

Asif sees attempt to set ground for 'alternative arrangement' in Punjab amid Maryam-Salik row



Pakistan, UK agree to expand cooperation on counterterrorism, narcotics



Dar reviews preparations for ECO Council of Ministers meeting in Islamabad

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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

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PM seeks roadmap for '100pc' digital payments system, stresses countrywide internet access

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed authorities to prepare a "clear roadmap and time-bound targets" for establishing a 100 per cent digital payments system in the country.

The directives came during a high-level meeting he chaired in Islamabad regarding the promotion of a cashless economy in the country, according to a statement by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The premier directed the relevant officials to present a "clear roadmap and time-bound targets for establishing a 100pc digital payments system in the country".

"The issues faced by users in the digital payments system should be resolved immediately," PM Shehbaz said.

He further stressed, "To promote a cashless economy, the provision of internet across the country and easy access to technology for the public must be ensured."

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

He also commended the "ongoing successful efforts by the Ministry of Finance and all relevant state institutions" to promote a cashless economy. "The payment system through Raast QR codes is proving instrumental in achieving the government's vision of a cashless economy," the prime minister said, directing that the scheme.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding promotion of Cashless economy.

Afghan militant arrested during infiltration attempt in Upper Kurram: Sources



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Security forces arrested an armed Afghan militant attempting to infiltrate Pakistan from Afghanistan in the Upper Kurram sector, while other members of the group failed to cross the border, security sources said Friday.

The arrested suspect was identified as Qari Waqas, alias Quddus, a resident of Spin Ghar, Afghanistan.

Security sources said the suspect disclosed during interrogation that he had entered Pakistan to join the Kazim Group.

They said a sub-machine gun, four magazines and 88 rounds of ammunition were recovered from his possession during a search.

A notebook containing information about various locations and notes on bomb-making techniques was also recovered, sources said.

Security sources said the arrest provided evidence of an infiltration attempt from Afghanistan into Pakistan.

Further interrogation of the arrested suspect is underway, sources said.

Makkah Defence Alliance secretary general to assume duties in Riyadh soon: FO



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) on Friday said that the secretary general of the Makkah Defence Alliance, Lieutenant General (retd) Nauman Mahmood, is expected to assume his responsibilities in Riyadh soon.

Mahmood was appointed as the first secretary general of the alliance between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye on Sep 23.

Speaking at the FO's weekly press briefing, Spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan also touched upon the crisis in the Gulf, saying that Pakistan would continue its efforts to facilitate dialogue in the conflict involving Iran and the United States.

He said Islamabad had brought the two parties under one roof despite their having remained out of contact for decades and supports a peaceful resolution through dialogue and diplomacy, adding that Pakistan, Qatar and other countries were actively contributing to mediation efforts.

Elaborating further, he said Israel had played the role of a spoiler in the conflict. Criticising Israel's expansionist policies, he said peace in the region was not in Israel's interest and that its expansionist ambitions were among the major causes of the current regional crisis.

These ambitions were not limited to Iran, he said, adding that Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and other countries in the region.

Pakistan, Tajikistan forces conclude anti-terrorism drills



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Tajikistan have concluded their Joint Exercise Dosti-III, the 3rd edition of bilateral counter-terrorism exercise between their armies at Special Operations School in Cherat.

According to an ISPR statement released in Rawalpindi on Friday morning, the exercise commenced on 26 October 2026.

The exercise focused on sharing counter-terrorism experiences, refining operational drills, procedures and enhancing combat skills through mutual learning and exchange of best practices.

The exercise reflects the longstanding military cooperation between Pakistan and Tajikistan and reaffirms the resolve of both countries to further strengthen bilateral defence ties, said the ISPR statement.

Nadra assistant director shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Peshawar's Hayatabad: Police

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: An assistant director of the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) was shot dead by unidentified gunmen near the authority's office in Peshawar's Hayatabad area on Friday morning, police said.

The official was identified as Fahad Khan, the nephew of MNA Noor Alam Khan. According to city police spokesperson Alam Khan, he was shot in an area behind the Nadra office, within the jurisdiction of Hayatabad police.

Turkiye's parliament ratifies Makkah defence pact with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia amid Houthi attacks

PEAK POINT

ANKARA: Turkiye's parliament has ratified the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, a collective security pact between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye, clearing the way for Ankara to send military support to Riyadh amid attacks by Houthis against the kingdom.

Under the agreement, signed by the three regional powers in August and sent to parliament's approval last month, an attack on one party constitutes an attack on all.

A ruling party lawmaker told Reuters last month that Turkiye would also submit to parliament a mandate allowing for military personnel to be deployed to Saudi Arabia under the pact.

During the debate in parliament, ruling Justice and Development Party lawmaker Ziya Altunyaldiz



stressed that the agreement aims to expand security cooperation in the region, state-run Anadolu reported. He emphasised that it contains no approach against any third country and that its main goal is to prevent conflicts rather than escalate them. The agreement's first article says the parties shall use.

"all necessary means" to eliminate threats to one another's territorial integrity, sovereignty or internationally recognised borders, according to a text seen by Reuters.

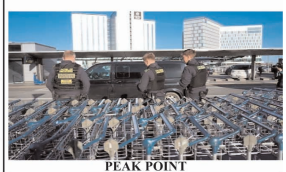
"In the event one of the parties is subjected to an armed attack or military aggression by another country or group of countries, the parties shall immediately provide assistance to the party under attack, utilising the full range of mutual assistance measures available to them," Article 2 of the agreement says.

The provision, similar to Nato's Article 5, refers to Article 51 of the UN Charter, which covers the individual or collective right of states to self-defence against armed attack.

The three countries will determine the scope and nature of support after objectively assessing the assistance required and will cooperate within their available resources, including military capabilities, the same article says.

The agreement stipulates that none of the three signatories can withdraw during the first 10 years from its entry into force. After that period, any party seeking to leave must give the other signatories at least three months' written notice through diplomaticchannels, according to the agreement's text.

Wave of bomb threats afflict European flights for third time this week



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A wave of bomb threats were issued to passenger flights around Europe on Friday for the third time this week, as Spain's foreign minister said the continent appeared to be facing "hybrid aggression and a form of psychological warfare". Hoax threats disrupted dozens of passenger flights across Europe on Thursday, forcing unplanned landings by some planes and prompting fighter jets to escort or intercept others, a dramatic escalation after an initial wave on Tuesday.

No explosive devices have been found and all planes have landed safely. Danish police said on Friday they were investigating threats directed at air traffic at Copenhagen airport, but that their immediate assessment.



DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

SPORTS



U19 Asia Cup: Pakistan Make Winning Start with 9-Wicket Victory over UAE

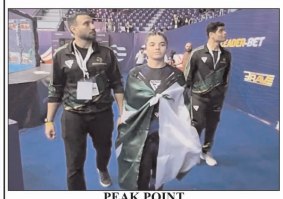


BY SHAKEEL UR REHMAN



ISLAMABAD: Defending champions Pakistan U19 made a winning start to the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup 2026, defeating the United Arab Emirates U19 by nine wickets in the tournament's opening match. Pakistan chased down the target of 225 runs, losing just one wicket to register a comprehensive victory.Opener Usman Khan was the star of the match, producing a magnificent unbeaten century. He scored 139 not out off 120 balls, smashing 21 fours and one six. His opening partner, Jahangir Bilal, also made a valuable contribution with 60 runs off 87 deliveries, including six boundaries.The opening pair laid the foundation for Pakistan's victory with a brilliant 153-run partnership for the first wicket. After Jahangir's dismissal, Usman continued his impressive batting, adding an unbeaten 72 runs for the second wicket with Abdul Qadir to guide Pakistan home in 37.3 overs.Abdul Qadir remained unbeaten on 20, while Usman finished on 139 not out as Pakistan reached 225 for one.Earlier, Pakistan won the toss and elected to field. The UAE U19 team was bowled out for 224 in its allotted 50 overs.For the UAE, Noorullah Ayobi top-scored with an aggressive 70 off 55 balls, hitting three fours and six sixes. Yayin Rai contributed 47 runs, while Zainullah Rahmani added 28.For Pakistan, Mohammad Siam led the bowling attack with an impressive spell, taking three wickets for 37 runs. Ali Raza, Rizwanullah and Hasnain Abbas Dar claimed two wickets each, while Naqab Shafiq picked up one wicket.Pakistan's all-round performance, featuring disciplined bowling and outstanding batting, ensured a convincing nine-wicket victory. Usman Khan's unbeaten 139 was undoubtedly the highlight of the opening encounter, as the defending champions began their title defence in impressive fashion.

Maliha claims bronze at MMA Worlds



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Maliha Ali won bronze at the IMMAF World Championships despite competing with multiple injuries, as the Pakistan MMA Federation appealed her split-decision defeat to Russia's Polina Baldina in the featherweight semi-finals on Thursday.

Maliha, who fought with a fractured toe, bruised eyelid and partially dislocated jaw, lost to Baldina, a former world champion, after judges returned contrasting scorecards of 30-27, 28-29 and 28-29.

The Pakistani fighter had defeated two-time European champion Veronika Drozdova of Russia by split decision before securing a unanimous victory over Mexico's Andrea Gabriela Guzman Salazar to reach the last four.

The federation has formally challenged the semi-final result, requesting a round-by-round scoring breakdown and a technical review of the bout. Pakistan MMA Federation president Omar Ahmed also raised concerns over judging consistency, noting that Pakistan had suffered another semi-final defeat by split decision at last year's championships. Maliha's twin sister Manesha, a gold medallist at the IMMAF World Cup in Angola.

Day 4 completed-23rd Asian team Squash Championships 2026

Pakistan Men's team are into the Finals



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Men's and Korea Men's Teams are into the Finals. Pakistan bt Hong Kong China and Korea bt Defending Asian Champions Malaysia.On the Women's Side, Iran bt Pakistan and Malaysia bt Korea.ASF AWARD CEREMONY - ALSO HELD TODAYASF Award Ceremony was also held today at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad.ASF Vice President Mr. Adel Jassim AlGhareeb awarded the Certificates to all the awardees.COMPLETE MATCH RESULTS - DAY 4:Men's 5th/6th Placing: Iran bt Uzbekistan 3-0- MS1: Sepehr Etemadpoor (Iran) bt Muhammadmustafo Abdurakhmonov (UZB) 11-9, 11-7, 14-12- MS2: Mojtaba Kafili Vijouyeh (Iran) bt Yakhyokhon Nazirov (UZB) 11-9, 11-5 [Retd.]- MS3: Mohammad Changanian (Iran) bt Botirjon Anvarjonov (UZB) 11-2, 11-2, 11-6Women's Team: Iran bt Pakistan 2-1- WS1: Fereshteh Eghtedari (Iran) bt Sana Bahadar (Pakistan) 11-8, 11-6, 11-6- WS2: Mahnoor Ali (Pakistan) bt Baran Mohammadpoor (Iran) 11-3, 4-11, 11-8, 11-9- WS3: Narges Soltani (Iran) bt Sehrish Ali (Pakistan) 11-9, 11-5, 11-8Women's Team: Malaysia bt Korea 3-0- WS1: Yasshmita Jadishkumar (Malaysia) bt Mingyeong Heo (Korea) 11-4, 11-1, 11-1- WS2: Yee Xin Ying (Malaysia) bt Hwayeong Eum (Korea) 11-6, 6-11, 8-11.



Ghazanfar-Imran, Ushna-Meheq capture doubles titles at Sheheryar Malik Memorial Tennis



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Brig (R) Ghazanfar and Imran Tahir secured the seniors 60-plus doubles crown while Ushna Suhail and Meheq Khokhar claimed the ladies doubles title in the 10th Sheheryar Malik Memorial Pakistan Open Tennis Championship at the Sports Board Punjab Tennis Academy, Nishtar Park, on Friday.In the seniors 60-plus doubles final, Brig (R) Ghazanfar and Imran Tahir proved too strong for Saleem and Dr Mushtaq Haroon, registering a comprehensive 6-1, 6-2 victory to lift the trophy. Meanwhile, Hadi Hussain and Dr Sohaib advanced in the seniors 45-plus doubles final after defeating Khurram Imtiaz and Arif Feroze 6-2, 2-6, 10-5.In the ladies doubles final, Ushna and Meheq delivered a commanding display to defeat Bismal Zia and Khadija Khalil 6-0, 6-1. The victorious pair had earlier booked their place in the final with a 6-2, 6-1 semifinal triumph over Fajar Fayyaz and Esha Rabbi. Bismal and Khadija also produced a strong performance, overcoming Esha Jawad and Zaina 6-3, 7-6 to reach the title decider.In the boys U-12 semifinal.

Pakistan guarantee boys' doubles title as two home pairs reach ITF J-60 final



Pakistan's late rally falls short against India

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan produced a thrilling late comeback against arch-rivals India, scoring twice in stoppage time, but ultimately suffered a 3-2 defeat in their SAFF Championship Group B opener at Dhaka's National Stadium on Thursday. According to information made available here, despite trailing 3-0 at half-time, the Shaheens showed remarkable determination in the closing stages, with Najeebullah and Alamgir Ghazi scoring late goals to briefly revive hopes of an extraordinary comeback. India dominated the opening half, taking the lead in the 14th minute through Suhail Ahmad Bhat, who struck again six minutes later, before Manglenthang Kipgen extended India's advantage to 3-0 in the 32nd minute.

Pakistan had a golden opportunity to reduce the deficit when Hayyaan Khattak earned a penalty after being fouled inside the box. However, Shayek Dost sent his spot-kick over the crossbar, allowing India to maintain their comfortable lead at the interval. Head coach Nolberto Solano made several changes in an effort to turn the contest around, but injuries further disrupted Pakistan's plans.

The late resurgence finally arrived in stoppage time. Najeebullah headed home a pinpoint Junaid Shah cross in the second minute of added time to register his maiden international goal. Two minutes later, Alamgir Ghazi produced a spectacular overhead kick after receiving a pass from McKeal Abdullah, reducing the deficit to 3-2. Pakistan pressed desperately for an equaliser, but India held firm to secure all three points.



The defeat leaves Pakistan needing a positive result against the Maldives in their final Group B fixture on Sunday, November 8, at 2:30pm PST to keep their semifinal ambitions alive. The top two teams from each group will advance to the last four.

TWIN CITIES
Daily Peak Point, November 07, 2026
DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

Hamza Shehbaz visits Daanish School Islamabad, reviews educational facilities

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Former Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz Sharif on Friday visited Daanish School Islamabad, inspected classrooms and laboratories, and interacted with students to learn about their educational activities and future ambitions.

During the visit, he was briefed on the academic facilities, teaching methods, extracurricular activities and arrangements made for the students.

School officials informed him that the academic block comprised 24 classrooms, while various student societies had been established to promote literary activities, science, fine arts, history and geography.

They said Saturdays had been dedicated to project-based learning, while teachers and psychologists were also focusing on students' life skills, interpersonal communication and personality development.



The former chief minister was informed that morning assemblies were generally held house-wise to provide maximum opportunities for students to participate in speeches and other activities. A combined assembly was also arranged once a week.

During the briefing, Hamza Shehbaz emphasised the importance of teaching the Holy Quran along with its translation. School officials informed him that arrangements for Quranic education had been made for boys and girls under the supervision of teachers.

He also visited the school laboratory and classrooms, where he interacted with students from different areas of the country and asked about their studies, family backgrounds and career plans.

During an interaction, a student from Haripur told him that her father worked as a labourer in house construction. Another student expressed her ambition to become a pilot. Hamza Shehbaz encouraged the students to work hard and pursue their ambitions. School officials also briefed him on the use of digital learning tools, including tablets, to help students conduct research, gather information and improve their creative writing skills.

Lahore University Centre Pays Rs7.29 Million Extra to 7 Teachers, Audit Seeks Recovery

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: The Centre of Excellence in Solid State Physics, Lahore, paid Rs7.29 million more than the approved amount to seven faculty members under the Tenure Track System during three financial years, according to the Auditor General of Pakistan's audit report for 2025 to 2026. The audit described the payments as irregular and said they caused a loss to the public money. It recommended recovering the excess amount from the employees concerned. The university management had not responded to the audit observation by the time the report was finalised.According to the report, the centre paid Rs91.85 million to Tenure Track System faculty members during the financial years 2022 to 2023, 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025, although the approved amount was Rs84.56 million. The difference was Rs7,292,552.The payments were made despite an official direction from the Finance Ministry that arrears for Tenure Track System faculty should be calculated strictly according to an approved table. The table was signed by the Joint Secretary Regulations of the Finance Division and the Director Finance of the Higher Education Commission.In a letter dated March 28, 2025, the Finance Ministry directed the HEC to ensure that universities made the payments according to the approved rates. The HEC circulated the instructions to public sector universities and higher education institutions on April 4, 2025, for compliance.However, the audit found that the Lahore centre had paid amounts above the approved rates.The report listed seven faculty members who received excess payments. Professor Dr Saira Riaz, Director in BPS 21, received an additional Rs1.59 million, while Professor Dr Afaq Ahmed, also in BPS 21, received Rs1.61 million.Dr Shahid Atiq, Associate Professor in BPS 20, received Rs1.18 million above the approved amount. Dr M. Javaid Iqbal, Associate Professor in BPS 20, received Rs 857,981 in excess payments.Among the Assistant Professors in BPS 19, Dr Imran Sadiq and Dr Hadia Noor each received Rs521,215 more than the approved amount, while Dr Muhammad Akram Raza received an additional Rs996,916.The audit recorded excess payments of Rs3.63 million in 2022 to 2023, Rs2.90 million in 2023 to 2024 and Rs981,846 in 2024 to 2025.The audit said the payments exceeded the rates approved by the Finance Ministry and the HEC, making them irregular and causing a financial loss to the public exchequer.The matter was discussed in a Departmental Accounts Committee meeting on November 18, 2025. The committee directed the centre's management to provide an updated report on recovery of the excess payments to the audit department.The Auditor General recommended that the Rs7.29 million should be recovered from the respective employees.

Opinion & Editorial

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD
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Justice for child beggars

Punjab's decision to raise the child-protection age under its vagrancy law from 14 to 16 is a welcome, overdue correction. A 14-year-old is not an adult, and treating children between 14 and 16 as such left a gap that begging networks and unscrupulous parents and guardians could exploit with impunity. In a positive sign, the amendment bill passed through committee with unanimous approval, showing that no one has any serious objection to the age increase or other changes that increase penalties for forcing children to beg. Those penalties will - if the amendment bill passes - be up to three years' imprisonment and fines of up to Rs300,000 for parents or guardians who use children for begging or allow others to do so. The bill also creates a controller with province-wide powers to coordinate anti-begging operations, inspect welfare and rehabilitation centres, and maintain a central database. The bill is very much a reaction to injustice. Punjab recorded 2,693 child-begging cases in the first half of 2025, yet not a single conviction was recorded in that period, and 2,669 cases remained under trial. The province's Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey for 2023□24 found 8.5% of children aged five to 17 engaged in child labour, rising to 10.8% in rural areas.

Rule of the people?

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

THE resounding defeat of the Republican Party in the US midterm election this week has triggered celebratory chatter around the world. Many see it as the beginning of the end for Donald Trump; the vibe was very similar when Trump was defeated by Joe Biden in the 2020 US presidential election. Yet four years later, Trumpism proved to be alive and very well.

Trump cannot stand in the 2028 presidential election. For that reason alone, his political career is reaching its end. But that does not mean that Trumpism — both the ideology and the social base to which it speaks — will disappear alongside the man himself.

Here I offer some suggestions what this latest election signals about the future of democracy in the US, and, by extension, around the world.

We should harbour no illusions about the power of big money in American politics, or the Democratic Party's historical commitment to US empire — the Biden administration's diabolical warmongering after Oct 7, 2023, in Gaza, after all, set the stage for Trump's 2024 win. Given this backdrop, the victory of candidates like Abdul el-Sayed who oppose imperialist wars abroad and are fronting progressive economic policies at home — just like Zohran Mamdani did during his successful campaign to become New York mayor — confirms that societal attitudes are changing. A growing number of young Americans now view socialism favourably and want unconditional support for Israel to be discontinued. It is another matter entirely whether an increasingly influential left-wing of the Democratic Party can win the inner-party struggle and then the presidency.

The contemporary state is whittling away democratic freedoms.

While progressive ideology has gained a foothold in American society, the Trumpist right maintains its powerful, and mobilised MAGA base, sustained in part by Christian evangelicals. Before his win in 2024, Trump vowed to stop fighting wars abroad, and bring back industrial jobs and prosperity. His base has been antagonised by the disastrous and prolonged war on Iran, and the inflationary spiral it has triggered. Vice-President J.D. Vance has already acknowledged this, and even added that Washington's 'special relationship' with Israel must change. Trumpism will not die out because of a midterm defeat. Long-term economic stagnation will give it social mooring, while its major ideological enemies — immigration, the left, and outsourcing — remain easy sells.

A useful analogy is that of Brazil, where Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva recently staved off the most recent articulation of Bolsanarismo — the parallel ideology to Trumpism — to win his fourth term as president. Brazil's left has far greater social roots than the emergent Democratic left in the US, hence its ability to mobilise the last-minute votes necessary to re-elect Lula. But the far right under the leadership of the Bolsanaro family also has a mobilised social base, which will rebound from the election loss. Lula is 81, and his Workers Party will have to deepen the social struggle to keep Bolsanarismo at bay in the years to come. Zooming out further, the right wing is ascendant across much of the world, while the contemporary state is whittling away democratic freedoms and paving the way for capital to carry on with business as usual. Electoral victories for left-of-centre candidates in the US, Brazil or wherever else they may come to pass will not produce structural change in isolation. Does going to the ballot allow ordinary people an opportunity to exercise political choice? Yes. But this is not the same as working-class majorities being organised for progressive social transformation. The latter is required both to ensure more significant electoral success and then to turn such victories into substantive change. Of course, we in Pakistan do not even get to enjoy the unfettered right to vote. The military-bureaucratic oligarchy that has ruled over us from soon after 1947 did not even allow a general election until 1970, and then chose military action rather than handing over power to the winning party afterwards.

Courtesy Dawn

Revenge vote

Imran Jan

When Kamala was running against Trump in 2024, she had more money at her disposal than Trump in order to reach the American voters. Money usually determines the result of an election but sometimes people get fed up and reject all the noise and line up to support anything that fights against the side they hate.

At least that is how I voted back in 2024 when I voted for Trump. It is not that I liked him. But I just wanted to punish the one guy or rather girl who had blindly supported Israel in its genocide against the Palestinians. And I was sickened by Biden's interference in other countries' politics as well. The American people struggled with paying their bills. Living a decent life became a challenge. The credit card debt rose over a trillion dollars. All on Biden's watch. The people had to punish that. Those days are over when people used to vote for the guy they liked. It is the age of revenge voting. I have voted twice in my entire life. And both times, it was a textbook revenge vote.

My second vote was in this Midterm election in the US that just happened and results are coming in as I am writing this piece. But with the results already in, the nation is experiencing what is quickly becoming a social media trend titled Blue Tsunami, meaning the Democrats are winning across many states. Kansas flipped blue after 94 years, which is mind boggling. Texas also flipped blue after more than 3 decades. I voted for the Democrats. Not because I truly admired James Talarico. I didn't even know most people on the ballot but I voted for all Democrats. Every tap on the screen felt like a deliberate act of defiance against Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and the rest of the company.

Trump did not learn from how he won from Kamala in 2024.

Courtesy Tribune

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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

Pakistan, UK agree to expand cooperation on counterterrorism, narcotics



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the United Kingdom on Friday agreed to enhance cooperation in the areas of counterterrorism, anti-narcotics, cybercrime and immigration, according to the interior ministry.

The understanding was reached during delegation-level talks between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and visiting British Minister of State for Security Dan Jarvis at the Ministry of Interior. Minister of State for Interior Tallal Chaudry also attended the meeting.

According to the interior ministry, the two sides decided to finalise at the earliest a memorandum of understanding on anti-narcotics cooperation, which would fully operationalise cooperation between the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) and the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF).

Naqvi told the British minister that Pakistan had foiled 330 cases involving narcotics smuggling to the UK over the past few years.

The two sides also agreed to soon convene a meeting of the working group established between the interior ministries of the two countries.

Jarvis appreciated the performance of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in curbing illegal immigration and acknowledged Pakistan's sacrifices and efforts in the war against terrorism.

He said cybercrime was an international challenge and all countries would have to work together to effectively address it. He added that Pakistan and the UK enjoyed excellent cooperation in various fields, which both sides wanted to further expand.

Naqvi appreciated the progress made under the UK-Pakistan Serious Crime and Law Enforcement Project, a bilateral law enforcement and security initiative, saying it was proving extremely important in enhancing the capacity of Pakistani institutions.

British High Commissioner Jane Marriott and relevant British officials attended the meeting. Jarvis is currently on his first visit to Pakistan to discuss regional stability, counter-terrorism, serious organised crime, illegal migration.

Asif sees attempt to set ground for 'alternative arrangement' in Punjab amid Maryam-Salik row

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: efence Minister Khawaja Asif has claimed that Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Chaudhry Salik Hussain's recent corruption allegations against the Punjab government are part of efforts to set the ground for an "alternative arrangement".

His remarks came during ARY News' programme 'Khabar – Mohammad Malick Ke Saath!' on Thursday, when he was asked about his earlier statement, wherein he had suggested that Salik's allegations could be "part of some future political agenda — to target Maryam Nawaz's government and carve out space for himself in Punjab and at the Centre to secure his political future".

He alleged during the ARY News' programme that Salik's allegations "are part of setting the stage for some post-period".

"This statement was given selectively against Punjab. Corruption is prevalent everywhere in Pakistan. […] I have tweeted about it many times," he added. Asif continued: "There is an attempt to create an alternative arrangement — to discredit incumbent people so that a fresh team can be presented. Whoever is behind this, that is what I was signalling to. Please do not ask me anything more than this; I can share my personal assessment." He also alluded to "some wealthy people".

Dar reviews preparations for ECO Council of Ministers meeting in Islamabad

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday chaired a meeting to finalise preparations for the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) Council of Ministers Meeting which is scheduled to be held in Islamabad on November 15-16, looking forward to welcoming the participating delegations for "productive discussions on strengthening regional cooperation," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said.

In a statement on X, MoFa noted that Dar "expressed satisfaction with the progress of preparations and directed all concerned to ensure close coordination for the smooth and successful conduct of the meeting." He also reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the ECO. The meeting was attended by senior officials of the Foreign Office, it added.

In September, Dar chaired the 27th Informal Meeting of the ECO on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, underscoring the need for member states to "harness their collective potential to promote peace, resilience, and shared prosperity for the region's nearly half a billion people."

The foreign minister also expressed gratitude to ECO member states for "reposing confidence in Pakistan and reaffirmed Islamabad's commitment to advancing the organisation's objectives and strengthening regional cooperation."

Read: ECO region can become powerful economic bloc.Outlining Islamabad's priorities while holding ECO chairmanship, Dar highlighted deepening intra-regional trade and economic integration; strengthening connectivity and transit corridors linking Central Asia with the Arabian Sea, advancing a digitally enabled ECO Free Trade Area; and enhancing regional cooperation on climate resilience. "Pakistan looks forward to working closely with all ECO member states to translate the organisation's shared vision into tangible outcomes and further strengthen regional economic cooperation, connectivity, and integration," he had said during his address.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairing a meeting to finalise preparations for the forthcoming Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Council of Ministers meeting, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Muqam pays tribute to Jammu and Kashmir martyrs

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam on Friday paid tribute to the martyrs of Jammu and Kashmir, saying their sacrifices for the right to self-determination would always be remembered.

In a message issued here on Jammu and Kashmir Martyrs' Day, the minister said the day was a reminder of the sacrifices made by Kashmiris for their love for Pakistan and their struggle for freedom.

He said the sacrifices of Kashmiri martyrs constituted an unforgettable chapter in the history of the Kashmiri people and served as a guiding light for future generations. Amir Muqam said the Pakistani nation would always remember the sacrifices of the martyrs, who had rendered unparalleled sacrifices for their right to self-determination. He reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue its political, moral and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri people. The minister said a just resolution.

Turkish seismic vessel to arrive in Karachi between Nov 17 and 20: Ali Pervaiz Malik

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik on Friday chaired a high-level meeting to review preparations and arrangements for the arrival of the seismic vessel of Turkish Petroleum Offshore Company (TPOC) in Pakistan.

The vessel is expected to arrive in Karachi between November 17 and 20, 2026, marking the revival of Pakistan's offshore exploration efforts after nearly two decades.

The Minister described the occasion as a special milestone in Pakistan-Türkiye relations, particularly following the signing of the Mecca Agreement. He said the arrival of the vessel represented a new chapter in the longstanding friendship and cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

"This is a special moment for Pakistan-Türkiye friendship. I will try to personally receive the vessel upon its arrival in Karachi," the Federal Minister said.

Federal Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik emphasised that the government was fully committed to facilitating the offshore exploration initiative and ensuring.

Tribute Paid to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on his 150th Birth Anniversary in Cuba; Statue Unveiled

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: A special ceremony was held in Havana, the capital of Cuba, to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan and the leader of the country's independence movement. The event was attended by representatives of the Cuban government, Pakistan's ambassador, and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Cuba, who paid tribute to Quaid-e-Azam's historic contributions and his struggle for the establishment of Pakistan. On the occasion, a statue of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was also unveiled, symbolizing the long-standing friendship, mutual respect and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Cuba.According to details, the ceremony was held in Havana on November 4, 2026, and was attended by Pakistan's Ambassador to Cuba, Shahbaz Mansoor Malik; Cuban Minister of Culture Alpidio Alonso; Deputy Foreign Minister Anayansi Rodríguez.

Azerbaijan Ambassador meets Mazhar Hussain Thathal to Strengthen Pakistan-Azerbaijan Trade and Business Relations

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: In a significant step towards strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Irfan Davudov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, held a meeting with Mr. Mazhar Hussain Thathal, Chairman and CEO of Global Trade Expo Centre Pakistan, at the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Islamabad.The meeting was attended by Mr. Samir Ahmadi, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Azerbaijan; Mr. Liaqat Ali Thathal, Director International Trade and Relationships, Global Trade Expo Centre Pakistan; and representatives of the business community from Sialkot, Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Lahore.The discussions focused on exploring new avenues for bilateral trade, investment opportunities, business-to-business cooperation and strengthening commercial linkages between the business communities of both countries.During the meeting, Ambassador H.E. Mr. Irfan Davudov appreciated the interest and efforts of the Pakistani business community in promoting economic relations with Azerbaijan. He welcomed initiatives aimed at enhancing bilateral commercial engagement and developing stronger connections between businesses in the two countries.Mr. Mazhar Hussain Thathal iterated the Ambassador on Pakistan's industrial.

Five Sialkot Women await recovery of savings after Banking fraud complaint

PEAK POINT



SIALKOT: Five women in Sialkot are still waiting to recover their life savings after allegedly losing their money in a banking fraud involving a private bank. Despite receiving favorable decisions from the Banking Mohtasib of Pakistan and the Office of the President of Pakistan, the women have reportedly been unable to get their money back for more than 18 months.The women say they have been facing difficulties while trying to recover their savings and obtain relief. The matter has raised concerns about how quickly complaints involving customers' money are resolved and how decisions by relevant authorities are implemented. Advocate Mian Faizan Ali, who is representing the affected women in Sialkot.