

Govt approves board changes at HESCO, SEPCO & NESPAK



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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

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PM Shehbaz arrives in Turkiye, to address COP31 today

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif left for Antalya, Turkiye, on Tuesday for a visit from Nov 10-12 to attend the Leaders' Summit of the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP 31) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The premier is accompanied by PPP leader Sherry Rehman, Information Minister Ataullah Tarar, and the PM's adviser Tariq Fatemi, a statement by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said. The premier will address the summit on Nov 11, during which he will urge the global community to take concrete actions to address the threat posed by climate change to the planet, the Foreign Office (FO) said earlier. He will highlight "Pakistan's steps towards rapid solarisation and expansion of its renewable energy capacity, as part of its transition towards a cleaner and more resilient economy, along with its efforts to strengthen disaster preparedness and early-warning systems", the FO statement said. The premier will also call for predictable, adequate and accessible climate finance for developing countries to strengthen their resilience and pursue sustainable development, it added. Moreover, the prime minister will attend a high-level roundtable meeting convened by the presidency of COP31 on the sidelines of the Leaders' Summit, and hold bilateral meetings with the Turkish leadership as well as several other world leaders. "Prime minister's participation in COP31 Leaders' Summit is an expression of Pakistan's strong support for the climate agenda, and will provide Pakistan with an opportunity to reaffirm its commitment towards working closely with the international community to address the climate crisis," the FO statement said.



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is welcomed upon his arrival in Antalya, Turkiye.

Security forces recover 700kg of explosives during NW clearance operation



PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Security forces on Tuesday recovered 700 kilogrammes of locally made explosives, a missile and other equipment during a search and clearance operation in different areas of North Waziristan, security sources said.

The operation was underway in several areas, where security forces searched 62 more houses and several compounds, the sources said. They said searches were completed at 17 compounds between Api village and Haider Khel, 28 in Maski and 17 in other areas. Fourteen targeted locations were also cleared in Hassu Khel. During an operation in Mosaki, security forces recovered 700 kilogrammes of locally made explosives, while an Al-Farooq missile, 200 kilogrammes of urea and other related equipment were recovered from Hassu Khel, the sources added. The operation would continue until the possible presence of terrorists in the area and locations used by them had been cleared, the sources said. The latest operation came a day after security forces had recovered a large cache of improvised explosive devices, explosives, weapons and ammunition from two terrorist hideouts established inside mosques in Muzak village.

Iran calls on US to meet its demands to end war



PEAK POINT

TEHRAN: Iran on Tuesday urged the United States to meet its demands in a plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, after President Donald Trump spoke of "positive momentum" to end their eight-month war.

"The conflict with Iran will not be resolved through military means, nor by intensifying sanctions," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told Iran's IRNA news agency. "The only solution is to adopt a language of respect, engage in diplomacy, and address Iran's demands and conditions -- which were outlined in the two-day proposal and remain on the table."

Tehran has proposed reopening Hormuz, which it has blockaded since the start of the war, within two days in return for Washington meeting a raft of conditions. These include ending the war on all fronts, unfreezing Iranian assets, lifting oil sanctions and ending the US counter-blockade of Iranian ports. Trump, whose Republican party last week lost midterm elections in part due to the war, said on Monday that there was "positive momentum" towards ending the conflict after meeting Qatar's prime minister at the White House. In a post on social media, Trump reiterated that the US was "locked and loaded" but said further strikes were "quite unlikely" given that key US allies in the Gulf "would prefer the status quo". "We are seeing positive momentum toward an end to this conflict, and will ensure that America's interests are at all times protected," Trump said.

Wapda says no threat to Tarbela Dam's integrity, critical structures after rock collapse at project site



PEAK POINT

SWABI: A press release issued by the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) said on Tuesday that there was no threat to the integrity of Tarbela Dam or any of its critical structures a day after a rock collapse at the 5th Extension Project (T-5) site caused a surge of water to enter nearby work areas.

On Monday, a rock mass collapsed at the T-5 construction site. An emergency was declared following the collapse; construction work was suspended and workers were directed to move to safer areas. However, no loss of life was reported in the incident.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the authority said Wapda Chairman retired Lt Muhammad Saeed visited the site on Monday and Tuesday in the wake of the incident to review the situation.

"The chairman visited … the intake structure, tunnel, power house and other important sites of the project. The consultants, contractor and Wapda project management briefed him on the current situation and the measures taken so far," it said.

BHC hands ex-MPA Abdul Majeed Achakzai 10-year sentence in traffic cop hit-and-run case

PEAK POINT

QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court on Tuesday handed former MPA Abdul Majeed Achakzai a ten-year sentence in a case regarding the death of a traffic policeman in a hit-and-run incident. A division bench comprising Justice Muhammad Amir Nawaz Rana and Justice Abdul Qayyum Lehr allowed an appeal filed by the provincial government against Achakzai's acquittal and set aside the local court decision dated September 4, 2020.

Pakistan slams Houthi attack on Saudi Aramco tower, demands immediate halt to strikes

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday strongly condemned the Houthi attack targeting a Saudi Aramco administrative building in Riyadh, demanding that the Iran-backed Yemeni group immediately and unconditionally stop all hostilities against the Kingdom. The Foreign Office's statement came a day after Saudi Arabia reported that the administrative building of state-owned oil giant Aramco had been targeted in an attempted attack, with falling shrapnel causing minor damage but no casualties. Although Saudi authorities did not initially attribute the incident to the Houthis, the group claimed responsibility for the attack, which came amid a sharp escalation in hostilities between the two sides. "Pakistan strongly condemns the attempted attack by the Houthis on a Saudi Aramco administrative building in Riyadh," the Pakistani foreign office said in a statement. "Fortunately, no casualties were reported." The Foreign Office warned that attacks on civilian infrastructure reflected a "reckless disregard for human life and regional security," calling on the Houthis to immediately and unconditionally cease all attacks against Saudi Arabia.



Reaffirming Islamabad's support for Riyadh, the statement said Pakistan stood with the Saudi leadership and people and backed all measures necessary to protect the Kingdom's security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"The security of Saudi Arabia is of paramount importance to Pakistan," the foreign office said. "Our commitment to the safety and well-being of our Saudi brothers and sisters remains steadfast."

Economic and security implications. The attack on KAFD carries significance beyond the damage to an administrative building, given the district's importance to Saudi Arabia's financial sector and its ambitious economic diversification drive.

Targeting an area housing major financial institutions, international companies and residential facilities would mark a significant escalation in the Houthis' campaign against the Kingdom.

"I see this as an attack on the credibility of Vision 2030 as much as on Aramco itself," Andreas Krieg of London-based risk consultancy MENA Analytica told AFP, referencing Saudi Arabia's economic diversification plan. "It raises the political costs of Saudi Arabia's Yemen campaign, strengthens those demanding military escalation and undermines the argument that Riyadh can restore deterrence through airpower. The Houthis are making Saudi Arabia's economic transformation hostage.

Trump nominates Natalie Baker as next US ambassador to Pakistan



PEAK POINT

NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump has nominated diplomat Natalie A Baker as the next US ambassador to Pakistan, with her appointment now awaiting Senate confirmation, according to a White House announcement. "Natalie Baker, of Texas, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counsellor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan," the White House said.

The US government has sent her nomination to the Senate for approval.

Baker is currently serving as the permanent Chargé d'Affaires to Pakistan. She assumed the duties of Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at the embassy in January 2025 before being given the permanent charge last month.



DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

SPORTS



Pakistan tighten grip on first Test as Sri Lanka struggle at 114-3



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strengthened their hold on the opening Test against Sri Lanka on Tuesday, declaring their first innings at 434 for nine before reducing the visitors to 114 for three at the close of the second day at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

Sri Lanka, who still trail by 320 runs, will resume their innings on the third day with Kamindu Mendis unbeaten on 40 and captain Dhananjaya de Silva on 22. Their resistance came after Pakistan's pace attack made early inroads, although bad light brought an end to play after 27.1 overs. Resuming at 281 for five, Pakistan built on their overnight position through a series of valuable contributions, with Saud Shakeel and debutant Ghazi Ghori adding 96 runs for the sixth wicket. Saud, who had reached 57 on the opening day, continued to anchor the innings but narrowly missed out on a century, falling for 93 off 199 balls after being caught behind off Asitha Fernando.

Ghazi provided useful support with 48 before his dismissal brought debutant Arafat Minhas to the crease. Minhas made an impressive contribution, striking 52 off 72 deliveries, including nine boundaries and a six, to further strengthen Pakistan's position. He was eventually dismissed by Dilshan Madushanka, while Razaullah added a brisk 10 before Pakistan declared in the 107th over. The innings was notable for the number of half-centuries, with five Pakistan batters reaching the milestone. Three of those came from debutants, as Tayyab Arif scored 57, Mohammad Taha made 51 and Minhas contributed 52. Captain Babar Azam also registered a half-century, while Shakeel's 93 proved the highest individual score.

Fernando and Madushanka shared six wickets between them, claiming three apiece, but Sri Lanka struggled to contain Pakistan's batting depth.

In reply, Pakistan's fast bowlers quickly put the visitors under pressure. Mohammad Abbas provided the breakthrough by removing opener Pasindu Sooriyabandara for a duck, caught behind, before debutant Saqib Khan struck to dismiss Dinesh Chandimal for just one. Lahiru Udara attempted to stabilise the innings with a fighting 42, but Saqib struck again, having him caught behind by Ghazi to leave Sri Lanka in further trouble.

Shahid Afridi's team begins shortlisting players for NBP hockey team NBP



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan cricket captain and National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) adviser Shahid Khan Afridi, accompanied by his sports team, visited Islamabad to initiate the process of shortlisting talented players for the formation of the bank's new hockey team.

to a press release issued by the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) on Tuesday, Afridi's team has started the process of identifying and shortlisting promising hockey players for the proposed NBP outfit.

The development marks a significant step towards strengthening institutional support for hockey in Pakistan, as the moves towards establishing its permanent hockey team.

The PHF welcomed the initiative, saying it would provide emerging hockey players with employment opportunities, professional support and incentives to pursue their careers in the sport.

It said institutional patronage was essential for the revival and development of hockey in the country and for providing young players with a secure future.

The federation expressed hope that such initiatives would encourage other national institutions to support hockey and contribute to restoring the country's traditional.

U19 Asia Cup: Pakistan thrash Nepal by 101 runs Sehwag shines for India against UAE



BY SHAKEEL UR REHMAN

OMAN: Pakistan registered an emphatic 101-run victory over Nepal, while Aaryavir Sehwag produced a magnificent batting display for India in the two Group A matches of the DP World Men's Under-19 Asia Cup 2026 played at Al Amerat Cricket Ground on Tuesday.India defeated united Arab Emirates by 70 runs.The ACC Men's Under-19 Asia Cup features the leading emerging cricket nations of the continent, four top teams Pakistan in india, Afghanistan and Bangladesh advancing to the semi-finals.where pakistan face Bangladesh and Afghanistan meet India in the semi finals.In the first match, Pakistan Under-19 posted 275 for seven in their allotted 50 overs after being sent in to bat by Nepal.Ahmed Hussain led Pakistan's batting with an impressive 89 off 73 deliveries, hitting seven fours and two sixes, while captain Farhan Yousaf contributed a valuable 74 off 95 balls, including six fours and three sixes.The pair played a significant role in building Pakistan's innings after early setbacks. Hasnain Abbas Dar added 25 off 23 balls, while Hamza Zahoor scored 11 off seven deliveries.For Nepal, Bipin Prasad Sharma claimed three wickets, while Sushil Rawal took two.In reply, Nepal were bowled out for 174 in 43.4 overs and lost the match by 101 runs. Rohit Chand top-scored with 37, while Niraj Kumar Yadav made 29 and Suryanshu Koirala contributed 22.Ahmed Hussain was the standout performer with the ball as well, claiming three wickets for 32 runs. Mohammad Huzaifa and Jahangir Bilal took one wicket each.In the other Group A encounter, India Under-19 posted an imposing 309 for seven against the United Arab Emirates after being asked to bat first. Aaryavir Sehwag was the star of the Indian innings, scoring a brilliant 160 off 168 balls, including 17 fours and seven sixes.



Father-son duo break new ground in Pakistan tennis



Pakistan, Bangladesh explore new avenues for football cooperation

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan and Bangladesh have explored fresh avenues for strengthening bilateral football relations, with a focus on player and coaching exchanges, technical cooperation and joint development initiatives, during a meeting between Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan Muhammad Iqbal Hussain Khan and Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) officials.The High Commissioner visited the PFF headquarters, where he was warmly received by Chief Operating Officer Muhammad Shahid Niaz Khokhar. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss ways of developing closer sporting links between the two countries, which share longstanding bonds of friendship and cooperation.During the discussions, Khokhar outlined PFF President Syed Mohsen Gilani's vision for the advancement of football in Pakistan. He highlighted the federation's commitment to strengthening football governance, improving infrastructure and expanding the game's reach through a sustainable development strategy.He also emphasised the importance of promoting grassroots football, identifying and nurturing young talent, and creating greater opportunities for women and youth to participate in the sport. The vision, he explained, aims to establish a stronger foundation for the game and create a clear development pathway for aspiring footballers across the country.The two sides also discussed practical measures to enhance football cooperation between Pakistan and Bangladesh. Proposed areas of collaboration included exchange programmes for players, coaches and technical officials, sharing technical knowledge and expertise, and arranging joint initiatives to support the development of football in both countries.Such exchanges.



WAPDA claim National Ju-Jitsu C'ship crown



TWIN CITIES
Daily Peak Point, November 11, 2026
DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

1,258 acres of Railway land encroached in Karachi, Government faces questions

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: More than 1,258 acres of valuable Pakistan Railways land in Karachi Division remain under encroachment, raising serious questions about the protection of public property, while the national railway network reported 89 accidents in the first 10 months of 2026.The figures were presented before the National Assembly Standing Committee on Railways, which reviewed railway land encroachments, safety failures and the performance of Pakistan Railways during a meeting held at Parliament House on November 10, 2026, under the acting chairmanship of MNA Ramesh Lal.According to the Ministry of Railways, Karachi Division has a total of 19,594 acres of railway land. Of this, approximately 951.28 acres are under private encroachment, while another 307 acres are occupied by government entities.This means that approximately 1,258.28 acres of railway land are under encroachment, creating a major challenge for the department responsible for protecting the country's railway property.The figures raise questions about how such a large area of public land remained under occupation and what steps were taken to prevent further encroachments.The ministry informed the committee that 363.907 acres of railway land had been recovered during the last four years.Between July and October 2026, authorities removed encroachments from approximately 8.992 acres of land, with an estimated value of Rs305.67 million.The Ministry of Railways also shared a detailed schedule for removing further encroachments during November 2026.The committee stressed that valuable railway land must be protected and directed the authorities to speed up recovery operations through better coordination with provincial and local administrations.It also called for concrete action to implement previous parliamentary recommendations and prevent further illegal occupation of railway property.Meanwhile, railway safety emerged as another major concern, with the ministry reporting 89 accidents across the country between January 1 and November 2, 2026.During the same period in 2025, Pakistan Railways had recorded 92 accidents, showing a reduction of only three incidents.The ministry informed the committee that railway accidents were caused by several factors, including damaged or unsafe tracks, defects in railway engines and coaches, human errors, violations by road users, sabotage, natural disasters and other operational failures.Ageing railway infrastructure and insufficient development funding were also identified as major problems affecting safety.The ministry further pointed to illegal crossing of railway tracks, violations at level crossings and foggy weather as contributing factors behind accidents.Pakistan Railways is working under a strategic roadmap to reduce its accident ratio to below 0.19 per cent.However, the 89 accidents reported in less than 11 months have highlighted the continuing safety challenges facing the country's railway system.The committee stressed that improving passenger safety must remain a priority and called for stronger measures to address the causes of accidents and improve railway operations.In another important development, the committee considered the Railway Board Bill, 2026, introduced by the government, but decided to postpone its consideration until the next meeting.

PCE, Malala Fund host conference on girls' education financing

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The National Girls Education Financing Conference 2026, under the theme "Hazir: She's Here. Is the Budget?" organized by the Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE) in collaboration with Malala Fund was held here on Tuesday.

The conference highlighted the gap between public education financing and the costs families bear to keep girls in school.

Discussions focused on recognising these costs in education planning and budgets, strengthening domestic resource mobilisation, and ensuring that a girl's access to education should not depend on her family's ability to pay.

Speaking on the occasion,Chief Executive Officer, Malala Fund, Dr Nishat Riaz, said that every budget must account for the real costs of keeping girls in school.



"Authority concerned must mobilise innovative financing, prioritise equitable allocations and ensure that every investment translates into meaningful opportunities for girls,"she started

A girl-led panel discussion was also part of the proceedings.

The conference also witnessed the launch of the report, "The Real Cost of Educating a Daughter: Out-of-pocket Costs of Girls' Secondary Education in Pakistan's Schools." The study found that despite being constitutionally free, families must spend a minimum of Rs. 5,899 each month to keep their daughter in school.

The conference called for a message : when a girl is ready to learn, public financing must be ready to support her.

Opinion & Editorial

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Hospitals in neglect

Sindh's deplorable healthcare continues to degrade, making a mockery of the government's claims of improving public health services. Hospitals across the province, much like those elsewhere in the country, routinely fall short of basic sanitation and hygiene standards. Filthy washrooms, unsafe drinking water, overflowing sewers and poorly maintained wards are symptomatic of an institutional failure that has long persisted due to outright negligence.

Unsanitary hospital environments create conditions conducive to the spread of infections, particularly among patients already weakened by illness. The situation is particularly alarming in Karachi, where complaints about poorly maintained wards, inadequate medical facilities and unsafe drinking water have become commonplace. More disturbing still is the apparent disconnect between public expenditure and the quality of services delivered. Despite substantial allocations to Sindh's health sector, the deterioration of hospital infrastructure and sanitation facilities continues largely unchecked. Sindh allocated approximately Rs393 billion to healthcare for the 2026-27 financial year, yet complaints about elementary facilities persist. This imbalance deserves closer examination.

Economic ills

Dr Niaz Murtaza

DESPITE an oversold stabilisation, many of our economy's vital signs continue to falter. The economy resembles a patient out of the ICU but still in hospital.

Since 2024, our per capita GDP growth has been near zero — sadly, South Asia's slowest recorded pace. Even our recent growth spurts, brief and import-led, have given way to longer busts, draining reserves and sending us back to the IMF's tough terms that extend low growth.

Once near the region's top performers in per capita GDP, we now risk falling to the bottom. As incomes stall, poverty rises. Our extreme poverty rate (23 per cent) is near the bottom regionally. It's about 10 times India's, against near parity in 2011.

Our GDP's composition tells a bleak tale too. It's consumption-heavy (82pc) but investment-light (14pc) — on both counts among the region's worst. India and China invest over 30pc of GDP, creating jobs and capacity for today and later — much better than our consumption binges. Limiting job, technology, and export growth, industry's share has been nearly a fifth for over 50 years versus a quarter in India and Sri Lanka and a third in Bangladesh.

Low investment causes low growth, but its origins and destinations matter too. We court foreign capital while ignoring local capital. Foreign capital must earn and save more dollars than it repatriates and create jobs and local capacity. But we get it mostly in domestic sectors, which later depletes reserves.

Unlike our peers, we chase a few rich states for capital rather than prioritising diversified private capital. We shun creative ways to boost local savings and capital. So, we remain capital-starved — yet we quickly drain reserves and risk the haughty whims of rich states.

Capital droughts in export sectors cause dollar and job droughts. From a peak of 17pc in 1992, exports now barely reach a tenth of our GDP — South Asia's second-lowest share, below even Afghanistan's. Low-quality compounds low quantity. Harvard's Economic Complexity Index ranks us 89th among 145 states. So our exports face intense competition but return little. Exports rarely cover imports, creating large trade gaps.

Dreary metrics mirror a sinking economy.

Remittances partly plug the gap. But exports keep workers at home and families intact, create jobs, earn dollars, and pay taxes.

Remittances separate families and often don't create jobs or pay taxes directly. They frequently fuel consumption, while exports are fuelled by investment. Remittances now almost equal our exports, as it is easier to send workers abroad than goods (India earns six times as much from exports as from remittances). Even so, we often run large external deficits that lead to a crisis as booms turn into busts.

Low growth and weak efforts leave our coffers lean. Tax revenues barely reach 11pc of GDP — which is among South Asia's lowest. Indirect anti-poor taxes provide about half our tax target, down from about two-thirds in 2021-22. New direct taxes further burden the wallets of salaried persons and formal industry, while favoured sectors pay low taxes. Spending prioritises upkeep over uplift. Expenditure hogs over 90 paisas out of every federal budget rupee; development consoles itself with just five.

These twin deficits force us to keep our borrowing bowl out. Our public debt-to-GDP ratio of 73pc is lower than the Japanese and Singaporean levels of over 150pc. But our repayment muscle better depicts our debt overhang. On the share of federal outlays spent on interest alone, we rank among the worst globally. We use debt not only to invest or meet recurrent expenses but also to beef up reserves. IMF debt and deposits by rich states, which impose odious economic and political conditions on us, now exceed even our highest-ever reserves. These dreary metrics mirror a sinking economy. Low investment and import-led growth widen the twin deficits to swell debt. Interest outlays then leave little money for growth, creating a vicious circle.

Courtesy Dawn

Friction-maxxing world, lucky to have

M Nadeem Nadir

Lawlessness has disappointed us with law-enforcing agencies, irreparably perhaps. Lawlessness is damaging our social fabric with its two-fanged poisoning. Firstly, it offers carte blanche on the platter to the miscreants and criminals to strike with impunity where and when they wish. The second is not the poor performance of law-enforcing agencies. It is the vulnerable's disappointment in those agencies to the extent that they are least interested in ever trying to stop and report anything criminal happening before their eyes. The apathy and indifference of the witnesses or passersby is what the PTCL lineman shared with me, whom I frequently contacted for the faulty Internet supply to my subscribed PTCL number. This is a very interesting case. In the past less than two months, the Internet supply to the area where I live was interrupted four times. The interruption can be considered a routine matter if the internet remains suspended for a day or two and if it is restored with the redressal of the complaints lodged by the subscribers. The interruption continues for more than three days. Damncaring the subscribers' woes and anguish. The main cable supplying the internet to the area is cut off and stolen by the criminals to be sold for its copper. The perpetrators, though recorded by CCTV cameras, appear to be the drug addicts. The lineman told me that the police refused to register an FIR against the addicts. Though the police caught some addicts, they freed them after reprimanding them verbally to avoid legal red tape. The lineman blamed the general public, saying that whenever people notice something suspicious, they do not care in the least to stop or report it. He recalled that once, while his team was working on the road in the dead of night to mend a damaged cable, many people passed by and noticed them. Some even paused, he added, but nobody asked what they were doing, let alone tried to stop them.

Courtesy Tribune

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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

Smart meters to be installed on DISCO transformers to curb power theft, overbilling



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The government plans to install smart meters on transformers across all power distribution companies (DISCOs) to curb electricity theft and overbilling, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema said on Tuesday.

Cheema made the remarks while chairing a meeting on DISCOs in Islamabad, where participants reviewed development programmes and progress on arranging financing for the smart metering project through the Economic Affairs Division (EAD).

The meeting was informed that progress had been made in securing funding for the initiative, which aims to improve billing accuracy, reduce electricity theft and protect consumers from overbilling.

Cheema said arrangements would be made to ensure the project continues after the privatisation of DISCOs, with private investors required to take it forward.

He said negotiations with multilateral development partners for ongoing programmes would continue until the privatisation process was completed.

If a DISCO is privatised while negotiations or programme preparations are underway, the relevant financing and development programmes would be transferred to the private investor as part of the handover, subject to agreed arrangements.

The minister also stressed that any new project undertaken by a private investor within a DISCO must go through competitive bidding and obtain approval from the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), where applicable.

He said privatisation should not result in additional costs or undue pressure on consumers, adding that the government would facilitate the process while protecting consumer interests and ensuring investors fulfil their financial and contractual obligations.

Federal Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, the prime minister's adviser on privatisation and senior officials from relevant ministries.

Bilawal hails completion of one million homes in Sindh, calls for political reset

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said Monday that the Sindh government had completed one million homes for flood-affected families in three years, setting what he described as a world record in housing construction.

Addressing a ceremony marking the completion of the houses, Bilawal said the project had provided shelter, land ownership and economic security to flood-affected families.

He said the previous world record was held by Nepal, where 700,000 homes had been constructed.

Bilawal said the Sindh government had built one million homes with the support of the federal government and international development partners and planned to expand the programme to two million houses.

He said the project represented Pakistan's largest land ownership transfer initiative since 1970, with women receiving ownership rights to the land and houses.

The PPP chairman said the construction of one million homes had also created one million employment opportunities.

He said Pakistan and the world were facing severe economic challenges, making it essential for governments to provide economic security to citizens.

Regional stability depends on respect for Indus Water Treaty: Dar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar has said that Pakistan will firmly safeguard its legitimate rights under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) and oppose any attempt to weaponize water. Addressing the Margalla Dialogue 2026 in Islamabad on Tuesday, Deputy PM Ishaq Dar emphasized that regional stability also depends on respect for the treaty obligations. Ishaq Dar said the just resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions remains indispensable for lasting peace in South Asia. He said leaving the dispute unresolved perpetuates mistrust and exposes the region to recurring crises.

He recalled Pakistan's decisive and calibrated response to India's unprovoked aggression in May last year, saying it demonstrated our readiness and capability to defend our sovereignty. He said our position is very clear that we will defend our sovereignty with determination and pursue peace with equal commitment. Ishaq Dar highlighted that terrorism emanating from Afghanistan remains a serious security challenge. He said Pakistan will continue to protect its people while supporting efforts towards a peaceful, stable and economically integrated Afghanistan.

The Deputy PM, however, said progress towards this objective requires effective action to ensure that the Afghan territory is not used for terrorism against other countries, particularly Pakistan.

As regards the US-Iran conflict, Ishaq Dar said Pakistan continues to pursue all diplomatic efforts to sustain engagement, restore dialogue and facilitate a return to the negotiating table. He emphasized that the Islamabad MoU provides an important foundation for further negotiations.

The Deputy PM said Pakistan remains committed to an equitable international order, anchored in the UN Charter, sovereign equality, territorial integrity and peaceful settlement of disputes. He said Pakistan has leveraged the membership of the UN Security Council to translate these principles into concrete action. Dar said Pakistan's strategic partnership with China remains a cornerstone of our foreign relations.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minsiter/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar addressing the inaugural session of the Margalla Dialogue 2026, as the chief guest.

FGEHA celebrates World Town Planning Day 2026

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A ceremony was held at the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) on November 10, 2026, to mark World Town Planning Day 2026. The ceremony was attended by Director Planning Mian Rizwan-ur-Rehman, along with other officers and employees of the Authority. A cake-cutting ceremony was also held to commemorate the occasion. On the occasion, the importance of urban planning, the development of residential projects in line with modern requirements, and the promotion of sustainable urban development were highlighted. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to making residential projects more efficient and sustainable through organized urban planning, modern infrastructure, environmentally friendly development practices, and improved civic amenities.

It was emphasized that FGEHA remains committed to adopting modern urban planning principles to provide federal government employees with better, safer, and quality housing facilities.

The celebration of World Town Planning Day aimed to highlight the significance of urban planning.

Govt approves board changes at HESCO, SEPCO & NESPAK

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: The government has approved changes to the boards of three state-owned enterprises (SOEs), including the reconstitution of the boards of Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) and Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO), and the appointment of a chairman/independent director at National Engineering Services Pakistan (NESPAK).

The development came during a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) held on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, read a statement released by the Finance Division.

The CCoSOEs considered two agenda items concerning the appointment of the chairman/independent director of NESPAK, and the reconstitution of the Board of Directors of HESCO, alongside the appointment of an independent director on the Board of Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO). After deliberations, both proposals were approved.

No leniency to those involved in corruption, bribery: CM Maryam

PEAK POINT



JHELUM: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has reaffirmed her commitment to ensuring complete meritocracy in the recruitment process across the province, and declared that she will show leniency towards those who would be involved in corruption and bribery.

CM Maryam Nawaz said this while addressing a ceremony held in Jhelum on Tuesday to distribute laptops and award scholarships to outstanding students.

Maryam Nawaz urged the youth to play an active role in the country's politics and contribute to its development.

The chief minister said unprecedented development is also taking place in smaller cities, highlighting various initiatives, including the establishment of hospitals and schools.

She said cancer hospitals are being established at the divisional headquarters level. She said 300 Nawaz Sharif Schools of Eminence are being established across the province. "No narrative can challenge.

NA panel seeks plan to ensure payment of media workers' salaries within 15 days

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting on Tuesday expressed serious concern over delays in payment of salaries to media workers and increasing layoffs by media organisations, directing the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to submit a comprehensive plan to address the issue within 15 days.

The committee, chaired by MNA Pullain Baloch at Parliament House, observed that withholding salaries and terminating employees without prior notice or fulfilment of contractual obligations were serious issues affecting the livelihoods and welfare of media professionals.

The committee asked the ministry to develop a clear strategy to ensure payment of outstanding salaries and protect the rights of media workers.

The secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting informed the committee that the government was regularly releasing payments against outstanding dues to media organisations, but expressed concern that these organisations were not fulfilling their obligations towards employees.

He said the ministry had sought details of unpaid salaries from the representative organisation of media workers in compliance with the committee's earlier directions, but the required information had not yet been provided.

The committee directed the ministry to engage with media organisations and representative bodies of journalists and other media workers, obtain details of pending salaries and present a concrete plan of action within the stipulated 15-day period.

The committee also discussed the reported assault on the chairman of the Press Council of Pakistan but deferred consideration of the matter pending the outcome of judicial proceedings and an inquiry ordered by the ministry.

The committee was informed that the matter was currently before the court and that the ministry had taken notice of the allegations and constituted an inquiry committee, which had been directed to submit its report within 60 days.

It was observed that further deliberations at this stage could overlap with ongoing judicial and inquiry proceedings or potentially prejudice the matter.

The committee was also briefed on the functioning and performance of the Central Board of Film Censors.

Officials informed the meeting that recent amendments to the Motion Picture Ordinance, 1979, would bring changes to the board's nomenclature and composition, aimed at improving its functioning.

The committee expressed concern over the absence of a unified central mechanism for film certification, noting that separate certification arrangements in the provinces could result in inconsistencies in standards and regulatory practices.

It stressed the need for greater coordination between federal and provincial authorities to develop a harmonised film certification framework while respecting their respective constitutional jurisdictions.

The committee emphasised that the issue should be examined in consultation with all relevant stakeholders to ensure consistency in film certification across the country.

MNAs Kiran Imran Dar, Kiran Haider, Shaheen, Salahuddin Junejo, Mehtab Akbar Rashdi and Rana Ansar attended the meeting, along with the secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, chairperson of PEMRA and other senior officials.