



DPM calls PC to act as central clearinghouse for economic decisions



Pakistan's High Commissioner meets Chairman PMYP at London



Shaza launches artificial intelligence module at civil services academy

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New transparent system replaces decades of corrupt practices in Ramadan Package: PM

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said the federal government had established a transparent system to provide subsidized essential food items to the underprivileged during Ramadan, replacing a decades-old corrupt system of financial irregularities and mismanagement in utility stores.

He directed all relevant institutions to develop an even more effective and beneficial relief package for the upcoming holy month.

The prime minister was chairing a review meeting on the proposed Ramadan package and third-party validation of last year's package. During the meeting, he praised all relevant institutions and ministries on the report by a reputable audit firm regarding the trans-

parency of last year's Ramadan package.

He noted that deserving individuals were deprived of their rights due to corruption in utility stores.

Financial support and social well-being for the poor and the middle class are among the top priorities of the government, the prime minister said directing that subsidy amounts for the Ramadan package for the deserving people should be distributed exclusively through digital wallets so that their dignity and respect was not compromised.

He said that providing subsidy amounts to the public through digital wallets will also prove to be a milestone in achieving a cashless economy. "The inclusion of the State Bank of Pakistan in the distribution.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presiding over a meeting on Federal Government's Ramadan Package.

Sindh minister Ghani welcomes KP CM Sohail Afridi upon arrival in Karachi

PEAK POINT



KARACHI: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi arrived in Karachi on Friday to begin a three-day visit aimed at mobilising support for Pakistan Tehreek-e-

Insaf's (PTI) street movement. Sindh Labour Minister Saeed Ghani received the KP chief minister at the airport, where the two were seen exchanging greetings. During the welcome, Afridi was presented with a traditional Sindhi cap and Ajrak. During the visit, Afridi will meet party leadership, as well as lawyers, business organisations, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, and media representatives in Karachi. At Islamabad Airport, members of the public took selfies with the chief minister, who was accompanied by provincial cabinet members and K-P's members of the National and Provincial Assemblies. Speaking to reporters at the airport, Afridi said Sindh party leadership had shared the visit schedule and called for participation in planned activities, including a rally at Mazar-e-Quaid on Sunday. CM Afridi announced that he would hold a major public gathering at Mazar-i-Quaid.

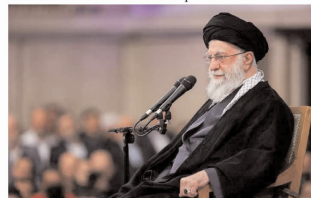
Iran's Supreme Leader urges Trump to address domestic issues

PEAK POINT

IRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Friday urged US President Donald Trump to focus on domestic issues in the United States, responding to Trump's recent remarks about closely monitoring developments in Iran. Earlier, President Trump warned that the United States would respond forcefully if Iranian authorities resorted to violence against protesters, saying Washington was watching the situation "very closely."

Iran was largely cut off from the outside world on Friday after authorities blacked out the internet to curb expanding protests, with phone calls not reaching

the country, flights cancelled and online Iranian



news sites only intermittently updating. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei accused protesters of acting on behalf of US President Donald Trump, saying rioters were attacking public properties and warning that Tehran would not tolerate people acting as "mercenaries for foreigners."

The protests that began over soaring infla-

tion in the Islamic Republic late last month

Take to the streets," Trump, who bombed Iran last summer and who last week warned Tehran it could come to the protesters' aid, said on Friday he would not meet Pahlavi and was "not sure that it would be appropriate" to back him.

The images published by state television overnight showed what it said were burning buses, cars and motorbikes as well as fires at metro stations and banks. It accused the People's Mujahedin Organisation, an opposition faction that splintered off after the 1979 Islamic Revolution and also known as the MKO, of being behind the unrest. A state television journalist standing in front of the fires on Shariati Street in the Caspian Sea port.

Iran's fragmented external opposition factions called for more protests on Friday with Reza Pahlavi, exiled son of the late ruling shah, telling Iranians in a social media post: "The eyes of the world are upon you.

Asif urges PTI to change attitude for dialogue

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Thursday urged the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to change

Its an attitude for initiating dialogue with government. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government should also extend full support to security institutions for fighting war on terror, he said while talking to a private television channel. He said, we are facing terrorism in the provincial parts due to weak policies of PTI's last regime. PTI leaders should accept the mistakes made.

Tarar accuses PTI of securing exemption from TTP attacks

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Attaullah Tarar strongly criticised the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, alleging that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had secured an "exemption" from attacks by the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Addressing a press conference on Friday, Tarar claimed that PTI leaders feared the militant group, which is why they were not targeted. He said it was deeply unfortunate that a province known for its brave and dignified people was being governed by what he termed a narrow-minded and irresponsible leadership.

We are free to carry out military action in any country, Trump says

PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has said that he has the authority to carry out military action against all countries of the world, and that his "own morals" are the only limit that can restrain him. "I do not recognise any international law." In an interview to The New York Times, President Trump made it clear that his decisions are not constrained by international laws. "I am free to take action in any country to protect America's national security and interests. "My own morals, my own judgment — this is the only thing that restrains me."

Explaining his position, the US president said that strong measures and military actions help safe-

guard America's global interests. Citing the exam-



ples of Greenland and Venezuela, he said that by using American power he can strengthen his country's interests on the global stage.

President Trump said that at times it may seem necessary to follow international law, but its application depends on how that law is defined. He emphasized that the real

decision should be based on morality. The US president also expressed intentions to manage Venezuela's affairs for more than a year and to retain control over its oil. He said that if the US nuclear agreement with Russia expires, then so be it, but China should be included in such an agreement. He said that although China has its own views on the Taiwan issue

— and Chinese President Xi Jinping considers Taiwan to be part of China — he does not believe that Xi Jinping would carry out military action against Taiwan during his presidency. President Trump said that what action China takes regarding Taiwan depends on the Chinese president. He said he would not be pleased with any Chinese action against Taiwan, while also expressing hope that China will not take action against Taiwan. This interview has emerged at a time when debates are ongoing worldwide regarding US military operations and international relations. Trump made it clear that he has freedom in the use of global power and considers only his own moral judgment.

Fawad calls on Nawaz Sharif to help resolve Pakistan's political crisis

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Former Federal Minister Fawad Chaudhry on Friday urged Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) president and former



prime minister Nawaz Sharif to play a role in resolving political turmoil in the country.

Talking to media after appearing in an anti-terrorism court, he emphasised the need for political negotiations to address the ongoing instability in Pakistan. He noted that the country's political tensions have reached a critical point, with the opposition failing to engage constructively. Fawad Chaudhry stressed that the real heirs of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are currently imprisoned, while "guest actors" in the party—those not genuinely invested in the political cause—are refusing to participate in talks. He criticised the government for granting too much leeway to these actors, many of whom are also traveling abroad, rather than focusing on resolving the nation's political crisis. In his statement, Chaudhry called on the government to release political prisoners.



SPORTS



PSL expansion: PM Shehbaz meets representatives of two new teams



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday met representatives of the firms that won the bidding for two new teams in the Pakistan Super League (PSL).

The delegation included Hamza Majeed of O-Z Developers, which secured the Sialkot team, and Fawad Sarwar of FKS, the firm that won the bid for the Hyderabad team.

The prime minister congratulated the representatives of both teams and extended his best wishes for their success. He also paid tribute to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and the PCB management for conducting a successful and transparent bidding process. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif noted that the bidding for the new PSL teams was broadcast live on television, which clearly reflected the transparency of the process.

He said the inclusion of two new teams would help promote cricket at the grassroots level and provide opportunities for emerging talent to come forward.

The prime minister described the addition of the two teams as "a breath of fresh air" for the PSL. He said it was highly encouraging that international firms participated in the bidding, as this would help boost foreign investment in Pakistan.

He added that overseas

Pakistanis have always played an important role in the country's development, and the strong interest shown by both local and international firms in the bidding process highlighted the growing popularity of the PSL at the international level.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attullah Tarar were also present during the meeting.

HBL PSL grows bigger after successful auction, welcomes two new franchises



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced the successful conclusion of the HBL PSL Teams Auction 2026 for induction of two new Franchises, marking a significant milestone in the continued growth and evolution of the league. As a result of the auction process, Team 7 has been awarded to Hyderabad, while Team 8 will represent Sialkot, officially expanding the HBL PSL to eight teams, said a press release. The auction attracted strong interest from prospective investors, with nine bidders participating in the Live Auction at Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad, reflecting the growing commercial strength, global appeal, and long-term sustainability of the HBL PSL. The induction of Hyderabad & Sialkot Teams further strengthens the league's national footprint and underscores PCB's commitment to inclusivity, regional representation, and fan engagement across Pakistan. In the first round of the Auction, the base price for the seventh team was set at PKR 110 crore and after a fierce round of bidding US-based FKS Group led by Mr Fawad Sarwar made the winning bid worth PKR 1,750,000,000 and chose Hyderabad out of the six available city names.

Noor Zaman gives former world champion a run for his money before exiting Karachi Open



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's squash sensation Noor Zaman gave former world champion Mohamed Elshorbagy a run for his money as he took the Englishman to five intense games at the Karachi Open quarterfinals before being defeated and ending Pakistan's streak at the international tournament.

Noor had a shaky start in the first game against the former world number one, who wowed the crowd with exceptional shots that the 21-year-old Pakistani couldn't keep up with, winning 11-2. But Noor had the advantage of a home crowd that was cheering him on for every handful of points he won, finding his footing in the second game that Elshorbagy took 11-8. It was in the third game that Noor finally found his momentum and defeated Elshorbagy 11-6 to stay in the running for a spot in the semifinals. He exited the court to "shabash Noor!" from the crowd of sports enthusiasts and former athletes in Creek Club's glass court.

Noor had begun loosening Elshorbagy's grip on what otherwise seemed like a sure-shot, three-game victory for the current world number four and tournament fourth seed.

The two were neck-and-neck in the fourth game before Noor pulled ahead with some tactical shots just above the tin that stunned Elshorbagy. Karachi had turned up, albeit in a small crowd, to see world-class action, and the senior and junior world champions delivered on that expectation. Fists pumping, sweat drenching, the green T-shirt covered with his sponsors, Noor was in his element.

BN Polo clinch fourth place as semis line-up confirmed at Allama Iqbal Polo Cup

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The 6th Allama Iqbal Polo Cup 2025/26, sponsored by Master Paints and being held in the loving memory of the late Sufi Haris, continued with intense action at the Jinnah Polo Fields on Thursday, as penalty shootouts decided the final league placings and set the stage for the much-anticipated semifinals.

Two closely fought penalty shootouts marked the day, with teams battling for pride and final standings after finishing level on points in the league phase. In the match to decide the fourth and fifth positions, BN Polo emerged victorious over PB Polo by a narrow 4-3 margin in the penalty shootout. The contest was evenly matched throughout, but BN Polo held their nerve in the decisive moments to secure fourth



place in the tournament.

Earlier, the penalty shootout for the sixth and seventh positions saw Team Balochistan edge past Rijas/Sheikhoo.

In another tight encounter, Team Balochistan prevailed 3-2 in the shootout, finishing sixth overall, while Rijas/Sheikhoo had to settle for seventh place despite a

spirited performance.

The semifinal line-up has been confirmed, with four top teams ready to battle for a place in the final. Today (Friday), the first semifinal will be contested between FG/Din Polo and BN Polo while the second semifinal to feature Master Paints taking on Diamond Paints.

Nasir Hussain replaces Aleem Dar as PCB international panel umpire

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has appointed Nasir Hussain as a PCB international panel umpire.

The board has announced the updated composition of its International Match Officials panels following the retirement of Aleem Dar, former PCB and ICC international umpire and Muhammad Javed Malik, former PCB international match referee. In order to fill the vacant positions, Naqvi had constituted an independent committee comprising members of senior management,



The committee was tasked with conducting a comprehensive and transparent review process to identify suitable candidates for nomination to the PCB international panels. The committee evaluated the performance, experience and credentials of all members of the national elite panel of umpires and the national elite panel of match referees. Equal opportu-

nity was provided to all candidates through a structured and transparent selection process, which included interviews. After detailed deliberations, the committee unanimously recommended Nasir Hussain for nomination as a PCB international panel umpire and Kamran Chaudhry for inclusion in the PCB international panel of match referees. Later, the recommendations were approved by the PCB chairman, PCB International Panel Umpires: Muhammad Asif Yaqoob, Rashid Riaz Waqar, Faisal Khan Aftab and Nasir Hussain PCB International Panel Match Referees.

Abdul Qadir Memon elected as PBSA president

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Abdul Qadir Memon has been elected as President of the Pakistan Billiards & Snooker Association (PBSA).

According to a statement issued here, Memon, who was elected in the AGM, had served as Senior Vice President and Honorary Treasurer of PBSA and brings with him rich experience and knowledge.

Memon has served as Patron Pakistan Tax Bar Association, President Pakistan Tax Bar Association (for two terms of two years) and Karachi Tax Bar Association (for two terms).



He has also served as Chairman National Clearing Company of Pakistan, Pakistan Mercantile Exchange Limited and Bank-Islami Modarabas Investment Ltd. He has contributed as Director, Pakistan Stock Exchange Ltd; State Life Insurance Corporation of

Pakistan, Institute of Corporate Governance and Institute of Financial Markets of Pakistan.

Memon has also served as National President, Pakistan Junior Chamber International and Memon Professional Forum. He has widely travelled across the globe and actively participates in sports activities.

He is currently serving as President of the Patients' Benhad Society for the Aga Khan University Hospital and Trustee of Hamdard Laboratories (Waqf) Pakistan.



Senate committee warns sindh government to dismantle tanker mafia as Karachi faces deepening water crisis

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Division issued a blunt warning to the Sindh Government, declaring that Karachi's water crisis has been allowed to spiral into a parallel economy controlled by the tanker mafia, leaving citizens forced to buy water for survival. The committee demanded immediate action to break illegal control over water supply and ordered that Karachi's water infrastructure be upgraded in line with the K-IV project, signaling that continued inaction would no longer be tolerat-

ed. During its session at the Sindh Assembly, the committee expressed grave concern that the tanker mafia has effectively hijacked Karachi's water distribution system. Members stated that residents are being exploited daily due to weak enforcement and failure to operationalize long-term water solutions. The committee stressed that without decisive provincial intervention, the city's water scarcity would continue to worsen despite major public investments. The committee directed the Sindh Government to take urgent measures against illegal water extraction and

tanker operations, while simultaneously modernizing Karachi's water supply network to align it with the K-IV project. It was emphasized that enforcement alone would not be sufficient unless infrastructure gaps were closed and water governance restored. In a move to tighten oversight, the committee decided that funding utilization and physical progress of the K-IV project would be reviewed twice a year. It further recommended convening a joint session of multiple Senate standing committees with the Chief Minister Sindh and key provincial stakeholders,

focused solely on resolving issues surrounding the K-IV project. Senior provincial officials, including the city administration and water utility leadership, are to be called to account in that forum. The meeting also reviewed the performance of National Engineering Services Pakistan, where members raised strong reservations over slow-moving development projects. NES-PAK briefed the committee on dozens of ongoing projects in Sindh and Balochistan with massive public investment at stake. The committee voiced concern over delays and stagnation,

directing the organization to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and ensure timely execution to prevent cost overruns and wasted resources. Separately, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority briefed the committee on a nationwide digitization drive aimed at curbing fuel theft and illegal sales. The plan includes mapping all legal petrol pumps through digital platforms, enabling citizens to identify authorized outlets and report illegal ones. OGRA also outlined a tracking system for oil tank lorries to monitor fuel movement and flag unauthorized diversion, along with

future plans for digital measurement at fuel stations to enhance transparency and curb pilferage. The proceedings reflected growing parliamentary frustration over weak regulation, delayed infrastructure delivery, and the unchecked rise of informal networks exploiting essential services. The committee made it clear that water security, infrastructure accountability, and regulatory enforcement would remain under strict parliamentary oversight until tangible results are delivered on the ground.

PPRA, GBPPRA sign MoU to launch EPADS in GB

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) and the Gilgit-Baltistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (GBPPRA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to roll out the e-Pakistan Acquisition and Disposal System (EPADS) in Gilgit-Baltistan.

The MoU was signed by Project Director EPADS, PPRA, Sheikh Afzal Raza and Managing Director/Secretary Finance, GBPPRA, Najeeb Alam.



The signing ceremony was attended by the Managing Director Federal PPRA, Hasnat Ahmed Qureshi, and Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan, Abrar Ahmed Mirza. Managing Director of the Federal Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, Hasnat

Ahmed Qureshi, while speaking on the occasion, stated that expansion and nationwide implementation of EPADS is part of the Prime Minister's Economic Governance Reform Program agenda.

He added that this initiative is also aligned with the Prime Minister's "Digital Pakistan Vision" to promote transparency, competition, and accountability in public procurement and to ensure the efficient utilization of public resources. He assured full cooperation and technical support for the implementation of EPADS in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Chief Secretary Abrar Ahmed Mirza termed the initiative a significant step in public procurement reforms for GB. He said the implementation of EPADS would make government procurement more transparent, fair, and efficient, and requested sustained collaboration and technical assistance from the federal authority to ensure smooth and effective implementation.

Under the MoU, EPADS will be formally rolled out in Gilgit-Baltistan. In the initial phase, extensive training sessions will be conducted for officers and departmental teams to ensure seamless

adoption and to address any technical or administrative challenges.

At the end of the ceremony, MD Hasnat Ahmed Qureshi presented a commemorative shield to Chief Secretary Abrar Ahmed Mirza.

The signing of this MoU marks a decisive step toward implementing a modern, fully digital procurement system in Gilgit-Baltistan. The platform is designed to ensure transparency, accountability, and seamless monitoring across every stage of public procurement, thereby reinforcing the principles of good governance.

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Riverine criminals

THE Sindh government's decision to launch what its home minister described as a "massive operation" to eliminate bandits in the katcha areas along the Indus marks an important turn in the province's fight to reclaim the state's writ from riverine criminal gangs. The minister vowed to use state force to eliminate the katcha dacoits and their facilitators, and permanently destroy their hideouts. The resolve expressed by him to ruthlessly crush the criminals underscores the provincial leadership's renewed political will to put an end to heinous crimes such as kidnappings for ransom, highway robberies and murders in the area. This is not the first time the province has launched a police operation against the riverine criminals who have operated in the area for decades with impunity. What distinguishes the current drive — if the Sindh government's claims are taken at face value — is the apparent realisation by the political authorities that only a large-scale, sustained operation can address the problem. While Sindh's decision to equip police personnel assigned to the operation with modern technology and weaponry reflects its resolve, the success of the operation will depend on the law enforcers' own capacity and training to sustain such an undertaking in a tough area for several months.

Geopolitical cauldron

ANEELA SHAHZAD

If anyone was thinking that global matters were improving in terms of peace or prosperity, it's time to take the shocker — humanity is creeping down moral decrepitude and extreme political instability, by the minute! The geopolitical cauldron is bubbling with wars, and international laws are broken every day!

The kidnapping of democratically elected, popular Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro by the US and detaining him in New York take us back to the sad memory of how Iraq's socialist leader Saddam Hussein was killed in a NATO-administered sham prosecution; and how the body of Muammar Gaddafi, the man who was running a truly welfare state in his country, was dragged in Libyan streets.

Waging unprovoked, unjust wars upon weaker states and toppling governments via political interference, colour revolutions, coups and even assassinations is a norm for the US. Maduro's kidnapping is just an addition to the list of America's illegal activities. Rather, it has laid bare the savage, hidden beneath the white skin, the three-piece suit and the false slogans of democracy and liberalism. It is clear now that the US is the super-rogue state of the world. But sadly, the other emerging powers also seem to be adding to the mess, not lessening it.

For those of us who fail to connect the dots between one conflict and the other and between one regime-change and another, sheer naivety will kill us all in the end. We are too naive to ascertain how big powers sell off the fate of humanity behind closed doors every now and then. And certainly, we were too naive to think that the US, which declared the revival of the Monroe Doctrine last month, would already start acting as the fire-spitting dragon of the Western Hemisphere!

In the big picture, everywhere we look, we find deepening, unsolvable geopolitical quagmires. Let's make a mental map starting with Bashar al-Assad's sudden exit from Syria, where all indicators were pointing to his victory. To that, add the shaky peace deal that Hamas signed with Israel, after which the Jewish state has been emboldened to take its persecution and expulsion strategy to the next level, and after which the same Hamas that was being celebrated as heroes in the world community has become irrelevant with the stroke of a pen. Also, remember how the same Iran-backed militias, including Hezbollah, that were kicking Israel in the teeth, suddenly made a peace deal and went quiet. The average person must ask, is all the struggle and hardship that people face for their legitimate rights sold away every time? Is it a smokescreen

behind which regional and global players settle their own scores — and the people are left abandoned every time? Now map Ukraine against Russia and the Trade War against China. President Donald Trump had been hailing his 28-point peace plan that gave President Vladimir Putin much of what he wants. But after Venezuela, Trump has given a green light for a multinational force inside Ukraine, signalling a longer and bigger war. The same Trump who wanted to do business with Russia and China suddenly signed a \$330 million fighter-jet deal with Taiwan. In return, China has immediately sanctioned 10 US defence companies, including Boeing and Northrop, freezing their assets in China. On the same date, the US Department of Defence published a report saying that America's vulnerability has increased due to China's humongous military buildup, including in its nuclear arsenal. The report predicted that China would seize Taiwan by 2027. Venezuela and Russia had a Strategic Partnership Pact, and China had invested over \$100 billion in its trade. It is surprising, then, how they both were unable to secure Maduro's safety. Are they incapable, or have they changed plans? Instead of long-term consistent planning, geopolitics seems to be moving on shifting soil, and world leaders seem.

Courtesy Tribune

Forgotten women

NASIRA HABIB

SEVENTY-SEVEN per cent of Pakistan's more than 11 million farms are smaller than five acres, yet the country's agricultural policies rarely reflect this reality. They fail to recognise that the survival of these farms depends heavily on women's labour and ecological knowledge. Despite their central role, women remain largely invisible in agricultural policy, planning, and data.

Across Pakistan's agroecological zones — in Punjab's plains, Sindh's deserts, and the mountain valleys of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan — women's knowledge of soils, seeds, plants and seasonal rhythms has been refined over generations. They traditionally managed organic materials in ways that maintained soil fertility. They selected diverse crop varieties, preserving traits for soil types, water availability, taste, cookability, and resilience. These processes yielded thousands of seed varieties emerging from local ecosystems. They developed an intimate and holistic understanding of their local ecosystems, soil and plant health, and plant properties, including medicinal uses. Grandma's remedies still come in handy to heal our minds and bodies. Women also sustained livestock, which is a central pillar of food sovereignty. They fed and watered cattle, buffaloes, goats, sheep and poultry; collected fodder and grasses; milked animals; made yoghurt, lassi, cheese, butter and ghee; and applied traditional remedies for common illnesses. Their labour formed the bedrock of mixed crop-livestock systems, which nourished rural families and stabilised incomes. But the Green Revolution of the 1960s and 1970s dismissed the critical role of women. Their composting, nutrient-recycling and carbon-sequestering systems were abandoned in favour of synthetic fertilisers that initially boosted yields but eventually depleted soil organic matter and disrupted microbial life.

Courtesy Dawn

Ali Pervaiz Malik engages Pakistan's envoys to mobilise global participation for PMIF 2026



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik held a briefing session with Pakistan's Ambassadors and High Commissioners posted in key foreign capitals to advance preparations and mobilise international participation for the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF26).

The meeting was conducted virtually with Pakistan's Missions abroad, while senior officials from the Petroleum Division and representa-

tives of key public sector entities attended in person, said a press release issued here. The session focused on aligning diplomatic outreach with national economic priorities and positioning PMIF26 as a premier global platform for investment in Pakistan's mineral and mining sector. During the briefing, the federal minister outlined the vision, scale and strategic importance of PMIF26, emphasising that the forum represents a national economic priority. He urged Ambassadors and High Commissioners to actively

engage with leading mining companies, institutional investors, financial institutions and relevant government counterparts in their host countries to ensure broad-based and meaningful international participation.

"PMIF26 will serve as a key platform for promoting mining awareness, stimulating economic activity and attracting sustainable investment into Pakistan's mineral sector," the Minister stated. Recalling the success of PMIF 2025, the Minister highlighted that the previous edition was organised in line with international standards and delivered tangible outcomes. The forum attracted participation from over 50 countries and more than 5,000 delegates, while the signing of 14 MoUs with globally recognised companies validated growing international confidence in Pakistan's mineral sector. Building on this momentum, PMIF 2026 is being positioned as a strategic economic initiative aimed at steering Pakistan's mineral and mining sector towards sustainable growth and long-term value creation.

Minister leads Islamabad environment review, orders streamlined action

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik on Friday chaired a high-level meeting to review environmental protection measures and the preservation of green cover in the federal capital, stressing the need for coordinated and transparent action to address public health and ecological concerns.

During the briefing, Dr Malik was informed about an ongoing campaign aimed at reducing the presence of non-native paper mulberry trees in Islamabad.

Officials told the minister that the species is highly allergenic and a major contributor to severe allergies and asthma-related health issues among residents of the capital.

The campaign focuses on the selective removal of paper mulberry trees in areas where their concentration exceeds 90 per cent, including Shakarparian, F-9 Park, and parts of the H-8 and H-9 sectors. These will be replaced with native, fruit-bearing trees and pine species.

Dr Malik was assured that the campaign

would not lead to a reduction in Islamabad's overall tree cover, as plans are in place to plant more trees than those removed. Replantation efforts will include the installation of mature native trees to accelerate ecological recovery.

Emphasising timely implementation, the minister directed relevant departments to strengthen coordination to ensure plantation activities are carried out during the upcoming spring season.

He underlined the importance of synchronised planning between the Ministry of Climate Change, EPA, CDA and IWMB to maximise environmental and public health benefits. Dr Malik also instructed officials to develop a transparent, well-defined and streamlined mechanism to ensure full compliance with existing laws, rules and procedures governing environmental interventions, including permissions and licensing.

A comprehensive stocktaking of the current situation was conducted during the meeting, and the minister directed all stakeholders to maintain close coordination on future steps.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik chairs a high-level meeting on Environmental Protection of Pakistan.

DPM calls PC to act as central clearinghouse for economic decisions

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday stressed that the Planning Commission (PC) should act as the central clearinghouse for economic decisions, providing guidance to ministries and divisions to maintain policy consistency and development planning, while supporting sustainable reforms to strengthen Pakistan's economic governance.

The deputy prime minister chaired a meeting on economic reforms, highlighting the historic and central role of the Planning Commission (PC) in Pakistan's economic and development policymaking, a DPM's Office news release said. He emphasized the need to empower PC to drive strategic policy give priorities, and oversee public investment effectively.

The DPM was of the view that the Planning Commission should serve as the apex body under the direct leadership of the Prime Minister, integrating a Policy & Planning Wing.

Shaza launches artificial intelligence module at civil services academy

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Thursday inaugurated the Artificial Intelligence 101 module at the Civil Services Academy (CSA) in Islamabad.

Addressing the Special CSS Batch comprising 52 probationary officers from Balochistan, 46 from Sindh and 10 additional officers from Sindh, encouraged by the Federal Minister.

This manual has been developed as a joint initiative of the Ministry of IT & Telecom, Planning Commission, CSA, and atompam.

She briefed the officers on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Digital Nation Vision and the Digital Nation Pakistan Act, which laid the legislative founda-



tion for Pakistan's digital transformation across three verticals of Digital Economy, Digital Society and Digital Governance.

The Minister said Pakistan's Digital Nation Pakistan Act, launched last year, is not merely a technology document but a governance reform framework anchored in capability, responsibility and institutional readiness.

She said the National Artificial Intelligence Policy places strong emphasis on building human capacity within government.

Pakistan's High Commissioner meets Chairman PMYP at London

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Dr. Muhammad Faisal on Thursday met with Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan in London to discuss youth engagement, overseas employment opportunities, and bilateral cooperation between two countries.

According to official sources, during the meeting, both sides held consultations on expanding cooperation for youth-focused initiatives and developing mechanisms to connect overseas Pakistani youth with national development opportunities.

Chairman Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan emphasized that



overseas youth engagement would strengthen Pakistan's national youth agenda and help bridge young Pakistanis abroad with government-led initiatives.

The two sides also discussed plans for hosting an Overseas Pakistani Youth Convention, aimed at creating structured platforms for diaspora youth engagement. High Commissioner Dr. Muhammad Faisal appreciated the efforts of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and commended the Chairman's outreach.

Saudi envoy meets climate change minister

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, on Friday called on Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik, during which both sides discussed ways to enhance bilateral and strategic cooperation.

According to an official statement, the meeting focused on Pakistan's priorities related to climate resilience and sustainable development, with the minister underscoring the importance of international partnerships in tackling global environmental challenges.



Dr Musadik Malik also appreciated Saudi Arabia's continued support and engagement with Pakistan in various sectors.

The Saudi ambassador reaffirmed the Kingdom's commitment to further strengthening bilateral ties.

Both sides reiterated the longstanding, brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and expressed.

Pakistan shifting focus of relations with US from geopolitics to geo-economics: Ambassador Rizwan

PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh has said that from a national security perspective, Pakistan's focus is shifting from geopolitics to geo-economics, adding that the scope of the bilateral cooperation would be further expanded in 2026.

Ambassador Rizwan Sheikh said this during a meeting with Chairman of the US House Armed Services Committee, Congressman Mike Rogers, a press statement issued on

Friday said. He characterized the past year as one of significant achievements, setting a positive trajectory for the partnership.

The envoy expressed confidence that the coming year would see a deepening of collaboration across mutually beneficial areas.

Drawing attention to the events of May 2025, Ambassador Rizwan Sheikh stated that due to India's irresponsible and aggressive posture, the security situation of the region faced grave threats.

"In a conflict between



two nuclear-capable states, the scope has moved beyond conventional war to the use of cutting-edge technology."

He said the use of dual-capability weapons like the BrahMos missile in a region home to 1.7 billion people is extremely concerning.

"Any decision based on apprehensions and misperceptions can be detrimental to regional peace and security", he said adding that the events of May 2025 proved that despite its declared Indo-Pacific posture, the bulk of India's military capability remains oriented against

Pakistan.

Regarding the management of the May crisis, the political acumen and personal interest of the US President is commendable, he added. The ambassador said the fundamental and pressing issue requiring resolution between Pakistan and India is the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people. "For sustainable regional peace and stability, the continued engagement and commitment of the US is of utmost importance." The ambassador pointed out that the threads of terrorist.