

Turkiye's President Erdogan to visit Pakistan this week amid three-nation Asia tour

Islamabad (News Desk) Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will visit Pakistan later this week as part of a three-nation Asia tour to boost ties with Malaysia, Indonesia and Pakistan, according to Turkish news outlet Daily Sabah. Erdogan will begin his four-day trip today in Malaysia before heading to Indonesia and concluding the tour in Pakistan. His meetings will "focus on enhancing cooperation in various fields, as well as hot topics on the international agenda, from the Palestine-Israel conflict to the situation in Syria ... as well as the Russia-Ukraine conflict," the Daily Sabah

said. "Erdogan's last stopover will be Pakistan, whose relations with Turkiye reached the highest level under successive tenures of the Turkish president," the daily reported. It noted that the two countries have particularly increased cooperation in the defence industry, with deals signed on the acquisition of naval vessels and uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs). Pakistan was the first country to sign a deal to purchase Turkiye's nationally-made naval vessels as part of the MILGEM (National Ship) project, it added. The Turkish president

last visited Pakistan on a two-day visit in February 2020, where he met with then-president Arif Alvi and prime minister Imran Khan. The trip was aimed at strengthening bilateral strategic partnership and economic ties. President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday held a meeting with Erdogan during a brief stopover at Istanbul Airport en route to Portugal. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan warmly received the president at the airport. Zardari and his Turkish counterpart discussed bilateral ties and matters of mutual interest during their meeting.

President Zardari is currently on a visit to Portugal to express condolences on the passing of Prince Karim Aga Khan and meet with Prince Rahim Al-Husseini, who was named the 50th hereditary imam following his father's death. His schedule for Friday was packed. In the morning Erdogan addressed a joint session of Parliament for a record fourth time and spoke at the Pakistan-Turkey Business and Investment Forum. He later held a one-on-one meeting with Prime Minister Imran and co-chaired a meeting of the Pakistan-Turkey High Level Strategic Cooperation Council.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif departs on a two day official visit to the UAE. LAHORE, February 10, 2025.

Seven terrorists killed in D.I. Khan, North Waziristan operations: ISPR

PESHAWAR/DERA ISMAIL KHAN: (News Desk) Seven terrorists were killed and a soldier was martyred in different encounters in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday, official sources said. According to the military's media wing, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), security forces carried out an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Maddi area of Dera Ismail Khan district on the reported presence of armed men in the area on the night between Feb 8 and 9. During an exchange of fire, three terrorists were killed and two others were wounded. Sources said the militants killed in the operation were expert in making improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and bombs, and they were involved in multiple acts of terrorism. After the operation, the sources said, security forces launched a search operation in the area to track down accomplices of the militants. Meanwhile, a soldier was martyred and three others were injured in an exchange of fire with terrorists in the Hassan Khel subdivision on the border between Peshawar and Kohat.

PTI seeks delay in SC appointments over seniority row



ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) As concerns over judges' seniority grow, opposition Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Senator Barrister Syed Ali Zafar on Sunday urged Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi to postpone the Judicial Commission of Pakistan's (JCP) meeting scheduled for today (Monday). The session is set to consider the elevation of eight more judges to the Supreme Court. Mr Zafar's letter came just two days after four SC justices urged the CJP to hold off on appointments until challenges to the 26th Amendment were resolved. Mr Zafar, who represents PTI in the JCP alongside party chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, urged the chief justice to put on hold the commission's meeting until the matter of seniority of judges of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) was decided and resolved. If the commission still chooses to proceed with the meeting anyway, it should not at least consider any of the judges transferred to the IHC recently as eligible for appointment as the chief justice of the high court or the judge of the Supreme Court, Mr Zafar said in the four-page letter.

JCP names 6 high court judges for Supreme Court as PTI boycotts meeting

Islamabad (News Desk) The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) on Monday named six high court judges for elevation to the Supreme Court, while lawyers in Islamabad staged protests, demanding that the moot be postponed. The JCP meeting comes amidst opposition voiced by four apex court judges and also follows the recent transfer of judges to the Islamabad High Court (IHC), which was opposed by five IHC judges. The JCP, which approves judicial appointments, will finalise appointments for eight vacant SC positions. Under the much-debat-

ed 26th Constitutional Amendment, the commission was reconstituted to include four members of the parliament. According to a press release issued by the JCP today, a meeting was held to consider the nominations for appointment of high court judges in the SC and, by a majority of its total membership, nominated six judges. The chief justices of all high courts except the Lahore High Court (LHC) were among the six judges chosen. These six judges are Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar, Justice Muhammad Shafiq Siddiqui, Jus-

ice Salahuddin Panhwar, Justice Shakeel Ahmad, Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim. The commission — also by a majority of its total membership — nominated Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb as the acting judge of the SC. On the other hand, lawyers gathered at various locations in Islamabad today, with the Lawyers' Action Committee staging a protest near D-Chowk. Meanwhile, the entry route to the Red Zone was closed off with several other roads also blocked. Holding an Urdu banner reading "26th Constitutional Amend-

ment unacceptable", the demonstrators raised slogans against it. They also chanted "Azaadi" (freedom) and "Lawyers' unity zindabad" (long live lawyers' unity). Around 100 lawyers also gathered at Serena Chowk as the route to Nadra Chowk was blocked, a Dawn.com correspondent reported, adding that the Serena Chowk was also barricaded. Lawyers stage a protest walk in Islamabad on Feb 9, 2025. — screengrab from video via Umer Mehtab. Lawyers stage protests in Islamabad against a JCP meeting and the 26th Amendment on Feb 10, 2025.



Lawyers stage protests in Islamabad against a JCP meeting and the 26th Amendment on Feb 10, 2025

Vessel carrying 65 sinks off Libyan coast; Pakistani embassy seeks details of nationals

Islamabad (News Desk) The Foreign Office on Monday said Pakistan's embassy in Libya was seeking details of "Pakistani affectees" as a vessel carrying around 65 passengers capsized near the Marsa Dela port. The development follows a similar incident last month in which a boat carrying 80 passengers

capsized near Morocco. While the identities of at least 13 Pakistanis killed in the incident were confirmed, over 40 Pakistanis were reportedly murdered by African human traffickers on the boat and only 22 survived the tragedy. In a statement today, the FO said: "Our Embassy in Tripoli has informed that a vessel carrying ap-

proximately 65 passengers capsized near the port of Marsa Dela, northwest of Zawiyah city, Libya." It added that the Pakistan Embassy in Tripoli had immediately dispatched a team to "Zawiyah hospital to assist the local authorities in [the] identification of the deceased." The embassy is also trying to ascertain further details

of the Pakistani affectees," the statement said. It is unclear if the passengers onboard the vessel were migrants. "The Crisis Management Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Mofa) has been activated to monitor the situation," the FO said. "Pakistan representative, Last week, the bodies of at least 29 migrants were recovered.

Minor girl dies, 3 others injured as fire engulfs houses, cattle pen in Battagram

Battagram (News Desk) A minor girl died and three others were injured on Monday when a fire erupted in a cattle pen in Battagram's Gut Seri area early on Monday, officials said. "The blaze erupted in the cattle pen of a house and rapidly engulfed four nearby houses, resulting in the death of four-year-old Bushra Bibi," Shumlai Station House Officer (SHO) Farid Khan told Dawn.com. Bushra's mother Sumaira Bibi, 25, was injured in the blaze, along with Rukhsana, 32, and Saeedullah, 20. The deceased and injured were all from the same family, the SHO noted. "One buffalo and three cows also perished in the blaze," he said, adding that a total of four houses were gutted in the incident. The reason for the blaze was not immediately known, the police official said, but an inquiry report into the incident had been filed.

MQM-P plays down internal rifts

KARACHI: (News Desk) Internal rifts within the Mutahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan came under the public spotlight when two groups staged a protest and a counter protest against each other at its temporary headquarters in Bahadurabad. However, the MQM-P tried to play down the incident and said in a statement on Sunday that certain elements were exaggerating on social media "the matter only to create chaos". Ever since the January 2023 merger of the Mustafa Kamal-led Pak Sarzameen Party with the Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui-led MQM-P, the party has experienced a rollercoaster journey due to a constant struggle between different groups vying for control. The latest episode began on Saturday afternoon when a group of MQM-P workers, said to be loyalists of Mustafa Kamal and Anis Kaimkhani, stormed the Bahadurabad headquarters and allegedly misbehaved with some senior members there. They sought an explanation to a recent decision of MQM-P chairman Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui through which he not only assigned responsibilities to the members of his central committee but also made Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori the "caretaker" of the party's lawmakers in the Sindh Assembly. The situation became very intense when a number of MQM-P workers arrived at the Bahadurabad headquarters ostensibly to counter Kamal-Kaimkhani loyalists.

IHC suggests Justice Dogar's elevation to Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has included Justice Sardar Mohammad Sarfraz Dogar in its list of nominees for vacant Supreme Court positions. Initially, the IHC had forwarded the names of three judges — Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb — to the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) for consideration. However, the administration has now revised the list to include Justice Dogar as well. The JCP is set to meet today (Monday) to finalise appointments for eight vacant Supreme Court positions. Earlier this month, the commission sought nominations from all high courts, requesting a list of five senior judges from each. The IHC initially nominated only three judges because the other two senior judges, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri and Justice Babar Sattar, did not meet the minimum requirement of five years of service. However, Justice Dogar, along with two judges from the Sindh High Court and Balochistan High Court, was recently transferred to the IHC. Following his transfer, the IHC administration revised its seniority list and designated him as the senior puisne judge. Finally, his name has also been sent to the JCP. Days before Justice Dogar's name was added, five judges of the IHC approached Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi and IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq to reclaim their seniority.

IT minister reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to transparency, accountability on digital platforms

Islamabad (News Desk) Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecom Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Monday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to transparency and accountability in digital platforms at a technology conference in Riyadh. The Leap 2025, being held in Riyadh from Feb 9 to 12, witnessed a "large gathering of Pakistani and Saudi business leaders, government officials, and technology experts", according to a news release.

Speaking at one panel called "Shaping the future of ethical AI: multilateral perspectives on governance and risk management", the minister highlighted "the transformative impact of AI, urging multilateral cooperation and strong regulatory frameworks to ensure AI benefits all segments of society". She stressed the importance of data privacy, security, and fairness in artificial intelligence (AI) systems, calling for global

collaboration to establish responsible AI governance models that prevent discrimination and ensure equal access to digital opportunities. The minister also emphasised bridging the digital divide, particularly in developing nations, by promoting inclusive policies and capacity-building initiatives. Khawaja advocated for AI to be a tool for social empowerment, ensuring that its benefits extend beyond economic growth

to create a more equitable digital future. Addressing sustainability and accountability, she urged for environmentally responsible AI development, highlighting the need to minimise AI's carbon footprint. She reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to transparency and accountability in digital platforms, advocating for a global governance framework that ensures ethical AI deployment while fostering innovation.



Speaking on Pakistan's AI strategy, the minister underscored the government's dedication to developing a comprehensive AI policy that prioritises

technological advancement alongside ethical considerations. She emphasised that Pakistan aims to leverage AI to enhance public services.