

Gilani calls for stronger local government system, effective parliamentary oversight



Azam Nazeer Tarar calls for resolving Pakistan-India disputes through dialogue, international law



AI to become $4.8tr global economy by 2033: Shaza Fatima

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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

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PM Shehbaz joins world leaders at COP31, will outline Pakistan's climate priorities

PEAK POINT

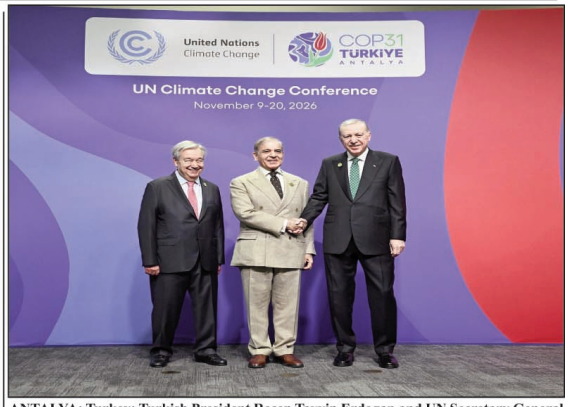
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday arrived at the COP31 Antalya Leaders' Summit in Turkiye, where he is set to highlight Pakistan's climate priorities, along with other world leaders.

Delegates from nearly 200 countries are meeting in the Mediterranean resort city of Antalya as global greenhouse gas emissions show little sign of falling and wars, inflation and other crises compete for political attention.

Ahead of the conference, PM Shehbaz arrived at the venue where he was received by Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Pakistan TV reported. World leaders, including PM Shehbaz, gathered for a group photograph at the summit, it added.

For his part, PM Shehbaz will highlight Pakistan's climate priorities and emphasise the urgent need for enhanced global climate action and strengthened international cooperation to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said following the premier's arrival in Turkiye on Tuesday night.

The Foreign Office (FO) has said the prime minister will also highlight "Pakistan's steps towards rapid solarisation and expansion of its renewable energy capacity, as part of its transition towards a cleaner and more resilient economy, along with its efforts to strengthen disaster preparedness.



ANTALYA: Turkey: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres receives Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif upon his arrival at the venue of the Leaders' Summit of the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Former Afghan army member arrested for alleged terrorist activities in Pakistan

PEAK POINT



PESHAWAR: Security forces and law enforcement agencies have arrested a man formerly associated with the Afghan National Army (ANA) for allegedly carrying out terrorist activities in Pakistan, it emerged on Wednesday.

At a media briefing, Additional Inspector (AIG) General Abbas Ahsan of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police claimed the suspect, identified as Hikmatullah alias Hamza, was arrested during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber district's Tirah valley.

"The suspect was arrested on November 7. He had served in the Afghan National Army before joining militant organisations," Abbas claimed.

He added that the "Kharji" had been associated with several groups, including the banned Hafiz Gul Bahadur group, and had allegedly confessed to carrying out terrorist activities in Pakistan. Fitna al Khawarij is a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan. According to Abbas, Hikmatullah hailed from Mangyar village in the Chamkani area of Afghanistan's Paktia province.

Pakistan Army wins Inter-Services Combat Shooting Championship

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Army won the fourth Inter-Services Combat Shooting Championship, while Havildar Fazal Rehman of the Punjab Regiment received the military's highest shooting honour at the closing ceremony of the 46th Pakistan Army Rifle Association (PARA) Central Meet in Jhelum on Wednesday. Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (COAS and CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir attended the ceremony at the Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU) as chief guest, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf attended as guest of honour. The shooting competition was held from Oct. 7 to Nov. 11, with more than 1,500 participants from the Pakistan Army, Navy, Air Force, civil armed forces and civilian organisations.

Participants included personnel from Punjab and Sindh Rangers, Gilgit-Baltistan Scouts and teams from Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and the Federal Rifle Association. According to the ISPR, the Pakistan Army secured the championship trophy in the fourth Inter-Services Combat Shooting Championship.

The Army Marksmanship Unit also won the Prime Minister's Skills at Arms Big Bore National Challenge Match. Havildar Fazal Rehman of the Punjab Regiment received the Master at Arms Trophy, also known as the Doli Cup, the highest military shooting honour.

At least 11 policemen, including DSP, martyred in terrorist attack on Kohat police team



PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR/ DI KHAN: At least 11 police personnel, including a deputy superintendent of police (DSP) and a sub-inspector, were killed and 12 were injured when terrorists attacked a police team during an operation against illegal gold mining in the Gambat area of Kohat in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) on Wednesday, according to officials. A statement from Rescue 1122 said the number of personnel martyred had reached 11, while 12 were injured. Kohat police spokesperson Muhammad Nauman Zeb said the team was heading to conduct a raid against illegal mining when it came under fire in the Darbokach Jalandhar Banda area, located between Kohat and Karak.

Initial reports suggested that the attackers opened fire on police personnel from hilltops, resulting in casualties and damage to police vehicles.

Raza Dar among eight indicted in foreign women rape case

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: A sessions court in Lahore indicted eight suspects, including prime suspect Raza Dar, in a case involving the alleged rape and kidnapping of two foreign women.

Additional Sessions Judge Rafaqat Ali Gondal conducted the hearing, during which jail authorities produced prime suspect, Raza Dar, and others accused before the court. The court also summoned prosecution witnesses to record their statements on December 10. The case was registered at the Defence C Police Station.

Asian Development Bank approves $500m loan to help Pakistan strengthen disaster preparedness

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday approved contingent disaster financing (CDF) facilities up to $500 million for Pakistan to withstand disasters and facilitate disaster response. In a statement, the Manila-based lending agency said the funds will provide prompt budget support following eligible disaster events to help reduce the resulting economic and fiscal impacts. "Floods, earthquakes, and other disasters cause Pakistan an estimated $2 billion in annual average losses," ADB noted, further recalling, "2022 floods alone caused $14.9bn in direct damage and $15.2bn in economic losses, pushing as many as $9.1m people into poverty." "Poor and rural communities have less capacity to recover, while women and girls are disproportionately affected." The



lending agency said the second subprogramme of the Climate and Disaster Resilience Enhancement Programme supported reforms aimed at strengthening disaster preparedness and risk management, as well as integrating resilience measures into Pakistan's development planning and investment, to reduce the impact of future disasters.

"The programme also strengthens Pakistan's disaster risk financing framework and improves the availability of financing following disaster events," the statement added.

"When disaster strikes, it is often the most vulnerable communities that are hit hardest. Investing in preparedness can help protect lives and livelihoods, reduce economic losses, and safeguard the development gains Pakistan has worked hard to achieve," ADB Country Director for Pakistan Emma Fan was quoted as saying.

"This programme will support the country in implementing critical reforms to ensure a more resilient future."

It added that the programme was in accordance with "Pakistan's priorities for managing disaster risks and with ADB's commitment to supporting resilience initiatives across Asia and the Pacific."

In 2024, ADB had also approved a $500m policy-based loan to support climate change and disaster risk reduction and resilience in Pakistan. In May, a report compiled by the think tank Jinnah Institute highlighted that persistent governance failures and weak community-level systems continued to undermine Pakistan's ability to prepare for and respond to climate disasters and called for urgent reforms to build long-term resilience across vulnerable districts.

TTAP holds first meeting to prepare for November All-Parties Conference



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The organising committee of the Tehreek Tahaffuz-e-Aain Pakistan (TTAP) held its first formal meeting on Wednesday in Islamabad to discuss preparations for an all-parties conference scheduled for November 2026. Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader Senator Kamran Murtaza, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Whip Aamir Dogar, Maulana Salahuddin Ayubi, and other TTAP leaders Hussain Ahmad Yousafzai and Khalid Yousaf Chaudhry attended the meeting. Participants reviewed initial preparations for the upcoming conference and discussed administrative arrangements, the consultation process and other organisational matters.



DAILY PEAK POINT
SPORTS



Centurions De Silva, Mendis foil Pakistan as Sri Lanka dig in



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: hananjaya de Silva and Kusal Mendis showed great staying power as both posted centuries to lift Sri Lanka to 404-4 on day three of the first Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi on Wednesday.

De Silva was unbeaten on a polished 167, while Mendis was 117 not out as the pair frustrated Pakistan in an unbroken fifth-wicket stand of 249, bringing Sri Lanka within 30 runs of the home team's total of 434-9 declared.

Mendis became the first Sri Lankan to score a century in his maiden Test as captain, after taking the reins from De Silva before this series.

Their stand is a record for Sri Lanka against Pakistan, improving upon the 207 by Thilan Samaraweera and Tillakaratne Dilshan in Lahore in 2009.

De Silva, lucky to be dropped on 38 by Saud Shakeel off pacer Razaullah, took full advantage of the reprieve and has so far struck 20 boundaries in his 241-ball knock.

Mendis was more aggressive with four sixes and 10 boundaries as Sri Lanka added 290 in the day, before bad light ended play 15 minutes early.

De Silva cracked a boundary off spinner Arafat Minhas to complete his 14th Test hundred, fourth against Pakistan and second at the venue.

Mendis brought up his 11th century with a ramp boundary off Razaullah.

After a day of toil for Pakistan's bowlers, Mohammad Abbas has figures of 2-64 while debutant Saqib Khan is 2-105.

Sri Lanka lost just one wicket in the first session of the day's play as De Silva and Kamindu Mendis put on a 90 for the fourth wicket, ensuring Sri Lanka built up from an overnight total of 114-3.

Kamindu completed his eighth Test fifty before edging Abbas to wicketkeeper Ghazi Ghori to leave Sri Lanka 155-4. His 58 came off 131 balls, peppered with eight fours.

Pakistan had declared their first innings at 434-9 on Tuesday after building on their overnight score of 281-5.

Saud Shakeel top-scored with 93, while debutants Tayyab Arif, Mohammad Taha and Arafat Minhas scored half-centuries to strengthen the hosts' position. In reply, Sri Lanka were 114-3 at the close of the second day.

Peshawar beat Islamabad by 8 wickets to reach ICRC Championship final



PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Peshawar secured a place in the final of the ICRC National Physical Disability Cricket Championship after defeating Islamabad by eight wickets in the first semi-final at Ayub Park Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

Chasing a target of 106 runs, Peshawar reached the destination in 15 overs for the loss of two wickets. Adeel Khan was declared Player of the Match for his stellar all-round performance.

Batting first, Islamabad scored 105 runs for nine wickets in their allotted 20 overs. Syed Wazarat Shah scored 27 runs, Salman Ahmed made 23, and Waqif Shah contributed 13. For Peshawar, Adeel Khan and Asad Usmani bagged three wickets each, while Zaidullah picked up two wickets.

In chasing, Peshawar comfortably achieved the target, guided by Adeel Khan (32), Sareer Ahmed (27), Adeel Shehzad (21), and Rahmatullah (20).

At the conclusion of the semi-final, Chief Guest CEO Al-Sayed Marketing Syed Sher Ali Afridi presented the Player of the Match cash award to Adeel Khan in the presence of PPDCA Secretary Amir-ud-Din Ansari, Head Coach Sabih Azhar, and regional heads Javed Ashraf, Muhammad Nizam, and Muhammad Tahir Raja. The third leg of the championship will be played in Bahawalpur, while the final is scheduled to be held in Karachi on December 3 to mark International.

Rana Sanaullah distributes Rs4 million cash awards among Asian squash champions



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) and President Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) Rana Sanaullah Khan on Wednesday distributed cash awards of Rs1 million each among four members of Pakistan's gold medal-winning men's squash team in recognition of their historic triumph at the 23rd Asian Team Squash Championships 2026.

Rana Sanaullah distributes Rs4 million cash awards among Asian squash champions

The award distribution ceremony was held at the Pakistan Sports Board, Islamabad, to honour the national players for their outstanding performance in the continental championship, held at the Mushaf Squash Complex from November 3 to 7, said a press release.

Rana Sanaullah distributes Rs4 million cash awards among Asian squash champions

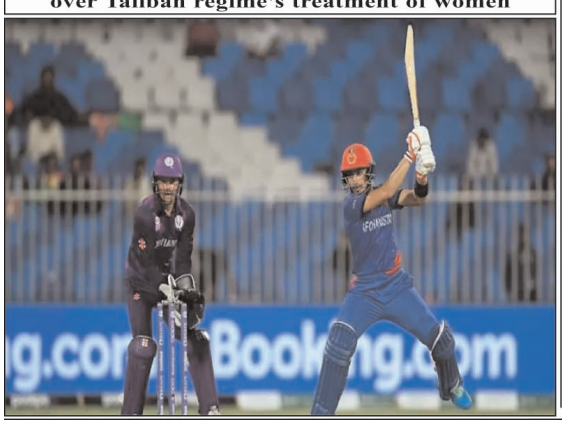
The four players receiving cash awards were Noor Zaman, Muhammad Asim Khan, Nasir Iqbal and Ashab Irfan. Each player received Rs1 million, taking the total cash awards to Rs4 million.

Rana Sanaullah distributes Rs4 million cash awards among Asian squash champions. Secretary Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Director General Pakistan Sports Board Yawar Hussain, Additional Secretary IPC Miran Mohiuddin Soomro and Secretary General Pakistan Squash Federation Group Captain (R) Amir Nawaz also attended the ceremony. Rana Sanaullah distributes.

Bangladesh HC visits PFF, discusses bilateral football cooperation



Scotland suspends cricket ties with Afghanistan over Taliban regime's treatment of women



Pakistan fall short against Iran in 2027 AFC Under-17 Asian Cup qualifiers

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan produced a spirited performance but suffered a narrow 1-0 defeat against Iran in their 2027 AFC Under-17 Championship Group D qualifiers at the Laos National Stadium on Wednesday.

Despite conceding an early goal, Pakistan showed considerable character, taking the game to their opponents and creating several opportunities to find an equaliser.

Iran broke the deadlock in the ninth minute when Amir Mohamed Zarei finished off an attack down Pakistan's right flank.

Muhammad Habib's side responded positively with Nadeem Hussain coming close to restoring parity when he headed a corner straight at the goalkeeper following an impressive piece of skill from Hasnain Ali on the left.

Pakistan continued to press forward with Muhammad Essa causing problems through his pace and attacking runs on the right while Hasnain Ali remained influential on the opposite flank.

Goalkeeper Samar Razzaq kept Pakistan in the contest with a superb save in first-half stoppage time.



Pakistan returned with greater attacking intent after the break, launching repeated attacks in search of an equaliser. Hazrat Abbas came particularly close but failed to convert a one-on-one opportunity.

The Green-shirts continued to push forward as the match entered its closing stages with Haris Khan introduced late on in an attempt to strengthen the attack.

Pakistan were left frustrated in the 89th minute when they believed the ball had crossed the goal line only for the referee to rule that no goal had been scored.

Despite their late efforts, Pakistan could not find a breakthrough and had to settle for a narrow defeat.

Having opened their campaign with a 3-1 victory over Sri .



24 Doctors allegedly holding fake house job certificates, Committee seeks names

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: Serious questions have been raised over the alleged use of fake house job certificates by 24 doctors, with a National Assembly committee seeking their names and details to establish where they are currently working.The issue was raised during a meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on National Health Services, chaired by Dr Mahesh Kumar Malani. Members asked the relevant authorities to provide a complete list of the 24 doctors allegedly holding fake house job certificates, along with details of their present workplaces.The committee's demand has put the spotlight on the verification of medical qualifications and the system responsible for checking house job certificates. However, the allegations have yet to be established, and the committee has sought further information from the authorities.The meeting also raised serious questions about the management of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), including its spending of around Rs22 billion over three years and the response to a fire in its nursery in August.MNA Dr Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro questioned how the Rs22 billion allocated to PIMS had been spent and called for an audit report. She also raised concerns about old air conditioners allegedly linked to the short circuit that caused the nursery fire. She questioned why babies were being kept in the old nursery when a new 200 bed Mother and Child Health facility had been established.The number of babies affected in the incident was described differently during the discussion, with references to 15 and 16 children.The committee also sought an explanation about action against eight people named in the inquiry into the fire. The Health Ministry said the initial inquiry had identified seven people and one more name was added later. The ministry said it had sent a letter to the Interior Ministry, saying further action was now its responsibility. The committee asked for a written report explaining what action had actually been taken.Another major concern was the gap between the ministry's claim of full compliance with the recommendations issued after the incident and the number reported as completed by PIMS management. The ministry claimed that all 34 recommendations had been implemented. However, the PIMS Executive Director told the committee that around 17 had been achieved. The committee demanded a point by point written report to clarify the difference.Officials also informed the committee that around 2,000 PIMS employees had received fire safety and evacuation training under an oversight committee led by General Kayani.The committee further questioned the case of a Grade 16 PIMS employee who was allegedly suspended but later granted early retirement benefits. Members sought an explanation for the decision and asked the authorities to clarify how the employee became eligible for those benefits.The Health Minister, Mustafa Kamal, said the ministry had fulfilled its responsibilities and had no pending action on the recommendations. However, committee members continued to seek clear answers about accountability and implementation. The meeting also discussed a proposed plan to give PIMS greater administrative and financial independence. Under the proposed reforms, the institution could have a chief executive officer selected from the market, with greater powers to manage its affairs. Existing employees would retain their benefits and retirement protections, while future vacancies could be filled through market based contracts as current employees retire.A draft law is being prepared with the involvement of the Law Minister, Health Minister, Establishment Secretary, Health Secretary and private sector experts. The proposed structure would bring PIMS's six components, including the Mother and Child Health facility, Children's Hospital, Cardiac Centre and Islamabad Hospital, under a chief executive officer.The committee also raised concerns about the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority. Although registration and licensing work had started, members questioned the issuance of licences when the authority's board had not yet been formed and required signatures were missing.Mustafa Kamal also told the committee that the Health Ministry had seen 10 secretaries change in 16 months, affecting the continuity of its work. He said the frequent changes had slowed progress and added that the secretaries were not directly under his control.The committee sought written explanations and further details from the relevant authorities on the issues raised during the meeting.

HSA, UNFPA hold consultation to strengthen midwifery education

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Health Services Academy (HSA), in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Pakistan, on Wednesday organized a national stakeholder consultation to assess institutional readiness for the implementation of the Associate Degree Programme in Midwifery (ADP-M). The consultation held under the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, brought together national stakeholders to review findings of an institutional assessment of midwifery education institutions. The assessment focused on evaluating institutional capacities and identifying gaps in infrastructure, human resources, laboratory equipment and other essential requirements for launching the programme. Participants reviewed the findings and provided feedback to help address institutional shortcomings and improve preparedness for effective implementation of the degree programme. The meeting featured remarks by Dr. Gulnara Kadyrkulova, Deputy Representative of UNFPA, Dr. Shabana Saleem, Director General Population, Ministry of National Health Services, Dr. Maryam Sarfraz, Dean, School of Midwifery and Director Projects, HSA, Dr. Naila Yasmin, Programme Analyst, UNFPA, Najma Mangi, Director General Nursing, Sindh and Dr. Shakil Ahmed Khan, Director Health Services, Gilgit-Baltistan.



Opinion & Editorial

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The uniting opposition

New political realignments are being envisaged to push a strong anti-government agenda. JUI-F is at the vanguard of efforts to build a strong narrative. The party, led by Maulana Fazlur Rehman, is reportedly in talks with TTAP, the six-party opposition alliance. Mehmood Khan Achakzai's personal efforts to bring the Maulana into the spotlight, along with PTI's support, for a grand coalition of estranged political forces, are now creating ripples. The imposition of governor's rule in K-P has provided a common denominator for the opposition forces that had thus far remained directionless. It had failed to devise a formidable strategy on issues related to the release of political prisoners as well as the controversial constitutional amendments that have undermined the functioning of state institutions. Rehman has lately been speaking out against the government, expressing his displeasure with policies that have adversely affected two restive provinces. The deteriorating law and order situation in Balochistan, the impasse in K-P and the discord among political parties over the creation of more provinces are simmering as emerging agendas for the opposition, and it remains to be seen what effective course of action is adopted. PTI's inability to bring people onto the streets and play a role in the parliament have presented the JUI-F with an opportunity to take the lead.

American dilemma

Mahir Ali

"IRAN militarily is effectively over," the US president declared on Monday following talks with the Qatari prime minister. "We're just keeping it the status quo … at the behest" of Iran's neighbours. The Gulf states include some of Donald Trump's biggest benefactors, and they have borne the brunt of Iranian military retaliation. Trump has also acknowledged that the domestic unpopularity of the US-Israeli war on Iran contributed to the comprehensive thrashing his Republican Party received in last week's midterm elections, yet insisted he had no regrets because the goal of preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon remained paramount. That's an absurd premise in a variety of ways; besides, Iran is unlikely to consider the conflict over as long as it is militarily menaced by a superpower or its regional proxies.

What's notable, though, is that unlike most US aggressions against faraway nations, the majority opinion opposed the assault on Iran from the outset. The co-belligerent's bloodlust presumably put the kibosh on jingoistic impulses. In a CBS interview on Sunday, Trump admitted that one reason for the midterm drubbing was that "there's a great dislike, incredibly, for Israel". There's nothing 'incredible' about popular distaste for a genocidal power, especially when your tax dollars are enabling its egregious excesses.

It's true that anti-Israel sentiment paid dividends for candidates across large parts of the US, but the infamous American Israel Public Affairs Committee and other pro-Zionist PACS also scored many successes even as their biggest bets didn't pay off. AIPAC's chief bête noire was Michigan's Abdul El-Sayed, who in his victory speech thanked the committee, which contributed nearly $40 million to his opponents, for "giving me the opportunity to beat you twice" — in the primary and on election day.

What will the Democrats do with their mandate?

On election eve, Trump announced that nearly $4 billion in annual aid would no longer flow to Israel. That's unlikely to have affected anyone's voting intentions, given that presidential pronouncements are notoriously unreliable. But even if there is a halt, far larger avenues of military assistance will remain open, including clauses in the $1.5 trillion 2027 defence budget that effectively embed the Israel Defence Forces in the Pentagon. It's hard to imagine any serious objections from the AIPAC-aligned Democratic leadership personified by Chuck Schumer in the Senate and Hakeem Jeffries in the House of Representatives.

A growing number of incoming Democratic senators and representatives are keen to dispense with the services of this discredited duo. For the moment though, that's just wishful thinking. But things could change. The realisation seems to have seeped in that unless the Democrats, with large majorities in both Houses of Congress, begin to deliver on campaign promises, there could be a backlash in 2028. The key issues are mostly domestic, from blatant corruption and the cost of living (exacerbated by the Iran conflict) to healthcare costs, unregulated AI, resource-hungry data centres, and the impunity of tech plutocrats. Elon Musk poured nearly $500m into the midterms, all in vain; he focused on Texas, which turned a bright blue. But the question is whether he can be held to account for his role as head of the now disbanded department of government efficiency, among other misdeeds.

The anti-Trump Republican Congressman Thomas Massie has already introduced articles of impeachment against Pete Hegseth, hoping that Trump will fire him before the Democrats assume congressional power in January. Massie's efforts won't pay off, but will the Democrats do any better? Will they hold Stephen Miller to account for his dedication to deporting 'illegal aliens' by brutal means? Several of the Democrats freshly elected to national office — and many more at the state level — will strive to do their best by their constituents.

Courtesy Dawn

Technology, trust and the ballot

Muhammad Hamid Zaman

Among the many concerns that were on voters' minds during the US mid-term elections, some issues at the local level demonstrated an increasing level of distrust with both technology and technology companies. The public response to these issues gives an early indication of the changing landscape of how the population views the role of technology in their lives. Before we look at the mood of the electorate, it is important to recognise that most conversation on technology centred around digital technology, AI and data centres. While there was some occasional conversation on chips manufacturing (e.g. with regard to issues in foreign policy) or local manufacturing of generic pharmaceuticals (e.g. in the context of rising cost of healthcare), these topics were not nearly as prominent as those around data centres.

On the issue of data centres, the public response was substantial and almost exclusively against data centres. Candidates who opposed data centres did much better than their opponents who may have supported new data or have had softer stances on regulation. Interestingly, the opposition against data centres came from candidates of both parties. In total, there were 41 ballot measures across the US around data centres and in 40 of them voters either rejected development of data centres or severely restricted their development. Election data suggests that while nearly 88% of Democratic voters opposed data centres in their communities, over 60% of Republican voters also did the same. In some cases, such as Wisconsin, Democratic candidates who may have been pro data centres initially changed their positions under pressure from their Republican candidates demonstrating the broad public resistance. It is interesting to note that while the US continues to be a global leader in AI tech development, the issue of data centres is not universally backed by the large segment of population.

Courtesy Tribune

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

Gilani calls for stronger local government system, effective parliamentary oversight



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Wednesday strongly advocated the revival of student unions and the establishment of a robust and empowered local government system, describing them as essential for nurturing future leadership and strengthening democracy.

He observed that the nurseries of leadership at the grassroots level had become dormant and needed to be revived to address the leadership vacuum in the country.

Sharing his own political journey, he said he started his career at the local level and rose to become Prime Minister of Pakistan, serving in various constitutional capacities.

He emphasized that strong local governments at district and tehsil levels were vital for good governance, transparency, accountability and effective utilization of public funds.

He expressed these views while addressing a workshop titled "Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight of Public Expenditure Management", organized by UNICEF.

Chairman Senate emphasized that transparent, efficient and responsible utilization of public resources was a constitutional responsibility of Parliament and essential for maintaining public trust. He said Parliament's role must extend beyond budget approval to ensuring that national resources were properly utilized and their benefits reached the people.

He stressed that budgetary allocations alone could not guarantee development outcomes unless funds were released timely, institutions fulfilled their responsibilities and public expenditure translated into tangible improvements in people's lives. He underscored that every rupee spent from the public exchequer must deliver measurable results in terms of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Highlighting Pakistan's development challenges and limited financial resources, he stressed the need for effective parliamentary oversight of key sectors, including education, health, nutrition, sanitation and social protection. He said parliamentary committees must ensure that resources reached deserving.

Pakistan, Türkiye to strengthen cooperation in infrastructure, logistics sectors: Aleem Khan

PEAK POINT



TÜRKIYE: Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan and Turkish Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Abdulkadir Uraloglu have reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation in infrastructure, transportation and logistics sectors.

Pakistan, Türkiye to strengthen cooperation in infrastructure, logistics sectors: Aleem Khan. The two ministers held a meeting in Antalya, Türkiye, where they discussed the upcoming COP31 Forum, regional developments and matters of mutual interest, said a press release issued on Wednesday. On the occasion, Abdul Aleem Khan said Pakistan and Türkiye enjoyed longstanding relations based on friendship, affection and brotherhood, adding that Islamabad was keen to expand bilateral cooperation and further strengthen ties with Ankara. He described his Turkish counterpart as a brother and expressed Pakistan's desire to explore new avenues of cooperation in various sectors. Turkish Minister for Transport Abdulkadir Uraloglu recalled his pleasant memories of his recent visit to Pakistan, saying that the warmth, affection, and hospitality extended to him by the people of Pakistan remained fresh in his memory. Both Ministers expressed optimism that the COP31 Forum.

Azam Nazeer Tarar calls for resolving Pakistan-India disputes through dialogue, international law

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Wednesday stressed that adherence to international law, treaties and established global norms was essential for lasting peace in South Asia, urging Pakistan and India to resolve their disputes through dialogue and mechanisms provided by the United Nations rather than the use of force.

Delivering the keynote address at the Margalla Dialogue, the minister said the shared history, geography and sensitivities of the two countries made it imperative to pursue peaceful solutions through international agreements and multilateral institutions.

Referring to the recent escalation, Senator Tarar said Pakistan had offered to facilitate an independent investigation into the incident by any country or agency in the world. However, instead of pursuing the offer and available diplomatic and legal mechanisms, the path of military aggression was chosen, he added.

He said disregard for the rule of law and established international mechanisms ultimately affected people on both sides, stressing that domestic and international rule of law remained the foundation for fair and sustainable dispute resolution.

Describing the Indus Waters Treaty as a unique and successful international agreement, the minister said it had remained in force for more than six decades despite wars and tensions between Pakistan and India.

He said the treaty, facilitated by the World Bank, provided a structured framework for water distribution, information exchange and dispute resolution through the Permanent Indus Commission, a Neutral Expert and a Court of Arbitration. Senator Tarar maintained that the treaty did not provide for unilateral termination and required mutual consent of both parties. He said India's announcement of unilateral suspension of the treaty was contrary to its spirit.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar addresses the National Interfaith Harmony and Peace Conference organised by the Islamabad High Court Bar Association.

Dar stresses compliance with international labour standards to boost Pakistan's export competitiveness

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday emphasised the importance of fulfilling international labour standards to strengthen Pakistan's global economic engagement, enhance Pakistan's export competitiveness and international trade standing. Chairing a committee meeting on compliance of labour laws, the deputy prime minister directed all concerned to maintain close coordination with provincial governments and adhere to agreed timelines for meeting all national commitments and obligations. The meeting examined the implementation status of international conventions and commitments related to labour laws including ILO. Participants evaluated regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms necessary to align domestic practices with global benchmarks. The meeting was attended by Adviser to the Prime Minister.

Sindh Governor lauds ongoing reforms, modernisation efforts in Railways

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Sindh Governor Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi Wednesday appreciated the ongoing reforms and improvement initiatives in Pakistan Railways, acknowledging the efforts of Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi to modernise the national institution.

During a meeting with the minister at the Ministry of Railways, the governor welcomed the measures being taken to modernise Pakistan Railways, improve its operational efficiency and introduce institutional reforms. He expressed satisfaction over the ongoing reform process and development initiatives aimed at improving the performance and service delivery of the national railway system. The meeting also discussed matters of mutual interest and various aspects related to the improvement and development of Pakistan Railways. Both sides emphasised the importance of mutual cooperation and coordinated efforts for the progress, development and betterment of national institutions.

Governor seeks greater IT training opportunities for KP youth

PEAK POINT



PESHAWAR: overnor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday called for providing greater opportunities to the province's youth in federal government IT training programmes to equip them with modern digital skills and make them economically independent.

Chairing a meeting jointly with Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja at the Governor House, he said young people and women should be equipped with modern IT skills to help them secure online employment and become financially self-reliant.

Adviser to the KP government on Science and Information Technology Usman Saifullah, Chief Secretary Dr Fakhre Alam Irfan, Secretary Science and Information Technology Nisar Ahmad and other federal and provincial officials attended the meeting. The meeting reviewed the Digital Master Plan and National Digital Commission. Participants received a detailed briefing.

AI to become $4.8tr global economy by 2033: Shaza Fatima

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Wednesday said artificial intelligence (AI) would become a $4.8 trillion global economy by 2033, stressing the need for Pakistan to prepare its workforce with emerging digital skills. Addressing the Margalla Dialogue, she said AI would not necessarily eliminate jobs but would change their nature, making new skills essential for employment. People equipped with AI-related skills would enjoy a significant productivity advantage over those without them.

The minister said a person using AI could be up to 100 times more productive than another individual with similar skills who did not use the technology.

Highlighting Pakistan's progress in digital infrastructure, she said internet speeds had increased by 60 per cent over the past two and a half years.

Internet data capacity had also increased by two terabits per second, while the country's total live internet capacity currently stood at around seven terabits, she added.

She said Pakistan had



added three international submarine cables, while a spectrum auction of 480 megahertz had increased the country's spectrum capacity from 274 to more than 750 megahertz.

She added that nearly 1.8 million people had subscribed to 5G services, while fibre-optic coverage had expanded from fewer than three million to more than six million household connections.

Shaza Fatima said Pakistan had made significant progress in expanding its digital infrastructure over the past two years.

She said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was personally overseeing the implementation of the Digital Nation Pakistan vision.

The minister said the country's leadership was committed to addressing the challenges posed by artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.

She expressed confidence that Pakistan's sovereign cyber defence capabilities would become among the best in the world.

She said the Digital Nation Pakistan Act had established the Pakistan Digital Authority, which was preparing a National Digital Master Plan and sectoral plans covering areas such as agriculture, real estate and healthcare.

She said the government was also developing a data governance policy, which would be announced in the coming weeks, while a national data exchange layer was being piloted.

Emphasising data protection and responsible technology use, she said the National AI Policy and data governance framework would ensure that humans remained responsible for decisions involving data and technology. Shaza Khawaja said the prime minister.