

Govt selects consortium of 3 foreign banks for $500m finance facility backed by MIGA



Ayaz welcomes first-ever visiting Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament to Pakistan



CJP, former Swiss President discuss criminal justice reforms, access to justice

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

Wednesday 25 November 2026 Jumada-ul-Sani 14, 1448 A.H VOl No: 06 Issue No. 256 Pages 4 Rs. 20

PM reaffirms Federal Govt's support to eliminate terrorism, boost development in KP

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tuesday, assured the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government of every possible federal government's support to completely eradicate terrorism, establish lasting peace and ensure public welfare in the province.

Paying tribute to the law enforcement agencies, the prime minister said that the sacrifices rendered by the brave security forces and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police in the war against terrorism would not go in vain.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi who called on him. Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi was also present on the occasion, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

He emphasized that the federal government would continue to extend full cooperation to implement the decisions taken during the Apex Committee's meeting aimed at eliminating terrorism. Reiterating the Centre's commitment to the progress and prosperity of the province, the prime minister directed authorities to utilize all available resources to provide healthcare, education and other basic facilities to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He placed special emphasis on improving social development indicators, particularly within the health and education sectors. The prime minister also stressed the need to promote sports facilities.



ISLAMABAD: Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi called Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

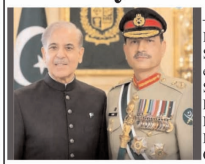
Fazl alleges he is under 'state siege'; JUI-F claims police personnel deployed outside his Lahore residence



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Tuesday alleged that he was under "state siege", while his party claimed that police personnel had been deployed outside his Lahore residence "effectively confining him to his house". Fazl reached Lahore on Monday night and was scheduled to address lawyers today at a seminar at the invitation of the Lahore High Court Bar Association, his party said; however, due to police deployment, he was restricted from leaving his residence. JUI-F spokesperson Hafiz Ghazanfar Aziz said the deployment had cordoned off the party chief's residence. He condemned the alleged government action, calling it an attack on civil liberties and constitutional rights. In a video message, the JUI-F chief alleged that he was under a "state siege" and that roadblocks and checkpoints across Lahore were preventing him from attending the all-parties seminar organised by the LHCBA. In the video, Fazl thanked the bar association, its president and members for inviting him to address the seminar, but regretted that "state-imposed restrictions".

PM Shehbaz greets Field Marshal on his induction in Malaysia's Hall of Fame



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has extended his heartiest congratulations to Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Force (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir on his induction as a member in Malaysia's National Defence Studies Centre's Hall of Fame.

In a post uploaded on X platform on Tuesday, PM Shehbaz Sharif said "This distinction also reflects the enduring friendship between Pakistan and Malaysia."

The prime minister maintained that Field Marshal's resolute leadership during Marqa-e-Haq, unwavering commitment to national defence, invaluable contributions to promoting peace, and enhancing Pakistan's standing internationally makes this honour truly befitting.

Heartiest congratulations to Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir on his induction as a member in Malaysia's National Defence Studies Centre's Hall of Fame. This distinction also reflects the enduring friendship between Pakistan and Malaysia. Field Marshal's resolute leadership during Marqa-e-Haq, unwavering commitment to national defence, invaluable contributions to promoting peace, and enhancing Pakistan's standing internationally makes this honour truly befitting. This recognition belongs equally to the brave men and women of our Armed Forces, whose courage, dedication and sacrifices safeguard our beloved homeland, and to the people of Pakistan, whose resilience and unwavering support.

Balochistan announces rewards of up to Rs250m to help track wanted terrorists



PEAK POINT

BALOCHISTAN: The Balochistan government has announced cash rewards ranging from Rs500,000 to Rs250 million for individuals providing credible information about highly wanted terrorists.

A reward of Rs250 million has been set for information about notorious terrorist Rehman Gul. The same amount has also been announced for credible information about Bashir Zeb.

Rewards worth millions and hundreds of millions of rupees have also been fixed for information about other highly wanted terrorists.

Balochistan Home Affairs Adviser Babar Yousafzai appealed to the public to share reliable information about terrorists with the relevant authorities. He said the identity of anyone providing information would be kept strictly confidential.

Yousafzai said immediate action would be taken on credible and actionable information, while rewards would be paid in accordance with the rules and regulations set by the Balochistan government.

Collision between bus, truck kills 11 in UAE

PEAK POINT

DUBAI: Eleven people were killed when a bus and a truck collided in Ras Al Khaimah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), authorities in the Gulf nation said on Tuesday.

"Investigations into the circumstances and causes of the accident are ongoing," the Ministry of Interior stated on its X account. According to the ministry, emergency teams were dispatched to the accident site immediately after receiving the report. vThey launched rescue and emergency response operations in coordination.

'Carrying hopes of 250m people': Zeeshan Ali to be 'first' Pakistani astronaut in space aboard China's Shenzhou-24

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Zeeshan Ali was named a crew member of China's Shenzhou-24 space mission on Tuesday, which is scheduled to launch on November 25, with Ali set to become the first Pakistani to undertake an orbital space mission. Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, who is in China, referred to Ali on X as "Pakistan's first astronaut". Ali will also be the first foreign national to board Beijing's Tiangong space station, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) announced. "Pakistani astronaut Mohammad Zeeshan Ali is the first foreign national to visit Tiangong," CMSA Spokesperson Zhang Jingbo said during a press conference. And the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said the Pakistani astronaut was



also the first international crew member to join China's manned space programme. Jingbo said that the Long March-2F rocket that will carry the crew into space will soon be filled with propellant. "The crew is in good condition and the space station is functioning normally, meeting all requirements for the mission," said Zhang. According to the CMSA, the Pakistani astronaut will serve as a payload specialist during the mission and return aboard the Shenzhou-23 spacecraft, which docked with the Tiangong space station in May.

China's astronaut Tang Hongbo will command the mission, with Wu Yi serving as the mission pilot and Ali taking on the role of payload specialist, according to the CMSA.

The crewed spaceship is scheduled to be launched at 8:18am (Beijing Time and 5:18am Pakistan Time) on Wednesday from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China.

Ali is expected to spend around a week in space, conducting various experiments alongside the Chinese crew. CMSA said that during the mission, the crew will conduct around 90 experiments.

The Chinese space agency said the mission's objectives included conducting an orbital rotation with the crew of the earlier Shenzhou-23 mission, carrying out routine operations and maintenance of the Chinese space station, and continuing space science research, including experiments involving space payloads.

The crew currently aboard the Tiangong space station is headed by 40-year-old Zhu Yangzhu.

Five TTP terrorists eliminated by CTD in Peshawar gunbattle



PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Five Fitna al-Khwarij terrorists were killed in an intelligence-based Counter Terrorism Department operation in in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Taj Mohammad alias Shenay, who is commander of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban (TTP), along with his three accomplices, escaped from the scene. According to details, the Counter-Terrorism Department received credible information about the presence of banned TTP Commander Taj Mohammad alias Shenay.

, son of Almas, a resident of Tirah district, in Peshawar. He was planning to attack law-enforcement agencies. After receiving the information, the CTD team raided the location to apprehend the terrorists. After taking notice of CTD team, the terrorists started indiscriminate.



DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

SPORTS



Pakistan crush Nepal by 96 runs to reach Asia Cup Rising Stars semi-finals



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD; Pakistan A reached the semi-finals of the Asia Cup Rising Stars tournament after defeating Nepal A by 96 runs in a one-sided Group B match in Doha, Qata.

Chasing a target of 169 runs, Nepal were bowled out for just 72 runs, giving Pakistan an easy victory.

batting line-up failed to stand against Pakistan's bowlers, losing wickets at regular intervals.

Yadav was the top scorer for Nepal with 41 runs, while Basir Ahmed made 11 and Dev Khanal scored eight.

The rest of the batters failed to reach double figures.

Maaz Sadaqat and Haider Ali also took one wicket each.

Earlier, Pakistan A, after winning the toss, decided to bat first but faced early trouble.

The team lost its first wicket for just six runs when Shamyl Hussain was dismissed for six.

Maaz Sadaqat followed, scoring 13, while Haider Ali made 15.

Abdul Samad scored 13 before being run out, while Farhan Yousaf was dismissed without scoring.

Hasan Nawaz added 28 runs, while Ahmed Daniyal scored 16. However, Pakistan kept losing wickets and struggled to build a big total.

Wicketkeeper-batter Rohail Nazir played a fighting innings and remained unbeaten on 68 runs to help Pakistan reach 168 before being bowled out in 42 overs.

For Nepal, Rashid Khan was the most successful bowler, taking five wickets.

Abhishek Gautam claimed two wickets, while Sandeep and Kushal Bhurtel took one each.

With this victory, Pakistan A completed a clean sweep of their group matches and secured a place in the semi-finals. Pakistan will now face Bangladesh in the second semi-final on November 27, while India and Sri Lanka will meet in the first semi-final on November 26.

Zone-VI Blues register victory in medicam trophy U-19 inter zonal cricket tournament



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Due to All-round Performance by Abdul Hayee Scored brilliant 62 with the help of 7 boundaries and a Six and as leg spinner got 2 wickets 4 runs, Hammad Alam 20 and bowled well capturing 3 Wickets for 44 runs helped Zone-VI Blues to beat Zone-V Whites by 40 runs in the last Phase of RCAK Talent Hunt Programme Medicam Trophy Under-19 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament here at Eid Gah Ground Korangi. Muhammad Ibrahim also batted well for Zone-V Whites. Later Former First Class Cricketers Adnan Kaleem and Faraz Patel give the Medicam Man of the Match Award Hammad Alam of Zone-VI Blues. Scores in Brief :Zone-VI Blues beat Zone-V Whites by 40 runs at Eid Gah Ground Korangi. Zone-VI Blues 258/5 in 40 overs. Abdul Hayee 62 7x4 1x6, Sajjad Ahmad 47 6x4 not out, S.M.Ali 43 2x4 1x6. Soman Kabir 28, Hassan Ali 24 not out, Hammad Alam 20. Muhammad Zubair (mf) 2/32.In reply Zone-V Whites 219 all-out in 38.2 overs. Muhammad Ibrahim 66 11x4, Rayyan Chohan 49 7x4, Shehzad Khan 34 5x4, Majid Ali 31 2x4. Hammad Alam (lb) 3/44, Abdul Hayee (lb) 2/4, Mujeeb Khan (mf) 2/32.Photo Caption:Karachi: Former First Class Cricketers Adnan Kaleem.

Hannan Shahid powers Pakistan to beat South Korea 3-2 in Azlan Shah Cup



PEAK POINT

MALAYSIA: Pakistan kept their hopes of reaching the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2026 final alive after defeating South Korea 3-2 in an exciting match in Ipoh, Malaysia, on Tuesday. Hannan Shahid scored twice to help Pakistan register their third victory in four matches and collect nine valuable points in the tournament. Rana Waheed Ashraf also scored a goal for Pakistan, while Chun Semin and Lee Minhyeok found the net for South Korea.

Pakistan made a flying start as Rana Waheed opened the scoring with a field goal in the fifth minute to give his team a 1-0 lead.

Hannan doubled the advantage in the 23rd minute with another field goal, helping Pakistan go into half-time with a comfortable 2-0 lead.

South Korea fought back in the third quarter when Chun Semin scored in the 35th minute to reduce the lead to 2-1.

Pakistan maintained their advantage until Hannan struck again in the 53rd minute, scoring his second goal of the match to make it 3-1.

However, Pakistan faced a setback when Sufyan Khan received a yellow card in the 54th minute, leaving the team with one player less for a period of the match.

Kinnaird College win BISE Lahore Inter-College Girls Cricket title



The City School Peshawar campuses celebrate outstanding success at inter-regional sports gala 2026



PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: The City School Peshawar Campus Hayatabad and The City School University Town Campus brought pride to Peshawar by achieving remarkable success at the Inter-Regional Sports Gala 2026, held at CCI Campus, Islamabad. Representing Khyber Cluster, the boys' futsal team of The City School Peshawar Campus Hayatabad delivered an outstanding performance to secure the Northern Region Championship. The team defeated Pothohar Cluster 6–0 in the semi-final and Kohsar Cluster 2–0 in the final.The team was led by captain Muhammad Aqib, while goalkeeper Zaid Afridi delivered an exceptional performance, keeping clean sheets in both matches. The leading goal scorers were M. Aamir (4 goals), Syed Ayan (2 goals), and Ayan Javed (1 goal). The team was coached by Qasim Khan, a national athlete and futsal coach.Adding to this achievement, the girls' basketball team of The City School University Town Campus also won the final, securing another prestigious victory for Peshawar. The basketball team was led by Sports Teacher Imran.These achievements reflect the students' hard work.

ICRC national physical disability cricket championship: centuries by Saifullah and Khursheed

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Tanveer Ahmed's brilliant hat-trick, Quetta beat Larkana and Karachi beat Quetta BolanKarachi (Sports Reporter) Quetta defeated Larkana by 120 runs thanks to Saifullah's aggressive century, and Karachi defeated Quetta Bolan by a huge margin of 122 runs with the help of Khursheed Ali's century, to register victories in the ICRC National Physical Disability Cricket Championship. Quetta's Tanveer took a hat-trick.Two more matches were played on the second day of the fourth phase of the National Physical Disability Cricket Championship, organized by the Pakistan Physical Disability Cricket Association and in collaboration with ICRC, at Rashid Latif Cricket Ground. On the occasion of these matches, Pakistan Physical Disability Cricket Association Secretary Amiruddin Ansari, Director PPDCA Muhammad Nizam, Regional Head Balochistan Aslam Bareech, Waqar Ahmed and others were also present.In the first match, Quetta defeated Larkana easily by 120 runs. Batting first, Quetta scored 197 runs for the loss of four wickets. Saifullah scored unbeaten 112 runs off 70 balls with the help of 15 fours and two sixes, while Tahir Hassan and Junaid Hassan scored 20 runs each. Ahmed Qureshi and Ishaq Senior took one wicket each.In reply, Larkana's team could score 77 runs for the loss of 9 wickets. Waseem Samad with 24 and Nauman Jadoon with 20 runs were prominent. For Quetta, Tanveer Ahmed took four wickets for 10 runs, which included a brilliant hat-trick, while Ayaz dismissed three players for 15 runs. At the end of the match, chief guest Regional Cricket Association Karachi Coordinator Azam Khan presented the Player of the Match cash award to Quetta's Saifullah. Zone 6 President Saim Ahmed also gave cash prizes to Saifullah for scoring a century and to Tanveer.





Foreign Medical Graduates protest outside PMDC, demand transparency in NRE examination and protection of their rights

ZIYAD ALI SHAH



ISLAMABAD: Foreign medical graduates staged a protest outside the office of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) in Islamabad, raising concerns over the future of thousands of doctors and demanding transparency in the National Registration Examination (NRE).The protesting young doctors have completed their medical education abroad and are required to pass the NRE to obtain registration and become eligible to practise medicine and begin house jobs in Pakistan.According to the Foreign Medical Graduates Union Pakistan (FMGUP), their primary concerns relate to NRE examination results, the non-disclosure of individual scores, the examination process and a lack of transparency. The students allege that candidates who fail the examination are not even informed about their actual marks or which questions were marked incorrect.The union describes the issue as a serious concern affecting the future of thousands of foreign medical graduates. Its campaign refers to more than 8,000 students, although this figure has not been independently verified through official sources.### Key Demands of the ProtestersThe protesting foreign medical graduates have put forward several demands, including transparency in examination results, the release of individual candidate scores, publication of the official answer key, and provision of scanned copies or carbon copies of candidates' answer sheets.They are also demanding clarification regarding the Angoff method used in the examination and the criteria for determining passing marks. According to the students, despite the 60 per cent passing threshold, the process of calculating scores and the reasons for candidates' failure should be clearly explained.Another major demand is that the NRE should be conducted at least four times a year, providing foreign medical graduates with more opportunities to qualify for registration and pursue their medical careers in Pakistan.The students are also calling for reforms to ensure that candidates have easy access to information regarding their results, marks and the evaluation process, without facing unnecessary difficulties.### Status of Negotiations with PMDC and Government AuthoritiesThe issue has previously been raised with the relevant authorities. In March 2026, representatives of foreign medical graduates held a meeting with the PMDC Registrar and other concerned officials, during which issues related to examinations, house jobs, licensing and other challenges faced by students were discussed.Following the meeting, reports emerged regarding progress on certain measures, including the provision of examination answer keys, improvements in facilities and the establishment of a dedicated facilitation centre for foreign medical graduates. However, no final decision or full implementation of the protesters' current demands has been confirmed.Meanwhile, on November 22, the PMDC issued a clarification stating that the National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) is entirely responsible for conducting the NRE, preparing examination papers, evaluating answer sheets and announcing results. The council maintained that it has no direct role in conducting the examination.

International online HSE conference to be held on december 11: Ali Raza Memon

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Safety Council will organize an International Online Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Conference on December 11, 2026, bringing together leading national and international experts, industry professionals and safety specialists from Pakistan and around the world. Themed "The New Concept of HSE: Innovation, Leadership and Sustainability for a Safer Future," the conference aims to promote global best practices, innovative approaches and effective leadership in occupational health and safety, while highlighting the importance of sustainable development.Experts, industrial leaders and HSE professionals from the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Malaysia, France, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and several other countries will participate in the virtual event. They will share their professional experiences, insights and practical recommendations to strengthen workplace safety standards and promote a proactive safety culture.The conference will feature expert presentations, panel discussions and international knowledge-sharing sessions focusing on emerging challenges, innovative safety practices and future opportunities in the HSE sector.The event is being organized under the leadership of Ali Raza Memon, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Pakistan Safety Council. The initiative reflects the council's commitment to strengthening professional networking, facilitating knowledge exchange and promoting international cooperation between Pakistan's HSE community and global safety professionals. The Pakistan Safety Council has invited HSE professionals, engineers, safety officers, managers, trainers, students, industrial representatives and individuals associated with relevant sectors to participate in the international online conference and benefit from the expertise of leading global specialists.The conference is expected to provide a valuable platform for professional learning, international collaboration and the promotion of safer, healthier and more sustainable workplaces.

Opinion & Editorial

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD
Founded by: Rehmat Khan
Group Editor: Arif Mehmood
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

Climate failure

Global climate diplomacy has reached a point where governments appear more determined to protect their economic interests than to preserve the planet's future. The collapse of COP31 in Antalya, following the rejection of a final draft agreement by the European Union and several other countries, has exposed the widening gulf between international climate pledges and the political will required to honour them. After more than two weeks of negotiations, world leaders could not even agree on acknowledging fossil fuels as the principal drivers of global warming. That such a fundamental scientific reality remains politically contentious speaks volumes about the sincerity of international climate commitments. At the centre of the disagreement was a draft that removed explicit references to transitioning away from fossil fuels while promoting carbon-removal technologies as a means of addressing rising temperatures. Saudi Arabia and other oil-producing countries reportedly resisted language that would threaten their petroleum-dependent economies. Carbon capture undoubtedly has a role in mitigating emissions, but treating an expensive and insufficiently scalable technology as a substitute for reducing fossil fuel consumption risks perpetuating the very practices responsible for the crisis.

PAF Leading the Revival of Pakistan's Squash Glory

By: Izmi Herlani

The skies of Pakistan are not merely an expanse of airspace; they are the embodiment of our sovereignty, the symbol of our freedom and the very expression of our national honour. Guarding this sacred trust stands Pakistan Air Force, ever vigilant, ever ready and unwavering in its resolve to defend the motherland. Forged in the spirit of courage and sacrifice, PAF's legacy is written in moments of extraordinary valour, where the defence of the nation has always stood above everything else. Its commitment, however, does not end at the edge of the skies. For an institution that has always believed in serving Pakistan beyond the call of duty, nation-building remains an equally compelling mission. Whether through education, human development, institutional excellence or the promotion of sports, PAF continues to invest in the nation's greatest asset — its people. It recognises that a strong nation is built not only by safeguarding its borders but also by nurturing its talent, empowering its youth and creating opportunities for future generations to excel. It is this broader vision of national service that has brought PAF to the forefront of efforts to revive one of Pakistan's most cherished sporting legacies — Squash, a sport that once placed the country's name at the pinnacle of the sporting world and now awaits a new generation of champions to reclaim that glory.For Pakistan, Squash is much more than a sport; it is a legacy of extraordinary talent, unmatched determination and international glory. For decades, Pakistani players dominated the global squash arena, producing champions whose names became synonymous with excellence. From Hashim Khan and Roshan Khan to the legendary Jahangir Khan and Jansher Khan, Pakistan commanded respect on the world's most prestigious courts. Their achievements were not merely individual triumphs; they were a source of national pride and a powerful expression of Pakistan's sporting identity. Today, as the country seeks to reclaim that lost distinction, Pakistan Air Force has emerged as a driving force behind the revival of this once-dominant sport.The decline of Pakistan squash over the years has been a matter of national concern. Yet, the potential has never disappeared. Young Pakistanis continue to possess the natural ability, passion and competitive spirit required to excel. What they need is an enabling environment, professional guidance, quality facilities and, above all, institutional commitment. This is precisely where PAF has stepped forward, transforming the challenge of revival into a focused and purposeful national endeavour. Under the dynamic patronage of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Pakistan Air Force has reinvigorated its commitment to the promotion of squash. Recognising that restoring Pakistan's international standing requires more than occasional tournaments or short-term interventions, the Air Chief has championed a sustained approach centred on talent identification, grassroots development, modern infrastructure and meaningful international exposure. His patronage has provided fresh momentum to the sport, reinforcing the belief that Pakistan can once again produce champions capable of competing and winning at the highest level.PAF's contribution, however, extends far beyond providing organisational or financial support. It is about creating an ecosystem in which talent can be identified early, nurtured systematically and developed into international-standard athletes. Through its association with the Pakistan Squash Federation, PAF is helping strengthen the institutional foundations of the sport, while providing young players access to professional facilities, structured training and competitive opportunities. The emphasis is firmly on building a sustainable pipeline of talent rather than relying solely on established names or past achievements. The Mushaf Squash Complex in Islamabad stands as a prominent symbol of this commitment. More than a sporting facility, it has become a focal point for national and international squash activities, offering an environment conducive to training, competition and the development of future champions. Its growing role in hosting prestigious international events is helping restore Pakistan's visibility on the global squash calendar while giving local players an opportunity to test their skills against world-class opposition on home ground.The recently concluded 23rd Asian Team Squash Championship-2026, held at Mushaf Squash Complex from 03 to 07 November under the patronage of Pakistan Air Force, provided a significant demonstration of this renewed momentum. Bringing together leading men's and women's teams from across Asia, the championship offered an excellent platform for international sporting engagement. More importantly, Pakistan's triumph in the men's team event, defeating Korea 2-0 in the final, marked a memorable milestone. The victory saw Pakistan reclaim the prestigious Asian men's team title after a decade, sending a powerful message that the country's squash resurgence is gathering pace. While Hong Kong China secured the women's title, the championship as a whole reflected Pakistan's growing capacity to organise high-calibre international sporting events. This achievement should be viewed not as an isolated success but as an encouraging outcome of sustained institutional support and a renewed national focus. It demonstrated that when young athletes are provided with the right facilities, competitive exposure and professional backing, they can rise to the occasion and deliver results. The triumph also offered a timely reminder that Pakistan's historic squash pedigree remains a valuable foundation upon which a new generation of champions can be built.Building on this momentum, the CAS International Squash Championship-2026 has commenced at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad, from 24 to 28 November. Featuring 24 players from eight countries, including 16 international competitors and eight Pakistani players, the championship will further strengthen Pakistan's engagement with the international squash community. Participation from Egypt, Malaysia, France, Switzerland, Canada, Belgium and Hong Kong China will provide an important competitive dimension. For Pakistani players, competing against international opponents at home represents an invaluable opportunity to assess their capabilities, gain experience and raise their performance standards. Such championships serve a purpose far greater than determining winners and runners-up. They expose emerging players to different playing styles, international standards and the psychological demands of high-pressure competition. They also create opportunities for coaches, officials and administrators to exchange expertise and strengthen professional linkages. Most importantly, they inspire aspiring youngsters who can see international squash unfolding in their own country and begin to believe that the same stage is within their reach.The Air Chief's patronage is particularly significant because the revival of a sport requires vision, consistency and the willingness to invest in the future. By placing institutional weight behind squash development, he has helped create an environment in which young talent receives attention and opportunities that might otherwise remain beyond reach. This commitment also reinforces PAF's longstanding philosophy of promoting excellence, discipline and healthy competition, values that are deeply embedded in the institution's own professional culture. Pakistan once ruled the squash world. There is no reason why it cannot aspire to do so again. The journey may demand patience, perseverance and sustained investment, but the foundations of revival are increasingly visible. The Asian team triumph has rekindled hope, while the ongoing CAS International Squash Championship offers another opportunity to consolidate progress.Ultimately, the true measure of this revival will not be the trophies lifted today but the champions we inspire and produce tomorrow. Every young player who steps onto the court with a dream, every emerging talent given an opportunity to rise and every victory that rekindles the nation's pride will bring Pakistan a step closer to reclaiming its lost glory. Through the dedicated efforts of Pakistan Air Force and Pakistan Squash Federation, squash is once again finding its purpose, momentum and place in the national sporting landscape. The ambition is far greater than winning championships; it is about igniting a passion in the next generation, transforming raw talent into world-class champions and restoring Pakistan's rightful standing in international squash. The dream is to see our green flag rise once again on the world's highest squash podiums, as it did in the golden years of Pakistan's dominance. For Pakistan, squash is not simply a glorious chapter of the past; it is a legacy that beckons a new generation to rise, a national pride waiting to be rekindled and a glory that must be reclaimed.

Head Office: 8A Basement Ittehad Centre Fazal e haq road Blue Area Islamabad Mob No: 03335366814 Publishe by Maqpoon Printing Press.

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

Ayaz welcomes first-ever visiting Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament to Pakistan



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday warmly welcomed Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram, Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament, upon his arrival in Pakistan along with a high-level parliamentary delegation.

The visit is being undertaken at the special invitation of Ayaz Sadiq, said a news release.

The visit marks a historic milestone in parliamentary diplomacy between Pakistan and Bangladesh, as it is the first-ever visit to Pakistan by a Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament. The visit is expected to open new avenues of parliamentary cooperation and further strengthen the longstanding bonds of friendship between the two brotherly countries. Speaking on the occasion, Ayaz Sadiq said that the arrival of the Bangladesh parliamentary delegation marked a new beginning in parliamentary relations between the two countries. He warmly welcomed the Speaker and members of the delegation, expressing his pleasure at hosting them in Pakistan.

Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan and Bangladesh share deep-rooted historical and cultural ties, which provide a strong foundation for enhanced bilateral cooperation.

The Speaker emphasized that strengthening parliamentary linkages would play a vital role in further consolidating bilateral relations. He said that exchanges of parliamentary delegations and regular high-level interactions would provide valuable opportunities for both sides to benefit from each other's parliamentary experiences and promote mutual understanding and cooperation.

Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram expressed his gratitude to Ayaz Sadiq for the warm and gracious welcome.

He said that visiting Pakistan was both a pleasure and an honour for him and that his arrival had revived fond memories of the past.

He underscored the importance of parliamentary engagement in bringing the two brotherly nations closer and expressed his desire to promote closer cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries through exchanges of delegations and high-level interactions.

Convener of the Pakistan-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship Group, Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Somroo was also present on the occasion. The delegation is headed by Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram, Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament. Other members include Ms. Jahrat Adib Chowdhury, MP and Chairman, Standing Committee on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Humam Quader Chowdhury.

CJP, former Swiss President discuss criminal justice reforms, access to justice

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi and former Swiss President Ruth Dreifuss on Tuesday discussed criminal justice reforms, prison overcrowding and measures to improve access to justice, particularly for vulnerable groups.

Ms. Dreifuss, former President of the Swiss Confederation and a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Commission on Drug Policy, called on the Chief Justice at the Supreme Court along with Chairperson of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) Rabiya Javeri Agha and other members of the delegation.

The discussions focused on protecting the rights of women, children and persons with drug dependence, besides addressing barriers to accessing justice and challenges arising from overcrowding in prisons.

Ms. Dreifuss expressed particular interest in the National Prison Reform Action Plan, jointly developed by the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee and the NCHR, especially its measures aimed at reducing pre-trial incarceration and promoting alternatives to imprisonment.

The delegation also proposed specialised capacity-building programmes.

Govt selects consortium of 3 foreign banks for $500m finance facility backed by MIGA

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The government on Tuesday selected a consortium of three foreign banks to arrange a $500 million trade finance facility, backed by the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), a member of the World Bank Group. "Following a competitive selection process and receipt of bids from nine international financial institutions, the Finance Division, Government of Pakistan, has selected the following banks as financing partners for the facility," the Ministry of Finance said in a statement. The banks included Commerzbank, JP Morgan and Standard Chartered Bank. It added that this facility opened new avenues for international financing. According to the ministry, the decision was taken in a virtual meeting held by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb with the senior leadership of a consortium of international banks and representatives of the agency. The banks were selected on the basis of the most competitive financing terms offered to the government, it said. "The one-year facility, renewable on a rolling 1+1+1 basis, will support the financing of essential imports and trade-related expenditures," the statement said. It noted that the transaction marked the government's first-ever credit enhancement transaction with MIGA under its Trade Finance programme, while also representing the first-ever participation of Commerzbank and JP Morgan in commercial lending to the government.

"The strong response and participation from international financial institutions reflect growing confidence in Pakistan's improving economic outlook and progress towards sustainable growth," the ministry said, expressing the government's appreciation for the interest shown by all participating institutions and its gratitude "for their time, effort and engagement throughout the process".

It said the transaction marked an important step towards "mobilising private international capital through multilateral risk-mitigation instruments, diversifying external financing sources and exploring innovative financing structures, while maintaining prudent debt management and fiscal responsibility".

The ministry said the government would work closely with MIGA and the selected banks to advance the transaction towards its timely execution, looking forward to building strong and lasting relationships.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, holding a virtual meeting with the senior leadership of a consortium of international banks and representatives of MIGA regarding the USD 500 million MIGA-backed trade finance facility.

Swedish ambassador discusses digital safety, misinformation with Fahd Haroon

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Swedish Ambassador to Pakistan Alexandra Berg von Linde on Tuesday called on Minister of State and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Media Fahd Haroon to discuss bilateral relations and cooperation on emerging digital challenges.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on the evolving global digital landscape, particularly the spread of misinformation and disinformation, online safety and the protection of children on digital platforms.

They also discussed ways to promote a safer and more responsible digital environment, emphasising the importance of responsible digital governance and international cooperation in addressing challenges that transcend national borders.

Both sides appreciated the exchange of views and underscored the importance of continued engagement and cooperation between Pakistan and Sweden.

Ashrafi calls for national unity, stronger Pak-Saudi ties, protection of Haramain Sharifain

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council, Coordinator of the National Paigham-e-Aman Committee and President Wafaq-ul-Madaris wa Jame'at al Deeniya Pakistan Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has called for national unity, further strengthening of relations with Saudi Arabia and collective efforts to safeguard the sanctity of Haramain Sharifain, saying Pakistan's stability is closely linked to unity across the Muslim world. He made these remarks while addressing a ceremony held at the auditorium of Zaid Islamic Centre, University of the Punjab, in honour of students who secured prominent positions in the annual examinations of the Board of Islamic Education. Leaders of the Muttahida Madaris Council, religious scholars and Mashaikh, and members of the National Paigham-e-Aman Committee were also present. Ashrafi announced that the long-standing 26-year issue concerning the registration of religious seminaries and the opening of their bank accounts had been resolved. He said, "Alhamdulillah," the registration of religious seminaries had commenced in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad under both the Directorate General of Religious Education (DGRE) system and the Societies Act.

Balancing freedom of expression with citizens' dignity essential in digital age: Tarar

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday emphasized the need to maintain a constitutional balance between freedom of expression and access to information and the protection of citizens' privacy, honour, reputation and dignity in the digital era. Addressing an international seminar titled "Social Media Platforms and the Post-Truth Era", organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), the minister said rapid technological advancements allowed fake news to spread within seconds, with consequences that could not be undone once the information was disseminated. Referring to the Constitution, he said Articles 4, 9 and 14 guaranteed the protection of life, liberty, honour, reputation and dignity, while Articles 19 and 19-A subjected the rights to freedom of expression and access to information to reasonable legal restrictions aimed at protecting personal privacy, national security and institutional integrity.

Freedom of speech should not become a shield for those crossing 'red lines', says Naqvi

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday asserted that freedom of speech should not become a shield for those who cross "red lines". He made the remarks while addressing a seminar organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). At the outset of his speech, the minister said that there were four "red lines" for the state: terrorism, hate speech, incitement to violence and sexual exploitation of children.

"On these four points, there is no compromise. Pakistan has paid for terrorism in blood. As interior minister, I have attended the funerals of martyrs. And very often, the hate that killed them began on a mobile phone," he said. He alleged that only 47 per cent of the complaints made by the Counter Terrorism Department were acted upon by social media platforms. "This is not about technology, this is about people. We are not saying that free speech must be curtailed […] journalists must report, citizens must question, dissent must be heard, including against the government, but freedom of speech can never become a shield for those who cross these red lines," he said. He went on to say that Pakistan had "limited manpower", resources and technology. Giving the example of Punjab, he said that the province had a population of 140 million against a strength of 61 people in the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA).

"And these 61 people include drivers, clerks and officers. We cannot do this alone. That is why we have established a Social Media Protection Regulatory Authority," he said. The minister called for moving from policy towards enforcement. "To begin with [social media] platforms, OTT services and major content creators must register with the authority.

Registration is not a licence to silence anyone, it tells us who is accountable when something goes wrong," he said. He said that every social media platform "must name an empowered representative for Pakistan, who can actually take decisions".

"Similarly, citizens need one complaint channel they can track. We are moving all NCCIA complaints onto the Pak ID app and the authority is building a single fully tracked complaint system," he said.

Naqvi then went on to recount a recent town hall meeting, where he met five girls who were on the verge of ending their lives due to someone about to release "sensitive material" on social media platforms.

"We don't have any pathway for approaching those platforms. It's their responsibility to react immediately to save these innocent lives," he said.

The minister said that the social media authority would verify whether action had been taken or not.

"Finally, enforcement will be step by step: engagement, then notice, then penalties. Blocking a whole [social media] platform will remain a last resort … our request will be clear, lawful and open to review," he said.

"The state should not feel helpless. Yet, we see terrorist groups still recruiting, still raising terrorist funds, still spreading fear on these very platforms," he said. Giving an example, Naqvi said that the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) was a declared.