



Dar reviews preparations for ECO COM to be held on Nov 15-16



CDWP clears seven projects worth Rs116bn under Uraan Pakistan



Commerce minister, Hong Kong chief executive reaffirm stronger trade, economic cooperation

Founded By:
(Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
Website: www.peakpoint.pk

Executive Group Editor
Arif Mehmood Khan



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PM directs effective measures to boost agriculture production, explore new international markets

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday stressed that effective coordination and partnership between the federal and provincial governments was essential for increasing per-acre agricultural productivity, introducing innovation in agriculture, developing the livestock sector and promoting agricultural exports.

Chairing a high level meeting on promotion of agriculture sector and enhancement of agriculture exports, the prime minister directed that coordinated measures be taken to expand access for Pakistani agricultural products to international markets and explore new markets. He directed commercial officers posted at Pakistan's missions abroad to play

an effective role in promoting agricultural exports. He also directed that an effective media campaign be launched to raise awareness among farmers about the mobile application available for monitoring crops.

The prime minister said value addition in agricultural products was essential for increasing exports from the agriculture sector.

He said that the agriculture sector played a key role in the growth and stability of Pakistan's economy.

Proposals were presented at the meeting for the development of the agriculture sector and promotion of agricultural exports.

The meeting was informed that Pakistan's agricultural exports stood at US\$5.18 billion during the last financial year.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a high level meeting on promotion of agriculture sector and enhancement of agriculture exports.

Opposition holding consultations to call all parties-moot on creation of new provinces, other issues: Gohar

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: The opposition said on Friday that they intended to hold consultations to call an all-parties conference to discuss several issues, including the creation of new

provinces, law and order and the economy.

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan announced this while speaking to the media after a meeting of his party with Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F).

"We decided that on all national issues, we will take political parties into confidence," he said, adding that "the current law and order situation, the economy, inflation, lawlessness, and the creation of new provinces' issue" called for an all-parties conference. Gohar termed the meeting a positive development and expressed hope that the consultations will continue.

According to a statement issued by the Tehreek-i-Tahaful Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TTAP), the PTI delegation met with the JUI-F chief at his residence, where the two sides held detailed discussions on the proposed all-parties conference and PTI's September 27 protest call. The two sides also discussed "strengthening of the country's."

Iran welcomes US admission of damage to 5th Fleet headquarters in Bahrain

PEAK POINT



TEHRAN: Iran on Friday welcomed the acknowledgement by a senior US Navy official that Iranian attacks had severely damaged the headquarters of the US Navy's 5th Fleet in Bahrain.

"We appreciate the candour of Acting Navy Secretary Hung Cao," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on the US social media company X.

"Our powerful Armed Forces did indeed 'blow the hell out of the 5th Fleet HQ in Bahrain,' as well as other bases supporting US aggression," he said. "The American people deserve better than footing the bill for Israel's wars," Araghchi added. Cao reportedly acknowledged that Iranian attacks caused extensive damage to US naval facilities in Bahrain, according to The Epoch Times.

Iranian forces "blew the hell out of Bahrain," the outlet quoted Cao as saying in an interview, in a rare high-level acknowledgement of the extent of damage sustained by Naval Support Activity Bahrain, headquarters of the US 5th Fleet.

Cao said damage to the base also affected operations involving the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier, leaving the crew with "no place for them to pull in." Open-source and satellite imagery analyses previously indicated substantial damage to US facilities in Bahrain during Iranian attacks early in the war.

Yemen's Houthis reach strategic island at mouth of vital Bab el-Mandeb shipping lane

PEAK POINT



SAUDI ARABIA: Yemen's Houthi rebels reached the strategic island of Perim in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait on Friday, four Yemeni government sources

told Reuters, moving to tighten their grip on a vital global shipping route in the widening Middle East war.

Earlier, two sources from the internationally recognised Yemeni government said its forces had pulled out of Perim and that the Houthis had also taken the mainland Red Sea coastal town of Dhubab, which faces the island.

If the Houthis gain control of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which is on the opposite side of the Arabian Peninsula from the Strait of Hormuz, it could give Iran a critical advantage in its war with the US, reducing supplies through a second major transit corridor and sending oil prices surging.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter and a close US ally, has relied on the Red Sea route since the Iran conflict effectively closed the Hormuz, through which a fifth of global oil used to flow.

Security forces foil terrorists' attempt to abduct DC Tump's security squad

PEAK POINT

MAKRAN: A swift action by the security forces personnel has thwarted an attempt by the terrorists of Fitna al-Hindustan to target the security team of Tump Deputy Commissioner in Makran Division.

According to the security sources, the response of the security forces was prompt to save the Tump DC's protection squad. The terrorists of Indian proxy Fitna al-Hindustan targeted the deputy commissioner's vehicle and tried to abduct his security squad. However, they fled the scene after troops rushed.

Pakistan calls for resumption of diplomacy in Middle East

PEAK POINT

NEW YORK: Pakistan has called the recent upsurge of violence in the Middle East as "quite unsettling" for the peace prospects in the region, emphasizing the resolution of all outstanding issues through diplomatic engagement.

Pakistan Permanent Representative Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad told the 15-member United Nations Security Council during a debate on Thursday: "Given the necessary space, diplomacy can still deliver results."

Pakistan, the ambassador said, has pursued diplomatic engagement in support of de-escalation, ceasefire and broader pursuit of stability in the region.

Convened by France, the Council President for

September, Thursday's session reviewed the work of



the 1737 Sanctions Committee concerning Iran, under the "Non-Proliferation" agenda item. The 1737 Sanctions Committee was established by resolution 1737 (2006), with a requirement to report to the Council every 90 days. Prior to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran's nuclear programme, which the Council

endorsed through resolution 2231 (2015), these

briefings took place every three months under the "Non-Proliferation" agenda item. Resolution 2231 (2015) had suspended all prior sanctions resolutions on Iran, including resolution 1737 (2006), rendering the 1737 Committee and its reporting requirement defunct. In August 2025, France, Germany and the United Kingdom — the

"E3" parties to the JCPOA — then triggered the agreement's "snapback" mechanism to reimpose UN sanctions on Iran.

In his remarks, Ambassador Asim Ahmad reaffirmed Pakistan's support for the resolution of all outstanding problems through peaceful means, diplomatic engagement and sustained dialogue, saying renewed violence and breakdown of diplomacy have also impacted the consideration of the Iran nuclear issue, including by the Security Council.

Pakistan, he said, has been undertaking constructive diplomatic engagement in supporting de-escalation, ceasefire, and the broader pursuit of stability in the region. "Through sustained interaction at the leadership level.

Afghan terrorist Obaidullah among four killed in Kurram operation

PEAK POINT

KURRAM: Security forces personnel have killed four terrorists, including wanted Afghan militant Obaidullah



Saad, in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Kurram District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Security sources said the operation was conducted on September 8, 2026, adding that Saad, son of Ghulam Ghaus Salehi, was a resident of Shahi Qila village in Afghanistan's Logar province. Meanwhile, the CTD said it had announced a reward of Rs12 million for information leading to Inman, alias Abu Bakr's, arrest or whereabouts. He was affiliated with the banned "Fitna al-Khawari" group and involved in multiple acts of terrorism in Pakistan. The operation also resulted in the deaths of three of his associates. Security forces said operations against hostile elements infiltrating Pakistan from Afghanistan would continue without discrimination.



SPORTS



England dismiss Pakistan's Masood to close on victory in 3rd Test



PEAK POINT

BIRMINGHAM: Shan Masood was dismissed for a battling 95 as Pakistan dug deep to avoid an England win inside three days in the third Test at Edgbaston on Friday.

The experienced batsman led a rescue operation alongside Azan Awaiz as the tourists passed 200 for the first time in the three-match series at the sixth attempt.

Masood was in sight of an eighth Test hundred when he fell down to a sensational slip catch by Dan Lawrence off the bowling of Gus

Atkinson.

The much-changed visitors are showing belated grit in Birmingham at the end of a turbulent series but have almost no chance of avoiding a humiliating 3-0 whitewash.

Pakistan lost two wickets without scoring a single run on Thursday before opener Awaiz settled in alongside Masood, putting on 125 for the third wicket.

Their partnership was broken on Friday when Awaiz was caught down the leg-side by stand-in wicketkeeper Jordan Cox off the bowling of spinner Lawrence for

59, which brought captain Babar Azam to the crease.

The skipper, who missed the first Test with an injured hand, batted fluently to reach his fifty off 76 balls, with eight boundaries.

Pakistan were 246-4 at the end of the 55th over, with Azam 51 not out and Saud Shakeel unbeaten on 14, trailing by 74 runs.

Ollie Robinson has been the pick of England's bowlers so far, taking 2-36 in his 19 overs.

England had bowled Pakistan out for a meagre 133 on the opening day at Edgbaston before making 453 at a brisk pace to leave

victory looking almost inevitable.

Joe Root's side have dominated the series, winning the first game by an innings and 103 runs and the second by 194 runs.

The hapless tourists have lurched from one crisis to another during their ill-fated tour, which seems certain to end in a 16th Test defeat in 21 matches.

They released seven players and sacked head coach Sarfaraz Ahmed and assistant Umar Gul after the second Test defeat, making four changes to their side in Birmingham.

Danish Atlas sets sights on LA Olympic glory



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Squash star Danish Atlas Khan has set his eyes on the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, determined to win a medal for Pakistan when the sport makes its historic Olympic debut. The 32-year-old, who is currently training in the United States, said he is leaving nothing to chance in his preparation. "I'm training eight hours per day," Danish said. "That includes high intensity squash training, physical conditioning, strength training, and also working on endurance. The focus is to be at peak fitness and match sharpness when Los Angeles comes around," he told APP from the US on phone. The recipient of Pakistan's highest civil honour, the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, Danish has recently been crowned champion of the Burlington Squash League 2026 in the United States. He delivered an impressive performance throughout the league, showcasing his experience, fitness and exceptional squash skills against strong local competition. The victory adds another achievement to an already distinguished international career and has boosted his confidence as he balances tournament play with his Olympic focused training regimen.

Wasim Akram urges club cricket revival after England losses



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram on Friday called for the revival of club cricket and greater consistency in team selection, saying talent must be developed through the domestic structure after the Green Shirts' losses to England in the ongoing Test series. Speaking to the media in Lahore, Akram said the PCB should allow its newly

no action had been taken.

"Whatever the shape but the red-ball coach, even if you see the best coach, I [Gary] Kirsten, the talent you have is the same," Akram said.

He said the team needed consistency but criticised the repeated selection of the same players. "The team should have consistency, but the same boys keep coming and going," he added.

Stressing the need for revival of club cricket, Akram said: "Talent has to come from club cricket." He urged the PCB to invest Rs100 million each in Karachi and Lahore for cricket and stressed the importance of a strong grassroots structure.

He said Pakistan suffered defeats against Bangladesh in both home and away series, warning that the "alarm bells were already ringing" but the former captain

said Pakistan's white-ball team was in good shape but the red-ball team remained a concern.

"White-ball is fine, but red-ball is not. We face difficulties in that," he said.

Discussing the pace attack, Akram said bowlers needed to be allowed to develop before firm judgments were made. "Bowling one delivery at 150 kilometres per hour is not a major achievement, while maintaining 140kph throughout the day is exceptional," the "Sultan of Swing" added. Akram also questioned Shaheen Afridi's reduced pace, calling him an experienced bowler and saying England needed players of his experience.



President Pakistan Football Federation, Syed Mohsen Gilani addressing a press conference on "FIFA football for Schools" official launch in Pakistan at local hotel.

Tennis: Sabalenka-Rybakina head-to-head record before US Open final

PEAK POINT

LONDON: The head-to-head record of Aryna Sabalenka and Elena Rybakina, who meet in the US Open women's final on Saturday: Aryna Sabalenka (BLR x1) v Elena Rybakina (KAZ x2) Sabalenka leads 10-7 (year, winner, venue, round, surface, score) 2026 Aryna Sabalenka Miami Open SF Hard 6-4 6-3 2026 Aryna Sabalenka Indian Wells Final Hard 3-6 6-3 7-6 (8/6) 2026 Elena Rybakina Australian Open Final Hard 6-4 4-6 6-4 2025 Elena Rybakina WTA Finals Riyadh Final Lhard 6-3 7-6 (7/0) 2025 Aryna Sabalenka Wuhan Open QF Hard 6-3 6-3 2025 Elena Rybakina Cincinnati Open QF Hard 6-1 6-4 2025 Aryna Sabalenka Berlin Ladies Open QF Grass 7-6 (8/6) 3-6 7-6 (8/6) 2024 Elena Rybakina WTA Finals Riyadh RR Lhard 6-4 3-6 6-1 2024 Aryna Sabalenka

Mutua Madrid Open SF Clay (13/11) 6-4 2023 Aryna Sabalenka Australian Open Final Hard 4-6 6-3 6-4 2021 Aryna Sabalenka



Lahore Qalandars welcome Zimbabwean cricketers at Smart-QHPC





TWIN CITIES

Daily Peak Point, September 12, 2026

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

EPA faces heat over limited vehicle emission testing in Islamabad

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency has come under strong criticism after officials told the National Assembly Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination that only 50 vehicles had been inspected for emissions, with 11 fined Rs1,000 each. The disclosure came during a meeting of the committee chaired by Munaza Hassan, who questioned

whether checking a small number of vehicles at a roadside point could be considered a proper system for controlling air pollution in the capital. The committee was initially told that Pak EPA was regularly checking diesel engine commercial transport and older heavy vehicles. When asked about the work already carried out, officials referred to checks of vehicle fleets belonging to government departments, universities and hospitals, including SUPARCO, NUST, Pakistan

Atomic Energy Commission and Shifa Hospital. Another EPA official then told the committee that officers had also carried out a roadside inspection at Mandi Mor in I-11. About 50 vehicles were checked and 11 were fined Rs1,000 each. The figures drew a strong reaction from the committee chairperson, who questioned how the pollution level of a city could be properly controlled through limited roadside checks. Munaza Hassan said emission testing should be a regu-

lar system and not an occasional roadside exercise. She called for a proper mechanism under which vehicles would be checked regularly. The chairperson also questioned the way the inspections were being carried out and stressed the need to follow established practices used in other countries. She said every vehicle, motorcycle, bus and heavy vehicle should undergo proper emission testing and receive a clear sticker showing that it had passed the required

test. The committee was also told that smoke from some CDA buses could be seen on Constitution Avenue near the Parliament building. The chairperson pointed to the visible smoke from the buses and questioned how transport pollution could be controlled when government vehicles themselves were producing heavy emissions. The official record shows that Pak EPA has described regular monitoring of diesel engine commercial transport as part of its action plan. However, the

committee observed that spot checks alone were not enough and recommended creating a regular emission testing system for motor vehicles across the Islamabad Capital Territory. The committee said a permanent and organised system was needed instead of relying mainly on random roadside inspections. The aim is to ensure that vehicles producing excessive smoke are identified through regular testing and that emission levels can be properly monitored.

Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed remembered on 61st martyrdom anniversary

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has paid rich tribute to Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed (Nishan-e-Haider) on the 61st anniversary of his martyrdom. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that the courage, bravery and supreme sacrifice of Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed constitute a glorious chapter in the nation's history. He said the nation would always remember the immortal sacrifice of its valiant son. He said that during the 1965 war, Major Raja

Aziz Bhatti Shaheed stood like an impregnable wall against the enemy while defending the motherland in the Burki sector near Lahore. For five days and five nights, he fought the enemy with unparalleled courage, determination and resolve. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that by laying down his life in defence of the country, Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed set an immortal example that would forever remain enshrined in the golden pages of history. His bravery and sacrifice would continue to serve as a beacon of guid-

ance and inspiration for generations to come. He said Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed was conferred Pakistan's highest military award, the Nishan-e-Haider, in recognition of his extraordinary courage, valour and supreme sacrifice. His sacrifice embodies the unwavering resolve that the honour, dignity, sovereignty and security of the motherland are paramount above all else. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that the soldiers of the Pakistan Armed Forces had always defended the country's borders and

security by making the ultimate sacrifice. The martyrs who laid down their lives in defence of the motherland are the nation's true heroes, and the nation would always remember their great sacrifices. The National Assembly Speaker said that the sacrifices of the martyrs are a source of courage, determination and patriotism for the nation. The entire nation salutes its great martyrs and pays tribute to their unparalleled services and sacrifices in defence of the motherland.

Power Division rejects news report on new IPP agreements

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Power Division on Friday strongly rejected a report published in daily Jang titled "Claims of getting rid of IPPs on one hand, new 30 to 40-year agreements on the other," terming it contrary to facts. According to the spokesperson, the Government of Pakistan has completely ended the practice of entering into new agreements with IPPs or undertaking government power purchase commitments following the approval of the Integrated Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP) 2025-35 and the launch of a free electricity market in the country. The spokesperson clarified that the Jamshoro Coal Power Plant was not an IPP. The plant was established by

the Government of Pakistan with funding from the Asian Development Bank, while its construction commenced in 2018 and commercial operations were completed in May 2025. He said that portraying the commercial operation date of the Jamshoro Power Plant as an IPP agreement or a new power purchase contract was factually incorrect and created unnecessary sensationalism. He said the same was the case with the K-2 and K-3 nuclear power plants, which were also government-owned power plants and whose construction had started several years ago. The commercial operation dates of K-2 and K-3 had also been portrayed in the report as new agreements, which was completely incorrect, the spokesperson added.

Opinion & Editorial

ISLAMABAD
DAILY PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD
Arif Mahmood Khan
Group Editor: 0333-5366814
Samra Athar Kakakhel
Resident Editor
Nadim Tanoli
Joint Editor: Mob-0301-7777874
Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
www.peakpoint.pk

Flu: a public health crisis

Faisal Bari

LAST fall, after many years, my wife, our daughter and I decided to get flu shots. The decision wasn't popular with our nine-year-old, who doesn't like having her skin punctured, but we thought that, given the smog season and the health disruptions we faced every winter in Lahore, it was worth the trouble and expense. And it was. Last winter, we had far fewer bouts of illness, despite the smog highs; when we did have symptoms, they were much milder and recovery much faster. My wife and I lost fewer days at work, and our daughter was able to go to school most days. We also relied much less on cough syrups, antibiotics, and similar medications.

It is almost that time of the year again. Flu shots should be available soon, if they aren't already. Since influenza mutates significantly, the flu vaccine has to be updated often, and shots have to be taken every year. Despite this inconvenience, they are worth it. But it seems they are not very popular or widely available in Pakistan. We had to ask around and find clinics where we could get a flu shot. A muscular injection, they should be available at most, if not all, pharmacies.

Last year, our shot cost around Rs3,000 per head. So, they can be expensive for many households, but, given the cost-benefit, the state should make them available

to vulnerable populations free of charge. It is very much a public health issue. The evidence from other countries is clear. The return on investment is indeed significant. Flu shots save the lives of vulnerable people: children, older populations, and people with compromised health and co-morbidities. Hospitalisations are fewer, and symptoms are less severe and more manageable when people fall sick. Even for the healthy, flu shots can collectively save millions of work hours. Children miss school less. And flu shots also create herd immunity. For the cost, could one ask for more?

In the UK, all children are given flu vaccines free of charge. These are administered in September. Since most or all children are in school in the UK, schools administer the vaccine, which is efficient and effective. For children, there is even a version that can be squirted up the nose, so an injection is not the only option. I am sure children are quite happy with that.

It is a story of neglect. There is no public effort to promote flu vaccination.

The elderly also have access to free shots, as do any adults whose health systems might be compromised: diabetics, immune disorders, etc. The National Health Service administers the shots. This is a large campaign and can have significant waiting times, but it gets done. For other adults, shots are avail-

able at most pharmacies for £10 to £25 per shot. Given the protection the shot offers, many adults do get them every year. This helps the UK build significant herd immunity.

Given Pakistan's higher smog levels, elevated child malnutrition, and the fact that about one-third of the adult population is diabetic, one would think that flu shots would be even more important for us and treated as a public health issue. Of course, if we had national campaigns for flu shots, they would be organised differently from those in other countries. Not all of our children are in schools, and we do not have a comprehensive national health service. So, we will need to have a network involving public health institutions (basic health and above) and Lady Health Workers and Visitors.

Availability through private clinics, hospitals, and pharmacies would also need to be ensured. Some mechanism would have to be designed to ensure that vulnerable and deserving populations have easy access to the vaccine at low or no cost (BISP and similar programmes with large outreach). This won't be easy for our health authorities. But maybe the lessons from Covid vaccinations can be useful here.

Sadly, as usual, it is a story of neglect. There is no public effort to promote flu vaccination.

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

Power and impunity

THERE are few things more cotoxic to the rule of law than the belief that power brings immunity. In Pakistan, people with money and influence can often exercise authority far greater than that granted to them by the law. A recent confrontation involving a Karachi University professor shows how quickly an ordinary dispute can become an exercise in intimidation when one side believes it has the power to impose its will on the other. The professor had reportedly intervened after a delivery rider's vehicle was damaged in a minor collision. For speaking up for the common man, the professor himself was beaten – with scant regard for his rightful dignified status in society as a teacher. Several suspects have been arrested, while the main suspect named in the case remains at large. Such disputes that should be settled through ordinary legal channels can quickly turn into contests of influence. Fear has become one of the most effective tools of the powerful, and too often there is little to suggest that they have anything to fear from the state. This is how impunity works. For millions of Pakistanis, this imbalance is familiar. A poor driver confronted by an influential motorist, a tenant dealing with a powerful landlord, a labourer demanding his wages or an ordinary citizen challenging an official can all find themselves calculating the personal cost of insisting on their rights.

CDWP clears seven projects worth Rs116bn under Uraan Pakistan



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives/ Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday chaired a meeting of the CDWP that approved and recommended seven development projects worth around Rs116 billion under the government's development and reform agenda. Of these, five projects costing Rs21.590 billion were approved by the Central Development Working Party (CDWP), while it recommended two major projects worth Rs94.301 billion to the Executive Committee of the National Economic

Council (ECNEC) for further consideration, a news release said. Among others, the meeting was attended by senior officials from the federal and provincial governments, Planning Commission members, the Chief Economist and Vice Chancellor PIDE. The projects covered food and agriculture, governance, higher education, information technology, sports and water sectors and were aligned with the Uraan Pakistan vision of strengthening human capital, modernizing governance, improving infrastructure and promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

The CDWP approved the revised "Promotion of Olive Cultivation on

Commercial Scale in Pakistan - Phase-II" project at a cost of Rs5,014.919 million.

Reviewing the project, Ahsan Iqbal recalled that the initiative was launched in 2014 under Vision 2025 and stressed the need for a professional, result-oriented approach with greater private-sector participation.

He said successful private-sector olive growers should be brought into the initiative to help expand commercial production. He particularly highlighted the potential of the Kallar Kahar-Islamabad corridor and the wider Potohar belt and directed that this potential be incorporated into the project. The project envisages expansion of olive farms in Balochistan and NMDs, while the minister emphasized that olive plantations should ultimately cover one million acres.

The Transforming and Digitalizing Revenue Administration (TADRA) Project of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), costing Rs57.109 million, was recommended to ECNEC. Proposed to be financed through foreign.

Provincial boundaries can only be altered thru constitutional amendment: Murad

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said the Sindh Assembly will reject any move by the National Assembly to approve new provinces or administrative units in Sindh.

Speaking to the media during a visit to the Mazar-e-Quaid in Karachi, Governor Nihal Hashmi and Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said important decisions affecting the country should be taken through mutual consultation.

Governor Nihal Hashmi said the guiding principles of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah should serve as a source of direction for the country.

The governor also stated that Pakistan must remain united in the light of the principles set out by its founder, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.



Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said changes to provincial boundaries could only be made through a constitutional amendment. He said a resolution supported by a two-thirds majority was required for any change to the boundaries of a province.

Shah said no one could be stopped from expressing an opinion about the creation of a new province in Sindh, as every person was free to express their views in a democracy. However, he said the Constitution clearly set out the procedure for changing provincial boundaries.

Commerce minister, Hong Kong chief executive reaffirm stronger trade, economic cooperation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan met Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), China, Mr. John Lee Ka-chiu, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepen trade, economic cooperation and people-to-people linkages between Pakistan and Hong Kong.

Mr. YAU Ying Wah, Algernon, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of HKSAR, and Pakistan's Consul General in Hong Kong, Mr. Riaz Ahmed Sheikh, were also present during the high-profile meeting.

During the meeting, the Chief Executive appreciated Minister Jam Kamal Khan's strong address at the Belt and Road Summit earlier in the day, particularly his message of international cooperation, connectivity and shared economic prosperity, said a release issued here on Friday.

Mr. John K.C. Lee thanked Pakistan for its role in promoting peace and contributing

towards regional stability, noting that reduced tensions and greater stability were vital for global economic growth. He also appreciated Pakistan's leadership and constructive engagement in this regard.

The Chief Executive highlighted the long-standing and close relationship between Pakistan and China and acknowledged its positive contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative.

He also appreciated the efforts of the Chief Executive for Hong Kong in Hong Kong for bringing the two sides closer and promoting greater exchanges in recent years.

Minister Jam Kamal Khan thanked the Chief Executive for Hong Kong's warm hospitality and reiterated Pakistan's unwavering commitment to its historic relationship with China, while emphasising the importance Pakistan attaches to expanding its trade and economic partnership with Hong Kong.

The Minister highlighted the presence of a significant Pakistani diaspora.

Dr. Tariq pays tribute to Begum Kulsoom Nawaz on her death anniversary

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Friday paid tribute to Begum Kulsoom Nawaz, praising her courage and steadfastness during a difficult period in the country's political history. In a message marking her death anniversary, he said Begum Kulsoom Nawaz demonstrated courage during the dark period of dictatorship and made significant efforts for the restoration of democracy and supremacy of the Constitution.

Dr. Tariq said her democratic struggle remained an unforgettable chapter in the country's political history. He said she did not compromise on her principles even in the most difficult circumstances and continued her democratic struggle despite numerous challenges.

The minister said Begum Kulsoom Nawaz's sacrifices for democracy would always be remembered. He described her struggle for democracy and constitutional supremacy as highly commendable.

Dar reviews preparations for ECO COM to be held on Nov 15-16

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday chaired a meeting to review preparations for the ECO Council of Ministers (COM), to be hosted by Pakistan on 15-16 November 2026.

During the meeting, the DPM/FM was briefed on the preparations, including the proposed programme and agenda, participation, logistics and other arrangements. He reviewed the preparations in detail and provided guidance on key aspects of the upcoming COM meeting.

The DPM/FM underscored the importance Pakistan attached



to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and its role in advancing regional trade, connectivity and economic cooperation. He directed all concerned to ensure comprehensive preparations for a productive and successful COM meeting in Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Secretary Anna Baloch and all concerned officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Pakistan, Tajikistan agree to enhance trade and agricultural cooperation

PEAK POINT

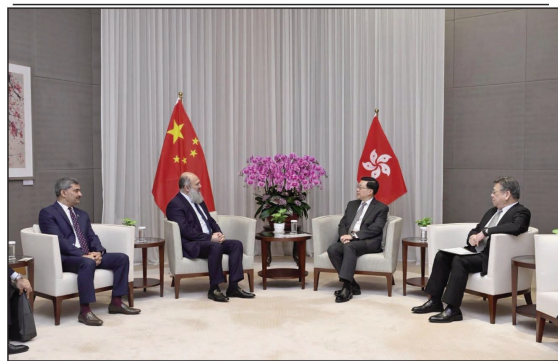
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Friday emphasized the need to further enhance bilateral trade and economic cooperation with Tajikistan.

He said that the existing trade volume between the two countries needed to be improved through greater engagement and by exploring new and alternative avenues of trade.

The minister held a meeting with Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan, Yusuf Sharifzoda and discussed bilateral trade, agricultural cooperation, economic relations and ways to further strengthen ties between the two



brotherly countries. During the meeting, the Tajik Ambassador conveyed an invitation to the Federal Minister to attend the upcoming Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) meeting scheduled to be held in September. The Federal Minister said that Pakistan and Tajikistan enjoyed historic, brotherly and cordial relations, rooted in shared religious, cultural and civilizational bonds.



HONG KONG: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan in a high-profile meeting with Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu, joined by HKSAR Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Algernon Yau and Pakistan's Consul General in Hong Kong Riaz Ahmed Sheikh, discussing stronger trade, economic cooperation and business linkages between Pakistan and Hong Kong.

Portugal Ambassador Paulo Domingues and Mazhar Thathal Meets to Promote Pakistan - Portugal Trade and Business Opportunities

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ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN: Chairman & CEO of the Global Trade & Expo Centre Pakistan (GTEC), Mazhar Hussain Thathal, held a cordial and productive meeting with H.E. Paulo Domingues, Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan, at the Embassy of Portugal in Islamabad, with the participation of Ms. Huriya Sheikh, Trade Counsellor. The meeting was attended by Mr. Liaqat Ali Thathal, Director International Trade & Relationship, Global Trade & Expo Centre Pakistan, and Ms. Farzana Shaheen,

Former Vice President, Rawalpindi Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Franchisee, Depilex Beauty Clinic. The discussions focused on strengthening Pakistan - Portugal trade and business relations, expanding bilateral business exchanges, facilitating B2B trade opportunities, and creating new avenues for cooperation between both countries. During the meeting, GTEC Chairman Mazhar Hussain Thathal highlighted the organization initiatives to connect Pakistani exporters, manufacturers, SMEs,



entrepreneurs and business community with European international trade markets. GTEC will organize the 1st Pakistan Trade & Business Delegation to Portugal, aimed at bringing Pakistani and Portuguese business communities together with market exploration and potential trade partnerships between Portugal and Pakistan. The proposed delegation will focus on identifying new commercial business opportunities, promoting

Pakistani products and services in Portugal, facilitating direct business-to-business engagement, and encouraging Portuguese companies to explore investment, partnership and trade opportunities in Pakistan. Mr. Mazhar Hussain Thathal appreciated H.E. Paulo Domingues for his active and constructive role in promoting Pakistan - Portugal relations, particularly in the areas of trade, business and economic cooperation, also emphasized the importance of developing stronger trade linkages and creating practical platforms

through which businesses from both countries can explore mutually beneficial opportunities. H.E. Paulo Domingues, Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan, welcomed GTEC's initiatives to promote business-to-business engagement between Pakistan and Portugal and expressed support for efforts aimed at strengthening commercial and economic relations between the two countries. The Ambassador also welcomed initiatives designed to introduce Pakistani businesses to the Portuguese market.