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Pak, UK reaffirm commitment to strengthen ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday received UK Minister of State for the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Stephen Doughty.

The two sides reviewed Pakistan-UK bilateral relations and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening ties, with particular focus on trade and investment, education, security and other areas of mutual interest, a DPM's Office news release said.

They also exchanged views on regional and international developments and expressed concern over the evolving situation in the region. The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister emphasised that sustained dialogue and diplomacy remained critical to addressing regional and global challenges.

The two sides agreed to work towards the early operationalisation of the Pakistan-UK Bilateral Political Dialogue.

Pak commitment to security of Haramain Sharifain, KSA 'non-negotiable'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Tuesday reiterated that Pakistan's commitment to the security of Haramain Sharifain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was non-negotiable, while terming recent reports regarding the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement speculative.

Taking note of speculative reports by Reuters regarding the agreement, the ministry said Pakistan had already made its commitment to the security of Haramain Sharifain and Saudi Arabia abundantly clear.

It said the operational details concerning the actualisation of collective deterrence were a matter of operational confidentiality and should not be made the subject of media speculation.

The ministry said it would be prudent to avoid reports based on non-attributable and unidentified sources, adding that media outlets should refer to official statements issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant authorities in this regard.

"Queries, if any, may be referred to them instead of coming out with invented numbers and details," the ministry said.

Pakistan successfully test-launches Fatah-4 Cruise Missile

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan today conducted a successful test launch of the indigenously developed extended-range version of Fatah-4, Ground-Launched Cruise Missile (GLCM).

According to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), equipped with advanced avionics and state-of-the-art navigational aids, the weapon system is capable of engaging targets at extended ranges with high precision and lethality.

The test also validated additional technical parameters of various subsystems incorporated for improved accuracy and enhanced survivability.

Today's launch was witnessed by senior officers from the Pakistan Army along with scientists and engineers from the development agency.

The President, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces.

Global recognition of Balochistan's digital health reforms encouraging: CM

Balochistan's digital health model showcased at DHIS2 Asia-Pacific Conference in Sri Lanka with delegates from 26 countries; Health Minister Bakht Kakar attends opening as chief guest, University of Oslo recognizes province's reform efforts

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has said international recognition of the province's digital health reforms is encouraging, describing the use of technology and data in healthcare as an important step toward more transparent, accountable and effective public service delivery.

Balochistan's digital health policy and reform initiatives were showcased at the DHIS2 Asia-Pacific Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka, attended by representatives, health experts and development partners from 26 countries.

Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar attended the opening ceremony as chief guest, highlighting Balochistan's efforts to digitize healthcare, improve health data reporting and strengthen data-driven decision-making.

The province's digital health model and practical use of technology in the healthcare system were presented to international participants, while the University of Oslo, Norway, recognized Balochistan's efforts to advance digital health reforms and strengthen technology-based health management.

Welcoming the recognition, Bugti said presenting Balochistan's experience at an international forum reflected the progress made under the provincial government's reform agenda. "The purpose of digital health reforms is to translate technology into better healthcare delivery, stronger monitoring and more informed decision-making," the chief minister said.



RIYADH, KSA: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir in a group photo of the Emergency Meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee (S PDC) under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement.

PM Sharif asks PTI to come to its senses, as long march to damage economy, country's int'l standing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday urged the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to abandon its agitational politics and call off its long march, saying that dialogue could only take place if the party ended its protests. He warned that continued agitation would severely harm the country's economic growth and international standing.

"I still ask them to come to their senses. End your long marches and sit-ins. Once you end them, we will certainly sit down with you and talk so that Pakistan moves forward with mutual hard work, honesty, and integrity. This is the desire of the nation, the voice of every Pakistani," the prime minister said, addressing the groundbreaking ceremony of Kashmir Chowk Underpass being constructed to ease the traffic flow between Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi, Information and Broadcasting Minister Attaullah Tarar, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, and Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, Chairman of Capital Development Authority Sohail Ashraf attended the ceremony, along with parliamentarians and notables from different walks of life.

As per the briefing, the PC-1 cost of the project was Rs1.6 billion, but the contract was awarded at Rs1.4 billion, which would feature four slip roads. The intersection currently handles 107,000 vehicles and faces congestion during peak hours, particularly during VIP movement.

The prime minister,who earlier performed the ground breaking, told the gathering that the PTI had again resorted to the politics of sit-ins and long marches despite the government's sincere efforts to engage in meaningful negotiations.

He said that a joint committee comprising representatives from the PML-N and the Pakistan Peoples Party had held talks with the opposition, but the process stalled after the PTI demanded last-minute changes to the finalized draft, indicating that their sole objective was to sabotage the dialogue.

"As a result of the politics of sit-ins and long marches, the primary target will be your economy. There will be disruptions in your exports, your manufacturing, and your imports. If your laborer or your engineer fails to reach the factory, the manufacturing site, or their office on time, whose loss is it? It is the loss of this nation, the loss of this country," the prime minister said.

He said that the government had successfully restored macroeconomic stability and was striving for growth through collective teamwork, with positive indicators reflected in rising exports, remittances, and industrial production. He cautioned that undermining these hard-won achievements would amount to hostility toward the state.

"We will not allow this to happen. The law will take its course.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at a special investiture ceremony to confer the Nishan-e-Imtiaz on United Nations Secretary-General AntÃ³nio Guterres at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Security forces kill five terrorists, wound two others in NW operation

PESHAWAR (INP): Security forces have killed five terrorists and wounded two others in an intelligence-based operation in North Waziristan.

The operation was carried out against alleged militants affiliated with Fitna al-Khawarij in parts of North Waziristan and nearby areas, according to the sources.

Security forces had been monitoring the movement of the militants and subsequently launched what the sources described as a targeted operation against their positions.

President Asif Ali Zardari commended the security forces for the operation, praising their professional capabilities and response against militant elements. He said such operations were helping prevent militants from carrying out their objectives.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also expressed appreciation for the security forces, saying they had taken timely and decisive action against the militants.

Ahsan calls for national emergency on human resource development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday called for treating education, health, population, and human resource development as national emergencies to help Pakistan compete in a rapidly changing global environment.

"Education is a national emergency; health is a national emergency… So, all of these social sectors need a national emergency," he said in a televised address at a mission meeting on human resource development, the seventh of the 11 national economic missions under "Uraan Pakistan."

The minister said Pakistan needed long-term planning, inter-provincial coordination and administrative reforms to improve human development outcomes.

DPM, Defence Minister, CDF attend meeting of SPDC under Makkah agreement

RIYADH (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, and the Chief of Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir attended the Emergency Meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee (SPDC) established under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement here on Monday. The meeting endorsed the nomination of Lieutenant General Nauman Mahmood(Rtd), Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Military) as the first Secretary-General of the Makkah Alliance for Defence.

The meeting also strongly condemned the attempted targeting of the Holy Cities of Makkah and Medina, as well as continued attacks against the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The three countries exchanged views on the latest regional developments and expressed their resolve to work closely for regional peace and stability.

During the meeting, Pakistan expressed its unwavering solidarity with the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and expressed its full support for the Kingdom's sovereignty, territorial integrity and security.

Balochistan cadet colleges to be raised to top national standards: Governor

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has said improving the quality and performance of the province's existing cadet colleges to match the country's leading institutions will take priority over increasing their number, with greater emphasis on academic standards, facilities and a conducive learning environment.

Chairing the 19th Board of Governors meeting of Balochistan's cadet colleges, Mandokhail said improvements should be made without placing an additional financial burden on students through higher academic fees.

The meeting reviewed the performance, academic and administrative requirements, challenges and future needs of 12 cadet colleges across the province.

Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hamid Khan Durrani joined the meeting online, while Chief Minister's Adviser Rubaba Khan Buledi, MPA Dastagir Badini, Higher Education Secretary Hashim Khan Ghilzai, Principal Secretary to Governor Abdul Nasir Dotani, senior officials and principals of cadet colleges attended.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail presides over the meeting of 19th Board of Governors of Balochistan Cadet Colleges.

Achakzai says meeting with PTI founder first condition for talks with govt sources

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party Chairman and leader of opposition Mahmood Khan Achakzai has directed the opposition to respond positively if the government contacts them for talks.

According to sources, Mahmood Achakzai conveyed his message to opposition leaders through Akhunzada Hussain.

He said that if the government contacts the opposition, the first condition should be a meeting with PTI founder Imran Khan.

Mahmood Achakzai said the government could begin positive progress by releasing the PTI founder's sisters. He said a meeting with the prime minister would be meaningless if a meeting with the PTI founder does not take place.

Sources said Mahmood Achakzai suggested that if a meeting with the PTI founder is not allowed, the opposition could consider refusing a meeting with the prime minister.

Earlier, Opposition Leader in NA, Mahmood Khan Achakzai 'played pivotal' role in PTI-govt talks breakdown, ARY News reported on Sunday, citing an inside story of the meeting via sources.

The government-Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) negotiations faced repeated deadlocks due to external pressure on opposition members.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti presides over the meeting regarding Quetta Integrated Security Project.

President confers Nishan-e-Imtiaz on UN Secretary General

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari has conferred Nishan-e-Imtiaz, one of Pakistan's highest civil awards, upon United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in recognition of his distinguished international service, leadership of the United Nations and contribution to global peace and development.

The award, the first conferred by Pakistan on any UN Secretary-General, was presented at a special investiture ceremony in Islamabad this evening.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, members of the Federal Cabinet, lawmakers and members of the diplomatic corps attended the ceremony.

Earlier, during a meeting with the UN Secretary-General, the President reiterated Pakistan's commitment to peace and stability in South Asia. He stressed that durable peace requires sustained dialogue between Pakistan and India as equal neighbours and resolution of all outstanding disputes, particularly Jammu and Kashmir, as agreed under UN resolutions respecting the sentiments of the Kashmiri people.

The President also conveyed Pakistan's position that the Indus Waters Treaty is a binding international agreement and cannot be unilaterally suspended or placed in abeyance. He stressed that water should not be used as a weapon and an instrument of political pressure and that Pakistan's water rights under the treaty, recognised by international courts, must be respected.

Discussing regional peace and diplomacy, Asif Ali Zardari said Pakistan's diplomatic efforts, including the Islamabad Talks, had been guided by the imperative of de-escalation, dialogue and protection of human life. He reaffirmed Pakistan's readiness to facilitate diplomacy wherever it could be helpful, stressing that there is no alternative to dialogue for addressing regional disputes. The President said Pakistan remains steadfast in its support for the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination. He appreciated the UN Secretary-General's consistent advocacy for Palestinian statehood and a two-state solution and said Pakistan would continue supporting efforts towards implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

On counter-terrorism and Afghanistan, the President said Pakistan continues to face terrorism from groups operating from Afghan territory and has shared evidence concerning external support to terrorist proxies targeting Pakistan. He stressed that Afghan territory must not be used against Pakistan or any other country.

Five martyred in two separate terror attacks in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Five personnel, including four Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) employees and a Highway Traffic Police official, were martyred and another police official injured in two separate terrorist attacks here on Tuesday.

According to police, the first attack occurred near Saadullah Hotel at Mufti Mahmood Chowk in the jurisdiction of Shorkot Police Station, where highway traffic police mobile-3 was deployed at a checkpoint. Meanwhile, unknown militants opened fire on the police vehicle, killing its 34-year-old driver named Habib son of Sabz Ali, and injuring Head Constable Muhammad Subhan.

The injured official was shifted to hospital, while a heavy police contingent reached the scene and launched an investigation. The attackers managed to escape after the assault.

In the second incident, armed militants targeted FBR personnel near Qureshi Morr at 'Ubhaya PUl' in the jurisdiction of Gomal University Police Station. Four FBR employees were killed while performing official duty.

The deceased were identified as 29-year-old Waseem, son of Ghulam Yousaf; 37-year-old Rehmatullah, son of Mirbaz Khan; 25-year-old Salman Elahi, son of Elahi Bakhsh; and Muhammad Owais, son of Jahangir.

Governor reviews KP security situation, calls for strengthening police, CTD capacity

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the overall security situation in the province and stressed the need to further strengthen the operational capacity of police, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and other law enforcement agencies.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shahab Ali Shah, Inspector General of Police Zulfiqar Hameed, Additional Chief Secretary Home Ikramullah Khan, Additional IG Special Branch Muhammad Kashif Alam, Joint Director General Intelligence Bureau Arshad Ali Khan (NSC), Additional IG CTD, DIG Operations Shakir Hussain Dawar and other senior officials.

The participants briefed the Governor on the overall security situation, counter-terrorism measures, public order and the latest crime situation in the province. The Governor was informed about the law and order situation, delays in the procurement of modern weapons, manpower-related challenges and progress on various policing projects. He was also briefed on protest activities and the planned long march in the province.

Officials of the CTD informed the meeting about measures being taken to prevent terrorism and highlighted issues related to procurement of modern weapons, manpower shortages and infrastructure.

The Additional Chief Secretary Home gave a detailed briefing on the repatriation of Afghan refugees, informing the meeting that 45 refugee camps had been closed across the province and at least 1.6 million Afghan refugees had returned to Afghanistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Kundi paid tribute to the sacrifices of police and security forces in maintaining peace and combating terrorism. He emphasized the need to address manpower, resource, procurement and infrastructure issues facing the police and CTD to further enhance their operational capabilities. The Governor also called for stronger coordination among institutions to improve overall performance and ensure effective maintenance of peace and public order in the province.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi presides over the meeting to review law and order situation in the province.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema chairs a meeting on Asaan Khidmat Centres.

Agriculture backbone of country's economy: Nehal

KARACHI (APP): The Governor of Sindh, Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi, has said that agriculture is the backbone of Pakistan's economy and that a strong farming community is essential for a strong national economy.

He emphasized that strengthening the agricultural sector is a national necessity for food security, rural prosperity and sustainable economic development.

He expressed these views while addressing the signing ceremony of a partnership between United Bank Limited (UBL) and Universal Agri Tractor Company (UATC) at Governor House.

Hashmi highlighted that the partnership between UBL and UATC is an important step towards a brighter future for farmers and the rural economy.

He noted that modern agricultural machinery combined with accessible financing can play a significant role in empowering farmers.

He stated that agricultural mechanization would help increase productivity, reduce production costs and enable timely cultivation and harvesting.

Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi observed that combining UBL's expertise in agricultural financing with UATC's experience in tractor manufacturing would prove beneficial for farmers. He added that farmers would directly benefit from tractors financed through markup subsidy programmes.

The Governor stressed that modern technology and accessible financing must be made available to the maximum number of farmers.

He highlighted the importance of strengthening cooperation between financial institutions and the industrial sector to further develop Pakistan's agricultural economy.

He maintained that coordinated efforts by the government, financial institutions and industry could create greater opportunities for farmers, enhance agricultural productivity and contribute to sustainable economic growth.

Political issues should be resolved through dialogue and reconciliation: Sindh CM

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh chief minister Syed Murad Ali Shah arrived in Bhan Syedabad on a one day visit to his constituency, where he was received by Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro Ghazanfar Ali Qadri and SSP Muhammad Zafar Siddique Chhanga.

According to a handout issued on Tuesday, the chief minister visited the village Manahiyon and offered condolences to his close friend Shaman Rahpoto over the death of his cousin Osman Rahpoto.

Talking to the media on the occasion, Syed Murad Ali Shah said the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) believed in democratic principles and had always tried to resolve issues through dialogue and reconciliation.

He said PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had also made efforts to advance talks between the government and opposition, during which progress was made on certain issues, while details regarding the outcome of the talks were already in the public domain. The chief minister said efforts should be made to resolve issues through dialogue instead of taking extraordinary measures. However, he added that appropriate measures were necessary according to the situation to prevent terrorism.

He said tragic incidents such as children falling into open sewers were unacceptable, and the concerned institutions should fulfill their responsibilities to prevent such incidents.

Syed Murad Ali Shah said the Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway had already been announced and inaugurated, and now practical progress should be made towards its construction.

Later, the chief minister visited Vehar Sharif and offered condolences to Pir of Vehar Sharif Shafique Ahmed Vehrai over the death of his maternal uncle. He also visited Talti and expressed condolences to advocate Abdul Salam Rajput over the death of his brother Abdul Hameed.

PA speaker calls for strong institutions to sustain democracy

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Assembly (PA) Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said on Tuesday that sustainable democracy requires more than elections, stressing the need for constitutional governance, representative institutions, accountability and strong public institutions.

Speaking at an international conference on "Leadership, Sustainable Democracy and National Cohesion" here, the speaker said the real test of leadership was not the attainment of power but leaving behind institutions that were strong, credible and capable of serving the public.

He said democracy provided a constitutional framework for differences of opinion and that disagreements should be addressed through institutions and the law rather than becoming a source of division. "Listening to one another is an essential part of democratic practice," he said, adding that strong institutions were fundamental to public trust and sustainable democracy.

Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said the Punjab Assembly had established a Parliamentary Minorities Caucus to strengthen the participation of minority communities in the parliamentary process and contribute to the protection of their constitutional rights. He said nearly two-thirds of Pakistan's population was under the age of 30, making young people a central part of the country's national and democratic life."Young people are not merely the future; they are already shaping the country's future," he said.The speaker urged universities to encourage dialogue, research, intellectual freedom and constructive disagreement among students. Young people, he said, should be encouraged to question, debate on the basis of evidence and listen to differing viewpoints.

FIA arrests former bank manager at Lahore airport in Rs10m fraud case

LAHORE (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested a former bank manager at Lahore airport after he returned to Pakistan from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), an FIA spokesperson said.

The suspect, identified as Imran Sajid, a former branch manager of a private bank's MA Jinnah Road branch in Okara, had been declared a proclaimed offender and his name was placed on the Passport Control List (PCL), according to the FIA.

The FIA said its Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Wing in Faisalabad arrested the suspect under the supervision of Faisalabad Zone Director Saqib Sultan and Deputy Director Tariq Mahmood. The operation was conducted by an FIA team headed by Sub-Inspector Ajmal Hussain.

According to the FIA, a case was registered against Sajid on the complaint of Rehmat Ali, a resident of Okara, following the completion of an inquiry.

The case was registered under provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Pakistan Penal Code, including sections related to corruption, criminal breach of trust and cheating, the agency said.

Sindh, Gates Foundation discuss eradication of Polio

KARACHI (APP): The Chief Secretary Sindh Asif Hyder Shah reaffirmed the provincial government's commitment to eradicating polio and strengthening routine immunization during a meeting with a six-member Gates Foundation delegation led by Mr Greg Widmyer, Director of Immunization.

The meeting reviewed efforts to interrupt polio-virus transmission, improve vaccination coverage and reach children among mobile and migrant populations. Particular attention was given to vaccination at transit points to ensure that children traveling between areas receive protection against polio.

The Chief Secretary said that polio eradication remained the government's foremost priority. He stated that the Chief Minister Sindh, the provincial Health Minister and he himself were closely involved in overseeing anti-polio campaigns and reviewing progress.

He emphasized the importance of continuity in field operations, saying that transfers of officials involved in polio campaigns were discouraged during campaigns to maintain effective implementation and accountability.

Appreciating the Gates Foundation's support, Asif Hyder Shah said its assistance had contributed to the province's efforts against polio. He stressed the importance of sustained cooperation to reach every eligible child and strengthen routine immunization alongside polio vaccination campaigns.

Briefing the delegation on measures to improve routine immunization, the Chief Secretary said the provincial government had hired vaccinators to expand vaccination coverage. He emphasized the need to reach children, who had missed vaccinations, particularly those belonging to mobile and migrant families.

He also informed the delegation about the provincial government's birth registration initiative, which aims to achieve 100 per cent birth registration.

He highlighted the initiative's relevance to identifying children and supporting the planning and delivery of essential services, including immunization.

Two new dengue cases registered in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI (INP): Two new confirmed dengue cases were registered in Rawalpindi district over October 5 and 6, bringing total confirmed infections to 42, while 10 confirmed patients remain admitted in hospital isolation wards.

According to latest dengue data released by the District Health Authority on Tuesday, total hospital screenings rose by 67 reaching from 5,094 to 5,161, while suspected cases increased by 63 to reach 4,762.

Total hospital admissions decreased slightly from 13 to 12 patients, though the number of admitted confirmed dengue cases remained unchanged at 10.

Minister directs extensive awareness activities against cervical cancer

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Minister Khaleeq ur Rehman has directed health authorities to launch extensive awareness activities on cervical cancer describing the disease as a serious threat to the lives of girls and women.

He gave these directive while chairing a meeting of the provincial steering committee on prevention of cervical cancer.

Representatives of government departments and international support organizations attended. The committee reviewed in detail the preparations for the November campaign, which aims to protect girls through vaccination.

The minister stressed that preventive measures are crucial for public health especially for diseases such as cancer. He said early protection is far more effective and less costly to treat the ailment.

He termed social media a powerful tool both for spreading awareness and for gathering feedback from the public relating to disease. He asked the committee to make full use of digital platforms to answer parents' questions and measure public response during the campaign.



LAHORE: Group photo of participants with students after the Panel Discussion on "Pakistan as a Bridge for Peace and Stability the Way Forward" jointly organized by Press Information Department Lahore and Department of Digital Media, University of the Punjab.

Punjab govt imposes section 144 across until Oct 15

LAHORE (INP): The Punjab government has imposed Section 144 across the province from today (Tuesday) until October 15, restricting public gatherings and several other activities in open and public spaces.

According to a notification issued by the Punjab Home Department, gatherings of five or more people, processions, rallies, public meetings and sit-ins have been prohibited at public places, roads and open areas.

The order also bans carrying or displaying weapons at public places, as well as encouraging or provoking people to participate in unlawful gatherings.

The restrictions will not apply to weddings, funeral prayers, burials, mosques and other places of worship. Courts, government offices and officially authorised events have also been exempted.

Law enforcement agencies, intelligence agencies and security personnel performing official duties will remain outside the scope of the restrictions.

Motorcyclist with record 113 e-challans arrested

LAHORE (INP): A motorcyclist with a record 113 e-challans for traffic violations has been caught on Walton Road in Lahore and fined Rs190,000.

According to Lahore Traffic Police, patrolling officers Ghulam Arabi and Tanveer checked the motorcycle's e-challan record and found a total of 113 outstanding violations.

The motorcyclist had been cited 89 times for riding without a helmet and 24 times for violating traffic signals. The motorcyclist was fined Rs190,000, while the motorcycle was impounded and shifted to Factory Area Police Station.

Traffic police said the crackdown against individuals with outstanding e-challans and digital challans will continue as part of efforts to ensure better traffic management.

Lahore Traffic Police has also sent letters to government departments regarding employees with outstanding e-challans, asking them to clear the pending fines. In Lahore, e-challans are being issued with the help of ANPR cameras for more than 20 types of traffic violations.

Traffic authorities have urged citizens to follow traffic laws to avoid e-challans.

Pakistan can play role of bridge for regional peace, stability: Speakers

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan can play the role of a bridge for peace and stability in the region, while dialogue, responsible communication and cooperation are essential for achieving sustainable peace, speakers said at a panel discussion held at the Punjab University on Tuesday.

The panel discussion, titled "Pakistan as a Bridge for Peace and Stability: The Way Forward," was organised jointly by the Press Information Department (PID), Lahore, and the Department of Digital Media, Punjab University.

The event was attended by senior journalists Mujeebur Rehman Shami, Salman Ghani and Irshad Arif, columnist Muhammad Mehdi, University of Lahore Dean Dr Fariha Kazmi, PID Director General Shafqat Abbas, Punjab University Department of Digital Media Chairperson Dr Sawaira Shami, Dr Shafiq Ahmed, faculty members, students, journalists and media professionals.

The participants discussed Pakistan's role in promoting regional peace and stability, the importance of cooperation and digital media, and possible strategies for the future.

Addressing the session, senior journalist Mujeebur Rehman Shami said Pakistan's geographical location gave it unique strategic importance, making it an important link between South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and China.

He said this geographical position provided Pakistan with an opportunity to serve not only as a centre for trade and economic connectivity but also as a bridge for dialogue, cooperation and peace among different regions and nations.

He said the world was facing wars, conflicts, extremism, economic inequality and mistrust, making dialogue, cooperation and mutual respect more important than ever.

Mujeebur Rehman Shami said Pakistan had consistently advocated resolving regional issues through negotiations, diplomacy and mutual cooperation. Peace, he added, was not merely the absence of war but an environment in which people had equal opportunities for education, healthcare, employment, justice and development. He stressed that economic development and peace were closely interconnected and called for greater efforts to involve young people in the process.

TENDER NOTICE

The Fatima Jinnah Institute of Chest Diseases, Quetta. invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. **TSE-2627101203671 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.** **Tender Fee** 500 PKR

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Stationary (Total Item(s) Count: 79)	2 %
2	Material Handling and Conditioning and Storage Machinery and their Accessories and Supplies (Total Item(s) Count: 79)	
3	ICT Equipment(Network, surveillance devices, storage devices, Office Equipment) (Total Item(s) Count: 79)	
4	Medical Equipment and Accessories (Total Item(s) Count: 79)	

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 1,000,000 in Previous 3 Years Turn over of at least 1,000,000 PKR in 1 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan JV is not permissible Submission of the required Bid Security In case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive Submission of the required Bidding document Fee The bidder must have office set-up in Quetta Bid Fee of Rs.500 Agreement with all the terms and conditions Sample of all items will be required for ensuring the quality and standard. Tax exemption claim pertaining particularly to this case if any shall be supported by valid Tax Exemption Certificate issued by the Federal Board of Revenue. Otherwise, taxes shall be deducted as per Govt. policy/rules. **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 500 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 21 October, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 21 October, 2026till 10:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:00 AM Address: Fatima Jinnah Institute of Chest Diseases, Brewery Road, Quetta.

Phone no: 0819213188Fax no: 0819213189
Email: fjicd2020@gmail.com

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FATIMA JINNAH INSTITUTE OF CHEST DISEASES, QUETTA.

DPRQ/PRQ No.1741/6-10-2026

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Improved performance

The recently concluded Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, were a revival of sorts for Pakistan, and a huge upgrade from the last edition when the country finished with the fewest medals in its history. The tally of 10 medals, two silver and eight bronze, is Pakistan's best haul since the 2002 Games in Busan, South Korea, where it won 13.

This showing is still a far cry from the 1960s and 1980s, when Pakistan ranked among the top 10 medal winners. However, it is a sign that Pakistan's athletes and teams are making a comeback. The volleyball team's bronze, with a convincing three-set victory against China, marked the first medal in the discipline since 1962. The national hockey team also continued its recent resurgence, taking bronze with a come-from-behind 5-3 victory over South Korea for the country's first medal in the sport since the 2014 Incheon Games.

The women's cricket team also ended a similar drought by winning bronze, while their male counterparts' silver was the first in the discipline since 2010, after they narrowly lost to India in the final. However, Pakistan's kabaddi team saw its streak of making the semi-finals at every edition of the Games so far come to an end. That, coupled with Olympic javelin champion Arshad Nadeem's fourth-placed finish, meant Pakistan missed out on increasing their medals tally.

There were other highlights, though. Ghulam Mustafa Bashir secured the first men's shooting medal for Pakistan when he took bronze in the 25m rapid fire pistol. There were also first-ever medals in esports — a bronze in PUBG — and mixed martial arts, courtesy Asim Khan's bronze in the modern 60kg category. Meanwhile, Noor Zaman's and Ashab Irfan's run to the semi-finals saw Pakistan win their first singles squash medals since 2010. Noor would eventually beat Ashab in their third-place match and the duo were part of the men's team which took silver after losing to Malaysia in the final. Overall, the contingent's showing represents a strong recovery.

However, if Pakistan is to regain its former footing, it is essential that there is sustained investment in further developing sports in the country. Maiden medals in several disciplines are a promising sign for the future. Work should be done on not only building on that success but also ensuring that the standards of the sports in which Pakistan excelled continue to be raised.

Middle class by habit

Jawed Naqvi

It may not be inaccurate to say that Manmohan Singh created India's middle class, and the middle class created Narendra Modi. Marxists call them/us the 'vacillating class'.

Janus-like, we are suspiciously double-faced and have a split identity. We look towards the capitalists with one face, wishing to join their ranks and protect property rights. And we look towards the working class with the other face, sharing their economic anxiety and fear of being ruined by big corporations. Given that powerful protests have mushroomed since July across India, mostly led by young students and unemployed youth, it could be signalling a significant disenchantment with the system that has wooed middle class support since 1991.

Before Manmohan Singh's economic reforms as finance minister and his subsequent decade as prime minister (2004-2014), India's middle class was miniscule, estimated at roughly 2.5 million people earning over $10,000 annually or representing a small, state-controlled bureaucratic and managerial stratum.

Following the 1991 liberalisation and the growth of the IT, services, and corporate sectors, the middle class expanded dramatically. By 2015, the number of Indians earning over $10,000 annually grew to 55m. Other estimates placed the middle class at roughly 142m people (about 12 per cent of the population) by the early 2010s, when they were entering various tiers of the middle or 'neo-middle' class depending on purchasing power parity of around $10-$50 per day.

After Singh left office in 2014, the expansion plateaued for many households due to rising living costs, stagnant real wages, and a K-shaped economic recovery, where wealth concentrated more heavily at the very top. The Modi-led alliance of big business and right-wing street thugs peaked during the Covid-19 episode when the government asked the people to bang their pots and pans to drive away the virus and the UN secretary-general warned that liberalising the exploitation of coal, which the government had announced bang in the middle of the crisis, was hardly the prescribed method to fight the deadly scourge sweeping India and the rest of the world.

The young protesters may have to engage with the fact that India's growth has been consumer-led and K-shaped, with deepening inequality.

An Oxfam report in November 2021 said Indian billionaires increased their wealth by 35pc during the lockdown to three trillion, ranking India after the US, China, Germany, Russia, and France. Out of these, the rise in fortunes for the top 100 billionaires since the lockdown was estimated as enough to give every one of the 138m poorest Indian people a cheque for Indian rupees 94,045 each. Oxfam's Inequality Virus Report was released at the remotely conducted World Economic Forum in Davos.

Should it interest the protesters that the wealth of just the top 11 billionaires during the pandemic could easily sustain the MGNREGS — the 2005 social welfare law guaranteeing rural employment — or the health ministry for the next 10 years? Instead, inequalities deepened during Covid-19 when the wealthiest escaped the worst impact of the pandemic and the poor faced joblessness, starvation, and death.

A tycoon who emerged as the richest man in India and Asia, earned INR900m an hour during the pandemic when around 24pc of the people in the country were earning under INR3,000 a month during the lockdown.

A reintroduction of the wealth tax was advised as a one-time Covid-19 cess of 4pc on taxable income of over a million Indian rupees to help the economy recover from the lockdown. The rejected tax on the nation's 954 richest families could have raised the equivalent of 1pc of GDP.

Even as they seek to repair India's broken democracy, which is a most crucial task, the young protesters may have to engage with the fact that India's growth has been consumer-led and K-shaped, with deepening inequality. In comparison, China's modern economic growth model has been state-led, investment-heavy, and steered by a policy of 'common prosperity'.

India's middle classes must relearn that China's current economic strategy shares striking structural DNA with Jawaharlal Nehru's original vision for India, albeit with a divergence in political execution. Both models share the foundational belief that a post-colonial nation cannot rely on the unbridled free market to achieve greatness or equity. Ergo, the state must control the 'commanding heights' of the economy to guide development.

Nehru, reviled by the Modi echo chamber, famously insisted that the state must control the core sectors of the economy (steel, power, heavy machinery, and infrastructure) through public sector undertakings. China achieved this exact goal through its massive state-owned enterprises and state-run banks, ensuring that private billionaires never overpower the national agenda.

Singh swore by Nehru but failed to appreciate that Nehru was deeply wary of the concentration of private wealth, fearing it would corrupt society and exploit the poor. China's common prosperity drive — manifested in aggressive regulatory crackdowns on tech monopolies, tutoring companies, and real estate moguls — is driven by the same suspicion of oligarchic power.

Nehru viewed heavy industries as the "temples of modern India". Beijing's pursuit of "new productive forces" (semiconductors, green energy, EVs, and AI) represents a modern, high-tech version of Nehruvian import-substitution and state-directed scientific self-reliance.

Unlike Singh's rely-on-services trajectory, China historically built a manufacturing-and-export juggernaut, which is currently transitioning into a paradigm-focused, state-mandated wealth redistribution. Indira Gandhi nationalised banks to pursue an equitable Nehruvian agenda to serve the masses. Singh, however, set the stage for opening the backdoor of state-owned banks to private plunderers that Modi turned into an art.

Singh saw Babri Masjid's destruction as finance minister but concluded that the biggest internal threat to India came from Maoist tribespeople, exactly the opposite of Nehru's assessment that it was the right-wing Hindu movement that posed a mortal challenge to Indian democracy, not communists. Would the protesters, overwhelmingly from the middle classes, heed the discussion — but only after winning their battle against the current right-wing government — and ask why 800m compatriots remain on food dole in one of the world's largest economies built by Manmohan Singh?

Gendered future

Aisha Khan

The UN secretary-general's recent observation that peace lasts longer when women are at the table, economies become more dynamic when women have equal opportunity, societies more resilient when women can learn and lead, and institutions more effective when power is shared, is not simply a statement about fairness. For Pakistan, it is a development proposition. The question is not whether Pakistani women can lead. It is why a country of more than 240 million people still uses so little of that capacity. The numbers expose the gap. Pakistan's 2024-25 HIES puts literacy among people aged 10 and above at 63 per cent: 73pc for men but only 54pc for women. The rural female rate is 44pc, compared with 68pc for urban women. Literacy determines whether a woman can understand a contract, use a digital service, claim a benefit, read a disaster warning or participate confidently in a public meeting.

The economic divide is sharper. World Bank gender data put female labour force participation at 24pc in 2025, against 80.1pc for men. Women are heavily concentrated in vulnerable work: 73.2pc of employed women were in vulnerable employment, compared with 50.4pc of men. Agriculture accounts for 68pc of women's employment. A nation cannot fully mobilise its human capital while most women remain outside paid work or confined to insecure work and excluded from productive assets and markets.

The unpaid economy tells another story. UN Women reports that women and girls aged 10 and above spend 19.9pc of their time on unpaid domestic and care work, against 1.8pc for men. This invisible workload limits education, employment, entrepreneurship, mobility and public leadership. Empowerment, therefore, cannot mean merely inviting women into existing institutions; it must also redistribute the time, resources and care responsibilities that determine who can enter them.

Pakistan has made gains in formal representation, but presence is not the same as power. Women currently hold about 21.7pc of seats in the National Assembly, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union. At the local level, UN Women reports women constitute about 16pc of members of local deliberative bodies, with 23,852 elected women. Yet women remain scarce in senior institutional decision-making. The National Assembly's gender-mainstreaming committee rep-orted in 2025 that women represented only 0.93pc in the law, civil armed forces and Interior Division, and just 5pc of vice-chancellors in general universities were women.

Presence is not the same as power.

The federal civil service illustrates the institutional problem. An Establishment Division census found women were only 5.23pc of federal civil servants, with just 26.06pc of female civil servants in grades 17-22. The data is old and should be treated as a benchmark, not a current headcount; still, it shows the depth of the pipeline problem. Corporate Pakistan presents a mixed picture. SECP's 2024 annual report says 7,573 companies were headed by female CEOs and 5,220 women-owned businesses had accessed financing. It also reports women directors on 90pc of companies in its 2024 comparison, up from 34pc in 2019 and 10pc in 2015. Yet the World Bank's latest gender data put women's share of senior and middle management at only 9.6pc in 2025.

The same principle matters most in a climate-stressed country. The World Bank estimates that climate-related risks, environmental degradation and air pollution could reduce Pakistan's GDP by at least 18-20pc by 2050. Pakistan's climate reporting notes that women's unequal access to reso-urces, services, mobility and decision-making increases their vulnerability and limits effective climate action. Wom-en are oft-en responsible for wat-er, food and household ene-rgy.

Magical confusion

Arifa Noor

Last night, I dreamt of Hogwarts again. Indeed, the time is ripe to revisit Harry Potter and Hogwarts — the boarding school where the series is based — for here in Pakistan, we are living in the most 'confunding' times possible. Surely, the 'Confundus Charm' has been used on everyone. And the result is greater confusion than ever before.

Let us begin at the beginning. Of late, the soothsayers among our midst, like Prof Trelawny, have rarely got a prophecy right. For days, they told us ominously that decisions had been made. First came the warning about the departure of Sohail Afridi. Within days, we were forewarned. And then the tea leaves predicted an emergency in KP. Apparently, it was the only province with a dysfunctional government — the rest are all on their way to winning the Triwizard Cup.

But these leaf readers do not face consequences. Indeed, they were hardly employed for their competence. For a number of them, the job has not been to report, analyse, or communicate. Instead, comfortably employed, they do what a 'howler' does in the Harry Potter series — pass messages to those who have fallen into disfavour, before 'self-destructing' once the job is done. Dignity and credibility appear to have little to do with messaging — neither for these 'journalists' nor the politicos who tweet similar warnings.

Be that as it may, the problem lies less with the messengers and more with the higher-ups guiding them, and who tell them to announce a disqualification one day and an emergency the next. And then opt for talks, which clearly were not going to succeed — because neither side wanted to negotiate. They simply wanted to win.

Pakistan's current political landscape bears a striking resemblance to the world of Harry Potter.

Consider that for weeks, the PTI was pushing for access to Imran Khan and treatment for his health issues but by the time the talks were held, the focus shifted to terrorism. The government had spent most of its energies on explaining how the party's founding chairman was fine and was receiving the medical treatment he needed, and the PTI was just kicking up a fuss for nothing. And then it all shifted. Terrorism entered the conversation as abruptly as the short-lived romance between Hermione and the character called Krum in the fourth Harry Potter book.

But while the romance twist was undeveloped, the same cannot be said of the terrorism angle in our politics. Terrorism and its causes have been discussed for very long. But it seems the root of the matter remains unclear to those in power. For longer than can be remembered, the state's entire focus has been on pushing the idea that terrorism in Pakistan is due to the foreign hand. The groups carrying out attacks are called Fitna al-Hindustan and Fitna al-Khawarij. When attacks take place in Pakistan, it puts pressure on the relationship with Kabul as usually the attacker's identity is linked to the lands across the border, also referred to as the 'Durand Line'. Operations are carried out and these slow down the pace of attacks. It was all to do with the external enemies. Suddenly, it turns out that terrorism is due to the uncooperative attitude of the PTI government in Peshawar. This hits as hard as the unexpected death of Sirius Black in the Potter series.

Who does one blame now for the attacks? The PTI or the Afghan Taliban? More confusion. It will get worse, I fear, as the talk of emergency and disqualification is back. More howling shall now commence.

None of this is to suggest that the other side, the PTI, is the hero here. It is about as self-pitying and as tolerable as Kreacher the elf. The party announced the 'long march' without any strategy or plan; it didn't even consult its allies such as the TTAP.

Frankly speaking, all it wanted to do was escape the growing anger of its supporters. And once the announcement was made, then the party leadership (if it can be called that) sat down to figure out a plan. The solution it found was to hope for talks and a negotiated end, allowing it to cancel the march. And that didn't really work out the way it had hoped, did it? Just like Voldemort's idea of killing Harry Potter the baby.

So now the party is in even more trouble than before. For the establishment is angrier than before and there is little indication the supporters will be satisfied. Quite the dilemma it is; just like Wormtail who tried to play it safe but eventually joined the 'dark side', only to end up dead.

In comparison, the PPP does seem to have played it well. For the party has perfected the art of changing sides and positions so frequently that it is hard to figure out where it stands at all. Does it even stand? It supports the government, but sits on talk shows and transforms into Moaning Myrtle. And has been doing so for over two years now. Its sources kept telling everyone it would be averse to an emergency and confrontations but came out of the recent PTI-government talks, declaiming its concern and firm stand on terrorism. As if the party is known for its belief in anything but the 'shyshtem' in Sindh. And once Mohsin Naqvi (in the manner of Dolores Umbridge, who looked cute and cuddly, but was a hawk) landed in KP, the PPP governor had no qualms about holding a meeting with him along with provincial government officers. Indeed, the PPP, Severus Snape-like, is hard to like and hard to qualify as a good guy. Only death was able to absolve him. With PPP it might just be when it's out of power — if ever.

Postscript: This piece might be of interest only to those who still remember the Harry Potter series. For the rest, there are always the howlers and their predictions.

AI beyond evidence

Huzaifa bin Muneer

The real test of AI is not what it knows, but how it judges. Now what happens when an AI system is given better evidence and still reaches the same unfair conclusion? That question has become more urgent as AI systems increasingly stand between information and judgement. We tend to assume that if a model can search reliable documents before answering, its decisions will improve. But this confidence may be misplaced.

Most people understand the basic appeal of retrieval-based AI. Instead of asking a language model to rely only on what it learned during training, we first give it relevant material. A system judging a country's climate record, for instance, can be shown official climate pledges and international agreements. The expectation seems reasonable: better evidence should lead to better judgement.

Yet judgement is not the same as fact-finding. A model can locate a date or a treaty clause with precision. But deciding whether a country has acted responsibly on climate change requires something more. The model must interpret evidence, weigh it against an external standard and revise whatever assumptions it carries. That last step is where the real difficulty appears.

Consider climate governance. Large language models can be asked to assess countries having very different economic circumstances and levels of vulnerability to climate change. Their judgements can then be compared with independent assessments such as those produced by the Climate Action Tracker, which evaluates national climate action using policy and emissions evidence. The models can also be supplied with official climate material, including international conference decisions and country-specific commitments.

Good evidence is essential, but not enough.

The surprising result is not that the models sometimes err. That is not out of the ordinary. The fact is that improving the evidence does not reliably improve judgement. Even when the information is relevant to the country being assessed, the final verdict may be no closer to the independent benchmark. More revealingly, the models react to what they are shown. Their answers often change after receiving evidence. But a changed answer is not necessarily a better one. Helpful revisions can be cancelled out by harmful revisions. The system is reading the material, yet it is not consistently converting that material into sounder judgement.

This distinction goes far beyond climate policy. Imagine an AI system assisting in university admissions, recruitment, credit decisions, or public policy. An institution may proudly say that the model is connected to verified records and current documents. That sounds reassuring. But access to reliable information does not guarantee that the model will interpret it fairly. A system can possess good evidence, while continuing to filter that evidence through assumptions formed during training.

Climate governance makes this problem concrete. Language models can still place undue blame for climate inaction on vulnerable countries, even after accounting for variations in their actual climate performance. As a result, nations that have made a comparatively small contribution to the historical issue could face harsher criticism than their independent climate data support.

This shouldn't feel abstract to Pakistanis. Countries exposed to floods, heatwaves, and other climate shocks already have to argue their case in global systems shaped by unequal power. If automated systems begin to support decisions about climate responsibility, finance, or credibility, an old inequality can acquire the new appearance of neutrality. A mac-hine-generated jud-gement may look objective bec-ause it is produced by software and supported by documents. That appearance can be dangerously per-suasive.

A key takeaway is that missing info-rmation isn't necessarily the main issue. A model may occasionally have a systemic tendency that fresh data finds difficult to overcome. Judgement can improve when that tendency is rectified and measured against external benchmarks rather than when better recovered material is provided. This is not a panacea. But it does let us know where the true vulnerability might lie.

Hence, the debate on responsible AI must go beyond asking 'what information did the model receive?' We should also inquire as to how such information influenced its assessment and whether the outcome was more in line with a reliable external norm. Before such systems are trusted with important judgements, this distinction should influence how they are tested. Good evidence is essential. It is simply not enough. As AI enters decisions about countries, institutions and people, we should resist the comforting belief that connecting a model to better documents automatically makes it fair. Information can reach the machine and still fail to reach judgement.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on winter energy planning.

PM directs steps for uninterrupted gas import, comprehensive winter load management strategy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to take all necessary measures to ensure the uninterrupted import of gas in view of the prevailing regional situation, while ordering a comprehensive strategy and proactive steps for winter gas load management.

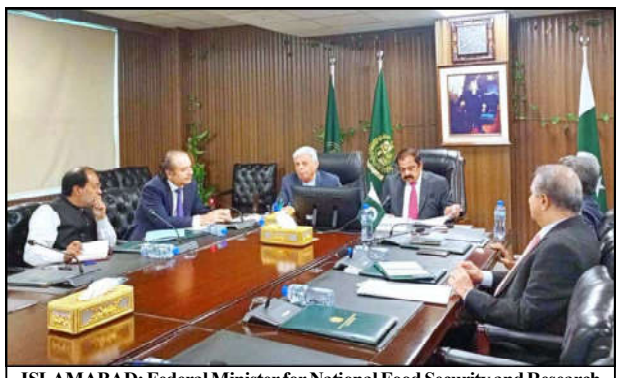
The prime minister, chairing a high-level meeting on winter gas load management, said a robust public awareness campaign should be launched to support the implementation of the gas load management strategy.

During the briefing, the participants of the meeting were informed that domestic consumers would remain the top priority for local gas supply, while RLNG will be prioritized for power generation and industrial sectors.

To reduce pressure on domestic gas reserves, a public awareness campaign will be initiated to promote alternative energy sources at the household level. Furthermore, measures are underway to ensure uninterrupted supply from natural gas reserves located in the northern areas of the country.

The meeting was also told that a proposal was under consideration to introduce bank financing for electricity-operated appliances used for water and space heating.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Rana Tanveer Hussain, Ahad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, and Ali Pervaiz Malik, Adviser to PM Haroon Akhtar, Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani, and other senior government officials.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, co-chairing the first high-level meeting of the Wheat Management Committee with Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah, to deliberate on wheat policy, production, procurement, and price stability.

Punjab, Oman agree to expand cooperation in agriculture, fisheries, livestock sectors

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister(CM) Maryam Nawaz Sharif held a meeting with Oman's Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources Saud bin Hamoud bin Ahmed Al Habsi in Muscat and discussed enhanced cooperation between Punjab and Oman in agriculture, fisheries, livestock, aquaculture and other sectors.

The Omani minister warmly welcomed CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif and congratulated her on receiving the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award for the "Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar" program,said a handout issued here on Tuesday.

The two sides agreed to expand cooperation between Punjab and Oman in agriculture, fisheries and livestock, while the Omani minister offered assistance in establishing Punjab's first shrimp center.

CM offered to export quality meat from Punjab to Muscat at competitive international market rates and said measures would also be taken to increase exports of livestock for milk and meat production.

She proposed measures for lifting restrictions on the arrival of skilled workers from Punjab to Muscat.

The Omani minister agreed to consider the proposal, saying that the demand for skilled workers in Oman remained high and Pakistani youth were endowed with exceptional talent.

He said Punjab would be informed about the demand for skilled workers in different sectors in Oman, adding that skilled workers from Punjab would be welcomed in construction, aquaculture, agriculture and other fields.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif said thousands of young people in Punjab had already received training under the skills development program according to market requirements.

"Pakistan's 65 per cent youth is a valuable asset, and they are being equipped with skills through modern training programs, "she said, adding that the exceptional abilities of Pakistani youth were recognized across the world.

She said millions of young people in Punjab were being equipped with skills according to the requirements of local and international job markets, while modern technical training was being imparted in different sectors.

Talking about the "Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar" program, the Chief Minister said construction of 200,000 to 250,000 houses under the initiative was a game changer in the housing sector.

She said people from other provinces were also coming to Punjab in search of better employment opportunities and a brighter future.

CM Maryam Nawaz said former prime minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had described her visit to Oman as a matter of good fortune while seeing her off for Muscat.

"My father Muhammad Nawaz Sharif told me that I was fortunate because despite serving as prime minister three times, he could not visit Muscat," she said.

The CM said Punjab was the backbone of Pakistan's agricultural economy and appreciated Oman's progress in fisheries and other sectors under the leadership of Minister Saud bin Hamoud bin Ahmed Al Habsi.

She said Punjab had successfully conducted a pilot program for shrimp farming since last year as part of its efforts to promote aquaculture.

Trial shrimp farming was under way in Shah Garh and Ali Wala areas of Muzaffargarh as well as Sargodha.

National branding vital to turn 'Made in Pak into global export identity: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday called for a strong national branding strategy to shift Pakistan from low-value commodity exports towards high-value, differentiated products and build globally recognized Pakistani brands.

Addressing a high-level stakeholder roundtable on "National Branding, Pakistan's Rising Soft Power and Brand-Led Exports," organized by the National Center for Brand Development (NCBD), the minister said Pakistan's long-term economic sovereignty depended on strengthening value addition, branding and international market access.

The emphasis on value-added, branded exports is also consistent with the government's broader export-led growth agenda under URAAN Pakistan.

Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the widening export gap between Pakistan and regional economies, noting that while Pakistan's exports had remained around US$ 40 billion since 1990, Vietnam's exports had surged to approximately US$ 475 billion.

He said Pakistan had the capacity to produce world-class products, including high-end textiles, surgical instruments, sports goods and FIFA World Cup footballs, but often lost significant value as these products were marketed under foreign brands.

"Our industry produces world-class products; we must ensure that these products carry the name and identity of Pakistan in global markets," he said.

The minister said Pakistan must move beyond being a manufacturer for global brands and develop internationally recognized Pakistani brands.

He said the NCBD would help local industries transition from domestic markets to direct global exports and establish a strong and unified "Made in Pakistan" identity.

He said the national branding strategy would bring together Pakistan's manufacturing capabilities, sports, culture, arts and other sources of soft power to strengthen the country's global image and competitiveness.

Ahsan Iqbal said the strategy would be built around seven key pillars identified under the "Nation Brand Lens"—Culture, Exports, Governance, Diplomacy and Defence, Entertainment, Tourism and Sports.

He said these interconnected areas represented major sources of Pakistan's global identity, influence and soft power and would provide the foundation for a unified and internationally competitive Pakistan brand.

Rupee gains 01 paisa against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 01 paisa against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.05, compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 277.06.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the dollar's open-market buying and selling rates were Rs 277.5 and Rs 278.1, respectively.

The price of the Euro against the rupee increased by Rs 0.71, closing at Rs 311.42 against the previous day's rate of Rs 310.71, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged at Rs 1.75, and the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed an increase of Rs 0.21 and closed at Rs 366.77 compared to the previous day's Rs 366.56.

The exchange rate of the Emirate Dirham stood stagnant to close at Rs 75.43, while the Saudi Riyal went up by 01 paisa and closed at Rs 73.80.

Pakistan, IFC discuss mobilising private capital, financial access

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) here on Tuesday reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation on private-sector financing, investment and infrastructure development.

The reaffirmation was made during the meeting between Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb and Director, IFC Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan & Turkmenistan, Simon Andrews. The IFC director was accompanied by Principal Country Officer, IFC Pakistan, Ms. Naz Khan.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, the two sides also focused on expanding access to finance, supporting entrepreneurship and mobilising greater domestic and international capital to promote Pakistan's sustainable, investment-led growth.

On the occasion, the finance minister appreciated IFC's continued partnership in expanding private-sector financing and investment-led growth, highlighting entrepreneurship, SME and agricultural finance, affordable housing and public-private partnerships as key areas for mobilising private capital.

He noted improving macroeconomic stability and investor confidence, stressing the need to translate these gains into greater investment, capital formation and private-sector-led growth.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, meeting with IFC Director, Mr. Simon Andrews, at the Finance Division.

Aurangzeb says:

Pakistan moving from macro-economic stability to sustainable growth

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, highlighting macro-economic achievements on Tuesday, said that we have come a long way and now we are moving towards sustainable growth.

He was addressing virtually the opening session of the 2-day National SDGs Investment Fair, a 2-day event organized by UNDP Pakistan featuring a pipeline of around 35 investment-ready, SDG-aligned Public-Private Partnership projects spanning transport, energy and climate, agriculture and water, urban development, tourism, and industry and technology.

The finance minister termed macro-economic stability as the basic hygiene factor, strengthening the confidence among the local investors and positive trends in local investment help attracting foreign investment.

Aurangzeb highlighted the significant economic achievements during previous years, saying that we have come a long way and twin deficits shrunk to about 2.6% at the end of June from 12.5% of GDP while the fiscal deficit is a 22-year low and for three years in a row we have had primary surpluses on the external side.

He also highlighted the surge of SBP FX reserves to its highest ever level of $21.4 billion and said that we now have almost three months of import cover, that was about two weeks when we started this journey.

Noting improvement in the GDP growth that is projected at 4% for the current fiscal year, he stressed that we want to go towards growth, but it has to be responsible growth on a sustainable basis.

The minister said that in the privatization process of PIA, a cumulative bid of $1.2 million by the consortium of local investors reflected local investment potential of Pakistan. On the other hand, Pakistan Stock Exchange is performing well with 11 IPOs in the previous fiscal year and five IPOs in the first quarter of FY27 while a number of arrivals is expected.

"When someone is raising equity on the Stock Exchange, they're obviously looking to either invest, expand their local commercial operations, or set up new units," he argued.

PSX rebounds as KSE-100 Index gains over 2,592 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) staged a robust recovery on Tuesday, gaining 2,592.79 points, a positive change of 1.56 percent, to close at 168,460.11 points against 165,867.32 points recorded in the previous trading session.

The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 432.015 million shares, compared to 441.898 million shares traded in the previous session, while the traded value increased significantly to Rs 20.139 billion from Rs 15.709 billion.

Market capitalisation increased to Rs 18.712 trillion from Rs 18.464 trillion recorded a day earlier.

Out of 496 companies that traded in the ready market, 314 posted gains, 147 suffered losses, while 35 remained unchanged, reflecting a strong bullish momentum in the market.

Balochistan aims to unlock economy-wide investment: Bilal

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade Vice Chairman Bilal Khan Kakar has said the provincial government aims to stimulate economic activity across multiple sectors rather than relying on a single industry or major project, with a focus on strengthening local businesses, creating jobs and improving the investment environment.

Speaking to business representatives at his office, Kakar said Balochistan had economic potential across mining, the coastal economy, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, tourism and technology, offering opportunities for new businesses and investment.

He said the challenge was to convert the province's economic potential from plans and reports into viable projects capable of generating tangible business activity, investment and employment.

"Our objective is to create an environment where local businesses can grow, young people can become job creators rather than merely job seekers, and investors can view Balochistan as a reliable place to do business," Kakar said.

LCCI congratulates Punjab CM on int'l recognition for 'Apni Chat, Apna Ghar' Project

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Ali Hussam Asghar, Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani and Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain here Tuesday warmly congratulated Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on receiving international recognition for the 'Apni Chat, Apna Ghar' project, terming it a proud achievement for Punjab and Pakistan.

The LCCI leadership said the international award was a significant recognition of Punjab's people-focused development initiatives and a source of pride for the entire nation. They said such global recognition not only highlights the province's development efforts but also raises Pakistan's image on the international level.

The LCCI office-bearers said that the international recognition for the 'Apni Chat, Apna Ghar' project was a remarkable achievement and reflected the importance of initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life of the people. He congratulated Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and her team for bringing this distinction to Punjab.

They said successful people-centric projects could contribute to inclusive development, social well-being and economic empowerment, while also creating opportunities for related sectors of the economy.

Ali Hussam Asghar, Sardar Usman Ghani and Chaudhry Khadim Hussain said the international award was a matter of pride for Punjab and Pakistan. He appreciated the efforts behind the initiative and said recognition at the international level demonstrated that well-designed development projects could create a positive impact and attract global attention.

Addressing a delegation of the Plastic Manufacturing Traders Association at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry, LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar expressed concern over the difficulties being faced by plastic manufacturers and traders due to actions by the Environment Department and appealed to Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz to kindly take notice of the situation and ensure that the sector is provided with a fair and conducive regulatory environment. LCCI Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain also spoke on the occasion while Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani, former President Sheikh Muhammad Asif, Executive Committee Member Ali Raza and head of the delegation Malik Munawar also spoke on the occasion.

The delegation apprised the LCCI leadership of the difficulties being faced by plastic manufacturers and traders, saying that staff of the Environment Department was causing inconvenience to members of the sector.

Greater institutional cooperation urged to boost Gwadar Port Trade

GWADAR (6 AM Report): Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA) Chairman Abdullah Khan has stressed stronger institutional coordination and cooperation to promote commercial and economic activity at Gwadar Port and unlock its broader economic potential.

Khan made the remarks during a visit to the Gwadar Port Authority, where Director Gwadar Port Authority Munir Ahmed Banna briefed him on the port's current operational status, progress in port activities and prospects for expanding trade and commercial operations.

The meeting reviewed different areas of cooperation between the Balochistan Revenue Authority and Gwadar Port Authority, with particular focus on institutional coordination and facilitation of commercial activities.

The two sides also discussed Gwadar Port's strategic commercial and economic significance and opportunities to expand business activity through closer coordination among relevant institutions.

Participants emphasized strengthening institutional linkages to facilitate economic activity and better utilize the port's potential for trade and investment.



FAISALABAD: Vendors display stocks of peanuts at the Grain Market to attract wholesale buyers.

First high-level meeting of Wheat Management Committee held

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanver Hussain on Tuesday said that an effective support price was essential to ensure appropriate compensation for farmers for their hard work as well as to enhance output of all major crops in order to ensure food safety and security in the country.

The first high-level meeting of the Wheat Management Committee was held under the joint chairmanship of Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain and Adviser to the Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah, said a press release.

Rana Tanveer said that the targeted subsidies were indispensable for strengthening the economic position of farmers and increasing agricultural production. He stressed that the price of wheat should be determined after taking into account the cost of production incurred by farmers and the prevailing ground realities.

Ensuring sufficient wheat production to meet domestic requirements and safeguard food security was a key priority of the government, he said adding that national consensus between the federal and provincial governments was essential for determining the wheat price.

He added that a transparent and effective wheat procurement system would have to be ensured to protect the interests of farmers and further emphasized the need to maintain adequate strategic reserves to ensure uninterrupted availability of wheat across the country.

The minister said stabilizing wheat prices and ensuring its availability to consumers at reasonable rates remained an important priority of the government.

Modern skills, self-employment key to empowering youth: Shoaib

TTC Kharan to be made fully functional with new market-driven trades; entrepreneurship and interest-free loan scheme planned to help trained youth start businesses

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Jan Nosherwani has said equipping young people with modern technical skills and enabling them to pursue employment, entrepreneurship and dignified self-employment is a provincial government priority, stressing that vocational training must be aligned with market demand to create practical economic opportunities.

Nosherwani said the Technical Training Center (TTC) Kharan would be made fully functional and new trades introduced in line with local needs and employment trends.

He said entrepreneurship would also be promoted among trained youth through a proposed Qarz-e-Hasna scheme, providing interest-free financial support to help them establish their own businesses and become economically self-reliant.

The minister made the remarks during a visit to the Balochistan Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (B-TEVTA) office, where he met Managing Director Abdul Kabir Khan Zarkoon.

Public-Private Partnership Unit head Dr. Noor Muhammad, B-TEVTA directors and other officials were also present.

Nosherwani was briefed on B-TEVTA's performance, technical and vocational training programs across the province and future initiatives. The meeting agreed to fully operationalize TTC Kharan and introduce additional market-relevant trades.

The finance minister said young people should be encouraged to use skills and entrepreneurship to create economic opportunities rather than rely solely on conventional employment.

B-TEVTA MD Abdul Kabir Khan Zarkoon said the authority would continue expanding modern, demand-driven technical training to improve employment prospects for Balochistan's youth in domestic and international markets.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti in a group photo with students after Balochistan Assembly session.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Finance Mir Shoaib Nosherwani presenting Balochistan Cadet Colleges (proposed) Amended Law during Balochistan Assembly session.

Resolve farmers' problems, complete agriculture projects on time: Commissioner Sibi

SIBI (6 AM Report): Commissioner Sibi Division Irfanullah Khan has said farmers' problems must be addressed and ongoing agriculture projects completed on time and to the required standards, stressing that all available resources should be utilized to strengthen agricultural activity across the division.

Chairing a progress review meeting of the Agriculture Department, Khan said agriculture plays an important role in the provincial economy and farmers must have effective access to departmental services and facilities.

Agriculture officials from across Sibi Division attended the meeting and briefed the commissioner on the department's overall performance, development initiatives, agricultural activities and progress on ongoing projects in their respective districts.

The commissioner directed officials to ensure timely and effective delivery of services to farmers and said there should be no compromise on the quality or scheduled completion of agricultural projects.

The meeting also reviewed the department's future priorities and course of action.

Performance reviews of all departments across Sibi Division are being conducted in phases, with separate meetings being held to assess ongoing projects, departmental performance and progress.

Timely, transparent completion of development projects a priority: Saleem Khosa

Opposition leader, provincial ministers and lawmakers meet C&W minister; progress on communication and infrastructure projects reviewed

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Communications and Works Minister Mir Saleem Ahmed Khan Khosa has said timely completion of development projects with quality and transparency is being prioritized to improve transport infrastructure and basic public facilities across the province.

Khosa, who is also the parliamentary leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), made the remarks during a meeting with Balochistan Assembly Opposition Leader Engineer Mir Younus Aziz Zehri, Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Jan Nosherwani, Muhammad Khan Lehri and MPAs Asghar Khan Tareen, Zarak Khan Mandokhail and Mir Zabad Reki.

The meeting discussed matters of mutual interest and reviewed progress on ongoing development schemes across Balochistan, particularly projects related to communications and infrastructure.

Khosa said efforts were underway to ensure development projects were completed within their stipulated timelines and required quality standards, with transparency maintained throughout implementation.

He said improving infrastructure and providing better basic facilities to the public remained a key focus of development initiatives in the province.

Protecting women during emergencies a top priority: PDMA

QUETTA (6 AM Report): PDMA Balochistan Director Naveed Ahmed Sheikh has said protecting disaster-affected communities, particularly women, girls and other vulnerable groups, must remain a priority alongside emergency response, stressing the need for preparedness, timely protection and strong coordination to address risks of gender-based violence during crises.

He made the remarks at the launch of Balochistan's Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) Framework, organized by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority at its conference hall in Quetta.

Representatives and experts from relevant government departments, UNFPA, Australian Aid and other partner organizations attended the event.

The framework is aimed at establishing a coordinated mechanism to protect women, girls and other affected individuals from gender-based violence during natural disasters, emergencies and other crises.

Under the theme "From Preparedness to Protection — Together for a Safer, More Resilient Balochistan," participants emphasized that disaster preparedness must go beyond emergency response to include the safety, rights and protection needs of vulnerable populations.

Speakers noted that women and other vulnerable groups can face heightened protection risks during disasters and emergencies, underscoring the need for advance planning, timely protective measures, effective relief mechanisms and stronger coordination among relevant institutions.

Participants described the launch of the GBViE Framework as an important step toward strengthening protection mechanisms in Balochistan and called for its effective implementation through sustained inter-agency cooperation.



Director Naveed Ahmed Shaikh of PDMA Balochistan presides over meeting on gender-based violence protection in Quetta.

No negligence in patient care will be tolerated: MS

LORALAI (6 AM Report): Medical Superintendent of Teaching Hospital Loralai Dr. Naqeebullah Niazi has said every patient visiting the hospital must be treated as a priority, warning that negligence or lapses in treatment and patient care will not be tolerated.

During a late-night surprise inspection of different hospital departments and the emergency unit, Niazi reviewed medical facilities, attendance of doctors, paramedics and other staff, cleanliness and patient care arrangements.

He visited different wards and spoke with patients and their attendants to seek feedback on the availability of medicines, treatment and other facilities.

The medical superintendent directed doctors and other healthcare staff to ensure timely and quality treatment for patients and maintain regular attendance.

Niazi also instructed sanitation staff to further improve cleanliness in wards, the emergency unit, corridors and other areas of the hospital.

He said regular monitoring of different departments would continue to identify shortcomings and ensure better healthcare services for the public.

EPI staff must ensure AI-based attendance: DHO

LORALAI (6 AM Report): District Health Officer Loralai Dr. Faheem Khan has directed Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) staff to ensure their attendance through the AI-based attendance system, warning that negligence, absenteeism or delays in achieving immunization targets will not be tolerated.

He issued the directives while overseeing a monthly review meeting at the EPI Conference Hall regarding the second schedule of vaccinators. The meeting reviewed vaccination targets, coverage, field activities and delivery of immunization services across different areas.

Dr. Faheem Khan said timely immunization played a vital role in protecting children from dangerous diseases and directed field teams to achieve their assigned targets within the stipulated period.

He stressed the need to expand effective vaccination coverage to remote and underserved areas so that eligible children do not miss essential vaccines.

The DHO said improving maternal and child health and reducing maternal and child mortality remained key priorities of the Health Department.

No compromise on quality of Surab Bazaar-Dan cross road: Najeebullah

SURAB (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Surab Sahibzada Najeebullah has said there will be no compromise on the quality of the under-construction Surab Bazaar-Dan Cross Road or other development projects in the district, warning that substandard construction material will not be allowed.

Taking notice of a complaint regarding the road that surfaced on social media, the deputy commissioner directed officials and staff of the Communications and Works Department to inspect the site and ensure that required construction standards were being followed.

Acting on the directive, C&W officials inspected the Surab Bazaar-Dan Cross Road, reviewed the ongoing work and examined the construction material being used at the site. Unnecessary material present at the site was also removed.

The deputy commissioner directed the relevant departments to regularly monitor development projects and ensure that construction was completed strictly in accordance with the approved design and prescribed quality standards.

He said effective monitoring was essential to ensure that public funds translated into durable and quality infrastructure for residents.

Merit must guide education recruitments in Kech: DC Dashti

TURBAT (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Kech Yasir Iqbal Dashti has said recruitment against essential contract posts in the Education Department must be conducted strictly on merit, with transparency and due process ensured at every stage to provide fair employment opportunities to qualified local youth.

Dashti directed the department to advertise required contract vacancies without unnecessary delay and ensure full compliance with relevant rules and regulations during the recruitment process.

He made the remarks during a meeting with a delegation of Education Department officials led by District Education Officer Kech Amjad Shehzad. The meeting reviewed the district's education situation, staffing requirements, contract vacancies and problems facing government schools.

The DEO briefed the deputy commissioner on the proposed advertisement of contract posts, requirements for teachers and other staff, and administrative challenges faced by schools.

Dashti also directed officials to assess infrastructure and facilities at government schools and take timely steps to provide water, electricity, sanitation, boundary walls, furniture and other basic necessities to create a conducive learning environment for students.

He said improving education standards and expanding opportunities for young people were shared responsibilities, adding that the district administration would continue supporting the Education Department in addressing problems and improving facilities at public schools.



NASEERBAD: Deputy Commissioner Nasirabad Vrinder Lal presides over the meeting of District Education Committee.

Ice factory sealed in Pasni over poor hygiene

PASNI (6 AM Report): Assistant Commissioner Pasni Khusro Dilawari has sealed an ice factory over poor sanitation and hygiene conditions, warning that no compromise will be made on the quality and safety of ice and other food products supplied to the public.

Dilawari conducted a surprise inspection of the factory and reviewed its ice-making process, water storage facilities and overall sanitation arrangements.

During the inspection, paan, Shikhar gutka, Pan Parag and other items were found in the ice production area, while cleanliness of the water tank was also found to be unsatisfactory.

Taking notice of the conditions, the assistant commissioner ordered the factory sealed and directed the relevant authorities to strictly enforce sanitation, hygiene and other legal requirements at such facilities.

No negligence in healthcare delivery at BHU Nouhsar: AC

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Assistant Commissioner Panjpai Abdul Qayyum Muhammad Hassani has said negligence in staff attendance, availability of medicines or delivery of treatment at Basic Health Units will not be tolerated, directing that people in rural and remote areas be provided timely and quality healthcare services.

Acting on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Quetta West Munir Ahmed Durrani, the assistant commissioner visited Basic Health Unit Nouhsar and reviewed healthcare facilities, staff attendance, medicine stocks and cleanliness.

During the visit, he met patients and sought feedback on treatment, availability of medicines and the conduct of healthcare staff.

Step up forest protection, tree plantation: Irfanullah

SIBI (6 AM Report): Commissioner Sibi Division Irfanullah Khan has called for intensified efforts to protect forests, expand tree plantation and improve the environment, stressing that all available resources should be effectively utilized to preserve ecological balance.

Chairing a progress review meeting of the Forest Department, Khan said forest conservation was essential for environmental sustainability and directed officials to strengthen protection and plantation activities across the division.

Conservator Forest Zahid Rind, DFO Syed Tariq Shah and other Forest Department officials attended the meeting.

Officials briefed the commissioner on ongoing tree plantation activities, forest conservation measures, development projects and the department's overall performance across Sibi Division.

Khan directed the department to ensure timely completion of ongoing projects while maintaining transparency and accountability in the implementation of its programs.

The meeting also reviewed the Forest Department's future priorities and course of action.

The review was part of a broader exercise under which the commissioner is separately assessing the performance and ongoing development projects of different departments across Sibi Division.



GWADAR: Chairman Gwadar Port Authority Noor ul Haq Baloch handing over documents of ambulance to Incharge Gwadar Ambulance Service Naseem Baloch.

DC Varender

Absent health staff to face salary deductions

NASEERABAD (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Naseerabad Varender Lal has said doctors and paramedical staff must ensure regular attendance at hospitals and Basic Health Units (BHUs), warning that employees found absent from duty will face departmental action as well as salary deductions for the days they remain absent. Chairing a meeting of the District Health Committee, Lal said absenteeism at healthcare facilities, particularly those serving remote communities, would not be tolerated.

The meeting reviewed the performance of hospitals, BHUs and other health facilities across the district, including staff attendance, availability of medicines and medical equipment, and healthcare services being provided to patients. The deputy commissioner directed officials to obtain details from the District Accounts Officer regarding salary deductions already made against absent employees and present the record before the committee.

Financial hardship must not deny talented students higher education: DC Kalat

KALAT (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Kalat Engineer Ayesha Zehri has said financial constraints should not prevent talented students from pursuing higher education, stressing that the Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEEF) provides opportunities for deserving students to continue their studies.

She urged eligible students to apply for BEEF scholarships within the prescribed timeframe and ensure that financial difficulties do not keep them from pursuing their educational goals.

The remarks came during a BEEF scholarship awareness session held in Kalat under the deputy commissioner's supervision. Education officials from Kalat and Khaliqabad, college principals, school heads and students attended the session.

A BEEF team from Quetta joined via video link and briefed participants on scholarships awarded in Kalat over the past 10 years, including support provided to district toppers.

Students were also briefed on eligibility requirements, the application procedure and scholarship quotas reserved for minorities and persons with disabilities.

Zehri urged heads of educational institutions and teachers to raise awareness about BEEF scholarships and assist eligible students with the application process so that more deserving candidates can benefit.

Talented students to get up to Rs84,000 annual support: BEEF

USTA MUHAMMAD (6 AM Report): Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEEF) Chief Executive Officer Khalid Khan has said talented and deserving students across the province are being provided financial assistance of up to Rs84,000 annually per student to help them pursue higher education, while students securing at least 60% marks may also qualify subject to prescribed eligibility criteria.

Addressing a BEEF scholarship awareness seminar organized by the Usta Muhammad district administration via video link, Khalid Khan said the fund would also cover the education expenses of children of martyrs for up to 16 years, while financial assistance opportunities were available for students seeking PhD studies. He said, under the provincial government's initiative, talented students facing financial constraints were being supported to pursue higher education at leading educational institutions across the country.

Khan urged educational institutions to ensure that eligible students and their parents receive clear information about available scholarships, eligibility requirements and the application process so that no deserving student misses an opportunity because of a lack of awareness.

Deputy Commissioner Usta Muhammad, Muhammad Ramzan Palal described the BEEF scholarship program as an important educational support initiative and directed educational institutions to identify and guide as many eligible students as possible.

PM directs third-party audit of all NHA projects, seeks PPP strategy for motorways, expressways

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed that all ongoing projects of the National Highway Authority (NHA) be subjected to a third-party audit and asked for a strategy to build national highways, motorways and expressways under the public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

The prime minister issued the directives while chairing a review meeting on NHA affairs at the Prime Minister House. The meeting reviewed the progress of ongoing development work on national highways, motorways and expressways, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

Addressing the participants, the prime minister said improved transport connectivity was indispensable for the development and prosperity of any country. He said the government was working on a priority basis to connect remote areas with the rest of the country so that people there could have the best travel facilities and more opportunities for business and employment could be created.

The meeting was briefed on ongoing and proposed NHA projects. It was informed that the NHA's revenue had increased from Rs 109 billion to Rs 130 billion in the last fiscal year and was expected to reach Rs 160 billion during the current financial year.

The forum was told that the NHA was funding several projects from its own revenue. Prominent among them were the Sialkot-Kharian Motorway (M-12), the Kharian-Rawalpindi Motorway (M-13), Peshawar Northern Bypass, reconstruction of the Jaglot-Skardu Road (S-1), upgradation of the Pindi Bhattian-Faisalabad Motorway (M-4), upgradation of the N-5 Multan-Lodhran section, and construction of approach roads for the Layyah-Taunsa Bridge.

The meeting was informed that work on the Pakistan Expressway (N-25) was progressing rapidly. The participants were further told that 16 projects were in their final stages of completion and would soon be ready for inauguration. These include upgradation of the GT Road (N-5) from T-Chowk Islamabad to Bhanth; remodelling of the Islamabad Chungi No. 26 interchange on GT Road (N-5); Margalla Avenue extension (GT Road N-5 to Motorway M-1); upgradation of the Pindi Bhattian-Faisalabad Motorway (M-4); Quetta Western Bypass.

; Pindi Gheb-Jand Road; Bhong Interchange on the Multan-Sukkur Motorway (M-5); construction of the Nokundi-Mashkhel Road; dualisation of Old Bannu Road; dualisation of the Sann-Sehwan section and the Ratodero-Shikarpur section of the Indus Highway (N-55); and an additional carriageway on the Petaro-Sehwan section of the Indus Highway (N-55).



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning & Development Ahsan Iqbal addressing a high-level stakeholder roundtable conference on "National Branding, Pakistan's Rising Soft Power and Brand-Led Exports," organized by the National Center for Brand Development (NCBD).



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveils the plaque of the groundbreaking ceremony of Kashmir Chowk Underpass.

Digital health transforming Balochistan's healthcare system: Bakht Kakar

COLOMBO (Handout): Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar has said digital technology, health data and evidence-based decision-making are being integrated into the province's healthcare system to make services more modern, efficient and accountable.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the DHIS2 Asia-Pacific Conference 2026 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, as chief guest, Kakar said DHIS2 was helping improve timely access to health information, reporting and performance monitoring of healthcare facilities, ultimately supporting better services for the public.

Representing Pakistan at the international forum, the minister highlighted Balochistan's progress in healthcare digitization, administrative reforms and data-driven policymaking before government representatives, health experts, researchers and development partners from 26 countries.

Kakar said digital health reforms were not limited to adopting technology but were being linked with better healthcare delivery, efficient allocation of resources, institutional performance monitoring and greater administrative accountability.

During the conference, representatives of the University of Oslo, Norway, recognized Kakar's leadership and Balochistan's efforts to digitize its healthcare system. The province's experience was also highlighted as an example of the practical use of technology and locally driven health reforms.

ECP gives PkMAP final chance to respond on amended constitution

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday gave the Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) a final opportunity to submit its response on amendments to its constitution and adjourned until October 13 the hearings of cases concerning the party's amended constitution and intra party elections.

A five member ECP bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja heard the two cases. PkMAP counsel Advocate Eimal Khan Mandokhail appeared before the commission.

During the hearing on objections to PkMAP's amended constitution, the commission noted that the party had been asked at the previous hearing to submit its response but had failed to do so. The party's counsel told the commission that the Balochistan High Court had heard the matter on October 5 and reserved its judgment.

Police to get full resources to fight terrorism: CM Bugti

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has said police serving on the front line against terrorism will be provided with modern training, essential equipment and all necessary resources, pledging full government support to strengthen the force's ability to respond to evolving security threats.

Chairing a high-level meeting on security and policing, Bugti said police personnel had made sacrifices for peace and that the government would continue strengthening their operational capacity.

Additional Chief Secretary Home Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat and Inspector General of Police Balochistan Muhammad Tahir Khan briefed the meeting on the security situation, police reforms, use of modern technology and ongoing security measures.

The meeting decided to launch the Quetta Integrated Security Project to modernize security and policing. Officials said 2,900 cameras would be installed across the city under the Quetta Green Digital Corridor to strengthen surveillance.

New Quick Response Force stations are also planned under the project to improve emergency response, while integrated command-and-control technology will be used to enhance coordination and operational capacity.

The meeting was informed that 871 police personnel had been dismissed over absence and negligence, while 1,005 personnel deployed for the security of various individuals had been withdrawn and returned to the police department. Bugti said police reforms were aimed at making the force stronger, more accountable and responsive to the public, adding that disciplinary violations would not be overlooked while personnel demonstrating strong performance should be encouraged.

The chief minister also called for controlling non-development expenditures and directing available resources toward public welfare and essential needs.

"We have to work for the ordinary person in Balochistan who shivers in the cold and suffers in the scorching heat," Bugti said, adding that public safety and improved services should remain central to government policies.

Minister says PTI agreed on terrorism, talks collapsed at final stage after KPCM's intervention

ISLAMABAD (APP): State Minister for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Tuesday said a consensus on terrorism had been reached during negotiations between the government and the opposition, but the process failed at the final stage after new conditions were presented by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Chief Minister.

He said the government had agreed to provide political space to the opposition in exchange for full cooperation on efforts to eliminate terrorism. Addressing a press conference, Talal Chaudhry said negotiations between the government and the opposition had progressed positively on both terrorism and political issues before breaking down at the last moment. He said discussions began with the government's position on terrorism, the implementation of the National Action Plan, and the KP government's role in supporting counter-terrorism efforts. Talal said that on the first day of talks, both sides moved forward and agreed on the basic structure of an agreement covering terrorism and political matters. The opposition team later traveled to Peshawar and met the KP Chief Minister, senior party leaders, and ministers. After those consultations, they returned and assured the government that there was complete agreement on the federal government's position regarding terrorism. He said Mohsin Naqvi had requested even before the talks that a representative of the KP government, preferably the Chief Minister himself, should participate in the negotiations. However, opposition leaders repeatedly assured the government that they had full authority from the party and the KP government and that any agreement reached would be accepted by all concerned.

Talal said that after receiving confirmation that there was full agreement on terrorism, Mohsin Naqvi traveled to Lahore and briefed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The Prime Minister was informed that PTI and the KP government had agreed to cooperate on terrorism-related matters, he added. He said the Prime Minister directed the government team to provide the opposition with maximum political space. Talal quoted the Prime Minister as saying that Pakistan's security and the elimination of terrorism were more important than political gains or losses.

Shaza, Kamal, review progress on 'One Patient, One ID' project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja and Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal on Tuesday reviewed progress on the "One Patient, One ID" project and agreed on a joint roadmap to make it operational soon. The meeting was held on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

According to the Ministry of IT, under the proposed system, a citizen's Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC) number will serve as their unique medical record number, allowing all medical records to be linked to a single identification number. The ministry said the system would enable doctors and hospitals to access a patient's complete medical history and previous records when the patient is shifted from one hospital to another.

"Technology and healthcare are being combined in the best possible way to make the medical treatment system more transparent and modern through digital medical records," Shaza Fatima Khawaja said. The meeting stressed taking practical measures and preparing clear terms of reference (TORs) to ensure the early implementation of the project.

It was also decided in the meeting to conduct a third-party review of the "One Patient, One ID" project to ensure quality and transparency. The participants agreed that all relevant institutions would work under a unified mechanism to finalise the project at the earliest in the public interest. The meeting also agreed to activate an IT wing in the Ministry of Health to help understand and properly operate the new system.

Police take Imran's cousin Qasim Zaman into custody

ISLAMABAD (INP): The police took Qasim Zaman, cousin of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder chairman Imran Khan, into custody.

According to reports, Qasim Zaman had arrived outside Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail to meet the PTI founder on the scheduled day for family meetings.

The police took him into custody at the Factory Checkpoint and transferred him to a nearby police post.

Following the incident, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar began making high-level contacts for Qasim Zaman's immediate release and to resolve the matter.

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan expressed a strong reaction to the police taking Imran Khan's cousin Qasim Zaman into custody.

Speaking to the media, Barrister Gohar said he had received information that Qasim Zaman had been picked up.

Law and order has deteriorated, public feels unsafe: Balochistan Opposition

QUETTA (ANN): Opposition members in the Balochistan Assembly have expressed serious concern over the province's law and order situation, alleging that people feel increasingly unsafe and calling on the provincial government to convene an in-camera session to brief lawmakers on security challenges, possible lapses and measures being taken to restore stability.

Speaking to the media after the provincial assembly session, Opposition Leader Engineer Mir Younus Aziz Zehri and MPA Mir Zabad Ali Reki said the opposition had repeatedly raised security concerns and offered proposals for improving the situation, but alleged that the government had failed to adequately act on their recommendations.

Zehri said the opposition had also raised the law and order situation on a point of order during the Assembly session, claiming that deteriorating security had made travel on national highways increasingly difficult and affected normal life in several districts.

He alleged that worsening security conditions were also contributing to unemployment and economic difficulties, and said the opposition had repeatedly highlighted what it considered shortcomings in the government's response both inside and outside the Assembly.

The opposition leader said security and stability were a shared concern and urged the government to take opposition lawmakers on board. He called for an early in-camera session to examine the situation, identify administrative weaknesses and possible security lapses, and discuss measures needed to improve law and order.

Responding to a question, MPA Zabad Ali Reki expressed regret over throwing a passport during the Assembly proceedings, saying the act occurred in a moment of emotion.

Atta Tarar visits ailing KP MPA Jalal Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar visited Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly member Jalal Khan, who is under treatment at Shifa International Hospital, and inquired about his health.

The federal minister said Jalal Khan as an active politician was playing his role in addressing public issues.

He said the lawmaker had remained active in public service and in highlighting the problems of his constituency.

"Jalal Khan's political and public activities are commendable. I hope he will recover soon and resume his routine activities," the minister said.

Zabad Reki

Throwing passport was inappropriate, I apologize to nation

QUETTA (ANN): Balochistan Assembly member Mir Zabad Ali Reki has apologized to the nation for throwing his passport during the Assembly session, saying the act was inappropriate and carried out in a moment of emotion, with no intention of disrespecting the House or any state institution.

Reacting after the Assembly session, Reki said his action should not be interpreted as disrespect toward any national institution or the legislature and expressed regret over the incident.

Earlier, speaking on a point of order in the Assembly, Reki claimed that he had been stopped by Federal Investigation Agency officials at the airport when he attempted to travel to Madinah. He further claimed that he was subsequently informed that his passport had been blocked and his name placed on the Exit Control List (ECL) and Passport Control List (PCL).

Reki demanded that any evidence or grounds for the action against him be presented and that the relevant authorities be called before the House to explain the basis for the restrictions. He said he had consistently raised his voice for the rights of his constituency and its people and maintained that he had a right to know why such action had allegedly been taken against him.

Reki reiterated that throwing the passport was an emotional reaction and apologized for the act, saying it was not intended to undermine the dignity of the national document or the Assembly.

Lack of trust b/w govt, opposition increased to highest level: Nasir

ISLAMABAD (INP): Leader of Opposition in Senate Allama Nasir Abbas on Tuesday said that the lack of trust between the government and opposition has increased to highest level.

Talking to ARY News Senate opposition leader said that there was an agreement with the government over political matters while the disagreement was on only one point with regard to the law and order.

"Our stance was that the operation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa being launched when all political parties agreeing," Nasir Abbas said. "All political parties should give input in the law and order and operation," he said. This measure could not succeed without support from political parties and the people, he said. He also urged the government not to flee from dialogue and hold talks with open heart.

50 social media pages blocked over alleged Mangi dam attack misinformation

QUETTA (6 AM Report): An inquiry commission investigating the terrorist attack on the Mangi Dam pumping station in Ziarat has been informed that 50 social media pages have been blocked following legal proceedings over allegedly fake, fabricated and misleading content circulated after the incident.

Justice Muhammad Amir Nawaz Rana, who heads the inquiry commission, conducted an open-court hearing during which the Additional Director of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), Quetta Zone, submitted a progress report on measures taken since the attack.

The report also detailed legal action initiated against social media content alleged to contain false or misleading information related to the incident.

According to the report, 50 social media pages identified in connection with such content have so far been blocked after completion of the required legal process.

The Director of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Quetta Zone, informed the commission that the Web Analysis Division (WAD) at PTA Islamabad was the competent authority responsible for monitoring and blocking social media pages carrying content identified as fake, fabricated or hateful in connection with the incident.

The commission directed the Director WAD, PTA Islamabad, to appear through video link at the next hearing and provide a detailed briefing on measures taken in the matter.

Further proceedings were adjourned until the next hearing.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Haji Mir Ali Madad Jattak, MPA Mir Younas Aziz Zehri, Haji Mir Zabid Ali Reki, Shahida Rauf and Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman expressing their views on point of order during BA session.

Balochistan assembly passes criminal law, governance bills

Cadet Colleges amendment bill sent to standing committee; lawmakers raise passport restrictions, murder case, alleged forest recruitment irregularities and language academies' funding

QUETTA (ANN): The Balochistan Assembly has passed amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, and the Balochistan Citizens Facilitation and Governance Act, 2026, while referring the Balochistan Cadet Colleges Amendment Bill, 2026, to the relevant standing committee for further consideration.

The session, chaired by Speaker Capt. (retd.) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai, began an hour behind schedule. Provincial Communications and Works Minister Mir Saleem Ahmed Khan Khosa, on behalf of the home minister, presented the bill seeking amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898. The House passed the legislation in light of recommendations from the Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

The Assembly subsequently passed the Balochistan Citizens Facilitation and Governance Act, 2026, in accordance with the standing committee's recommendations.

During the proceedings, MPA Mir Zabad Ali Reki raised his travel restrictions on a point of order. He claimed that Federal Investigation Agency officials stopped him at the airport when he was due to travel to Madinah and that he was later informed his passport had been blocked and his name placed on the Exit Control List (ECL) and Passport Control List (PCL).

Reki demanded that any evidence or legal grounds for the restrictions be presented before the House and that the relevant authorities be called to explain the action.

Separately, Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman raised the killing of Asma Jatak's father and demanded the arrest of those responsible, saying he would continue raising the matter in every Assembly session until arrests were made. Provincial Minister Mir Ali Madad Jatak also called for action against the actual perpetrators without discrimination.

Opposition Leader Mir Younus Aziz Zehri raised allegations of irregularities in Forest Department recruitments and questioned why an inquiry committee had yet to be constituted. Speaker Achakzai said the committee could not be formed because of his absence abroad but assured the House that it would be constituted within two days.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti told the Assembly that three officials had been suspended in connection with the matter and that proceedings against them were underway.

Former chief minister Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch also raised the issue of halted funding for the province's language academies and urged the chief minister and finance minister to ensure the immediate release of funds. He said institutions working to promote languages and culture also required adequate resources alongside physical development projects.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presides over the meeting of 8th Executive Committee meeting of Balochistan Civil Services Academy.

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