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Gilani meets President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko, discusses strengthening bilateral cooperation

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Trump welcomes Xi to Washington looking for a trade win

PEAK POINT

NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump welcomed Chinese President Xi Jinping to the White House on Thursday for a lavish state summit expected to be heavy on symbolism but light on substance, with both leaders keen to showcase stable ties despite a deep underlying rivalry.

It will be the year's second meeting of the leaders of the two biggest economies, but Xi's first visit to Washington in more than a decade.

Trump greeted Xi on arrival on Wednesday evening, the first time a US president has welcomed a foreign leader at Joint Base Andrews in 11 years, when President Barack Obama welcomed Pope Francis in

2015, according to C-SPAN, which tracks presidential events.

In a statement on arrival carried by China's Xinhua news agency, Xi voiced hope for a more stable relationship with the United States, saying Beijing and Washington should be "partners, not rivals" and that the "historical logic of peaceful coexistence" between the two countries had not changed.

For Trump, who relishes ceremony and prizes his ties with powerful leaders, the visit is as much a matter of national prestige as an opportunity for high-stakes diplomacy.

The US president aims to reciprocate the grand welcome he received in China in May and impress Xi with a ceremony spanning the White House South Lawn.



US President Donald Trump (R) walks on a red carpet after greeting Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) during an arrival ceremony.

Pakistan conducted strikes at 10 locations in Afghanistan in response to recent drone attacks: info minister

PEAK POINT



RAWALPINDI: Pakistan has conducted precision aerial and drone strikes in 10 locations across Afghanistan in retaliation for drones launched from the

neighbouring country a day earlier, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said in the early hours of Thursday. "In exercise of its sovereign right to self-defence, Pakistan conducted precision aerial and drone strikes against 10 locations in Afghanistan used for launching and storing these drones," Tarar wrote in a post on social media platform X.

He added that the strikes were "deliberate, precise, calibrated and proportionate, and strictly limited to identified military objectives directly linked to the attempted attacks against Pakistan". In the post, Tarar condemned Wednesday's "deliberate and unlawful" drone incursion, calling it a "blatant violation of Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity". He held the drone attacks were a "grave and unacceptable act of aggression".

IMF chief hails Pakistan's reform efforts as PM Shehbaz vows to stay the course

MAHPARA ZAMAN



NEW YORK: International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has said strong implementation of Pakistan's reform programme has helped preserve economic stability, restore confidence and regain market access. Georgieva made the remarks after meeting Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, where they discussed Pakistan's economic reforms and the country's forthcoming IMF programme review.

"Strong implementation has helped preserve stability, restore confidence and regain market access," Georgieva said in a post on X. She added that continued reforms would help lift economic growth and improve people's lives. During the meeting, PM Shehbaz appreciated the IMF's continued support for Pakistan's economy and reaffirmed his government's commitment to implementing the IMF-supported reform programme. He also praised Georgieva's personal role in strengthening the constructive partnership between Pakistan and the Fund. The prime minister said Pakistan was steadily moving from macroeconomic stabilisation towards economic recovery despite regional conflict and external inflationary pressures. "I reaffirmed our government's strong ownership of the reform agenda and our resolve to stay the course," the premier said in a social media post.

CDF Asim Munir, Maldives speaker discuss regional security, bilateral ties

PEAK POINT



RAWALPINDI: Speaker of the People's Majlis of the Maldives Abdul Raheem Abdullah met Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, chief of army staff

and chief of defence forces, at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi on Thursday, the military said.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the two sides discussed matters of mutual interest, including regional security and bilateral cooperation.

Field Marshal Munir said Pakistan attached importance to its brotherly relations with the Maldives and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening ties for the mutual benefit of both countries.

Abdullah appreciated Pakistan's role in promoting regional peace and stability, according to the ISPR.

He also expressed a desire to deepen bilateral engagement and expand cooperation between Pakistan and the Maldives in areas of mutual interest.

8 terrorists killed in KP's North Waziristan: security sources

PEAK POINT

NORTH WAZIRISTAN: Security forces killed eight terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's North Waziristan during an intelligence-based operation (IBO), security sources said on Thursday. The sources said the terrorists belonged to Fitna al Khawarij — a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The hideouts used by the terrorists were also completely destroyed during the operation, according to security sources. Although the terrorists attempted.

LHC turns down request for immediate suspension of Noreen and Uzma's detention, issues notices on plea

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday turned down a request to immediately suspend the preventive detention notifications issued against Noreen Niazi and Dr Uzma Khan, sisters of PTI founder Imran Khan. Uzma and Noreen were taken into custody on Monday for 30 days under the Punjab Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance 1960 (MPO) just a day after their sister Aleema Khan was detained. The arrests of Imran's sisters and other party leaders come ahead of the PTI's Sept 27 countrywide protest and march to Islamabad. On Thursday, Justice Abher Gul Khan took up a petition challenging Uzma and Noreen's detention, filed by the latter's daughter

Sakeena Niazi. Appearing as their counsel, Barrister

The lawyers also presented copies of two



Taimur Malik and Advocate Rana Mudassar argued that both women were "nonpolitical" and had been detained despite having no justification for their detention.

They informed the court that Uzma had already been acquitted in a case registered against her, and a copy of the trial court's decision declaring her innocent was on the case record.

orders recently passed by the LHC's Multan bench setting aside preventive detention of as many persons affiliated with PTI.

The counsel requested the court to immediately suspend the detention notifications for Uzma and Noreen.

Justice Abher, however, said the court would first seek a report from the relevant parties and hear their position before

deciding the request for suspension. The court then issued notices to the respondents and sought their replies on the petition. The respondents included the Lahore deputy commissioner (DC) and capital city police officer (CCPO), the Home Department secretary, and the Kot Lakhpat jail superintendent.

Hearing a petition against the detention of Aleema and her driver on Tuesday, Justice Abher had sought arguments on the plea's maintainability. The court is set to resume the hearing on Thursday. In the capital, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had summoned the senior superintendent of police (operations) to appear on Thursday in a petition concerning alleged harassment of PTI leaders and raids on their homes.

Iran threatens to expand war to Indian Ocean if US attacks again



PEAK POINT

TEHRAN: An adviser to Iran's supreme leader Mojtahid Khamenei warned on Thursday that Tehran may expand the Middle East war to the Indian Ocean if the US attacks again. "Since the conflict has spread from the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz to the Red Sea, it is possible that, in response to more war, the front will expand even further, reaching the Indian Ocean and perhaps beyond," said Yahya Rahim Safavi in a video released by Iran's Fars news agency. Yemen's Houthis, fighting Saudi-backed government forces, recently took control of the Red Sea coastline, tightening their grip on the strategic Bab al-Mandab Strait, which links Asia to Europe via the Suez Canal.



SPORTS



Sahibzada Farhan open to continuing as Pakistan T20I captain after Asian Games



PEAK POINT

DUBAI: Sahibzada Farhan has indicated that he would be willing to continue as Pakistan's T20 captain beyond the Asian Games, opening the possibility of a longer-term leadership role for the 30-year-old batter.

Farhan, who was appointed captain for Pakistan's men's cricket campaign at the Asian Games in Japan, said on Thursday that he would consider it a "proud moment" if he were given the opportunity to lead the national side in the future.

"If I get the opportunity, why not continue in the future as well?"

Farhan said during a media talk on the sidelines of Pakistan's pre-departure training camp at the National Bank Stadium.

The Pakistan Cricket Board has not publicly confirmed a permanent change in the T20 leadership. Head coach Mike Hesson said on Wednesday that Farhan's appointment for the Asian Games was an opportunity for him to gain captaincy experience and that his future in the role would be a matter for the PCB and selection committee to decide later.

According to media reports, however, the PCB is believed to be considering Farhan as part of a

longer-term T20 leadership plan, with the upcoming Asian Games campaign to be among the factors assessed before a decision is taken.

For now, Farhan was keen to keep the focus firmly on the assignment in Japan, where Pakistan enter the 10-team T20 competition at the quarter-final stage. Their first match is scheduled for Sept 28, with the semi-finals on Oct 1 and the medal matches on Oct 3.

"Right now, the entire focus is on the Asian Games," Farhan said. "I cannot say anything about what happens afterwards because my

entire focus is on this tournament. I have been made captain for the Asian Games, so that is where my attention is. We will see what happens later."

Farhan's elevation comes as Pakistan look to develop a younger T20 core. The squad contains four players yet to make their T20I debuts — Akif Javed, Ali Raza, Maaz Sadaqat and Saad Masood — while Abdul Samad has been named vice-captain.

Farhan, who has represented Pakistan in 46 T20Is, said he was confident in the group despite the relative inexperience of several players.

Pakistan conquer China to keep winning run



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan extended their winning run in the men's hockey competition at the Asian Games with a 3-0 victory over China on Thursday, strengthening their position in Pool B.

Pakistan scored all three goals in a dominant second quarter at Kawasaki Juko Stadium, with Abu Mahmood, Sufyan Khan and Hannan Shahid finding the net in a nine-minute spell.

Mahmood opened the scoring in the 19th minute from a penalty stroke before Sufyan doubled Pakistan's advantage five minutes later with a penalty corner conversion.

Hannan Shahid completed the scoring in the 28th minute as Pakistan took a commanding 3-0 lead into the remainder of the match.

The victory was Pakistan's third in succession at the Games after they opened their campaign with a 9-0 win over Thailand before beating Uzbekistan 5-1.

The result gives Pakistan nine points, leaving them level with pool leaders Malaysia. China were unable to respond after Pakistan's second-quarter burst.

One more Fatima Sana, and Pakistan would have gold



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: EARLY on Tuesday morning, while most of the nation was asleep, Pakistan beat Bangladesh to win bronze in women's cricket at the Asian Games in Japan — the country's first medal in

the event since gold in 2014, and its second medal of the ongoing edition overall. It came against an opponent that had denied them at this same stage three years ago, and had beaten them by 23 runs in the T20 World Cup in July. Pakistan had also just lost to Sri Lanka in the semi-final, as they had in the Asia Cup less than 10 days earlier.

This time, they won. Captain Fatima Sana led her team to the podium — arguably the first tangible reward of her captaincy — much as she has led them through most of the

days before it. Cricket is technically a team sport, but in practice it behaves like several individual sports wearing a trenchcoat. Master your own discipline — batting, strike bowling, spin — and you can often get away with being less than complete elsewhere (fielding aside). Still, modern cricket rewards being a fortified jack of some trades over a master of one — a bowler who can bat a little, rather than merely survive at No. 11, is simply more useful. Because individual brilliance carries so much weight in this sport — think Glenn Maxwell's 200 against Afghanistan.

Khawari Shines with Four-Wicket Haul for Safi Cricket Club



ASIM SHERAZ

ISLAMABAD: Safi Cricket Club captain Fitrutullah Khawari produced an impressive all-round display of leadership and bowling, claiming four crucial wickets for just 20 runs in his four-over spell to play a significant role in his



team's performance. Conceding only 20 runs while taking four wickets, he finished with highly impressive bowling figures of 4/20 from four overs. The experienced length and line the cricketer also demonstrated strong leadership qualities while dismantling the opposition's batting attack.

Club on the field. His involvement in the game went beyond his individual bowling figures, as he remained actively engaged with his teammates and played an important role in maintaining the team's focus and intensity. Khawari's latest performance also reflects his considerable cricketing background. A former Afghanistan Under-19 international, he represented Afghanistan at the 2012 ICC Under-19 World Cup, gaining valuable experience.

PSB pensioners fear delay in pension case hearing amid Islamabad situation



MUHAMMAD HARIS

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) retired pensioners have expressed concern that the current political situation and possible road closures in

Islamabad could affect the hearing of their pension case scheduled for September 28, 2026. The pensioners say that more than 250 retired employees, widows, and family members have been facing finan-

cial difficulties since their pensions were suspended in June 2026. They believe the upcoming court hearing is crucial for obtaining relief. The PSB Retired Pensioners Action Committee has

appealed to the Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination, the Ministry of Interior, and local authorities to ensure smooth access to the court and prevent any disruption to the hearing. The committee stated that any further delay in the case could increase the hardships faced by pensioners and their families, many of whom are already struggling to meet daily living and medical expenses.

Italy face South Korea, Spain meet Austria in Davis Cup Final 8

PEAK POINT

VIENNA: Defending champions Italy will face South Korea in the Davis Cup Final 8 in November, while Spain have been drawn against Austria following Tuesday's draw for the season-ending stage of the prestigious men's team competition. The Davis Cup Final 8 will be held on indoor hard courts at the SuperTennis Arena in Bologna, Italy, from November 24 to 29, with eight nations competing for the coveted Davis Cup title. Italy, who qualified automatically as reigning champions, will meet Final 8 debutants South Korea on November 25 as they bid to win the competition for a fourth consecutive year. The remaining match schedule will be

announced later.

The Czech Republic, who advanced to the Final 8 after defeating 32-time champions the United States in the qualifiers, will take on Canada for a

place in the semi-finals.

The Final 8 field was completed after 14 nations contested the qualifiers last weekend, with seven teams advancing along-



place in the final four. Germany also secured their place in the Final 8 after overcoming Croatia, with newly crowned US Open champion Alexander Zverev playing a key role in their successful qualifying campaign. Germany will face

side automatic qualifiers Italy. The Bologna finale will bring together eight of the world's leading national teams, with Italy seeking to extend their recent dominance while the challengers look to prevent the holders from claiming another title.



FGEHA signs MoU for 1,600-kanal housing project in Charsadda

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a consortium comprising M/s Zee Brothers (Pvt.) Ltd. and M/s Ruya Developers (Pvt.) Ltd. for development of a housing/apartment project over approximately 1,600 kanals of land in District and Tehsil Charsadda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with provision for future expansion.

The MoU signing ceremony was held at the FGEHA Committee Room and was attended by Director General FGEHA Capt. (Retd.) Zafar Iqbal, senior officers of the Authority and representatives of the consortium. Director Joint Venture Projects Faiz Umar Sial signed the MoU on behalf of FGEHA, while CEO M/s Zee Brothers Zahid Hussain and Director M/s Ruya Developers Muhammad Yousaf Khan signed on behalf of their respective



companies. The proposed project is located approximately six kilometres from the Charsadda Interchange on the M-1 Peshawar-Islamabad Motorway and about a 15-minute drive from Peshawar. It will have direct

access from the main Charsadda-Nowshera Road and is adjacent to KPHA Mega City, Nowshera.

The project will be developed under the Land Sharing Model in accordance with the FGEHA (JV & PPP) Rules, 2025, with the objective of providing quality and affordable residential facilities to federal government employees through private-sector participation. The project is expected to provide residential facilities to around 700 to 800 registered FGEHA

members. Speaking on the occasion, Director General FGEHA Capt. (Retd.) Zafar Iqbal said the Authority was undertaking various projects to provide quality, affordable and modern residential facilities to federal government employees. He said development of housing projects under Public-Private Partnership and Land Sharing Models was an important step towards meeting the residential needs of federal government employees.

HEC told to recheck DAE policy after exemption dispute

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: A Senate committee raised serious questions over a demand to give Diploma of Associate Engineering holders a one year exemption in BS engineering programmes, saying the proposal could require changes in the existing education structure, curriculum and admission rules. The issue was discussed by the Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training during a briefing by the Ministry of Federal Education, HEC, Pakistan Engineering Council and National Technology Council. The committee was told that DAE

is a three year technical programme after matriculation, while BS engineering normally requires four years of study. Representatives of the Pakistan Diploma Engineer Federation asked the committee to implement a one year exemption for DAE holders who move into the same field of engineering. They argued that DAE students already study several subjects that are also taught in engineering programmes and that students can spend seven years in total by completing three years of DAE followed by four years of engineering. However, education and engineering officials strongly questioned the request. A representative told

the committee that DAE and FSc have already been treated as equivalent at the relevant level and students entering BS engineering are required to complete the full four year programme under the existing system. He said the requested exemption could not easily be supported within the current technical and legal framework. The representative also referred to earlier policy decisions under which DAE students were given limited access to engineering programmes. He said a quota had been introduced and later increased, but a review by the engineering side had raised concerns about the level of basic understanding in subjects

such as mathematics, physics and chemistry among some technical diploma graduates. He said these matters were considered when the existing system was developed. The discussion showed that the demand is not simply about removing a few subjects. Committee members were told that accepting the proposal could require a review of university course requirements and could also raise new questions about the admission standard for DAE holders because the current benchmark is based on FSc marks. The committee also questioned why a previous decision on the issue was made without a clear explanation available to the cur-

rent members. The chairperson said the former minister and former HEC chairman were no longer available before the committee to explain the reasoning behind the earlier decision. The DAE representatives said a meeting held in 2021 under the Ministry of Science and Technology had discussed the exemption and that HEC and PEC officials had also been involved. They asked why an agreed position had not been implemented. The committee made it clear that it did not have the authority to directly rewrite the engineering curriculum. Members said the relevant documents and earlier decisions should first be exam-

ined by HEC and PEC before any further action is considered. According to the committee record, the HEC chairman briefed members on the current credit requirements and the committee directed HEC to re-evaluate the policy framework for DAE academic equivalence within its legal powers. The stated aim was to examine the issue and ensure fair treatment for technical diploma holders. The debate has therefore left the proposed one year exemption unresolved. The next step is a review of the existing policy, earlier government decisions, curriculum requirements and admission standards before any change is considered.

Opinion & Editorial

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El Niño's health threat

The impending El Niño is a reminder that the world remains woefully unprepared for the public health consequences of extreme weather. The World Health Organisation has warned that the climate phenomenon poses a significant threat to global health, with its effects likely to be felt well into 2027. As global temperatures continue to rise, extreme weather events are becoming an increasingly serious challenge to public health systems that are already struggling to meet routine healthcare needs. For millions living in poverty, the distinction between a climate emergency and a health emergency is becoming increasingly meaningless. There is a disturbing inequity at the heart of this crisis. Countries with limited healthcare resources and inadequate sanitation are often the least capable of protecting their populations from climate-related diseases. WHO has cautioned that the effects of El Niño will be particularly severe where climate shocks intersect with food insecurity, displacement and weak health systems. Yet international climate responses continue to place insufficient emphasis on the protection of public health. The international community must recognise that climate adaptation is as much about protecting human health as it is about safeguarding infrastructure and economic activity.

Lack of planning

Ali Tauqeer Sheikh
THE Prime Minister's Committee on Civil Service Reforms has finalised its core recommendations, yet omitted any clear roadmap for the Planning Commission. The latter is routinely described as dysfunctional. Whether or not that description is true is beside the point. The more useful question is whether Pakistan will do what India did when its own planning body stopped delivering, or take a different course altogether.

The two commissions began as near-twins. India's was founded in 1950, Pakistan's in 1953, both modelled on Soviet-style central planning and staffed by trained economists. Both were extra-constitutional bodies, created by executive order. Both were nominally chaired by the head of government and run day to day by a deputy chairman. Both produced Five-Year Plans as their central output and controlled how resources moved from the centre to the provinces or states. For roughly three decades, they were the same institution representing two flags.

The split started in the late 1980s with a fork in the road that both countries reached and only one of them took. India hit its own balance-of-payments crisis in 1991. It liberalised, and it grew out of the crisis rather than falling into a cycle of dependency. Pakistan entered IMF structural adjustment in

1988 and never left. It is now on its 25th programme. That single divergence did more to determine the two institutions' fates than anything that followed. Since 1988, IMF adjustment programmes have taken precedence over what became, in Pakistan, the largely academic exercise of five-year planning. The Commission became just another ministry, concerned mainly with approving projects, and constrained even there by a development budget whose size the finance ministry set. India's Commission kept setting the fiscal and growth framework that the finance ministry worked within. Pakistan's relationship has flipped: the framework now comes from Washington, and the Commission works around it. For a while, India's Commission adapted. It absorbed the human development agenda from Mahbub ul Haq's 1990 Human Development Report and embedded the eight National Missions of the 2008 National Action Plan on Climate Change into successive Five-Year Plans. It completed 12 plans across 65 years. But incremental change has a shelf life. By the early 2010s, India's economy had become too large, too market-driven and too federally assertive for a centralised allocator to keep dictating terms to states that no longer needed its money. In 2014, the Modi government dissolved the Commission and replaced it with NITI Aayog, a leaner

think tank with no power to allocate funds, built around advisory strategy, SDG tracking and competition between states. The point is not that India dissolved a failing institution. It dissolved a working one, because a model built for 1950 was not fit for 2015.

The civil service reform committee has left out crucial reform for planning institutions. Pakistan never reached that fork, because it never adapted enough to outgrow the old model in the first place. Where India's Commission built capacity and then had to be redesigned, Pakistan's mostly stood still. The 18th Amendment in 2010 devolved 17 ministries to the provinces. But nobody redesigned what the federal Planning Commission should do once the subjects it used to plan for no longer belonged to it. It was recast into a full ministry in 2013-14, gaining nominal breadth, Vision documents, SDG coordination, CPEC planning, and losing whatever independence it once had. Four provincial planning and development departments expanded around it, each building its own project pipeline — and national development spending across federal and provincial channels now exceeds Rs3.5 trillion. The PSDP, the Commission's one remaining function, amounts to just seven per cent of the federal budget, its ceiling fixed by the Finance Division, the IMF interlocutor.

Courtesy Dawn

The squandered legacy of statecraft

Ishtiaq Ali Mehri

Ethno-lingual identity has never been my concern. However, as the descendant of an Urdu-speaking migrant from India, my cultural background remains a frequent point of reflection. Growing up in Karachi, I often experienced the subtle social frictions and distinct dynamics that exist between native communities and migrant families. Over time, these differences highlight a unique historical contrast: while the local Sindhi community served as generous hosts, many migrants arrived with formal educational backgrounds that allowed them to actively shape Pakistan's early administrative and civil services. The migrants, mocked as mohajirs (refugees), prided themselves in their culture of Oudh, Osmania's Hyderabad, Lucknow, the State of Madras, Bihar and Kavi Narmad's Gujarat. For them Bahadur Shah Zafar, Rani of Jhansi, Nawab Osman Ali Khan, Mir Anees, Mirza Ghalib and Rabindranath Tagore were proprietary legends. It is a fact that 'men of pen' came from India to form the backbone of Pakistan's infant bureaucracy. Many were from the prestigious ICS and IAS cadres, and moved to the new-born state in pursuit of political pluralism, hoping for a career and identity that is professional to the core. These officers were lucky enough to be buckled up with a great number of junior associates who were well-versed in writing English prose, and understood the ethics of office management. They started from scratch, and the tale has it that they bought pens and stationery, at times, on their own. Some of the migrated stalwarts who rubbed shoulders in the highest echelons with Muhammad Ali Jinnah included Chaudhry Muhammad Ali; Mian Kifait Ali; Ghulam Muhammad, an ICS officer from Aligarh who became Pakistan's third Governor-General; Akhter Hussain; and Iskander Mirza, a Sandhurst-cum-IPS officer from Hyderabad Deccan who served as the first President of Pakistan.

Courtesy Tribune

AI must not become 'another facet of ongoing arms race', Pakistan tells UNSC



PEAK POINT

NEW YORK: Pakistan has stressed the need to prevent artificial intelligence (AI) from becoming "another facet of the ongoing arms race", as the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was briefed by leaders of major AI firms.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar delivered Pakistan's statement at the meeting of the top UN body, where AI executives said the technology calls for heightened vigilance.

Speaking at the France-chaired

briefing on artificial intelligence and international security, DPM Dar said: "We must ensure that AI does not become another facet of the ongoing arms race."

"Concerted efforts are required to erect the necessary guardrails, regulations and governance frameworks. In the military domain, we need measures of restraint and confidence-building to address the risks of miscalculation and compressed decision-making," OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei, Hugging Face CEO Clement Delangue and Yoshua Bengio, co-

chair of the UN International Independent Panel on AI, also briefed the council.

Anthropic's CEO pledged to slow down where needed to ensure the safety of new releases, while Altman also said that "this moment calls for extreme care".

In his remarks, shared by the Foreign Office (FO) on Thursday, DPM Dar emphasised that the "foremost priority is to retain human judgement and control in all stages of AI design, development, and integration".

He said humans must remain in control to define structures of AI systems as well as to limit the speed and nature of future capabilities. The deputy premier further said that the technology should not be a "monopoly of a few actors", calling for international collaboration in AI development. He noted that AI was "supercharging existing challenges such as misinformation, fake news, cyber attacks, including on critical infrastructure by state and non-state actors".

Tallal warns proposed changes to KP police law could 'weaken' command structure

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior Tallal Chaudhry on Thursday criticised the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's proposed law to replace the KP Police Act, 2017, warning that changes to the police command structure could affect the force's ability to maintain law and order and fight terrorism.

The KP government on Wednesday approved a proposed law to replace the KP Police Act, 2017, curtailing the powers of the inspector general of police (IGP) by making the police chief's operational, administrative and financial decisions subject to approval from the provincial government or chief minister.

Addressing the media in Islamabad, Chaudhry said policing and the maintenance of public order were primarily provin-



cial subjects under the constitutional framework established by the 18th Amendment, but provinces did not have unlimited powers to legislate beyond the Constitution and existing legal frameworks.

He said the Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) rules and other relevant laws provided the framework governing the police and could not be overridden through provincial legislation. "You cannot change the command structure of a police force that is fighting terrorism, losing its personnel every day."

Finance minister explores financing for PIA, refinery upgrades, Reko Diq

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday explored US financing opportunities for PIA aircraft, refinery upgrades and the Reko Diq mining project during his engagements in New York.

According to a press release issued by the finance ministry issued here on Thursday, the minister discussed the financing opportunities with US Export-Import Bank Chairman John Jovanovich, including a potential package for PIA's procurement of aircraft and engines, particularly Boeing 787 Dreamliners, as well as spare parts to bring grounded Boeing 777 aircraft back into service. Both sides agreed that work on a broader cooperation framework should



continue while they prioritize specific transactions, including possible financing for aircraft pre-delivery payments. Refinery upgrades were also identified as another potential area for US EXIM Bank support. On Reko Diq, the Finance Minister emphasized the project's importance to Pakistan's future exports and the cost of delays, and welcomed US EXIM Bank's continued commitment to the project.

Meanwhile, the minister also engaged with international partners on digital transformation.

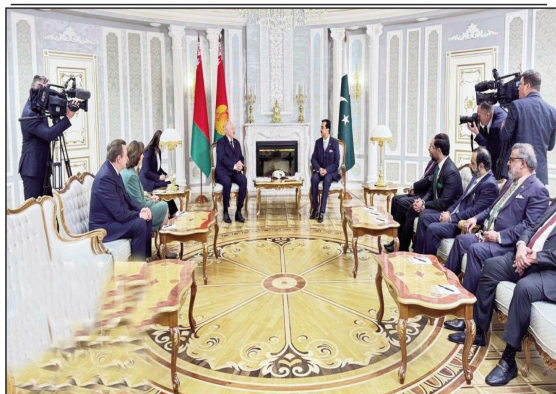
Gilani meets President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko, discusses strengthening bilateral cooperation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani held a high-level meeting with President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Grigorievich Lukashenko in Minsk and conveyed warm greetings and best wishes from the people and Parliament of Pakistan to the people of Belarus. Chairman Senate expressed appreciation to President Lukashenko for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to the Pakistani parliamentary delegation said a news release received here on Thursday. He reaffirmed Pakistan's high regard for its longstanding and friendly relations with Belarus, describing the relationship as one based on mutual respect, cooperation and solidarity. Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani underscored Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation with Belarus in political, parliamentary, economic, educational, technological, cultural and people-to-people sectors. The Chairman Senate highlighted the

importance of the Islamabad Declaration of May 2015 and the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation signed in August 2015 as important instruments providing an expanded framework for bilateral cooperation.

He also recalled the official visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to Minsk in April 2025 and welcomed President Lukashenko's official visit to Pakistan in November 2025 as important milestones in high-level engagement between the two countries. Discussing the economic dimension of bilateral relations, Chairman Senate emphasized the need to translate existing understandings into tangible outcomes and greater economic benefits for the peoples of Pakistan and Belarus. Mr. Gilani called for greater engagement between the business communities of the two countries through investment forums and the Belarus-Pakistan Business Council. Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani underscored Pakistan's strategic geographical position as a gateway to South Asia.



A Parliament delegation from Pakistan led by Chairman Senate of Pakistan Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani in a meeting with the President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko in Minsk, Belarus.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi conducts detailed tour of Islamabad

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday conducted a detailed tour of various areas in Islamabad, reviewing the city's overall situation, civic amenities, and arrangements made for cleanliness and beautification.

Naqvi visited different schools, hotels, and other public places, issuing necessary directives to the concerned officials.

He ordered the immediate removal of all kinds of encroachments in the federal capital, saying they would not be tolerated. The minister also directed the concerned officials to come up with a plan to beautify all roads in the city. He further directed that special attention must be paid to the beautification of roads, green belts, medians, and other open spaces. Naqvi also ordered large-scale tree plantation in open spaces. "The city's greenery should be further enhanced," he ordered. He said Islamabad must look like a capital city in every respect. Islamabad is the capital of Pakistan.

Pakistan, Maldives discuss ways to strengthen bilateral ties

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Acting Chairman Senate Syed Ali Khan Nasar and Speaker of the People's Majlis of Maldives Abdul Raheem Abdullah on Thursday discussed Pakistan-Maldives bilateral relations, parliamentary diplomacy, trade and investment, education, defence, tourism, climate change, people-to-people contacts and other matters of mutual interest.

During a meeting with the Maldivian parliamentary delegation, Syed Ali Khan Nasar said Pakistan-Maldives relations were rooted in mutual respect, trust, shared interests, Islamic brotherhood and longstanding friendly ties. He said Pakistan attached



great importance to its relations with Maldives, both bilaterally and within the frameworks of SAARC, the OIC and the United Nations.

The Acting Chairman emphasized the role of parliamentary diplomacy in promoting mutual understanding, institutional cooperation and people-to-people contacts. He called for expanding parliamentary exchanges.

NTC highlights digital capabilities and hosts infrastructure neutrality roundtable at 28th ITCN Asia 2026

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: The National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC), Pakistan's premier ICT service provider, participated in the three-day 28th ITCN Asia 2026, being held at the Karachi Expo Centre from September 22-24, 2026. Managing Director NTC, Maj Gen (R) Ali Farhan, HI (M) was Guest of Honor at the inauguration ceremony of ITCN Asia 2026. Stationed at Hall 2, NTC showcased its cutting-edge, in-house developed products and briefed industry

professionals, technology leaders, and visitors on its wide range of ICT services and solutions. Demonstrating its commitment to technological advancement, market collaboration, and strategic partnerships, NTC received positive response from industry stakeholders and visitors throughout the event. In his speech as guest of honor in the inauguration ceremony, Managing Director NTC, Maj Gen (R) Ali Farhan, HI (M) highlighted the importance of resilient ICT infrastructure in supporting Pakistan's digital transforma-



tion. He emphasized that digital services depend on reliable optical fibre networks, data centres, uninterrupted power, and robust cybersecurity. He also highlighted NTC's role in supporting sovereign computing infras-

structure, data sovereignty, cybersecurity, cloud services, and the development of Pakistan's digital ecosystem. As a key part of its participation, NTC organized a national level roundtable on the topic of "Neutrality of

ICT Infrastructure to Support Digital Connectivity in a Cost-Effective Manner," bringing together technology experts, policymakers, industry representatives, and academia to discuss the development of resilient, secure, and cost-effective digital infrastructure in Pakistan. The Managing Director NTC Maj Gen (R) Ali Farhan, HI (M) addressed the session of the national level roundtable, setting the context and objectives of the discussion. He also delivered the session's keynote presentation and chaired the subse-

quent roundtable discussion, which examined the need for efficient, shared, and resilient ICT infrastructure to support the country's growing digital requirements. The national level roundtable featured expert speakers and participants from government, industry, academia, and the technology sector. Discussions covered emerging technologies, the national Cloud-First Policy, sovereign network control, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and the infrastructure requirements for a resilient and cost-effective.