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Founded By:
(Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
Website: www.peakpoint.pk

Executive Group Editor
Arif Mehmood Khan



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Islamabad Police equipped with 50 electric vehicles to promote green policing

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday attended a ceremony marking the handover of 50 electric vehicles to the Islamabad Police to promote modern, safe and environment-friendly policing, the PM Office said. During the ceremony, according to the PMO, the prime minister handed over the keys of the electric vehicles to Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Islamabad Inspector General of Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi. Information and Broadcasting Minister Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Minister of State Talal Chaudhry and other relevant officials also attended the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister

Shehbaz said the protection of citizens' lives and property was the government's foremost priority. He said the government was providing all possible resources to bring the Islamabad Police in line with the requirements of modern policing.

The prime minister appreciated Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's performance in modernising the Islamabad Police and said the force should serve as a role model for police departments in other cities. He said the police in the federal capital was being equipped with modern technology, equipment and other necessary resources to ensure a safe environment for citizens. The prime minister said the provision of electric vehicles was aimed at promoting green .



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif being briefed on Green Mobility Initiative of Islamabad Capital Territory Police.

IHC adjourns Imaan, Hadi's sentence suspension pleas in social media posts case until Sept 23

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday adjourned the hearing of petitions seeking suspension of the sentences handed down to lawyers and rights activists

Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir and her husband, Hadi Ali Chatha, in the controversial social media posts case. Justice Muhammad Azam Khan heard the petitions. Lawyers Faisal Siddiqui, Riasat Ali Azad, Zainab Janjua and others appeared before the court on behalf of the couple. During the proceedings, the court was informed about the unavailability of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) prosecutor. No substantial progress could be made on the petitions due to his absence. Subsequently, the court adjourned further proceedings of the case until September 23.

Imaan and Hadi have been in jail since their arrest on January 23 in a case registered against them for protesting outside the IHC and allegedly mishandling the IHC Bar Association (IHCBA) president. The arrest prompted criticism by rights bodies, politicians and journalists, who stressed the couple's right to a fair trial.

Houthi attacks disrupt Saudi energy facilities, wound 73, authorities say

PEAK POINT



SAUDI ARABIA: Operations at some energy facilities in Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, were halted on Tuesday following attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels that wounded 73 people, in what Saudi authorities described as a dangerous escalation.

Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry strongly condemned the "terrorist Houthi militia's targeting of civilian and economic" sites in the southern cities of Abha, Khamis Mushait, Jazan, and Najran. The ministry said the attacks resulted in 73 civilians being injured, including women and children.

Fires erupted at the sites and several people were injured as fire-fighting and other emergency teams rushed to contain the blazes and assess the damage, the Saudi energy ministry said. It added that the authorities concerned were dealing with the repercussions of the attacks. "The needed measures will be taken to ensure the safety of the facilities and workers and the continuation of work according to the approved operational plans," said the ministry. The Saudi foreign ministry said Riyadh would "take all necessary measures to defend its sovereignty". It also called for an "immediate halt to all forms of escalation practised by this militia", as well as Houthi attacks on shipping. The flare-up in violence between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis came as tensions mounted between the United States and Iran as the wider Middle East conflict sent oil prices soaring with diplomatic negotiations stalling.

DPM Dar stresses vigilance to ensure food security, price stability

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday underscored the need for continued vigilance, effective coordination, and timely measures to ensure food security, market stability, and availability of essential commodities at affordable rates. The deputy prime minister chaired a meeting of the Steering Committee on Sugar here, a DPM's Office news release said.

He expressed satisfaction over the availability of sufficient sugar stocks in the country, noting that current stocks, together with anticipated production, are adequate to meet requirements well into the next crushing season. The meeting was attended by Minister for Food, Minister for Information, SAPM Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Food, Secretary Commerce, and other concerned senior officials.

IHC forms larger bench to hear plea against PTI's Sept 27 protest

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday decided to form a larger bench to hear a petition against the PTI's planned Sept 27 protest, terming the matter sensitive and observing that it could have constitutional implications. The IHC also issued notices to the police chiefs of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Balochistan, among other officials, seeking their attendance at the next hearing on Sept 10.

The PTI has announced a nationwide protest on Sept 27 to demand.

Pakistan showcases air defence system resembling Chinese HQ-17A: Bloomberg

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's military has showcased an air defence system resembling China's HQ-17A short-range surface-to-air missile platform in a promotional video, potentially indicating another development in the country's expanding defence cooperation with Beijing, Bloomberg reported on Tuesday. The six-wheeled military vehicle, fitted with a large rectangular radar array, was featured around 28 seconds into a video of Pakistani weapons released on the military's official X account on Monday. Pakistan did not identify the system. Tianran Xu, a senior analyst at Open Nuclear Network cited by Bloomberg, said the vehicle's features resemble China's HQ-17A, which was developed on the basis of Russia's Tor air defence system. If confirmed, the acquisition would mark

China's first publicly known sale of the HQ-17A to



Pakistan. The Pakistani military, Pakistan Air Force and China's Defence Ministry had not immediately responded to requests for comment, Bloomberg reported. The official X account of China's armed forces confirmed the model in a post on Monday. Footage of Chinese weapons acquired by foreign countries often emerges before an official announcement, according to the report. Chinese official media outlet, China Daily

also confirmed this saying: "Pakistan's air force has

become the third confirmed foreign buyer of the Chinese-made HQ-17AE air-defence system." A video released by the Pakistan Air Force's Directorate General Public Relations section shows an HQ-17AE missile launch vehicle operating on a road with its radar searching for targets, it added.

Xu said the HQ-17A could provide effective defence against cruise missiles, manned aircraft and

other low-altitude targets. He added that the system could potentially be integrated with Chinese command-and-control systems already supplied to Pakistan.

"However, the effectiveness of the HQ-17 or similar systems against emerging and fast-evolving drone threats remains to be tested on a real battlefield," he added.

The HQ-17A is manufactured by China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation and was first publicly displayed during China's National Day military parade in 2019. The International Institute for Strategic Studies estimates that the People's Liberation Army operates around 200 HQ-17 and 50 HQ-17A systems. Serbia and Tajikistan have also acquired the HQ-17AE, an export variant based on the HQ-17A, according to the Stockholm International.

Mir Raza case: Commission orders issuing notice to Sindh home minister over AG's 'conduct'

PEAK POINT



KARACHI: The judicial commission probing the death of businessman Mir Raza Ali on Tuesday ordered the issuance of a notice to Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar.

Mir Raza, an IBA graduate and businessman, was found dead in Karachi's Gulistan-e-Jauhar a day after he went missing on July 28. His father has consistently maintained that his son was murdered and has rejected suggestions that the death was a case of suicide.

The latest proceedings came a day after the commission questioned several police officers over the handling of the investigation and issued a notice to the investigation team head, DIG Amir Farooqi, over the alleged withholding of records.



SPORTS



Nashra Sandhu's record six-fer powers Pakistan into Asia Cup semifinals



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Left-arm spinner Nashra Sandhu produced a record-breaking six-wicket haul as Pakistan thrashed Hong Kong by 72 runs to book their place in the semifinals of the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Monday.

Nashra, 28, returned career-best figures of six for seven from four overs as Pakistan successfully defended their modest total of 143 for eight. Hong Kong struggled throughout their chase and were bowled out for just 71 in the

19th over. The six-wicket haul was Nashra's maiden five-wicket-plus performance in T20 internationals and the best bowling figures by a Pakistan women's cricketer in the format. She surpassed the previous record of five for 13, held by Omaima Sohail for her performance against Sri Lanka in Sylhet, Bangladesh, in 2022.

Nashra's relentless spell ensured Hong Kong never established any momentum, with wickets tumbling at regular intervals. Kary Chan offered some resistance with 30, but there was little support from the other end as Pakistan's bowlers completed a

comprehensive victory.

Earlier, Pakistan posted 143 for eight after being asked to bat first. Shawaal Zulfikar provided the foundation with a fluent 35-ball 47, striking seven boundaries, while Ayesha Zafar contributed 26 off 19 balls with four fours. Captain Fatima Sana added a valuable unbeaten 24 off 24 deliveries, including two sixes, to guide Pakistan to a competitive total.

Hong Kong's Joyleen Kaur was their standout bowler, claiming four wickets for 19 runs, while Iqra Sahar and Kary Chan took two wickets apiece. The vic-

tory secured Pakistan's place in the last four, with the Green Shirts finishing second in Group A with four points from three matches. Pakistan will now face Sri Lanka in the second semifinal on Friday, September 11, with a place in the tournament final at stake.

Scores in Brief

PAKISTAN 143-8, 20 overs (Shawaal Zulfikar 47, Ayesha Zafar 26, Fatima Sana 24*; Joyleen Kaur 4-19, Iqra Sahar 2-27, Kary Chan 2-33) beat HONG KONG 71 all out, 19 overs (Kary Chan 30; Nashra Sandhu 6-7) by 72 runs.

Babar says was surprised by PCB's decision to sack Sarfraz, send seven players home



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) decision to sack the national team's head coach and send seven players back home following the defeat against England at Lord's last week came as a surprise to captain Babar Azam, he revealed on Tuesday.

The 194-run drubbing — which sealed the three-match series for the hosts — was followed by Sarfraz Ahmed's removal as Pakistan's head coach and Umar Gul's dismissal as bowling coach. They were replaced by white-ball head coach Mike Hesson and Ashley Noffke, respectively.

Seven players, including seasoned campaigners Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Ali Agha, were axed from the squad midway through the series, while five of the replacements flown to the UK were uncapable players.

The wholesale changes, as it emerged later, were planned outside the Pakistan dressing room by the national selection panel. As was the case with most members of the team's contingent, the developments came as a surprise to Babar as well.

"It was news to me as well," Babar said during the pre-match press conference ahead of the final Test at Edgbaston. "I only found out about these things later."

Pakistan storm into Junior Asia Cup semi-finals after 5-2 comeback win over Malaysia



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan produced a remarkable second-half turnaround to defeat Malaysia 5-2 and book their place in the semi-finals of the Men's Junior Hockey Asia Cup. Malaysia controlled much of the opening half and went ahead in the ninth minute through Muhammad Salehi. Pakistan struggled to

create a breakthrough before the interval, allowing Malaysia to take a 1-0 lead into half-time. The complexion of the match changed dramatically after the restart as Pakistan launched an aggressive attacking spell. Nadeem Khan restored parity in the 32nd minute before Abdullah Sami Rana completed the turnaround four minutes later to give Pakistan a 2-1 advantage. A late response when

Gunaseelan Dheeresh scored in the 54th minute, but Pakistan held firm during the closing stages to secure a convincing victory. Rana Waleed ended the match with two goals, while Ali Hamza was named Player of the Match for his contribution.

The result marked Pakistan's third win of the tournament, with the team still unbeaten and now assured of a place in the semi-finals. Pakistan Hockey Federation President Mohiuddin Ahmad Wani congratulated the players and team management on the impressive victory and expressed confidence that the side would carry its winning momentum into the knockout stage.

Kane, Haaland, Messi on Ballon d'Or 30-man shortlist



Pakistan set for historic Eventing debut at Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is set to make a historic debut in the Olympic discipline of Eventing at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games, with the country to be represented by its longest-serving Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) equestrian athlete, Usman Khan, and his French Sport Horse, Eden Du Veret, known as "Mirage". The equestrian competition will be held at the JRA Equestrian Park in Tokyo, Japan, from September 20 to 23, where the Pakistan horse-and-rider combination will compete in both the team and individual events. Usman Khan and Mirage enter the competition as the No. 1 ranked combination in the FEI Middle East and Africa Region, underlining their credentials ahead of the continental competition. Usman has enjoyed an impressive international career, having won

two gold, four silver and one bronze medal at FEI international events, making him one of Pakistan's most accomplished riders in an Olympic equestrian discipline. Eventing is regarded as one of the most demand-

country and show jumping, testing the horse and rider's discipline, stamina, courage, precision and partnership.

According to the event schedule, the competition will begin on September 20 with the trot-up and veteri-



ing equestrian sports as it combines three distinct phases: dressage, cross-country inspection to assess the health and fitness of the horses.

Alcaraz reaches US Open quarters, Sabalenka sets up Noskova clash





Sky Gardens inquiry complete as work on 2,600 kanals remains halted

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Housing and Works expressed strong anger over delays in housing projects for federal employees, while Senator Haji Hidayatullah complained that the Islamabad Deputy Commissioner does not answer his calls or respond to his messages. The issue arose during a committee meeting chaired by Senator Nasir Mahmood Butt, where members discussed encroachments in G 14 and G 15 and the slow completion of housing projects.

Senator Haji Hidayatullah complained about the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, saying the official neither answers phone calls nor responds to messages. Chairman Senator Nasir Mahmood Butt directed that committee members should not face such complaints again and asked the authorities to ensure better coordination with members. Officials told the committee that action against encroachments was carried out daily, and the Islamabad administration was working with the concerned authority

to deal with old encroachments. The committee also expressed anger over the failure to complete housing projects for federal employees within the planned time. Senator Nasir Mahmood Butt questioned why contractors in Pakistan often receive funds even when only a small part of a project is complete. He said that in many countries contractors face daily fines if they fail to complete a project on time. He stressed that if a project is not completed, action should be taken against the contractor instead of allowing further delays. The committee also dis-

cussed Green Enclave I, where the contractor and joint venture partner were present. The contractor told the committee that an understanding had been reached with the authorities and assured members that the project would be completed within 18 months. The contractor said the project would be completed within the promised period. During the discussion, concern was also raised over demands for more money from the contractor. The committee questioned how additional funds could simply be given without first ensuring pro-

ject completion and stressed that the affected people should get their housing project completed. The committee also discussed the Sky Gardens housing scheme and received a briefing from the National Accountability Bureau. NAB told the committee that it had completed its inquiry into the Sky Gardens housing scheme and was now working on legal aspects. The inquiry is expected to be opened after receiving the required approval. The committee was informed that statements of all relevant people

had been recorded during the inquiry. The Director General Housing Foundation told the committee that work on around 2,600 kanals had stopped due to the disputed land issue. The committee was also informed that an application was being prepared for the Supreme Court. The committee continued to stress that housing projects should be completed on time and that problems faced by affected people should be addressed without further delay.

26 Million out-of-school children a major challenge for Pakistan: Dr. Abdus Salam

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The SOS Foundation organized a Literacy Walk in Islamabad on the occasion of International Literacy Day to highlight the alarming issue of out-of-school children in Pakistan and call for urgent and meaningful action to ensure the right to education for every child. The walk was led by Dr. Abdus Salam, CEO SOS Foundation, and was attended by social workers Zofisha Naeem, Saima Khan, Nauman Shakir, Sardar Zubair and

Programme Officer Junior Jinnah Trust Nauman Ifthikhar, along with students, teachers, social workers and people from different walks of life. The walk started from F-6 Markaz (Super Market), Islamabad, and concluded at the National Press Club Islamabad. Participants raised slogans and carried messages calling for universal access to education and immediate measures to bring out-of-school children into the education system. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Abdus Salam, CEO SOS Foundation, said that 26



million out-of-school children constitute one of the biggest challenges facing Pakistan and require a comprehensive national response rather than temporary or symbolic measures. He stressed that Article 25-A of

the Constitution of Pakistan must be effectively enforced to ensure every child's fundamental right to free and compulsory education. He also called upon the government to honour Pakistan's commitment to the interna-

tional community under UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG-4), which seeks inclusive, equitable and quality education for all. Dr. Abdus Salam pointed out that child labour remains one of the major reasons children remain outside the education system. He also highlighted the shortage of schools and trained teachers in many areas, saying that the education system must be expanded in proportion to the growing number of children. "Pakistan needs an Education Emergency in the real sense of the term,

backed by adequate financial allocations, effective planning, accountability and a large pool of trained human resources," he said. He warned that failure to address the issue today could have serious consequences for the country's future. "If we fail to bring these 26 million children into schools, tomorrow we may face 26 million illiterate and unskilled families. Illiterate and unskilled young people are also more vulnerable to exploitation and can become easy targets for illegal activities," he added.

Opinion & Editorial

Arif Mehmood Khan
DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD
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

Sindh's healthcare gap

There is a peculiar, state-manufactured dysfunction currently plaguing Sindh's healthcare department that is entirely nonsensical at face value. More than 8,000 positions remain vacant in government-run health facilities and, on the other hand, thousands of trained and qualified lab technicians, radiographers and paramedical staff await employment for years on end.

In some public hospitals, including the province's largest public facilities, the ban on hiring technicians and paramedical staff has lasted for close to fifteen years — long enough for an entire generation of trained professionals to graduate, wait, and eventually give up or go abroad. The Sindh Medical Faculty alone has trained more than 69,000 students across 56 technician courses ranging from laboratory technology to operation theatre technology to dialysis. On paper, connecting vacant positions and available employees is no rocket science. But behind the seemingly simple procedure lie extensive roadblocks and hindrances that deter deserving candidates from careers that should essentially be theirs. To its credit, the provincial government is not entirely blind to the problem. It has recently allowed hospitals to hire technicians and paramedical staff from third-party contractors, but even this is merely a workaround, not a fix.

Arifa Noor
CONVERSATIONS about Pakistan easily and comfortably slide into clichés. The phrase 'land of the pure' is a personal favourite. Different generations — from boomers all the way down to the millennials — are perhaps equally familiar with 'Pakistan at a crossroads'. Used as a headline or caption, it can be comfortably deployed to describe the state of affairs within, regardless of the context — be it the time of the Cold War, or the post 9/11 world, or from democratic interludes to hybrid times. The guilt is not just of Pakistanis but also the rest of the world which sees the country through a fog of clichés. Within this hard country, or the most dangerous country in the world, are the leafy streets of Islamabad, the port city of Karachi and Lahore with its Mughal past. Politics is military-dominated, and people have a penchant for strongmen in uniform, while political parties are family enterprises. KP is known as the province of the warrior-like Pathans, and Balochistan is tribal. Sindh is feudal territory where generations of peasants have worshipped Sufis and the Bhuttos. While the descriptions may vary a bit, they all portray societies frozen in time where little has changed, politically and socially.

Agreed that many of these clichés are the result of foreign coverage of a country that has been, for various reasons, open to the storytelling

Clichés we use

by others. But at this point, it is hard to say if the storytelling by others has shaped our thinking and analysis or vice-versa. Whatever the case, clichés now shape so much of opinion that even society at large has been oblivious to the changes taking place under their very noses. For instance, it took 20 years of an insurgency in Balochistan for most people to realise that the sardars were no longer in charge in the province; the cliché has yet to be abandoned in discussions and by those who want to control politics.

Indeed, clichés are used not just to describe but also to define how the country's politics is run. The latter continues to be dominated by dynasties; people are uneducated and don't know how to vote for the right people — which is why democracy doesn't work. For they don't vote for 'good' people but for those who can help them with gals, mohallay ki siyosat, or local issues. Or they voted for personalities and cult leaders. The cliché might alter a bit here and there but the inability of the people to make the right choice doesn't. It's enough to try the patience of a saint. Or many among our stability-seeking saints.

But the politicians have their own set of clichés, convinced that only their capability can save the country — be it the ability to make a deal, a road (or rather, many roads), or end corruption. No one else is good enough. To their credit, none of them think

they can aspire to learn the art a rival may have mastered. With their one skill, they can save Pakistan, much like the heroes of yesteryear who wore shorts over skinny pants and worked alone to save the Metropolis or Gotham. But this is an old cliché — before Hollywood discovered that they could all be made to fly together to confront the bad guys.

Others, too, view them through clichés — cults, populists, experienced politicians, deal makers. And then the favourite is about how all of them were born in the same nursery (of the green and brown kind). Or as the latest version in Urdu goes, they passed through the same gate, the point being that none of them is authentic or genuine enough. Till, of course, they suffer at the same hands. The cycle repeats itself each time — with a new Pygmalion; a new flower seller. And then come the clichés about how to fix this country. These, too, have not changed. In one of the clichés, the problem is always the older, more established politician. And their removal is the answer. Minus one at times, minus everyone at others. It was Bhutto back in the 1970s and Nawaz Sharif in the 1990s. And these days, it seems it's Imran Khan. Another is to rid the country of 'kruption'; so what if each such effort seems to have done little to stop the scourge, which is growing by leaps and bounds. It's a cliché, not reality.

Courtesy Dawn

The book destruction business

Muhammad Hamid Zaman

Perhaps I am old fashioned. I never got a Kindle or any other gadget to read books on a tablet. Every book that I read, I want to experience the joy of holding the physical copy, of turning a physical page, of smelling the book. I love libraries and bookstores and am most at home in the presence of books. I also grew up in a family where the written word was revered, regardless of the publication. Putting the newspaper on the floor was considered highly disrespectful, objectionable and counter to the values of learning. Coming from this world the idea that physical books will be ripped apart, fed to big automated machines, destroyed and then 'recycled' is deeply disturbing and hurtful. But that is exactly the world we are in.

Reports from several newspapers, independent organisations and court documents suggest that AI companies (including Anthropic through its project Panama), in order to train their large language models (LLMs) are buying old and sometimes rare books in large numbers, breaking the spine of the books, taking out each page, and then feeding them to automated scanners that scan the text in high resolution. These pages are then recycled; and to make us all feel better, the companies are saying that they recycle the paper responsibly. What a relief! I was really concerned that our heritage and history would be recycled irresponsibly.

This new strategy, of course, comes after the effort to simply take the material without permission from authors, an effort that resulted in copyright infringement lawsuits and a settlement. Some would argue that this book destruction-scanning-traiting of LLMs enterprise is all legal, and hence OK. That may be so, but the history of things that are legal but deeply problematic is long. Ask communities that were on the wrong end of exploitation for decades, perhaps centuries. All was legal at the time.

Courtesy Tribune

Senate of Pakistan's digitization to further enhance transparency, efficiency: Shaza Fatima



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Tuesday welcomed the launch of the Senate Mobile App, saying digital transformation would make the institution more efficient, transparent and responsive.

Addressing the launching ceremony of the Senate Mobile Application, she said the government's digital transformation agenda had three major aspects: digital economy, digi-

tal society and digital governance.

She said that under digital governance, the digital transformation of all government and public-sector institutions was a core agenda.

Shaza Fatima said the Digital Nation Pakistan Act was passed by the Senate and National Assembly last year, under which the Pakistan Digital Authority was formed.

She said digital transformation was no longer limited to the IT sector but had become a cross-sectoral element. The minister said technological

transformation was a paradigm shift affecting everyday life, health, education, finance and national security, with systems such as EdTech, GovTech and FinTech emerging rapidly. She said the Senate's participation in the digital transformation process and bringing governance to technology would not only make the institution more efficient but also improve transparency and efficacy and empower senators. Shaza Fatima said the initiative was not merely about launching a mobile application but represented a wider process of digitization. Recalling the parliamentary system in 2013, she said Parliament was completely paper-based when she joined it. She said multiple reforms were later introduced in the National Assembly. The minister recalled that parliamentarians previously had to visit a small room on the last Friday of a session to submit questions, resulting in a rush and a non-transparent system. She said the process was later automated.

Gilani launches Senate Mobile Application, hails digital transformation of Parliament

PEAK POINT

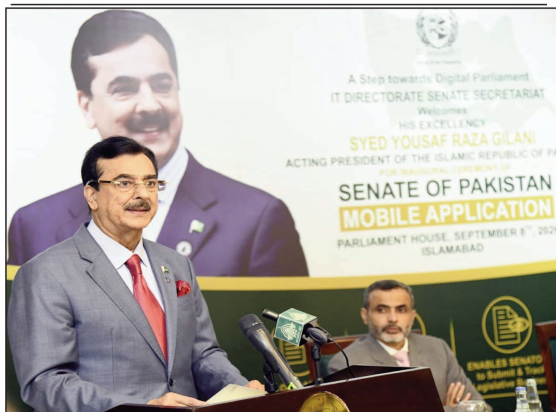
ISLAMABAD: Acting President and Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday launched the Senate Mobile Application, describing the initiative as a significant step towards digital empowerment, greater institutional efficiency and a more transparent and responsive parliamentary system. Addressing the launching ceremony at Parliament House, the Acting President said the application marked the beginning of a new era in the Senate's journey towards digital transformation since its establishment in 1973. He said the initiative was not merely about launching an application but about introducing "a new way of working, a new way of thinking and a new way of serving the people of Pakistan." Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani said the digital initiative would have a transformational impact on the working and performance of the Senate and its Members, while helping build a modern parliamentary institution equipped to meet the demands of the contemporary era.

Reflecting on his own journey in public service, he said parliamentary and govern-

mental processes had traditionally relied heavily on manual systems, with considerable time being consumed by procedures rather than focusing on the ultimate purpose of public service. "That was then. This is now," he remarked, underscoring the need to embrace technology and innovation.

The Acting President said the Senate Mobile Application represented a strategic shift and a shared commitment to ensuring that the Upper House kept pace with technological advancement. He said that the Senate Secretariat had already embraced the e-office system with encouraging results, adding that the mobile application was part of a broader digital transformation aimed at saving time, improving efficiency and eliminating unnecessary redundancies.

He emphasized that digitalization was not merely about convenience but about enhancing institutional effectiveness. "When our systems work seamlessly, we can focus on what truly matters: our constitutional roles and functions," he said. The Acting President also highlighted the role of technology in strengthening the connection.



ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani addressing the launching ceremony of the Senate Mobile Application at Parliament House.

Constitutional commitment to provide education to children demands urgent state action: IPS

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's estimated 21.1 million out-of-school children underscore the urgent need to treat education as a national priority and fulfill the state's constitutional responsibility to ensure access to schooling for all children. The challenge requires sustained policy attention to bring children into the education system and ensure that the constitutional commitment is translated into effective implementation. This was highlighted at a discussion organized at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, to mark World Literacy Day on September 8. The session, part of IPS's focus on education and human development, expressed particular con-

cern about the growing number of out-of-school children and the state's responsibility to ensure their access to education.

According to credible statistical sources, Pakistan has approximately 21.1 million out-of-school children, a staggering figure that should be a cause for serious concern. This estimate is derived from data from the Household Integrated Economic Survey and projected population figures from the National Institution for Population Studies. The scale of the challenge highlights a significant gap between the country's constitutional commitments and the educational realities faced by millions of children. The discussion was grounded in Article 25-A of the Constitution of Pakistan.

Pakistan unveils 10-year national plan to conserve shark populations

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry on Tuesday unveiled Pakistan's first 10-year national action plan for shark conservation, under which the government would restore declining shark populations, curb illegal finning and bycatch, protect critical marine habitats and promote sustainable fisheries in Pakistani waters through 2035.

The plan will be implemented in three phases by the Marine Fisheries Department and backed by an estimated \$3.8 million to \$5 million in funding during its first five years. In a statement, Chaudhry said that the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA-Sharks Pakistan 2025-2035) would be overseen by a multi-stakeholder National Advisory Committee. He further added that the plan sought to strengthen fisheries management



and enforcement while improving data collection and scientific research on shark populations.

Among the proposed measures are mandatory fins-naturally-attached policies, species-specific protections, shark sanctuaries, mangrove restoration and steps to reduce shark deaths as bycatch across different fisheries. The plan also seeks to improve the livelihoods of coastal fishing communities through targeted support, while encouraging sustainable shark fisheries and greater international cooperation, including through the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. The minister said that the implementation would be assessed.

Literacy a foundation of an empowered and prosperous Pakistan: Wajhi

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Wajhi Qamar on Tuesday said that literacy was not merely the ability to read and write, rather it was the foundation of awareness, dignity, empowerment, equal opportunity and national development. In her message on International Literacy Day, she said that for Pakistan, literacy was not simply an educational target but a national imperative. An educated and skilled population is essential for building a stronger economy, an inclusive society and a prosperous Pakistan. Our commitment is clear that no child, no girl and no citizen in Pakistan should be left behind or deprived of the opportunity to learn and progress," the state minister said, adding that bringing every child into education and equipping young people with knowledge, skills and capabilities relevant to the modern world was a collective national responsibility. Wajhi stressed that the meaning of literacy had evolved beyond conventional reading and writing.

Turkish Schools Offer Scholarships to Balochistan Students

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pak-Turk Maarif International Schools and Colleges has opened registration for MAGIS 2026/3, offering admission and scholarship opportunities to students in the Quetta Region. The scholarship and admission examination will be held on November 1, 2026, while students can apply online until October 25 through the official MAGIS examination portal. The examination is open to students seeking admission to Grades 4 to 9 and IGCSE. Applicants can complete their registration and pay the examination fee through the online portal. Admissions for 2027-28 Session The MAGIS results will contribute to the admission and scholarship evaluation process for the 2027-28 academic session. The new session

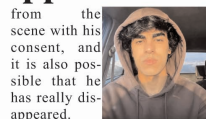


for K-8 and SSC I in the Quetta Region will begin on March 1, 2027. Final admission and scholarship decisions will depend on applicable criteria, scholarship categories and seat availability. The examination will also include an IGCSE admission category for eligible candidates appearing in Quetta. Successful IGCSE candidates may be considered for admission to relevant boarding campuses, including Peshawar Boys Campus, Islamabad Boys Campus, International Maarif Schools.

108 Days Since Suleiman Sohail's Disappearance

REPORT/WAJIHA TAMSEEL MIRZA

LAHORE: Popular among Pakistan's Gen Z generation, Suleiman Sohail, a social media influencer from Rawalpindi, has been missing for the past 107 days. His fans and family members say that he had challenged them to talk about the state and some important figures, after which news of his disappearance has been circulating since the end of August. And his social accounts have been closed from behind. It is possible that the social media influencer has disappeared



Suleiman Sohail has gained fame in recent days due to his social work. Suleiman Sohail is missing, or it is a case of kidnapping for ransom or he disappeared of his own free will, whichever is the case, the government of Pakistan should take immediate action to make the return of the missing influencer Suleiman Sohail possible.

Overseas Pakistani seeks probe into alleged bribery at Pakistan Consulate in Los Angeles

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: An overseas Pakistani citizen residing in California has urged the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to conduct an urgent investigation into what he alleged was a demand for unauthorised payments by officials at the Consulate General of Pakistan in Los Angeles. In a written complaint addressed to the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Abid Butt, an entrepreneur and community activist who said he had been residing in the United States for more than four decades, alleged that he faced two separate incidents involving demands for cash payments in connection with consular services. According to the complaint, Mr Butt

visited the Pakistan Consulate on April 14, 2026, for attestation of business documents. He said he had completed the requirements listed on the consulate's website and was subsequently assisted by a protocol officer whom he identified as Monis Ahmed. He alleged that after his documents were examined by officials, Mr Ahmed informed him that he was required to pay an additional \$300 in cash to get the work completed. Mr Butt claimed that he paid the prescribed attestation fee as well as the alleged additional payment, after which his documents were processed. He further stated that he had used his enhanced driver's licence for identification and had provided a digital copy of his NADRA card through WhatsApp. In the second incident,