



Pakistan eyes bigger China swap line, expects US financing decision soon



Illegal immigration from Pakistan to Europe dropped by 64%: Naqvi



Federal, KP energy ministers agree to strengthen cooperation for public welfare

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Daanish University to emerge as regional centre of excellence: PM; classes from next Sept

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressed the hope that the Daanish University being constructed in the federal capital would emerge as regional center of excellence in technology owing to its premier academic, research, and technical infrastructure, as the facility is set to go operational by September next year.

The prime minister, chairing a high-level review meeting regarding the establishment of Daanish University, reaffirmed that providing quality, modern, and merit-based education to deserving and talented youth was the government's priority.

He said that the institution would deliver global-standard education to talented youth

and that the admissions would strictly follow a nationwide merit policy.

During the briefing on the project, the participants of the meeting were told that 185 applications were received so far as the process for selection of highly qualified faculty for university was underway.

It was told that talent hunt had been initiated for students in their second year of F.Sc. and A-Levels for Daanish University's Virtual School, which will feature 100% free five-month classes for qualifying students following an entry test scheduled for October 24, 2026, across more than 40 cities. The participants were informed that the university's campus building would be completed next year as a preparatory bridge.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on progress of Danish University.

Pakistan committed to implementing Saudi defence pact, Makkah agreement: FO

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday said it remained committed "in intent and spirit" to implementing the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (SMDA) with Saudi Arabia and the trilateral Makkah Defence Alliance. Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan made the statement during his weekly briefing. The statement comes amid renewed tensions in the Middle East, with Yemen's Houthi rebels carrying out attacks in Saudi Arabia in recent days. A day earlier, a Saudi-led coalition battling Houthis accused the rebels of targeting the holy city of Makkah, sparking outrage across the Muslim world and deepening the conflict roiling the region. However, the Houthis swiftly rejected Riyadh's report as a "lie" that it shot down a drone from the rebels heading towards Makkah. In response to a question on whether "any mechanism had been devised as to how Pakistan will ensure that recent Houthi attacks in Saudi Arabia are thwarted," the spokesperson said that Pakistan was committed to "implementing" the SMDA and the Makkah pact. "However, when, how, where and what force.

US drone maker Powerus says it signed MoU with Pakistan Army, gets initial order

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: US drone firm Powerus has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Pakistan Army that includes an initial drone-related order, co-founder Brett Velicovich told Reuters on Wednesday.

Velicovich declined to provide details, citing security sensitivities, but said the deal fell within the category of unmanned aerial systems. He also declined to disclose the value of the order, citing confidentiality. Powerus, which offers aerial and maritime drones for military and industrial use, is due to merge with a publicly traded company backed by two of US President Donald Trump's sons, called Aureus Greenway Holdings. Both companies have said they expect the merger to complete in early October. Trump's sons, Donald Trump Jr and Eric Trump, own a stake in Aureus through an investment fund called American Ventures, according to US regulatory filings. American Ventures is expected to hold a 9.9 per cent beneficial ownership stake in the combined company after the merger, regulatory filings show. Inter-Services Public Relations on Wednesday said a Powerus delegation led by Velicovich met Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir and they discussed defence procurement, production and long-term capacity building.

Markets to close at 9pm as govt reintroduces austerity measures for fuel conservation

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: The federal government reintroduced austerity measures on Thursday in an effort to conserve fuel amid renewed tensions in the Middle East, setting 9pm as the time for closing markets and reducing fuel provision for official vehicles by 50 per cent. The measures are to be implemented with immediate effect, the Cabinet Division's notification detailing the government's directives said. According to the Sept 17 notification, seen by Dawn, businesses and commercial establishments are to close at following timings: Marriage halls, marquees and all other commercial places where festive events are held are to close by 10pm. Restaurants, cafés, eateries, and food outlets, as well as standalone fruit and vegetable shops are to close by 11pm. Takeaway and home delivery services are exempted from the restriction. Pharmacies, medical and medical supplies' stores, medical laboratories, clinics, hospitals, standalone bakeries, standalone tandoors, standalone milk and dairy shops, fuel and CNG stations, electrical vehicle charging stations, gyms, sports facilities and sports/padel courts.

'Four-day working week' notification circulating online is fake: MoI

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Information said on Thursday that a notification circulating on social media claiming that the government had changed the working week to four days was fake.

In a post on X, the ministry's fact-check account warned, "A notification circulating on social media claiming changes to the Government of Pakistan's working days is fake," it said. "The public is advised not to believe or share such misleading content," it said. The ministry also urged people to "rely only on official.

Will respond to terror threats from Afghanistan in self-defence as and when needed, Pakistan tells UNSC

PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: Pakistan told the UN Security Council on Wednesday that it would respond to terrorist threats emanating from Afghanistan in self-defence as and when needed and in accordance with international law.

The assertion by Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Asim Iftikhar Ahmad came during a Security Council meeting on the situation in Afghanistan five years after the Taliban's takeover of Kabul.

"Pakistan cannot sit idle in the face of this terrorist onslaught," Ahmad told the UNSC. "We will respond in self-defence, as and when needed and in accordance with international law. We will defend ourselves against whoso-

ever attempts to harm our citizens and our national



the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan, Baloch Liberation Army and its Majed Brigade, Islamic State-Khorasan and the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, as well as their affiliates, Pakistan's envoy said.

"The situation [is] made worse by external actors, the spoilers who support proxies inside Afghanistan to target Pakistan and other neighbouring countries," he added.

A recent report by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres says terrorist groups remain present in Afghanistan, while restrictions on women and girls, exclusionary governance, economic pressures, declining capacity to provide basic services and large-scale returns and migration continue to threaten the country's longer-term stability.

Armed groups opposed to the Taliban also remain active. According to the report, such groups claimed responsibility for 88 attacks across 21 Afghan provinces between May 1 and the end of July.

The report identifies the institutionalised denial of the rights of women and girls and the authoritarian nature of the Afghan Taliban's political system among the most serious concerns.

Security forces kill 3 terrorists in Balochistan's Awaran district: state media



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Security forces killed three terrorists in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Badrang area of Balochistan's Awaran district, state-run Radio Pakistan reported on Thursday.

A large quantity of weapons and ammunition was recovered from the possession of the terrorists of Fitna al Hindustan, according to security sources cited by Radio Pakistan. Fitna al Hindustan is a term designated by the state for terrorist organisations in Balochistan.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi praised security forces for the "successful operation conducted under Operation Radd-ul-Fitna 3", state-run APP reported.



SPORTS



Pakistan U19 Beat England 3-1 to Win Youth ODI Series



SHAKEEL UR REHMAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Under-19 secured a memorable 3-1 series victory over England in the four-match Youth ODI series after producing an impressive all-round performance throughout the tour. The national junior side won the first two matches in succession to take a 2-0 lead. England fought back in the third match with a thrilling two-run victory, but Pakistan responded strongly in the fourth and decisive match, defeating the hosts by a massive 200 runs to clinch the series. England had beaten Pakistan by just two runs in the third ODI in a dramatic

finish. Pakistan Seal Series with 200-Run Victory Wormsley: Pakistan Under-19 produced an outstanding all-round performance in the fourth and decisive Youth ODI against England, defeating the hosts by 200 runs to win the four-match series 3-1. At Sir Paul Getty's Ground in Wormsley, Pakistan won the toss and elected to bat first. They posted a huge total of 350 for four in their allotted 50 overs. In reply, England were bowled out for just 150 in 20.4 overs. Pakistan's openers, Usman Khan and Jahangir Bilal, provided an excellent start, putting together 148 runs for the first

wicket. Both batters scored 79, the chase, with Ralpie Albert and Isaac Muhammad putting together a 50-run partnership during the first five overs. However, Pakistan's bowlers quickly took control of the match. England lost three wickets for 93 runs after 10 overs, and wickets continued to fall at regular intervals. Robbie Bowman offered some resistance for England, scoring 67 off 43 balls, including four fours and seven sixes. However, he received little support from the other batters. England were eventually bowled out for 150 in 20.4 overs, giving Pakistan a massive 200-run victory.

PCB chief announces biggest school talent hunt program



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi said on Thursday that the country's biggest school cricket talent hunt will begin on September 19, with around 21,000 players from 1,400 schools across 100 districts taking part.

In a post on X, Naqvi said the PCB Talent Hunt School Cricket 2026-27 will open at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Saturday at 2pm. The opening match will feature Beaconhouse School and Aitchison College, while renowned singer Rahat Fateh Ali Khan will perform live after the match.

According to a PCB press release issued on Wednesday, the 2026-27 tournament will mark the second season of the board's Talent Hunt Programme for Schools.

The PCB said it had significantly expanded the programme from 450 schools in 39 districts to 1,400 schools across 100 districts.

Naqvi will attend the opening ceremony as chief guest and formally inaugurate the tournament. The board said the best-performing school cricketers will be brought into the PCB's age-group and player pathway system. Entry to Gaddafi Stadium will be free for both the opening match and Rahat Fateh Ali Khan's concert.

Pakistan women survive Thailand scare to make Asian Games semi-finals



PEAK POINT

JAPAN: Pakistan survived a serious scare to win the quarter-final of the Asian Games Women's Cricket Competition against Thailand by three wickets at the Korogi Sports Park in Nisshin, Japan on Thursday.

Put in to bat by Pakistan, Thailand posted 91 runs in the

designated 11 overs following rain delay before Pakistan went deep and left only two balls to spare as they crossed the finish line.

Fatima Sana's side had also lost seven wickets in the process and it was the captain's 21 off 13 after opener Shawal Zulfiqar's 25 off 14 that kept Pakistan in the game, despite the

usually talismanic overs, when Maya Fatima losing her wicket before finishing the job.

Nauremol Chaiwai off to a brisk start, Sandhu for a six and a scoring 41 runs in the four before falling to her on the next ball, of a productive 24 off getting caught by 22 balls from Fatima.

Nannapat It was the skipper Koncharoenkai, only who finally dismissed Fatima had drawn first blood with the ball, Koncharoenkai in the dismissing Natthakan Chantham for six runs. Koncharoenkai took the attack to Tuba Hassan and Umm-e-Hani, hitting the latter for 14 runs off the eighth over, as she stitched a solid 65-run stand with Phannita Maya. A dropped catch by wicket-keeper Gul Feroza and lapses in the field aided Thailand as they raced to 72 off 9

Punjab announces province-wide sports schedule for public school students



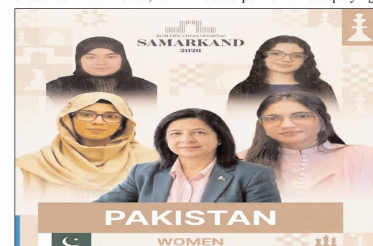
Pakistan boycott Israel match at Samarkand Chess Olympiad

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan boycotted their scheduled opening-round match against Israel at the 46th FIDE World Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, resulting in a 4-0 walkover for the Israeli team.

Pakistan and Israel were paired to meet on Wednesday, but the Pakistani players did not take their places at any of the four boards. Official tournament records show all four boards as unplayed. Chess Federation of Pakistan (CFP) President Syed Zeeshan Naqvi said the decision was in line with Pakistan's government policy regarding Israel and was also intended to express solidarity with the Palestinian people. "We have boycotted the match to express solidarity with the Palestinian people," Naqvi said, adding that Pakistan would continue participating in international sporting

events while respecting the government's official position on Israel. The decision affected only the scheduled encounter with Israel, with



Pakistan remaining part of the wider Chess Olympiad. The tournament is being staged in Samarkand from September 15 to 27 and features separate Open and Women's competitions. The 46th edition has attracted around 200 national teams across the two main sections, making it one of the largest editions of the biennial

game. The official pairing record lists Israel and Pakistan as opponents, but records each of the four boards as unoccupied. Pakistan will continue its campaign in the remaining rounds of the tournament, where it is scheduled to face other participating national teams in the Open section.

PSB pensioners left high and dry as underlying truth behind stoppage emerges

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: PSB approved budget allocation re-appropriated during the last financial year 2025-26 Transferred to Benefit National Sport and Its Federation (PHF) Elderly Employees Pay the Price of "Preferential Funding"; Arbitrary Decisions Push Veterans to the Wall Diverting Official Funds Forces Sports Board Pensioners Into Starvation and Dependency on Charity (PR) The sus-

pension of pension for over 250 pensioners, widows, and orphans of PSB Pensioners responsible for making Pakistan's historic sporting events successful—has turned out to be a complex web of alleged misplaced priorities rather than a simple administrative delay. The facts brought forward by the Pensioners Action Committee have pulled back the curtain on the underlying factors behind this high-ranking official simultaneous holds

highly reliable key charges of the Ministry of IPC, Pakistan Sports Board and the Pakistan Hockey Federation. This multi-hatting made it structurally effortless to execute such an arbitrary and unilateral decision. Elderly employees whose ages exceed 60 years and who have no other breadwinners at home are bearing the brunt of this "preferential funding." Owing to intense psychological stress and the unavailability of medicines,



TWIN CITIES

Daily Peak Point, September 18, 2026

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

Chairman PAEC highlights Pakistan's peaceful nuclear programme at IAEA General Conference

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar, highlighted Pakistan's wide-ranging contributions through peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology in energy, healthcare, agriculture, water resource management, nuclear safety and security, and human resource development.

While addressing the Plenary Session of the 70th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar reaffirmed Pakistan's strong

support for the IAEA's mandate and its efforts to promote peaceful uses of nuclear technology for sustainable socio-economic development, said a news release received here on Thursday.

Highlighting nuclear power's role in energy security and climate action, Chairman PAEC said Pakistan's six operating nuclear power plants were safely and efficiently generating 3,530 MW of electricity, helping avoid approximately 15 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

He also highlighted rapid progress on the Chashma-5 (C-5) Nuclear



Power Plant, saying the project was all set for early completion of dome placement.

On healthcare, Chairman PAEC noted that Pakistan has 83 nuclear medicine and radiotherapy facilities,

including 21 PAEC cancer hospitals, providing advanced cancer diagnosis and treatment.

He also highlighted the designation of PAEC's Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Oncology

Lahore (INMOL) as an IAEA Collaborating Centre in April 2026.

Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar also highlighted Pakistan's contributions to food security and water resource management, including the roles of the Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB) and the Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology (PIN-STECH) as IAEA Collaborating Centres and Pakistan's participation in the IAEA-Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Atoms for Food initiative.

Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to nuclear safe-

ty and security, he highlighted the roles of the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory

Authority (PNRA), National Institute of Safety and Security (NISAS) and Pakistan Centre of Excellence for Nuclear Security (PCENS) in national and international capacity building.

Chairman PAEC announced that Pakistan would host the 4th International Nuclear Science Olympiad (INSO) in 2027, following Pakistani students' recent success of winning one gold and two silver medals at the 3rd INSO in Saudi Arabia.

Senate questions daily oil pricing as petrol prices continue to rise

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum has raised serious questions over the daily oil pricing system and the continued increase in petroleum prices, saying the changes are creating difficulties for the general public. The committee, which met under the chairmanship of Senator Umer Farooq, questioned how petroleum prices are being set on a daily basis and sought a detailed briefing on the formula used for fixing the prices. Members also raised questions about the petrol subsidy scheme and the money being spent on its advertisements. The chairman directed the relevant authorities to provide complete details of the expenditure

on advertisements linked to the subsidy scheme. The committee also sought details of a pending FIA inquiry into allegations that Oil Marketing Companies earned excessive profits from fuel stocks already held by them after a sudden increase in petroleum prices in March. The committee directed the concerned authorities to bring the complete record of the inquiry to its next meeting so that the matter could be examined in detail. The chairman also ordered that representatives of FIA, SECP and OGRA attend the next meeting along with the relevant documents. The committee said it would examine the oil pricing mechanism, the role of Oil Marketing Companies and related financial matters on the basis of the record presented.

PBC delegation presents legal education progress report to CJP

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), led by its Vice Chairman, Pir Muhammad Masood Chishti, on Thursday called on Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi at the Supreme Court and presented the Biannual Progress Report (2024-2026) of the Council's Directorate of Legal Education.

The delegation briefed the Chief Justice on the Directorate's efforts to improve the quality of legal education and strengthen professional standards.

The discussion covered oversight of law teaching institutions, curriculum development, continuing legal education and

opportunities for practical training for lawyers.

Justice Yahya Afridi observed that sound legal education was essential for developing a capable legal profession and ensuring effective administration of justice.

He emphasized the importance of practical skills, professional ethics and sustained cooperation among the Bar, legal education institutions and other stakeholders in preparing future members of the legal profession.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to continued engagement on measures aimed at improving legal education in Pakistan.

Opinion & Editorial

ISLAMABAD
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Security paradox

Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabian interests are pushing the region toward a major crisis. Reports of a drone attack over the holy city of Makkah are highly condemnable and unacceptable under any norms of warfare. Though the Houthis have denied the attack, it could still lead to widespread repercussions, as even the slightest strategic miscalculation could ignite a full-fledged war.

The only point of consolation, however, is that both sides are not going over the brink. Yet, the fact that the Houthis have set on fire the East-West oil pipeline and are encroaching on navigational routes is an undesirable escalation. More than 13 civilians were reportedly killed or injured in the Yemeni militia's missile and drone attacks on Khamsi Mushait, Abha and Taif, while Riyadh was blamed for flying more than 450 sorties. The downing of a Saudi F-15 aircraft and the forcing of Typhoon warplanes over Marib to withdraw hint at a build-up that could prove catastrophic. Quite evidently, the Middle East is simmering with a paradox. The conventional security provider, the United States, has let its allies down. Its obsession with acting as a client state of Israel has cost it its prestige in the region. The Iran war has exposed the superpower's fault lines.

Iran's emergence

Khurram Husain

A big power is emerging as the war in the Middle East transitions gears. The war launched by Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu back in February has effectively ended. It devolved into a stand-off around Hormuz. What is opening up now is something new. And where this takes us is the big unknown.

A big power is emerging to our west. Shackled by sanctions for decades, and threatened incessantly with war, Iran had been walled away from the rest of the world since 1979. But now that America has demonstrated its impotence by failing every military objective it had laid in the war since February, the country that was tied down behind a wall of sanctions is emerging as a big power in the region.

In that sense, what is happening with Iran today is similar to what happened with China following détente. That country, too, was tied down and shackled and shunned by the global community ever since its revolution in 1949. Détente was its negotiated re-entry into the community of nations, and since then, the reforms undertaken within China propelled it to becoming a global power.

Iran's story differs from this in the sense that it is not going to be a global power. However, it is certainly going to emerge as a regional power in a very important region of

the world. Second, Iran's re-entry into the world community is going to be far more disorderly than that of China, mainly because it has had to fight its way out of the oblivion into which it was banished since the revolution of 1979.

Short of an attempt to destroy its infrastructure, Iran's emergence as a big power in the region is unstoppable.

But emergence is now underway. It will be a very disorderly, and possibly violent, affair. A lot depends on which faction within Iran manages to rise to the top and take over decision-making. In China, an internal reckoning took place within the Communist Party first, before the reform-minded elements around Deng Xiaoping could rise to the top and take control of the post-opening up trajectory. That is a fraught history, from the Cultural Revolution and the purge of Deng in 1966, to the attempted coup by Lin Biao and his death in a plane crash in Mongolia in 1971, to the rise of Zhou Enlai and the so-called Gang of Four that was ranged against him and the eventual emergence of Deng as the successor, his second purge after Zhou Enlai's death, and eventual restoration following Mao's death in 1976. That is when China firmly embarked on its reformist course and broke its moorings to Mao's thought. What followed was a carefully calibrated set of measures designed to open the Chinese

economy up to the outside world — slowly and experimentally. That trajectory eventually propelled China towards becoming a global power, even if the process took many decades to complete.

Iran is now at a similar point in its trajectory. Following the death of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, and its victory in the war against the Zionist alliance of America and Israel, it now has to go through the internal process of wrangling between rival factions, who must decide whether to remain wedded to the past or break out into a new future. This process will take years to unfold; what makes the Iranian trajectory different from the Chinese one is that in Iran the process will unfold in the context of a war. It is evident that within Iran there is a pragmatic faction that wants to see the war come to a close and the task of rebuilding the country to begin. But equally important, there is a faction that wants to press ahead with the fighting to deliver a humiliating defeat to the aggressors. This faction wants to do to the Americans in the Middle East what the Taliban, too, did to them in Afghanistan: force a hurried and disorderly flight from the region. The real game begins after that. Once the Americans leave the region, the Iranian military machine will turn its attention towards the Gulf monarchs.

Courtesy Dawn

New currency of respect

Dr Intikhab Ulfat

Today's younger generation is notably more financially aware and entrepreneurial, using freelancing, online business, investment and social media to achieve independence earlier than previous generations. The concern arises when financial success begins to replace knowledge, experience and character as the primary measure of a person's worth.

Some time ago, during a conversation with an experienced banker, I heard an observation that stayed with me: when a teacher arrives in an old-model car and the student comes in a Fortuner, how much weight will the student give to what the teacher says? The problem is not the Fortuner. The problem is that our definition of success has changed.

Increasingly, people are judged by how much they earn, what car they drive, which phone they use and how many social media followers they have. Lifestyle is beginning to outweigh learning. The distinction between price and value is becoming blurred. Not everything expensive is valuable, and not everything valuable looks expensive.

Earlier generations often gave children modest pocket money. It could seem restrictive, but it also taught patience, saving and the difference between a need and a desire. Today, many young people enjoy financial comforts during school or university that previous generations achieved only after years of employment. There is nothing wrong with comfort. The difficulty begins when comfort is not accompanied by perspective. Then the distance between self-confidence and entitlement becomes very small.

Self-confidence means that a student questions a teacher. Entitlement begins when the student assumes that because his car is more expensive, the teacher's knowledge is worth less. Self-confidence challenges old ideas with evidence; entitlement dismisses them simply because they are old.

Courtesy Tribune

Illegal immigration from Pakistan to Europe dropped by 64%: Naqvi



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the European Union's Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) have commended Pakistan's effective measures to curb illegal immigration, in meetings with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in Islamabad on Thursday, reported 24NewsHD TV channel.

The appreciation came during separate meetings between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Director General International Centre for Migration Policy Development

Susanne Raab and Frontex Executive Director Hans Leijten in Islamabad today.

During these meetings, it was decided to enhance mutual cooperation with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development and Frontex to prevent illegal immigration. The two sides expressed the commitment to further strengthen joint efforts regarding border management and the curbing of illegal immigration.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohsin Naqvi said achieving a 64 per cent reduction in illegal immigration from

Pakistan to Europe despite limited resources was a challenging task. He said Pakistan accepted the prevention of illegal immigration as a challenge, but the entire team worked round the clock to achieve this challenge.

The Interior Minister expressed the resolve to curtail illegal immigration by one hundred percent is the next target, which will be achieved at all costs. He said opening of new avenues for legal migration is inevitable to curb illegal migration besides adopting modern technology and officers' training are necessary to prevent illegal immigration.

Mohsin Naqvi said efforts are underway to enhance the institutional capacity of relevant agencies in line with modern requirements to make border management more effective.

He said the installation of cameras equipped with modern technology at five hundred immigration counters across all airports in the country is the main task ahead. The Interior Minister emphasized that cooperation with the International Centre.

Shaza Fatima reviews implementation of PM Fuel Relief Scheme in Islamabad

PEAK POINT

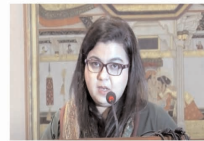
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja, along with the district administration, visited various petrol pumps in Islamabad to review the implementation of the Prime Minister's Fuel Relief Scheme.

On the third day of the scheme, the federal minister again interacted directly with citizens and received feedback on the relief programme.

Shaza Fatima said the registration SMS had been made free on the directions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to facilitate citizens.

She urged eligible citizens to complete the registration process strictly according to the prescribed procedure.

The minister said the Prime



Minister's Fuel Relief Scheme had been benefiting people across the country since Wednesday.

She said the targeted relief had been designed specifically for deserving segments of society.

Shaza Fatima directed the district administration to play its role in ensuring the uninterrupted provision of subsidised petrol to eligible citizens. She warned that strict action would be taken against those found delaying or refusing to provide subsidised petrol to eligible citizens. Citizens expressed appreciation for the availability.

Federal, KP energy ministers agree to strengthen cooperation for public welfare

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Energy and Power Nazir Ahmed Abbasi on Thursday agreed to strengthen coordination on strategic energy issues, oil and gas supplies, security of exploration and production (E&P) activities and energy challenges faced by the province.

During a meeting, Ali Pervaiz Malik briefed the KP minister on the prevailing oil supply situation and volatility in international petroleum markets.

He highlighted the pressures faced by the domestic energy sector due to developments in international markets and reiterated the federal government's commitment to ensuring stable and uninterrupted energy supplies.

The federal minister said the government, in coordination with security forces, was working on a comprehensive plan to ensure the security of E&P activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He emphasised that a secure operating environment was essential for sustaining and

expanding exploration activities in the province.

KP Minister Nazir Ahmed Abbasi acknowledged that the security issue needed to be addressed to facilitate E&P operations and assured full support and cooperation from the provincial government in this regard.

Both sides agreed that enhanced coordination among the federal government, security forces and the provincial government was essential for creating a secure environment for E&P activities. They also agreed that increased exploration and production activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would strengthen Pakistan's domestic energy security and increase royalty revenues for the province. The KP minister highlighted that the success ratio of wells in the province was higher than the global average.

, underscoring its potential for further exploration and investment.

Discussing the gas challenges faced by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Pervaiz Malik said the ongoing war and resulting disruptions in international energy markets were placing pressure on gas supplies.

South Air's new flights to improve travel facilities in KP: Governor

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday welcomed the launch of South Air's direct flights between Peshawar and Quetta, describing it as good news for the people of Peshawar and the province. In a video message, the Governor said that, on his request, South Air would commence direct flights from Peshawar to Quetta from September 19, providing improved air connectivity for passengers. He said that direct flights from Peshawar to Lahore would also be launched soon, further expanding travel facilities for the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Governor Kundi thanked the management of South Air for accepting his request and initiating the Peshawar-Quetta service for the convenience of the public. He also announced that another new airline would soon begin operations with international flight services, which would further enhance travel opportunities for the people of Peshawar and the province.

Musadik calls for greater youth participation in country's progress

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik on Thursday stressed the need to provide greater opportunities to the youth to enable them to play an active and meaningful role in the country's development.

Addressing the Leaders in Islamabad Summit – Sixth Session, titled from Strategic Relevance to National Advantage, the minister said Pakistan's future depended on creating an environment where young people could contribute their ideas, skills and energy to national progress.

He said the country needed to focus on people-centric develop-



ment and ensure that citizens had access to basic facilities necessary for a dignified life.

Dr Musadik Malik emphasized that improving the quality of life of the people should remain at the centre of development policies, adding that the provision of basic amenities could bring meaningful and lasting improvements to communities. He said greater opportunities should be created for the younger generation in education, skills development.

Networking meeting held at Bahria University Lahore campus to strengthen educational partnerships

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: A networking meeting was held today at Bahria University Lahore Campus (BULC) with the aim of strengthening institutional linkages with educational institutions and exploring opportunities for greater collaboration in student outreach and admissions. The meeting was attended by teachers and representatives from Meridian College, Unique College, and Subhani Academy, along with a representative of EduFi. Mr. Iftikhar Khan, Chairman Pakistan Media Writers Club, also graced the occasion with his presence and participated in the discussions. Heads of



Departments (HODs) from various departments of Bahria University Lahore Campus, along with the Assistant Director Marketing, also attended the meeting. The participation of representatives from different academic institutions provided an opportunity to discuss ways of developing stronger educational networks and improving communication with prospective.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with acting US Ambassador Natalie Baker.

Pakistan eyes bigger China swap line, expects US financing decision soon

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will seek an expansion of its 30 billion yuan swap line with China when the facility expires in 2027, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said, adding he expects a US response on a proposed \$10bn exchange stabilisation facility within two months.

The country remains reliant on external financing to bolster foreign exchange reserves and meet debt repayments, making support from China, Gulf states and multilateral lenders key to maintaining economic stability and investor confi-

dence. Aurangzeb said the entire 30bn yuan swap line from China had been fully drawn, adding that the government had yet to decide how much additional financing it would seek when the facility comes up for renewal. "They were open to it, but there is a process which has to be followed," said Aurangzeb, referring to recent meetings with his Chinese counterpart and the country's central bank governor. "We do plan to make a formal request at the time of the renewal."

Meanwhile, Aurangzeb said he expected a response

within two months to Pakistan's request for a \$10bn exchange stabilisation facility from Washington, adding that the government was also in talks with the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) and the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC).

EXIM financing could support aircraft purchases from Boeing by Pakistan International Airlines now that the national carrier is privatised, while DFC could help fund a planned \$5bn programme to upgrade the country's oil refineries.

Asked whether there were any concerns about simulta-

neously seeking additional support from the US and China, Aurangzeb said it was an "and-and" discussion.

"China has been a long-standing strategic partner for us... and we have very good, at the leadership level now, understanding and relationship with the Trump administration," he said.

"We are very fortunate to have this kind of relationship with both important economic and superpowers."

The US Treasury, DFC and EXIM did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Asked about elevated crude oil prices following the latest Middle East conflict,

which began in February, Aurangzeb said Pakistan had navigated the initial price spike after US and Israeli strikes on Iran relatively well, but cautioned that the outlook had become more uncertain.

"If this conflict goes into, unfortunately, November or December, you know, this is something which will be an area of concern for us," he said, adding prolonged disruption could put at risk the government's 4pc growth target for the fiscal year.

Pakistan had secured sufficient oil stocks to cover its needs through September and was well positioned for October, he said, adding an

institutionalised mechanism was now reviewing the situation on a daily basis. Planning for November supplies was already under way. Nonetheless, Aurangzeb said the government had no plans to seek additional International Monetary Fund (IMF) financing or emergency support from the Washington-based lender.

"As of now, our considered view is that it's manageable." An IMF mission is due next week for the fourth review of Pakistan's \$7bn programme and the third review of its Resilience and Sustainability Facility. "From our perspective, we are in good stead."