

Ishaq Dar, ECO chief discuss regional cooperation and 2027 summit



Martyrs are pride of the nation:



Referendum will be held on creation of new provinces, says

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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

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PM Shehbaz, CDF Munir share top spot in list of world's 500 most influential Muslims

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir have shared the top spot in the latest edition of the world's 500 most influential Muslims, alongside the Saudi king and crown prince and the Turkish president. The rankings have been compiled by the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre (RISSC), a research institute based in Amman, Jordan. It has been publishing an annual report titled "The 500 Most Influential Muslims" since 2009, recognising and highlighting individuals who have made significant contributions to Muslim communities. This is the first time that the list features multiple names for the top rank, recognising the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye, according to the edition. "While this unified top spot features five individuals, it is actually divided into three shared entries that represent a massive shift in how Muslim nations are working together to protect one another. The main reason for this historic decision is the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement," the edition said. It added, "This mutual-defence pact unites the immense wealth of Saudi Arabia, the advanced tech and manufacturing of Turkiye, and the powerful military strength of Pakistan into a collective alliance. "Modelled on a 'one for all, all for one' approach to security, this pact has completely reshaped regional politics."



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, COAS & CDF Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, senior civilian, Military officials and relatives offering Fatiha after Namaz-e-Janaza of Major Omar Nasir Minhas Shaheed and Havildar Muhammad Adnan Khan Shaheed, who embraced Shahadat on November 14 2026 near District Naushki, Balochistan, at Chaklala Garrison.

Khawaja Asif hints at major political developments by New Year



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has hinted at major political developments by the New Year, saying significant progress has been made on the provincial issue and a political consensus is expected in the coming weeks. Asif said significant progress had been made on the provincial issue and political consensus was expected to emerge in the coming weeks. "My personal view is that the New Year will see this new system as well, God willing," he said. Asked whether the developments were expected in 2026, the defence minister said some shape of the new system would emerge before the year ended, adding that around six weeks remained in 2026.

Asif said the leadership of all four provinces should be taken on board to reach a consensus, regardless of whether their parties were currently represented in parliament. "I believe that some solution will emerge," he said, describing the discussions taking place in recent weeks as positive. The defence minister also suggested that the expected political developments could offer an opportunity.

In call with Fazl, Bilawal condemns 'govt actions, political vengeance' against JUI-F



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Sunday spoke to Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and condemned the "government's actions" against him. The telephone conversation comes as tensions have remained high between the JUI-F chief and the PML-N-led federal government over the past month. On Sunday, Fazl's party also held street protests in several cities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa against "propaganda" directed toward the party and its leadership. According to a statement issued by PPP, Bilawal and Fazl exchanged views on the country's political situation. The Bhutto scion — whose PPP is an ally of the ruling coalition — "condemned the government's actions and political vengeance" targeting the JUI-F. "The government should tolerate the opposition's criticism," Bilawal was quoted as saying in the statement. He highlighted that the opposition had an "extremely important role in democracy and a parliamentary system". Speaking to Fazl, Bilawal said the "government should refrain from such actions that weaken democracy and the Parliament". The PPP chairman has recently been calling for political unity in the country, urging the prime minister to take measures to build trust with the government's allies and the opposition. "Via this reset, political parties will have to work together instead of fighting," he said on Nov 10, days after he urged the federal government to engage all political and social stakeholders rather than "fighting everyone", including Fazl.

Islamabad gears up for ECO moot as Turkish, Azeri, Kazakh officials arrive



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign dignitaries continue to arrive in Islamabad as the capital gears up to host the two-day 30th meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) Council of Ministers starting today. Among the visiting dignitaries is Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Musa Kulaklikaya, who was received by Foreign Office (FO) officials upon his arrival, the FO said on Sunday. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Deputy Secretary General Ahmad Saidmurodzoda, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Secretary General Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, Azeri Deputy FM Elnur Mammadov and Kazakh Deputy FM Arman Issagaliyev are also among those who have reached Islamabad for the meeting. Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov, who is also the deputy chairman of the country's cabinet of ministers, also arrived in Islamabad leading his country's delegation, the FO said. He was received at the airport by Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkmenistan and senior FO officers. On Saturday, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Tahsin Ertugruloglu also arrived in Islamabad to participate in the meeting.

Re-polling held at 3 stations in GB's Diamer as PPP, IPP candidates vie for seat

PEAK POINT

GILGIT: Voting at three stations in Gilgit-Baltistan's GBA-16 (Diamer-II) concluded on Sunday, with PPP's Attaullah Shah and Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party's (IPP) Imam Malik again vying for the seat in the repolling. The electoral process began at 8am and continued until 5pm, with voters present within the polling station premises at that time allowed to cast their votes. A total of 2,780 registered voters were eligible. Polling officer Dr Maria told Dawn that IPP's Malik.

Blasts rattle Bahrain as Iran launches second drone attack in 3 days

PEAK POINT

BAHRAIN: Blasts echoed over Bahrain on Sunday as the tiny Gulf nation was rattled by the second Iranian drone attack in three days, ending a long lull in strikes during the Middle East war. Sirens rang out, and authorities posted several alerts on social media urging residents to seek shelter, their first warnings since September.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they carried out a drone attack on a US radar system in the desert island state, which hosts US military facilities including a major naval base.

Bahrain's military said it intercepted the attacks, "preventing them from reaching their intended targets". The foreign ministry said air defence systems shot down Iranian drones. "It's exactly what I was hoping wouldn't happen: Iranian attacks starting again, with all the worry and uncertainty that go with them," resident Hayat Ibrahim, 65, told AFP. Iran also fired drones at Bahrain on Friday — the first strikes since September against countries in the energy-rich Gulf, which has been heavily targeted in the eight-month war. Explosions could be heard around 4am (6am PKT) on Sunday, an AFP journalist said, with residents reporting a second series of blasts around 6:30am.



The interior ministry, posting on X, called on "residents to remain calm, proceed to the nearest safe location, and follow news through official channels".

Mohammed Abdallah, a shopkeeper in the capital, Manama, heard the strikes overnight. "I was hoping this period was behind us and wouldn't happen again," he said.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said the drones targeted a US radar system at a helicopter base, according to a statement carried by the Iranian state broadcaster.

"The US air defence radar system at the Al-Riffa helicopter base in Bahrain was targeted by six drones belonging to the IRGC Aerospace Force," the Guards said in a statement posted by the state broadcaster on Telegram.

"The Strait of Hormuz is closed, and any aggression by the American enemy will be met with an even harsher and more forceful response," it added.

Bahrain "rejects turning its territory into an arena for settling scores and holds Iran fully responsible for these attacks", a foreign ministry statement said.

Gatherings in KP's Bajaur, Lakki Marwat, Swabi, Tank banned for 30 days



PEAK POINT

BAJAUR/LAKKI MARWAT/SWABI: The district administrations of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bajaur, Lakki Marwat, Swabi and Tank on Sunday imposed Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) for a month, banning public gatherings and several other activities amid the prevailing law and order situation. In Bajaur, the district administration prohibited all kinds of political gatherings, "hate speech" against the state and the display of arms and weapons for 30 days.

The notification formalising the restriction, seen by Dawn, said Bajaur Deputy Commissioner (DC) Adnan Farid Afridi approved the restrictions in view of the law and order situation, citing the need for additional measures to safeguard public life and property and maintain peace. The notification further stated.



DAILY PEAK POINT

SPORTS



Mohammad Yousaf, Sana Mir inducted into PCB Hall of Fame





MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan batting great Mohammad Yousaf and former women's team captain Sana Mir have been inducted into the PCB Hall of Fame for 2025 in recognition of their valuable contributions to Pakistan cricket.

In a statement, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said that Sana, who became the first Pakistan woman cricketer to be inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in 2025, was automatically included in the PCB Hall of Fame in line with the cricket board's induction criteria.

Yousaf was selected through a voting process involving PCB Hall of Famer Zaheer Abbas, former Pakistan captain Ramiz Raja, former Test cricketer Bazid Khan, former Pakistan women's captain Urooj Mumtaz, and cricket journalists and analysts Saleem Khaliq and Sohail Imran.

The two former cricketers join an illustrious list of PCB Hall of Famers comprising Abdul Qadir, AH Kardar, Fazal Mahmood, Hanif Mohammad, Imran Khan, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Javed Miandad, Misbah-ul-Haq, Mushtaq Mohammad, Saeed Anwar, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Younis Khan and Zaheer Abbas.

Yousaf represented Pakistan from 1998 to 2010 and was widely regarded as one of the finest batters of his generation. He scored 17,300 runs in 381 international matches, including 39 centuries and 97 half-centuries.

His most memorable year came in 2006 when he scored a world-record 1,788 runs and nine centuries in Test cricket, surpassing Sir Vivian Richards' 30-year-old record for the most Test runs in a calendar year.

Sana represented Pakistan from 2005 to 2019 and played an important role in the growth of women's cricket in the country. The former captain featured in 226 international matches, taking 240 wickets and scoring 2,432 runs.

In October 2018, she became the first Pakistan woman cricketer to reach the top of the ICC women's ODI bowling rankings. She also led Pakistan to gold medals at the 2010 and 2014 Asian Games. Last year, Sana became the first Pakistani woman cricketer to be inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame, recognising her achievements and contribution to the women's game.

ICC unveils global events roadmap and qualification plans until 2035



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced its roadmap for major global cricket events until 2035,

including a series of event schedules, competition formats and qualification frameworks, 24NewsHD TV reported on Sunday.

The decisions were taken at the ICC Board's meeting in Bali, Indonesia, today, where members approved the schedule and qualification formats for several major events.

According to the details, the T20 World Cup 2028 will be jointly hosted by Australia and New Zealand from October 12 to November 12.

India will host the Champions Trophy 2029 from October 9 to 28.

The ODI World Cup 2031 will be jointly hosted by India and Bangladesh.

The tournament will run from October 9 to November 23.

A long-term calendar takes shape as the ICC announces major men's tournament windows through 2035. More ➡ https://t.co/ZwsOK1eDqt The ICC has also announced that the World Cup 2027 qualifying tournament will take place from February to March, with 10 teams taking part.

McIlroy dedicates record-equalling eighth Race to Dubai title to father



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: An emotional Rory McIlroy sealed a record-equalling eighth Race to Dubai title on Sunday after a second-placed finish behind Tyrrell Hatton at the DP World Tour Championship edged out Eugenio Chacarra.

McIlroy dedicated the win to his father Gerry who had a double lung transplant at the end of September and has been in a Cleveland hospital since then.

"My dad is a massive part of my life and has been my biggest supporter," said the Northern Irishman who tied the record of Scotland's Colin Montgomerie after a dramatic final round of the season-ending $10 million DP World Tour Championship.

"He is the one that got me into the game and the one that told me to follow my dreams and never give up and never think that you're not good enough.

"It's obviously been difficult. He has been living with this for 18 months, and it got to the point where the last resort was a transplant. Thankfully, the operation was a success and he's recovering well.

"It's been a stressful time for our family. If things were not looking as good as they were, I probably wouldn't have felt comfortable travelling or being too far away.

"I went up to see him before I left for Abu Dhabi a couple of weeks ago, and he said to me, 'Rors, go and win me The Race to Dubai'. That was in my head for the last two weeks, and I really wanted to do it for him." The tournament itself was a runaway win for England's Hatton (66) even if all eyes were on the fascinating battle between McIlroy and Spain's Chacarra, playing a group behind him.

It all came down to the 18th hole, where McIlroy made a disappointing par to finish on 10-under par, but that was good enough for a solo second place.

Sandpapergate controversy deepens as ex-Australia bowler Chadd Sayers also claims 'everyone knew'



Iran hockey teams plan Pakistan tour



Pakistan beat Bangladesh 1-0 to reach SAFF Championship final for first time

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan reached the SAFF Championship final for the first time, beating hosts Bangladesh 1-0 in the second semi-final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The victory meant Pakistan reached the final of the tournament for the first time since its advent in 1993, and will face arch-rivals India in the summit clash, scheduled to be played at the same venue on Tuesday.

The enthralling knockout fixture between the Green Shirts and the hosts got off to a quiet start as neither could open the scoring in the first half. Although both Pakistan and Bangladesh made several attempts to net the opener, the scoreboard remained intact at 0-0 until 85 minutes of action. Pakistan eventually pulled ahead in the 86th minute through Samad, who breached Bangladesh's defence with a calculated strike following a precise assist by Hayan Khattak, who was brought in as a substitute for Ali Uzair in the 74th minute.

With just four minutes remaining of the regulation time, the home side made desperate attempts for the equaliser, including multiple substitutions in the third minute of injury time, but Pakistan's defence denied them a comeback and ultimately ensured a historic victory for their team.



For the unversed, the Green Shirts had started their SAFF Championship 2026 campaign with a gut-wrenching 3-2 defeat at the hands of arch-rivals India, but made an immediate turnaround in their subsequent fixture, in which they outclassed Maldives 3-0.

Pakistan's thumping victory over Maldives had lifted them to the second position, but their hopes of advancing into the knockout stage of the SAFF Championship 2026 were hinged on the outcome of the last Group B match between leaders India and Maldives.



NA Speaker calls for a Culture of Tolerance, Dialogue and Mutual Respect to Strengthen National Unity

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has called for renewed national efforts to promote tolerance, mutual respect, dialogue and understanding, describing these values as essential to peace, national unity, democratic stability and social cohesion.In his message on the occasion of the International Day for Tolerance, the Speaker said that tolerance and mutual respect are not merely social virtues but fundamental values essential for building a peaceful, progressive and resilient society. He said that differences of opinion are a natural feature of a pluralistic society, but they must be addressed through patience, dialogue, reason and mutual understanding rather than confrontation and hostility.Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan's strength lies in its rich religious, cultural, linguistic and social diversity. He emphasized that respect for the beliefs, identities, traditions and viewpoints of others is vital to strengthening national harmony and fostering a shared sense of citizenship.The Speaker stressed that intolerance, prejudice, hatred and extremism pose serious challenges to social cohesion and national unity. He called for collective efforts to promote an environment in which diversity is respected, differences are acknowledged and every citizen is able to live with dignity, security and equal rights. "Tolerance means creating space for difference without allowing difference to become a source of division, hatred or conflict," the Speaker said. He emphasized that the promotion of tolerance must begin with individual conduct and extend to families, communities, educational institutions, the media and public institutions.Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq underscored the particularly important role of young people, educational institutions and the media in nurturing a culture of dialogue and responsible public discourse. He said that the younger generation must be equipped with the ability to listen, understand differing perspectives, engage constructively and resolve disagreements peacefully.NA Speaker said that the media has a vital responsibility in promoting informed and responsible discourse and in strengthening understanding among different sections of society. Educational institutions, he added, can play a transformative role in cultivating respect for diversity, critical thinking, tolerance and peaceful coexistence.The Speaker reaffirmed that Parliament is the foremost democratic forum for dialogue, debate and the peaceful resolution of differences. He said that disagreement is an essential element of democracy and should be viewed as a means of strengthening democratic discourse rather than as a cause for confrontation."Political differences are a natural part of democratic life; however, dialogue, consultation and parliamentary engagement must remain the preferred means of resolving differences, while the national interest must always remain paramount," Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said.The Speaker called upon all political parties and democratic forces to strengthen the tradition of dialogue, consultation and constructive engagement, emphasizing that democratic institutions become stronger when differences are managed through constitutional and parliamentary means.The Speaker said that the International Day for Tolerance provides an opportunity to reaffirm the universal values of human dignity, equality, respect for diversity, inclusion and peaceful coexistence. He stressed that tolerance should not be confined to an annual observance but should become a sustained national commitment reflected in public life and everyday conduct."We must build a Pakistan where diversity is respected, differences are addressed through dialogue, and every citizen—irrespective of faith, culture, language or background—can live with dignity, security and equal opportunity," he said.Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expressed the hope that the observance of the International Day for Tolerance would reinforce the collective resolve to build a more peaceful, inclusive, harmonious and united Pakistan. Deputy Speaker National Assembly Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, in his message on the occasion of the International Day for Tolerance, said that tolerance, mutual respect and social harmony are essential for peace, stability and sustainable development.The Deputy Speaker said that a cohesive society can only be built by promoting trust, understanding and respect among people belonging to different communities and social groups. He stressed that intolerance and social divisions must be countered through dialogue, awareness and collective responsibility. He said that tolerance should be reflected in our everyday behaviour, our language and our interaction with others, particularly in the way we respond to opinions and perspectives different from our own.Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah emphasized that differences should be resolved through dialogue and understanding rather than confrontation.The Deputy Speaker said that every citizen, without discrimination, deserves dignity, protection and equal opportunities. He called for the collective efforts of individuals, families, educational institutions, media, civil society and public institutions to promote a culture of tolerance and peaceful coexistence.Deputy Speaker expressed confidence that through collective commitment and responsible social behaviour, Pakistan can further strengthen an inclusive society where diversity is respected, differences are managed peacefully and all citizens are able to contribute to the country's progress and prosperity.

COMSATS university introduces major reforms during first year in office of rector

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: COMSATS University Islamabad has introduced major academic, administrative and institutional reforms during the first year of the tenure of its Rector, Prof. Dr Raheel Qamar.

According to press release on Sunday, these reforms including recommendations for 467 appointments and 438 promotions, the introduction of compulsory Artificial Intelligence (AI) courses across all degree programmes, and extensive digitalisation of university operations.

To mark the completion of his first year in office, Prof. Dr Raheel Qamar, accompanied by Controller of Examinations Dr Sajjad Madni, met a delegation of journalists and briefed them on the university's performance and key achievements.

According to the university's first annual performance report, covering the period from October 27, 2025, to October 26, 2026, the administration undertook a series of reforms across all seven campuses under its Green Transformation initiative, aimed at improving institutional efficiency, transparency, academic standards and resource utilisation.

The Rector said that the transition towards digital systems had resulted in estimated savings equivalent to more than seven million printed pages.

At the 44th meeting of the Academic Council, an agenda comprising over 12,000 pages was presented digitally.

Opinion & Editorial

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD
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Diabetes crisis

Diabetes has become one of Pakistan's most pressing public health challenges, yet the response remains inadequate to the scale of the problem. According to the International Diabetes Federation, an estimated 34.5 million adults in the country are living with the disease, of whom 9.3 million remain undiagnosed. The number could reach 70.2 million by 2050, placing an even greater burden on an already overstretched healthcare system. These figures, highlighted at a recent briefing organised by the Aga Khan University Hospital, demand urgent attention from health authorities. Particularly concerning is the increasing prevalence of Type 2 diabetes among younger adults. Once associated predominantly with advancing age, the disease is now affecting people during their most productive years. Its consequences extend well beyond elevated blood sugar levels. Poorly managed diabetes can result in cardiovascular disease, kidney failure, blindness and limb amputations, imposing substantial financial and emotional costs on patients and their families. Pakistan's healthcare system remains largely oriented towards treating illnesses rather than preventing them. Limited public awareness and the high cost of sustained treatment leave many patients vulnerable to complications that could otherwise be prevented or delayed.

Judges must speak

Justice (retd) Syed Mansoor Ali Shah

A JUDGMENT is a public document, written in the name of the Constitution and delivered in open court. The people may read it, praise it and criticise it, and the academy, bar, press and civil society should do so freely. Criticism is not the enemy of judicial authority; it is its source. A judiciary whose judgments are never read critically will never grow.

One voice is largely missing from that conversation: the judge who wrote the judgment. In Pakistan, judges mostly retire into silence. That must change. Retired judges must come out among the people, above all into the law schools, and explain their reasoning, or say, with hindsight: "I think I got that one wrong." Such candour teaches the profession and builds public trust and confidence in the institution. A sitting judge who knows retirement means facing the public will brush nothing under the carpet.

A judgment open to criticism falls into one of three kinds. The first plainly violates the Constitution and the law. The second was legally permissible when given, but its consequences proved damaging. The third is the judgment in which the judge was complicit, bending the law to reach an outcome decided elsewhere. To assess one, read it whole and in context: the moment, the circumstances, the law as it then stood. Then ask whether it was permissible, plainly wrong, or the judge simply listening to power.

Let me test three of my own. In Pakistan, judges mostly retire into silence. That must change.

In the 2023 case on Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa elections, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and I wanted the high courts to decide first: Lahore had already ordered elections, with appeals pending, and Peshawar was seized of the petitions. Law and practice both counselled that restraint. We read the outcome as four to three, because two colleagues who had already voted to dismiss could not, in our view, be dropped from the count; Justice Athar Minallah, one of them, recorded as much.

In hindsight, the mistake, I believe, was the chief justice's hurried leap in; hearing the matter in appeal, the court could have spoken with one voice. Had we set the count aside and presented a united court, whether that would have produced elections is anyone's guess. Later, the chief justice's own bench rejected the four-three objection and fixed May 14 for Punjab polls, yet could not enforce it. The date passed, contempt was never pursued, and the court fell silent.

The larger lesson is that a court must stand united, and the chief justice's strength is the real spine that holds it together. The Supreme Court as it stands today shows how much rests on that spine.

In the Justice Qazi Faez Isa case, the court unanimously quashed the reference, the majority for malice in law; I held it malicious in fact as well. The majority directed the FBR to examine the family's properties and report to the council; three of us held that no direction was needed, the FBR being free to act under the tax law. On review, that view prevailed.

No one is above the law, and no one below its protection: a judge's spouse answers under the tax law, a judge under the Code of Conduct, only in accordance with law. I am often asked whether we saved the wrong man. We saved due process and the independence of the judiciary, and in doing so we saved a man. What people thought of him later was not our concern then. A judgment is not a character certificate.

In the Practice and Procedure case, I believed, and still believe, that the court had to become collegial rather than be run by one man. Opening the door was not itself the mistake; so long as the court stood united, no one could have walked through it. What we failed to see was that the court was weak within, and weakness inside invites those outside. And it did: a 2024 ordinance gave the chief justice's nominee a seat on the bench-forming committee. Had earlier chief justices brought in the collegial model through the full court, that door need never have opened from outside. This is a lesson, not an accusation.

Courtesy Dawn

Lady JustitAIa

Ali Hassan Bangwar

Nowhere in human history has there been a transformation as swift and as sweeping as the one brought about by AI. Past inventions were gradually integrated into human societies, allowing sufficient time to assess their utility and adapt to ideological, societal and customary changes. AI, however, is being adopted at an unprecedented pace, even as a substitute for accumulated human learning, experience and judgement. This leaves little time to assess its implications or reconcile technological advancement with human values and agency. Like other fields struggling to evaluate and integrate AI while maintaining human oversight, the judicial system is undergoing AI-sation or, more aptly, Just-AI-cisation. Metaphorically speaking, the hasty adoption of AI for convenience could alter the lub-dub - the inherent moral force and legal fairness of the judicial system, personified by Lady Justitia. She could become Lady JustitAIa - the same blindfold, the same scales, but with a calculator and an algorithm humming beneath the robes. Although AI's contribution to the administrative aspects of justice is acknowledged, concerns are being raised about its potential role in judicial reasoning. Chief Justice John Roberts of the US Supreme Court has warned of risks such as "dehumanising the law and violations of privacy." Colin Birss, the appellate judge of England and Wales, supports AI's role in democratising access to judicial support and sorting massive files without replacing human decision-making or reasoning. Legal philosopher Amin Afrouzi critiques automated judges as "conceptually undesirable," arguing that statistical correlations are constrained in offering genuine legal rationale. In a landmark 2025 Supreme Court ruling (C.P. No. 1010-L/2022), former Supreme Court judge Syed Mansoor Ali Shah addressed AI's potential to reduce the case backlog and the risks its undue reliance could pose.

Courtesy Tribune

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

CJ interacts 25 top-performing judicial officers selected for judicial exchange and training programme in China



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Justice Yahya Khan Afridi, on Sunday briefed the first batch of 25 top-performing judicial officers selected from across the country for a bilateral judicial exchange and training programme in China, aimed at recognising professional excellence and strengthening the capacity of the district judiciary. The pre-departure briefing was held to acknowledge the dedication, professionalism and outstanding performance of judicial officers, particularly those serving in underserved, remote and conflict-affected areas under challenging circumstances, said a press release.

The judicial officers have been nominated in consultation with the respective High Courts. The delegation represents Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Islamabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, and also includes officers serving at the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Federal Judicial Academy.

During the interaction, the Chief Justice appreciated the professionalism and resilience of the selected officers and described them as ambassadors of Pakistan's judiciary.

He urged them to uphold the dignity and values of the judicial institution while gaining insights into China's judicial practices, technological advancements and case management systems.

He emphasised that exposure to international judicial systems would broaden their professional perspectives and introduce them to innovative approaches in adjudication, court administration and institutional efficiency. He encouraged the participants to translate their learning into practical improvements in the administration and delivery of justice in their respective jurisdictions.

Ishaq Dar, ECO chief discuss regional cooperation and 2027 summit

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to hosting the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) summit in 2027, stressing the need for stronger regional ties and economic cooperation. He made these remarks during a meeting with ECO Secretary General Dr Asad Majeed Khan in Islamabad on Sunday. According to a foreign office statement, the meeting was held on the sidelines of the 30th meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers. Dar said Pakistan wanted to promote regional cooperation, better connectivity and economic ties among ECO member countries. He also shared Pakistan's priorities for its upcoming chairmanship under the theme "Reviving Regionalism for a Resilient ECO". Dr Asad Majeed Khan appreciated Pakistan's arrangements, hospitality and coordination for the ministerial meeting. He also congratulated Pakistan on its upcoming ECO chairmanship and plans to host the 2027 Council of Ministers meeting and summit. He said Pakistan's role would be important in promoting regional cooperation and joint efforts among member countries. Dar also appreciated the ECO Secretariat for its efforts to promote the organisation's agenda and support Pakistan's priorities during its chairmanship.

COP31: Pakistan proposes virtual green university, fund for climate innovators

PEAK POINT

ANTALYA: Pakistan has proposed establishing a virtual green university through international academic partnerships and launching a dedicated fund to support youth-led climate innovations, as it seeks to translate climate knowledge and research into practical solutions. Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik presented the proposals while addressing a session titled "From Learning Campuses to Climate Solutions: Advancing Climate Resilience Through Education, Innovation and Partnerships", organised in collaboration with the Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on the sidelines of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP31) in Antalya, Türkiye.

Emphasising the need to move beyond climate conference resolutions towards practical outcomes, the minister said Pakistan wanted to build an international platform where students, researchers and academic institutions could collaborate on climate-related challenges and develop solutions relevant to their societies.

Under the proposed virtual green university framework, he invited international academic institutions to collaborate with Pakistan through joint research programmes, faculty and student exchanges, seminars and virtual research centres.

He said the initiative could bring together scholars, experienced researchers and graduate students, particularly from developing countries, to generate knowledge and develop locally relevant solutions to climate challenges. Dr Malik also offered Pakistan's research facilities, glacier-related data and support for primary research to international scientists interested in studying mountain ecosystems and the changing cryosphere.

He said mountain regions were among the first to experience the impacts of changes in the cryosphere, warning that developments in these areas could have consequences for downstream plains in the coming years. The minister invited international researchers to work with Pakistani institutions on glacier studies, saying the country was prepared to facilitate collaborative research and make relevant data and academic resources available. A second proposal presented by the minister was the Greenfield fund, intended to provide financial support to innovative ideas and climate-related ventures developed by young people.



ANTALYA: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik addressing a session titled "From Learning Campuses to Climate Solutions.

Martyrs are pride of the nation: Atta Tarar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Sunday said brave sons of the motherland who laid down their lives for defense of the country are pride of the entire nation.

He made these remarks on his official account on X following his participation in the funeral prayers of Major Umar Nasir Minhas Shaheed and Havaldar Muhammad Adnan Khan Shaheed at Chaklala Garrison, Rawalpindi.

The funeral was also attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. Following the prayers, the minister also met with the bereaved families of the martyrs to offer his deepest condolences.

"The nation will never forget the supreme sacrifices of our martyrs," said the minister while reaffirming unshakable resolve to eradicate terrorism completely. He prayed to the Almighty to elevate the ranks of the martyrs in Jannah and grant patience to their grieving families.

Referendum will be held on creation of new provinces, says Mustafa Kamal

PEAK POINT



KARACHI/ISLAMABAD: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Mustafa Kamal has said a referendum will be held on the creation of new provinces, describing December as a crucial month for the proposed move.

Addressing party office-bearers and workers in Karachi's District Central, Federal Health Minister Kamal said Pakistan was standing at a decisive historical juncture and that "dreams of the past are now turning into reality".

He alleged that opponents of new provinces wanted to pit the city's and province's linguistic communities against one another.

Kamal said the time had come to end the feudal, landlord and capitalist systems in the country. He also claimed that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) did not represent the entirety of Sindh and that Sindhi nationalists were enemies of the Sindhi people.

Meanwhile, government sources say preparations are complete to grant Islamabad a special administrative status, with a new governance model proposed for the federal capital. Under the proposal, Islamabad could be made a special-status territory or a model administrative unit, with a mayor serving as its administrative head.

National interests must prevail over political, personal considerations: Abbasi

PEAK POINT



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi has said that the flood-damaged Faisalabad-Lahore railway section has been restored in 45 days through the dedicated efforts of Pakistan Railways employees, highlighting the government's commitment to improving railway infrastructure and services across the country.

Addressing a ceremony on Sunday to mark the restoration of the section, the minister said national interests must always take precedence over political and personal considerations, adding that Pakistan's stability and security should never be compromised.

He said around 1,500 feet of railway track between Faisalabad and Lahore had been washed away by floods on July 27, 2026. Following the completion of necessary formalities, including the appointment of consultants, preparation of a feasibility report and arrangement of funds, restoration work formally began on September 23.

Although the initial completion period was 60 days, the project was completed in just 45 days with the cooperation of a private company.

Mazdoor Union will continue Its struggle for the Welfare and Betterment of employees: Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin

Significant Increase in Various Employee Benefits on the Demand of the Mazdoor Union

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: On the demand of the CDA Mazdoor Union (CBA) the benefits and welfare facilities provided to CDA employees have been significantly increased. These include Marriage Grant, Death Grant, scholarships for employees' children and other welfare benefits.Speaking on the occasion, Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, General Secretary of the CDA Mazdoor Union (CBA) and Member of the Staff Welfare Committee, thanked the CDA Board and all members of the Staff Welfare Committee for approving the proposed increase in employee benefits.He stated that, as representatives of the workers, the Mazdoor Union had raised the demand for an increase in various employee benefits during a meeting of the Staff Welfare Committee. The proposal was unanimously approved.Under the approved decisions, the Marriage Grant has been increased from Rs. 200,000 to Rs. 600,000, while the Death Grant has been raised from Rs. 100,000 to Rs. 200,000. Similarly, scholarships for employees' children have been increased from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 80,000.In addition, a new coffin carrier worth more than Rs. 10 million has been purchased to facilitate employees. The construction of a community centre and a marriage hall has also been approved. All these decisions will be implemented with immediate effect.Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin emphasized that the primary objective of the CDA Mazdoor Union is to safeguard employees' interests and continuously improve their welfare, benefits and facilities. He expressed confidence that these decisions would provide substantial relief and benefits to CDA employees.He further stated that the Mazdoor Union's struggle for the allotment of residential plots to employees would also continue. He expressed hope that the CDA administration would ensure the implementation of court decisions regarding employees' plots. He added that the Union would also continue its efforts to resolve other outstanding issues faced by employees. Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin reaffirmed that the CDA Mazdoor Union would continue its struggle with dedication and commitment to protect workers' rights and ensure their welfare and prosperity.