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## PM says China playing key role in global peace, development

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said China was playing an important role in promoting global peace and development, highlighting the country's remarkable progress under the leadership of President Xi Jinping.

Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad marking the 77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the prime minister congratulated the Chinese leadership and people on the occasion.

PM Shehbaz also congratulated China and Pakistan on the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations, saying the two countries were entering a new phase of cooperation under CPEC 2.0.

He said the next phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor would focus on key sectors including industry, information technology, artificial intelligence, agriculture and minerals. The prime minister said Pakistan valued its longstanding friendship with China and aimed to further strengthen bilateral economic and strategic cooperation. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening its friendship with China. Addressing a ceremony in connection with the 77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China in Islamabad today, he extended heartfelt congratulations to Chinese President Xi Jinping and the people of China on their National Day.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing a ceremony to celebrate the 77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

## Tarar warns India's unilateral actions on IWT may have implications for water governance globally

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Attullah Tarar on Wednesday warned that India's decision to hold the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance could have implications for

global transboundary water governance, urging the international community to take note of the "wider precedent". Tarar made the remarks while addressing a ceremony organised by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad to launch a report on the IWT issue. Water and the IWT remain a contentious issue between India and Pakistan, following New Delhi's unilateral abeyance of the accord in April last year — a move that was followed by a brief military conflict between the two sides in May 2025. Following India's move, Pakistan termed any attempt to suspend its water share an "act of war", noting the IWT had no provision for unilateral suspension. It later argued that Delhi's action was a violation of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. "We are a peaceful nation, but we cannot allow India to weaponise water because it is the basic right of the 240 million people of Pakistan," Tarar said, drawing attention to the "wider precedent involved". "If a state can unilaterally put a binding international water treaty.

## Iran receives US feedback on seven-day trust-building plan

PEAK POINT



TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi received US feedback via Qatari mediators in Doha on Tuesday on a seven-day plan aimed at building trust between Washington and Tehran, with sequencing the main sticking point, an official, who was not Iranian but was briefed on the talks, told Reuters. Araghchi is expected to discuss the US response in Tehran on Wednesday, the official said.

Iran last week presented a seven-day proposal under which Araghchi said the Strait of Hormuz could be reopened and normal maritime passage restored if the necessary conditions were met. US President Donald Trump subsequently rejected the proposal, prompting further Qatari mediation. The Qatari mediators conveyed the feedback they had received from Washington on Monday, meeting Araghchi and his team on their way back from the United States, the official said. The document being circulated outlines a seven-day period of trust-building aimed at returning the two sides to an enhanced version of the memorandum of understanding agreed in June, including concrete steps on Iran's nuclear programme, the official said, without further elaboration.

The disagreement centres on the sequencing of the steps rather than the components of the plan, the official added. Qatar has been shuttling messages between Washington and Tehran in an effort to end the conflict and reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

## Tel Aviv-bound Flydubai flight diverted to Saudi Arabia after brawl between pilots: Israeli official

PEAK POINT



DUBAI: A flight bound for Israel from Dubai diverted to Saudi Arabia after transmitting emergency signals due to a fight between the pilots rather than a

hijacking, an Israeli official said on Wednesday.

Flydubai Flight FZ1073 from Dubai diverted over Jordanian airspace towards Saudi Arabia, transmitting a general emergency signal before transmitting another emergency signal that indicates a possible unlawful interference several minutes later, according to flight tracking website Flightradar24.

The Boeing 737 plane then again transmitted the general emergency signal before landing at Tabuk airport in northwestern Saudi Arabia, the website said.

An Israeli official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told Reuters that the pilots had transmitted the emergency signals after getting into a physical altercation with each other. It was not immediately clear if either pilot had intentionally transmitted the signal. Israel said it was organising the safe return of Israeli passengers. "The incident is under control."

## 3 terrorists killed in IBO in KP's Mir Ali: state media

PEAK POINT

MIR ALI: Security forces killed three terrorists in an intelligence-based operation in the Mir Ali area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's North Waziristan district, state broadcaster PTV reported on Wednesday, citing security sources. The sources added that hideouts of the Fina al Khawarij were targeted in Mir Ali and surrounding areas. Fina al Khawarij is a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). A large quantity of weapons and ammunition was recovered from the terrorists killed during the operation, security sources said.

## Pakistan, four other countries participate in special forces exercise in Uzbekistan: State Media

PEAK POINT

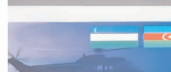
UZBEKISTAN: Troops from Pakistan and four other countries participated in the multinational special forces exercise Eternal Brotherhood-5 held in Uzbekistan from September 13 to 25, 2026, on Wednesday.

According to the state media, Kazakhstan participated in the exercise as an observer country, and the Eternal Brotherhood-5 exercise aimed to enhance cooperation, coordination and professional capabilities among special forces.

The participating forces exchanged experiences in modern operations, combat tactics and dealing with security challenges during the joint exercise, it stated.

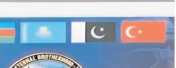
The exercise reflected growing defence and security cooperation, mutual trust and the strengthening of

military ties among the participating countries, the



statement added. Earlier last week, The Pakistan Army commenced joint military exercises with Russian and Omani forces at Cherat and the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) Pabbi, respectively, the military's media wing said. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the ninth edition of the Pakistan-Russia Joint Exercise Druzhba-IX and the second edition of the

Pakistan-Oman Joint Exercise Washaq Al Jabal-II



(Mountain Lynx-II) commenced on September 22. "The two-week exercises bring together contingents from the Pakistan Army and their counterparts from the Russian Army and the Royal Army of Oman to share operational experience, refine counter-terrorism drills and procedures, and enhance interoperability," the ISPR said. The military's media wing further stated that through joint

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

The Pakistan Army routinely conducts joint military exercises with foreign militaries to improve operational readiness and enhance combat capabilities. On May 7, Pakistan and Sri Lanka concluded a two-week-long joint counter-terrorism exercise at Tarbela, focused on enhancing counter-terrorism skills and strengthening their longstanding military-to-military relations. "The two-week exercise began on April 27 and concluded today. Combat teams from the Special Services Group (SSG) of the Pakistan Army and the Sri Lankan Special Forces participated in the exercise," ISPR said.

## 3 Pakistanis among 5 crew lost during operation to recover ship hijacked by Somali pirates, FO confirms



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) on Wednesday expressed condolences over the death of three Pakistani nationals during an operation to recover the MT Honour 25 oil tanker, which had been hijacked by Somali pirates in April.

The maritime police force of semi-autonomous Puntland said on Tuesday that it had recovered the MT Honour 25 in an operation. The Palau-flagged oil tanker had 19 crew members on board, including 10 Pakistanis.

In a statement on Wednesday, FO said: "Pakistan is deeply saddened by the tragic loss of five crew members during the operation to recover the hijacked vessel, MT Honour 25, off the coast of Somalia."

# SPORTS

## Pakistan men's squash team seal bronze and semi-final spot as women's campaign ends



### PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's men's squash team confirmed at least a bronze medal at the Asian Games on Wednesday, booking their semi-final spot with a straight-sets win over South Korea, while the women's team saw their campaign end with a round-robin defeat to China at the Nagoya Kinjo Futo Arena.

Pakistan's men swept South Korea 2-0 in their quarter-final without needing a deciding rubber.

Mohammad Ashab Irfan set the tone in the opening match against Na Jooyoung, needing all three games but rarely looking

troubled

The 22-year-old traded early points with his 19-year-old opponent before surging to a 7-2 lead in the first game, eventually closing it out 11-5 in nine minutes.

The second followed a similar script — Jooyoung twice clawed his way back to within a couple of points, only for Ashab to restore his cushion each time and seal it 11-8.

The Korean threatened a fight-back in the third, pulling back three points as Ashab served for the match, but the Pakistani finally converted on his fourth attempt to complete an 11-5, 11-8, 11-8

win in just under half an hour, but put Pakistan 1-0 up.

Pakistan's top-ranked Noor Zaman, then hit to seal the tie again and made light work of the batsman to scare in the third game.

The world No. 1 through the first game minutes and followed by an equally comfortable second, building lead points or more in both

Oh, 20, produced a squash of the tie in the 11th inning, coming back from 8-7 down and then snatching the win to keep Korean hopes

But Noor responded immediately in the fourth, racing into a four-point lead and reeling off seven straight points to close it out 11-2 — sealing both the match and a 2-0 win for Pakistan without the tie needing to go the distance.

Noor and Ashab have already secured bronze medal in the singles event.

The result sends Pakistan through to face Hong Kong, who defeated Qatar in the other quar-

There was no such reward for Pakistan's women, who went down 2-1 to China in their second round-robin qualifier.

## GM Bashir makes strong start in Asian Games shooting



### PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Pakistan's ace-shooter Ghulam Mustafa Bashir had a solid start in his men's 25 metre rapid fire pistol event of the 20th Asian Games at the Aichi Prefecture General Shooting Gallery in Japan on Wednesday.

Competing in stage 1, the 2022 World Championship bronze medallist and Olympian Bashir finished eighth among 28 shooters with a score of 289-8x.

He will now compete in the second stage on Thursday and it is highly expected that the veteran shooter will be able to qualify for the finals also to be held on the same day.

Bashir's performance placed him ahead of several experienced competitors and kept him within reach of the leading positions. China's Su Lianbofan topped the stage 1 standings with 297-12x, followed by South Korea's Yoon Seoyeong with 293-9x and Lee Gunhveok with 292-8x.

Bashir's 289 points also put him just one point behind Kazakhstan's Nikita Chiryukin, who occupied seventh place. His result was particularly encouraging given the closely packed standings, where only a few points separated many of the competitors. Initially Mohammad Farooq and Mohammad Shabbir were also scheduled to feature in this event.

## Pakistan Tennis faces serious questions after Brutal Asian Games 2026 Exit



### PEAK POINT

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's tennis campaign at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 has ended with a brutally disappointing record, raising serious questions over the direction of the sport, player development, selection policies and the performance of the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF). Pakistan played 10 matches across singles, doubles and mixed doubles during

the Asian Games campaign. The final record tells a stark story: one victory and nine defeats, a 10 percent win rate, only two sets won and 18 sets lost. Even more tellingly, Pakistan failed to win a single set in any of its nine defeats. The country's only victory came in men's doubles, where Aqeel Khan and Muhammad Shoaib defeated Mongolia's Mandakh Davaadash and Sanaadunnsaig Enkhjargal 6-2, 6-0. The pair losing in the second round to Chinese Taipei's Chen Hui and Yu-Hsiou Hsu 6-3, 6-2 in only 46 minutes. Every other Pakistani player or pair suffered defeat. Ushna Suhail lost in the first round to Kazakhstan's Yuliya Putintseva 6-1, 6-0 in 41 minutes. Mahin Aftab Qureshi was beaten in the first round by Thailand's Panchanand Cheanchandee 6-1, 6-1.

in 53 minutes, while Muzammil Murtaza won the first round to Jordan's Zaid Al-Masni 6-3, 6-2 in one hour and five minutes. In mixed doubles, Aqsha Suhail and Usha Khan lost in the first round to Kazakhstan 6-2, 6-1, while Mahin Afab Qureshi and Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi went down 6-3, 7-5 in the first round to Kazakhstan. The men's doubles combination of Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi and Muzammil Murtaza subsequently lost in the first round to South Korea 7-5, 6-4 in a match lasting one hour and 50 minutes. Mahin Afab Qureshi and Usha Suhail were then beaten in the first round by Mongolia 6-1, 6-0 in 48 minutes.

## An Se-young retains Asian Games crown



**LAHORE:** Provincial Minister for Irrigation Muhammad Kazam Ali Pirzada poses for a group photo with players after conclusion of CM Punjab PSA Satellite Squash Championship here on Wednesday.

## Pakistan junior golf team returns home to warm reception

MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Following a stellar performance at the 3rd APMC Bangladesh Junior Amateur Golf Championship 2026, the Pakistan Junior Golf Team arrived in Lahore via Sri Lanka on Tuesday to a rousing and warm reception by senior officials and representatives of the Pakistan Golf Federation (PGF).

A special welcome ceremony was held in honour of the triumphant young golfers, where gifts and traditional sweets were distributed. PGF officials interacted with the players regarding their performance and overseas experience, while interviews were also recorded with the national golfers who clinched the championship titles. Pakistani players dominated the tournament, particularly in the girls' categories. Talented golfer Jannat Aamir from Indus Golf Club, Attock displayed exceptional

grit and consistency to clinch the Girls Under-15 Championship title. Lahore Gymkhana's Nabeeha Nafees produced a commanding performance to secure first place and the championship title in the Girls Under-19 category.

According to the Pakistan Golf Federation, this triumph marks a major milestone for the PGF Junior Development Programme launched in January 2026. Spearheaded by PGF Manager Malik Kamran, who holds a Game



while Pakistan's Areeba Rizwan finished as the runner-up in the same category sealing a clean sweep of the top two spots for Pakistan. In the boys' divisions, the young golfers also delivered encouraging results, with U-15 players finishing among the top five and U-19 golfers securing spots in the top ten.

Development and High Performance certification from the PGA of Australia, the initiative aims to scout emerging talent nationwide, deliver structured training, and provide equal competitive opportunities to build a robust talent pipeline for the future. The programme earned global acclaim.



# Federal, provinces principally agree to hold Gandhara Conference in Pakistan in 2026

## PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The federal and provincial governments on Wednesday principally agreed to move ahead with preparations for holding an International Gandhara Conference in Pakistan in 2026, with a focus on showcasing the country's rich Buddhist heritage and strengthening cultural ties with Buddhist-majority countries.

Federal, provinces principally agree to hold Gandhara Conference in Pakistan in 2026

The decision came at a meeting chaired by Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi to review arrangements and opportunities for holding the

conference, proposed on the directions of the Prime Minister.

The meeting also agreed that the proposal would be submitted to the government for approval, keeping in view the ongoing austerity campaign. Further consultations among federal and provincial stakeholders would follow to finalise the arrangements.

The minister directed that a comprehensive plan be prepared ahead of the conference identifying Buddhist heritage sites and other important places to be visited by international participants and tourists, enabling the relevant authorities to make necessary arrangements well in advance.

He asked Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Gandhara Task Force Imran



Shokat to consult the governments of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in this regard.

The participants proposed developing and presenting Buddhist heritage sites on the pattern of established religious heritage destinations, with improved preservation, visitor facilities and interpretation to attract international

pilgrims and tourists.

Managing Director Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Aftab Rana described the conference as a multi-stakeholder initiative and called for the involvement and suggestions of all relevant institutions.

He also proposed explor-

ing direct air links between Pakistan and Buddhist-majority countries to facilitate international visitors, noting that many travellers currently rely on connecting flights through Middle Eastern countries.

He said Pakistan already maintained broader ties with these countries through educational and student exchange programmes, while direct air links could further promote people-to-people contacts.

The Federal Minister expressed support for exploring direct flights between Pakistan and relevant Buddhist countries.

Secretary National Heritage and Culture Asad Rehman Gillani said the Ministry would consult all relevant stakeholders and

institutions to ensure coordinated arrangements for the conference.

Aurangzeb Khan Khichi said the conference could also provide an opportunity to organise a range of cultural and heritage-related activities alongside the main event, contributing to economic activity and revenue generation.

He said several Buddhist countries had expressed interest in visa-on-arrival facilities and stressed the important role of the Ministry of Interior in this regard. He added that he had already written to the Ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs on the matter.

The minister also asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative to obtain relevant

# Workshop reviews national sample referral guidelines

## PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A two-day technical workshop reviewed the National Guidelines for Sample Collection and Sample Referral Mechanisms to strengthen diagnostic surveillance and national health security across Pakistan.

The workshop was organized under the Pandemic Fund in collaboration with the World Health

Organization (WHO) and brought together public health experts, provincial representatives and senior technical officials from the National Institute of Health (NIH).

Participants reviewed the existing guidelines and discussed measures to improve sample collection, transportation and referral mechanisms, with a focus on developing standardized and effective



diagnostic networks.

Provincial representatives shared field-level challenges, resource requirements and local infrastructure considerations to ensure that the revised guidelines reflected operational realities across different parts of the country.

Senior experts from NIH and WHO provided technical input on strengthening diagnostic referral systems, emphasizing the importance

of standardized laboratory networks for timely detection and response during public health emergencies.

The recommendations emerging from the workshop will contribute to the finalization of national guidelines and support efforts to develop resilient and integrated laboratory networks under national health security initiatives and the Pandemic Fund framework.

# Opinion & Editorial

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## Avoid Unnecessary Criticism, Move Towards Success

Zaheer Haider Jafri



Criticism is a natural part of human life. Every person makes decisions, performs tasks, expresses opinions, and interacts with others, and these actions can invite different reactions. Constructive criticism can help people identify their weaknesses and improve their performance. However, unnecessary, harsh, or personal criticism can create conflict, damage relationships, and sometimes become an obstacle to progress. For this reason, learning when to speak, when to remain silent, and how to express disagreement respectfully is an important part of a successful life. Human beings generally have a strong emotional connection with their opinions, decisions, and achievements. When someone criticizes their work or questions their judgment, they may feel that their personality itself is being attacked. This can produce a defensive response. Instead of listening carefully, a person may immediately try to justify their position, leading to an argument. What begins as a simple observation can therefore develop into a serious disagreement. This is why criticism should be approached with care. Before pointing out another person's mistake, one should ask an important question: Will my words help solve the problem, or will they make the situation

worse? If criticism is necessary, it should focus on the issue rather than attacking the individual. Respectful language can make a significant difference. The workplace provides many examples of this principle. Colleagues may have different approaches to completing a task, managers may disagree with employees, and employees may have concerns about management decisions. If every disagreement becomes personal, the working environment can become uncomfortable and unproductive. On the other hand, when people discuss differences professionally and focus on solutions, disagreement can become an opportunity for improvement. The same principle applies to family and social relationships. People who repeatedly point out each other's weaknesses can gradually create frustration and resentment. A husband and wife, parents and children, friends, or relatives may disagree on many issues. But every disagreement does not need to become a confrontation. Sometimes, patience and silence can prevent a temporary difference from becoming a permanent distance. The modern age has made this issue even more important because of social media. People can now express their opinions instantly to a very large audience. A person may read a statement, become angry, and immediately write a critical response without fully understanding the circumstances. Within minutes,

a simple disagreement can become a public controversy. Social media has therefore created a new responsibility: think before you post. Not every statement requires a response. Not every disagreement requires a debate. Not every criticism deserves an immediate reply. Before commenting, sharing, or responding, people should consider whether their words are based on facts and whether they will contribute anything positive to the discussion. Another important aspect of avoiding unnecessary criticism is understanding the difference between constructive criticism and personal attacks. Constructive criticism identifies a problem and suggests improvement. Personal criticism, by contrast, often focuses on the person's character, intelligence, intentions, or worth. The first can contribute to growth, while the second can damage trust and create unnecessary hostility. This distinction is particularly important in education. Teachers have a responsibility to identify students' weaknesses, but the purpose should be improvement rather than humiliation. A student who is publicly embarrassed may lose confidence instead of learning from the mistake. Encouragement, guidance, and respectful correction can often produce better results than harsh criticism. The same approach is relevant in professional leadership. A good leader does not need to criticize every mistake publicly. Sometimes

## Heroes and public safety

Muhammad Hamid Zaman

A legacy of the Covid-19 years, I hope, is a broader recognition of the work of frontline workers. During some of the darkest days of the pandemic, there were communities, across the world, that would celebrate the extraordinary work of those at the forefront – physicians, nurses, technicians, first responders and those who took a personal risk to keep the disease at bay. This idea of heroism is the same across many facets of life in a society – of personal risk, high likelihood of a terrible outcome, and service to others.

Let us keep this thought of risk and service to others in our minds for a second. And now bring in another idea – the idea that some of the places among our midst are dangerous, likely to breed infection and are contaminated by nasty bugs. It is places that bring wastewater, sewage and other organic and inorganic waste together. From a public health point of view, making sure that these places follow health and sanitation guidelines is essential for the wellbeing of society. A lapse there can risk the lives of millions. Now let us combine the two thoughts. Of places of highest risk, and people who work in those places. We all know who works in those places in our society, and yet, we cannot imagine considering these people ever as heroes, or people who we owe a great debt of gratitude. In fact, we are far on the other extreme. We consider those who work in these awfully difficult and toxic places, full of pathogens, as the lowest amongst us. We have all kinds of terrible names for them. So much so that official advertisements for jobs to do this work specifically list that these are only open to non-Muslim members of our community – suggesting that these jobs are beneath the dignity of much of society. I cannot imagine large sections of society would ever consider sanitation workers as people who keep us safe. This notion of recognition of their work as an integral pillar of public safety, worthy of deep respect, would be considered laughable by many and even offensive by a certain sizeable section.

Courtesy Tribune

## Aleem orders NHA to work with foreign experts on road engineering, highway design



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Communications Minister Abdul Aleem Khan directed the National Highway Authority (NHA) to work with foreign experts to improve road engineering and highway design in a meeting on Wednesday.

The meeting, chaired by Aleem, reviewed the NHA's ongoing and proposed projects, revenue enhancement, road safety and developmental programmes.

The minister directed NHA officials to ensure road safety through improved engineering in the construction of new highways. He

stressed that the protection of human lives must remain the top priority.

He expressed reservations about the design of the M-4 and other highways, saying that Pakistan's roads should be green, safe, comfortable, and designed according to modern international standards.

To this end, he directed the NHA to engage foreign experts for improved road engineering and better highway design, noting that the authority's engineering staff should adopt international best practices to develop motorways that were safer and more comfortable for motorists.

During the high-level meeting,

Aleem said that the NHA had successfully achieved the revenue enhancement target set two years ago. He affirmed that going forward, the NHA would undertake the construction of new roads from the revenue generated from existing revenue streams.

Aleem also informed the meeting that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would inaugurate major road projects in the coming months, including the Lodhran-Multan Expressway, the Peshawar Northern Bypass and the expansion of the Pindi Bhattian-Faisalabad Motorway.

He said that work on the Sialkot-Kharan Motorway was progressing rapidly, while construction work had begun on the Karachi-Quetta-Chaman Pakistan Expressway (N-25).

Expressing concern over the poor condition of the Lahore-Gujranwala GT Road, he directed the NHA authorities to take immediate measures to improve the condition of the road and provide relief to travellers.

## Mohsin Naqvi visits Arif Habib Centre and reviews immigration at Karachi airport

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Arif Habib Centre in Karachi on Wednesday and discussed a range of issues with businessman Arif Habib. During the visit, Arif Habib briefed the interior minister on the operational infrastructure of his organisation. The two also discussed development projects and other matters of mutual interest. Mohsin Naqvi appreciated the progress and development achieved by the Arif Habib Group. Earlier in the day, the interior minister visited Jinnah International Airport in Karachi and reviewed the immigration process at the passenger counters.

Mohsin Naqvi spoke to passengers preparing to travel abroad and asked about the facilities being provided to them at the airport. He also examined the travel



documents of several passengers and directed Federal Investigation Agency officials to verify them.

The interior minister expressed satisfaction with the arrangements made by the immigration team. He said the deployment of an additional system at the counters had helped prevent the formation of long queues.

He also praised Jinnah International Airport's Deputy Director of Immigration, Shehzad Akbar, for making efforts to provide passengers with all possible facilities.

## Shaza Khawaja recognizes Islamabad schoolgirls for completing Huawei ICT certifications

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: An award distribution ceremony for students of Islamabad's public sector schools who had completed the Huawei Summer ICT Training Program, was held at Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication on Wednesday.

The certification program was organized in collaboration with Huawei Technologies Pakistan under Prime Minister's ICT training initiative. During the ceremony, Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja interacted with the students, listened to their experiences and took a keen interest in the skills they had acquired while completing the certification. She congratulated them on their achievement and encouraged them to continue building on the knowledge gained through the training. Shaza Fatima highlighted that under the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the government was focused on equipping young Pakistanis especially girls with the skills and opportunities needed to contribute to the country's digital transformation and compete in the global digital economy.

She emphasized that the relevance of technology extends well beyond the IT sector, as digital tools and emerging technologies are increasingly transforming fields ranging from education and healthcare to business, finance, agriculture and public services.

"Whatever field our young people choose, technology will increasingly be part of their professional journey. Our responsibility is to ensure that they have the skills to use it, create with it and eventually lead in it," the Minister said.

She encouraged the students to continue exploring emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, cloud computing, software development and data science, while applying their knowledge to practical challenges. "Pakistan has immense talent.

We want our young people not only to consume technology, but to create it, innovate with it and offer their talent to the world," she added. The Minister also encouraged the students to share their knowledge with their classmates and inspire other girls to explore technology and pursue opportunities in the digital economy.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, in a group photograph with students who successfully completed the Huawei Summer ICT training programme.

## Dar stresses need to translate SCO's shared vision into practical cooperation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday addressed the National Coordinators of SCO Member States, along with senior representatives of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Secretariat and SCO RATS, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Welcoming the National Coordinators to the first meeting of the Council of National Coordinators under Pakistan's Chairmanship, the DPM/PM reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to an open, inclusive, and constructive Chairmanship, guided by the 'Shanghai Spirit' of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, and common development. He underlined the theme of Pakistan's Chairmanship, "Turning Vision into Action: Connectivity, Innovation, and Shared Prosperity", and stressed the need to translate the SCO's shared vision into practical cooperation and tangible outcomes. He also highlighted preparations to host the SCO.

## Federal govt 'seriously considering' imposing emergency in KP: Minister

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said that the Centre is "seriously considering" imposing an emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa over the "worsening security situation in the province".

Speaking to journalists at Parliament House on Wednesday, the minister said that the government is considering the imposition of emergency under Article 232 of the Constitution, citing the KP government's alleged failure to curb terrorism.

"The federal government is seriously considering the imposition of emergency in KP," he said, adding that terrorism had



increased rapidly in the province. The remarks came amid heightened political tensions between the federal and KP governments, as PTI prepares for its October 4 long march towards Islamabad. The party had postponed the march from September 27 to October 4.

The former ruling party is preparing for a major protest and march on Islamabad, demanding the release of its jailed founder Imran Khan and the "restoration" of constitutional.

## Governor KP, Italian delegation discuss regional air connectivity, air ambulance proposal

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday held a meeting with a delegation led by Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Italy's FRI-EL Group, Josef Gostner, to discuss promotion of regional air connectivity and cooperation in the aviation sector. The delegation included SkyAlps Chief Executive Officer Alex Spinato, Chairman South Air Pakistan Kanwar Muhammad Tariq, Senior Group Advisor of SOS Group Sohail Ali Khan and South Air Chief Executive Officer Nishat Fatima. During the meeting, the participants discussed opportunities to strengthen regional air connectivity in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and expand coopera-



tion in the aviation sector. They also discussed the possibility of launching an air ambulance service in the province to provide timely emergency medical transportation to remote and underserved areas. Governor Kundi welcomed the visiting delegation and appreciated the interest of FRI-EL Group, SkyAlps and South Air in supporting aviation development and improving regional connectivity in the province.

## Türkiye Scholarships 2026 orientation programme held at the Embassy of Türkiye in Islamabad

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Islamabad hosted an orientation programme for Pakistani students selected for the Türkiye Scholarships 2026 programme, bringing together newly selected scholars, Türkiye Scholarships alumni, and representatives of the Embassy.

Türkiye Scholarships, administered by the Government of the Republic of Türkiye through the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB), provides international students



with opportunities to pursue undergraduate, master's and doctoral studies at leading universities across Türkiye. In 2026, 112 students from across Pakistan were selected for Türkiye Scholarships. The orientation programme in

Islamabad was organised for selected students from Islamabad and nearby areas to help them prepare for their upcoming academic journey to Türkiye. The programme commenced with remarks by H.E. the Ambassador of the

Republic of Türkiye, who congratulated the successful candidates and welcomed them to the Türkiye Scholarships community. The Ambassador highlighted the importance of educational and people-to-people ties

between Türkiye and Pakistan and encouraged the students to make the most of their academic experience in Türkiye. The President of the Turkish Alumni Association also addressed the students, sharing insights from his own

experience and highlighting the role of alumni in strengthening the longstanding friendship and educational links between Türkiye and Pakistan. The Education Counsellor's Office of the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye subsequently delivered an orientation presentation covering important aspects of the students' transition from Pakistan to Türkiye, including preparations for departure, their arrival and integration into university life, and key steps for a successful academic experience.