

Ahsan proposes five political corridors between CPC, Pakistani parties



Pakistan reviewing tokenization of its Eurobond debt: Minister



China's Wang urges Middle East dialogue in meetings with Iranian, Saudi officials

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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

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PM Shehbaz orders Jinnah Medical Complex to be operational by March 2027

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed authorities to ensure the timely completion of the 403-bed Jinnah Medical and Research Centre in Islamabad, with 59% of construction work completed and a target set to make the facility operational by March 23, 2027.

Chairing a review meeting on the Jinnah Medical Complex project, the prime minister expressed satisfaction with construction progress and directed the relevant authorities to meet all targets within the stipulated timeframe.

He said the medical complex would provide international-standard healthcare facilities to patients from across Pakistan, particularly Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

The prime minister directed that all appointments at the medical complex be made transparently and strictly on merit to ensure the recruitment of qualified healthcare professionals and administrative staff.

He also instructed the authorities to engage a private entity to operate the medical complex and ensure the provision of world-class medical treatment facilities. Shehbaz Sharif said modern diagnostic services should be made accessible to low- and middle-income groups, enabling them to benefit from advanced medical technologies. He directed that positron emission tomography (PET) scans and other advanced.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review progress on establishment of Jinnah Medical and Research Centre.

IDCPC Minister calls on Field Marshal Asim Munir



PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee (IDCPC) Mr Liu Haixing called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ at General Headquarters (GHQ) here on Monday. "During the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interest, evolving regional and international security dynamics and bilateral relations. They expressed their shared resolve to further strengthen the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China," said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). The COAS highlighted the historic and time-tested bonds between the two countries and emphasised the importance of sustained high-level engagement, stronger institutional linkages and expanded cooperation across areas of mutual interest. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's contributions to regional peace and stability and expressed confidence in further advancing the longstanding strategic partnership between Pakistan and China.

Afghan Taliban cannot absorb 'punishment' Pakistan can inflict: ISPR DG



PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: The Afghan Taliban do not have the capability to absorb the "punishment" Pakistan can inflict in response to threats emanating from Afghanistan, the military's spokesperson has warned.

Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry told Reuters Pakistan possessed the capability to counter threats from the Afghan Taliban, including those involving drones, and was prepared for attempts to test its operational readiness.

"Whatever they want to send, they can; they may try. We have the capability to take them on," the ISPR DG said in an interview.

"They don't have, I think, the capability to then absorb the punishment that we can put on them," he added.

The military spokesperson was responding to a question about the potential threat posed by drones in the hands of the Afghan Taliban and whether Pakistan could face a situation similar to drone threats elsewhere in the region.

Lt Gen Chaudhry said that whatever drone capability the Afghan Taliban possessed was not indigenous, saying that such technology was being supplied by their sponsors. The ISPR DG said that India is the "biggest terror sponsor" in the context of threats facing Pakistan and added that the Afghan Taliban and terrorist groups operating against Pakistan were acting as Indian proxies.

Security forces target Afghan Taliban posts after unprovoked firing in SW: DC



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Security forces responded to unprovoked firing from Afghan Taliban border posts targeting Pakistani positions in South Waziristan, a deputy commissioner said on Sunday.

In a post on X, the South Waziristan Lower DC said Afghan border posts continued firing on Pakistani posts in the Angoor Adda area.

He said security forces launched an immediate and effective response, targeting multiple Afghan border posts, mortar positions and defensive installations.

The deputy commissioner added that Afghan Taliban personnel were forced to abandon their posts and flee following the strong response by the security forces. He said no casualties were reported in the Pakistani border areas so far, adding that the security forces remained prepared to respond to any form of aggression. The latest exchange comes days after Afghan Taliban forces opened unprovoked fire on civilian houses and Angoor Adda Bazaar on the night of October 27. One civilian was killed, and five others were injured when a mortar shell.

LHC directs jail authorities to arrange meeting between Noreen Niazi, her daughters

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday directed jail authorities to arrange a meeting between Noreen Niazi, the sister of PTI founder Imran Khan, and her two daughters on Tuesday (tomorrow).

Justice Abher Gul Khan issued the directives while hearing petitions challenging the extensions in the detention orders of Imran's sisters Noreen, Uzma Khan and Aleema Khanum. The judge also summoned the Lahore deputy commissioner.

Ready to reopen Hormuz if US agrees to conditions, says Iran

PEAK POINT

TEHRAN: Iran on Monday said it was ready to reopen the Strait of Hormuz within two days if the US agrees to its conditions, having previously proposed a one-week timeline. "The possibility of implementing this plan in two days is another indication of Iran's good-faith approach," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei."We have stated that, if Iran's demands are met, it would be possible to restore security to the Strait of Hormuz and resume the negotiating process within a short period." He said an exchange of messages was ongoing with the United States via mediators and that "everything depends" on the US side accepting the Iranian demands. "Only then can we discuss the subsequent stages." Since the Middle East war broke out in late February, Iran has claimed



control over Hormuz, a vital energy conduit for shipping. It regularly targets vessels that attempt to cross the strait without its authorisation, while the US has in retaliation imposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports. In September, Iran initially proposed a seven-day plan that it conveyed to the US through Qatar, which would have seen Tehran reopen Hormuz on the sixth day after the US met Iranian demands.

Those demands include ending the Middle East war on all fronts, the unfreezing of Iranian assets abroad, lifting sanctions on its oil sector, and an end to the US naval blockade. In an interview with Al Jazeera released on Sunday, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Washington must accept a new route agreed between Iran and Oman for transit through the strait.

He said the US must also remove sanctions imposed in recent months and reduce American troop numbers in the region.

Washington has since August rolled out a fresh raft of sanctions, part of what it called "economic asphyxiation" of Iran.

The United States and Israel have in recent days also intensified threats to renew attacks on Iran amid crucial elections in both countries. On Saturday, US President Donald Trump said he still had to "take care" of one or two targets including Pickaxe mountain in central Iran, a suspected nuclear site which Tehran denies is such a facility. "Any act of aggression against Iran, any military attack against Iran, by whatever means, will be met with a powerful, immediate and comprehensive response from us," said Baqaei during a foreign ministry briefing Monday.

PTI chairman rejects Barrister Saif's claims, says all efforts made to meet Imran Khan



PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Monday rejected party leader Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif's claims, saying the party had made every possible effort to secure a meeting with incarcerated founder Imran Khan. Speaking to the media in Peshawar, Gohar termed as "baseless" Saif's assertion that PTI leaders had failed to meet Imran despite being offered an opportunity to do so. "We made every possible effort to meet the PTI founder through the courts and negotiations, but despite all our efforts, we were not allowed even a single meeting," he said. Gohar said access to Imran had also been one of the party's conditions during the negotiation process. He rejected the assertions made by Saif during his interview.



DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

SPORTS



Babar, Shaheen set for Quaid-e-Azam Trophy opening-round clash



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Test captain Babar Azam and One-day International skipper Shaheen Shah Afridi will headline the opening round of the 69th edition of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, which gets under way across Islamabad, Abbottabad and Rawalpindi on Tuesday.

Babar will turn out for Lahore Whites, who face Shaheen-led Fata at the Diamond Cricket Ground in Islamabad, in what promises to be one of the early highlights of the premier first-class competition.

Several other established Pakistan players will also feature in the tournament, with Saud Shakeel captaining defending champions Karachi Blues, Mohammad Rizwan leading Peshawar Blues and Imam-ul-Haq taking charge of Multan. Abdullah Shafique will captain Sialkot Blues, while Mohammad Nawaz has been named skipper of Rawalpindi in the Silver tier.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday announced the schedule and team rosters for the Gold and Silver competitions, which will run simultaneously and feature 20 regional sides.

Eight teams will compete in the Gold tier, with Karachi Blues, Faisalabad, Fata, Lahore Whites, Islamabad, Peshawar Blues, Multan and Sialkot Blues vying for the title. The competition will run from Nov 3 to Dec 12, with the five-day final scheduled for Dec 15-19.

The winners will be crowned champions of the 69th edition of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, while the 12-team Silver competition will provide a pathway to the top tier for next season.

The Silver teams have been divided into two groups of six. Lahore Blues, Rawalpindi, Larkana, Quetta, Bahawalpur and Peshawar Whites form Group 'A', while Group 'B' comprises Karachi Whites, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Hyderabad, Dera Murad Jamali, Abbottabad and Sialkot Whites.

Group 'A' matches will be staged at the KCCA Stadium, SBP and UBL Sports Complexes in Karachi, while Group 'B' fixtures will be held at the Multan Cricket Stadium, Sports Complex in Rahim Yar Khan and Dring Stadium in Bahawalpur.

The Silver group matches will take place from Nov 3-30, with the final between the two group winners scheduled for Dec 3-7.

Young Pakistani footballers have great talent but need support, says head coach



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan football team head coach Nolberto Solano said Pakistan has plenty of young football talent, but players need better facilities, resources, and support to reach the international level.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad today, Solano said efforts were underway to make the national team stronger and more competitive through proper training and the development of young players.

He stressed that sponsors and financial resources were essential for the growth of football in Pakistan.

The head coach said India had been working on professional football for the past 20 years and Pakistan also needed to follow a similar path to improve the game.

Solano said he was not fully satisfied with the fitness of Pakistani players and believed they needed to become physically stronger.

However, he said the national team was gradually improving and moving forward step by step. He urged players to treat every match like a final and prepare seriously for every challenge. Speaking about the upcoming SAFF Championship, Solano said the team's first target was to reach the next round and secure a place in the semi-finals.

Pakistan fined for slow over-rate in tri-series final



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan have been fined five per cent of their match fees for maintaining a slow over-rate during their three-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the One-day International tri-series final in Lahore on Saturday.

The hosts were found to be one over short after time allowances were taken into consideration by match referee Jeff Crowe of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel, the International Cricket Council said in a statement on Monday.

Pakistan captain Shaheen Shah Afridi pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, which was imposed under Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel. The provision stipulates a fine of five per cent of a player's match fee for every over his side fails to bowl within the allotted time.

The charge was levelled by on-field umpires Ahsan Raza and Wayne Knights, third umpire Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid and fourth umpire Rashid Riaz.

Pakistan had conceded 325-8 in the final before chasing down the target of 326 with three wickets and nine balls to spare, securing the tri-series title in front of their home crowd at Gaddafi Stadium.

Fakhar Zaman led the successful chase with 127 off 99 balls, hitting 11 fours and six sixes to register his 12th ODI century. His innings helped Pakistan recover from an early collapse and complete a joint-record successful chase in an ODI final.

Warriors continue unbeaten streak



Australia name white-ball squads for England series



Almgren wins debut marathon in New York, Chepkirui wins women's race

PEAK POINT

LONDON: Sweden's Andreas Almgren won the New York City Marathon, clocking 2hr 6min 1sec in a spectacular debut at the distance.

The 31-year-old Almgren, in the spotlight after setting a European half-marathon record in Copenhagen in September, powered through the final mile to capture the victory over Italian Yemaneberhan Crippa.

Kenyan Sheila Chepkirui won the women's race for a second time, repelling the challenge of last year's winner Hellen Obiri — who faded to finish third behind American Jessica McClain.

Almgren, who won his first international athletics title in August with 10,000m gold at the European Championships, ran comfortably in a large lead group that also included defending champion Benson Kipruto.

He broke away in the final mile, pulling away from Crippa, who finished second in 2:06:14.

Kamohelo Mofolo was third in 2:06:26, narrowly holding off Kenya's Kipruto — who had been trying to become the first back-to-back New York men's winner since compatriot Geoffrey Mutai in 2013. "I mean, you can't ask for a better debut," Almgren, draped in a Swedish flag in the sunshine of Central Park, told ESPN. "I don't know what to say. I just feel like I'm about to start crying," he added after becoming the first Swede to win a major marathon.

"When Benson started picking up the pace with [five kilometres] left, I just felt like I've got the legs today." For



Chepkirui, who won in 2:24:36, it wasn't the first time she had dashed Obiri's dreams of successive wins. In 2024 she edged then-defending champion Obiri on the streets of the Big Apple. It looked like it would again come down.



255 repair works at Parliament Lodges, But CDA contract does not require residents' signatures on completion certificates

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: A major accountability gap has emerged in repair and renovation work at Parliament Lodges and government residences in Islamabad, after the Capital Development Authority (CDA) told the Senate that its contracts do not require government employees living in the buildings to sign completion certificates confirming that the work has actually been done.The disclosure has raised serious questions about how the CDA verifies repair work, checks contractors' claims and ensures that public money is spent properly. The official reply lists 255 repair and maintenance jobs, provides contractor names and financial details, and includes completion certificates. However, it does not establish that residents of the affected buildings independently checked and approved the work.The information was provided by the CDA's Parliament Lodges and Hostels Directorate in response to a question moved by Senator Kamran Murtaza. He sought details of completion certificates submitted by contractors, the number of certificates issued for repair and renovation work in government residences in sectors G5, G6 and F6, and the names of contractors along with the funds released and payments made to them.The senator specifically asked whether contractors were required to submit completion certificates signed by government employees living in the concerned residences. He also sought details of work carried out during the previous two years.In its reply, the CDA stated that the contract agreement does not contain any clause requiring signatures from government employees residing in the concerned residence.The authority added that Parliamentarians had been requested to provide completion certificates as acknowledgement that the work had been completed to their satisfaction.This explanation raises an important question: if residents are not required to sign off on repair work, what independent system ensures that the work listed in official records has actually been completed to the required standard? The CDA said that the list of work carried out during the last two years had been placed at Flag A and that the completion certificates were attached for reference.The attached financial record contains 255 listed repair and maintenance jobs involving Parliament Lodges and government hostels in Islamabad. The work includes repairs to individual suites, family suites and other residential facilities.The table records the name of each job, its agreement amount, the contractor responsible, the total allocation, the total expenditure and the remaining balance.Several contractors appear repeatedly in the records. These include Technoflux, ASK Enterprises, Team Work, RMRK Engineering, Shah G and Brothers, M/s Muhammad Rehman Z and Company, Saifullah Builders, AL Madina Traders, Best Ways Traders, HM Capital Builders, Ansari Trading Corporation and other firms.The listed work includes repairs to bathrooms, plumbing, electrical fittings, doors, flooring, PVC panelling, curtains, furniture, kitchen cabinets, air conditioning systems, whitewashing and other renovation work.The 34 page document also contains several completion and acknowledgement certificates issued for individual residences and Parliament Lodges. These certificates describe work carried out by contractors and mark the listed items as completed. Some cover basic repair work such as whitewashing, door locks, electricity switches, curtains and upholstery. Others list more extensive renovation work, including bathroom repairs, flooring, kitchen fittings, air conditioning and furniture.Some certificates contain statements that the work was completed to the satisfaction of the concerned resident or representative. The attached pages also contain signatures and names of people acknowledging the work.However, the main question remains whether these certificates are supported by a consistent and independent inspection process. The CDA's reply does not provide a clear explanation of how the authority checks the work before accepting a contractor's claim or releasing payment.The presence of repeated contracts awarded to different firms makes proper monitoring especially important. Repair and maintenance work may involve several separate items in one residence, and the financial record lists different agreement amounts and expenditure figures for individual jobs. Without a clear verification process, questions can arise over whether the work was completed in full, whether the materials used matched the agreed specifications and whether the amount paid was justified. The senator's question sought precisely the information needed to examine these issues, including contractor names, completion certificates and payment details. Although the CDA has supplied a detailed list of jobs and financial records, its response leaves the issue of independent verification unresolved. In particular, it does not say whether a separate inspection team checks each completed job or whether the authority relies mainly on certificates and acknowledgements.

10 more BHUs in Islamabad to offer specialist consultations



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The District Health Office (DHO) Islamabad on Monday said that in collaboration with Sehat Kahani, 10 additional Basic Health Units (BHUs) would provide specialist healthcare consultations to improve access to quality medical services at the primary healthcare level in the federal capital.

The initiative aims to facilitate patients by providing timely medical advice and specialist consultations closer to their communities.

The expansion is expected to reduce travel difficulties for patients, particularly those requiring specialist medical advice, while helping ease the burden on major hospitals.

The project will strengthen primary healthcare services through technology-based solutions and improve access to medical consultations for residents of Islamabad.

The initiative also supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

The DHO said the initiative reflected ongoing efforts to use digital health solutions to make healthcare services more accessible, efficient and inclusive.

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NUST's triumph

The announcement that 45 researchers from the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) have been ranked among the world's top 2% of scientists is a moment of genuine national pride. Data compiled by the prestigious Stanford University and academic publishing giant Elsevier places NUST and its faculty among the world's finest, crediting their work with advancing knowledge across disciplines. In a country where education-related headlines are usually limited to lacklustre education standards and dilapidated buildings, this is a reminder of what Pakistan can achieve when merit, investment and institutional vision align. The achievement reflects decades of hard work. NUST's representation in the prestigious list has grown from 23 researchers in 2022 to 31 in 2023, 43 in 2024, and 47 in 2025. Although the number fell to 45 in 2026, it includes 16 scholars who have appeared consistently over successive years, which should be taken as proof of durable scholarly impact rather than fleeting recognition. It is also worth noting that the researchers' areas of expertise span AI, nanotechnology, biomedical engineering, cyber security, materials science and fluid mechanics, which is a breadth of expertise that any world-class university would envy.

Medicating a broken system

Murad Moosa Khan

THE psychiatric profession faces a fundamental question: are we treating people's distress as a problem located inside their minds when much of what troubles them lies outside, in the conditions of their lives? The question has particular urgency in Pakistan, where a recent national survey of more than 17,000 individuals showed that one in three adults suffers from some sort of diagnosable mental disorder. What is leading to this mental health crisis in Pakistan?

The answer may lie in understanding people's circumstances rather than assigning diagnoses. Unfortunately, we have become so preoccupied with diagnosing and treating individuals that we have lost sight of the social conditions that make them ill.

What does it mean to treat the anxiety of someone whose future is insecure or offer counselling to a man who cannot provide for his family? How far can psychological therapy help a woman who is in constant fear due to unabated domestic violence? Treatment may offer some relief, at least temporarily, but if the circumstances remain unchanged, we risk helping the person endure a problem that society continues to create — and ignore. This is the central limitation of an individualised approach to mental health: it turns a social problem into a personal responsibility.

Pakistan's mental health discourse focuses on 'raising awareness, reducing stigma, increasing access to psychological support, early identification, and referral to specialist services'. While these are important, they can become politically convenient substitutes for confronting the structural determinants of psychological distress. Awareness campaigns do not create jobs. Teaching resilience through mental health apps does not increase household incomes. Screening programmes do not stop domestic violence or child sexual abuse. Counselling cannot substitute for social protection, affordable education and health, or protection against violence.

This is the contradiction in Pakistan's policies: awareness without accountability. This becomes particularly stark when the government acknowledges mental health as a public health priority but does nothing to address the economic and social factors that people face daily. We need to move beyond the narrow thinking that mental health improves when people become more aware of mental illness and more willing to seek treatment. We must also ask why so many people are exposed to toxic conditions that threaten their well-being in the first place.

Improving mental health requires more than treating the consequences of social and economic failure.

Locating distress primarily within individuals obscures questions of power and responsibility. When social adversity is translated into individual diagnoses, ignoring the person's context, he/she becomes the site of intervention while institutions and governments escape scrutiny. When we teach people resilience we reinforce that the central task is to help people withstand adversity rather than reduce the adversity itself. In Pakistan, marked by profound inequalities, it turns psychiatry, however unintentionally, into an instrument of adaptation to injustice.

Instead, we should ask: what has happened to this person, and what continues to make their life difficult? Mental health assessments should explore not only symptoms and psychiatric history but also employment, debt, housing, family relationships, violence, etc. It is important to understand the person's own explanation of their distress rather than assuming that a diagnostic label of 'depression' or 'anxiety' provides the complete account.

This approach does not eliminate diagnosis or medication. Those experiencing severe symptoms should have access to evidence-based treatment. The distinction is between using biomedical interventions when indicated and treating the biomedical explanation as sufficient in every case. The approach also has important policy implications.

Courtesy Dawn

Reforming political parties: now!

M Zeb Khan

In my October 24 piece, I argued that political parties are caught between dynastic hangover and structure-less passion. Here, I will try to explain why they need reform and why now. Pakistan does not lack political passion. It lacks political institutions capable of converting that passion into durable democratic power. Every crisis produces familiar calls for unity, sacrifice and loyalty. Yet a party that can function only while its founder issues instructions has confused devotion with organisation. To withstand pressure from powerful unelected institutions, parties must first stop reproducing miniature authoritarian systems inside themselves.

The starting point is simple: a political party belongs to its members, not to a family, financier, founder or collection of social-media celebrities. Membership must mean more than filling rallies, defending a leader and waiting for instructions. It must confer enforceable rights to vote, question, contest office and demand explanations. Pakistan does not need to invent the principle. The Elections Act 2017 already requires party councils, general meetings and periodic intra-party elections. But holding a ceremonial vote is not democracy. Parties need independently maintained membership registers, genuine competition for offices, transparent results and impartial appeals against manipulation.

Next comes the right to dissent. An organisation that expels critics for disagreeing with leadership cannot credibly claim to champion freedom outside it. Equally, freedom cannot mean that every disagreement becomes an online trial and every rival a traitor. Parties need elected policy councils, formal grievance procedures, recorded decisions and defined protections for whistleblowers. Members should be free to criticise decisions, while those exercising authority should be accountable through agreed rules.

Courtesy Tribune

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

Pakistan reviewing tokenization of its Eurobond debt: Minister



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that Pakistan is examining the tokenization of its existing Eurobond debt.

Virtually addressing the "Dialogue on Digital Assets and the Future of Banking", organised by the Pakistan Banks' Association (PBA) in collaboration with LUMS on Monday, Senator Aurangzeb said the government is holding discussions on the proposed initiative and is seeking Cabinet approval before proceeding with the issuance of a request for proposals (RFP). "We are reviewing at this point from the Ministry of Finance and Government of Pakistan, is tokenization of our existing Eurobond debt. We are in discussions at this point, and we are looking forward to the Cabinet approval on this, before we move ahead with issuing the RFP on this front," he added.

The finance minister urged banks to play an active role in developing practical proposals around digital financial technologies. "You bring the customer relationships, operational experience and risk management capabilities that this work requires. Invest in the expertise to assess these technologies and work with relevant regulators on the activities permitted within your mandates and, of course, with the support of your respective boards," he added.

The minister said restrictions on banks investing, trading or holding virtual assets using their own funds or customer deposits remain in place. He stressed digital financial innovation must be accompanied by appropriate safeguards, regulatory oversight and cybersecurity measures. "We all need to acknowledge that we are under attack 24/7 by state and non-state actors, and therefore there is no room for complacency," he added. Aurangzeb said Pakistan needed financial innovation that can reduce the cost of doing business and bring more people into the formal economy. He said digital assets must earn their place in the financial system by contributing to these economic objectives.

Govt enlists oil refineries to shield citizens from global price hikes

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: The government announced on Monday that oil refineries would bear a burden of approximately Rs15 billion each month, which would allow petrol to be sold Rs15 cheaper than what it was in the global market amid the US-Israeli war on Iran.

The announcement came at a press conference in Islamabad addressed by Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik and Information Minister Attaullah Tarar.

Addressing the conference, Malik said that the premier had made efforts to meet with refineries and consult with them regarding interventions to ensure that people got the cheapest petrol amid impending steep fuel price increases, including an increase of about Rs15 that would have taken effect on Friday. "I am grateful to all the refineries that saw the public is in difficulty and with the government's help … increased their throughput," the minister said, adding that these refineries had made profits from this throughput in the last three months. "They were requested to take a step to support the public during this difficult time, and I am glad that they listened to us … the Rs15 increase that was coming in the petrol prices on Friday, they helped the government with that and because of that we were able to maintain the price." He added that more improvement would be seen by the public.

Ahsan proposes five political corridors between CPC, Pakistani parties

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday proposed establishing five political corridors between the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Pakistani political parties, including youth and leadership exchanges, to strengthen institutional cooperation and promote continuity in national development policies. Addressing the Symposium on Xi Jinping Thought on Party Building here, he emphasised that Pakistan could learn valuable lessons from China's development experience, particularly its focus on public service, organisational discipline, self-reform, effective governance and long-term national planning. He said Pakistan had paid a heavy price for abandoning sound development policies with changes in government, stressing that national development plans must transcend electoral cycles to ensure sustainable progress.

The Pakistan Muslim League (N), he added, was committed to strengthening these principles within Pakistan's democratic framework.

Recalling the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under former prime minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Ahsan Iqbal said its first phase had translated a memorandum into approximately $25 billion in investment, adding over 8,000 megawatts of electricity to the national grid, constructing 888 kilometres of highways and motorways, and generating around 236,000 direct and indirect jobs.

He reaffirmed that Pakistan-China friendship transcended political differences and changes in government, representing a national consensus rooted in the hearts of the people of both countries. Referring to URAAN Pakistan and CPEC 2.0, the minister said the proposed five political corridors would complement the five economic corridors and cover strategic dialogue, governance and development learning, youth and leadership development, cultural connectivity, and regional peace and cooperation. Particularly emphasising youth engagement, he proposed reciprocal exchanges between young leaders of the CPC and Pakistani political parties.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, addressing the 29th Sustainable Development conference and 4th Sustainability Investment Expo, organized by SDPI at Allama Iqbal Open University.

China's Wang urges Middle East dialogue in meetings with Iranian, Saudi officials

PEAK POINT

BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, in separate meetings with Iranian and Saudi national security officials in Beijing on Monday, said all parties in the Middle East conflict should focus on political solutions rather than resorting to arms again. China, which is pressing for a bigger diplomatic role in the Middle East, also announced that its special envoy would visit Iran, Oman and Saudi Arabia this month. Wang told Ali Bagheri Kani, deputy secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, that dialogue and negotiation were the way to resolve conflicts in the region, according to the Chinese state news agency Xinhua.

Wang also said China supported Iran's sovereignty and security. After talks with the national security adviser of Saudi Arabia, Musaed bin Mohammed Al-Aiban, Wang said the regional situation "has again reached a critical crossroads between war and peace."

AI integration in Judiciary requires trust, transparency, data security, human oversight: Shaza

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja Monday said that the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the judicial system was need of the hour. However, ensuring authentic data, digitization of court records, cybersecurity, data privacy and human oversight is essential to make the delivery of justice faster, more transparent and effective, she said.

Addressing an international conference on AI and the Judiciary in Islamabad, the federal minister highlighted that Pakistan enacted the Digital Nation Pakistan Act to drive digital transformation. This legislation provides a comprehensive framework to transform governance, economy, and society through technology, she added.

She said that the Pakistan Digital Authority was established under this Act to define standards for digital transformation. In collaboration with the Ministry of Law and Justice, she said the Pakistan Digital Authority has published standards for machine-readable legislation, converting traditional PDF legal documents.

Governor Kundi invites Chinese investors to explore KP's vast investment potential

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has called for transforming the longstanding Pakistan-China friendship into stronger economic partnership, investment and shared prosperity, saying province offered immense opportunities for Chinese investors in hydropower, minerals, agriculture, tourism and industry.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Pakistan-China Research Centre for Party and State Governance, the Governor said Pakistan-China relations were built on mutual trust, respect and shared interests. He appreciated the role of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) in promoting political and people-to-people ties between the two countries.

He welcomed the establishment of the Pakistan-China Research Centre, expressing confidence that it would serve as an important platform for research, policy dialogue and institutional cooperation.

SCP and Republic of Korea forge new pathways of judicial cooperation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: In a significant step towards strengthening international judicial partnerships, the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea on Monday signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Bilateral Judicial Cooperation, opening new avenues for institutional collaboration, judicial knowledge exchange and technological innovation. The Chief Justice of Pakistan, who is on official visit to Korea, was warmly received by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Justice JO Hee-de, at the Korean Supreme Court in Seoul.

The two Chief Justices held substantive discussions on strengthening institutional relations, fostering mutual learning and exploring opportunities for closer cooperation between the two judiciaries. The meeting culminated in the signing of the MoU by the two Chief Justices, marking an important milestone in judicial relations between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea. The MoU provides a comprehensive framework for



sustained institutional engagement, covering judicial exchanges, professional capacity building, judicial education, collaborative research and the sharing of institutional experiences and best practices.

It places particular emphasis on judicial reform and modernization, electronic court systems, digital justice, artificial intelligence and its responsible use in judicial administration, smart courts, judicial analytics and cybersecurity.

The framework also envisages reciprocal judicial delegations, professional attachments, study visits, expert exchanges, joint conferences and seminars, as well as periodic high-level judicial dialogue. It provides an institutional mechanism for coordinating and advancing mutually agreed initiatives, thereby translating the commitment to cooperation into practical and sustained engagement.

During the visit, the Chief Justice of Pakistan also had a meeting with Justice NOH Gyeongpil, Minister of the National Court Administration of the Republic of Korea.

The interaction focused on matters of judicial administration, institutional governance and the role of technological innovation in improving court management and strengthening the effectiveness of justice delivery. As part of his engagement with Korea's judicial technology infrastructure, the Chief Justice of Pakistan visited the Supreme Court of Korea IT Center. The visit provided an opportunity to gain first-hand insights into Korea's technological.