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**PMYP, UN Women
sign MoU to advance
women's empowerment**

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PM Shehbaz announces 'relief scheme' for bikes, autos, 800cc vehicles amid rising fuel prices

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday announced a "relief scheme" for users of motorcycles, autos and vehicles of up to 800cc to "alleviate the burden" of rising global oil prices.

Renewed hostilities in the Middle East, which have resulted in disruption of major oil supply routes, have caused fuel prices to rise in the past two months. In addition to the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz due to the US-Iran war, trade via Bab al-Mandab — which has become a vital route for Saudi oil exports in recent months — is also facing a rising threat from Houthi rebels.

A statement issued by the Prime

Minister's Office (PMO) on Sunday said the premier took "immediate notice of the recent tensions in the Middle East and the resulting surge in global oil prices, which is placing an increased burden on the public". "The government is fully aware of the burden being placed on the public due to the increase in oil prices. In this hour of difficulty, we will not leave the public alone," he was quoted as saying in the statement. The PMO announced that a "special relief scheme" was being initiated for users of motorcycles, rickshaws, Qingqis and vehicles up to 800cc, under which they will "receive a relief of Rs100 per litre". The statement explained that those having two-wheeled.



LARKANA: Children are forced to sit in the open under blazing sun, as authorities have failed to revive the school building in Kolo Jatoi Village despite the passage of more than a year.

Yemen's Houthis claim ballistic missile, drone attack on Saudi military base

PEAK POINT



YEMEN: Yemen's Houthi group said on Sunday morning that it had carried out an attack with ballistic missiles and drones on a military base in southern Saudi Arabia. In a statement

posted on US social media platform X, Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree said the attack targeted weapons depots and command-and-control rooms at the Sharurah base. A large barrage of ballistic missiles and drones was used, he said, claiming the strikes hit their targets. Saree said the attack was in response to continued Saudi attacks on Yemen. He warned of larger strikes deeper inside Saudi territory if they continue. Saudi authorities have not commented on the Houthi claim.

Saudi Arabia's Civil Defence said earlier Saturday that a projectile landed in the Al-Tuwal governorate in the southwestern Jazan region, injuring two people.

It said the projectile also damaged a mosque, several buildings, and vehicles.

Yemen's map of territorial control has changed in recent days amid escalating confrontations between government forces and the Houthis since July.

Iran authorities say 1 killed, 3 injured as merchant vessel struck in Hormuz

PEAK POINT



TEHRAN: A ship was struck in the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday, killing one person and injuring three, local Iranian authorities said, as Tehran and Washington clash over the strategic waterway.

"A merchant vessel was struck around 5am this morning off the coasts of Hengam and Qeshm islands. One person was killed and three others were injured," Qeshm city governor Amir Teymouri said, according to state TV, without specifying the origin of the strike.

Several explosions were reported overnight around Qeshm, the largest island in the Hormuz strait.

The deadly incident comes a day before a meeting between Iran and Gulf states in Oman, which also borders the strait, over the blocked route crucial for global oil and gas trade.

Control over the strait has become a major flashpoint in the conflict between Iran and the United States in their six-month war. In retaliation for attacks by the United States and Israel that started the war on February 28, Iran has blocked the waterway, a passage that was previously free and unobstructed before the conflict began. Iran now requires vessels to obtain authorisation to pass through the strait, citing security and sovereignty concerns, and is considering a mechanism to impose service fees. Vessels that fail to comply are frequently targeted by Iranian strikes.

Govt seeks time from JI ahead of third round of talks on petroleum levy

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The government on Sunday sought one more day from the Jamaat-e-Islami before the third-round talks with the party on petroleum levy.

In a telephonic conversation with JI's Naeb Ameer Liaquat Baloch, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal conveyed the prime minister's message to him. "The prime minister wants the third round of talks to take place on Tuesday rather than on Monday," he told the JI Naib Ameer.

Speaking after the talk, Baloch said that the government had formed one committee for talks with the JI, while two committees for talks on petroleum levy and IPPs.

The JI Naib Ameer said that talks with the government on levy would be held on Tuesday, while on IPPs on Wednesday.

Also on Sunday, JI Ameer Hafiz Naeem said that the levy had nothing to do with petrol's price.

Speaking to reporters, he said that levy had been imposed on masses only to benefit a few persons.

The JI chief said that on September 20, the party workers would surround Islamabad from all sides.

He claimed that more and more people were participating in the party's sit-ins. He made it clear that the JI would never back down from its demands.

Security forces kill highly wanted terrorist in Karachi operation

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Pakistan Rangers and the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) killed a highly wanted terrorist during a joint intelligence-based operation in Karachi, Aaj News reported Sunday, citing officials.

The operation was conducted in the Gulbairi Sher Shah area following intelligence about the presence of terrorists, a Rangers spokesperson was quoted as saying. An exchange of fire took place between security forces.

China, Russia, India seek economic cooperation, discuss inclusive global growth at Brics

PEAK POINT

NEW DEHLI: Brics leaders including China, Russia and India, entered a second day of talks in New Delhi on Sunday, discussing "inclusive global growth", after reaching rare agreement calling for calm in the Middle East.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for "cooperation" within the bloc, which he has said represents "50 per cent of the world's population, 40pc of global GDP and more than 25pc of global trade".

"The power of Brics lies in our diversity and cooperation," Modi told leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin, on the final day of talks. Brics was created in 2009 as a forum for major emerging economies seeking greater

influence in institutions dominated by Western pow-



ers. The group is seeking to bolster its global influence and address conflict, trade turbulence and energy security. "We have tried to push inclusive global growth," Modi said. "We may be rooted in different realities, but together we rise through cooperation and blossom for humanity," he said. "Maximum restraint"

nated by the conflict in the Middle East.

Brics foreign ministers had failed to agree on a joint statement in New Delhi in May, with Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates divided over the war that began with US-Israeli strikes on February 28. However, leaders — who also included Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian — issued a statement after intense diplomatic efforts by host

India.

"We express deep concern over the continued escalation of tensions in Middle East/West Asia," the joint statement said, adding that the Brics countries "call for exercising maximum restraint".

Modi maintains cordial relations with both Iran and US ally Israel, but is also careful to strike a delicate balance in India's ties with Washington.

India has navigated the energy crisis caused by the US-Israeli war on Iran in part by turning to Russia, despite Moscow's war in Ukraine and pressure from Washington and other Western capitals. "Advancing together"

Xi's participation in Brics is also important because it is his first visit to neighbouring India since 2019, and the biggest step.

Pakistan calls for unified global framework for digital assets



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has called for the immediate establishment of global regulatory and institutional frameworks to govern digital assets and shape the next generation of international finance. Speaking virtually at a United Nations briefing, Minister of State and Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA) Chairman Bilal Bin Saqib urged member states to build the institutional structures necessary to manage next-generation finance.

He noted that coordinated governance is essential to ensure these financial innovations drive economic inclusion and efficiency. Held at the United Nations headquarters, the session on "Digital Assets.



SPORTS



Crash and burn: Pakistan cricket at a new low after England humiliation



PEAK POINT

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan cricket hit a fresh low during the dismal 3-0 Test whitewash in England, even if a dazzling cameo by debutant Razaullah at least ensured a tour marred by mid-series sackings ended with a flicker of hope.

Described as the worst team to tour England in the last 50 years, Pakistan's cycle of chopping and changing continued when head coach Sarfaraz Ahmed and bowling chief Umar Gul were sacked from their posts.

Seven players were expelled from the squad as the often vulnerable batting fell to a new low, fail-

ing to cross 200 in five of the six innings.

White-ball coach Mike Hesson was brought in to take charge of the side for the third and final Test, a move which failed to reverse Pakistan's fortunes.

The turmoil intensified when expelled players Mohammad Rizwan and Imam-ul-Haq were investigated by the national cyber-crime agency on charges of leaking team information.

Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram said he had predicted this free fall.

"It's a disappointing state but I could see this coming for the last

five years and you can't blame one particular person and one factor because there are many," Akram told AFP.

His fellow former star Shahid Afridi described the situation as "bleak".

"These are gloomy times in Pakistan cricket," Afridi told AFP. "You don't disrespect players like this and your system is not strong." Changes and upheaval after defeats are hardly new for Pakistan. The cricket team has had three captains and six head coaches for Tests over the last three years.

The Pakistan Cricket Board Tests.

(PCB) has also had five different chairmen in as many years, resulting in a lack of consistent planning that has hurt the game's development.

Punishing players has often gone hand in hand with those changes.

The PCB banned then-captain Mohammad Yousuf and senior batter Younis Khan for an indefinite period and disciplined five other players, including Afridi, after a disastrous 3-0 whitewash in Australia in 2010. The third-test defeat to England at Edgbaston was Pakistan's 16th in their last 21

Hesson 'open' to full-time Test coaching role



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan interim head coach Mike Hesson said he is open to taking charge of the Test team permanently alongside his white-ball responsibilities after their eight-wicket series-ending defeat to England.

"I'd be open to it, for sure," Hesson told reporters after the third Test. "I love Test cricket and there's enough talent around the system in Pakistan that if we provide some good direction, we can make some strides going forward."

Hesson took over the red-ball side on an interim basis less than two weeks ago after the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) sacked Sarfaraz Ahmed following the series defeat at Lord's.

The New Zealander said he was encouraged by the talent available but warned that significant improvements would take time.

"It's not going to happen in a game or two but there's some skill there I'd certainly be considering looking after," he said.

Hesson had previously been approached about England's Test coaching vacancy following Brendon McCullum's departure, but England ultimately appointed Stephen Fleming. BHe stressed that his immediate focus remained Pakistan's white-ball commitments, with the Asian Games next.

Imam-ul-Haq likely to face ban over fake injury allegations, discipline violations: sources



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan Test opener Imam-ul-Haq is likely to face a ban after the authorities prepared an initial report against him over allegations of a suspicious injury during the England Test series, dressing room leaks and disciplinary violations, sources told Geo News on Sunday.

The sources said inquiry, a two-year ban had been recommended against the

ing dressing room opener, but a former head coach, a former selector and a former captain had intervened and met officials to recommend that no ban be imposed.

The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency is conducting forensic and technical analysis of mobile phones belonging to Imam and his fellow player Mohammad Rizwan, the sources said. The

ing dressing room opener, but a former head coach, a former selector and a former captain had intervened and met officials to recommend that no ban be imposed.

investigation is primarily focused on financial matters and suspected transactions involving both players.

The sources said the financial dealings of Imam and Rizwan before and after the England Test series were under examination, with their bank accounts under scrutiny. Any suspicious transactions identified would be traced to determine the source of funds and destination of transfers.

Suspected payments by any company, individual or organisation were also being scrutinised. Messages, contacts and other digital information from their phones were undergoing forensic analysis, with data recovered.



HYDERABAD: Additional Commissioner Hyderabad Division Liaquat Baloch awarding trophy to Hayat Girls High School team after the final of 5th Netball Cup 2026, at Badminton Hall Hyderabad Club.

Pakistani triathletes Shahzada Asad, Jibran Jawaid complete international triathlon challenges

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Two Pakistani triathletes completed challenging international triathlon events in China and Uzbekistan, with Pakistan Navy's Lieutenant Shahzada Asad competing at IRONMAN 70.3 Dali and Jibran Jawaid taking part in Challenge Samarkand.

Carrying Pakistan's flag at IRONMAN 70.3 Dali in China, Shahzada Asad completed the 113-kilometre half-Ironman distance in a gun time of 6 hours, 30 minutes and 41 seconds.

Asad, also a member of Lahore-based Falcon Triathlon Club, completed the 1.9km swim in 40:57, the 90km bike leg in 2:59:08 and the 21.1km run in 2:30:16. The Dali event featured a point-to-point swim, a largely flat cycling course along Erhai Lake and a run

through the Dali Erhai Lake Ecology Landscape Corridor.

Meanwhile, Karachi-based Jibran Jawaid completed the Challenge Samarkand in Uzbekistan,

1:55:15.

The Challenge Samarkand cycling course took athletes through the historic and modern landscapes of Samarkand, while the four-lap run was held



covering a total distance of 109.4km in 5 hours, 25 minutes and 52 seconds, including transitions. Member of Sea View Running Club, Jibran completed the 1.9km swim in 40:29, followed by 88.1km with 400m elevation gain cycling leg in 2:34:37 and the 21.5km run in

around the rowing canal at the Silk Road Samarkand complex. The performances mark two separate international appearances by Pakistani triathletes, with both Shahzada Asad and Jibran Jawaid successfully completing their respective endurance challenges.



QUETTA: A cueist plays a shot during All Pakistan Shaheed a Watan Nawab Mir Siraj Raisani 32 players snooker tournament organized Jahangir Snooker Club.



Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) conference held at Markazi Muslim League Secretariat in Rawalpindi

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: A Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) conference was held at the central secretariat of the Markazi Muslim League in Rawalpindi, attended by the party's central leadership, religious scholars, spiritual figures, members of the business community and representatives from various walks of life.

The conference was addressed by Markazi Muslim League Secretary General Professor Saifullah

Khalid, Director Dawat-o-Islah Pakistan Hafiz Abdul Rauf, Central Spokesperson Dr Mazamil Iqbal Hashmi, Rawalpindi Division President Ehsanullah Mansoor, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President Rana Ashfaq, Rawalpindi President Shehbaz Rajput and Rawalpindi General Secretary Engineer Mubeen Siddiqui.

Among those present were Chairman Rawalpindi Peace Committee Hafiz Iqbal Rizvi, Director Jamia



Banuria Rawalpindi Mufti Ismail Touro, Ameer Naujawan-e-Tauheed-o-Sunnah Punjab Mufti Naeemur Rehman, Traders

Rawalpindi President Maulana Shabbir Rabbani, Dawat-o-Islah Rawalpindi President Maulana Manzoor Jamal and Dawat-o-Islah Islamabad President Maulana Ghiyas Kiyani, among others.

Addressing the gathering, the speakers said the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) provide a comprehensive model for guidance in every sphere of life. They highlighted the Prophet's teachings of justice, brotherhood, tolerance,

good character and compassion for humanity, saying these principles could help promote peace, harmony and unity in society.

The speakers stressed that the message of Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) should not remain confined to religious gatherings but should be incorporated into individual and collective life. They called for greater emphasis on serving humanity, mutual respect, goodwill and social harmony to build a peaceful and cohesive society.

CDA launches action against illegal constructions along Islamabad Expressway

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has launched a comprehensive operation against encroachments, illegal and non-conforming constructions along the Islamabad Expressway Service Road East.

According to a press released issued here on Sunday, the operation is being carried out by the CDA's Building Control Section and Enforcement Directorate in collaboration with the District Administration and

Islamabad Police.

The authority said more than 50 construction units had so far been found violating building control regulations. These include 34 units on the Sohna to Iqbal Town stretch and 24 on the Korang Bridge to Korang Police Station and Gulberg Greens stretch.

The CDA said commercial buildings sealed during the campaign were found involved in violations of building by-laws, non-conforming use and inadequate fire safety arrangements.

According to the authori-



ty, notices had already been served on the owners, giving them time to comply with building regulations, rectify unauthorized use, make fire safety arrangements, pay government dues and obtain required approvals.

However, several owners failed to meet the legal requirements even after expiry of the notices, prompting the CDA to take action in accordance with the law.

The authority said surveys of the remaining areas were continuing to identify further violations and illegal construction units for legal action.

The CDA stressed that fire safety was essential for protecting the lives and property of citizens, business owners and occupants. It directed commercial property owners to ensure approved building plans, lawful use, emergency exits, fire safety equipment and other required safety measures.

The authority urged citizens and business owners to

review the legal status, approved use, construction permits and fire safety arrangements of their buildings and obtain necessary approvals and regularization where required, said a press released.

The CDA reiterated that action against illegal constructions and violations of building by-laws would continue without discrimination to protect government revenue, ensure public safety and maintain Islamabad as a planned and safe capital.

Opinion & Editorial

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Crippling fuel tax burden

As back-to-back fuel shocks under the country's daily pricing review mechanism continue to haunt the public, the burden on everyday citizens shows no signs of easing. The federal government raised petrol prices by a total of Rs29.95 per litre and high-speed diesel by Rs25.27 per litre over the course of the week ending September 12, pushing short-term inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator, up by 8.62% year-on-year.

While price movements are not completely in the government's control, about one-quarter of retail fuel prices comprises different taxes. Consequently, it is crucial to understand how much leeway the authorities actually have to lower prices, should they choose to provide relief. As things stand, critics argue that oil marketing companies are the ones generating substantial profits at these high rates while everyday citizens, squeezed by skyrocketing housing and rent costs, find even basic transportation increasingly unaffordable. A more viable solution would be for the government to cut taxes, the petroleum development levy in particular, and bring fuel prices down to a reasonable level, a move that would undoubtedly secure broad political consensus across the aisle.

Pakistan: 25 years post-2001

Muhammad Amir Rana

THE terrorist events of Sept 11, 2001, changed the world and brought about a new security order. Social engineering took place on a large scale, especially within Muslim societies. Conflict erupted across Africa and Asia, often linked to terrorism. These developments triggered large-scale migration towards the West and strengthened the far right in Western societies. Populism took multiple forms.

In short, the world changed course, and an era of increasingly controlled societies emerged, affecting technology, the economy, mobility and politics.

The 25th anniversary of the tragic incident has triggered a debate: what has the world gained and lost since these events, and what kind of world emerged in their aftermath? This question is equally important for Pakistan, as it became a front-line state in the global war against terrorism.

Pakistan's 25-year experience can perhaps be summarised in one sentence: the country has failed to defeat terrorism completely, lost Afghanistan, witnessed weakened internal cohesion, experienced the rise of authoritarianism, and its economy remains in disarray.

The return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan in 2021 contributed to renewed challenges, particularly from the banned TTP. Meanwhile, Balochistan remains another major security theatre, with

separatist groups targeting security forces, infrastructure, and Chinese interests.

Economically, Pakistan received billions of dollars in US assistance and Coalition Support Funds but failed to convert this geopolitical opportunity into lasting economic transformation. Terrorism imposed enormous costs through loss of life, reduced investment, damaged infrastructure, and increased security expenditure.

However, Pakistan has also achieved significant strategic successes. Before 9/11, Pakistan was under sanctions because of its nuclear tests. The Kargil conflict had contributed to political instability and military rule, and Pakistan experienced some global isolation. After September 2001, however, Pakistan emerged from isolation to become a front-line ally of the US in its global 'war on terror'. Pakistan was later designated a major non-Nato ally. However, this partnership came to be characterised by mistrust, particularly over Afghanistan, terrorist sanctuaries, drone strikes, and the 2011 Abbottabad operation. The country's biggest achievements and major failures have been in counterterrorism. Pakistan's biggest achievements and major failures have been in counterterrorism. Through operations including Rah-i-Raast, Rah-i-Nijaa, Zarb-i-Azb, and Raddul Fasaad, Pakistan dismantled major terrorist sanctuaries. It ended the ability of terrorist groups to exercise

territorial control in areas such as Swat and the former tribal districts.

In foreign relations, Pakistan strengthened its strategic partnership with China and expanded ties with the Gulf countries and Türkiye, but its relations with Afghanistan have remained deeply problematic.

While it took nearly two decades to fully abandon the use of radical and militant proxies on the external and internal political fronts, two factors played an important role. First, international pressure forced the establishment to take measures against militant groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. Second, many members of such groups became disillusioned and joined the TTP, Al Qaeda, and IS-K, making it increasingly difficult for security operators to treat and manage these networks separately.

Although these groups are no longer openly active in militancy, they still shoulder political and diplomatic baggage. India frequently exploits this issue to confront Pakistan at the diplomatic level and has used it to build pressure against Pakistan, contributing directly to the military confrontation last year. However, the international community increasingly recognises Pakistan's efforts to overcome its terrorism problem, and India's terrorism narrative against Pakistan appears to be losing some of its effectiveness internationally.

Courtesy Dawn

Two universes, one truth

M Zeb Khan

THE Quran repeatedly invites human beings to look at ayat - signs. Some of these signs are contained in revelation; others are scattered across the physical universe. The same word is used for a Quranic verse and for phenomena in nature. This is more than a linguistic coincidence. It suggests that creation and revelation are two different domains of signs, both inviting human beings to look beyond appearances. One may think of the physical world as the universe of matter and the Quran as a universe of meaning.

The analogy is useful because both universes are visible to everyone, yet neither yields its deeper truths to casual observation. Millions of people had seen objects fall before Newton formulated the law of gravity. Countless human beings had looked at the night sky before modern astronomy uncovered the scale and structure of the cosmos. Space, time, motion and energy were always present. What was missing was the intellectual capacity to perceive the deeper relationships behind them. The same may be true of scripture - the Quran. Everyone can read words, sentences and chapters, just as everyone can see stars, planets and galaxies. But seeing is not the same as understanding. One verse may appear to address justice, another economic dealings, another political authority and yet another personal morality. Read separately, each appears to concern a different subject. Read reflectively, however, they may reveal a broader principle running through them all: that power must remain accountable to truth, justice and human dignity. This is perhaps what the Quran means when it repeatedly asks its readers to reflect, reason, ponder and understand. Just as scientific discovery demands knowledge of method, mathematics, evidence and prior scholarship, serious interpretation of scripture requires command of language, context, coherence, history and the broader moral universe of the text.

Courtesy Tribune

PMYP, UN Women sign MoU to advance women's empowerment



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) and UN Women Pakistan on Sunday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the Prime Minister's Office to advance the empowerment, leadership and meaningful participation of young women in Pakistan, with the partnership focusing on gender-responsive youth development, employability, entrepreneurship, civic participation and safe digital engagement. The

MoU was signed during a meeting chaired by PMYP Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan and attended by Joint Secretary PMYP Dr Muhammad Ali Malik, UN Women Pakistan Country Representative Jamshed Kazi, Deputy Country Representative Fahmida Iqbal Khan and senior officials and representatives from both organisations.

Under the agreement, PMYP and UN Women will strengthen cooperation through technical collaboration, knowledge exchange, joint initiatives and the sharing of expertise and

good practices in women's leadership, youth empowerment and gender equality.

The partnership will promote gender responsive approaches to youth development and encourage the integration of gender perspectives into relevant youth-focused programmes, policies and initiatives, particularly in leadership, employability, entrepreneurship and civic participation. The two organisations will also work to create greater opportunities for young women through mentorship, networking, leadership development and professional exposure, contributing to Pakistan's broader youth development and gender equality priorities. Recognising the growing importance of digital spaces, the partnership will support safe, inclusive and responsible digital participation among young people, particularly young women and girls, through initiatives focused on digital literacy, responsible online engagement and digital citizenship.

Gilani's statesmanship strengthens Pakistan's parliamentary diplomacy

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani's sustained efforts to advance parliamentary diplomacy and strengthen Pakistan's engagement with legislatures across the world have received appreciation from the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) for his leadership and contribution to the Second Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC-2), held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from August 26 to 28, 2026.

In a letter addressed to Chairman Senate, ISC Secretary General Ek Nath Dhakal conveyed appreciation on behalf of the ISC and President of the Senate of Cambodia, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, for his esteemed presence and contribution to the Conference.

The letter also acknowledged Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani as the Founding Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference.

Chairman Senate Gilani's engagement reflects his statesmanlike approach to parliamentary diplomacy, with a consistent emphasis

on dialogue, mutual understanding, peaceful resolution of disputes and cooperation among nations. Through engagement with Speakers, Presiding Officers and parliamentary leaders, he has sought to build bridges and deepen institutional relationships beyond traditional diplomatic channels.

The Second Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference, convened under the theme "Solidarity for Peace and Shared Prosperity — Strengthening International Law and Resolving Conflicts Peacefully," brought together parliamentary leaders to deliberate on peace, international cooperation and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Gilani used the platform to reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to dialogue, multilateral cooperation and respect for international law. As Founding Chair of the ISC, Chairman Senate Gilani has continued to promote parliament-to-parliament diplomacy as an effective instrument for fostering international understanding and cooperation.

His sustained diplomatic engagement has enhanced Pakistan's voice and visibility in global parliamentary forums.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate of Pakistan and Founding Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary speakers' conference (ISC), Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, speaking at the Royal audience at the throne hall of the Royal Palace in PHNOM PENH on the sidelines of the 2nd Inter-Parliamentary speakers conference.

Chairman CCP showcases Pakistan's Competition reforms at Int'l Conference in China

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), Farid Ahmad Tarar, represented Pakistan at the 2026 National Fair Competition Conference of China in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province.

The Chairman presented the attributes of Pakistan's competition regime, institutional reforms and investment facilitation efforts to the high-level international gathering of competition



authority heads, senior regulators and experts, said a release issued here on Saturday.

The two-day conference, held on September 7-8 2026 under the theme



"Unified National Market, Fair Competition for the Future," was hosted by China's State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR). The conference

brought together heads and senior representatives of competition authorities from China, Brazil, France, Georgia, South Korea, Russia, Singapore and other jurisdictions.

Addressing the conference, the Chairman emphasized that strong competition institutions are increasingly significant for investment, innovation, productivity and sustainable economic growth, while ensuring that the benefits of competitive markets ultimately reach consumers.

Ashrafi, former Archbishop Welby discuss global peace efforts

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council and Coordinator of National Paigham-e-Aman Committee Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi met former Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby at his residence here and discussed ways to promote global peace and inter-faith harmony.

The meeting focused on the prevailing global situation, promotion of interfaith dialogue, strengthening contacts among religious leaders and enhancing their joint role in combating extremism and terrorism.

Both leaders agreed that leading religious figures from different faiths should come together to promote global peace. They also decided to initiate preliminary contacts to bring religious leadership together for dialogue, toler-



ance and mutual respect, said a press release issued here.

Justin Welby appreciated Pakistan's efforts for regional and global peace and praised the role of Army Chief Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir in promoting peace. He particularly appreciated Pakistan's efforts to help reduce tensions involving the United States, Iran and Arab and Islamic countries, saying the world urgently needed peace and that Pakistan was playing an important role.

PML-N not behind creation of new provinces, says Rana Sanaullah

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Special Assistant to PM (SAPM) and PML-N stalwart Rana Sanaullah has said that when the party did not initiate discussion on the creation of new provinces, then it is easy to understand the party's stance on the subject. Speaking to journalists at the residence of senior journalist Mujeeb Rehman Shami in Lahore, he, while asserting that a lot of time was left in the creation of new provinces, said that if the issue landed in the parliament, it would still take six to seven months before things started taking shape.

He said whether debate in the parliament would result in the creation of new administrative units in the country or local bod-



ies' elections would be held or nothing would come out of it, nobody could say with certainty. He said that some people might be talking to the former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan. "But this will not come without a price," Sanaullah said that the PTI workers intended to march on Islamabad fully armed. "On the other hand, there are reports that militants, designated as Fitna al-Khawarij, plan to attack the party's rally in order to widen the gulf."

Maz Bonafide unveils vibrant new punjabi single "TEN TEN"

REPORT/WAJIHA TAMSEEL MIRZA

MANCHESTER: Acclaimed British Asian music sensation Maz Bonafide has officially launched his brand-new single titled "Ten Ten", a lively and catchy Punjabi track that has already garnered widespread excitement among music lovers across the globe. Written and composed entirely by Maz Bonafide himself, "Ten Ten" brings forward his signature artistic flair — packed with bold confidence, unique personality, and clever, relatable lyrics that have become his trademark. Known for crafting melodies that instantly strike a chord with audiences everywhere, Maz once again



proves his mastery in songwriting and composition with this latest offering. Regarded as one of the most influential and outstanding artists in the UK Asian music industry, Maz has an impressive track record of hits. His iconic creation "Desi Birthday Anthem" turned into a global cultural phenomenon, becoming the go-to birthday song for South Asian communities worldwide.

Journalist seeks inquiry into disputed payment, Bank complaint also registered

PEAK POINT

GUJRANWALA: A Gujranwala based journalist has approached relevant authorities over a financial dispute involving Shahzaib Sheikh, a former office bearer of Awaam Raj Tehreek Pakistan, with the matter now being taken up through formal complaint channels. According to documents shared with this correspondent, journalist Wajihah Tamseel Mirza submitted a complaint to the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency regarding

the dispute. A separate communication from Bank Alfalah's Complaint Management Unit also confirms that her complaint was registered and that a response is expected within three to five working days. According to the complaint, the journalist said she had provided money to Sheikh after he approached her for urgent financial help. She also alleged that she had paid an amount in connection with a proposed professional card and related work, but the work was not completed as expected.