

Collective efforts needed to promote healthy lifestyles, raise awareness about diabetes risks: Ayaz



Special arrangements in place to strengthen mining operations security framework: Minister



Dar reviews austerity measures, calls for PNSC restructuring with global consultants

Founded By:
(Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
Website: www.peakpoint.pk

ExecutiveGroup Editor
Arif Mehmood Khan

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

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Barrick Mining expresses interest in mineral processing industries in Karachi, Gwadar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The delegation from the Barrick Mining Corporation on Friday expressed strong interest in investing in the establishment of mineral processing industries in Karachi and Gwadar.

The development came as the delegation, led by Chairman John Thornton, held a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad, a statement by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said on X.

According to the PMO, the visiting delegation described the decision by the prime minister and the government to hold a minerals conference as an important step towards mineral development in Pakistan. "The delegation expressed strong interest in investing in the establishment of mineral processing industries in Karachi and Gwadar," the statement added.

It quoted the premier as saying that Pakistan was a country rich in natural resources and mineral wealth. He said that harnessing these resources to develop the province and improve the prosperity of its people was the government's top priority.

"Major projects such as Reko Diq will create new opportunities for employment, skills development and economic growth for the people of Balochistan," PM Shehbaz said. Pakistan was committed to putting its vast mineral resources to use and creating new opportunities for global investment, he added. The prime minister further.



Chairman Barrick Mining Corporation Mr. John L. Thornton called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

Security forces kill 74 terrorists during IBOs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan: ISPR



PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Security forces have killed 74 terrorists during intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan, said a statement by the military's media wing on Friday. In a breakdown of casualties from operations conducted in KP over the past 48 hours, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said 35 terrorists were killed in Mir Ali, North Waziristan district, while eight others were killed in Orakzai district. "In a determined effort to eliminate terrorist threats and dismantle the khwarij networks, security forces are conducting a series of intelligence-based operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. These operations have been further expanded to the areas of Mir Ali and Orakzai," said ISPR. Elaborating further, the military's media wing said that "intense and fierce exchanges of fire" took place, dealing a "significant blow" to the networks operated by the terrorists in the areas. Fitna-al-Khawarij is a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan. A large cache of weapons, ammunition and explosives, including homemade.

Pakistan aiming to become competitive destination for long-term investment, CDF Munir tells minerals moot



PEAK POINT

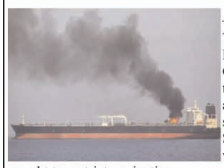
RAWALPINDI: Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir said on Friday that Pakistan was aiming to become a competitive destination for long-term mineral investment.

He made the remarks while addressing the participants of the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 in Islamabad, according to state-run Radio Pakistan. Delegations, exhibitors and attendees have arrived from across the world to attend the event. As the two-day event opened on Thursday, Pakistan showcased its vast mineral resources, ranging from coal and salt to gold and critical minerals, to attract international investment, promising predictable, investor-friendly policies, institutional support and security. On Friday, CDF Munir said all possible measures were being taken to ensure the security of the entire mining ecosystem. He said mines and miners, investments, industries, projects and all associated people would be provided adequate protection, the Radio Pakistan report said.

He added that harnessing Pakistan's mineral wealth was a collective national objective. He also emphasised that the country's goal was not merely to export raw materials but to develop the entire value chain, including refining and manufacturing, it added.

CDF Munir also said that Pakistan sought to foster long-term partnerships that created sustainable economic value.

Iran says another ship hit mine in Hormuz



PEAK POINT

TEHRAN: Iran's Revolutionary Guards said Friday that a ship was hit by an explosion after striking a mine in the Strait of Hormuz, where Tehran has sought to restrict navigation.

Since the outbreak of the Middle East war in late February, Tehran has insisted that vessels obtain its authorisation to traverse the strait and has attacked vessels that do not comply. The United States has in response imposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports and provides military support to tankers using the vital trade route.

"A few hours ago, a ship carrying liquefied natural gas east of the Strait of Hormuz tried to cross an unauthorised passageway south of the strait, but was hit by a naval mine and exploded violently," the Guards said on Friday.

They did not give the name or origin of the vessel. In recent weeks, Iran's armed forces have repeatedly reported fires or explosions on board ships in the strait, often saying the vessels struck mines. The US military, however, claims to have cleared the main routes through the waterway of mines.

Arrest warrants issued for 50 police officers absent from court

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Additional Sessions Judge Shabrez Akhtar Raja has issued arrest warrants for 50 Lahore police officials from 20 police stations for failing to appear as witnesses in murder cases before the sessions courts. The court on Friday directed the concerned police stations to ensure the presence of police witnesses on scheduled dates to help conclude serious murder cases. The police stations include Batapur, Sunder, Shadbagh, Manga Mandi, Kahna, Nawab Town, Defence C, Kot Lakhpat, Ghalib Market, Nishter Colony and others.

Pakistan calls for 'immediate' end to Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia as UNSC renews Yemen sanctions

PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: Pakistan called for the "immediate and unconditional" cessation of Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia on Thursday, as the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution renewing sanctions against individuals and entities threatening peace and stability in Yemen. The resolution also sought to restrict the Houthis' access to components and chemicals used in manufacturing drones and missiles, and condemned their military escalation inside Yemen, as well as attacks against Saudi Arabia. Adopted by consensus, it extended the targeted asset freeze and travel ban on individuals threatening peace in Yemen. including those associated with the Houthis, until Nov 14, 2027, and renewed the mandate of the Panel of Experts monitoring the sanctions until Dec 15, 2027. The council demanded that the Houthis halt their military offensive, stop attacks against Saudi Arabia and end threats to commercial shipping. It also reaffirmed the arms embargo imposed under Resolution 2216 in April 2015, which has no specified expiry date. In his explanation for voting in favour of the resolution, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Haider Shah said: "Pakistan condemns in the strongest terms the continued Houthi terrorist attacks against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

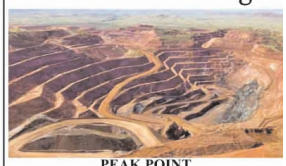


We stand in full and unwavering solidarity with the leadership, government and brotherly people of Saudi Arabia. Our support for the kingdom's sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and stability is resolute.

"Consistent with the United Nations Charter and international law, we support its legitimate right to defend its territory and protect its citizens and residents. We demand an immediate and unconditional cessation of these reprehensible Houthi attacks." Ambassador Shah described accountability for individuals and entities threatening Yemen's peace, security and stability as essential to creating conditions for lasting peace.

The resolution seeks to address the Houthis' ability to manufacture weapons locally using commercially available components and precursor chemicals. UN monitors have found that the group maintains its arsenal through smuggling and diversion of civilian-use equipment, gradually reducing its dependence on outside supplies.

New copper-gold deposits discovered in Balochistan's Chagai



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Mari Energies Limited announced a significant copper-gold discovery in Balochistan's Chagai district, approximately 50 kilometres east of the Reko Diq mining project, according to a statement submitted to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Friday. The company said its wholly owned subsidiary had identified copper-gold mineralisation at the East Siah Diq (ESD-1) target, located about 25 kilometres northwest of Nokkundi in the Koh-i-Sultan area. According to the statement, the energy company had completed approximately 25,000 metres of exploration drilling in two phases, Phase 1A and Phase 1B, with all drill holes reaching a depth of 500 metres. The statement said drilling had identified copper mineralisation beneath approximately 100 metres of sediment, extending across an area of about 1.4 square.

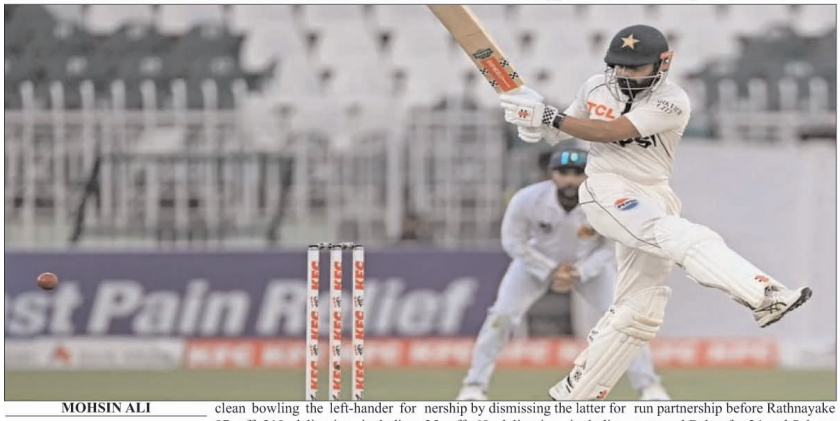


DAILY PEAK POINT

SPORTS



Pakistan, Sri Lanka play out draw in weather-hit opening Test



MOHSIN ALI

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan and Sri Lanka played out a draw in the weather-hit opening Test at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Friday after the hosts declared their second innings at 284-8, extending their overall lead to 272 runs. Experienced batter Saud Shakeel narrowly missed out on a century, falling for 97 as Pakistan consolidated their position before both teams agreed to a draw.

The hosts resumed their innings in the final session with Shakeel closing in on his fifth Test century. However, Lahiru Kumara ended his impressive knock by clean bowling the left-hander for 97 off 210 deliveries, including seven boundaries.

Razaullah remained unbeaten at the other end as Pakistan declared their innings at 284-8, after which both teams agreed to a draw.

Earlier, Shakeel and Ghazi Ghori continued Pakistan's batting charge in the second session, putting together a crucial 92-run partnership to take the hosts' lead beyond the 200-run mark.

Shakeel registered his 13th Test half-century, while Ghori provided valuable support before Milan Rathnayake broke the partnership by dismissing the latter for 35 off 69 deliveries, including three boundaries.

Arafat Minhas joined Shakeel and contributed to a 44-run stand, taking Pakistan past the 250-run mark. However, Dhananjaya de Silva ended the partnership by dismissing Minhas for 16 off 29 deliveries after hitting three boundaries. Earlier, Pakistan resumed day five at 57-1, holding a 45-run lead, but suffered a top-order collapse. Azan Awais fell for 22 to Lahiru Kumara, while Asitha Fernando dismissed Mohammad Taha for 24. Babar Azam and Shakeel then added a valuable 50-run partnership before Rathnayake removed Babar for 34 and Salman Ali Agha for 13, reducing the hosts to 125-5.

Earlier in the match, Sri Lanka recovered strongly after Pakistan's bowlers made early inroads. However, debutant Saqib Khan's sensational seven-wicket haul helped the hosts regain control, although the visitors secured a 12-run first-innings lead.

In reply to Pakistan's first-innings total of 434-9 declared, Sri Lanka were reduced to 65-3 before Kamindu Mendis scored 58 and shared a 90-run partnership with Dhananjaya de Silva.

DIN/SQ and PB storm into Saad Ahsan Residency Polo Cup final



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: DIN/SQ and PB have qualified for the final of the Saad Ahsan Residency and Citizenship Polo Cup 2026 after winning their respective semifinals at the Lahore Polo Club on Friday.

The four-goal Pakistan Polo Association event, organised under the auspices of the Lahore Polo Club, features 11 teams. The final will be played on Sunday, November 15, at Aibak Ground.

In the first semifinal, played under the American system, three teams competed for a place in the final. DIN/SQ secured their qualification with two convincing victories, beating Master Paints/Newage Cables 5-1 and DAPT 4-2. The second semifinal produced an exciting high-scoring contest, with PB defeating AOS/Rijas/Guard Group 11-7 to book their place in the title match.

Ahmed Ali Tiwana was the star performer for PB, scoring six goals. Mohsin Ata Khan Khosa contributed three goals, while Abdul Rehman Monnoo and Ibrahim Khan scored one goal each.

For the losing side, Mohib Faisal Shahzad and Hamza Ali Hakeem scored two goals apiece, while Abdullah Ijaz and Arib Ali Malik added one goal each.

Zone -IV register win over Zone -VII Blues in Medicam Trophy U-19 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament

Aun Abbas declared Medicam Man of the Match Award



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Due to All-round Performance by Aun Abbas got Two Wickets for 26 runs and then batted well scored 47 with the help of 5 boundaries and deadly bowling by left arm leg spinner Huzaifa Sajid capturing 4 Wickets for 44 runs Zone-IV Whites defeated Zone-VII Blues by 6 Wickets in the Medicam Trophy Under-19 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament here at Eid Gah Ground.Later Aun Abbas received the Medicam Man of the Match from former first Class cricketer Osama Basharat. Ground Korangi. Zone-VII Blues 173 all-out in 29.2 overs. Shayan Khan 43 6x4 2x6, Zohaib Khan 24, Mutahir Hussain 24. Huzaifa Sajid (sla) 4/44• Efaz uddin 2/4, Aun Abbas 2/26, Baryal Khan 2/46.In reply Zone-IV Whites 175/4 in 23.3 overs. Aun Abbas 47 5x4, Daniyal Niazi 33, Saad Murtaza 28, Efaz uddin 28. Zohaib Khan 2/23.Photo Caption:Karachi : Former First Class Cricketer Osama Basharat give the Medicam Man of the Match Award to Aun Abbas of Zone-IV Whites, First Class Cricketer Arsalan Farzand also Present on the occasion. First Class Cricketer Arsalan Farzand also present on the occasion.The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Medicam Group of Companies. Scores in Brief :Zone-IV Whites beat Zone-VII Blues by 6 Wickets at Eid Gah

Pakistan to host FIH Nations Cup



Pakistan set to host FIH Hockey Nations Cup in Lahore next year

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will host a major International Hockey Federation (FIH) event after a gap of 24 years, with the fifth edition of the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup scheduled to be held in Lahore from February 19 to 28, 2027.

FIH President Tayyab Ikram and interim Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) President Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani announced the decision at a ceremony in Islamabad on Friday, where they also formally signed an agreement for the hosting of the 10-team tournament.

The ceremony was attended by Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Rana Sanaullah Khan, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, State Minister for Education Wajiha Qamar, lawmakers, former hockey players and ambassadors of various countries.

The fifth edition of the competition will mark the first expansion from an eight-team to a 10-team format, reflecting the growing competitiveness of international men's hockey and providing more nations with exposure to high-level competition. Besides hosts Pakistan, Egypt, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa, South Korea and the United States will feature in the tournament.



Pakistan, who finished runners-up in the 2024-25 edition, will be looking to capitalise on home advantage and secure promotion to the 2027-28 FIH Hockey Pro League. The Nations Cup champions will earn a place in the top-tier competition, which brings together the world's leading hockey nations.

Addressing the ceremony, Ikram described the Nations Cup as a major international hockey event and termed its return to Pakistan a significant moment for the country and the sport.

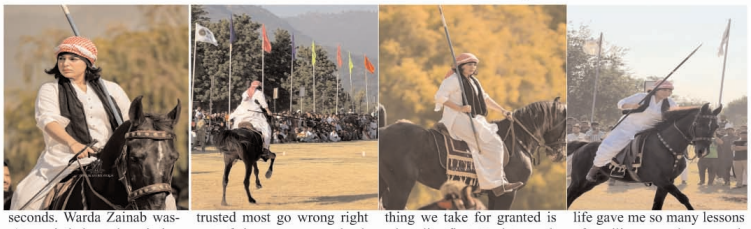
He said Pakistan had no shortage of hockey talent and assured the country of the FIH's full support for the promotion and revival of the game. He also praised the national team's performance at the recently concluded Asian Games.

Aadam Syed leads CNS Open Golf Championship



TWIN CITIES
Daily Peak Point, November 14, 2026
DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

Most Riders Pull Back—Warda Zainab pushed forward:A debut defined by Pure Junoon



In nezabazi, losing your stirrups at the very start of a run is every rider's worst nightmare. One wrong shift at full speed can throw you straight into the dirt, and most riders—even experienced men—will pull the reins and stop the run right there. Yet during her debut at the tent pegging event held by Barsa Club at F-9 Park in Islamabad, Warda Zainab did the exact opposite. Seconds after launching down the track, she lost her balance and both feet slipped out of the stirrups. Instead of slowing down or looking back, Warda Zainab gripped the horse and pushed straight into a full gallop.What stood out most was where her head was at during those critical seconds. Warda Zainab wasn't worried about the missing stirrups or the very real danger of taking a hard fall. Her eyes stayed fixed on the peg at the end of the track. Keeping her balance and holding her stirrups was the one basic thing she had already mastered and felt completely sure about. Having the one thing she trusted most go wrong right out of the gate was a shock she barely had time to process, yet she refused to let it stop her, driving her horse forward even faster.It is a lot like life itself. When we spend all our energy stressing over the things we haven't perfected yet, we sometimes forget to watch the ground right beneath us, and the very thing we take for granted is what slips first. Real strength isn't about never stumbling. It is about keeping your eyes on the target even when your footing disappears.When we spoke with Warda Zainab about that intense moment on the track, she explained how that messy start ended up being her biggest win. "The most imperfect gallop of my life gave me so many lessons of resilience and so much confidence in what I can achieve in the future," Warda Zainab said, sharing that handling the unexpected gave her far more belief in herself than an easy, smooth run ever could.Her performance at F-9 Park also stood apart because of how quickly she stepped into the maidan. While most competitors spend years in formal training camps before ever riding in front of a crowd, Warda Zainab entered the Barsa Club event after just six or seven days of tent pegging practice. She walked onto that field relying on sharp focus, raw instinct, and the nerve to test herself against seasoned riders.Stepping into a tough, male-dominated sport after barely a week of preparation takes a rare kind of guts. Warda Zainab's debut showed that while years of practice build routine, pure himmat and a refusal to quit can carry a rider through anything, setting a bold new standard for women claiming their space in the arena.

Experts urge national strategy for genetic diseases

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Medical experts have called for affordable genetic screening, early diagnosis and specialized treatment facilities in Pakistan, warning that the lack of support system is leaving families affected by inherited disorders struggling to access healthcare.

The issue was highlighted at a one-day summit titled "Future Health 2035", organized by the Strive Eradication of Disability Foundation in collaboration with the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) on Friday.

The summit brought together medical specialists, genetic scientists, healthcare professionals and families affected by inherited disorders to discuss developments in genomic science, genetic diagnosis and improved healthcare services.

The event featured a conference and an exhibition showcasing advances in healthcare, with participants emphasizing the need for



greater attention to rare genetic diseases and specialized treatment facilities.

During the discussions, experts expressed concern that families affected by genetic and rare diseases largely depended on personal resources and community support.

Dr. Salman Kirmani, Medical Geneticist at Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi, said Pakistan lacked a national genetic institute and organized support systems for parents of children suffering from Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA).

He said the government needed to give greater attention to genetic disorders, adding that rare diseases were not necessarily uncommon in Pakistan because of its large population and the prevalence of marriages within families.

Dr. Fizza Akbar, Genetic Counsellor at Aga Khan University Hospital, said around 60 percent of marriages in Pakistan took place within families, increasing the risk of inherited disorders.

She explained that when both parents carried the same genetic disorder, there was a 25 percent probability of their child inheriting the condition.

She said genetic disorders could be identified through early diagnosis and some conditions managed with medication, although many inherited diseases remained incurable.

Opinion & Editorial

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD
Arif Mehmood Khan
Group Editor: 0333-5366814
Samra Athar Kakakhel
Resident Editor
Nadim Tanoli
Joint Editor: Mob-0301-7777874
Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
www.peakpoint.pk

Diplomatic reset?

Career diplomat Natalie Baker has been nominated as the next US ambassador to Pakistan. Pending Senate confirmation, she will formally fill a post left vacant since Donald Blome's departure in January 2025. The elevation of Baker - who has led the US mission as Chargé d'Affaires in the meantime - marks a pivotal change in Washington's approach to Islamabad, signalling a return to formal, long-term engagement after years of diplomatic uncertainty. For decades, Pak-US ties have been primarily transactional, driven by periodic security needs. However, emerging signs of renewed cooperation suggest a broader economic and strategic reset. Washington's push to become a partner in unlocking Pakistan's estimated $7 trillion critical mineral reserves - backed by a $1.25 billion US Export-Import Bank financing commitment for the Reko Diq project - reflects a desire to secure global supply chains, thereby also countering Chinese dominance in rare earths. At the same time, Islamabad's rapid move towards digital assets - including a recent agreement with the crypto venture World Liberty Financial - demonstrates how emerging fintech is opening new channels of access to the Trump administration. This upgrade in ties is also important in the context of regional diplomacy.

Midterm lessons

Asif Saad

THERE will be many explanations for the outcome of the US midterm elections. Some will focus on the Iran war, personalities, inflation, tariffs or the divide between Republicans and Democrats.

The explanation that interests me most is more fundamental.

The US economy was hardly in collapse. The stock market had recently reached unprecedented highs, economic growth remained respectable, unemployment was not a major concern, and overall household wealth had reached high levels by mid-2026.

Yet consumer sentiment remained close to record lows, and economic pressure and the cost of living were among the strongest motivations in the election.

Growth is no longer enough as a political argument.

There is an important message in that contrast. An economy can generate great wealth without large numbers of people feeling that they are becoming better off.

This does not mean American voters have rejected capitalism. But it may represent another challenge to an idea that has influenced economic policy for decades; create favourable conditions for business, and the benefits will eventually spread through investment, jobs and higher incomes.

We call this trickle-down economics.

There is logic behind part of it. Businesses must make profits. Profitable companies can invest and create employment. What I question is the assumption that business prosperity will automatically become broader prosperity.

It may. But it does not have to. Profits can finance new factories and jobs. Technology can raise productivity without producing equivalent growth in employment.

This helps explain the apparent contradiction in the US. The stock market can create vast amounts of wealth for those who own financial assets while a worker whose income depends primarily on wages struggles.

Many citizens may ask very different questions; am I becoming more economically secure? Can my income keep pace with the cost of living? When enough people become doubtful about those answers, growth begins to lose its political legitimacy.

And this is where democracy enters the story.

Markets can allocate capital, determine prices and reward economic activity. They cannot decide whether the resulting distribution of wealth, opportunity and security remains acceptable to society.

Democracy provides that feedback. When people conclude that the economic bargain no longer works for them, elections provide a peaceful mechanism through which they can demand change.

That is the lesson Pakistan should pay attention to. We spend a great deal of time discussing economic stabilisation and growth. Forex reserves improve. Inflation falls. The current account looks better. The stock market rises.

All these matter. No economy can prosper for long without macroeconomic stability. But stabilisation and growth are not prosperity.

Pakistan has repeatedly gone through cycles in which macroeconomic stabilisation is achieved through adjustment of higher taxes, energy prices, reduced subsidies, tighter spending and slower demand.

Some of these measures may be unavoidable. But adjustment is never neutral. Higher taxes reduce disposable income and higher energy prices raise household and business costs. Subsidy cuts hurt those who relied on them, and tighter spending can weaken demand and employment.

A society can tolerate considerable inequality and difficult adjustment if people continue to believe that opportunity is open, and the system offers a route towards greater security.

It becomes harder when growth appears to occur somewhere else, for somebody else. The lesson from the US midterms is not that capitalism has been rejected. It is that growth is no longer enough as a political argument.

Courtesy Dawn

Who needs a traitor when voters flip!

Yumna Zahid Ali

American politics has become quite an entertaining circus. Politicians spend years accusing one another of betrayal, questioning loyalty and presenting themselves as the only people capable of saving the United States. Yet, when voters at last back the other side, those politicians appear flabbergasted. What happened? Did democracy stop saluting on command?

The November 3, 2026 midterm elections delivered a rather crushing disappointment to Donald Trump and the Republican Party. The Democratic Party charged into possession of both congressional wings, taking constituencies in long-Republican areas such as Kansas, Iowa, Texas and South Carolina. Apparently, even some of Trump's former supporters have discovered that voting for someone once does not mean entering an indefinite allegiance pact. For years, American politics has revolved around political loyalty, party identity, and the familiar business of blaming the opposition. Every problem seems to have a convenient villain. If trading slumps, shift the fault to the preceding cabinet. If prices rise, blame international circumstances. If voters become unhappy, question their intelligence. Is there anything politicians cannot explain away without accepting responsibility? Trump's administration has faced heightening resentment over inflation, subsistence costs, the Iran hostilities, and doubts about public-sector graft. These issues became significant factors in the midterm elections. People have mortgages to pay, groceries to afford, and households to keep afloat. They cannot run their households on presidential speeches or campaign merchandise. Unfortunately, political slogans do not come with electricity credits. A red hat does not lower the price of eggs. A bumper sticker does not absorb the housing costs. This sounds obvious, almost silly to write down, yet somehow it keeps getting forgotten in Washington.

Courtesy Tribune

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

Islamabad to become country's first fully cashless city by year-end



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to make the federal capital the country's first fully cashless city, setting Dec 31 as the deadline for the transition.

The decision was taken at an important meeting on the Cashless Capital project chaired by State Minister for Interior Tallal Chaudry, in Islamabad on Friday, according to an official statement by the Ministry of Interior on X.

Speaking on the occasion, Chaudhry said consultation and suggestions from all stakeholders were important for the success of the project, the statement said.

"The implementation of the project is under way at a fast pace on the special instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi," Chaudhry was quoted as saying.

Naqvi had promised the prime minister that Islamabad would be made Pakistan's first cashless city and the world's first cashless capital, the state minister added.

"After Nov 30, no cash payment will be accepted in any department of the Islamabad Capital Territory administration and the Capital Development Authority (CDA)," Chaudhry stated.

"The target is to bring all merchants in Islamabad into the cashless system by Dec 31," he said.

He said the cashless system would improve financial transparency, tax monitoring and the transaction system, adding that 26,000 merchants in Islamabad had already been connected to the digital payments system.

"Digital payment facilities will be provided at every level, from street vendors to major business centres," the state minister affirmed.

"All relevant institutions will work together to make Islamabad a modern digital city."

According to the statement, CDA Chairman Sohail Ashraf, representatives of the banking sector and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Representatives of the banking sector appreciated the government's Cashless Islamabad initiative and assured full cooperation for its success, it added.

The prime minister has repeatedly emphasised the need to implement digital transaction systems across the country, insisting that it is vital to bring transparency to the economy. In a meeting last week, PM Shehbaz also directed authorities to prepare a "clear roadmap and time-bound targets" for establishing a 100 per cent digital payments system in the country.

"Promoting a cashless economy is one of the government's top priorities, with its positive results already beginning to emerge," PM Shehbaz said.

He was also apprised that the work on the digitisation of payments in all federal and provincial government institutions was progressing rapidly, and payments in "most institutions" would be fully digitised by December 2026.

Dar reviews austerity measures, calls for PNSC restructuring with global consultants

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday reviewed the implementation of austerity measures across government departments and separately discussed the proposed restructuring of the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC), according to statements issued by the Foreign Office (FO).

Dar chaired a meeting of the Committee for Monitoring and Implementation of Conservation and Additional Austerity Measures at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where participants reviewed progress on earlier decisions, focusing on expenditure management and resource conservation across ministries and divisions.

The foreign minister emphasised that "sustained follow-through and close coordination were essential to achieving the objectives of the government's austerity drive".

He called for continued efforts to "reduce avoidable expenditure and improve administrative efficiency", while underscoring the shared responsibility of all relevant institutions in translating the measures into lasting savings.

The meeting was attended by the minister for information technology and telecommunication, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Bajwa.

Jam Kmal Visits "Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026," engages with ambassadors, trade Commissioners, global investors

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan visited the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum (PMIF) 2026 at Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad, where he toured various exhibition booths showcasing Pakistan's rich mineral resources, mining projects and investment opportunities.

During his visit, the Minister held interactions with ambassadors, trade commissioners, international investors, distinguished dignitaries and representatives of the business community.

Discussions focused on expanding trade cooperation, attracting foreign investment and exploring international partnerships in Pakistan's minerals sector, said a release issued here on Friday.

Jam Kamal Khan appreciated the efforts of participating companies and exhibitors in highlighting Pakistan's vast mineral wealth and presenting opportunities for investment, industrial development and mineral value addition.

Speaking to international media on the sidelines of the forum, the Minister highlighted Pakistan's immense mineral potential and emphasized the importance of strengthening global partnerships, encouraging foreign direct investment and enhancing mineral exports.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to facilitating international investors, improving market access and transforming Pakistan's mineral resources into a major driver of export-led economic growth. The forum provided an important platform for connecting Pakistan's mining industry with international investors, policymakers and business leaders to unlock new avenues of trade, investment and economic cooperation.



Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan visited the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum (PMIF) 2026 at Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad.

First Lady inaugurates PNWA annual grand festival 2026

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari on Friday inaugurated the Pakistan Navy Women Association (PNWA) Annual Grand Festival 2026

Begum Chief of the Naval Staff, Fouzia Naveed, received the First Lady and briefed her on the activities and welfare initiatives of PNWA. The first lady visited various stalls displaying handicrafts and household items prepared by women associated with the initiative. She appreciated their craftsmanship, dedication and hard work, acknowledging their efforts in developing skills and contributing to the welfare of their families.

During the visit, the first lady was informed that PNWA also operates a vocational institute to equip women with practical skills. She was briefed that proceeds from the sale of products made by these women are channelled back to PNWA to support the welfare of the women involved.

Established in 1970, PNWA is dedicated to the welfare of families of serving and retired Pakistan.

CCLC approves Foreign Exchange Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2026

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC), chaired by Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, on Friday approved several legislative proposals, including the Foreign Exchange Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2026 and a legal and administrative package concerning plant protection functions.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the relevant ministries and departments.

The committee approved a proposal regarding leave prior to retirement (LPR) in the Armed Forces, including payment in lieu of the unavailed portion of such leave.

It also approved replacing references to the Federal Government with the names of relevant competent authorities in various laws administered by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP). The Foreign Exchange Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2026 was approved after reviewing proposed amendments to the legal framework.

Special arrangements in place to strengthen mining operations security framework: Minister

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik on Friday said the government was committed to ensuring security and safety at mine sites, along logistics routes and, above all, for trained human resources to support uninterrupted mining operations in a conducive environment.

Addressing the two-day Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF26), he said special arrangements had been made to strengthen the security framework for mining operations. He said the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was investing in improving geological data through the Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP), recognising that investors could not accurately assess project risks without reliable scientific information.

He said more than 40 mineral exploration licences had recently been granted in the Chagai and Khuzdar districts of Balochistan alone, reflecting growing private sector participation.

Collective efforts needed to promote healthy lifestyles, raise awareness about diabetes risks: Ayaz

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Friday said that diabetes has emerged as a serious public health challenge, affecting not only individuals but also their families, communities and society at large.

In his message on the occasion of World Diabetes Day, he said that the global theme for World Diabetes Day 2026, "Early Action on Diabetes," underscores the importance of timely diagnosis, access to quality healthcare and preventive measures.

He stressed that greater public awareness, early detection and affordable and accessible treatment are essential to addressing the growing burden of diabetes and preventing serious complications. Ayaz Sadiq said that unhealthy diets, physical inactivity and other unhealthy lifestyle factors can increase the risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

He urged citizens to adopt balanced diets, engage in regular physical activity and make healthy lifestyle choices part of their daily routines.

The Speaker also encouraged people to undergo regular health check-ups and seek medical advice without delay if they experience possible symptoms or have risk factors associated with diabetes.

Ayaz Sadiq emphasized that early diagnosis and timely, appropriate medical care can help prevent or delay complications and enable people living with diabetes to lead healthier and more fulfilling lives.

He said that diabetes management requires sustained access to medical care, essential medicines, professional guidance and support for adopting healthy lifestyle practices.

Ayaz Sadiq called upon healthcare institutions and relevant public-sector organizations to strengthen diabetes prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment services, particularly at the primary healthcare level.

He said that public awareness campaigns should be expanded through healthcare facilities, educational institutions, communities and the media so that citizens are better informed about diabetes, its warning signs, risk factors and the importance of early action.

The Speaker said that a healthy population is the foundation of a strong and prosperous nation, adding that ensuring access to quality healthcare for every citizen is an important responsibility of the state.

He reaffirmed that Parliament would continue to play its role through legislation and oversight aimed at protecting public health, preventing disease and improving access to quality healthcare services. On the occasion, Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah said that effectively addressing the growing threat of diabetes requires greater emphasis on prevention, early diagnosis and continuous medical monitoring.

He said that, alongside encouraging citizens to adopt healthier lifestyles, it was equally important to ensure that people living with diabetes have timely and affordable access to treatment, essential medicines and professional medical advice. Mustafa Shah emphasized the need to promote diabetes .