.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam, without a Test century in nearly four years, was dismissed for just seven, clean bowled by an excel-

lent Tongue delivery that jagged back off the seam.

The tourists had now lost five wickets in 15 overs and were 64-6 when wicketkeeper Ghazi Ghori, one of three debutants in the side along with Mohammad Imran and Razaullah, was lbw to Tongue for four.

And there was still time for Pakistan to lose their seventh wicket when Tongue bowled Imran for five with a brilliant yorker that broke a stump.

But Razaullah flayed the last ball of the session, from Tongue, over cover for four to bring up the 100.

IPC, PSB and FBBA join hands to promote school Basketball



MUHAMMAD HARIS

SPAIN: The Inter Provincial Coordination Ministry Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) and Federal Basketball Association (FBBA) have joined hands to promote basketball at the school and grassroots levels.

A specialized basketball training programme for more than 62 female sports teachers from schools under the Federal Directorate of Education was held at the Pakistan Sports Complex, Islamabad.

The participants received training in basketball fundamentals, rules, coaching techniques and practical drills under the guidance of former international player and Pakistan Basketball Federation Coaches Board member Umer Mahmood.

The programme was conducted under the supervision of PSB Deputy Director General Mumtaz ul Haq, in line with the vision of IPC Secretary Mohyuddin Wani and PSB Director General Yawar Hussain.

FBBA President Ejaz Butt and Secretary General Ouj E Zahoor extended their support for the initiative, which aims to equip teachers with modern coaching skills, increase student participation and help identify young basketball talent at an early age.

Reshuffled Pakistan seek fightback against dominant England at Edgbaston



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will face a daunting challenge at Edgbaston when they take on England in the third and final Test today (Tuesday), with the hosts targeting a series clean sweep and the visitors fighting to salvage pride after a troubled campaign that has extended well

beyond their disappointing performances on the field. England have already wrapped up the three-match series with commanding victories in the opening two Tests, leaving Pakistan desperate for a response in Birmingham. For the visitors, the final Test offers an opportunity not only to avoid a 3-0

whitewash but also to begin rebuilding confidence after a turbulent period marked by poor performances, disciplinary concerns and sweeping changes to the squad.

Newly appointed red-ball coach Mike Hesson has been handed the difficult task of reviving Pakistan's fortunes at short notice.

Several players were sent home following an internal disciplinary review, forcing Pakistan to make major changes to their combination ahead of the decisive encounter. Captain Babar Azam will be under particular pressure to lead from the front. His return strengthens Pakistan's batting, but the former world No. 1 batter will need substantial support from the rest of the top order if Pakistan are to challenge England's formidable attack. Pakistan's batting has been their biggest weakness in the series. They have failed to reach 200 in any of their four innings, while England's pace attack has consistently exposed their technical shortcomings.

Zheng shocks Swiatek as Gauff, Rybakina reach US Open quarters



Indian hockey back to blue after anger over orange kit



British-Pakistan racing champion helps set up Lando Norris' British Formula 4 team

PEAK POINT

LONDON: British-Pakistani former Formula racing champion Enaam Ahmed has teamed up with top Formula championship giants to launch a new junior racing initiative to attract more young people towards the sport.

Ahmed helped launch Formula 4 project with business partner Daniel Hazlewood, which began in September 2025 and grew into LN4 Fusion, the new junior racing team co-founded by Formula 1 superstar Lando Norris.

With the team preparing for its first season in 2027, Ahmed said its Cambridge workshop was up and running, with three Formula 4 cars ready to race. He has been involved with the project since the early stages and has helped Hazlewood coordinate the Formula 4 side of the operation.

Ahmed described Hazlewood as the original founder of Fusion and said their main focus had been on getting the British Formula 4 team up and running. "Daniel and I started in September 2025 with the

Formula 3, Italian Formula 4 and Formula Regional in 2027 and has also applied to enter Formula 2.

Ahmed believes the move into Formula 2 could be close. "I think the team is on the cusp of Formula 2, I think



Formula 4 team in the UK. We were just focused on setting that up. But we had no idea that it would develop so fast and have many more investors come on board to do Formula 3 and aim for Formula 2 also," he told Geo News.

LN4 Fusion is now preparing to compete in it is very close and nearly there," he said. The team's main European headquarters will be in Veneto, Italy, alongside an operation in Cambridgeshire, Britain. A British Formula 4 testing programme is already running, with a championship entry planned for the future.



Ensure democracy group's success for traders' Unity and Rights: Says Agha Shiraz

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A dinner was hosted by Salma Barkat in honour of Democracy Group Chairman Agha Shiraz Basharat, candidates of the group and members of the Islamabad business community in connection with the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) elections. A large number of trader leaders, Democracy Group candidates and executive members attended the gathering. Arian Shiraz, son of Agha Shiraz, had the honour of reciting Naat in praise of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Addressing the gathering, Agha Shiraz Basharat said the business community of Islamabad was passing through an important phase and there was a need to rise above group differences, personal interests and politics of positions and give priority to the collective interests of traders. He said the Chamber of Commerce was not the property of any individual or group but an institution representing the entire business community. "Those claiming to represent traders should strengthen unity, consultation and democratic traditions instead of creating divisions



within the business community," he said. Agha Shiraz said differences of opinion were part of democracy and should not be treated as enmity, but no compromise could be made on the collective interests of the business community. He said traders were already facing serious difficulties due to rising

taxes, increasing electricity and gas costs, business-related challenges and government policies. In such circumstances, he said, the business community should set aside its differences and jointly raise its issues with the government. "Our struggle is not against any individual; it is for the rights

of traders. Whoever stands for the unity, dignity and rights of the business community, the Central Organisation of Traders of Pakistan will stand with them," he said. Democracy Group Secretary-General Mirza Nasir Yaqoob welcomed the participants and said the primary objective of contesting the chamber elections was to resolve the longstanding problems faced by traders and effectively safeguard the interests of the business community. He urged traders to use their votes wisely and support Democracy Group candidates to bring about positive change in the chamber. Other speakers at the dinner, including Abdul Qudus Swati, Aziz Malik, Muhammad Rizwan, Tabish Mehboob Jutt, Sardar Munir, Sardar Amjad Khan, Farrukh Saeed, Raja Bilal Zahid, Mukhtar Abbas, Asif Mahmood, Sheikh Saleem, Muhammad Hashim Rashid, Taimur Shafiq, Asad Mahmood and Syed Mustaneer-ul-Hasni, also stressed the need for greater coordination and unity among traders and joint efforts to address the business community's problems.

Only 16 of 43 sports federations submit long term plans

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: Only 16 of Pakistan's 43 recognized national sports federations have submitted their long term development plans, raising concern over the slow progress of a programme launched to build a stronger sports system for the next 10 to 12 years. The figures were discussed at a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Inter Provincial

Coordination, chaired by Senator Dilawar Khan, at Parliament House on September 9, 2026. The Long Term Athlete Development Programme was launched by the Pakistan Sports Board in March 2026. The programme is designed to move sports federations away from depending on yearly grants toward long term plans covering grassroots talent, coaching and sports science. According to the brief-

ing, 16 of the 43 recognized national sports federations have so far submitted their plans to the Joint Monitoring Committee for review. The Senate committee also reviewed the draft National Sports Policy 2026, but its consideration was deferred because the draft is still being examined by all provinces. The committee decided to take it up after receiving and including the views of all provinces. The committee

also examined a Rs25.347 million project for a Multipurpose Sports Complex and Padel Courts in Faisalabad under the Public Sector Development Programme. Members were briefed on the procurement process and told that two technical bidders had qualified following an evaluation by NESPAK. The committee called for smooth and timely execution of the project so that the facility could benefit

the public. The committee also discussed the need for better coordination between the federal government and provinces regarding sports facilities and access to venues. Chairman Senator Dilawar Khan directed that the Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination and provincial Chief Secretaries be called to future meetings to help resolve regional issues and improve coordination. The chairman and com-

mittee members also directed the Secretary of Inter Provincial Coordination to ensure the minister attends upcoming meetings, stressing that the minister's presence is important when major national issues are discussed. The committee noted that matters before the forum can include important issues such as wheat supply across the provinces, and said the minister should be present to provide timely briefings.

Opinion & Editorial

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Hidden barriers

Naween A. Mangi

PAKISTAN is the fifth most populous country in the world. Nearly seven million babies are born in Pakistan each year — approximately 19,000 every day. The urgency of family planning is difficult to exaggerate. Yet the scale of the crisis can tempt us into believing that the solution is simple: create awareness, provide contraceptives and persuade couples to have fewer children. The reality in Pakistan is far more complicated.

When my organisation began facilitating family planning services in villages in Larkana district, we initially referred women to a government reproductive health services centre in Larkana city. There, they could receive contraceptives or undergo tubal ligation, a permanent method commonly described as having one's 'tubes tied'. The services were free. At one stage, women were even offered a few hundred rupees as an incentive to undergo tubal ligation. On paper, the system appeared accessible. In practice, getting through it could become a test of endurance.

A woman would travel from her village to Larkana, only to be told that she first needed a medical test. She would have it done and return a week later. This time, she might be told that the doctor was absent and she should come again. On her next visit, there could be

another administrative or medical impediment. For a middle-class urban patient, a postponed appointment is an inconvenience.

For a poor rural woman, it may end the process altogether. Every visit requires transport money, permission or cooperation from her family, arrangements for the children left at home and the sacrifice of an entire working day. She may need someone to accompany her. If she or her husband is a daily-wage worker, the household also loses income.

Family planning programmes must be designed around the woman's complete journey.

We then changed our approach. Instead of referring women and expecting them to negotiate the system themselves, we began taking them through the process. Our team picks up the woman from her village in our vehicle and takes her to the facility. We handle documentation and consultation so that the procedure appears less daunting and is completed that day. We also provide nutritional support and take her back home. A team member visits the following day to check on her recovery and ensure that she receives the pain relief, antibiotics or other medicines prescribed by the doctor. Further visits are made for wound care and the removal of sutures.

This is what access actually looks like in a rural setting. The procedure may be free, but reaching it is not.

Someone must bridge the distance between the village and the hospital, help the woman navigate the institution and remain responsible for her aftercare. We were once told that the Population Welfare Department had vehicles available to transport women. Yet that arrangement never worked reliably for our patients. We were told the vehicle has been deployed elsewhere, needs repair or will only come if several women meet at one location. A vehicle listed in a departmental inventory is meaningless if a woman cannot depend upon it on the day she needs it.

Transport and bureaucracy, however, are only part of the difficulty. The deeper barriers are social. We encountered cases in which doctors refused to perform tubal ligations on women who had no sons, only one son, or a son younger than 10. When questioned, the doctors described cases in which a woman underwent sterilisation and later lost her only son to illness or an accident. Her family then expected her to produce another boy. If she could no longer conceive, her husband might marry again, diminishing her status and security within the household. Some women later returned, desperate to have the sterilisation reversed. Reversal is complex, expensive, available only at specialised centres and does not guarantee that fertility will be restored.

Courtesy Dawn

New toy, old system

Sunya Sheikh

AN AI-generated ad infiltrates our screens while we gorge on our meals, before the YouTube video we selected begins. Synthetic faces have become routine. WhatsApp groups stay afloat on nonsensical AI-generated videos, fabricated news and scams. Older generations absorb it, then turn it into frantic family text chains that keep everyone on edge over whatever catastrophe entered the group that week.

Trivial as these scenes seem, they point to a larger question of regulation once someone moves past harmless absurdity into using AI in a more sinister manner: unfortunately, no longer hypothetical. It doesn't take a magnifying glass to see how AI has become woven into everyday work life, private or public: reports, presentations and visuals are now routinely produced through a simple prompt. Supervisors know the tells by now: the same over-polished phrasing and suspiciously immaculate structure, appearing again and again; graphs arrive with misspellings, labels float awkwardly over visuals, and AI-generated ads produce faces that resemble real people while still looking like glossy caricatures of them. What makes this odd is that almost everyone seems to know what is happening, yet very few people seem inclined to say much about it. The arrangement is convenient enough to keep everyone complicit. Yet convenience disguises erosion: people gradually stop practising the skills they were hired for, because a prompt can reduce the work itself to something trifling: another passable document produced merely to survive the next soul-devouring meeting. That is where Pakistan's enthusiasm for AI begins to look premature. The National AI Policy 2025 promises to train one million people and produce 10,000 trainers, while the Islamabad AI Declaration, adopted in February 2026, calls for explainable systems, human accountability and institutional oversight.

Courtesy Tribune

The checkmate moment

HOUSING brinkmanship is driving the region toward a major conflict. The Yemeni militia's coordinated attacks on several cities in southern Saudi Arabia targeted critical energy installations, undermining the world's top oil exporter. Though Riyadh branded the strikes a dangerous escalation, it has shown statesmanship by remaining committed to diplomacy. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan told his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, that the "road to diplomacy is not closed", while Lavrov warned the conflicting parties that the ongoing situation has "no military solution". This collective wisdom has fortunately led to a breakthrough, as Qatar has reportedly reached out to Iran, and Pakistan has once again emphasised to Turkey, Egypt and other Gulf states the dire necessity of returning to the negotiating table. The situation on the ground, however, is getting chaotic as oil prices hit a new high. With the Strait of Hormuz subjected to gunboat diplomacy, Centcom reports that more than 94 commercial vessels have been forced to reroute from the waterway. This coincides with intermittent drone strikes by both the US and Iran against each other's strategic installations. Consequently, Brent crude rose by a dollar to \$98 per barrel.

Ahsan calls for taking devolution to grassroots as benefits remain elusive after 15 years



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said the benefits of devolution had not reached the grassroots over the past 15 years, stressing the transfer of powers and resources to local governments for effective service delivery and development.

Addressing the national inception workshop and launch of the Technical Working Group on "Integrated Land & Water Use Planning," he said devolution itself was not the problem, but its implementation had stopped at the provincial level.

"It is not that devolution was wrong; it should have been devolution. The whole world is being devolved," the minister said, stressing that powers should also flow from provinces to district and municipal governments. He said the 18th Amendment had devolved substantial responsibilities to the provinces in 2010, but local governments were not given corresponding powers and resources. "If you give a local gov-

ernment a responsibility, but there is no power or resources behind that responsibility, then that responsibility becomes a burden," he remarked. Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan needed a development ecosystem based on effective coordination between the federation and provinces, coupled with empowered local institutions capable of translating national priorities into improved services and outcomes. He said this was particularly important for agriculture, which remained a key driver of the national economy and a major source of livelihoods, food security and export potential. Despite its agricultural resources, Pakistan had become a net agricultural importing country, importing around \$4.5 billion worth of agricultural products annually, he noted. The minister said the country needed to move from dependence on agricultural imports towards becoming a food-exporting economy by improving productivity and fully exploiting its land and water resources.

Law minister directs faster verification process for overseas Pakistanis' passports, documents

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Wednesday directed the relevant authorities to make the verification process for passports and other essential documents of overseas Pakistanis faster, easier and more efficient.

He was chairing a meeting of the Committee on Passport Rules attended by officials from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Passport Department and other relevant institutions.

The Federal Minister said overseas Pakistanis were a valuable asset of the country and stressed the need to further improve existing procedures to facilitate them.

He directed development of an integrated system for timely verification of travel documents and other essential documents of overseas Pakistanis, while making the record verification process quicker and simpler.

Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar directed that a clear timeline be prescribed for record verification and an electronic mechanism be developed at the Ministry of Interior to enable queries and necessary actions to be processed electronically at the earliest.

He emphasized minimizing human interaction in the verification process and proposed introduction of a one-window verification portal.

The Federal Minister also directed preparation of proposals for necessary amendments to rules and regulations aimed at facilitating overseas Pakistanis.

He further directed the relevant institutions to present a clear course of action and procedure at the next meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar chairs a meeting of the committee on Passport Rules, officials from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Passport Department and other relevant authorities are also present.

Interior Ministry's official summoned over non-payment of compensation to judicial complex blast victims

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday summoned the Joint Secretary (Administration), Islamabad Capital Territory, along with the relevant record on September 15 in a case concerning non-payment of compensation to victims of the suicide attack on the Islamabad Judicial Complex.

Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir heard a petition filed by Advocate Muhammad Asif Gujjar



seeking compensation for the victims and their families.

The Deputy Commissioner's Office informed the court that no separate funds had been allocated for payment of compensation to the families of those killed in the

attack. The court was told that compensation cheques had been distributed among families of people killed and injured in the Tarlai Imambargah blast. The Chief Commissioner's Office had also been approached through a letter for allocation of funds for the judicial complex blast victims.

The petitioner's counsel, Tassaduq Hanif, informed the court that the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad had again stated in its response that funds

were not available.

The State Counsel told the court that compensation to the victims of the Tarlai Imambargah blast had been paid after funds were provided by the Ministry of Interior.

The court observed that it had initially considered summoning the Interior Secretary but decided to call the Joint Secretary (Administration), ICT, along with all relevant record.

The court adjourned further hearing until September 15.

Naqvi inaugurates upgraded Aabpara Police Station, calls for better public service

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday inaugurated the upgraded Aabpara Police Station after the completion of its renovation and reconstruction, marking another step in the ongoing improvement of police stations in the federal capital. During his visit, the minister toured different sections of the police station and reviewed the facilities available for citizens. He inspected the Station House Officer (SHO) office, Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC), inquiry office, waiting area, and other sections. He also examined the services being provided to visitors at the station's public counters. Mohsin Naqvi expressed satisfaction with the facilities arranged for complainants and members of the public. He also met members of the Dispute



Resolution Committee and appreciated their role in resolving public issues through dialogue and mediation.

Speaking on the occasion, the interior minister said the purpose of the project was to provide people with a modern, respectful, and public-focused policing environment. He emphasized that every possible effort should be made to address the concerns of citizens who visit police stations for assistance. The minister directed police officials to ensure action on every complaint submitted by citizens.

Gilani meets former federal ministers, PPP representatives

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Wednesday held separate meetings with former federal ministers Senator Noor-ul-Haq Qadri and Senator Azam Khan Swati at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

During the meetings, matters relating to the overall law and order and political situation in the country were discussed.

A delegation of PPP representatives from South Punjab also called on the Acting President and apprised him of matters pertaining to their respective areas.

The delegation comprised



Barrister Mudassir Shah, PPP ticket-holder for MPA from Multan, Imdad Ullah Abbasi, District President PPP Lodhran, and Zaman Langrial, PPP ticket-holder from Kabirwala, Khanawal. Later, Ali Umar Alvi also called on the Acting President and discussed matters of mutual interest.

DPM Dar, NA Speaker discuss matters regarding parliamentary affairs, pending govt legislative business

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Speaker, National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Wednesday discussed matters relating to the Parliamentary Affairs and the pending government and private members legislative business in the National Assembly.

The speaker National Assembly and the deputy prime minister met at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a DPM's Office news release said.



The DPM/FM underscored the importance of a strong & effective Parliament in strengthening Pakistan's democratic institutions and highlighted the need for close coordination among the parliamentary parties on the matters of national interest.

WUM organizes free training program in cybersecurity and cloud computing

PEAK POINT

MARDAN: The Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), Women University Mardan, organized a Free Training Program in Cybersecurity and Cloud Computing under the Digital Economy and Skill Center (DESC), Mardan. The program aims to equip students with modern, in-demand, and industry-relevant digital skills. The training is being offered under Batch-II and focuses on the emerging fields of Cybersecurity and Cloud Computing. The initiative is being facilitated with the collaboration of Mr. Naveed Yousafzai from PIE-TECHNOLOGIES & SNSKIES and Mr. Ghulam Serwar, Project Manager, DESC.Ms. Haleema Ikram, Director ORIC, Women University Mardan, appreciated the



collaborative efforts and emphasized the importance of digital skills for students' professional development. The initiative is being organized under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana, Vice Chancellor, Women University Mardan, who continues to promote innovation, technology, and skill development opportunities for students. The program reflects Women University Mardan's commitment to preparing students for emerging opportunities in the rapidly evolving digital economy.