

PM Shehbaz says water 'lifeblood' of region, must never be weaponised

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said water was the "lifeblood" of the region and must never be weaponised, as he addressed a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Kyrgyzstan.

Speaking at the SCO Council of Heads of States (CHS) meeting in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek, the premier said the region cannot "realise its full potential without lasting peace".

Without naming India directly, he highlighted the issue of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) and demanded that it be honoured.

"Water is the lifeblood of our region. It sustains millions of lives, nourishes our land and secures the very future of our coming generations," he noted.

He stressed that it "must never be weaponised; it cannot be used as an instrument of coercion, nor can it ever be exploited for political leverage".

"The treaties governing our shared waters are solemn, binding international commitments. They are not matters of political convenience to be cast aside at your will. They must be honoured unconditionally, in both letter and spirit."

The prime minister's speech comes a day after the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) ordered India to uphold the IWT with Pakistan and suspend work on a hydro project in occupied Kashmir.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the SCO Council of Heads of State Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Schools closed in Rawalpindi as heavy rain lashes twin cities

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Heavy rain lashed Rawalpindi and Islamabad on Tuesday morning, inundating low-lying areas, raising the water level in Leh Nullah and prompting the district administration in the garrison city to announce a holiday for educational institutions. The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said that the water level in Leh Nullah had risen to 29 feet at Kattarian and 23.5 feet at Gawlamandi. Evacuation began along Kattarian and Gawlamandi as 200mm of rain was recorded in the catchment areas of Leh Nullah. Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal said the raised water levels have led to "urban flooding risks in low-lying areas" of the twin cities.

He said "all relief and emergency departments", including the Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa), Rescue 1122 and the district administration, were on high alert and deployed on the ground to manage drainage and ensure safety. PMD data till 8:20am showed that Saidpur received 104mm of rainfall, 157mm in Gobra, 72mm in Bokra, 155 mm at the PMD site near H-8/2, 74mm at Kutcheri, 201mm at Shamsabad.

2 terrorists killed in Lakki Marwat IBO: Police

PEAK POINT

LAKKI MARWAT: Two terrorists were killed in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Lakki Marwat district, police said. Qudratullah Khan, the spokesperson for the district police officer in Lakki Marwat, said in a statement that the operation was jointly conducted by police and Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) personnel after receiving "credible information about the presence of Fitna-al-Khawarij terrorists in the mountainous area within the limits of the Lakki City police station". The state uses the term Fitna-al-Khawarij to refer to the banned.

5 security personnel among 6 martyred in Balochistan Customs House attack, 21 terrorists killed across province: ISPR

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Five security personnel, including two officers, and a Customs officer were martyred during a "coordinated attack in an attempt to breach the Customs House" on the night of August 31-September 1 in Balochistan, the military's media wing said.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that on the night of Aug 31-Sept 1, during multiple incidents in Nokcha, Chagai District, and Ziarat Cross, Pishin District, twenty-one terrorists belonging to Indian-sponsored proxies of Fitna al-Hindustan and Fitna al-Khawarij were sent to hell due to effective responses by the Security Forces.

The state uses the term Fitna-al-Khawarij for the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and has designated Balochistanists," ISPR added. Moreover, fleeing terrorists were also engaged by the security forces, inflicting further casualties, the ISPR said. "During the exchange of fire, six brave sons of the soil, including two officers and a government official from the Customs Department, made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty and embraced shahadat," it said.

The attack on the Customs House was a "manifestation of the terror-crime nexus, orchestrated to prevent Customs officials from performing their lawful duties and thereby facilitate the continuation of criminal activities in the area," the ISPR stated.

It added that the sanitisation operations were continuing in the surrounding areas to eliminate any remaining terrorists and ensure the safety and security of the local population as well as the vital national highways. Separately, on 31 August, terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Hindustan attempted to disrupt the peaceful movement of commuters along N-40 Quetta-Taftan Highway by establishing an illegal checkpoint for extortion, ISPR said. "Security forces responded immediately and, after an intense fire exchange, 11 terrorists were killed on the spot.



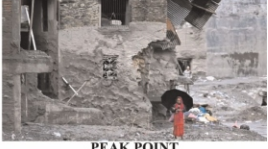
PEAK POINT

Nepal-China flood death toll exceeds 1,000; Nepal PM demands climate action

PEAK POINT

NEPAL: Devastating floods on the China-Nepal border have killed at least 987 people in Nepal, the disaster authority said on Tuesday, taking overall deaths to more than 1,000. Chinese state media earlier confirmed 16 people were killed in Tibet, bringing the total toll from Wednesday's disaster to 1,003. The number of missing in Nepal dropped to 3,916, as rescue efforts entered a seventh day, and the bodies recovered rose. In China, state media say 546 people are missing, taking the overall number of missing to 4,462. The missing in Nepal include 583 foreigners from over 30 nationalities.

The missing in China include 261 foreigners from 23 countries.



PEAK POINT



SPORTS



Explanation sought over Imam, Rizwan's selection for England, West Indies Tests



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Following poor performance in the ongoing Test series against England, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) sought an explanation from the selection committee over the inclusion of Mohammad Rizwan and Imam-ul-Haq.

According to a notice issued on August 31, a copy of which is available with Geo News, the committee members were asked to explain the basis and rationale for recommending the two players.

The development comes days after Pakistan suffered a 194-run defeat in the second Test at Lord's,

handing England an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Pakistan had also lost the opening Test by an innings and 103 runs, leaving the Babar Azam-led side under significant pressure following a disappointing Test campaign.

The selection committee members, including Aqib Javed, Misbah-ul-Haq, and Asad Shafiq, have been directed to submit in writing the two players' performances, selection criteria, and other factors considered during the process. The PCB has given the members 24 hours from receipt of the notice to submit their respec-

tive written responses.

The PCB notice specifically referred to a June 2, 2026 selection committee meeting, whose minutes were submitted on July 1, where members were tasked with considering and selecting players for the Test squad for the West Indies and England tours.

Rizwan and Imam were subsequently shortlisted upon the committee members' recommendation. Meanwhile, Misbah decided to resign from the selection committee, sources close to the former cricketer said. The sources privy to the development said Misbah has informed the PCB

about his decision and will serve a notice period before formally stepping down from his role.

The explanation was sought amid a series of measures taken by the PCB following the dismal performance of the national team.

A day earlier, the cricket board released seven players, including Rizwan and Imam, for the third Test scheduled to be held in Birmingham. Salman Ali Agha, Ali Usman, Aamir Jamal, Muhammad Awaiz Zafar and Khurram Shahzad were also released from the Test squad, according to a press release issued by the cricket board.

In recognition of outstanding performance Project director Faazil Arbab's tenure extended for another two years



PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sports Department has decided to extend the tenure of Project Director Faazil Arbab for another two years in recognition of his outstanding performance and significant contributions to various sports development projects. According to sources, during his tenure, Faazil Arbab played an important role in the development of sports infrastructure, construction and rehabilitation of sports grounds, and supervision of various development projects across the province.

His performance has reportedly been appreciated by the Sports Department. Senior officials of the Sports Department believe that retaining an experienced officer is essential for the timely completion of ongoing projects and for ensuring the provision of sports facilities in different districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Sources further revealed that a decision to retain Faazil Arbab on the same assignment for another two years has been made, while a formal notification regarding the extension is expected to be issued soon.

Ex-captains question Pakistan board's 'panic-button' squad shake-up



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) decision to axe seven players and the head coach after two crushing defeats by England triggered a furious backlash from former captains and coaches who termed the shake-up panic-driven chaos.

The PCB said it first Test against England by an innings and 103 runs and the second by 194 runs to Ali Agha home while the Sarfaraz Ahmed, who was appointed as the head coach of the Test team in April, was replaced by the country's white-ball coach, Mike Hesson.

Pakistan lost the Test against England by an innings and 103 runs and the second by 194 runs to Ali Agha home while the Sarfaraz Ahmed, who was appointed as the head coach of the Test team in April, was replaced by the country's white-ball coach, Mike Hesson.

and the replacements include players who have either played a handful of Tests or none at all.

"I'm trying to convince myself this is all OK, but it is not," former captain and ex-PCB chairman Ramiz Raja told BBC Radio.

"It just shows Pakistan cricket has hit a panic button."

Former all-rounder Shahid Afridi said he saw no logic or reasoning for selecting white-ball players for a Test series.

"Even the replacements make no sense — T20 players have been included for a Test match in England?" Afridi wrote on X.

ISB to host broadcast for extreme Barcelona



MUHAMMAD HARI

SPAIN: International Sports Broadcasting (ISB) has been named the host broadcaster for Extreme Barcelona, which will take place from September 4 to 6. ISB will produce the event's host feed and has also helped secure 25 broadcast deals for this year's competition, a significant increase from the five broadcast part-

ners the event had last year. The event will bring together around 500 athletes from 40 countries, competing in nearly 30 events across men's, women's and mixed categories. The sporting programme includes BMX Freestyle, skateboarding, scootering, breaking, 3x3 basketball, Para BMX Street and 3x3 football. In Spain the action will be available live on RTVEPlay and Esport3, while international coverage will extend across Europe, the United States, Latin America, Asia and Africa. The event will also be streamed globally for free on the Urban World Series YouTube channel. Alongside the competitions, Extreme Barcelona will feature music, art, food and entertainment throughout the weekend. Victor Casanovas, general manager of organiser Seven Mila, said the growing number of broadcast agreements reflects the event's international appeal and will help bring the competition to a wider global audience.

National Ranking Tennis C'ships: Top-ranked players register wins

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The 1st Meinhardt Grade A+ National Ranking Tennis Championships continued at the PTF Tennis Complex, Islamabad, on Tuesday, with leading national players advancing in their respective events. In the Men's Singles first round, Saqib Hayat defeated Aqil Khan 6-1, 6-1, while M. Haziq Asim beat Haziq Areejo 6-1, 6-1.

Mudassar Murtaza overcame Razik Sultan 6-2, 6-0, and Aqeel Khan defeated Ahmad Babar 6-2, 6-2. Muzammil Murtaza also advanced with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over Ahmad Chudary. In the Men's Doubles first round, Shehryar Anees and M. Hamza Asim defeated Hamza Rehmat and Uzair Khan 6-3, 6-2. The Ladies' Singles first round also witnessed one-sided encounters, with Areeem Salman defeating Inaya Masood 6-0, 6-0, Rumaisa

Malik beating Anaya Khan 6-0, 6-1, and Esha Jawad blanking Parcesay Bilal 6-0, 6-0. Bismal Zia defeated Madiha Latif 6-0, 6-0, Zara Khan beat Maria Ahmed 6-0, 6-0, while Maheen Zahra overcame Unayyazh 6-1, 6-0.

Raja advanced with a walkover against Mahnoor Bilal. Hamda Fatima beat Bakhtawar Haider 6-0, 6-0, and Mahin Aftab Qureshi defeated Saema Tehseen 6-0, 6-0. In the Boys' 18 & Under Singles, Shayan Afridi

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

Mahrukh Sajid defeated Manha Khalid 6-0, 6-2, Khadija Khalil beat Zainab Imran 6-0, 6-0, and Hajra Sohail defeated Larulakh Sajid 6-1, 6-0. Zaira Ahmad Zaka staged a comeback against Fatima Ali Raja to win 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. Zainab Ali Raja defeated Shandana Rabi 6-0, 6-0, while Wania Khalid

defeated Haziq Ali Areejo 6-0, 6-4, while Ahmed Hussain recovered from losing the opening set to beat Moazzam Babar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Other winners included S. Hamza Hussain, M. Rayan Khalil, Ahmed Fareed Yawar, Muhammad Hassan, Razik Sultan, Inam Qadir and Abdul Basit.

High production costs hit Pakistan's livestock sector as committee seeks urgent action

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's livestock sector is facing a tough mix of high production costs, expensive inputs, heavy taxes, limited access to soft loans and major barriers to exports, putting pressure on farmers and businesses across the cattle, dairy and poultry industries. The National Assembly Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research on Tuesday directed the government to take practical and time-bound steps to reduce these problems and make Pakistan's livestock sector more competitive. The committee, chaired by Syed Hussain Tariq, was told that high costs are making it difficult for livestock businesses

to grow. Representatives of the sector pointed to expensive inputs, taxes and duties, limited subsidies, weak access to affordable loans, poor use of local resources, low mechanization and problems in improving animal breeds. The committee directed the Secretary of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research to examine these issues with federal and provincial authorities and take steps to reduce production costs, improve access to cheaper financing, increase the use of local inputs, promote mechanization and strengthen breed improvement programmes. The sector also faces problems in getting important veterinary medicines, machinery, equipment and modern

technologies. Representatives told lawmakers that some essential items are not available in sufficient quantities in Pakistan, making imports necessary. They also called for stronger rules for veterinary medicines and responsible use of antibiotics according to international standards. The committee directed the ministry to coordinate with relevant authorities to make essential imports easier, improve regulation of veterinary medicines and ensure antibiotics are used properly. Livestock representatives told the committee that Pakistan's cattle, dairy and poultry exports face trade barriers, negative lists, import bans and other restrictions in foreign markets. They also pointed to weak identifica-

tion of international markets, limited exposure to foreign buyers and a lack of competitiveness. The committee directed the Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce to work with relevant authorities and trading partners to reduce trade barriers and find new international markets for Pakistani livestock, dairy and poultry products. The committee said Pakistan needs to improve the quality of products meant for export, follow international standards and increase value addition so that local products can compete in global markets. Officials and industry representatives also proposed one-window operations and export facilitation centres to reduce delays in official and regulatory procedures. The

Ministry of Commerce was directed to examine the feasibility of these systems and simplify export procedures. The committee also asked the Ministry of Commerce to increase Pakistan's presence in international markets through trade fairs, exhibitions, trade missions and direct business meetings. The aim is to connect Pakistani producers with new buyers and find markets for livestock, dairy and poultry products. The committee was also informed that livestock is mainly a provincial subject after the 18th Constitutional Amendment. Because of this, the committee stressed the need for stronger cooperation between the federal government, provincial governments and

other institutions. The National Food Security Ministry was directed to improve coordination with the provinces on livestock development, while the Ministry of Commerce will handle trade and export issues within its area of responsibility. The committee said Pakistan has the potential to become a stronger livestock producer and exporter, but this will require action on animal health, breeding, machinery, production costs, product quality and access to foreign markets. It stressed that better support for the livestock sector could increase productivity, raise farmers' incomes and improve Pakistan's livestock exports.

CJP stresses citizen-centric justice at inauguration of public facilitation centre at BHC

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi on Tuesday stressed the need for making the justice system faster, transparent, accessible, effective and citizen-friendly while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Public Facilitation Centre at the Balochistan High Court.

The Centre was inaugurated by Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court Justice Muhammad Kamran Khan Malakhal in the presence of the Chief Justice of Pakistan. It has been established to bring essential judicial services closer to litigants, lawyers and the general public and make their interaction with the justice system more accessible, efficient and dignified. Before the ceremony, Fateha was offered for Shaheed District and Sessions



Judge Abdul Hakeem Kakar and other martyred members of the legal fraternity. Chief Justice Yahya Afridi paid tribute to judges and lawyers who

lost their lives in the discharge of their duties, observing that the most meaningful tribute to their sacrifices was to uphold the rule of law and continue

the mission of providing justice to the people. Justice Muhammad Kamran Khan Malakhal said the Centre had been established within six months to facilitate litigants and lawyers in accessing judicial services and basic facilities. He said the facility had been designed according to the practical requirements of litigants and lawyers, enabling them to obtain assistance and

reliable information through a clear and coordinated process. He emphasized that effective functioning of the Centre would require discipline, adherence to prescribed procedures and cooperation among all stakeholders. Referring to security standard operating procedures, he said their purpose was to ensure the safety of judges, lawyers, litigants and other persons visiting the court premises.

Opinion & Editorial


Arif Mehmood 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

Climate Change, Floods and the Human Cost of Environmental Injustice in Pakistan

By Dr. Baber George



Climate change is no longer a distant global concern. It has become a harsh reality affecting communities, livelihoods, economies and human lives across the world. Pakistan is among the countries facing severe consequences of a changing climate, despite having contributed relatively little to global greenhouse gas emissions. The recent flood situation in Gilgit-Baltistan is another reminder of the growing vulnerability of environmentally sensitive regions. Local communities are facing serious challenges as floods damage homes, roads, infrastructure, agriculture and sources of livelihood. Particularly concerning is the fact that some of the areas experiencing the greatest impact are among Pakistan's most environmentally valuable and naturally protected regions. Gilgit-Baltistan is not only home to millions of people but also contains some of the world's most important mountain ecosystems, glaciers and water resources. Damage to these fragile environments can have consequences far beyond the affected communities. At the same time, urban flooding is becoming an increasingly serious

challenge in Pakistan's major cities. Heavy and unpredictable rainfall can overwhelm drainage systems within a short period of time, turning roads and streets into waterways and disrupting daily life. Urban flooding can damage homes and businesses, paralyze transportation, affect essential services and expose citizens to serious health and safety risks. The growing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events demonstrate that climate change must be addressed through both global responsibility and local preparedness. Pakistan needs stronger urban drainage systems, improved flood-management infrastructure, better early-warning mechanisms, protection of natural waterways and wetlands, and climate-resilient planning for expanding cities. However, the responsibility cannot rest solely on countries that are suffering the consequences. The nations and industries that have historically contributed significantly to global greenhouse gas emissions must recognize their responsibility toward vulnerable countries and communities. Climate justice demands more than statements of sympathy. Affected countries and communities need mean-

ingful financial support for climate adaptation, disaster recovery, reconstruction and environmental protection. International climate finance should reach the people and regions facing the greatest risks and should help them build resilience before disasters occur. Pakistan's experience—from the mountain communities of Gilgit-Baltistan to densely populated urban centers struggling with flooding—shows that climate change is simultaneously an environmental, humanitarian, economic and human rights issue. Every person has the right to live in a safe and healthy environment. Protecting that right requires collective action, responsible development and genuine international solidarity. The international community must act before vulnerable communities are forced to pay an even greater price for a crisis they did little to create. Climate responsibility must be transformed into climate action, and climate action must include justice for those on the front lines.

Dr. Baber George
 Global President & Chief Ambassador IUDHR
 (Implementation Universal Declaration of Human Rights), USA

The golden goose

Arifa Noor

It might be an odd week to write about journalism and indulge in some navel gazing, for much has happened in recent days to keep everyone occupied. From the Imran Khan health saga to tragedies that have left most gasping, with the fire at Pims and the murder of Hina Javed — whose husband has been arrested — in Pindi. And this was just in the twin cities. There was more such news from elsewhere — the rape and murder of a child in Haripur and the broader insecurity faced by people living in parts of KP and Balochistan.

But it has to be said that the two incidents in Islamabad and Pindi — the power centre of this country — forced the state and society to pay attention. Indeed, at one level, one welcomed the fact that there had been little effort to stop the wall-to-wall coverage of and commentary on these two incidents. After a long time, it seemed as if journalists reported, commented and spoke without looking over their shoulder.

So unusual was the experience that it was discussed in more than one newsworm, as insignificant hacks wondered what had happened and why there was some space. After all, now we live in a world where so much of what is happening in the country is a 'red line' — from the trees in Islamabad to incidents in our 'invisible' provinces to angry protests. Most of it is now left unreported. It is uncovered only by those who are willing to turn into Sherlock Holmes, trawling through social media for 'events'. Simply the 'what and when' is becoming the holy grail. For the television channels beamed into our homes and the newspapers delivered to our phones have learnt that they can only print all the news considered fit to print by the powerful in Pakistan.

And this has had an impact on the media industry in ways that are yet to be understood and analysed.

Courtesy Tribune

PCA reprimands Delhi

India has had face a setback as the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) has ruled against its stance on water politics. The Hague-based court yesterday declared that the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) remains fully in force and that India had no justification to hold it in abeyance. It also ordered India to suspend construction work on Ratle Hydro-Electric Plant in occupied Kashmir pending further review. The ruling vindicates Pakistan's stance as a victim of hydro-politics, particularly since its eastern neighbour adopted a hegemonic posture by weaponising water as an instrument of conflict. The PCA had earlier ruled that it possesses the 'due and legitimate authority' to adjudicate any dispute between the two nations over the IWT. This nullifies New Delhi's claim that the forum is 'devoid of lawful authority'. Monday's dictum marks the third consecutive decision in Pakistan's favour, following World Bank President Aijaz Bhatti's previous remarks characterising India's unilateral suspension of the international treaty as legally untenable. India, which has been acting as a rogue state against Pakistan on the premise of its asymmetric supremacy, needs to take a lesson in international law. Its actions run afoul of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

Islamabad MoU implementation only way forward, DPM Dar tells Iran's Araghchi

PEAK POINT

TEHRAN: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday stressed the need to implement the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the United States and Iran, saying it was the only way forward to resolve their dispute. DPM Dar made the remarks during a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Bishkek, the Foreign Office said in a statement. DPM Dar arrived a day ago in Bishkek to join Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who is on a three-day visit to Kyrgyzstan to attend SCO meetings and hold bilateral talks with the country's top leadership.

During the meeting, DPM Dar and Araghchi exchanged views on bilateral relations and regional developments and reaffirmed the importance of continued engagement, the FO said.

"The DPM/FM underscored that



dialogue and diplomacy remain essential to promoting peace and stability in the region, and that sincere implementation by both parties to the conflict of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding of June 2026 remains the only way forward," it added.

DPM Dar also met with China's FM Wang Yi on the sidelines of the SCO meeting in Bishkek.

Pakistan emerged as a key mediator between Tehran and Washington in efforts to end the conflict that began with US and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28.

Islamabad brokered a two-week ceasefire between the two sides on

April 8, bringing six weeks of fighting to a temporary halt, and has since continued to relay messages between Washington and Tehran.

Tehran and Washington reached a 14-point interim agreement, titled the "Islamabad MoU", on June 18, aimed at bringing an end to the conflict in the Middle East.

Since then, Islamabad has repeatedly committed to play its role in bridging differences between Washington and Tehran and work for a peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialogue and de-escalation.

DPM Dar's statement comes amid renewed escalation in the Middle East, with the US and Iran engaged in tit-for-tat attacks.

Iran said on Monday it attacked US military targets in Jordan in retaliation for the first American strikes on its territory in a month, marking a fresh flare-up in the six-month war.

Tehran's Revolutionary Guards said they struck two US military air bases with ballistic missiles in Washington-allied Jordan.

Tariq Fazal visits rain affected areas, reviews rain situation in federal capital

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Tuesday visited rain-affected areas of Islamabad and reviewed the situation following heavy rainfall.

Officials of the district administration and local leadership of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) accompanied the federal minister during the visit.

Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry inspected various areas affected by the rainfall and reviewed arrangements for draining accumulated rainwater.

He directed the authorities to immediately drain rainwater from low-lying areas and roads.

"All necessary measures should be taken to maintain the flow of traffic and ensure public convenience," the minister said.



He said heavy rainfall had caused some drains to overflow, creating difficulties for citizens in several areas.

"The CDA, Metropolitan Corporation and Islamabad administration, along with all relevant departments, are actively working in the field," he said.

The minister said he was in constant contact with the Deputy Commissioner and Chief Commissioner and was personally monitoring the situation.

He directed the local Pakistan Muslim League -Nawaz (PML-N) leadership to remain present.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia to further deepen partnership in digital innovation: Shaza Fatima

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to further deepen its partnership with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, expressing confidence that continued collaboration in digital innovation, capacity-building and emerging technologies would open new avenues of shared growth and prosperity for both nations.

Addressing the LEAP 2026 conference in Riyadh, titled "How We Built a Digital Nation", she underscored that Pakistan had anchored its digital transformation in legislation through the Digital Nation Pakistan Act, which established the National Digital Commission and Pakistan Digital Authority to ensure institutional ownership.

She further said the legal foundation had been complemented by investment in connectivity and competitiveness, including one of the largest spectrum (5G) auctions, the creation of Special Technology Zones and reduced taxation for the IT industry.

Shaza Fatima Khawaja highlighted that

the digital transformation journey was guided by the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and supported by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), chaired by the Prime Minister and Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, with the participation of all provincial chief executives.

She added that, building on these foundations, Pakistan was now developing a national digital stack which, combined with a young workforce, political and economic stability, and expanding digital infrastructure, positioned the country as one of the region's most attractive investment destinations.

The government's approach to growth, she affirmed, remained anchored in innovation, partnerships and smart investment. Sharing insights from Pakistan's digital journey, the minister said that governments succeeded by leading through sound policymaking and strong institutions, thereby creating an enabling environment in which the private sector could take the lead in driving growth. She emphasized that a dedicated central digital agency was essential.

Ayaz welcomes PCA decision upholding Indus Waters Treaty

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has welcomed the unanimous decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) affirming that the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) remains fully in force and that India has no valid grounds to unilaterally suspend or terminate the Treaty.

He said the decision was a significant affirmation of international law, treaty obligations and the principle that disputes must be resolved through peaceful and established legal mechanisms.

Ayaz Sadiq said Pakistan had always respected international treaties and upheld international law and remained a strong proponent of dialogue and peaceful resolution of disputes.

The Speaker said the Indus Waters Treaty is an important international agreement, directly linked to the livelihood, agriculture, economic development and prosperity of the region. He stressed that such a vital treaty must be respected and upheld in letter and spirit.

Governor directs timely completion of power projects to improve electricity supply

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday directed the authorities to ensure the timely completion of power development projects in the province especially in Dera Ismail Khan, saying uninterrupted and improved electricity supply was a basic public necessity.

He issued the directive during a meeting with PESCO Chief Engineer (Development) Habib Ur Rehman Khan Marwat at the Governor House, where they discussed public issues related to WAPDA and ongoing measures to improve the power distribution system.

During the meeting, the



Governor was briefed on the progress of electricity development projects in Dera Ismail Khan.

The briefing said work on the Dera Grid-II transmission line was progressing at a fast pace, while more than 50 per cent work on an alternative transmission line had already been completed to strengthen the electricity supply system.

The Governor was informed that efforts were also underway to remove legal hurdles.

17th ERC meeting orders tighter monsoon readiness

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Emergency Response Committee (ERC), chaired by Federal Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives Prof Dr Ahsan Iqbal, on Tuesday reviewed the country's monsoon situation and national preparedness at the National Emergencies Operations Centre (NEOC) in Islamabad.

The committee directed federal and provincial authorities to maintain close coordination, strengthen early warning systems and keep rescue and relief resources ready as rain is expected to continue in northern areas and could trigger urban and flash flooding in vulnerable districts



until Sept 4.

The 17th ERC meeting was convened by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on the directions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to oversee preparedness and coordinated emergency response during the 2026 monsoon season.

Federal Minister for Water Resources Mian Muhammad Mueen Wattoo.



Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja inaugurating the Tech Destination Pakistan Pavilion at LEAP 2026 in Riyadh.

Rana Mashhood meets Chinese envoy to deepen youth cooperation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD, Sep 01 (APP): Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Tuesday called for deeper Pakistan China cooperation in education, skills, employment, technology and youth exchanges during a meeting with Chinese Charge d'Affaires Shi Yuanguang at the Prime Minister's Office, proposing a dedicated Chinese Universities Education Expo and structured collaboration on the National Youth Employment Policy to create more opportunities for Pakistani youth.

Chief PMYP welcomed Mr Shi and the Chinese delegation, stressing that stronger people to people and youth to youth engagement was essential to further strengthen the longstanding "iron brother" relationship between Pakistan and China.

He said Pakistani youth had a strong interest in pursuing higher education in China and proposed holding a Chinese Universities Education Expo in Pakistan.

Rana Mashhood meets Chinese envoy to deepen youth cooperation

The expo, he said, could bring Chinese universities and Pakistani students



together, allowing institutions to showcase academic programmes, scholarships and admission opportunities.

Mr Khan said Pakistan wanted to expand cooperation with China in culture, technology, research, education and skills development to create meaningful opportunities for young people.

Mr Khan also highlighted the establishment of PMYP secretariats in China as a reflection of growing institutional engagement between the two countries in the youth sector.

He appreciated the continued support of the Chinese

government and people for Pakistan's advanced technology and capabilities as an important element of bilateral cooperation.

Referring to growing collaboration in the space sector, Mr Rana said Pakistan's first astronaut was expected to join China's space station by the end of the year, describing it as another significant milestone in cooperation in science, technology and space. Mr Shi described Pakistan China relations as unique and longstanding, reiterating that the two countries were "iron brothers". He stressed the need to broaden

youth exchanges in culture, technology, research and other fields to promote greater interaction and mutual understanding.

The Chinese diplomat also appreciated PMYP's Digital Youth Hub (DYH), particularly its role in bringing diverse opportunities for young people onto a single platform.

He said the platform offered a comprehensive mechanism for connecting young people with opportunities and commended PMYP for developing an innovative initiative aimed at engaging, connecting and empowering youth.