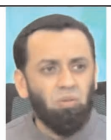




Education must prepare youth for skills, innovation, future of work: Chairman Senate



No governor's rule, but 'people's rule' needed in KP: Tarar



BISP payment system opens up greater flexibility for beneficiaries: Rubina Khalid

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CDF Munir says armed forces remain resolute in defeating terrorism, ensuring lasting peace: ISPR

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir said on Tuesday that the armed forces remained resolute in defeating terrorism and ensuring lasting peace and stability, according to the military's media wing.

Field Marshal Munir made the statement while visiting Peshawar Corps Headquarters, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. He was received by the Peshawar Corps commander.

During the visit, Field Marshal Munir was briefed on the "security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, ongoing counter-terrorism operations, border management

measures and operational preparedness of formations deployed in the province".

The CDF lauded the "high morale, readiness and professionalism" of the security personnel. He acknowledged their "steadfast commitment to safeguarding the country and its people".

According to ISPR, the CDF directed troops to remain vigilant and maintain the "highest standards" of operational preparedness. "The armed forces, with the unwavering support of the nation, remain resolute in their determination to defeat terrorism and ensure lasting peace and stability across the country," ISPR quoted him as saying. During the visit, CDF Munir also laid a floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada.



Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir at the Peshawar Corps headquarters.

Druzhba-IX, Washaq Al Jabal-II joint exercises commence

PEAK POINT



RAWALPINDI: The 9th edition of Pakistan-Russia Joint Exercise Druzhba-IX and the 2nd edition of Pakistan-Oman Joint Exercise Washaq Al Jabal-II (Mountain Lynx-II) commenced on

Tuesday at Cherat and the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Pabbi, respectively. The two-week exercises bring together contingents from Pakistan Army and their counterparts from the Russian Army and the Royal Army of Oman to share operational experience.

, refine counter-terrorism drills, procedures and enhance interoperability, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Through joint training and the exchange of best practices, the participating forces will hone their combat skills and tactical expertise while further strengthening bilateral defence cooperation.

'Terrific man' Shehbaz gets special mention during Trump's UNGA speech

MHAPARA ZAMAN



NEW YORK: United States President Donald Trump on Tuesday called Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif a "terrific man" during his address to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) as he once again mentioned his role in ending the Pakistan-India conflict in May 2025.

During a speech that covered the conflict in Iran, artificial intelligence and criticism of the UN, Trump once again listed conflicts that he had played a role in ending. "Since I took office, it has been my honour to help settle eight wars, and in so doing, become friendly with the leaders of many of those countries," Trump said. "It was a great honour to do it," he added. He highlighted that he had been able to settle these conflicts via his "great relations", as well as the use of tariffs. Listing off the countries, he noted "Pakistan and India" as a conflict he settled, alongside Thailand and Cambodia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the Gaza conflict, among others. He noted that almost all of these countries had written him letters of thanks for his role.

"The prime minister of Pakistan — terrific man — said that Donald Trump was responsible for saving 30 million lives and probably many more than that," he added.

Tensions between India and Pakistan had flared in April 2025 when a deadly terror attack on tourists in occupied Kashmir was, without evidence, blamed on Islamabad, which strongly refuted the allegations.

JI puts off Islamabad long march after PM's appeal, but vows not to abandon protest against petrol levy

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on Tuesday said his party was postponing its long march to Islamabad against the

petroleum levy at the request of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, pending a meeting with him. Rehman, along with other party leaders, announced the decision during a press conference in Multan, where his caravan arrived on Monday night as part of the long march JI had launched the day before. The decision comes after a phone call between PM Shehbaz and the JI chief, in which the premier urged the latter to "postpone the sit-in", according to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Both leaders agreed to meet after PM Shehbaz returned from his official visit to the United States, and to "continue further consultation on this matter", the statement said. Addressing media in Multan, Rehman recalled that he received the prime minister's phone call last night and sought time to consult his party leaders on the request to postpone the march.

463kg of Afghan-origin meth worth \$21m seized in US-Pak operation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: US and Pakistani authorities have seized approximately 463kg of crystal methamphetamine worth \$21 million in a coordinated operation targeting an Afghan-origin narcotics network, the US Embassy in Islamabad said on Monday. In a statement, the embassy said that the seizure took place on August 30 at the embassy's Drug Enforcement Administration office (DEA Islamabad) coordinated with Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) to make this seizure, in cooperation with Sri Lanka's Police Narcotics Bureau and DEA's New Delhi office. Between August 14,

Eight Arab-Islamic states call for Gaza ceasefire, implementation of peace roadmap

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign ministers of eight Arab and Islamic countries have expressed deep concern over the humanitarian situation in Gaza and called for maintaining the ceasefire, ensuring unhindered humanitarian assistance and implementing the roadmap for the next phase of the Gaza peace plan.

Foreign Office spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan said the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Egypt, Qatar, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Türkiye and Saudi Arabia met in New York on Sept. 21 on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly and issued a joint statement following their meeting. The same group of eight countries has coordinated

repeatedly on Gaza and the implementation of the

They said these obligations included ensuring the



comprehensive peace plan, including through joint statements supporting a ceasefire, reconstruction and Palestinian self-determination.

In their latest statement, the ministers expressed deep concern over the continuing humanitarian suffering in Gaza and called on Israel to immediately fulfil its remaining obligations under the first phase of the comprehensive plan.

immediate, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance and early recovery supplies, as well as facilitating the restoration of critical infrastructure.

The ministers stressed the need to preserve the ceasefire and end violations that could undermine the peace process.

They described the roadmap as an essential component of the compre-

hensive plan and said it provided the framework for moving towards its second phase.

According to the statement, the second phase includes the phased elimination of weaponry and armed capabilities, a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces, deployment of an International Stabilization Force and the assumption of responsibilities across Gaza by the National Committee for Gaza Administration.

The roadmap also envisages the start of early recovery and reconstruction efforts throughout Gaza. Elements including a phased Israeli withdrawal, the National Committee for Gaza Administration and an International Stabilization Force have also featured in earlier discussions on implementing the plan.

PTI's long march unjustified, protesters won't be allowed to enter Islamabad: Tarar



PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaulah Tarar on Tuesday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) long march towards Islamabad had no justification, adding that protesters having a track record of disruption and vandalism would not be allowed to enter the federal capital. "The nation is witness to the disruption and inconvenience caused to the general public by PTI workers during their previous rallies. On one occasion, a female media anchor even had to take refuge by climbing over a DSNG vehicle to escape from the protesters," he said. Addressing a press conference at the Peshawar Press Club, the federal minister said the Islamabad High Court had issued directions that no compromise would be made over disruption to the movement of people in the federal capital. Former Governor KP.



SPORTS



Pakistan women's cricket team claim bronze medal at Asian Games 2026



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan secured the bronze medal in the 2026 Asian Games women's cricket competition after defeating Bangladesh by 31 runs in the third-place playoff at Korogi Sports Park, Nisshin, on Tuesday. Batting first, Pakistan were restricted to 145-8 in their allotted 20 overs as Bangladesh produced an impressive bowling performance to contain the Green Shirts' batting lineup.

Captain Fatima Sana top-scored for Pakistan with an unbeaten 45 off 30 deliveries, while Tuba Hassan contributed

smashing three boundaries and three sixes. Opener Gull Feroza contributed 31 off 23 balls, hitting six boundaries.

Aliya Riaz played a valuable knock of 25 off 22 deliveries, including one boundary and two sixes, while fellow opener Shawaal Zulfiqar scored 17 off 27 balls without hitting a boundary.

Saira Jabeen was dismissed for five off six deliveries, with one boundary, while Ayesha Zafar scored nine off seven balls, including one boundary. Eymen

Fatima was dismissed for a duck after facing three deliveries, while Tuba Hassan contributed

four off two balls, hitting one boundary.

For Bangladesh, Ritu Moni, Shorna Akter and Nahida Akter claimed two wickets each, while Sanjida Akter Meghla chipped in with one wicket.

Chasing 146, the Tigresses were restricted to 114-7 in their allotted 20 overs as Pakistan staged a fighting comeback with the ball after struggling with the bat.

Shamim Akhter remained unbeaten with a fighting 46 off 45 her four overs, while Tasnia deliveries, including four boundaries. Skipper Nigar Sultana contributed 25 runs off 30 deliveries, in with one wicket each.

hitting three boundaries, while opener Dilara Akter scored 12 off eight deliveries with two boundaries.

Shorna Akter scored six off eight deliveries, while Juairiya Ferdous and Rabeya Khan contributed four runs each. Ritu Moni and Sobhana Mostary added three and two runs respectively, while Nahida Akter remained unbeaten on 10.

Umm-e-Hani starred with the ball for Pakistan, claiming 3/10 in her four overs, while Tasnia Rubab, Fatima Sana, Nashra Sandhu and Ayesha Zafar chipped

Former Indian cricketer claims five IPL 2025 matches were fixed



PEAK POINT

NEW DEHLI: Former Indian first-class cricketer Rachit Bhatia has claimed that five IPL 2025 matches were fixed and that he received Rs 6 million per match. According to Indian media reports, the claims emerged from a covert-camera investigation by Tehelka's Special Investigation Team into alleged match-fixing and the leaking of confidential team information during the IPL 2025 season. Bhatia allegedly told undercover reporters that he obtained Chennai Super Kings' playing-XI information before matches and shared it with London-based bookmakers through Snapchat.

"Information about the playing XIs of teams, including Chennai Super Kings, was passed to bookmakers in London," Bhatia reportedly claimed that he received Rs6 million for each match in exchange for providing such information. According to Tehelka, the information was allegedly sent to London-based bookmakers through Snapchat, with around Rs30 million reportedly earned from five matches. The investigation also alleged that the information was provided by a young wicketkeeper-batter, later identified by cricket journalist Pratyush Halder on X as Vansh Bedi.

Pakistan to host several int'l hockey events in next six months, says PHF



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) President Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani has announced that Pakistan will host a series of international hockey events over the next six months, with multiple foreign teams expected to tour the country.

Speaking to Geo News, Mohyuddin Wani said that following Korea's visit, the Chinese hockey team is scheduled to visit Pakistan in November 2026. He added that Canada will also visit Pakistan after the Chinese team's tour, while three European teams are also ready to visit the country.

The PHF president said the arrival of international hockey teams would help promote and revive hockey activities in Pakistan. Mohyuddin Wani further revealed that Pakistan is planning to host an international hockey event with a decision on the request.

tries in December next year.

He also said a hockey league is planned to be held in Pakistan next year as part of efforts to further develop the sport domestically. Speaking about the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy, Mohyuddin Wani said the authority to shift the tournament to a neutral venue rests with the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF). He said the PHF had already requested the AHF to move the tournament from India to a neutral venue. However, the continental governing body has yet to provide Pakistan with a decision on the request.

Usman Khan makes Asian Games debut in Japan



Afghan cyclist who disguised herself as man wins Asian Games silver

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: An Afghan cyclist who disguised herself as a man to pursue her sporting dreams won an Asian Games silver medal on Tuesday, hoping it inspires other women in a country where Taliban authorities have sharply curtailed their freedoms.

Italy-based Fariba Hashimi powered home second in the women's road race near Nagoya in Japan, calling the triumph "something special". "I can't explain my feelings now," said the 23-year-old, before reflecting on how she was attacked with stones and trained disguised as a man when she started out in the sport as a teenager along with sister Yulduz, who is also now a pro cyclist.

"I was born inside a country where the women who dream are getting attacked, and I'm really happy that I

have fought against that," she said.

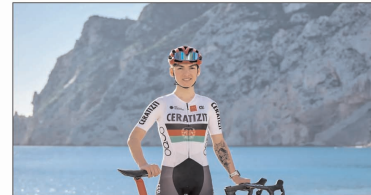
"I hope that the next generation will come here and represent their country without any fear."

The Taliban authorities returned to power in 2021

country after the Taliban authorities took over.

"This silver medal can show a lot of resilience from Afghan women, and I'm really happy."

"I'm not alone, I know that behind me millions of



and have since imposed a series of rules limiting women's access to education and public life, including sport.

"They took away our freedom, they took away everything from us," said Hashimi, who hails from Faryab province in northern Afghanistan and left the

women, from many countries, have the same dream and they are standing with me."

After fleeing Afghanistan with the help of Italian former world champion Alessandra Cappellotto, Hashimi relocated to Italy, where she now lives and trains.

Female athletes are throwing the shot put during various sports competitions at the Firdous Track on Jhang Road





Ulema, Mashaikh call for collective resolve to protect Haramain Sharifain, uphold Muslim unity

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A broad group of religious scholars and leaders on Tuesday called for a collective and unwavering commitment to the protection and sanctity of the Haramain Sharifain, stressing that the security of Baitullah and Roza-e-Rasool (Peace Be Upon Him) is a matter of faith and a shared concern of the entire Muslim Ummah rather than a sectarian issue.

The Ulema and Mashaikh – Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman and National Paigham-e-Aman

Committee Coordinator, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, Syed Ziaullah Shah Bukhari, Dr Asif Mir, Maulana Zahid Mansoor, Maulana Zubair Fahim, Maulana Zulfiqar Ahmed, Maulana Qasim Qasmi, Maulana Tahir Aqeel Awan, Maulana Abu Bakr Sabri, Maulana Shahbaz, Maulana Muhammad Afzal Shah, Naib Khan Subhani, Maulana Hafeez ur Rehman, Maulana Aurangzeb, Maulana Anis ur Rehman, Maulana Siddiq Siddiqui, Maulana Bakht Zaman, Maulana Shahbaz Naumani, Mufti Hafeez ur Rehman,



Mufti Shakil and Hafiz Syed Ammar Shah – said the sanctity and protection of the holy sites transcended sectarian and political considerations.

Speaking at the "Tazame-e-Haramain Sharifain

Seminar" organized by the Pakistan Ulema Council here in Jamea Masjid Bilal, they said Pakistan was established on the basis of the Kalima, while the relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia was also rooted in

faith and a deep bond with the sacred places of Islam.

The scholars stressed that their attachment to Saudi Arabia was not based on economic interests or oil, but on their love for the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), Baitullah and the sacred places of Islam.

They said the Muslim community had demonstrated unity whenever the sanctity of the Haramain Sharifain was threatened, emphasizing that Shia, Sunni, Bareilvi and other schools of thought were united on the protection of Baitullah and Roza-e-

Rasool (Peace Be Upon Him).

The scholars strongly condemned any threat or attempt to target Makkah al Mukarramah or Madinah al Munawwarah and said any person or group contemplating an attack on Baitullah would face a united response from the Muslim Ummah.

They maintained that any religious decree or justification for an attack on Baitullah was unacceptable and required a clear religious response, stressing that the sanctity of the Kaaba could not be compromised under any circumstances.

Pakistan Brings Back 1,252 Archaeological Artefacts From Abroad

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan secured the return of 1,252 valuable archaeological artefacts from the United States, Australia, Italy and other countries during the last year, the National Assembly Standing Committee on National Heritage and Culture was told. The committee welcomed the recovery of the artefacts but raised concern over the illegal digging, trafficking and unauthorized export of Pakistan's archaeological heritage. It directed the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture to provide a detailed

report in its next meeting on how antiquities are protected, how their authenticity is checked and how many artefacts have been brought back during the last five years. The 9th meeting of the Standing Committee on National Heritage and Culture was held at Parliament House under the chairmanship of MNA Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar. Officials told the committee that continued efforts and follow-up had helped Pakistan bring back 1,252 archaeological artefacts from abroad during the past year. The committee appreciated the ministry's work in securing their repatriation.

The committee, however, sought details of the systems currently used to stop the illegal removal of archaeological items from Pakistan. It also asked the ministry to explain what technical facilities and trained staff are available to check whether an artefact is genuine. The committee further asked for a complete record of artefacts returned to Pakistan during the last five years so that the scale of the repatriation effort could be reviewed. The meeting also discussed international cooperation for the protection and restoration of Pakistan's cultural heritage. The ministry

informed the committee that Pakistan is a member of the 1954 Hague Convention and its Protocol, the 1970 UNESCO Convention on preventing the illegal import, export and transfer of cultural property, and the 1972 World Heritage Convention. The committee was informed that under UNESCO assistance, \$75,000 each was received in 2022 for the Moenjodaro and Makli World Heritage Sites after monsoon related damage. Another 49,139 dollars was provided in 2025 for the conservation and restoration of Takht-i-Bahi and the nearby city of Sahr-i-Bahlol. The

committee directed that all conservation work carried out with foreign or outside assistance should undergo proper technical inspection. It also called for regular written monitoring of the work and transparent use of the funds provided for the projects. The committee also approved the ministry's plan to provide voluntary academic guidance to candidates preparing for the CSS examination at the National Library of Pakistan. Experienced officers and other resource persons will provide guidance in compulsory subjects including English, Pakistan Studies, General Knowledge,

History of Pakistan and Everyday Science. The committee especially appreciated the proposed focus on English grammar and composition, précis and report writing and official writing skills. However, the committee said the programme must remain within the National Library's existing responsibilities and available resources and should not create an unnecessary financial or administrative burden. It also asked for a proper system to record attendance and participation and to regularly check whether the programme is helping the students.

Opinion & Editorial

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Online predators

The internet has become another hunting ground for sexual predators, and Pakistan's children are paying a heavy price for the failure to protect them. A recent Unicef report estimates that 1.5 million children in the country experienced online sexual abuse in a single year. More disturbing is the finding that 71% of victims never disclosed their ordeal, while none of the children surveyed who experienced abuse approached formal reporting channels. Children are being exploited in an environment where perpetrators can operate with relative impunity, while victims are silenced by the fear of social condemnation. Nearly three-quarters of children aged between 12 and 17 now use the internet, and methods employed by predators are becoming increasingly sophisticated. What begins as an innocent conversation or an interaction on a gaming platform can develop into months of calculated manipulation, culminating in sexual extortion and blackmail. Yet, the greater tragedy is that children often have more to fear from the reaction to their abuse than from reporting the crime itself. Girls, in particular, risk being withdrawn from school or subjected to restrictions on their freedom if their ordeal becomes public. Such attitudes punish the victim while allowing the offender to escape scrutiny.

A question of region

Arifa Noor

"Don't know much about history, don't know much biology,

Don't know much about the science book, don't know much about the French I took..."

THIS is an old song, which seems to be an apt description of journalists

especially in Pakistan. Over the decades, the profession has moved on from print to television and now digital but our training remains rooted in old-fashioned 'generalism' (if there's such a word). As with the bureaucrats who run petroleum one day and health the other, we journalists move from commenting on foreign affairs one evening to the economy and healthcare the next. The notion of specialising in issues or studying them in depth is as alien to us as democracy is to Islamabad's neighbours.

Perhaps this is why most in the profession rarely bother with reading and books. Take history — even of Pakistan. Those of us who entered the field at the time of newspapers learnt the country's history through oral tradition. Late-night chats with senior colleagues, who had survived martial laws and newsroom working hours, told us of tumultuous times such as war, secession and dictatorship. They included those who remembered what it was like working during the censorship of Ziaul Haq's times, the night Pervez Musharraf removed the government or when an opera-

tion was first launched against the MQM in Karachi. The oral history we learnt alongside copy editing was the best counter-narrative to the whitewashed account taught in school books under Pakistan Studies. Our daastango provided us with a fun but patchy account of the land of the pure.

Patchy, for it leaves us with more questions than answers — the personal accounts that we learn history from are rooted in Pakistan but are a little sketchy on details of the region. Few journalists have travelled around the region and reported on other countries. As a result, many may point out similarities between Pakistan and Egypt (aren't they obvious?) but few will note what makes them different and why. For a hack such as myself, the biggest difference is perhaps Pakistan's impatience with its rulers. Our last dictator spent eight years in power, struggling in the last two. And in Egypt, Anwar Sadat spent 11 years in power. Hosni Mubarak around three decades, while Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has been ruling for 12 and is still going strong.

Closer to Pakistan, the Gulf states in general have also enjoyed stability and long reigns without much pressure from below. Evidently, this is due to oil, but can it explain everything? After all, Iran is no less oil-rich and yet it went through a revolution, which perhaps remains unprecedented as a

political event in the region. Despite the authoritarianism of both the Shah and the theocracy that followed, Iran has demonstrated that its people believe in resistance. In recent years, they have pushed back multiple times against crackdowns; at times they have even compelled the state to change course. This is a strain missing in Iran's neighbours to the west.

Crowded, noisy and poor, societies in this region struggle with imperfect democracies. But to its east, it's a different story. Pakistan and the rest of South Asia, in comparison to its western neighbours in the Middle East, are poorer and noisier. Is this why this region has avoided the kind of authoritarianism that marks the Middle East? Crowded, noisy and poor, societies in this region continue to struggle with flawed and imperfect democracies; there is flirtation with authoritarianism but on paper most of them adhere or aspire to the framework left by the British. This is true of Pakistan where martial law dictators have also worked hard to prove their democratic credentials by holding elections. And with it comes the inability of rulers in the region to lord it over their citizens for long periods. Indeed, in recent years, Hasina Wajed's 15 years in power has been quite a feat. In India, Jawaharlal Nehru and Narendra Modi have also enjoyed prime ministerships for a similar period of time.

Courtesy Dawn

The joy in the journey

Muhammad Hamid Zaman

As a graduate student, nearly a quarter century ago, one of my projects focused on developing computational models to study protein design. At one point, our lab had a visiting scientist who knew several professional software developers. He told my adviser that he could get one of his contacts to quickly develop software for us, something that I was struggling with. This professionally made software would not cost much (because of the contacts of the visiting scientist) and quickly get us the answers we were looking for through my research.

I still remember that conversation in my adviser's office. My adviser told the visiting scientist that while the offer was most generous and kind, he wanted me to learn myself — to struggle, figure out, make mistakes and come up with a solution. It would take time, sure, but it would give me as a young graduate student valuable knowledge, train me, and in doing so would open new worlds for me, and chart out new paths for others.

My adviser was right — the process of struggle, failure, missteps, and ultimately something meaningful was long, at times painful and uncertain, but critical for my own intellectual development. Among the research papers that came out of that journey, one was on the cover of a prestigious journal, highlighted as a major discovery in my field, and indeed opened up new worlds of research for me. Among the many things that I owe to my research adviser, recognising the value of the journey, and not just the destination, remains a cherished one. A few weeks ago, when AI companies announced solving some of the most high-profile problems in mathematics, over two dozen Fields Medal winning mathematicians raised alarm in an eloquently written piece. The point of mathematics, they argued, is not to simply solve a problem, instead they argued "solving problems is only a tool and proxy for achieving the primary goal of conceptual understanding and insight".

Courtesy Tribune

Pakistan attaches great importance to its longstanding, friendly relations with Maldives: Ayaz



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of People's Majlis of the Maldives, Abdul Raheem Abdulla, leading a parliamentary delegation, arrived at the Parliament House on Tuesday on an official visit to Pakistan.

Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq warmly received the Maldivian Speaker upon his arrival at the Parliament House. The visiting delegation held discussions

on bilateral relations between Pakistan and the Maldives, with particular emphasis on further promoting parliamentary linkages and cooperation between the two countries.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening parliamentary contacts and institutional cooperation between the two legislatures. Ayaz Sadiq said that the visit of the Maldivian parliamentary delegation would prove to be an important step towards strengthening institu-

tional linkages between the legislatures of Pakistan and the Maldives.

He noted that Pakistan attaches great importance to its longstanding and friendly relations with the Maldives and expressed the desire to further expand parliamentary cooperation between the two countries.

The Speaker highlighted the role of the Pak-Maldives Parliamentary Friendship Group in promoting parliamentary contacts and cooperation between the two countries. He also said that various parliamentarians forums, including the Young Parliamentary Forums, SDGs Secretariat, Women Parliamentary Caucus and Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights, are playing an active role in the National Assembly.

The Maldivian parliamentary delegation is visiting Pakistan at the invitation of Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. Abdul Raheem Abdulla appreciated the goodwill sentiments expressed.

Pakistan, China to strengthen friendship, expand modernization cooperation: Jiang Zaidong

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong on Tuesday said that Pakistan and China are committed to strengthening their all-weather friendship by expanding cooperation in modernization, economic development and strategic ties.

"We will continue to share the fruits of Chinese modernization with the world, deliver greater benefits to Pakistan, our iron-clad all-weather friend, and work together to build an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era", he stated while addressing a reception here for overseas Chinese communities celebrating National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival.

Addressing the gathering, he hoped that overseas Chinese communities will present a credible, lovable and respectable



image of China, and consolidate the social foundation of the iron-clad China-Pakistan friendship.

"We are deeply moved and proud that overseas Chinese compatriots have long served as invaluable people-to-people envoys for China-Pakistan friendship. You have strived diligently in Pakistan, lived in harmony with local communities, devoted yourselves to public welfare, supported the development of the motherland, and actively facilitated bilateral economic, trade and cultural exchanges, he maintained.

Education must prepare youth for skills, innovation, future of work: Chairman Senate

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday called for a stronger focus on skills, innovation, technology and employability in Pakistan's higher education system, saying that academic qualifications must translate into meaningful economic opportunities for young people.

Addressing the Beaconhouse International College Convocation, the Chairman Senate said Pakistan's expanding higher education sector now faced the important task of ensuring that graduates were equipped to meet the demands of a rapidly changing economy and global workplace.

"A degree is a foundation for the future, not the destination," he said, urging graduates to continue learning, adapt to technological change and develop the practical and professional skills needed to succeed in an increasingly competitive world.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said rapid advances in Artificial Intelligence, digital

technologies and global connectivity were fundamentally transforming the nature of work. He stressed that Pakistan must prepare its young people not merely to seek employment but also to become entrepreneurs, innovators, researchers and creators of new opportunities. The Chairman Senate noted that more than 60 percent of Pakistan's population is below the age of 30, making the country's youth a major national asset. He emphasized that realizing this potential required greater investment in quality education, skills development, research, entrepreneurship and innovation.

He also highlighted the importance of widening access to quality education, stressing that opportunities for learning and advancement should be available to young people irrespective of their socio-economic circumstances. In this context, he appreciated initiatives aimed at extending educational opportunities to underserved segments of society.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani attending as chief guest at the convocation of Beaconhouse International College.

No governor's rule, but 'people's rule' needed in KP: Tarar

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar said on Tuesday that the federal government had no intention of imposing governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but stressed that the province needed "people's rule" and better governance. Speaking to media at Peshawar Press Club, where Press Club President M. Riaz and General Secretary Alamgir Khan were also present, the minister said the PTI would not be allowed to enter Islamabad on Sept 27 if it attempted to do so through what he described as violent or unlawful means. "We reject the politics of violence and confrontation," Mr Tarar said, adding that public resources should be spent on public welfare rather than on rallies and protests. He said the PTI leadership should abandon the path of confrontation and adopt dialogue and reconciliation. "The prisoner for whose release they are resorting to unlawful means and planning an attack on the Centre will be released according to law," he said.

Governor Kundi urges restoration of air connectivity in KP

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday urged the federal authorities to improve air connectivity across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by restoring flights to key cities.

Addressing a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence, chaired by Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood, the Governor said he had brought the province's case before the committee, stressing that several major cities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remained disconnected by air.

He said improved air connectivity would boost tourism, trade and economic activities across the province, and called for the



immediate launch of flights to Chitral, Parachinar and Dera Ismail Khan.

Governor Kundi informed the committee that South Air had recently launched Peshawar-Quetta flights, while the business community was also demanding direct air links between Peshawar and Lahore.

Highlighting the condition of DI Khan Airport, he said it should be made operational without delay, adding that its existing runway.

BISP payment system opens up greater flexibility for beneficiaries: Rubina Khalid

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, Senator Rubina Khalid Tuesday said that women beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) will have greater freedom in accessing their payments under the new Digital Wallet and interoperable payment system, enabling them to withdraw funds from any authorized retailer of any of the Programme's six partner banks anywhere in Pakistan.

She was addressing beneficiaries during a live E-Kachehri held at BISP Headquarters, where she directly heard complaints and queries from callers from differ-



ent parts of the country and issued instructions to concerned officers for their prompt resolution.

The E-Kachehri was broadcast live through BISP's official Facebook account as part of the Programme's ongoing public outreach and grievance redressal efforts.

As many as 31 callers contacted the Chairperson by telephone and apprised.

Musadik Malik calls for integrated system to monitor glaciers, climate data

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr Musadik Malik on Tuesday called for integration of national institutions dealing with climate, glacier monitoring, early warning systems, satellite data and disaster management to ensure timely availability and effective use of climate-related information.

The climate change minister told the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, chaired by

Senator Sherry Rehman, that Pakistan needed a coordinated mechanism under which relevant departments could automatically share data instead of waiting for formal requests from one another. He said Prime Minister had constituted a committee under the Ministry of Defence to bring relevant departments and institutions onto a common platform.

Dr Malik said a virtual platform had already been developed as part of efforts to integrate available information. He said glacier and water systems were dealt with by the Ministry of Water Resources,



while the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) was responsible for devices monitoring snowfall and glacier melt. Early warning systems, he said, fell under the Ministry of Defence, satellite data was

handled by the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco), while disaster-related matters were dealt with by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

"Whether civilian or defence-related, satellite data is with Suparco, while disaster management is the responsibility of NDMA. We need to bring these systems together so that the country can receive integrated and timely data," the minister said.

Dr Malik said the government was also working towards establishing a new authority to deal with civilian weather-related matters. The proposed authority, he said, would also serve as the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination's think tank.

He added that proposals

in this regard would be finalised and presented before the federal cabinet shortly.

Discussing glacier-related risks, Dr Malik said glacier melt and flooding were two different phenomena and required different responses.

"Dams can help control floods, but glaciers cannot be stopped," he said, adding that glacier-related disasters could involve movement of land and terrain and were therefore not simply a matter of water flow. The minister said the government was exploring the use of digital twinning for better understanding and modelling.