

Pakistan has Portugal's 'full support' for GSP+ status, visiting FM says during delegation-level talks in Islamabad



Pakistan, Türkiye sign MoU to strengthen judicial cooperation



Maritime Technical Institute to be established in Gwadar under Pakistan-China Cooperation

Founded By:
(Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

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

ExecutiveGroup Editor
Arif Mehmood Khan

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

Tuesday 24 November 2026 Jumada-ul-Sani 13, 1448 A.H VOl No: 06 Issue No. 255 Pages 4 Rs. 20

Pakistan, Malaysia reaffirm commitment to strengthening bilateral defence ties: ISPR

PEAK POINT

PATAYA: Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Monday reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening bilateral defence ties, the military's media affairs wing said. The development came as CDF Munir undertook an official visit to Malaysia, where he called on PM Ibrahim in Putrajaya, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. It said that the visit was aimed at further strengthening bilateral defence and military cooperation between the two countries. "The meeting focused on bilateral relations, defence and security cooperation, and evolving regional and global security dynamics. "Both leaders exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and underscored the importance of sustained engagement to promote regional peace, stability and security," ISPR said. According to the statement, the Malaysian premier "warmly welcomed" CDF Munir and acknowledged the "longstanding bonds of friendship, mutual trust and cooperation between Pakistan and Malaysia". "He reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations, particularly in the fields of defence and security," it stated. Meanwhile, CDF Munir appreciated Malaysia's constructive role in promoting peace and stability in Southeast Asia and reiterated Pakistan's resolve to further deepen defence cooperation and institutional linkages between the Armed Forces of both countries, the statement said.



Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim in a meeting in Putrajaya.

Taliban feel weight of Pakistan's pressure

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will persist with its current Afghan strategy, believing that sustained pressure is beginning to weigh heavily on the Taliban regime, with recent developments suggesting that Kabul may be taking some steps to address Islamabad's concerns, even if their effectiveness remains uncertain. Sources familiar with the developments told The Express Tribune on Sunday that reports suggesting a possible engagement between Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban in Doha were incorrect. There has been no such engagement, they said, adding that Islamabad has no immediate plans to change its approach. Pakistan will continue with its current policy until the Taliban regime takes clear and verifiable action against the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other terrorist outfits, the sources maintained. They, however, acknowledged that the Taliban had recently taken certain steps that could indicate a willingness to respond to Pakistan's concerns. They confirmed that the Taliban authorities had detained some TTP terrorists, although the circumstances and nature of their detention remained unclear.

PM Shehbaz, Portuguese FM Rangel discuss fresh political, economic impetus to bilateral ties

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Portugal's Minister of State and Foreign Affairs Paulo Rangel, in a meeting on Monday, focused on giving fresh political and economic impetus to Pakistan–Portugal relations and expanding cooperation across the full spectrum of bilateral relationship. Welcoming FM Rangel, the prime minister, appreciated Portugal's recognition of Pakistan's role in facilitating regional dialogue and its support for Pakistan's continued access to the European Union's GSP+ scheme. The two sides discussed strengthening political contacts and widening cooperation in trade and investment, agriculture, information technology, textiles, tourism, education and cultural exchanges, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The Portuguese FM is on an official visit to Pakistan from November 22 to 23. The prime minister appreciated Portugal's acceptance of Pakistan's offer to establish a Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) for a multisectoral partnership. He said that the Commission would provide a structured mechanism to identify shared priorities and follow up on practical cooperation. The leaders welcomed the Pakistan–Portugal Business Forum, held on the sidelines of the visit, which brought together around 20 Portuguese companies. The forum provided an opportunity for Portuguese and Pakistani businesses to meet and explore trade, investment and partnership opportunities.

Asif says process for referendum on new provinces likely to move forward early next year

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said discussions on a possible referendum to create new provinces are expected to take a "definitive shape" by the end of this year, with the process likely to move forward early next year. Asif said the matter would not take long to reach a conclusion, though he refrained from giving a specific date. Asked whether the PML-N and the federal government had reached a principled decision on holding a referendum, and what its timeline and outline would be, he said: "Perhaps by the year-end, all this debate and discussion that is taking place will take some definitive shape. What shape it will take, I cannot say, but it won't take long. I can certainly say that it is not going to take two to four months." He said the date could be a few days earlier or later, but the process was expected to move forward soon. "God willing, but it would not be appropriate for me to give a date. I cannot provide a definitive timeline, but, based on my understanding, the inevitability of this is becoming clearer day by day," he said.

Guard martyred as police thwart terrorists' attack on Kohat Tunnel Toll Plaza

PEAK POINT

KOHAT: A security guard of a private company was martyred when terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khwarij attacked Kohat Tunnel Toll Plaza late Sunday night.

The police's timely retaliation foiled the Khwarij's nefarious design.

The District Police Officer (DPO) Kohat, Rai Mazhar Iqbal, said that the deceased was identified as Abdullah, who was performing his duty at the tunnel as a security guard.

Bilawal calls for restoring supremacy of Parliament and trust in judiciary, electoral system

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Monday called for restoring the supremacy of Parliament as well as trust in the judiciary and the electoral system.

He made the remarks while addressing the inauguration ceremony to mark the launch of the Sindh Youth Card in Karachi.

"To restore the trust of Pakistan's youth, if any reset is to take place, it must be a democratic reset," the party leader said.

"If a democratic reset happens, then the people's stake will remain, and through that reset, we must restore the supremacy of our Parliament. We must restore confidence in our judiciary, and the election system we have, we must restore trust in it now."

Bilawal's remarks come as the debate over a "system reset" in the country has intensified over the past few months. In July, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi stirred a political storm by calling for the creation of new administrative units, arguing that the current system of governance had "collapsed" and needed a "reset".



Last week, in a hard-hitting speech, the PPP chairman asserted that the governance system had not collapsed, but was rather "made to collapse".

"Every child in this country hates corruption. The youth [of Pakistan] want to see a country where there is no corruption. They want it, and we also want to join together and build such a Pakistan," he said on Monday.

According to Bilawal, to achieve that objective, two things needed to be done: the first was to use modern digital technology, whether it was the Youth Card or Kissan Card, to build systems that shut down avenues for corruption. "Along with that, we have to build a system that functions without discrimination," he added. "Instead of taking revenge, [the system] works to fix our situation." Bilawal stressed that the restoration of trust would have to be a "joint effort" — to restore the opposition's trust in the government and vice versa, and the public's trust in the country's system, its parliament, judiciary and media.

He said if such conditions were created, Pakistan could achieve unity for the first time, enabling it to confront economic hardships, terrorism and climate change-related disasters. "I know that a Pakistan that is united, [will] have the ability to face any crisis, any disaster, any catastrophe."

Democrats win largest US House majority since 1992: Media



PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: Democrats have won the largest majority in the US House of Representatives in more than three decades, after Chuck Hubbard defeated Republican representative Virginia Foxx in North Carolina, US media projected on Sunday. The party won full control of both the House and Senate in a sweeping midterm rout with a landslide of upsets that delivered a crushing rebuke of President Donald Trump and his Republican Party. CBS News and NBC News projected Hubbard's win on Sunday, securing the Democrats a 258th seat in Congress' 435-member House. The majority is the largest won by either party since 1992, when Bill Clinton won the presidency, and Democrats won a total of 258 seats.



DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

SPORTS



Peshawar to host opening ceremony, inaugural match for 12th edition of PSL: PCB chief



PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi said on Monday that Peshawar will host the opening ceremony and the inaugural match for the 12th edition of the HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) scheduled for next year.

Naqvi made the announcement while addressing a press conference alongside Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi in Peshawar.

"The biggest announcement today, for which I congratulate both the governor and Peshawar Zalmi, is that after 12 years, PSL will hold its opening ceremony and first match in Peshawar," the PCB chief said.

He added that multiple matches will be held in the provincial capital, with the schedule to be finalised later by PSL.

The 12th edition of the cricket tournament will be held from March 18 to May 2, 2027.

The announcement by Naqvi came shortly after Kundi — whose administration now runs the province under governor's rule — said the name of Arbab Niaz Stadium would be restored, reversing the PTI government's decision to rename it to Imran Khan Stadium.

In its press release, PCB stated: "The announcement marks a defining moment for cricket in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and for the thousands of supporters who have followed the league, and their team, from afar since the very first season in 2016."

The board noted that fans in Peshawar "have filled stands, packed streets and carried their colours across the country for more than a decade, without once watching an HBL PSL match in their own city".

"That changes with HBL PSL 12. Peshawar's supporters will finally experience the league's electric atmosphere at home, with the world's best T20 talent on show in front of a crowd that has earned its moment," the statement declared. "This is a moment the league, and above all the fans of Peshawar, have been looking forward to for 12 years," PSL Chief Executive Officer Salman Naseer was quoted as saying.

"Peshawar's love for cricket is unmatched, and HBL PSL 12 will finally give that passion the stage it deserves. Adding a sixth venue is a major step in the growth of the league, and we look forward to delivering a memorable experience for every fan who walks into the stadium."

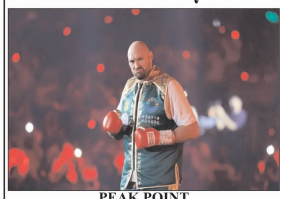
Speaking to the media, the PCB chairman noted that Peshawar Zalmi and its owner Javed Afridi had also been wishing for the tournament to come to the city. Naqvi, also the interior minister, stated that matters related to law and order in the province were "improving very rapidly".

He recalled that Governor Kundi would call for "reviving cricket in KP" whenever the two met, even before the imposition of governor's rule and emergency in the province on Oct 11.

"This province has produced amazing stars for the cricket team, and I strongly believe that with some promotion and streamlining, […] along with joint efforts, we will see positive results from here in months, not years," the PCB chief said.

He also announced holding a week-long cricket tournament between the U-19 team, Pakistan Shaheens and the national team. Peshawar was supposed to host a PSL match on March 28 in the previous edition, but matches were restricted to Karachi and Lahore as part of austerity measures after the US-Iran war broke out.

Tyson Fury reveals schizophrenia diagnosis ahead of clash with Anthony Joshua



PEAK POINT

LONDON: Tyson Fury has said he was diagnosed with schizophrenia soon after his world title win over Wladimir Klitschko in 2015.

"Words can't explain the darkness I was in," said the heavyweight boxer.

"It was like a living version of the pits of hell. "I thought I would end up in a padded room with the door locked, and that scared me so much. "The anxiety was crippling me. I just could not overcome it and that's when I went and saw the psychiatrist down in London."

Fury has made the revelations about his mental health in a documentary which will be released by Netflix on Friday.

The 38-year-old is preparing for the long-awaited all-British heavyweight fight against Anthony Joshua, a fellow former world champion, in Cardiff on December 11 — a bout that will be broadcast live on Netflix.

Fury recalled hearing the radio talking to him, and begging wife Paris to get him out of the hospital because "the Illuminati" wanted him. Following his victory over Klitschko, Fury gained weight and struggled with alcohol and drug addiction. "It got that bad I was hearing voices in my mind," he said. "I wouldn't be able to sit and have a conversation because I'd be hearing stuff in my mind.

Australia beat Pakistan 5-2 in Sultan Azlan Shah Cup



PEAK POINT

MALAYSIA: Pakistan suffered their first defeat in the 32nd Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2026 as Australia beat them 5-2 in their third round-robin match in Ipoh, Malaysia, on Monday.

The Green Shirts had started the tournament with two impressive 5-1 wins over Canada and the United States, but Australia's strong attack and excellent penalty-corner skills brought their winning run to an end.

The opening quarter remained goalless as both teams tried to take control of the match. Australia finally broke the deadlock in the 18th minute when Ian Grobbelaar scored through a penalty corner. Pakistan captain Abu Mahmood quickly responded with a penalty-corner goal in the 22nd minute to make it 1-1.

However, Australia struck twice in quick succession. Nathan Ephraums scored a field goal in the 23rd minute, while Duncan Jackson added another goal through a penalty corner in the 24th minute to give Australia a 3-1 lead.

Pakistan came back strongly after the break, with Waheed Ashraf Rana scoring a field goal in the 33rd minute to reduce the gap to 3-2.

The Green Shirts continued to search for an equaliser but found it difficult to break through Australia's well-organised defence. Australia increased their lead in the final quarter when Jack Welch converted a penalty corner in the 49th minute. Campbell Geddes then scored another penalty-corner goal in the 60th minute to seal a 5-2 victory.

Penalty corners proved to be Australia's biggest strength, as four of their five goals came from set pieces.

The win gave Australia their third consecutive victory and strengthened their chances of reaching the final.

Islamabad to host CAS International Squash Championship from November 24



Day-long ICCI-MOFA Golf Tournament promotes sports diplomacy in Islamabad



Lahore Qalandars join hands with EA co-founder to revolutionise cricket talent hunt

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Lahore Qalandars have joined forces with Jeff Burton, co-founder of global video game giant Electronic Arts (EA), in an ambitious partnership aimed at transforming cricket talent identification through technology, expanding opportunities for aspiring players in Pakistan and around the world.The collaboration brings together Burton's expertise in digital innovation and interactive entertainment with the talent development vision of Lahore Qalandars co-owners Sameen Rana and Atif Rana, whose Player Development Programme has become one of the franchise's most distinctive initiatives in the Pakistan Super League (PSL).At the heart of the partnership is Cricket Freedom, a digital application designed to make talent identification more accessible by allowing aspiring cricketers to submit videos demonstrating their skills. The footage will be assessed through advanced video-scanning technology against predefined selection criteria, with shortlisted candidates subsequently invited for physical trials.The initiative aims to take Lahore Qalandars' established talent-hunting model beyond traditional geographical boundaries, providing players from remote areas and different communities with an opportunity to showcase their abilities without initially having to travel long distances for trials. It will also create additional opportunities for women aspiring to pursue cricket.Cricket Freedom has been jointly developed by Jeff Burton, Kjell Hausmann, Trygve Strand, Mats Hagen, Sameen Rana and Atif Rana, combining their experience in technology, innovation and cricket development. Speaking about the initiative, Lahore Qalandars co-owner Sameen Rana said the franchise had spent the past 11 years searching for promising players across Pakistan, particularly in areas where emerging talent often remained unnoticed because of limited opportunities and resources.





Piano donation supports opera education for young Pakistani singers

MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Linkers International has donated a piano for young Pakistani singers enrolled in opera courses coordinated by the Embassy of Romania in Pakistan. The courses take place at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) in Islamabad and at other venues. The piano will allow students to rehearse with live professional accompaniment as they prepare to perform on stage.Romanian soprano and music educator Georgiana Costea-Glugă has taught opera at PNCA since April 2025. Her students range from beginners learning to sing their first phrases to more experienced vocalists exploring Romanian and other European repertoire. Alongside vocal technique, they study how to interpret a score and convey a character's emotions on stage. In June 2026, four students received certificates recognising their work in the programme. "When a young singer rehearses an aria with a pianist, we can stop at a single phrase and try it again. Where does the character take a breath? Which word matters most? A student begins to make those choices for themselves. That is what excites me about having this piano for our classes," said Costea-Glugă.Georgiana Costea-Glugă is a Romanian soprano and music educator trained in Bucharest and Rome, performing as a guest artist in theatres across Romania and abroad. She teaches in Constanța, at the very Cultural Centre where she took her first lessons. Since April 2025, she has also taught opera at PNCA in Islamabad through the Embassy of Romania, earning the Global Ambassador Award for Cultural Diplomacy through Music in November 2026."I thank Linkers International for putting this piano at the service of young Pakistani singers. Since our courses began at PNCA last year, Georgiana and her students have given Romania and Pakistan a place in each other's musical lives. I look forward to hearing what these young artists bring to the music in their own voices," said Dr Dan Stoenescu, Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan.Abdul Basit, Chief Executive Officer of Linkers International, and Tahmoor Zaman, its President, presented the piano on behalf of the company. A real estate developer operating in Pakistan and the United States since 2016, Linkers International has received five-star honours at the International Property Awards and supports arts education and cultural exchange.At the presentation, Ambassador Stoenescu asked Zaildar Ahsan Shah, Chairman of the Pakistan-Romania Friendship Association, to include Basit and Zaman on its Advisory Board. With the Romanian Ambassador as its Patron-in-Chief, the Association has long supported cultural exchange and cooperation between the people of Pakistan and Romania.



National CERT warns of five WhatsApp security vulnerabilities, urges users to update apps

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's National Cyber Emergency Response Team (National CERT) has warned of five security vulnerabilities in WhatsApp and WhatsApp Business across Android, iOS, Windows and Mac platforms, cautioning that outdated applications could expose users to malicious attacks, data leakage and unauthorised execution of files.

In a cybersecurity advisory, National CERT urged government institutions, public and private organisations, and individual users to immediately update WhatsApp applications, disable automatic media downloads and avoid opening suspicious messages and documents.

The vulnerabilities, identified through five security identifiers — CVE-2026-102769, CVE-2026-44908, CVE-2026-23871, CVE-2026-23866 and CVE-2026-23863 — were addressed through WhatsApp security updates released in May and November 2026.

According to the advisory, the flaws could enable attackers to delete locally stored WhatsApp files, obtain limited information from chat databases, disclose users' device IP addresses, trigger the processing of attacker-controlled media and URLs, and execute malicious files disguised as harmless documents.

National CERT noted that most of the vulnerabilities require users to open or interact with specially crafted messages or files. WhatsApp has reported no evidence of exploitation in the wild for four of the five vulnerabilities. However, the company indicated that one flaw, CVE-2026-23871, may have been abused alongside specific spam messages.

One of the vulnerabilities, CVE-2026-102769, affects WhatsApp for Android versions earlier than 2.26.35.74. It involves an SQL injection flaw through a specially crafted order-details message sent from an unofficial client. The vulnerability could result in the deletion of locally stored WhatsApp files and limited leakage of chat database information through a technical side channel.

Another vulnerability, CVE-2026-23871, affects WhatsApp and WhatsApp Business on Android versions earlier than 2.26.17.4. It could allow attackers to obtain information about a user's IP address through improperly validated advertising reply links in Click to WhatsApp messages.

The advisory also highlighted CVE-2026-23866, affecting specified older versions of WhatsApp on Android and iOS, which could trigger the processing of media from arbitrary URLs, including operating-system custom URL handlers. A separate vulnerability affecting Windows users, CVE-2026-23863, could enable a malicious executable to appear as a different file type through manipulated filenames containing embedded null bytes.

Opinion & Editorial

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD
Arif Mehmood Khan
Group Editor: 0333-5366814
Samra Athar Kakakhel
Resident Editor
Nadim Tanoli
Joint Editor: Mob-0301-7777874
Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
www.peakpoint.pk

Elusive right

Pakistan, as an ardent advocate of the right to self-determination, has called for the universal application of the spirit of freeing humanity from colonial constraints. While introducing a draft resolution titled "Universal Realization of the Right to Self-Determination", Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Syed Haider Shah, made a coherent case - invoking the conscience of the international community to move beyond academic discourse and implement the UN Charter, which ironically remains unfulfilled in contravention of the stated principles of international law. That is because the sovereignty of states is, unfortunately, treated unequally, and there is no dearth of communities still longing for their fundamental rights to freedom of expression, speech and independence. Many remain under foreign occupation to this day, with the subjugated peoples of Palestine and Kashmir standing as prime examples of state repression. In July 2025, as President of the UNSC, Pakistan also initiated Resolution 2788 on "Strengthening Mechanisms for the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes", which was adopted unanimously. Likewise, Pakistan has remained at the vanguard of countries arguing that the world body is in dire need of reform - specifically.

The ECO dream

Khurram Abbas

THE 30th meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) Council of Ministers was held in Islamabad on November 15-16. The event offered a timely reminder of a regional bloc that remains rich in potential, yet under-realised. Convened under Pakistan's 2026-27 chairmanship with the theme "Reviving Regionalism for a Resilient ECO," the gathering brought together foreign ministers and senior diplomats from across the 10-nation bloc to adopt the Islamabad Communiqué and chart the road toward ECO Vision 2035.

While the diplomatic optics in the capital projected a renewed commitment to trade facilitation, transport connectivity, and energy security, the real test lies in whether member states can finally translate decades-old aspirations into tangible economic interdependence.

To understand the promise and pitfalls of this forum, one must look at its origins as the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD), founded in July 1964 by Pakistan, Iran and Turkiye. The RCD sought to leverage historical and cultural affinities for socioeconomic and infrastructural collaboration. However, hampered by limited economic complementarities and geopolitical shifts, most notably the 1979 Iranian Revolution, the RCD eventually became dormant.

It was revived as the ECO in 1985 and underwent a transformative expansion in 1992 with the inclusion of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and the five newly independent Central Asian Republics. In contemporary international relations, this bloc spanning over eight million square kilometres and home to nearly 500m people matters immensely as a Eurasian bridge. At a time when global supply chains are fragmenting and great-power rivalries are hardening, the ECO represents a vital non-Western platform capable of linking resource-rich Central Asia with the warm waters of the Arabian Sea and European markets via Turkiye.

The real test lies in whether members can translate aspirations into economic interdependence.

Despite operating in one of the world's most conflict-prone neighbourhoods, the ECO possesses compelling structural drivers for regional integration. First, the economic complementarity between its members creates a natural logic for cooperation. The hydrocarbon and mineral wealth of Central Asia and Iran pairs seamlessly with the industrial bases, agricultural output, and massive consumer markets of Pakistan and Turkiye. Furthermore, the landlocked geography of six of its 10 members makes regional connectivity not merely an economic preference, but an existential necessity for diversifying trade routes.

Second, regional integration within the ECO framework can serve as a stabilising buffer against geopolitical volatility. In a region marred by lingering sanctions on Iran, prolonged instability in Afghanistan, and shifting security dynamics in the South Caucasus, economic interdependence raises the cost of conflict and institutionalises dialogue. Projects such as the Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad (ITI) cargo corridor, the Ashgabat Agreement, and emerging joint border trade zones demonstrate that technical and commercial frameworks can survive political friction. By focusing on low-politics areas such as customs harmonisation under the ECO Trade Agreement, climate resilience, and tourism, the bloc allows neighbours, despite having strained ties, to compartmentalise security disputes while gradually building the physical and institutional infrastructure of peace.

For Pakistan, the ECO occupies an increasingly central place in its geo-economic and strategic calculations. With the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation effectively paralysed by New Delhi's political intransigence, Islamabad has deliberately pivoted westward and northward to avoid regional isolation. The ECO provides Pakistan with a natural diplomatic forum where it enjoys deep historical, cultural, and religious ties without the hegemonic friction that characterises South Asian politics.

Courtesy Dawn

Frailty, thy name is not woman

Mujeeb Ali

Why does a woman begin to doubt her strength when life puts her to the test? Why is she so often expected to bear injustice in silence rather than stand up for her rights? Perhaps the problem lies not in her weakness but in a society that has spent generations teaching her to see herself as the weaker one! The truth is that physical strength does not determine courage, and hardship does not define a woman's worth. For many women, the struggle begins long before they fall victim to violence. It begins in homes where their voices carry less weight, in traditions that limit their choices, and in attitudes that mistake obedience for virtue. Gradually, a woman may begin to believe that speaking up is wrong and resisting injustice is beyond her capacity. But why should she accept a life of fear simply because society expects her to remain silent? No relationship, family tradition or claim to authority gives anyone the right to humiliate, control or assault a woman. Her dignity is not conditional, and her safety is not a favour to be granted. She has every right to speak, seek protection and demand justice. When she chooses to fight back, she is exercising her right to protect herself. Rather than depending on others to fight her battles, there she should be encouraged to realise her own strength in the difficult times. Women are no less capable than men in different fields of life. There are countless examples of women behind great successes, whether in political leadership, scientific breakthroughs or literature. Let's read about a few of them for inspiration. Angela Merkel led Germany as chancellor for sixteen years, showing that women can hold the highest political offices and take decisions that affect the world. Marie Curie broke barriers in science, winning Nobel Prizes in Physics and Chemistry. Joanne K Rowling pursued literary ambitions despite facing rejection before her first Harry Potter novel was published in 1997.

Courtesy Tribune

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

Pakistan, Türkiye sign MoU to strengthen judicial cooperation



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Türkiye on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen judicial cooperation through institutional exchanges, professional training and sharing of legal expertise.

The agreement was signed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi and President of Türkiye's Court of Cassation Ömer Kerkez during the visit of a high-level Turkish judicial delegation to the Supreme Court. The MoU provides a framework for cooperation in judicial education, capacity building, legal research and professional training, including faculty exchanges and joint programmes between the Federal Judicial Academy of Pakistan and the Justice Academy of Türkiye. Key areas of collaboration include cyber-crime, financial crime, constitutionalism, human rights, judicial ethics, climate justice, gender-responsive justice, alternative dispute resolution and the use of technology in courts. The agreement also envisages judicial exchanges, joint conferences, seminars and sharing of judgments and legal developments.

A Joint Working Group on Judicial Cooperation will identify priority areas, coordinate initiatives and monitor implementation. Welcoming the delegation, Justice Yahya Afridi highlighted the historic and fraternal ties between Pakistan and Türkiye, recalling the support extended by the people of the subcontinent during Türkiye's struggle for independence and the contributions of Abdur Rehman Peshawri. He said the agreement would translate these longstanding bonds into practical institutional cooperation. Referring to ongoing judicial reforms in Pakistan, he stressed the importance of exchanging experiences and adopting best practices to improve access to justice, predictability and accountability. Ömer Kerkez appreciated the hospitality extended to the delegation and highlighted shared values of justice and impartiality between the two countries. He also emphasised the need for closer judicial cooperation to address emerging challenges relating to digitalisation, artificial intelligence, cross-border disputes and increasingly complex economic relations.

Maritime Technical Institute to be established in Gwadar under Pakistan-China Cooperation

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry on Monday said that Pakistan-China cooperation will establish a new engineering and technology institute in Gwadar to train young people in specialised skills required by the port, shipping and maritime industries. He was speaking at a pre-board meeting of the Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), where development projects and initiatives to strengthen technical education in the port city were reviewed.

Briefing the meeting, GPA Chairman Noorul Haq Baloch said the GPA, Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCTVI), University of Gwadar and China's Qingdao Harbour Vocational and Technical College had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish the Pakistan Overseas Engineering and Technology Institute in Gwadar. Welcoming the initiative, Junaid Chaudhry said the agreement would lay the foundation for specialised maritime education, technical training and human resource development. He stressed that technical education should be aligned with the operational requirements of ports and the maritime industry. Under the five-year cooperation framework (2026-2030), the partner institutions will collaborate on academic programmes.

Pakistan has Portugal's 'full support' for GSP+ status, visiting FM says during delegation-level talks in Islamabad

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has Portugal's "full support" for the European Union's (EU) GSP+ status, Portuguese Minister of State and Foreign Affairs Paulo Rangel said on Monday during Pakistan-Portugal delegation-level talks held in Islamabad.

Pakistan's current GSP+ status is set to expire in 2027, after which Islamabad will seek a renewal.

GSP+ status is a special incentive awarded to developing countries to "pursue sustainable development and good governance" in exchange for cutting import duties to zero on two-thirds of the tariff lines of its exports.

The status was granted to Pakistan in 2014, resulting in a 108 per cent increase in Pakistani textile exports to the EU due to concessional tariffs.

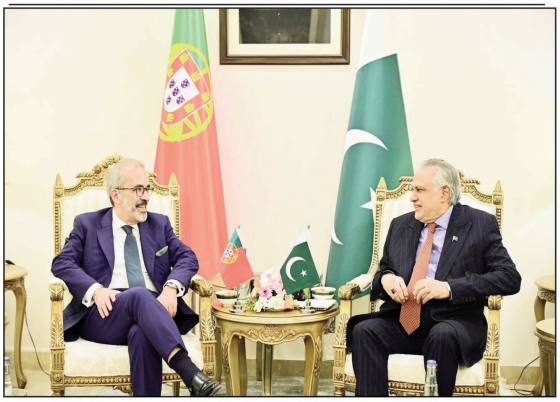
In October 2023, the European Parliament unanimously voted to extend the GSP+ status for another four years until 2027 for developing countries, including Pakistan. The upcoming GSP+ monitoring mission will scrutinise Pakistan's record on 32 international conventions tied to the trade scheme. Maintaining GSP+ status is critical for Pakistan to keep export costs low.

Rangel, in his remarks, stressed that both Pakistan and the EU would mutually benefit from cooperation, adding that "we should not hesitate on developing these bilateral platforms".

The Pakistani delegation was led by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

In his remarks, DPM Dar said, "Our focus is on strengthening our political ties, expanding bilateral trade and promoting investment."

He proposed that the two countries regularly convene the Pakistan-Portugal Business Forum to help Pakistani and Portuguese companies "identify trading partners and explore joint venture opportunities".



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar meeting the Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Mr. Paulo Rangel, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

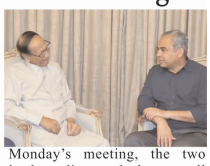
Pakistan, KSA, Türkiye to 'hold' Makkah Pact talks in Islamabad on Nov 26-27

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye are expected to hold talks in Islamabad on November 26-27 to review progress on their trilateral defence pact, a senior Pakistani official familiar with the matter confirmed to Arab News on Sunday, as the three countries work to establish mechanisms for implementing the agreement. The meeting will bring together representatives of the three countries under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, signed on August 7 in Saudi Arabia, which commits them to treating an armed attack on any one member as an attack on all three. Asked whether the meeting would take place on November 26 and 27, the senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: "Yes." The confirmation follows an announcement by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar that the agreement's top-level security committee would convene in Islamabad before the end of November.

Shujaat, Naqvi discuss creation of new provinces, devolution of power in Lahore meeting

PEAK POINT



LAHORE: The debate over the creation of new provinces and devolution of powers came under discussion on Monday when Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain at his residence in Lahore. The meeting comes amid an ongoing political debate over the creation of new provinces, with several political leaders pushing for a nationwide referendum to settle the matter. It was sparked by Naqvi's July remarks, wherein he called for the formation of new administrative units in the country, saying the current "system" of governance had "collapsed" and needed a "reset". In Monday's meeting, the two leaders discussed the overall political situation, measures to maintain law and order and the need to transfer power to the grassroots level, according to a statement issued by the interior ministry after the meeting. During the discussion, Shujaat said the question of creating new provinces was directly linked to public convenience, good governance, administrative efficiency and the country's future.

Petrol Pump owners urge Government to review fuel price adjustment mechanism

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Sardar Farooq, President of Petrol Pump Owners Association for Rawalpindi and Islamabad, has urged the government to revise the mechanism for adjusting petroleum product prices, saying frequent changes are causing significant financial losses to petrol pump owners.Speaking to the media at the National Press Club in Islamabad, Farooq said that daily changes in petroleum prices were detrimental to petrol pump businesses and had made it increasingly difficult for owners to manage their operations.He claimed that following a reduction in petroleum prices last month, each petrol pump suffered losses ranging from Rs1.8 million to Rs2 million.Farooq demanded that the government fix petroleum product prices on a monthly basis. If monthly revisions were not possible, he suggested that prices should at least be revised every 15 days. He said that petrol pump owners faced financial difficulties regardless of whether prices increased or decreased.

Speaker NA calls for collective action, effective implementation of Child Protection laws and stronger safeguards for children

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has called for collective national efforts, effective implementation of existing legislation and stronger institutional mechanisms to ensure the safety, protection and welfare of children across Pakistan. He expressed these views while addressing the National Seminar on Child Safety, titled "Strengthening the Legal Framework for Child Protection in Pakistan," as Chief Guest at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS), Islamabad. The seminar was organised by the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights (PCCR) of the National Assembly, under the Convenorship of Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan, MNA, in collaboration with Save the Children.In his keynote address, Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq underscored that the protection, welfare and rights of children constitute a collective national responsibility. Highlighting disparities in access to education, nutrition, healthcare and essential facilities, he stressed that every child, irrespective of background or geographical location, deserves a safe environment and protection from all forms of abuse and exploitation. He emphasised the role of parents and educational institutions in imparting moral values, civic sense and ethical responsibilities alongside formal education. The Speaker also highlighted the contributions of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, SDGs Secretariat, Young Parliamentarians Forum and PCCR in advancing parliamentary engagement and coordination with provincial legislatures. He expressed confidence that the seminar would contribute towards meaningful legislative reforms and practical measures for safeguarding children's future.Convenor PCCR Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan, MNA, emphasised that the safety, dignity and protection of children require a coordinated and decisive national response. Highlighting challenges including child abuse, violence, trafficking, child labour, exploitation, neglect and emerging digital threats, she stressed the need to review existing federal and provincial legislation, identify institutional and legislative gaps and strengthen enforcement mechanisms. She called for stronger federal-provincial coordination, a consolidated National Child Protection Legal Gap Matrix and a joint national declaration on an emergency response to child safety, emphasising that parliamentary commitments must translate into measurable action.President Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF) Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar also expressed concern over the continuing rise in child abuse, exploitation and violence, emphasising public awareness, open dialogue, effective justice mechanisms and the State's responsibility to make child protection a foremost priority. Referring to the campaign "Khamoshi Ab Nahi," she stressed that safeguarding children is a religious, social and national responsibility. MNA Riaz Fatyana highlighted the gap between existing legislation and its implementation, citing concerns over out-of-school children, malnutrition, child labour, inadequate education funding and the low conviction rate in cases involving offences against children. He stressed the need to strengthen enforcement and institutional performance rather than merely introduce additional laws.