

Dar, Saudi FM discuss possible R4 meeting on regional developments



Women em powerment govt's top priority: Tarar



Tahir Ashrafi welcomes madrassa registration ordinance in KP

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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

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COP31 teeters on the brink as fossil fuel rift deepens

PEAK POINT

TURKEY: The fate of the COP31 climate summit hung by a thread on Sunday after a last-ditch bid to break a standoff over fossil fuels cast doubts over whether nations could clinch a deal. The eleventh-hour offering by summit co-hosts Turkey and Australia left unresolved divisions over planet-heating fossil fuels as the summit approached record overtime. The proposal needs consensus approval from nearly 200 nations but its omission of fossil fuels sparked a revolt by the European Union and smaller island states at risk of rising seas. Chances of a deal were diminishing "by the hour", Irish climate minister Darragh O'Brien, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency, told reporters. The proposed agreement "lacks the climate ambition that is needed to tackle this climate crisis", he said. With no compromise in sight, more than 40 hours after its scheduled close, the summit risks losing the numbers required to make any decision as delegates leave for home. Ministers trickled into a conference room for a plenary whose outcome remained highly uncertain. "The ball is now in the parties' court," COP31 President Murat Kurum told reporters. "If it is not adopted, I believe those who push the COP process into a deadlock will need to reflect on their position." Fossil fuels are a flashpoint at the climate talks and the summit comes against a difficult backdrop of soaring energy prices and geopolitical tensions stemming from the war in Iran. With expectations low, negotiations chief Australia had sought an overarching political agreement to capture what countries agreed at COP31 and send a signal about the future course of climate action.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif talking to Rana Mashood here on sunday.

PPP-PML-N spat continues as Asif's jibe at Bilawal draws 'red line' warning



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: In the latest from the ongoing wrangling between the ruling PML-N and its ally in the Centre, the PPP, leaders from the latter have said Defence Minister Khawaja Asif's remarks directed at Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari were "unacceptable" and crossed the party's "red line". The reaction from PPP Senator Sherry Rehman and MNA Sharmila Faruqui on Sunday came on a Nov 19 post by Asif, in which he shared two video clips of PPP Chairperson Bilawal. In the first clip, Bilawal is seen criticising the PTI and its founder, Imran Khan, and in the second one, from his recent address at the Karachi Press Club (KPC), he terms Imran a "political prisoner". "A person becomes the prime minister and is later imprisoned. So I can either accept that every prime minister in the country's history has been a thief, or I can accept that all prime ministers in our history have been victims of political revenge," he adds. Commenting on the two clips, Asif posted on X: "We believed that the new generation would be better and more principled than ours.

Portuguese foreign minister arrives in Pakistan for official visit: FO



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal Paulo Rangel arrived in Pakistan on Sunday for an official visit, the Foreign Office (FO) said.

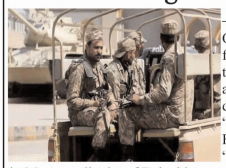
Rangel is visiting Pakistan at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar from November 22 to 23. He was received upon arrival by Additional Secretary Europe Ambassador Ayesha Ali.

According to FO, Rangel will hold delegation-level talks with DPM Dar as well as meetings with Pakistani leadership.

"He is accompanied by a business delegation for the inaugural Pakistan-Portugal Business Forum," FO said, expressing hope that the visit will provide an opportunity to review the full spectrum of the bilateral relationship.

The visit comes as Pakistan and Portugal mark the 77th anniversary of their diplomatic relations, established on Nov 7, 1949, FO spokesperson said in a statement on Saturday. The two leaders will review bilateral relations and discuss ways to expand trade and investment. "The visit will also feature a Pakistan-Portugal Business Forum. Companies from both countries will hold business-to-business meetings to explore commercial partnerships and investment opportunities in agri-food, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, information technology and textiles," the spokesperson had added in his statement.

Security forces kill 15 terrorists in Balochistan's Mastung: sources



PEAK POINT

QUETTA: Security forces have killed 15 terrorists in two separate operations conducted under "Operation Rad-ul-Fitna-3" against "Fitna al-Hindustan" in Mastung district of Balochistan, security sources said.

According to the security sources, five terrorists were killed in the first operation, while 10 others were eliminated in the second in different areas of Mastung.

Several terrorist hideouts were destroyed during the operations, while a large cache of weapons and ammunition was also recovered, the sources added.

Security forces also cleared the areas of Killi Pasand Khan, Musa Khan, Khorasani, and Kaftari of terrorists.

They said the security forces remain committed to eradicating terrorism from Balochistan, and operations will continue until the last terrorist is eliminated.

Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terror activities, particularly in its Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan provinces, since 2021, when the Afghan Taliban came into power. According to a report by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS).

Veteran journalist Husain Naqi passes away in Lahore

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Veteran journalist and human rights activist Husain Naqi passed away in Lahore on Sunday.

He was a former editor of The News and had also been associated with the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP).

HRCP official Muhammad Ilyas told Dawn that Naqi died of a cardiac arrest.

"He attended a book launch ceremony at the HRCP the previous day. Later, he suffered a heart attack around 6pm on Saturday. He was admitted to a private hospital where he died early.

Islamabad to host nuclear security meeting from Nov 23-26

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will host the 15th annual meeting of the International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres (NSSC Network) in Islamabad from November 23 to 26, bringing together representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and 49 member states, the Foreign Office (FO) said on Sunday. The four-day meeting, being held in collaboration with the IAEA, will bring together participants to discuss "ways to strengthen nuclear security training and support, promote international cooperation and exchange experience in this field", the FO said in a statement.

Pakistan previously hosted the NSSC Network's annual meeting in 2016, when it was



held for the "first time outside the IAEA headquarters in Vienna", the statement added.

"Hosting the meeting in Islamabad reflects Pakistan's continued commitment and contribution to advancing nuclear security through international cooperation, knowledge sharing and sustainable capacity building," the FO added.

Read: Pakistan for equitable civil nuclear cooperation

Pakistan previously hosted the NSSC Network's annual meeting in March 2016, when Islamabad became the first venue outside the IAEA headquarters in Vienna to hold the gathering. The meeting brought together 56 officials from 29 countries, alongside representatives of the IAEA and the World Institute of Nuclear Security.

Pakistan established its Centre of Excellence for Nuclear Security in 2012, bringing together specialised training and research facilities to strengthen its nuclear security capabilities.

In 2019, the IAEA commended Pakistan's nuclear security measures, saying they were consistent with recommendations issued by the global nuclear watchdog. The agency also highlighted Pakistan's contribution to international nuclear security through its expertise, participation in advisory groups, and hosting of regional and international training courses. Most recently, in October, an International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission by the IAEAconcluded a review of Pakistan's nuclear security framework.

Trump vows to make 'permanent' deal with Iran, prevent future nuclear ambitions



PEAK POINT

NEW YORK: United States President Donald Trump has said that he intends to secure a "permanent" deal with Iran, insisting that no future American president should be able to allow Tehran to obtain a nuclear weapon. Trump said his approach was shaped by what he described as Iran's repeated failure to honor agreements. "We make a deal, and then they break the deal the next day," he said, arguing that any new agreement must prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons regardless of who occupies the White House in the coming years. "What I'm doing is I'm going to make it so that if we have an incompetent president in four years or 15 years or 20 years, I wouldn't make a deal that is going to be permanent,".



DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

SPORTS



Pakistan Shaheens post 313 against India A in Rising Stars Asia Cup



PEAK POINT

DOHA: Pakistan Shaheens posted a competitive 313-run total against India A in their second Group B fixture of the ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars 2026 at the West End Park International Cricket Stadium on Sunday, with Maaz Sadaqat, Hasan Nawaz and Farhan Yousaf leading the batting effort with half-centuries.

Batting first, Pakistan made an explosive start as openers Shamyl Hussain and Maaz Sadaqat adopted an aggressive approach from the outset, bringing up their 50-run partnership in just the fifth over.

However, Ayush Badoni broke their 66-run opening stand by dismissing Shamyl for a brisk 33 off 23 deliveries, including four boundaries and two sixes.

India A struck again in the following over when pacer Harshit Rana removed wicketkeeper-batter Rohail Nazir for a three-ball duck, leaving Pakistan at 67-2 in 8.3 overs. Hasan Nawaz then joined Sadaqat at the crease, and the pair steadied the innings with a crucial partnership while maintaining an impressive scoring rate.

Sadaqat continued his impressive form, bringing up his 10th List A half-century. However, his innings came to an end when Suryansh Shedge dismissed him for 59 off 63 deliveries, featuring six fours and a six. His departure also ended their 54-run partnership. Captain Abdul Samad joined Hasan at the crease, and the duo stitched together another valuable partnership to take Pakistan past the 150-run mark.

Hasan brought up his fifth List A half-century but failed to convert it into a century, falling to Shedge for an impressive 79 off 82 deliveries, including five boundaries and two sixes. His dismissal ended their 44-run partnership.

Samad's innings also came to an end following a sharp piece of fielding by Rinku Singh, who effected a run-out. The Pakistan captain scored 28 off 35 deliveries, including a boundary and two sixes, leaving the Shaheens at 186-4 in 30.3 overs.

Farhan Yousaf then joined the crease and provided valuable support before Imran Randhawa added impetus to the innings with an aggressive cameo, striking two sixes to help Pakistan cross the 250-run mark.

However, Vipraj Nigam provided India A with another breakthrough, dismissing Randhawa for 23 off 14 deliveries, including a boundary and two sixes.

Muneeba, Gull power Pakistan to nine-wicket win over Scotland



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Muneeba scores unbeaten 59, while Gull Feroza hits 54 not out as Pakistan chase down 125-run target in 17.1 overs. Pakistan Women registered a convincing nine-wicket victory over Scotland Women in their fifth match of the Super Sixes stage of the ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy 2026 at the Karwan Sports Club Cricket Ground in Ajman on Sunday. Chasing a target of 125, Pakistan comfortably reached 128 for one in 17.1 overs, with 17 balls to spare, courtesy of unbeaten half-centuries from captain Muneeba Ali and Gull Feroza. Muneeba led from the front with an impressive 59 not out off 48 balls, striking nine fours, while Gull remained unbeaten on 54 off 43 deliveries, which included seven boundaries. The pair stitched together an unbeaten partnership to guide Pakistan to victory after Shawaal Zulfiqar was dismissed for 13. Earlier, after being put in to bat, Scotland managed 124 for five in their allotted 20 overs. Captain Kathryn Bryce top-scored with 53 off 36 balls, hitting seven fours and a six. Katherine Fraser contributed 21, while Sarah Bryce scored 17. For Pakistan, Umm-e-Hani was the leading wicket-taker with two wickets for 19 runs in three overs. Nashra Sandhu, Omaima Sohail and Momina Riasat claimed one wicket apiece.

Rizwan, Shan, Saim among notable omissions as PCB awards contracts to 38 players



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Former captain Mohammad Rizwan, Shan Masood and Saim Ayub were among the notable omissions as the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Saturday announced central contracts for 38 men's cricketers under a revamped, format-based structure that places greater emphasis on specialised roles and the development of emerging talent.

The contracts, effective from Nov 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, mark a departure from the traditional A-to-D grading system, replacing salary-based rankings with five tracks based on players' format commitments. The new list includes eight more players than the previous cycle, while 19 cricketers have been placed in the newly introduced development category.

Besides Rizwan, Shan and Saim, the notable omissions include Hasan Ali, Abdullah Shafique, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Nawaz, Noman Ali, Hussain Talat, Khurram Shahzad, Abbas Afridi and Mohammad Wasim Jnr. The players had been without central contracts since their previous agreements expired in June.

Announcing the list at Gaddafi Stadium, member of the selection committee and director of high performance Aaqib Javed said the restructuring followed consultations involving selectors and the coaching staff to identify players expected to feature in particular formats over the coming months.

Blind Asia Cup Champions Pakistan receive warm welcome at Lahore Airport



Dhamiah Khan, Obaidullah Clinch Titles at Khairpur Sugar National Junior Squash Championship

Rahil Victor and M. Bin Naseem claim Under-15 and Under-11 crowns respectively



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Obaidullah and Sindh's Dhamiah Khan emerged victorious in the Boys Under-19 and Women's categories respectively at the 5th Khairpur Sugar National Junior and Women's Squash Championship, which concluded at the Venus Jahangir Khan Squash Academy in Karachi.Sindh's Rahil Victor and M. Bin Naseem won the Boys Under-15 and Under-11 titles respectively at the championship, which carried a total prize purse of Rs800,000. Mubeen Jumani, Executive Director of Khairpur Sugar Mills and Chairman of Jumani Group of Industries, was the chief guest at the closing ceremony and distributed prizes among the winners.Squash legend Jahangir Khan, Sindh Squash Association President Adnan Asad, Khairpur Sugar Mills CEO Faraz Mubeen Jumani, Asif Brohi, Sindh Squash Association Secretary Naveed Rehman and M. Naseem were also present on the occasion.In the Boys Under-19 final, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Obaidullah defeated second seed Adnan Zaman of Sindh 3-1 to claim the title. After losing the opening game 9-11, Obaidullah staged a strong comeback, winning the next three games 11-4, 11-2 and 11-7.The Women's final produced a closely contested encounter, with Sindh's Dhamiah Khan overcoming compatriot Vishnavi 3-2. Dhamiah won 6-11, 11-5, 5-11, 11-7 and 13-11 to secure the championship title. In the Boys Under-15 final, Rahil Victor of Sindh upset top seed Fawad Khan of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in straight games, winning 11-9, 11-3 and 11-7.Sindh's M. Bin Naseem claimed the Boys Under-11 title after defeating fellow Sindhi player Muhammad Abaan 3-1. He won the match 12-10, 11-7, 6-11 and 11-8.

Zone-III Whites and Zone-I Blues Register Wins in Medicam Trophy U-19 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament

Hamza Oonwala and Muhammad Umar received Medicam Man of the Match Awards

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Zone-III Whites recorded their 2nd consecutive victory by beating Zone-IV Blues by 106 runs while Zone-I Blues upset Zone-V Whites by 2 wickets in the Medicam Trophy Under-19 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament matches played at various grounds in the city.The highlights of the day were brilliant batting by Hamza Oonwala 86 and excellent bowling by Sudais 4/25, Muhammad Umar 4/31, Amanullah 4/38 and Muhammad Zubair 4/47.The tournament is being organized by the Regional Cricket Association Karachi in collaboration with the Medicam Group of Companies. Scores in Brief :Zone-III Whites beat Zone-IV Blues by 106 runs.Zone-III Whites 232 all out in 39.5 overs: Hamza Oonwala 86 (11x4, 1x6), Muhammad Zahid 50 (6x4, 1x6), Shehriyar Asif 35. Amanullah (RS) 4/38, Mehrab Ali 2/35, Arshan Khan 2/47.In reply,Zone-IV Blues 132 all out in 34 overs: Muhammad Hamdan 34, Amanullah 31. Sudais (LS) 4/24, Taimoor Rehman 2/12, Muneebullah 2/24.First-Class cricketers Afsar Nawaz and Usama Basharat presented the Medicam Man of the Match Award to Hamza Oonwala of Zone-III Whites.In the another match Zone-I Blues beat Zone-



V Whites by 2 wickets.Zone-V Whites 172 all out in 36.5 overs: Shehzad Khan 43 (3x4), Abdullah 40 (7x4), Muhammad Khan 34, Majid Ali 31. Muhammad Umar (MF) 4/31, Azaam Abbasi 2/30.In reply, Zone-I Blues 173/8 in 32.3 overs: Mohib Imran 50 (4x4, 3x6), Muhammad Shahzain 42 (9x4), Moosa Khan 31. Muhammad Zubair 4/47.First-Class cricketer Raza-ul-Hasan and Muhammad Asghar Vice President Zone-V, presented the Medicam Man of the Match Award to Muhammad Umar of Zone-I Blues.Fixtures:Monday, 23rd November: Zone-V Whites vs Zone-VI Blues (Eid Gah Ground, Korangi) Tuesday, 24th November: Zone-VI Whites vs Zone-II Blues (TMC Ground); Zone-II Whites vs Zone-V Blues (Eid Gah Ground)Wednesday, 25th November: Zone-VII Blues vs Zone-VI Blues (TMC Ground) Thursday.



DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

Digital Health must serve patients, not create Barriers, Says Prof Dr Shehzad Ali Khan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Health Services Academy (HSA) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Shehzad Ali Khan has called for a patient centred approach to digital healthcare, saying technology should improve access to medical services rather than create additional burdens for patients and healthcare professionals.Addressing the 5th Annual International Conference, CardioCon 2026, Prof Dr Shehzad said digital health reforms should be driven by clinical needs and patient welfare instead of the commercial interests of technology providers.Among those attending the conference were Gen Azhar Kayani, Prof Hafeezullah, Prof Shehryar, Prof Akhtar Bandaisha and Nisar Memon.Dr Shehzad said heart disease was responsible for about 47 deaths every hour in Pakistan, with annual fatalities estimated at around 450,000. He cautioned that the actual burden could be higher, as many deaths, particularly in rural areas,



remain unreported.While acknowledging progress in medical technology and diagnostics, he said digital health involved much more than installing computers and hospital management software.The real value of digital health lies in the collection and effective use of reliable data for healthcare planning, disease prevention, diagnosis and treatmenthe said Referring to Pakistan's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Dr Shehzad cited the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) as an example of data driven decision making, where information on testing, infections and deaths was compiled daily from across the country.He noted that the introduction of digital systems in some hospitals had increased administrative workloads and waiting times instead of improving access to care. Dr Shehzad said many digital health solutions were developed without adequate consultation with medical professionals and stressed that technology should be designed around clinical priorities rather than commercially available software.He also urged cardiologists to place greater emphasis on prevention, public awareness, early diagnosis, prehospital care and post-discharge follow-up.The conference brought together cardiologists and healthcare professionals from Pakistan and abroad to discuss advances in cardiovascular medicine, preventive cardiology, digital health and the future of healthcare delivery.

IBCC plans fully online attestation from Jan 1, ending office visits and courier submissions

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC) will launch a fully online attestation service on Jan 1, 2027, allowing students to apply for attestation and download their attested documents without visiting an IBCC office or sending documents by courier.The decision was taken at a meeting of the IBCC Board of Directors chaired by Executive Director Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah. The service will cover qualifications issued by 29 examination boards across Pakistan, as well as eligible qualifications from madaris.Applicants will submit their documents through the IBCC portal. Once the commission processes and approves an application, the electronically attested document will be available in the applicant's account for download and printing. The new system will eliminate the need for courier delivery in either direction.Students who need to submit the same document to several institutions will be able to print multiple copies without paying a separate IBCC attestation fee for each copy. They can use the copies for submissions to universities and, where required for use abroad, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, subject to its applicable requirements.Dr Mallah said the commission had developed the system on the direction of Federal Secretary for Education and Professional Training Nadeem Mahbub after the IBCC Board of Governors took up the automation of the entire attestation process.He said the commission expected the service to benefit an estimated 400,000 to 500,000 students by cutting travel and courier costs and saving them time spent visiting and waiting at IBCC offices. The shift would also reduce the commission's workload by eliminating the need to receive, handle and dispatch physical documents.

Opinion & Editorial

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD
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Climate diplomacy in retreat

Global climate negotiations have reached a point where even acknowledging the principal cause of global warming appears to be beyond the willingness of major economies. After more than three decades of international conferences, governments are still reluctant to commit themselves to reducing their dependence on fossil fuels, despite mounting scientific evidence and increasingly destructive climate disasters. COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye, was expected to advance the transition agreed upon in Dubai in 2023. Instead, it has exposed how readily political and commercial interests can undermine climate commitments. A revised draft agreement has removed all references to transitioning away from coal, oil and gas, while placing considerable emphasis on carbon capture and storage technologies. Although these technologies may have a role in reducing emissions, they cannot substitute for a systematic reduction in fossil fuel consumption. Their adoption on the scale envisaged remains uncertain, and presenting them as a principal solution offers energy producers an opportunity to prolong existing practices. While an agreement may emerge from the negotiations, its value will be severely diminished if it fails to address the fossil fuel transition.

Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2026: Revival of Pakistani Hockey, Renewed Hope and the Return of National Pride

By: Prof. Choudhary Muhammad Rasheed Sal



Hockey in Pakistan is not merely a sport; it is a symbol of national pride, historic achievements, and international recognition. In the past, the Pakistan national hockey team established its reputation across the world through exceptional talent, outstanding technique, fast-paced gameplay, and remarkable teamwork. Winning four Hockey World Cup titles and three Olympic gold medals represents a glorious chapter in the history of Pakistani hockey. However, over the past two decades, poor administrative strategies, financial challenges, inadequate infrastructure, a lack of modern training facilities, and limited participation in international competitions have severely affected the national game.In this challenging situation, Pakistan's encouraging performance in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2026 has emerged as a positive development for the revival of national hockey. Held in Ipoh, Malaysia, this prestigious international tournament provided an opportunity for Pakistan to demonstrate its potential. The team's performance attracted the attention of hockey enthusiasts and renewed hopes for the future of young players and the national squad.Young Talent and the New Identity of the National TeamYoung players have a particularly important role in the recent progress of Pakistani hockey. Hannan Shahid, Sufyan Khan, Rana Waheed Ashraf, and other emerging players have demonstrated through their speed, technical skills, game awareness, and goal-scoring abilities that Pakistan still possesses natural hockey talent.Pakistan's impressive 5–1 victory against the United States was an important demonstration of the team's capabilities. This achievement boosted the confidence of the players and sent a positive message that Pakistan can regain a prominent position in international hockey through proper training, effective planning, and consistent opportunities.However, the success of a single match or tournament should not be considered the ultimate measure of revival. Sustainable progress requires consistency, professional discipline, and a strong institutional framework.Modern Hockey and Its Changing Requirements Modern hockey has evolved into a much faster, more scientific, and strategically demanding sport. Physical fitness, speed, endurance, technical expertise, video analysis, sports science, and biomechanics have become essential elements of international hockey.To compete at the global level, Pakistan must adopt modern training methodologies. Scientific analysis of individual player performance, specialized penalty-corner training, defensive strategies, and modern goalkeeping techniques require particular attention.Similarly, coaches, physiotherapists, sports scientists, and fitness specialists should become an integral part of the training systems for both national and junior teams.School and College Hockey: The Real Foundation of RevivalThe genuine revival of Pakistani hockey must begin with educational institutions. Schools, colleges, and universities should promote regular hockey competitions, inter-collegiate tournaments, and inter-university championships.To encourage young people to participate in hockey, educational institutions must provide proper playgrounds, qualified coaches, quality sports equipment, and structured sports programmes. Hockey should receive appropriate attention at every educational level so that talented players can be identified and developed from an early age.Without establishing a strong hockey structure at the school and college levels, it will be difficult to produce talented players consistently for the national team. Administrative Reforms and Institutional Stability Transparency, professional management, and long-term planning within the Pakistan Hockey Federation are essential for the revival of national hockey. The affairs of the sport must be managed according to national priorities rather than personal interests or temporary decisions.Players should receive timely financial support, modern training facilities, proper nutrition, medical assistance, and regular opportunities to participate in international competitions. The government, private sector, and corporate organizations must also play an effective role in supporting the national game.The Role of Media and Sports JournalismThe media also has a significant responsibility in promoting Pakistani hockey. Electronic, print, and digital media should provide appropriate coverage to national hockey activities, the achievements of young players, and international competitions.Sports journalism can promote constructive dialogue about the challenges facing hockey, administrative issues, and opportunities for development. Social media platforms should also be utilized to encourage young people, highlight players' achievements, and strengthen the overall sports culture in Pakistan.Conclusion: From Historic Glory to Future SuccessPakistan's encouraging performance in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2026 has delivered a message of renewed hope for national hockey. However, regaining its lost position in international hockey requires more than emotional slogans. It demands practical measures, modern training systems, a strong administrative structure, and consistent investment. Pakistan has produced some of the greatest hockey players in Olympic and international history. Even today, the country's youth possess the talent, passion, and determination needed to take the national game back to the highest level. What is required is proper direction, adequate resources, and meaningful opportunities to develop this potential.The revival of Pakistani hockey should not be limited to the success of a single tournament; it must become a national mission. Transforming the positive progress demonstrated in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup into sustainable development will be the real achievement.We must not only remember our glorious past but also plan strategically for the future, ensuring that the Green in Crescent and Star once again shine proudly on the international hockey stage.

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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

Presidential ordinance withdraws most privileges of KP MPAs, including protection against preventive detention

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: President Asif Ali Zardari has promulgated five ordinances, doing away with most of the "privileges" of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa lawmakers, including protection against "preventive detention" and providing a legal framework for special initiatives in the designated 12 districts and other districts in the province.

With the imposition of emergency in KP on Oct 11, an Area Representative and Development Council (ARDC) was formed to oversee 12 districts that were deemed to face intense security challenges, including the merged districts.

Two of the ordinances envisage setting up an executive committee with wide-ranging powers to oversee special initiatives, including developmental schemes, in the 12 designated districts and the rest of the province, respectively.

The committee will have powers to identify and recommend the executing agency for special initiatives in the designated and other districts, including military formations.

In a statement on Saturday, President Zardari's office confirmed he had promulgated five ordinances pertaining to KP. Of these, the following four had been published in the Official Gazette on Nov 19 after their promulgation:

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly (Powers, Immunities and Privileges) Ordinance, 2026 (XI of 2026).

The fifth was the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Speaker and Deputy Speaker (Salaries, Allowances and Privileges) Ordinance 2026.

Through the amendment ordinance related to privileges of MPAs, drastic changes have been made in the KP Provincial Assembly (Powers, Immunities and Privileges) Act 2026, as 21 of its 40 sections have been omitted, including those providing protection to the MPAs against "preventive detentions" and offences related to "breach" of privileges.

The schedule of offences related to "breach of privileges" of the Assembly, its members and committees has also been omitted, thus leaving them without significant privileges.

It may be mentioned that Sohail Afridi — whose role as the chief minister was rendered non-functional due to governor's rule — Speaker Babar Saleem Swati and other lawmakers have been in "preventive detention" since emergency was imposed, according to police.

KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi also said last month that they had been placed under house arrest.

The important provisions omitted through the ordinance include sections 5 (attendance of MPA detained or arrested), 6 (members not liable to civil or criminal action), 10 (preventive detention).

Women empowerment government's top priority: Tarar

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights Azam Nazir Tarar on Sunday participated in the Seventh Women Summit in Istanbul.

Turkish Minister for Family and Social Services Mahinur Ozdemir Goktas also attended the summit along with the delegation.

Sara Ahmad, Convener for Gendermen Streaming, was also present on the occasion.

Addressing the participants, Tarar said that Pakistan is providing equal opportunities to women in the fields of education and economy.

He said that the participation of women in political, economic, social, and other sectors is the present government's priority.

Tarar said that Pakistan's Protection and Welfare Bureau is taking all possible measures to provide security, education, and a self-reliant environment to children

The minister said that the provision of security to women and enhancing their capabilities are included in the policies of the government.

He said that religion Islam gives equal opportunities to women and their security is a top priority in our society.

Later, the Pakistani delegation held a meeting with Turkish Minister for Family and Social Services Mahinur.

Dar, Saudi FM discuss possible R4 meeting on regional developments

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan discussed the possible convening of a meeting of R4 foreign ministers in the near future to continue consultations on regional developments during a telephone call, the Foreign Office said on Sunday.

According to FO, both sides discussed cooperation at multilateral fora and ways to further strengthen coordination on matters of mutual interest.

FO added that both leaders agreed to remain in close contact to sustain the momentum of diplomatic engagements.

Renewed Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia have drawn repeated condemnation from Pakistan. On November 20, the Foreign Office called a strike on a tower in Riyadh's King Abdullah Financial District a "grave violation" of Saudi Arabia's sovereignty, warning that attacks on civilian and economic infrastructure threatened regional peace and security.

The condemnation followed an attempted attack on a Saudi Aramco building in Riyadh on November 9, which Pakistan said showed a "reckless disregard" for human life and regional security.

The Houthis have been firing at Saudi airports and oil infrastructure since Yemen's frozen civil war was reignited in July amid the US-Iran war. On the ground in Yemen, the group has seized swathes of territory from the Saudi-backed government, forcing it to stage a major retreat at the weekend.

On October 26, Pakistan strongly condemned "reprehensible" Houthi ballistic missile attacks on October 24, which had targeted the Makkah and Madinah regions of Saudi Arabia, including areas in the vicinity of the holy sites. On October 24, Saudi Arabia's Civil Defence briefly issued alerts warning of potential danger.



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan presents Citification of Appreciation to Online Int'l News Network's Photojournalist Sultan Bashir in recognition of his contributions and partnership with High Commission of Malaysia in Pakistan.

Tahir Ashrafi welcomes madrassa registration ordinance in KP

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council and Coordinator of the national message of peace committee, Maulana Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, on Sunday welcomed the promulgation of the madrassa registration ordinance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, terming it a positive development and an important step by the incumbent government in the right direction. In a statement here, Tahir Ashrafi said the ordinance would help address issues faced by religious seminaries and facilitate their registration process. He said the efforts of the national message of peace committee and the Ittehad-e-Madaris Council were proving effective in resolving the longstanding issues of religious seminaries. The chairman expressed gratitude to President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for their role in facilitating this positive development. He said the KP government's initiative was particularly encouraging following the enactment of legislation concerning the registration of religious seminaries in Islamabad and Punjab.

Russian ambassador appreciates Pakistan's visionary cultural leadership, highlights growing Pak–Russia relations

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: A meeting between Honorary Advisor to the Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Usman Tahir and Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Pakistan Albert P. Khorev was held here on Sunday .

The meeting focused on strengthening cultural relations between Pakistan and Russia, promoting cultural diplomacy, and exploring new opportunities for bilateral cooperation through cultural exchange programmes, joint activities, educational initiatives and creative industry partnerships. During the discussion, Ambassador Albert P. Khorev appreciated the visionary leadership of Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi and acknowledged the positive role being played by the Ministry in promoting cultural activities and strengthening international relations.

The Ambassador particularly highlighted the importance of the Ministry's initiatives, noting that its vision and ongoing efforts to promote cultural exchange and bilateral engagement are making a positive contribution to strengthening relations.

Senior Journalist Ramzan Mughal appointed honorary adviser to Cuban embassy in Islamabad

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Senior journalist Ramzan Mughal has been appointed as Honorary Adviser to the Embassy of Cuba in Islamabad for people to people connections, liaison, and the promotion of educational, tourism, economy and trade relations between Pakistan and Cuba.The appointment has been made by the Cuban Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E Damián Cordero Torres with a view to strengthening bilateral cooperation and expanding people-to-people contacts between the two countries.As Honorary Adviser, Mughal will work to promote cooperation in education, tourism, culture, public relations, trade and economic affairs, while facilitating stronger engagement between relevant institutions, business communities and other stakeholders in both countries.In his message on the occasion, Mughal said Cuba was an important country in the Caribbean and North America, which had extended significant assistance to Pakistan following the devastating earthquake of 2005.

KP offers vast opportunities for solar energy investment: Governor Kundi

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday invited local and foreign companies to invest in the province's renewable energy sector, saying Khyber Pakhtunkhwa offered vast opportunities for investment in solar energy and public-private partnership (PPP) projects.

The Governor was addressing the media after visiting the International Solar Energy Meet Pakistan exhibition organized by White Paper Summits (WPS) in Peshawar as the chief guest. During the visit, the head of the exhibition, Khwaja Wahaj, briefed the Governor on the latest solar technologies and various products displayed by participating companies. The Governor toured different stalls and appreciated the participation of national and international companies, describing the exhibition as an important platform for promoting renewable energy, modern solar systems and investment opportunities.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said more companies should be encouraged to participate in such exhibitions and assured investors that they were welcome to invest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said companies could also participate in development projects under the public-private partnership model. He also expressed keen interest in modern solar technology and alternative energy sources.

Talking to reporters, the Governor said defeating terrorism remained the government's top priority and there was no option but to win the fight against militants. He said the police, Pakistan Army and the people were united against terrorism, referring to the recent intelligence-based operation near Peshawar in which terrorists were killed. The Governor said lasting peace was essential for accelerating development in the province. He stressed that political differences should be resolved through dialogue and constitutional forums rather than abusive language, adding that he respected all political leaders, including Maulana Fazlur Rehman, despite political differences.

He said he was serving as the constitutional representative of the federation in the province and emphasized that inter-provincial and political issues should be discussed at relevant forums, including the Council of Common Interests (CCI).

Faisal Karim Kundi said inadequate financial support for the police had weakened efforts to maintain law and order, claiming that only Rs1.2 billion had been provided against a requirement of Rs40 billion. He also expressed concern over allegations that illegal mining was being used to finance terrorists and called for strict action against those responsible.

The Governor further said that action should not only be taken against illegal encroachments but also against those who allegedly facilitated them through corruption. He stressed that effective rule of law and a strong system of accountability and justice were essential for ensuring lasting peace, stability and development in the country.