

Mohsin Naqvi vows all-out assistance for law and order in GB



'Significant evidence' of placer gold in Punjab rivers, says CM Maryam at minerals investment forum



Pakistan showcases mineral wealth as two-day investment forum opens in Islamabad

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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

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At COP31, PM Shehbaz calls for grant-based finance, resilience funding for climate-vulnerable countries

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday called for grant-based finance and improved resilience and adaptation funds for climate-vulnerable countries at COP31, being held in Turkiye's Antalya.

This year's summit focuses on transitioning toward a low-carbon future.

Delegates from nearly 200 countries are meeting in the Mediterranean resort city of Antalya as global greenhouse gas emissions show little sign of falling, while wars, inflation and other crises compete for political attention. Addressing the summit, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif highlighted Pakistan's efforts to promote clean energy but warned that "national effort cannot replace a fair and just global response".

"When climate disasters strike, vulnerable countries need timely help and finance that does not deepen their debt," Shehbaz said, adding that Pakistan called for "grant-based finance, including public-private partnerships, alongside a significant increase in resilience and adaptation funds, which amount to survival funds, especially for struggling economies". He said clean energy sources accounted for nearly 55pc of Pakistan's energy needs, adding that the country was advancing electric mobility and had set a target of reducing projected emissions by about 50pc by 2035. Recalling the 2025 floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Buner district, the prime minister said: "In August 2025, a young man in Buner was just two days away from his wedding when flash floods swept through his village.



ANTALYA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing teh Leaders' Summit of COP31.

Uzma Khan, Noreen Niazi released after withdrawal of MPO orders, says lawyer

PEAK POINT



LAHORE: Sisters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, Noreen Niazi and Dr Uzma Khan were released from jail on Thursday following the withdrawal of their detention orders under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) law, PTI lawyer Taimur Malik said.

In a post on X, Malik said the detention orders were unlawful and called for the release of all other individuals detained under similar orders. He said those still in detention should be released "without waiting for the next hearing" of the petitions, arguing that the "deputy commissioner had no justification" for issuing the MPO orders and would be unable to defend them before the court. Malik added that several others detained around the same time had already been released. Meanwhile, Noreen's legal counsel, Rana Mudassar Umer, confirmed in a post on X that both sisters "had been released" and had "arrived home safely." He said "petitions seeking an early hearing of the constitutional petitions" challenging the "unlawful detention of Alia Khan, Dr Uzma and Noreen had yet to be scheduled for hearing."

Pakistan's commitment to Saudi security is 'absolute, non-negotiable': Army

PEAK POINT



RAWALPINDI: Pakistani military spokesperson and ISPR Director General Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has stressed that the transition of the Makkah Joint Defence Alliance into the practical implementation phase of its collective defence commitments entails adopting measures to enable the rapid deployment of agreed-upon forces and military capabilities inside Saudi Arabia. The military spokesperson said these steps include elevating readiness levels, bolstering military integration, sharing intelligence, and coordinating to conduct exclusively defensive operations. In an interview with Saudi newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat, the spokesperson stressed his country's readiness, in light of current circumstances and based on the Joint Strategic Defence Agreement between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and the Makkah Alliance, to take all necessary defensive measures to defend the Kingdom. Islamabad's commitment to the Kingdom's security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity is "absolute and non-negotiable", he added. Regarding Pakistani forces and military capabilities in Saudi Arabia, Chaudhry revealed that Pakistani troops are already present in the Kingdom, operating in various capacities with their primary missions consisting of providing defensive support, exercises, and manoeuvres. Islamabad will continue to provide any required support for defensive purposes, whether in terms of military personnel, military capabilities, training, or logistical assistance, he said.

Iran's Guards say 'accident' left two tankers on fire in Hormuz

PEAK POINT



TEHRAN: Iran's Revolutionary Guards said Thursday that two tankers carrying over four million barrels of oil had caught fire after an "accident" on an unauthorised route in the Strait of Hormuz.

Since the outbreak of the Middle East war in late February, Tehran has heavily restricted traffic through the strategic shipping channel, insisting vessels use routes it has approved.

The United States has in response imposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports and helped tankers travel the strait, which normally carries about one-fifth of global oil. "Last night, two tankers -- acting in violation of regulations and despite repeated warnings from the Revolutionary Guards Navy regarding the unauthorised and dangerous nature of the southern maritime route -- were involved in an accident while traversing this prohibited path in the strait," the Guards said in a statement. They did not specify the nature of the "accident" but said it left the two tankers immobilised after they were hit with a "violent explosion".

Two policemen, including ASI, martyred in attack on patrolling party in Swabi: DPO

PEAK POINT

SWABI: Two policemen, including an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) heading the Mansori police post, were martyred when three suspects opened fire on a patrolling party on Wednesday night, District Police Officer Waqas Rafiq told the media. DPO Rafiq said another policeman was critically injured in the attack. Constable Nawab Ali said the police received information that ASI Walid Khan, who was in charge of the Mansori police post, and his team had come under attack while on patrol.

Trump says Vance should focus on domestic corruption, 'we don't need a deal with Iran'

PEAK POINT

NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump said on Thursday he wanted Vice President JD Vance to focus "his complete and total attention" on any crime and corruption in Democratic-run US cities, saying that effort could save more money than a deal with Iran. "Our Budget could be quickly BALANCED with the correction of this large scale criminal activity. CORRUPTION is in the Democrat Leadership's blood!" Trump wrote on social media. "We don't need a deal with Iran. Those days have long since passed. We've got their money, Hundreds of Billions of Dollars, and we've got their Strait!" Vance, who had taken on a role in trying to resolve the conflict with Iran, distanced himself from Trump's war on Wednesday after Republicans' midterm election rout by Democrats.



He questioned whether it was worth the cost and blamed the Iran war for Republicans' election losses. Vance, who is seen as a leading 2028 presidential contender, also said an earlier recommendation to end the war was "sound advice." Trump has repeatedly targeted Democratic-run cities over immigration policies and alleged corruption since taking office in January 2025 for his second White House term. Earlier, Iran's Assembly of Experts, the body of clerics that is responsible for electing and supervising the supreme leader, expressed no trust in international bodies in the face of persistent threats by the Islamic republic's enemies against its nuclear knowledge.

"Repeated threats by the aggressor enemy, especially threats against Iran's nuclear knowledge, show that no hope can be placed in the international bodies," said a statement from the body, reported by the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting.

Vessel on fire after being struck off UAE's Ras Al-Khaimah, maritime agencies say

A vessel was hit by an unidentified projectile about 14 nautical miles northwest of the UAE emirate of Ras Al-Khaimah on Wednesday, causing a fire in its engine room, British maritime agencies said in reports published on Thursday.

Firefighting efforts were underway, and all crew had been evacuated, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations agency said.

Maritime security firm Ambrey said the vessel was struck at the stern while leaving the Strait of Hormuz.

Israeli strike kills 6 at southern Gaza hospital: Civil Defence



PEAK POINT

GAZA: An Israeli strike killed six people and wounded around 20 at Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza, a civil defence official told AFP on Thursday. The Israeli military confirmed the strike. Gaza's civil defence agency said the bodies of those killed and more than 20 people wounded in the strike had been recovered from a building at the medical complex. "The death toll from the Israeli strike inside Nasser Medical Complex, west of Khan Younis in southern Gaza, has risen to six,"civil defence spokesperson Mahmoud Bassal told AFP. Nasser Hospital confirmed the six deaths in a statement. The Israeli military claimed it carried out an "aerial strike to eliminate the threat they posed, after the Hamas had established a presence within the hospital complex and used it as a command centre".



DAILY PEAK POINT

SPORTS



Pakistan-Sri Lanka Test hit by bad weather after Saqib's heroics



MOHSIN ALI

RAWALPINDI: Rain and bad light hit the first Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka after pacer Saqib Khan took seven wickets on debut to lead the home team's fightback on Thursday.

Saqib grabbed an impressive 7-130 on an overcast morning in Rawalpindi to spark a Sri Lankan collapse which saw the tourists slumping from their overnight 404-4 to 446 all out.

Pakistan, who conceded a slender first innings lead of 12 runs, were 57-1 when bad light and then rain stopped play 45 minutes into the second session.

Opener Azan Awais and Mohammad Taha were the unbeaten batters with 22 and 24 respectively, with the home team now leading by 45 runs with nine wickets intact.

Pakistan had lost opener Tayyab Arif just before lunch, skittled lbw by Asitha Fernando for 11.

With more rain forecast for Friday, the Test is heading for a draw, leaving the series result on the second and final match, also in Rawalpindi from November 17.

It was Saqib who shone in the overcast morning session.

He started the collapse in the first over of the day when he bagged the prize wicket of centurion Dhananjaya de Silva, caught behind by Ghazi Ghori without adding to his overnight 167.

De Silva hit 20 fours in a 405-minute marathon knock and was soon joined back in the pavilion by Sri Lanka captain Kusal Mendis, who had also reached his hundred on day three.

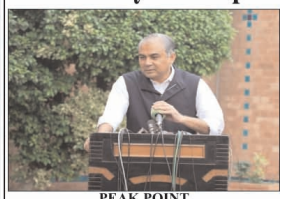
Kusal, who added 249 runs for the fifth wicket with De Silva, fell to Saqib for 119 in the fifth over after adding just two to his overnight score. He hit 10 fours and four sixes in five hours at the crease.

Sri Lanka lost their last six wickets for 42 runs and Saqib took his fifth when Sonal Dinusha (20) edged to slip.

Saqib then mopped up tail-enders Lahiru Kumara (0) and Asitha Fernando (four) to become only the fourth Pakistani to take seven wickets in an innings on debut.

The others were pace bowler Mohammad Zahid (7-66), off-spinner Mohammad Nazir (7-99) and leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed (7-114).

Naqvi backs selection committee, outlines academy revamp



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi said on Thursday that the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency would contact wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan for some clarification before submitting its report.

Speaking to reporters at the National Cricket Academy (NCA), Naqvi said he had been briefed on Rizwan's case a few days earlier and expected the relevant officials to get in touch with the player soon. "I think they will contact Rizwan, seek some clarifications and file the report," Naqvi said, adding that he was unsure how long the process would take. Turning to the academy's redevelopment, Naqvi announced January 31 as the deadline for completing the upgraded facility, which he described as a state-of-the-art centre equipped with world-class training machinery. He credited Aqib Javed with playing a key role in the master plan and design, adding that the facility was already being used to conduct extended training camps for emerging cricketers. "Aqib is bringing our young players here and training them. The most important thing is that he is addressing their shortcomings so they do not have to learn basic skills when they join a squad," Naqvi said.

Rana Sanaullah awards Rs 4 million to Pakistan's Asian squash champions



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination and Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) President Rana Sanaullah Khan has rewarded Pakistan's Asian champion men's squash team with Rs4 million in cash prizes, distributing Rs1 million each among the four players in recognition of their outstanding triumph at the 23rd Asian Team Squash Championships 2026.

The award distribution ceremony was held at the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination in Islamabad on Wednesday to honour the national players for winning the prestigious continental title at the Mushaf Squash Complex from November 3 to 7. The recipients were Noor Zaman, Muhammad Asim Khan, Nasir Iqbal and Ashab Irfan, with each player receiving Rs1 million for his contribution to Pakistan's gold medal-winning campaign.

Rana Sanaullah congratulated the players, coaches and team management, describing their achievement as a matter of immense national pride. He praised the players' dedication, discipline and determination, which helped Pakistan secure the Asian crown on home soil. Pakistan clinched the men's team title with a convincing 2-0 victory over South Korea in the final. Noor Zaman defeated Jeongmin Ryu 11-5, 11-7, 13-11, while Muhammad Asim Khan overcame Seojin Oh 11-6, 11-5, 11-4 to seal the championship for the hosts. The minister said the government's recognition of outstanding sporting performances reflected its commitment to promoting sports and encouraging national talent. He emphasised the importance of supporting athletes whose achievements bring honour to the country.

Pakistan delegation participates in official World Cup rehearsal



Pakistan juniors impress at J-30 World Junior Tennis



Pakistan, India storm into U19 Asia Cup final

Rizwanullah takes five wickets as Pakistan thrash Bangladesh by nine wickets

BY SHAKEEL UR REHMAN

MUSCAT: Pakistan and India booked their places in the final of the ACC Men's Under-19 Asia Cup 2026 after registering convincing victories in their respective semi-finals in Oman on Thursday.Pakistan Under-19 stormed into the final with a comprehensive nine-wicket victory over Bangladesh in the first semi-final, while India defeated Afghanistan by eight wickets in the second semi-final to set up an exciting Pakistan-India final on November 14. Rizwanullah spearheaded Pakistan's bowling attack with an impressive five-wicket haul, conceding just 30 runs. Mohammad Sayyam claimed two wickets, while Hasnain Abbas Dar, Ali Raza and Ahmed Hussain took one wicket apiece as Bangladesh were bowled out for 138.Pakistan completed the chase in just 21.5 overs, reaching 141 for one with 169 balls remaining.Hayam Khan played an impressive innings of 66 runs, while Usman Khan remained unbeaten on 64 off 54 balls to guide Pakistan to a convincing victory and secure their place in the final.The victory keeps Pakistan's title defence firmly on track as they prepare for the tournament's final.In the second semi-final, India produced an equally impressive performance to overcome Afghanistan by eight wickets.Batting first, Afghanistan scored 227 for eight in their allotted 50 overs. Noman Salarzai and Shah Faisal Rahimi scored 51 runs each to help their side post a competitive total.India's Ishan Sood claimed three wickets for 43 runs, while Aryan Savsani picked up two wickets.In reply, India reached the target in 36.5 overs, scoring 230 for two to register a comfortable eight-wicket victory with 79 balls remaining. Lakshya Raichandani led the successful chase with an outstanding 93 off 90 balls, while VK Vineeth remained unbeaten on 57 to guide India into the final.The victory sets up a highly anticipated Pakistan-India clash in the final of the ACC Men's Under-19 Asia Cup 2026, scheduled to be played on November 14 in Oman.





HSA, UNFPA hold National Consultative meeting to strengthen monitoring and supervision of Lady Health workers in Pakistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Health Services Academy (HSA), in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Pakistan, convened a National Consultative Meeting on the "Development of a Monitoring and Supervision Framework for Lady Health Workers (LHWs) in Pakistan" in Islamabad on November 12, 2026.The consultation brought together key national stakeholders, health professionals, policymakers and technical experts to discuss strategies for strengthening the monitoring and supervision mechanisms of Pakistan's Lady Health Workers Programme, with a particular focus on improving service delivery, accountability and the overall performance of frontline healthcare workers.During the meeting, the draft Monitoring and Supervision



Framework, along with its associated assessment tool, was presented for detailed review and technical discussion. Participants shared valuable feedback, recommendations and expert insights aimed at refining the proposed framework and ensuring its effectiveness, practicality and sustainability.The discussions focused on identifying existing gaps in the monitoring and supervision system, strengthening supportive supervision, improving accountability mechanisms, and establishing more effective performance monitoring and feedback systems. Participants also highlighted the importance of developing a standardized approach that would enable better assessment of Lady Health Workers' performance and enhance the quality of healthcare services delivered at the community level.The consultation featured valuable contributions from Prof. Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan, Vice Chancellor, Health Services Academy; Dr. Mariyam Sarfraz, Dean, School of Midwifery and Director Projects, HSA; Dr. Jamil Ahmad, Programme Specialist, UNFPA Pakistan; and Dr. Beenish Parveen, Deputy Director Technical, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (MoNHSR&C).

FIFA links financial support to PFF reforms after eight years of administrative crisis

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) is preparing to introduce major changes to its constitution to meet FIFA's international standards and maintain access to financial assistance, following nearly eight years of administrative difficulties that left the country's football governing body unable to function properly.The situation was discussed during the 16th meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Inter Provincial Coordination, held at Parliament House under the acting chairmanship of MNA Dr. Mahreen Razzaq Bhutto.During the meeting, a PFF representative informed lawmakers that the federation had remained inactive for approximately eight years, prompting FIFA, the international governing body of football, to intervene and conduct elections.The election results were subsequently recognized by FIFA, paving the way for the federation to restore its administrative structure and resume efforts to develop football across Pakistan.Despite this progress, the PFF is still required to make changes to its constitution to comply with FIFA's rules and international requirements.According to officials, the federation has already submitted its constitution to FIFA for examination. The international football body has identified several provisions that require amendments to bring the document into line with its prescribed standards.The committee was informed that FIFA is expected to formally communicate the proposed amendments by the end of December 2026.The PFF intends to complete the required constitutional changes during the first quarter of 2027, with the aim of ensuring full compliance with FIFA's regulations.Officials also informed the committee that FIFA grants and other financial assistance are linked to the federation's compliance with international requirements. The connection between constitutional reforms and financial support makes the upcoming changes particularly important for the future management and development of football in Pakistan.Any failure to meet the required standards could affect the federation's eligibility for international financial assistance.The parliamentary briefing also brought attention to the challenges facing Pakistan football after years of administrative disruption.Although FIFA has recognized the federation's elections, the PFF must still complete its institutional reforms while working to improve sports facilities and opportunities for players.During the meeting, the federation also shared plans to establish a football academy in Quetta near Ayub Complex. The proposed academy is intended to provide better opportunities for football training and development in Balochistan.The PFF representative said that the selected location already has the basic infrastructure required for the project, although some modifications would be necessary before the facility could become operational.The proposal has been forwarded to FIFA for consideration and possible support.However, the committee stressed that football development in Balochistan should not be restricted to Quetta alone.Lawmakers pointed out that several other districts of the province also require improved sports infrastructure and greater opportunities for young football players.The committee called upon the PFF to expand its development plans and take steps to promote football activities across different parts of Balochistan. Members emphasized that providing facilities in smaller districts would help encourage participation in football and create opportunities for emerging talent.The committee was also briefed on the distribution of sports responsibilities following the 18th Constitutional Amendment. Officials explained that more than 80 percent of sports funding, along with major administrative responsibilities, had been transferred to provincial governments.Under the existing arrangement, the federal government mainly supports coordination between provincial administrations and sports boards to promote sporting activities nationwide.The committee was further informed that Rs 6 billion had been allocated for the upcoming SAF Games, while the government would continue providing financial assistance for other international sporting events.The allocation for the SAF Games was discussed as part of the broader sports development framework and was not presented as a direct allocation to the Pakistan Football Federation.The meeting highlighted the importance of improving coordination between national sports bodies.

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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.

The unmaking of...

F.S. Aijazuddin

AMERICAN WASPs have lost their sting. The recent US midterm elections results are balm to the pain felt after Donald Trump's return to the White House two years ago.

This November, that surge of fickle popularity changed allegiance from a Republican red to a Democratic blue. Almost overnight, individual candidates emerging from among the leaderless Democrat Party have wrested control of both the Senate and the House of Representatives. It was a triumph of right over might, or as its newest star — Senator-elect Abdul El-Sayed from Michigan — put it, the victory of "the many over money". Investment in the 2026 midterms has been unprecedented. The final amount is expected to exceed $12 billion, which will be around 30 per cent more than that spent in 2022, and vastly more than the meagre $2bn spent in 2002. Inflation has little to do with it. This year, the top 40 donors contributed $2.5bn, led by the trillionaire Elon Musk. He squandered about $500 million supporting Republican candidates.

There is no Theodore H. White alive to chronicle this electoral extravagance. His book — The Making of the President 1960 — provided a narrative of the rise of the charismatic John F. Kennedy. Unlike Abdul El-Sayed, Kennedy did not have to fight big money. Kennedy's father was already a millionaire. But, like El-Sayed (a Muslim), Kennedy (a Roman Catholic) had to overcome bitter religious prejudice.

The midterm results were a triumph of right over might.

In September 1960, Kennedy delivered a well-aimed rejoinder to critics who 'obscured' the campaign by questioning his loyalty. He asserted that "the separation of church and state" was absolute. He went further: "I believe in an America that is officially neither Catholic, Protestant, nor Jewish." He contended that allegiance in America was to the constitution, adding that "no man should be denied public office merely because his religion differs from the president's".

The real issues, Kennedy argued, were not his religious faith but hungry children, old people unable to pay medical bills, struggling farmers, insufficient schools, slums, etc. Almost 70 years later, Abdul El-Sayed based his platform on the same issues — schools, healthcare, the cost of groceries, and fuel prices. El-Sayed owes more, though, to his prototype Barack Hussein Obama. He too was criticised for being a "little bit young, a little bit brown, a little bit Muslim". Barack Obama was 47 years old when elected president; El-Sayed has just begun his 43rd year. He will be 45 in 2028, when he will foreseeably make his first bid for the presidency. By then, he will have enough credentials.

He will have prompted Trump to end the Israel-incited Iran war and caused a rethink of America's relationship with Israel. His views on Israel are even-handed: "I believe in equal rights, to peace, dignity, and self-determination for Palestinians and Jewish Israelis alike." He draws a line between Israel and Zionism and he deplores the use of US tax dollars to fund genocide in Gaza, or anywhere else.

Like Obama, El-Sayed is master of the media. He began early. His valedictorian address in 2007 at Michigan University impressed president Bill Clinton enough to earn this compliment: "I wish every person in the world who […] cannot reach across the religious divides, could have heard you speak today." Clinton advised Abdul El-Sayed to go into politics, despite the burden of his name. Today, media is not only king; it is the sceptre of presidents. Theodore White analysed that "once Gutenberg put the Bible in print, neither church nor prince could maintain authority [.] Television reached a world that even if it could not read, it could look". But he warned that, while a president "might control camera attention, he could not control events". Many will remember the slogan that pursued Lyndon B. Johnson over that other undeclared war, in Vietnam: "Hey, hey, LBJ! How many kids did you kill today?"

Courtesy Dawn

Digital fame, social shame

Muhammad Wajahat Sultan

As the TikTok economy has become a sociological phenomenon in our country, it is important to understand the changing contours of social identity, visibility, cultural acceptance, diversified economic performance and platformisation. One side is represented by people who have invested years of their social experience through institutional exposure, education and traditional mechanisms of building social identity and visibility, while the other side represents quick visibility, often without traditionally recognised cognitive skills, and financial success through emerging economic models. The tension between the two is sometimes not about genuine moral disagreement but about the underlying insecurity of not adapting to digital platforms and new identities.

Our society is still at an early stage of accepting new forms of democratisation of economic participation and the possibility of achieving financial independence through the platform economy. Sometimes, this insecurity stems from compromised cultural values, while at other times, it emerges from the importation of a homogeneous, globalised social structure. TikTok and other digital platforms represent a new form of decoupled economies based on platformisation, where people without traditionally established or celebrated norms of intelligence or intellect can mainstream their forms of social performance and intersect them with economic outcomes.

Pakistani society accepts the same content of dramas and films, but its becomes difficult to accept the similar forms of expression that emerge from people who lack conventional educational or intellectual credentials. What is celebrated on television or in films can suddenly become a source of embarrassment when ordinary individuals perform it on digital platforms and earn a living from it. If the very same thing is opted for by a third party or decentralised as a source of income or content diversification, it becomes a source of disgrace to our culture.

Courtesy Tribune

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

Pakistan showcases mineral wealth as two-day investment forum opens in Islamabad



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has said restoring investor confidence remained a priority for federal and provincial governments, as the two-day Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 began in Islamabad on Thursday.

Addressing the forum, Dar said that promoting investment, trade and information technology remained among the government's priorities, adding that efforts were also under way to strengthen international partnerships.

Dar said considerable work had been undertaken to achieve macroeconomic stability in Pakistan, while emphasising the country's potential in the minerals and mining sectors. He noted that Pakistan possessed a range of mineral resources and offered investment opportunities to international investors.

The deputy prime minister also highlighted the potential of battery storage systems and electric vehicles, saying they could help reduce carbon emissions in Pakistan.

Referring to Balochistan's mineral resources, Dar described the province as the future of Pakistan's minerals sector.

The forum also brought together provincial leaders who outlined mineral opportunities and measures to attract domestic and international investment.

Addressing the forum, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said the forum would play an important role in the development of Pakistan's minerals sector.

"Pakistan has immense potential," she said, highlighting the province's coal, granite, pink salt and rock salt reserves.

She said the Punjab government was offering land at affordable rates and providing low-cost loans to facilitate businesses in the province. CM Maryam also highlighted improvements in Punjab's road network and said the process of granting mining leases had been digitised. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah highlighted the province's mineral resources and the potential for investment in the energy and industrial sectors. He said Thar coal represented the world's sixth-largest coal reserve and offered significant opportunities for investors.

"Thar coal has considerable potential for investors," Shah said, adding that Sindh was home to several types of minerals.

He said the provincial government was developing an effective framework for mining and encouraging private-sector participation in the sector.

KP Governor invites international investors, announces one-window facility for mining sector

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday invited domestic and international investors to explore opportunities in the province's mining and mineral sector, assuring them of security and a one-window facilitation system. Addressing the two-day Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF26), he said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had enormous potential in minerals, oil, gas, tourism, hydropower and other sectors.

The governor said the provincial government would soon introduce a one-window operation to facilitate domestic and international investors. The facility would eliminate the need for investors to visit different government offices to complete official procedures. He also announced that the establishment of a Mines and Minerals Company for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was under way and would become operational soon.

Kundi invited investors from Pakistan and abroad to enter into joint ventures in the province, saying investment opportunities would also be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

However, he stressed that the government would protect the rights and interests of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while promoting investment.

Food minister shares Pakistan's strategy for climate-resilient agriculture sector

PEAK POINT

ANTALYA: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday said the government was taking various measures to strengthen the resilience of Pakistan's agriculture sector against climate change, with a focus on developing climate-resilient seeds, improving disaster preparedness and mitigating the impact of extreme weather events.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the Leaders' Summit of the 31st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the minister said agriculture was among the sectors most severely affected by climate change in Pakistan, posing a major challenge to food security and agricultural productivity.

He said Pakistan's contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions was only around 0.1 percent, yet the country remained highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. He stressed that international financial support was essential to help developing and climate-vulnerable countries address these challenges.

The minister said the government was focusing on developing and introducing climate-resilient seed varieties to enable farmers to cope with rising temperatures, heat stress and other climate-related challenges. He added that considerable progress had been made in developing improved seeds to minimise the adverse impact of changing climatic conditions on agricultural production.

Referring to recurring floods, including the devastating floods of 2022 and 2025, Rana Tanveer said the government was also strengthening disaster preparedness and early warning mechanisms to minimise losses to agriculture and communities.

He appreciated the efforts of local governments, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) for establishing effective early warning systems and taking measures to improve the country's capacity to respond to climate-induced disasters.



ANTALYA: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, meets Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Uzbekistan, Alisher Shukurov, on the sidelines of COP31, to discuss bilateral cooperation in agriculture research, seeds, horticulture and livestock.

Mohsin Naqvi vows all-out assistance for law and order in GB

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi while commending the surge in tourism in Gilgit Baltistan has vowed that the federal government will provide every possible assistance for the fast-tracking overall development and maintaining law and order situation in GB. Mohsin Naqvi expressed these remarks during a meeting with GB Chief Minister Amjad Hussain who called on him in Islamabad on Thursday. Discussions were focused on the overall situation in Gilgit-Baltistan, law and order situation and a raft of matters of mutual interest. Mohsin Naqvi said GB government's efforts for development, peace and stability in Gilgit-Baltistan are commendable and the number of tourists visiting Gilgit-Baltistan has increased significantly due to these efforts. The promotion of tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan will strengthen the local economy and increase employment opportunities, Mohsin Naqvi said, adding the federal government will provide all possible cooperation for the overall development and law and order of Gilgit-Baltistan.

'Significant evidence' of placer gold in Punjab rivers, says CM Maryam at minerals investment forum

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said on Thursday that there was "significant evidence" of "sufficient quantities" of placer gold flowing in the province's five rivers.

She was speaking at the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum in Islamabad, an initiative aimed at harnessing the country's mineral resources and attracting domestic and foreign investment in the mining sector.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar also addressed the event, which was attended by the chief ministers of Balochistan and Sindh, as well as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi. Maryam said Punjab was the land of five rivers and that gold was "literally flowing" in all five, particularly in the areas of Mianwali and Attock. Describing Pakistan as a "pot of gold", she said its wealth lay both above and beneath the ground and needed to be explored and converted into tangible wealth.

"The wealth beneath Punjab was never a problem, never a problem, just like the whole of Pakistan, just like all four provinces and the federating units.

AJK offers vast mineral potential, seeks international investors: AJK PM

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Barrister Syed Iftikhar Ali Gillani on Thursday said that the region had vast untapped mineral potential and was seeking domestic and international investors to explore its natural resources.

Addressing the two-day Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF26), he said that AJK was rich in precious and semi-precious stones, including ruby, tourmaline and topaz, as well as dimension stones such as granite. He said that the region also had identified mineral reserves for the cement industry, including coal and bauxite. Gillani said that AJK had significant mineral potential, with both identified reserves and unexplored mineral deposits requiring further exploration.

He said that the AJK government was aligning its mining legislation with the regulatory framework being adopted across the country. The proposed legislation had almost reached the AJK Legislative Assembly.

Bugti assures investors of security, pledges one-window operation in Balochistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Thursday assured domestic and international investors of a secure investment environment, saying the provincial government was ready to partner with them in developing the province's vast mineral and energy resources.

Addressing the two-day Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF26), he said Balochistan was rich in natural resources, including minerals, oil and gas, and offered significant investment opportunities.

Highlighting the province's culture and hospitality, Bugti recalled that when Barrick left Balochistan more than a decade ago, its camp remained vacant without a security guard.

However, when the company returned after 10 years, not a single T-shirt had been stolen and not even a cup of tea was missing.

"This is Balochistan," he said, describing the hospitality and attitude of local people towards international partners and investors.

He said the government's policy was to facilitate investment through local communities by winning their trust and ensuring their participation in development initiatives.

He said commitment from both the provincial and federal governments was equally important in providing a secure environment for investors.

Bugti said the provincial government had established a separate security division for the Mineral Corridor to protect investors and mining projects across Balochistan.

Expressing confidence in the country's security institutions, he said the security forces and both provincial and federal governments had the commitment and capacity to protect investors.

However, he said the major challenge was not security but the gap between perceptions and ground realities. "Perceptions always travel much faster than realities," he said, adding that Balochistan was different from the image often portrayed on television screens.

As the chief executive of the province, Bugti assured domestic and international partners that the people of Balochistan welcomed investors and wanted them to explore the province's economic opportunities.

Highlighting Balochistan's mineral and energy potential, he said the province possessed enormous natural resources, including minerals, oil and gas. He said the Reko Diq project was a major example of the province's investment potential and expressed optimism about its development.

The chief minister also referred to promising developments in Sarona, where significant oil and gas reserves were expected to emerge in the coming months.

He said the potential reserves in the area could be greater than those of Sui, whose gas resources had supplied energy to Pakistan for more than 70 years.

Bugti further said the Balochistan government, with federal government support, was planning to establish a fertiliser city in Sui to utilise the area's low-BTU gas resources.

He invited investors to participate in the project, assuring them that the government would provide security, civic amenities and all other facilities required for investment.

The chief minister said security was the foremost requirement for investors and assured them of full protection through the provincial and federal governments, security forces and people of Balochistan.