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Ahsan calls for fast-tracking Nokundi-Gwadar Corridor to boost mineral exports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday called for expediting the development of the Nokundi-Gwadar road corridor through coordinated efforts by the federal government, Balochistan government and mining companies to strengthen logistics connectivity and unlock Pakistan's mineral export potential.

During a meeting with a senior delegation of Barrick Mining Corporation, the minister highlighted the strategic importance of connecting Balochistan's mineral-rich areas with seaports through an efficient road and rail network to facilitate mineral exports and attract further investment.

Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan aimed to increase its exports to $100 billion under the National Economic Transformation Plan 2035, adding that the mining and minerals sector would play a significant role in achieving the target.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to facilitating investment and accelerating the development of critical infrastructure to support economic growth.

The minister proposed the immediate formation of a joint working group comprising the Ministry of Planning, National Highway Authority (NHA), Government of Balochistan and mining companies to finalize the corridor's technical requirements, feasibility, financing and implementation arrangements.

He also called for detailed topographical surveys and three-dimensional (3D) mapping to expedite the feasibility study for the missing link in the proposed corridor.

Dar invites global investors to tap Pak's mineral sector, vows full institutional support

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday reaffirming the government's full institutional commitment and a predictable environment, urged international investors, exploration companies and mining enterprises to explore opportunities in Pakistan's mining sector and develop long-term cooperation.

The deputy prime minister, in his inaugural address at the two-day Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum being held here, assured that the government, together with all relevant federal and provincial institutions, was fully committed to this national undertaking and was determined to match the confidence of its partners with institutional commitment, effective facilitation, and a predictable environment to help flourish responsible investment.

He told the gathering of federal ministers, provincial governors and chief ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, delegates from over 60 countries, including representatives of international financial institutions and development partners and leaders of the global mining industry that Pakistan provided the opportunity as a competitive and trusted destination for mineral exploration and investment.

He said that the government was advancing this vision through national leadership, institutional facilitation, and policy reform to make Pakistan a predictable, competitive and facilitative destination for long-term investment.

PM calls for grant-based climate finance, urges global support for vulnerable nations

ANTALYA (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday called for grant-based climate financing, including public-private partnerships, and a significant increase in resilience and adaptation funds to help climate-vulnerable countries cope with the growing impacts of climate change.

In his national statement at the Antalya Leaders Summit of the 31st UN Climate Change Conference (COP31), he stressed that vulnerable nations need timely assistance and financial support that did not add to their debt burden.

The prime minister said resilience and adaptation funds were essentially survival funds, particularly for struggling economies facing increasingly devastating climate disasters.

Highlighting Pakistan's experience with climate-induced disasters, the prime minister recalled the devastating floods of 2022, when one-third of the country was submerged, affecting 33 million people, claiming more than 1,700 lives and causing economic losses exceeding US$ 30 billion.

Referring to the August 2025 flash floods in Buner, he shared the heartbreaking story of a young man who was just two days away from his wedding when floodwaters swept through his village, turning a home prepared for celebration into a house of mourning.

He said the tragedy reflected the plight of millions across Pakistan and the developing world, who had contributed the least to climate change but were bearing its heaviest consequences.

Recalling his warning at the United Nations four years ago that what happened in Pakistan would not remain confined to the country, the prime minister said the warning had unfortunately become a reality.

"Climate change knows no borders. No nation can face it alone. Solidarity must mean action," he said.

The prime minister expressed gratitude to Türkiye, particularly President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, First Lady Emine Erdogan and the Turkish people, for their support to Pakistan during the devastating floods of 2010 and 2022.

He also thanked Türkiye for hosting COP31 and acknowledged Australia's valuable role as President of Negotiations. Highlighting Pakistan's efforts towards clean energy, he said the country had added more than 20 gigawatts of distributed solar capacity in just two years, while clean sources now accounted for nearly 55 per cent of its energy mix.

He also referred to Pakistan's progress in nuclear energy, saying that on his way to Antalya, he witnessed the dome placement of the Chashma-5 Nuclear Power Plant, which, once commissioned, will add 1,200 megawatts of clean, emission-free electricity. He said Pakistan was also advancing electric mobility and had set a target of reducing projected emissions by up to 50 per cent by 2035.



ISLAMABAD: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti addressing participants during International Exhibition at the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF-26).

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Terrorist attack on police station in DIK foiled

D I KHAN (INP): Police foiled a terrorist attack on Band Korai Police Station in Dera Ismail Khan, after assailants rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into the station's main gate, police said. The powerful blast destroyed the police station's gate and a section of its boundary wall. According to police, the attackers fled the scene following a strong retaliatory response from police personnel. All police officers present inside the station remained safe and unharmed. However, the explosion also destroyed a nearby mosque and damaged several surrounding houses.

Police have launched a search operation in the area to track down and apprehend the attackers.

Read more: Security forces foil drone attack attempt in Balochistan

On October 30, Pakistan security forces foiled an attempted drone attack by Fitna al-Hindustan in Balochistan, shooting down five drones.

Security forces kill three terrorists in Mastung

MASTUNG (UNA): Security forces have killed three terrorists on National Highway N-25 in Mastung District.

According to a spokesperson of Balochistan Police, terrorists belonging to Fitna Al-Hindustan attempted a cowardly attack at Kandawa Post on National Highway N-25 using an explosives-laden vehicle.

However, security forces repulsed the attack through timely and effective action. In the ensuing retaliatory operation, three terrorists were killed.

The explosion damaged nearby houses and a mosque. Two civilians were martyred, while several others sustained injuries. The injured individuals were shifted to medical centers for treatment.

The martyred civilians were identified as Kaleemullah and Bibi Laiba. Three Frontier Corps personnel were also injured in the incident.

Nooreen Niazi, Uzma Khan released from Kot Lakhpat Jail

LAHORE (INP): Nooreen Khan Niazi and Uzma Khan, sisters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, have been released from Kot Lakhpat Jail on Thursday.

Noreen, Aleema Khan, and Uzma Khan, were detained since Sept 21 under the Punjab Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, 1960 (MPO) on the Lahore deputy commissioner's (DC) orders. The two sisters had been detained at Kot Lakhpat Jail before their release, sources said. On October 29, Noreen Niazi was shifted to a hospital from jail after experiencing a health problem. According to her lawyer, Rana Mudassar Umar, Noreen Niazi complained of pain in her heart and was transferred from jail to Punjab Institute of Cardiology, where her initial medical tests were conducted. In September, the Lahore High Court had rejected a request for the immediate suspension of the detention notifications for Dr Uzma Khanum and Noreen Niazi, the sisters of the PTI founder.

PM, Erdogan reaffirm commitment to strengthen Pak, Türkiye strategic partnership

ANTALYA (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a bilateral meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Türkiye on Thursday on the sidelines of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP31 Leaders Summit.

The two leaders reaffirmed the deep-rooted, historic and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Türkiye and expressed satisfaction at the positive trajectory of bilateral relations, said a Prime Minister's Office news release.

They held wide-ranging discussions on ways to further enhance cooperation, with particular focus on trade and investment, defence collaboration, energy cooperation and connectivity.

Both leaders stressed the importance of expediting the implementation of ongoing initiatives and exploring new opportunities to deepen economic engagement.

The prime minister and the president also exchanged views on the evolving regional situation and broader global developments.

Prime Minister Shehbaz highlighted the ongoing efforts by regional countries, particularly members of the Makkah Accord, to promote de-escalation and dialogue.

Mohsin Naqvi vows to strengthen NCCIA to combat cybercrime

LAHORE (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday said the government was working to provide additional resources to the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) to effectively combat cybercrime, online blackmailing, child exploitation and other illegal activities.

Addressing a press conference at the NCCIA Lahore office, he praised the agency's team for promptly arresting all suspects involved in blackmailing six young girls who had expressed suicidal thoughts during an open court hearing a few weeks ago. He said some suspects were arrested within hours, while others were apprehended within one or two days, providing much-needed relief to the victims.

The minister announced that the facility to lodge cybercrime complaints through NADRA's Pak ID platform would be launched soon. The initiative would ensure that every complaint was digitally recorded, enabling authorities to track its progress and monitor the action taken.



QUETTA: Secretary Culture Hameedullah Nasar and DG Iranian Cultural Centre Abu-ul-Hassan Ameeri presenting shield to Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail during one-day seminar on "Iqbal Studies".



ANTALYA: Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meeting with the President of the Republic of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of COP31.

Full security, one-window facilities for investors in Balochistan: CM Bugti

CM announces special security arrangements for mineral corridor, expects Reko Diq project to begin operations by 2029 and signals potential major oil and gas discoveries in Saroona

ISLAMABAD (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has assured domestic and foreign investors of comprehensive security, one-window facilities and a business-friendly environment, pledging to eliminate unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles to promote investment in the province's mineral and energy sectors.

Addressing the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 in Islamabad on Thursday, Bugti said a dedicated security division had been established to protect the mineral corridor, while a new Frontier Corps wing was being formed to strengthen security around mining projects.

He emphasized that the provincial and federal governments, with the cooperation of local communities, were committed to ensuring investor protection and sustainable development.

Highlighting Balochistan's hospitality and trustworthiness, Bugti recalled that a Barrick company camp at Reko Diq had remained unattended for over a decade without security guards. He claimed that nothing was missing when company representatives returned, urging investors to judge the province through firsthand experience rather than negative perceptions.

The chief minister said the Reko Diq mining project was expected to begin operations by 2029, creating opportunities for employment, industrial development and economic growth.

He also expressed optimism about potential major oil and gas discoveries in Saroona, saying encouraging developments could emerge within months. He suggested that possible reserves might exceed Sui's historic gas deposits, although no verified estimates or production timeline were disclosed.

Bugti announced plans to establish a fertilizer city in Sui, in cooperation with the federal government, utilizing locally available low-BTU gas to support industrial and agricultural development.

Regarding investment facilitation, he pledged one-window services to simplify approvals and eliminate unnecessary administrative delays.

He also highlighted the Balochistan Mines and Minerals Act, saying its approval by the provincial assembly reflected political consensus and would provide a clearer legal framework for transparent mineral investment.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan chairing the meeting on establishing women's facilitation centers in all provinces at Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Align education curriculum with Iqbal's vision, modern needs: Governor Mandokhail

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has urged the Education Department to review the existing curriculum and align it with the philosophy of Allama Muhammad Iqbal and the demands of modern education.

Addressing a one-day seminar titled "Iqbal Studies," organized by the Directorate General of Culture, Government of Balochistan, in collaboration with the Iranian Cultural Center Quetta, the governor emphasized the need to develop research skills, scientific thinking, creativity and critical awareness among young people.

He said education should not be limited to obtaining degrees or securing government jobs but should prepare students to contribute to society through knowledge, innovation and independent thinking.

Highlighting Iqbal's intellectual contributions, Mandokhail described him as a visionary philosopher who combined Eastern spiritual traditions with Western philosophical thought, offering insights that remain relevant to contemporary challenges.

The governor stressed that studying Iqbal should go beyond memorizing poetry, encouraging educational institutions to explore his philosophy of selfhood, intellectual development, moral responsibility and collective progress.

He also referred to Iqbal's academic achievements and his reported contribution to Afghanistan's educational curriculum during the reign of King Nadir Shah.

Mandokhail called on public and private universities to strengthen research, critical thinking, scientific inquiry and cultural values, enabling students to meet emerging professional and technological challenges.

He emphasized that meaningful appreciation of Iqbal's legacy required translating his ideas into educational practices and everyday conduct rather than limiting them to annual commemorations.

The seminar was attended by MNA Akhtar Bibi, Iranian Cultural Center Director General Abolhassan Amiri, Provincial Secretary for Culture and Tourism Hameedullah Khan Nasir, and academics, researchers and literary figures.

At the conclusion, the governor presented commemorative shields to researchers and organizers, reaffirming that Iqbal's vision of knowledge, character and self-reliance should guide the education and development of future generations.

Police kill most-wanted terrorist commander in Bara Sheikhan

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police killed a most-wanted commander of Fitna al-Khawarij, identified as Saifullah, during an encounter in Bara Sheikhhan area, police said on Thursday.

According to a police press release, the slain militant was affiliated with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and wanted by police and the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in several serious cases.

CTD records showed that Saifullah was involved in direct attacks on several security checkpoints in the Maidanak area and improvised explosive device (IED) attacks in Ali Masjid area of Jamrud.

He had reportedly been hiding in Afghanistan for the last three years to evade arrest before recently returning to Pakistan as the commander of a militant group to carry out terrorist activities. During the encounter, the militant hurled a grenade, causing minor injuries to two police personnel. They received first aid, the statement added.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zulfiqar Hameed praised the police personnel for eliminating the wanted militant commander.

CM Maryam offers incentives to mineral investors, interest-free loans

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab Chief Minister, Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Thursday invited local and international investors to explore the province's mineral wealth, announcing a range of financial incentives, interest-free loans and one-window facilities to promote investment and value addition in the mining sector.

Addressing the two-day Minerals Investment Forum 2026, she said Punjab's revenue from the Mines and Minerals Department had increased from Rs10 billion to Rs 40 billion in two and a half years, reflecting the impact of improved governance and administrative measures.

She said Pakistan possessed immense mineral wealth beneath its surface, which could be transformed into shared prosperity through exploration, investment, modern technology and value addition.

Maryam Nawaz said Punjab was rich in emeralds, marble, granite, gold, gemstones, copper, pink salt and iron ore. Citing Chiniot's mineral potential, she said the district had an estimated 261.5 million tonnes of iron ore that could be processed into steel.

She said the pink salt was previously exported in raw form as crystals and small blocks, generating limited returns for the country. However, financial support for miners and investment in value-added products had significantly increased revenue.

Maryam said Punjab was the land of five rivers and that gold was "literally flowing" in all five, particularly in the areas of Mianwali and Attock.

She described Pakistan as a "pot of gold", saying its wealth lay both above and beneath the ground and needed to be explored and turned into tangible wealth.

The government was conducting surveys and studies to determine the available quantities while seeking international partners to develop the resource and share its economic benefits.

She said the provincial government was working to create an investor-friendly environment through one-window facilitation, eliminating unnecessary delays. Investors would be able to initiate projects without waiting for multiple approvals, licences and certificates, with the government providing facilitation alongside the process.

Maryam said the government was offering concessional land leases to reduce initial investment costs, along with financing of up to Rs five billion, with the provincial government bearing the interest cost. It would also provide solar vests to investors to help reduce energy-related expenses.



Information Minister Punjab Azma Bukhari addressing the 'Dhee Rani Program' ceremony. Provincial Minister Sohail Shaukat Butt, Speaker National Assembly Ayaz Sadiq, and Special Assistant Ali Dar are also present.



Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over meeting to accelerate climate-resilient development initiatives at CM House in Karachi.

Governor KP seeks foreign investment, joint ventures to develop KP's mineral sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday said the province's vast mineral resources offered immense opportunities for foreign investment and stressed the need for transparent utilization of these resources to strengthen the economy, create employment and promote sustainable development.

He expressed these views during a meeting with Chief Executive Officer of UK-based Critical Minerals Tomorrow, Lee Constable, at KP House, Islamabad. The meeting discussed prospects for foreign investment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's mineral sector, development of mineral resources and the establishment of potential joint ventures between the company and the provincial government.

The Governor said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was endowed with abundant mineral wealth that could attract significant international investment if managed in a transparent and effective manner. He said investment in the mineral sector would accelerate economic growth, improve living standards and create sustainable livelihood opportunities for people living in mineral-rich areas.

Welcoming the company's interest in investing in the province, Faisal Karim Kundi discussed various proposals for establishing a joint venture between the provincial government and the company. He said the proposed partnership should ensure mutual benefits for the provincial government, local communities and the Federal Government, adding that the Centre would also be taken on board to ensure effective coordination for future projects.

The Governor said curbing illegal mining had remained one of his top priorities since assuming office. He said illegal mining worth around Rs2 billion per month had reportedly taken place during the previous provincial government's tenure, adding that effective measures had been initiated to eliminate the practice.

LHC dismisses co-accused Nimra's interim bail plea in rape case

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday dismissed the interim bail application of Nimra, a co-accused in the rape case involving a foreign national, due to non-prosecution.

A two-member bench, headed by Justice Shehram Sarwar Chaudhry, heard the bail petition. However, neither Nimra nor her counsel appeared before the court, prompting the bench to dismiss the application for non-prosecution.

The court had earlier sought an investigation report from the investigating officer regarding Nimra's alleged role in the case.

CM Murad says:

Sindh offers investment opportunities in 27 minerals, invites local, foreign investors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday invited domestic and international investors to explore the province's mineral resources, saying the provincial government had identified 27 minerals and was committed to promoting scientific exploration, responsible mining and value addition.

Addressing the two-day Minerals Investment Forum 2026, he said Sindh aimed to transform its mineral potential into a driver of energy security, industrialisation and economic growth through technological innovation, private-sector participation and inclusive development.

He described Thar coal as the province's major mineral asset, saying the area contained the world's sixth-largest coal deposits. He recalled that the Geological Survey of Pakistan discovered coal in Thar in 1991, while practical efforts to develop the resource gained momentum after 2008.

The chief minister said two blocks in Thar were currently generating electricity. Block-II was being operated under a public-private partnership, with the Sindh government holding a 51 per cent share, Engro Corporation and its partners 45 per cent, and local residents the remaining four per cent.

He said the inclusion of local communities in the project had contributed to its success, while cooperation with Chinese partners had helped transfer skills and technology to the local workforce.

Murad Ali Shah said Thar's development had also created new opportunities for women, including employment as drivers of large mining trucks and operators of reverse osmosis plants. He said women who had previously rarely travelled beyond their villages were now participating in economic activities.

Young boy killed as school wall collapses in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD (APP): A fifth-grade student was killed when a school wall collapsed in the Tandlianwala area of Faisalabad, according to police sources quoted by TV channels.

Initial reports said that the student was present on the school premises when the wall suddenly collapsed, leaving him critically trapped under the debris. Following the incident, a rescue team rushed to the scene and shifted the boy's body to a nearby hospital.

Advisor chairs meeting, reviews winter contingency plan 2026-27

PESHAWAR (APP): Adviser to Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Relief, Samar Haroon Bilour on Thursday chaired a meeting to review Winter Contingency Plan 2026–27 and overall emergency preparedness of the province. During the meeting, Samar Bilour was given a detailed briefing on resources of relief department, operational capacity, existing stocks of relief supplies, district-wise requirements and additional resources and facilities needed to respond to potential emergencies during the winter season.

Emphasizing the need for proactive planning and preparedness, Samar Haroon Bilour stated that addressing the challenges posed by climate change requires advance planning, effective resource management and close coordination among all relevant departments. She directed the concerned authorities to ensure timely completion of all preparations for potential winter emergencies.

She called for special attention to snowfall-prone areas, particularly Upper Chitral, Upper Kohistan, Upper Dir, Shangla, Mansehra and Swat. She directed the relevant authorities to make advance arrangements to deal with heavy snowfall, extreme cold, avalanches, landslides and heavy rainfall.

Reviewing the availability of relief supplies, she directed the immediate verification of existing stocks and called for identifying shortcomings in the transportation and distribution of relief supplies.

IGP Sindh reviews progress on construction of 40 additional model police stations

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Javed Alam Odho on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the construction work, progress and completion targets of 40 additional model police stations being established across the province.

According to a Sindh Police spokesperson on Thursday, the meeting discussed in detail the establishment of the 40 model police stations approved by the Sindh government, progress on construction projects, release and utilisation of funds, expenditures and issues faced during implementation.

AIGP State and Management Amjad Sheikh and other relevant officers gave a detailed briefing and presentation on the budget allocated for the model police stations during the current financial year, release of funds, expenditures and ongoing construction activities.

The IGP directed all DIGPs to regularly visit the model police stations under construction in their respective districts and personally supervise the work to ensure timely completion.

Police-gutka seller nexus surfaces in 'audio leak'

KARACHI (INP): Allegations of a possible nexus between police personnel and gutka sellers have surfaced in Karachi's District City after an alleged audio recording involving an investigation officer from Chakiwara Police Station went viral, triggering concerns within the police department.

The leaked recording allegedly features a conversation between notorious gutka seller Sunny and Sub-Inspector Zahid Ali, the Station Investigation Officer (SIO) at Chakiwara, over a dispute involving alleged extortion and monthly payments.

In the purported audio, Sunny can allegedly be heard pleading with Zahid Ali for leniency, saying that his uncle had recently visited the officer and requesting some relief, adding that his business was limited to just four or five kilograms.

In response, the officer allegedly insists on an increase in payments and warns Sunny of serious consequences if he is caught. He is also heard referring to the possibility of difficulties in securing bail in drug-related cases.

During the conversation, Sunny claims that he has already paid Rs35,000 to someone. However, the officer allegedly responds that the amount would not be sufficient, adding that he had contacted him because he considered him a brother.

When Sunny claims that he is no longer involved in the business, the officer allegedly questions why Rangers personnel had visited his residence.

Defending himself, Sunny reportedly said that the Rangers found only old, spoiled stock at his house, with no mawa or even a single piece of betel nut. He further alleges that a woman named Sana had him detained.

In another part of the alleged conversation, Sunny says he had been informed that the previous officer had been transferred and a new officer had taken charge, adding that he had been assured that arrangements were being discussed.

Loralai IT hub to equip youth with digital skills: DC Shuja

LORALAI (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Loralai Capt. (Retd.) Muhammad Haseeb Shuja has said the establishment of the Loralai IT Hub will provide young people with modern digital skills and professional training, helping them access new employment and business opportunities.

He made the remarks during an inspection of the IT hub, where he reviewed the project's completion status, available facilities and preparations for its formal inauguration.

Officials briefed the deputy commissioner on infrastructure improvements, technical equipment, remaining work and proposed training programs.

Shuja expressed satisfaction that nearly all deficiencies identified during an earlier inspection had been addressed and directed officials to complete the remaining work within two days.

He emphasized that all technical equipment, training facilities, cleanliness arrangements and other essential services must be fully operational before the hub opens.

During the visit, the deputy commissioner also inspected the admission test center for the hub's first training course, reviewing examination arrangements and procedures to ensure transparency.

He directed the relevant staff to conduct admissions strictly on merit, providing equal opportunities to qualified and talented candidates.

Highlighting the growing importance of information technology, Shuja said digital skills and practical training were essential for preparing young people to meet changing professional demands and participate in the digital economy.



Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon chairs meeting for large-scale crackdown on encroachments in Karachi.

Minister Salman stresses Ulema's role in promoting peace in province

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafique on Thursday emphasized that religious scholars play a vital role in promoting peace and maintaining law and order across the province.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadith Pakistan at the Home Department here, as part of a series of consultations with religious scholars being held on the directives of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

The meeting discussed inter-sectarian harmony (Ittehad-e-Bain-ul-Muslimeen) and the overall law and order situation in the province.

Khawaja Salman Rafique said the Punjab government was utilizing all available resources to maintain law and order in line with the vision of the chief minister. In view of the prevailing national situation, unity among all segments of society was more important than ever, he added.

Free healthcare for deserving patients a priority: DC Palal

USTA MUHAMMAD (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Usta Muhammad Muhammad Ramzan Palal has said providing free, quality healthcare to underprivileged patients is a priority, emphasizing the importance of accessible medical services for those unable to afford treatment. He made the remarks while inaugurating a free eye medical camp at Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Usta Muhammad, attended by District Health Officer Dr. Ameer Ali Jamali, health officials and medical staff.

The deputy commissioner inspected the camp and reviewed arrangements for patient examinations and treatment.

Palal stressed that early diagnosis and timely treatment could prevent serious eye complications and urged residents experiencing vision problems to seek professional medical advice.

He appreciated the cooperation between the Health Department and philanthropists in organizing the camp, saying such initiatives could reduce the financial burden on deserving patients and improve access to healthcare locally.

He directed health officials to ensure organized services and proper care for patients, expressing hope that similar free medical camps would continue to benefit communities across the district.



LAHORE: Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique chairing an important meeting regarding the Chief Minister Punjab Special Program for Cardiac Surgery at the Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education Department.

Rs50 million girls' college project revived after eight years in Usta Muhammad

USTA MUHAMMAD (ANN): A Rs50 million project to construct a BS Complex at Government Girls Degree College Usta Muhammad has been revived after an eight-year delay, following efforts by Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ramzan Palal to resolve longstanding administrative obstacles.

The project, being undertaken under the Balochistan Special Development Initiative (BSDI), has reached the layout stage, paving the way for construction to begin.

Deputy Commissioner Palal visited the proposed construction site alongside Assistant Commissioner Maria Shamoon, College Principal Nighat Jan and Buildings Sub-Divisional Officer Ashiq Ali Bohar to review the layout and technical arrangements.

Officials said the project had remained stalled for eight years due to unresolved issues involving the auction of a food warehouse located on the proposed site and the transfer of land.

The district administration coordinated with relevant departments to address these obstacles and facilitate the site's clearance.

The project is particularly important for expanding higher education opportunities for women in Usta Muhammad.

US-funded Mehrgarh heritage preservation project completed in Balochistan

Over $320,000 in US assistance supports preservation of ancient artifacts, modernization of Mehrgarh Museum in Quetta and training of local heritage specialists

QUETTA (6 AM Report): A US-funded project worth more than $320,000 to preserve Balochistan's ancient Mehrgarh heritage and modernize the Mehrgarh Museum in Quetta has been completed, marking a significant step toward protecting the province's archaeological treasures.



US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker attended the completion ceremony alongside Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Parliamentary Secretary Nawabzada Mir Muhammad Zareen Khan Magsi, and Fulbright alumni Dr. Asma Ibrahim and Dr. Kaleemullah Lashari. The initiative, funded through the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP), is the first project completed under the program in Balochistan, extending its presence to all four provinces of Pakistan.

According to US officials, the project focused on conserving valuable Neolithic-era artifacts discovered at Mehrgarh, upgrading museum facilities to improve preservation and exhibition standards, and training local archaeologists and heritage professionals in long-term conservation techniques. The initiative also aimed to improve public access to the museum and strengthen community engagement, providing greater opportunities for students, researchers and visitors to explore Balochistan's ancient history.

Mehrgarh, considered one of South Asia's earliest agricultural settlements, holds exceptional archaeological significance for understanding early human civilization, farming and social development.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111222253 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. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION MASTUNG invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 1500 PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	AUGMENTATION OF VARIOUS WATER SUPPLY SCHEME MASTUNG TOWN PSDP NO. 4315 PROJECT ID Z2026.1407 YEAR 2026-27 (UPGRADATION OF W.S.S KAREZ KALAN PRINGABAD HURMUZ MASJID)	3,403,439

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 2,382,407 PKR Amount in1 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm **Procedure Of Procurement:**Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call 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 1,500 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 26 November, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 26 November, 2026till 12:00 PM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM Address: Office of The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Department Division Mastung

Phone no: 0843895449Fax no: 0843895449

Email: Xenpheoffice0654@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION MASTUNG

DPRQ/PRQ No.2427/12-11-2026

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Daily 6AM, Quetta
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Investment in Balochistan: A new dawn of hope

Balochistan stands at a critical point in its economic journey. Despite its vast mineral wealth, natural resources and considerable investment potential, the province has remained economically underdeveloped for decades. Persistent security challenges, administrative inefficiencies and the concentration of economic opportunities in a few hands have prevented its resources from translating into widespread prosperity. When wealth and investment remain confined to privileged groups, economic inequality deepens, public frustration grows and opportunities for ordinary citizens become increasingly limited.

Against this backdrop, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti's address at the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 in Islamabad offers a welcome message of optimism. His assurances of comprehensive security, one-window investment facilities, essential infrastructure and the removal of bureaucratic obstacles reflect an encouraging recognition of the challenges facing investors. By highlighting the hospitality, tolerance and commitment to honoring promises that characterize the people of Balochistan, the chief minister also presented a positive image of a province too often viewed primarily through the lens of insecurity.

However, investor confidence cannot be built through assurances alone. It requires consistent policies, transparent procedures, reliable security arrangements and an administration capable of delivering on its commitments. The provincial government must translate its promises into measurable action, ensuring that investment opportunities are not monopolized by influential individuals or established business interests. Local entrepreneurs, small businesses and young people must have meaningful opportunities to participate in the province's emerging economy.

Major projects such as Reko Diq, potential oil and gas discoveries in Saroona and the proposed Fertilizer City in Sui could significantly strengthen Balochistan's economic prospects. Yet their real value should not be measured solely by investment figures, production targets or government revenues. Their success must also be judged by the employment they generate, the local businesses they support and the improvements they bring to education, healthcare, infrastructure and living standards.

Equally important is the fair distribution of benefits arising from the province's natural resources. Communities living near major development projects should not remain spectators while economic opportunities develop around them. Their legitimate interests must be protected through meaningful consultation, fair employment practices, skills development and transparent mechanisms for sharing economic benefits. Environmental safeguards and public accountability must also remain central to investment planning.

Balochistan needs a development model that combines investor confidence with public trust. Security is essential, but lasting stability also depends on economic inclusion, institutional credibility and the perception that development serves the wider population rather than a privileged minority.

The chief minister's commitments represent a positive beginning, but the real test lies in implementation. Balochistan must move beyond announcements toward sustained economic activity, responsible investment and tangible improvements in people's lives. Its natural wealth offers enormous possibilities, but those possibilities will become meaningful only when the people of the province share fairly in the resulting prosperity.

A new dawn for Balochistan will not be defined by the investment it attracts alone, but by the opportunities it creates for its people.

Building on global goodwill

Ali Tauqeer Sheikh

Pakistan's role in brokering the first direct US-Iran talks since 1979 has generated immense global goodwill. Can Islamabad strategically deploy this diplomatic credibility? Peace between the nuclear-armed Pakistan and India in South Asia is no less vital than Middle East stability and hinges on reviving cooperation on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). Such initiatives translate Pakistan's diplomatic capital into structural stability — foundational to regional security and our shared capacity to manage the accelerating climate risks to the subcontinent. By focusing on water, a domain of acute shared vulnerability, Islamabad can address areas where the cost of non-cooperation hits ordinary populations hardest, and where political barriers to progress are lower than in traditional security matters.

The treaty's effective suspension, driven by India's withdrawal from treaty mechanisms after the April 2025 Pahalgam attack and Pakistan's unilateral filing at the Permanent Court of Arbitration, has paralysed the Indus basin's institutional machinery. This breakdown has occurred at the worst possible moment, leaving both nations without a functional framework to manage the increased frequency of transboundary climatic events and disasters.

The 2025 floods were a compound event. Record heatwaves first saturated the glaciers and atmosphere, then an early and intense monsoon hit river systems already at capacity. The transboundary dimension is the sharpest new argument. India's opening of dam gates after reservoirs reached full capacity caused sudden downstream surges. Crucially, this happened after the IWT's unilateral suspension. Instead of using the Permanent Indus Commission as stipulated in the IWT, India informed Pakistan of the floods through diplomatic channels — meaning the very mechanism designed to prevent this kind of uncoordinated release was gone. All three major rivers (Ravi, Chenab, and Sutlej) overflowed simultaneously for the first time in the country's history.

The Himalayan glaciers feeding the Indus are melting rapidly, a trajectory that will intensify flood events in the near term and produce structural water scarcity by mid-century. These risks are shared equally by Pakistan and India's northern states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and occupied Jammu & Kashmir, which draw from the same glacier systems, in addition to downstream Punjab and Haryana, making water security a vulnerability that transcends political divides.

The IWT's technical framework remains legally valid and needs only political will to activate.

The IWT's technical framework remains legally valid and needs no new negotiation to activate — only political will. The World Bank as treaty broker, and UN climate and disaster-risk bodies to which both countries are signatories, offer multilateral entry points for re-engagement on technical grounds without either side bearing the domestic cost of appearing to concede. Water data is not a concession. It is information that protects populations on both sides of the border.

The case for reviving the treaty's technical mechanisms is, therefore, as much a disaster-risk management argument as a political one. Coordinated data-sharing on river flows, early warning systems for flood events, joint reservoir management, and agreed protocols for upstream infrastructure development are technically available under the treaty framework. Their absence means that downstream populations in Pakistan are more exposed to upstream decisions made without consultation, and that early warning of floods in both countries is less effective than it could be.

The World Bank has a historical role in pressing both governments back towards technical engagement. Pakistan should actively seek Washinton's nod for that intervention. India halted treaty participation over alleged cross-border terrorism and resists engagement that might appear to vindicate Pakistan without reciprocal action. But there is a distinction between political normalisation and technical cooperation that both governments have, at various times, recognised.

Water cooperation is security by another name. A Pakistan that proposes the revival of technical-level treaty mechanisms as a climate and disaster-risk initiative, rather than as a political negotiation, creates space for India to engage without visible concession. The framing is not cosmetic. It changes the domestic political calculus in New Delhi by allowing the BJP government to present engagement as responsible stewardship rather than as accommodating Islamabad.

A deeper reason distinguishes this moment from past attempts to revive Indus cooperation. Since the 1972 Shimla Agreement, Pakistan has engaged India from a position of structural disadvantage, defined by a smaller economy and a downstream riparian status that cast it as a 'supplicant' in negotiations. For half a century, Pakistan's calls for functional water management were dismissed as political manoeuvring rather than shared-risk arguments. By invoking Shimla's bilateralism principle to resist international arbitration, India maintained a comfortable status quo of delay, leaving Pakistan without effective multilateral leverage.

The Islamabad talks have altered this geometry. For once, Pakistan is not approaching the table with a grievance or a request. Instead, it arrives having delivered a global public good — the first direct US-Iran contact in five decades, at considerable diplomatic cost for no bilateral gain. This represents a structural shift from any position Pakistan has occupied since Shimla.

The resulting goodwill is operational, not sentimental; it shows a capacity for disciplined, multilaterally anchored diplomacy. This shift changes how a Pakistani proposal on water will be received by both India and the global institutions and capitals that matter most.

This window will not stay open indefinitely. The domestic political conditions allowing for re-engagement are products of a transient moment.

The winds shifting across the region have created, briefly, a political climate in New Delhi where technical cooperation can be received as regional statesmanship rather than diplomatic retreat. By moving quickly to propose the revival of the Permanent Indus Commission's technical mechanisms and framing it as a climate and disaster-risk initiative, Pakistan offers New Delhi a path to cooperate without appearing to concede. This opportunity is measured in months, not years.

Crucially, this proposal involves no retreats: Pakistan is not withdrawing its arbitration filing, abandoning its legal position or demanding political normalisation as a precondition. Instead, it seeks to revive a technical mechanism: originally co-designed and still legally valid, whose absence is now measurably costing lives on both sides of the border. Framing the initiative in these precise, operational terms is not a concession. Pakistan has not held this hand since 1972. It should play it now.

Dire straits

F.S. Aijazuddin

Recent events have given a new twist to history. A Chicago-born pontiff from Rome has publicly rebuked an American Christian crusader.

Normally, popes issue insipid encyclicals or harmless homilies. In 1968, for example, Pope Paul VI issued Of Human Life — a justification of the Catholic church's opposition to methods of birth control. (One sceptic wondered how a celibate bachelor felt qualified to guide married couples on such an intimate matter.)

Previous popes chose not to interfere even when human rights were being violated. In the 1940s, Pope Pius XII refrained from any condemnation of the Nazis or Stalin's pogroms. Hitler let Mussolini handle the Vatican. Stalin silenced the pope with the cutting question: "How many divisions has the Pope?"

This Easter, Pope Leo XIV felt impelled to speak out against a fellow countryman — the US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth — who had appealed to "Almighty God who trains our hands for war and our fingers for battle" (Psalm 144). On Palm Sunday, Pope Leo XIV, in the name of the same God and quoting from the same Holy Bible, reproached Hegseth: "When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening. Your hands are full of blood!" (Isaiah 1:15).

Did Trump deliberately send Vance to Islamabad to fail?

It is perhaps telling that the recent negotiations between the US and Iran held in Islamabad on April 11 did not begin with a prayer from any faith. It might have given the talks a chance. Instead, the divine and Israel were both noticeably absent.

The composition of the US team revealed non-seriousness. Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner are Jewish real estate developers from New York. They had disappointed the Iranians twice earlier. They have a record of being midwives who specialise in lucrative abortions. Neverthe-less, Iran accepted them, hoping that Vice-President J.D. Vance might bring some gravitas and maturity to the table.

They were wrong. President Trump sabotaged the Islamabad talks even before they had begun by announcing: "If it doesn't happen, I'm blaming J.D. Vance. If it does happen, I'm taking full credit." With that, Trump ensured the failure of his VP, just as president Joe Biden, by delaying his withdrawal from the presidential race in 2024, scotched his VP Kamala Harris' chances.

It has been reported that, during a White House meeting on Feb 12, Vance sided with CIA director Ratcliffe who described Benjamin Netanyahu's proposal to attack Iran as "farcical". Vance told Trump: "This is a bad idea, but if you want to do it, I'll support you." He warned that such a war would cause "regional chaos".

Did Trump deliberately send Vance to Islamabad to fail? Or, subtler still, did Vance (a recent convert to Catholicism) sacrifice himself this Easter so that he could resurrect himself to succeed a damaged, declining Trump? Vance knows he is only a heartbeat away from the presidency, as were H. Truman to F.D. Roose-velt (1945), L.B. Johnson to J.F. Kennedy (1963), and G. Ford to R. Nixon (1974).

Vance disclosed in his final statement in Islamabad that the US had wanted Iran to abjure nuclear ambitions, forever. Was it lost on him that he made this demand in the capital of a country that is said to possess an estimated 170 nuclear weapons and which hasn't signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty? (Iran signed the NPT in 1968.)

Is the ongoing war really about Iran's nuclear capability? Or the hydrocarbons choking the veins of the Gulf Ara-b-s? Or the dangerous gauntlet run by traffic in the Strait of Hormuz?

Paper oil

Khurram Husain

An interesting thing is happening in the oil markets that has not received enough media attention. Given the prolonged closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the severe supply-side crisis that has hit global oil markets, there should by now have been a spiralling rise in the price of oil. But instead, we see it rise slightly above $100 and then drop below. Sometimes this follows the headlines. But overall, a mystery is developing around why oil prices are not seeing massive rises these days, even as more and more countries announce releases from their strategic petroleum reserves (SPR), which is a sure sign that physical shortages of oil are landing around the world.

One answer doing the rounds among oil analysts is the idea of 'paper oil'. The argument is that the US Treasury is actively manipulating the price of oil by selling massive quantities in the futures market. This helps keep the price of oil down in the present. A Reuters story published on March 5, the first week of the war, kicked off rumours that this might be happening. "The US Treasury Department is expected to announce measures as soon as Thursday aimed at combating rising energy prices, including potential action involving the oil futures market", read the opening sentence of the story, quoting a senior White House official. Brent had jumped to $85 at the time, and the IRGC had announced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz just three days earlier. To comprehend how this works, it is necessary to understand a couple of things about how oil markets function.

First, there is not a single price in oil markets. There are various benchmark prices of crude, like Brent, Dubai Light or West Texas Intermediate. These refer to the price of crude oil in a specific market. WTI is mostly for the Americas, Brent for Europe and Dubai Light for Asia. Next up are oil products like petrol, diesel and jet fuel that have their own prices. And then, there are petroleum products like naphtha or LPG that have separate prices too. Finally, there are what are called 'futures markets', where you can buy oil today for delivery at a future date.

Under normal conditions, all these prices will move closely with each other since they are tied. When the price of crude rises, the price of petrol and diesel will rise more or less correspondingly. The cap on these is the futures price. If crude oil for delivery in June 2026 is available for a particular price, the present-day price will not go too far above that.

Oil watchers are now wondering aloud whether active oil market manipulation has begun.

What the Reuters story was trying to say was that someone in the administration figured out that one way to manipulate oil prices, and keep them down in the short term while the war lasted, was for the US government to become a massive seller of oil in the futures market at a lower price than what the market is generating. By that time the settlement date of the contract arrives, the outcome of the war would be known and they would be betting that the US would have prevailed, and the price of oil would have either stabilised or dropped. Either way, it would be one way to stabilise the market at a higher price point, while buying some time in which to see the war through.

But things did not work out as planned, obviously. The war dragged on. The strait remained closed. And as Donald Trump grew desperate to avoid a catastrophe in the oil market, by late March his administration had issued sanctions waivers for Russian oil as well as some Iranian oil. A little earlier, they had announced releases from their SPR, usually something done when the country has been attacked.

Those steps, though, were not enough. As the war dragged on, and the last oil tankers that left Hormuz at the start of the war reached their destinations, the desperation grew. This is where the paper oil theory comes in. Oil watchers are now wondering aloud whether active oil market manipulation has begun.

If manipulation is taking place, it means the US government is now selling massive quantities of oil on the futures market, oil that they don't actually have, at least not at the price at which they are selling it. For the racket to work, it would need to be kept under wraps, because price manipulation in any market fails if players know that the price is being manipulated. But you know price manipulation from its effects. In the oil markets, for instance, manipulation will create what sector analysts call 'decoupling', a situation where all the various prices that make up an oil market start moving apart from each other. To some extent, this has already happened, for example, jet fuel and diesel prices have skyrocketed beyond any of the others.

But the most important decoupling would be between the futures market and what they call the 'physical market'. The first is oil on paper. The second is oil in hand. Normally, the price difference between them is only a few dollars. But these days, it has shot up to almost $40 per barrel. And the increase in this difference began shortly after March 20, when the previous round of steps to stabilise oil prices were taken.

Asked about this, Terry Duffy, chairman of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, recently said that attempts to manipulate oil markets like this can create a "biblical disaster". Another executive mentioned to the media that his firm received queries from its clients on whether a recent large spurt of transactions was initiated by the US government. If done right, price manipulation leaves no smoking gun evidence behind, because it would not work if it did. But it reveals itself by the effects it produces. And recent moves in oil markets strongly suggest that the 'paper oil' racket is in full swing.

Butterfly effect

Naveed Gilani

Does the flutter of a butterfly's wing on a flower in one part of the world cause a hurricane in another thousands of miles away? Literally, no, but metaphorically, yes. What is known as 'the butterfly effect' shows that a little event can lead to significant results over time. The little event I am talking about is providing nutrition to an underprivileged schoolchild and the significant result is the huge gain it spawns over his/her lifetime. In economic terms, what we put in is multiplied multifold, returning as a continuous stream for the child beyond the school years.

Nutrition has always been a cornerstone of human development. Anthropologists have compared the development of human populations and have found that nutrition has a profound influence on fundamental aspects of the physical and cognitive development of humans. We have learnt that investing in nutrition is not just a matter of public health but also a strategy for economic advancement.

Abundant empirical evidence shows the impact of proper nutrition on a child's physical robustness while laying the groundwork for optimal brain development. The earliest years, particularly from pregnancy to age five, are critical for physical growth and cognitive formation. Yet the challenge does not end once children start school. For millions aged five to 15, adequate nutrition during the school day is essential for sustaining attention, improving learning and ensuring that the education system can translate schooling into a healthier, smarter and more productive workforce that drives economic growth.

Pakistan's child nutrition statistics for ages five to 15 present a grim picture. Of the roughly 63 million school-age children, about 38.3 per cent are stunted (low height for age), 28.5pc are wasted (low weight for height), and 17.5pc are underweight. Whatever the exact numbers, it is known that hunger and poor nutrition remain serious challenges for a large number of children. These figures show that much needs to be done to address the nutritional deficit and help unlock the potential of these young minds.

Adequate nutrition during the school day is essential.

One could argue that society has a responsibility to address poverty, reduce inequality, and ensure that no child goes hungry. While that ethical argument is important, there is also a more pragmatic and equally compelling perspective: the economic case.

Recognising the link between nutrition and learning, countries around the world have adopted school meal programmes to support both child nutrition and education. School meal programmes are a highly effective investment in human capital, generating measurable returns through improved education, health, and future productivity. In this sense, school meals are not merely a welfare intervention of filling the stomach; they also represent a structural change in the child's future.

A primary school cycle is typically five years (Grades 1-5) in Pakistan. This is the period where school meals would be most beneficial. In fact, it aligns well with how economists think about human capital investments. The investment period may be only five years, but the benefits extend across the child's entire working life (35 to 40 years). In other words, a short investment with a very long economic return — the proverbial butterfly effect. The World Food Programme estimates that every dollar invested in school feeding can generate between $7 and $35 in long-term economic benefits, depending on local conditions. Even setting aside these estimates, the economic logic remains compelling. If sustained nutrition during the primary school years were to raise lifetime productivity by even 5pc, the resulting increase in earnings and economic output would far exceed the modest cost of providing meals during those same five years.

With firsthand data from our work with school meal programme, I can say that providing one cooked meal for each school day to one child for five years costs around Rs70,000. Based on conservative productivity gain estimate, this investment spread over five years would generate nearly Rs900,000 over a working lifetime.

My back-of-the-envelope estimate tells me that even if we were to invest in nutrition for only 10pc of the children the GDP gain would generate around $400 billion in lifetime economic output. What begins as a simple daily meal in a village classroom thus becomes a powerful investment in the country's future productivity.

Economic logic is a no-brainer, and the moral case is undeniable. Investing in the nutrition of schoolchildren is one of the simplest, most practical steps we can take to strengthen the country's future workforce. As the old proverb reminds us, "The best time to act was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now."

Commerce Minister calls for global mining Partnerships to unlock Pakistan's mineral wealth

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from Wood Mackenzie called on Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan at his office to discuss investment opportunities, international partnerships and preparations for the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum.

During the meeting, the minister highlighted Pakistan's vast and largely untapped mineral potential, particularly in copper, antimony, iron ore, gemstones and other critical minerals. He emphasized that developing the mining sector could significantly boost exports, attract foreign investment and create new opportunities for industrial growth, said a release issued here on Thursday.

Jam Kamal Khan stressed the importance of investor-friendly policies, competitive taxation, reduced import duties on specialized mining equipment and greater coordination between federal and provincial governments to facilitate international investors.

The Minister particularly emphasized connecting small-scale Pakistani miners and existing leaseholders with major international mining companies through joint ventures, technology transfer and financial partnerships.

Highlighting the Ministry of Commerce's role, he said tariff rationalization, trade agreements, improved market access and development of professional services could help Pakistan become a competitive destination for mineral investment.

The Minister also advocated a phased approach to value addition, emphasizing that commercially viable mining operations would pave the way for future investment in copper smelting, refining and downstream manufacturing.

He proposed stronger international collaboration across the mineral value chain, enabling countries to combine their strengths in exploration, processing, technology and trade.

The Wood Mackenzie delegation discussed international investment trends, fiscal competitiveness and opportunities for developing Pakistan's mining-services ecosystem. The delegation also exchanged views with the Minister on preparations for the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum and Pakistan's potential to attract leading international mining investors.

The Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to transforming its mineral wealth into sustainable economic growth, enhanced exports, employment opportunities and long-term international investment partnerships.



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

Balochistan to become investment hub: Bilal

BBoIT vice chairman highlights mineral resources and investment opportunities at Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade (BBoIT) Vice Chairman Bilal Khan Kakar has said the provincial government is committed to attracting domestic and foreign investment to unlock Balochistan's mineral potential, promote industrial development and generate employment opportunities.

Speaking to local and international delegates at the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026, Kakar emphasized that modern technology, effective planning and private investment were essential to developing the province's mineral resources.

During the forum, he visited exhibition stalls alongside Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, provincial mining officials and foreign delegates.

Kakar briefed participants on Balochistan's mineral reserves, mining prospects and investment opportunities, highlighting the sector's potential contribution to Pakistan's economy.

He said BBoIT was working to facilitate investors, strengthen international partnerships and promote the province as a competitive investment destination.

Describing the forum as an important platform for international engagement, Kakar said increased investor interest could help expand industrial activity, create jobs and support sustainable economic growth in Balochistan.

Institutional cooperation key to Gwadar's industrial growth: Hashim

GWADAR (6 AM Report): Gwadar Industrial and Estate Development Authority (GIEDA) General Manager Muhammad Hashim has emphasized the need for stronger institutional cooperation, investment facilitation and local industrial development to transform Gwadar into a major industrial and commercial hub.

He made the remarks during a meeting at the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) office, where participants discussed industrial expansion, border trade and opportunities for local businesses.

The meeting was attended by businessman Nazar Ahmed, Chief Engineer Haji Syed and Architectural Engineer Shahid Ali.

Hashim said Gwadar's strategic location and regional trade potential offered significant opportunities for industrial investment, employment generation and economic development.

Participants reviewed proposals to establish local industries, improve business facilities and encourage investment in line with Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti's development priorities.

The meeting also emphasized closer coordination between GIEDA and GDA to facilitate industrial projects, strengthen border trade and address challenges facing local businesses.

Participants agreed that improved institutional coordination and a more supportive investment environment were essential to realizing Gwadar's industrial and commercial potential.

Flour price hits Rs8,400 amid wheat crisis: Khalid Batth

QUETTA (ANN): Kisan Ittehad Chairman Khalid Hussain Batth has blamed government agricultural policies for the country's wheat crisis, claiming that the price of a 50-kilogram flour bag has reached Rs8,400 in Balochistan, placing additional financial pressure on consumers.

Addressing a press conference in Quetta, Batth urged the provincial government to purchase wheat from the Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation (PASSCO) to stabilize flour prices and provide relief to the public.

He criticized wheat and cotton imports, arguing that reliance on foreign agricultural products was undermining local farmers and limiting opportunities to sell their produce.

Bath welcomed Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti's decision to lift restrictions on fertilizer but called for broader reforms to protect agricultural production and farmers' incomes.

He also demanded stricter regulation of sugar mills and fair prices for sugarcane growers, alleging that political interests were influencing decisions affecting the agricultural sector. Referring to a reported Rs500 million damages claim filed against him by the government, Bath said he would challenge the case through legal channels.

He welcomed reports of a possible resumption of border trade, urging authorities to consider farmers' economic interests in any future arrangements.



Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar inaugurating the International Exhibition at the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF-26), at Islamabad.

Rana shares Pakistan's strategy for climate resilient agri sector

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

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

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

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

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

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

The minister said that although the government was undertaking substantial efforts at the domestic level to address climate challenges, international cooperation and financial assistance remained indispensable.

He emphasised that global climate finance commitments should be translated into tangible financial support rather than remaining limited to pledges, enabling vulnerable countries like Pakistan to strengthen agricultural resilience, protect farmers' livelihoods and ensure food security.

Pakistan's listed corporate profits surge 25% in 9 months: Khurram

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's listed corporate sector recorded a 25% year-on-year increase in profits during the first nine months of calendar year 2026, marking the strongest growth for this period in three years, Advisor to the Finance Minister Khurram Schehzad said on Thursday.

In a post on social media platform X, Schehzad said the improvement reflected stronger business performance and improving economic fundamentals across major industries.

He said corporate profits grew 18% year-on-year in FY26 (July-June), demonstrating sustained earnings recovery, while profits increased 23% year-on-year in first quarter of FY27 (July-September).

He added that non-bank corporate earnings jumped 37% year-on-year in the latest quarter, reflecting momentum beyond the banking sector.

Schehzad said, the increase in corporate earnings was broad-based, with several key sectors reporting substantial growth.

In the energy sector, profits of exploration and production companies increased by 43%, while earnings of oil marketing companies surged 144%.

Among industrial sectors, engineering companies recorded 304% growth in profits, followed by automobiles at 19% and cement at 13%.

The technology sector posted 31% growth, while pharmaceutical and fertiliser companies recorded increases of 14% and 11%, respectively.

Schehzad attributed the improving corporate performance to greater macroeconomic stability, easing financing pressures, and ongoing fiscal, energy and business reforms.

He also highlighted targeted tax relief for businesses and exporters in the FY2026-27 budget as a measure that could further support investment and economic activity.

He said Pakistan's corporate sector was moving beyond recovery, with major industries demonstrating stronger earnings and expanding profitability.

Schehzad emphasised that the next phase of economic progress should translate improved corporate earnings into productive investment, industrial expansion and job creation.

He said sustainable economic growth would require greater private-sector participation and continued efforts to strengthen the business environment.



ISLAMABAD: Vice Chairman of BBoIT Bilal Kakar and other officials in a group photo on the occasion of the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum.

PSGMEA delegation visits NIC to explore collaboration opportunities

SIALKOT (APP): A delegation of the Pakistan Sports Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PSGMEA) visited the National Incubation Center (NIC) to explore opportunities for institutional collaboration and cooperation.

The delegation comprised Senior Vice Chairman (SVC) PSGMEA Sh. Khalid Mehmood, Vice Chairman (VC) PSGMEA Ahmed Imtiaz Khan, Muhammad Waseem, Rahar Bashir, Secretary General PSGMEA Mohsin Masood and Deputy Secretary Mawra Mumtaz.

During the visit, the delegation received insights into NIC's working, initiatives and operational framework, particularly its role in promoting entrepreneurship, innovation and business development.

The visit also provided an opportunity for both sides to exchange ideas and discuss potential areas of mutual cooperation, joint initiatives and institutional linkages.

The delegation expressed interest in exploring future collaboration to strengthen entrepreneurship, innovation and business development opportunities within the surgical instruments sector.

Balochistan offers vast mineral investment opportunities: CM Bugti

ISLAMABAD (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has said the province's vast mineral reserves and natural resources offer significant opportunities for domestic and foreign investment, with the mining sector holding considerable potential to contribute to economic growth.

He made the remarks while visiting the Balochistan Mines and Minerals Department's exhibition stall at the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum (PMIF) 2026 in Islamabad.

During the visit, Bugti briefed Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Balochistan's mineral deposits, ongoing mining sector initiatives and investment opportunities.

The chief minister emphasized the importance of promoting Balochistan's mineral potential among national and international investors to attract investment and support the province's economic development.

He described the forum as an important platform for showcasing Balochistan's natural resources and strengthening investment prospects in the mining industry.

Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade Vice Chairman Bilal Khan Kakar and Mines Secretary Syedal Khan Luni accompanied the chief minister during the visit.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, federal ministers and senior officials were also present.

Bugti said highlighting the province's mineral wealth and investment opportunities could help strengthen economic activity and encourage more effective utilization of Balochistan's natural resources.

Aurangzeb highlights 113% growth in sovereign Sukuk issuance, calls for wider investor base

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday said Pakistan's sovereign Sukuk issuance had registered a significant 113 percent year-on-year increase, reflecting the country's expanding Islamic capital market and efforts to diversify government financing instruments.

Addressing the ceremony marking the achievement of PKR 10 trillion in Sovereign Sukuk, alongside the issuance of Hybrid and short-term Sukuk, the minister said the issuance had grown from approximately Rs2 trillion in the previous year to the current milestone, while the five-year compound annual growth rate stood at around 22 percent compared to nearly Rs761 billion in 2020.

He said the achievement was not merely about the volume of issuance but also reflected sustained efforts to diversify the Sukuk market and introduce greater flexibility in sovereign financing instruments.

Highlighting key developments, Aurangzeb said the introduction of hybrid government Sukuk, combining different Shariah-compliant structures, would provide greater flexibility in utilizing government-owned assets.

He described the introduction of short-term Sukuk, including instruments with three- to six-month maturities, as another important development, addressing a longstanding gap in the market and helping establish a comprehensive Shariah-compliant yield curve across different maturities.



Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi meeting with Mr. Lee Constable, Chief Executive Officer of UK-based company Critical Minerals, in Islamabad.

Pakistan's space ambitions get a boost from China

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan's efforts to develop its space capabilities are set to enter a new phase, as one of its astronauts prepares to join a Chinese crewed space mission, gaining an opportunity to participate directly in human spaceflight.

The Pakistani astronaut will take part in China's Shenzhou-24 mission as a payload specialist, becoming the first foreign astronaut to visit China's space station. The astronaut will conduct a short-term orbital flight and return to Earth aboard the Shenzhou-23 spacecraft, according to China's Manned Space Agency.

For Pakistan, the mission represents more than a symbolic achievement. It offers an opportunity to gain practical experience in human spaceflight, scientific payload operations and astronaut training, potentially contributing to the country's longer-term space ambitions.

"Human spaceflight is one of the most technologically demanding areas of scientific cooperation. For Pakistan, sending an astronaut to China's space station means gaining access to training, research and operational experience that would be difficult to develop independently," said Zhang Chaozhe, Director of the Pakistan Study Center at Sichuan University. The mission also marks a new stage in China-Pakistan space cooperation, which has developed over more than three decades.

Kayani convenes cashless Pakistan committee meeting on digital Payments

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Railways and Finance, Bilal Azhar Kayani, chaired a high-level follow-up meeting on "Cashless Pakistan" at the Finance Division, with a focus on digital payments. The meeting followed the Prime Minister's meeting on Cashless Pakistan held last Friday, and brought together senior public and private sector stakeholders to review the decisions taken by the Cashless Committee under the Prime Minister's chairmanship.

The discussion focused on refining the framework for Raast QR MDR scheme and on ensuring that the high-level Dashboard captures not only the volumes but also the values of key digital payment indicators, along with the number of unique account users, said a release issued here on Friday. The Committee deliberated on the direction and targets for expanding digital payments, in light of the significant progress made under the Prime Minister's Cashless initiative, including:

From November 16, all payments for Asaan Assignment Accounts across the country will be made through the Raast digital system; Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) have already been trained.

Active merchants accepting digital payments have grown from 0.5 million to 2.03 million, attributable to the measures taken under the Cashless Pakistan initiative. Raast payment QR codes have been placed on all gas and electricity bills (over 45 million), enabling citizens to conveniently pay their bills digitally from home.

All NADRA centres have been equipped with Raast QR, enabling citizens to pay for services digitally.

The overall volume of digital payments in the country has doubled in just one year due to the measures taken by the PM's Cashless Committee. In line with the Prime Minister's directions at the last Cashless Pakistan meeting, the Minister of State directed the State Bank of Pakistan to prepare a working paper to process the approval of the Raast QR MDR (Merchant Discount Rate) scheme, so that the promotion of Raast QR can continue. To further sharpen the focus on the Cashless initiative, the Minister of State will meet the presidents and CEOs of banks in Karachi to discuss the Prime Minister's Cashless initiative and the promotion of digital payments, so that all banks can play their part in this national initiative.

The Minister of State also highlighted the importance of measuring outcome-based indicators of the economy, and directed the State Bank of Pakistan to assess the inclusion of macroeconomic indicators, such as the ratio of payments processed through RTGS to GDP.

No delays in resolving public issues: MPA Mandokhail

PML-N lawmaker meets delegations from across Balochistan, directs departments to address complaints over water shortages, education, roads and development projects

QUETTA (ANN): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and Balochistan Assembly member Sheikh Zarak Khan Mandokhail has said delays or negligence in addressing public grievances will not be tolerated, emphasizing improved basic services and development in underserved areas.

He made the remarks during meetings with delegations from various districts of Balochistan at his office.

The visitors raised concerns over drinking water shortages, inadequate educational facilities, deteriorating roads and delays in development projects.

Mandokhail heard their complaints and directed the relevant departments to take necessary steps to address the issues.

He said the provincial government was working to improve public services, promote regional development and ensure that neglected communities received greater attention.

The lawmaker also emphasized transparency, effective governance and responsible use of public funds, saying development projects must deliver tangible benefits to residents.

Mandokhail reaffirmed his commitment to monitoring development schemes and maintaining direct contact with communities to help resolve their longstanding problems.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Health Bakht Muhammad Kakar addressing the participants those who joined party.



QUETTA; A delegation led by Central Ameer Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam (S) Maulana Abdul Haq Sani meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Dialogue, not force, can resolve Balochistan's issues: Hidayat

QUETTA (ANN): Jamaat-e-Islami Balochistan chief Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch has said dialogue, justice and peaceful democratic struggle, rather than the use of force, offer the way forward for resolving Balochistan's longstanding problems.

Addressing a press conference in Quetta, he expressed concern over deteriorating security, unemployment, damaged highways and restrictions on border trade, saying these problems were increasing hardships for residents.

He criticized the provincial government's handling of law and order, alleging that incidents of vehicle abductions, enforced disappearances and the recovery of bodies continued to raise serious concerns.

Hidayat-ur-Rehman also accused the provincial assembly and cabinet of failing to adequately address public grievances, urging the government to prioritize citizens' security and economic needs.

Announcing plans to introduce a resolution against the traditional tribal chieftaincy system in the next Balochistan Assembly session, he said he would present his position and supporting evidence before lawmakers.

No delays in revenue cases: AC

KILLA ABDULLAH (6 AM Report): Assistant Commissioner Killa Abdullah Irfan Ahmed Khilji heard revenue cases concerning Tehsil Dobandi during a revenue court session on Thursday, directing officials to expedite pending matters in accordance with the law and merit.

Applicants presented land disputes, revenue-related complaints and petitions, while the assistant commissioner examined relevant records and issued instructions for further proceedings.

AC Assistant Samiullah Khan Achakzai was also present during the session.

CPEC benefits must reach Balochistan's people: Rajput

QUETTA (ANN): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Liaquat Iqbal Rajput, associated with the communication affairs of Deputy Senate Chairman Syedaal Khan Nasar, has called for ensuring that the economic benefits of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) reach the people of Balochistan, particularly its youth.

In a statement, Rajput welcomed the deputy chairman's meetings with the Chinese ambassador and various delegations, saying greater Chinese investment in minerals, energy and infrastructure could create employment opportunities and accelerate economic development in the province.

He said Balochistan's natural resources offered significant investment potential, while stronger economic and parliamentary cooperation between Pakistan and China could support industrial growth and infrastructure development.

Rajput appreciated Syedaal Khan Nasar's efforts to highlight Balochistan's development needs and investment opportunities during discussions with Chinese representatives.

He also welcomed reported assurances of continued Chinese development cooperation, expressing hope that future projects would generate jobs, technical training opportunities and economic benefits for local communities.

Rajput emphasized that effective coordination and timely implementation of development initiatives were essential to ensuring Balochistan received a greater share of CPEC's economic benefits.

Commissioner Lashari

Young athletes will receive full support

PISHIN (6 AM Report): Commissioner Pishin Division Qaim Lashari has pledged continued support for young athletes, saying talented youth must be provided with proper training, facilities and opportunities to compete at provincial, national and international levels.

Addressing a ceremony organized by the DC Young Pishin Wushu Kung Fu International Academy, Lashari emphasized the importance of sports in promoting discipline, physical fitness and self-confidence while keeping young people away from drugs and harmful activities.

He said the academy was established during his tenure as Deputy Commissioner Pishin to provide local youth with a platform for martial arts training and competitive sports.

The commissioner presented medals and appreciation certificates to athletes who won silver medals at the 26th National Wushu Kung Fu Championship 2026, held in Faisalabad, Punjab.

Congratulating the medalists, he said their achievements demonstrated Pishin's sporting potential and highlighted the need for sustained institutional support.

Academy President Malik Mohib Tareen appreciated Lashari's contribution to the academy's development and continued encouragement of young athletes.

Representatives of the Balochistan Wushu Association and district sports organizations also attended the ceremony, calling for improved training facilities

Research key to addressing social challenges: UoT VC

TURBAT (6 AM Report): University of Turbat Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Gul Hassan has said academic research plays a vital role in identifying social challenges, developing practical solutions and strengthening students' analytical and critical thinking skills.

He made the remarks while congratulating final-semester students of the BS Sociology 2023–26 session on successfully defending their research theses before an examination panel.

According to a university spokesperson, students presented findings on contemporary social issues, explaining their research methodologies, theoretical frameworks and conclusions.

The examination panel was chaired by Dr. Muhammad Tahir Hakeem, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, while Dr. Abdul Rauf served as external examiner.

Panel members appreciated the students' research work, noting that evidence-based studies could contribute to policymaking and community development.

Complete university IT Lab, e-commerce center soon: DC Badini

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Quetta Meharullah Badini has directed officials to expedite completion of the modern IT lab and e-commerce center at the University of Balochistan, emphasizing the need to equip young people with digital and professional skills.

Chairing a review meeting, Badini was informed that the project had entered its final stages, with remaining infrastructure and administrative arrangements nearing completion.

The facility aims to provide practical training in information technology, e-commerce and digital skills, helping students explore employment, entrepreneurship and online business opportunities.

The deputy commissioner instructed the relevant officials to complete all outstanding work without unnecessary delays and ensure the center is ready for operation. Officials said Badini would inspect the completed facilities before the center's formal inauguration, which is expected soon.

Illegal crushing plant sealed, 10 arrested in Quetta

QUETTA (6 AM Report): The Quetta district administration sealed an allegedly illegal stone-crushing plant and arrested 10 people during an operation in the Chashma area on Thursday.

According to district officials, Assistant Commissioner Sadar Muhammad Yousaf Hashmi conducted the operation on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini.

The arrested individuals were transferred to jail following legal proceedings, officials said.

Commissioner Lashari

Comprehensive plan to ease Quetta traffic

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Commissioner Quetta Division Zeeshan Lashari has directed authorities to develop a comprehensive plan to address traffic congestion, illegal parking and encroachments, ordering a joint survey of five major roads within seven days.

Chairing a meeting on traffic management, Lashari said the survey would cover Spinny Road, Sammungli Road, Sabzal Road, Anscombe Road and Shahwani Link Road, with recommendations for regulating construction, removing encroachments and improving traffic flow.

The joint team will include representatives from the Metropolitan Corporation, Quetta Development Package, Traffic Police, Engineering Bureau and district administration. Its findings will form the basis of a policy to be submitted to the court.

Officials informed the meeting that motorcycle stands and encroachments had been removed from Zarghoon Road between Imdad Chowk and Akram Hospital. Measures had also been taken against illegal parking near hospitals, with additional traffic personnel deployed.

The meeting was further informed that commercial activities had been restricted and encroachments removed along Anscombe Road.

Participants also discussed introducing electric rickshaws under a public-private partnership, directing officials to examine the proposal's technical and operational feasibility and present a detailed report at the next meeting.

The meeting was attended by Metropolitan Corporation Administrator Bashir Ahmed Barech, Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini, and officials from the district administration, transport and traffic departments.



Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Administrator Bashir Ahmed Barraich meets with world food programme members in Quetta.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Communication and Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa presides over the meeting regarding Drainage Project of Dera Allah Yar. Parliamentary Secretary for S&GAD Abdul Majeed Badini is also present.

No compromise on construction quality: DC

LORALAI (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Loralai Capt. (Retd.) Muhammad Haseeb Shuja has warned that substandard construction and misuse of public funds will not be tolerated, directing officials to conduct a comprehensive technical inspection of a newly constructed futsal ground at the University of Loralai.

During his visit, the deputy commissioner expressed concerns over certain aspects of the facility's construction under the Balochistan Skills Development Initiative (BSDI).

He instructed the implementing agency to examine the construction materials, workmanship and overall quality against the approved design and technical specifications.

Shuja directed that any defects identified during the inspection must be rectified by the contractor at their own expense, without imposing additional costs on the public treasury.

He further ordered that the project should not be formally declared complete until all technical inspections and quality assessments have been satisfactorily completed.

Ensure transparency in compensation cases: ADC Kakar

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Quetta Muhammad Anwar Kakar has directed officials to ensure transparency, merit and timely processing of compensation claims submitted by people affected by various incidents.

Chairing a District Compensation Committee meeting, Kakar reviewed claims involving damaged vehicles, property and other losses reported in Hanna Urak, Chaman Phatak and other areas.

The committee examined supporting documents, damage assessments and official records, forwarding cases with complete documentation for approval.

Kakar instructed officials to verify outstanding claims, complete pending legal and administrative requirements and avoid unnecessary delays.

University collaboration essential for quality textbooks: Dr. Khilji

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Textbook Board Chairman Dr. Gulab Khan Khilji has emphasized the need for stronger collaboration between universities and educational institutions to develop modern, research-based textbooks and improve educational standards across the province. Chairing a review meeting on a joint research program between the Balochistan Textbook Board and Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University (SBKWU), Dr. Khilji said academic research and university expertise should play a greater role in curriculum development.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Mehwish Malghani, Director of the university's Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), along with senior officials from both institutions.

Dr. Khilji said the joint program, which concluded on October 30, 2026, provided female student interns with practical experience in educational research, textbook development and curriculum analysis.

Ensure timely completion of development projects: DC

TURBAT (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Kech Yasir Iqbal Dashti has directed relevant departments to improve civic facilities, strengthen healthcare services and ensure timely completion of development projects in Turbat through better coordination and monitoring.

He made the remarks during a meeting with Turbat Mayor Balkh Sher Qazi and District Health Officer Kech Dr. Abdul Rauf Baloch, where the city's sanitation, beautification, street lighting and public health needs were discussed.

The meeting was also attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Maqbool Anwar, Assistant Commissioner Buleida Najmuddin Zehri, WHO District Polio Officer Dr. Arsalan Darazai, PDMA Deputy Director Malik Rehan and other officials.

Participants emphasized installing streetlights along major roads, intersections and public areas to improve visibility and safety at night.

The meeting also reviewed healthcare facilities at government hospitals and basic health units, along with disease prevention and immunization programs.

Ensure teacher attendance, quality education: DC Magsi

KILLA ABDULLAH (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Killa Abdullah Munawar Hussain Magsi has directed education officials to ensure regular teacher and student attendance, improve teaching standards and address shortages of basic facilities in government schools.

Chairing a District Education Group (DEG) meeting, Magsi reviewed school performance, classroom activities, attendance records and challenges affecting educational institutions across the district.

The meeting was attended by District Police Officer Khalil Ahmed Bugti, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Engineer Najmuddin, District Education Officer Ahmed Khan and other education officials.

The deputy commissioner instructed the Education Department to strengthen school inspections, maintain regular teaching activities and take practical steps to resolve problems affecting students.

Balochistan spending Rs100m monthly on patients' treatment: DG Social Welfare

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Director General Social Welfare Mir Saifullah Khan Khetran has said the provincial government is spending approximately Rs100 million per month on medical treatment for underprivileged patients, while around 1,700 people received assistance for serious illnesses during the past year.

Speaking to state media, Khetran said the department was implementing welfare initiatives under Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti's policy priorities to improve access to healthcare, special education and financial assistance.

He said approximately Rs800 million to Rs900 million had been spent annually on treatment assistance, while current monthly expenditure had reached around Rs100 million.

According to the director general, eligible patients received treatment for cancer, kidney diseases, bone marrow transplants and other complex medical conditions at hospitals including Aga Khan Hospital, Al-Shifa International Hospital and medical facilities in Karachi. Free medicines were also provided. Highlighting the KUMAK program, Khetran said persons with disabilities were receiving financial assistance, assistive devices, vocational training and interest-free loans to support employment and economic independence.

Poor performance on development projects will invite action: DC Palal

USTA MUHAMMAD (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Usta Muhammad Muhammad Ramzan Palal has warned that contractors failing to meet construction standards or project deadlines will face action under the relevant rules, including possible reassignment of their projects if performance does not improve after formal notices.

Chairing a District Coordination Committee meeting, Palal reviewed development schemes under the Balochistan Special Development Initiative (BSDI), drainage infrastructure, law and order, civic services and public grievances.

Officials raised concerns over a proposed drainage project along both sides of the Khanpur Distributary, citing risks to underground gas pipelines, watercourses and PTCL infrastructure, as well as insufficient funding.

The meeting discussed the possibility of using available funds for road improvements along Jinnah Road and the route from the Judicial Complex to Hajwani Bypass Road.

DC Khalid Khan

No negligence or delays in resolving public issues

JAFFARABAD (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Jaffarabad Khalid Khan has warned that negligence or unnecessary delays in addressing public grievances will not be tolerated, emphasizing that timely resolution of citizens' problems remains a top administrative priority.

He made the remarks while presiding over an open court (Khuli Kachehri) in Kashmir Kot, where residents presented complaints and concerns directly to district officials.

The open court was organized on the directives of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, under the supervision of Commissioner Naseerabad Division Salahuddin Noorzai. During the session, residents of Kashmir Kot and surrounding areas raised various issues, prompting the deputy commissioner to issue immediate instructions to the relevant departments.

Khalid Khan directed officials to ensure that public complaints result in practical action rather than routine paperwork, stressing accountability and effective follow-up. He said open courts were intended to bring government services closer to communities and spare residents repeated visits to government offices.



QUETTA: Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly and Chairperson Women Parliamentary Caucus Ghazala Gola presides over the meeting.

Ahsan sounds alarm over reversal in population growth trend

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday declared Pakistan's rapidly growing population a national emergency, calling for a coordinated national strategy to balance population growth with available resources to ensure sustainable development and economic prosperity.

"The renewed acceleration in population growth is alarming; we have taken our foot off the brake and put it on the accelerator. This trend must be reversed, " he said while addressing the first meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Population Council.

He said the population growth rate, which had gradually declined since 1980 to 2.4 per cent, had increased to 2.55 per cent in the 2023 census, showing a worrying reversal in the declining trend.

Ahsan Iqbal said population figures were not merely statistics but raised critical questions about Pakistan's future, its children and the sustainability of national resources.

He said sustainable development and economic prosperity could not be achieved without maintaining a balance between population growth and available resources.

If the economy grew by five per cent while the population increased by 2.5 per cent, he explained, the actual per capita growth would remain only 2.5 per cent.

The minister said controlling population growth was essential to meeting the growing demands for education, healthcare, employment and basic facilities.

He also pointed out that linking 82 per cent of the distribution of national resources to population created a contradiction by potentially encouraging population growth.

He stressed the need to link the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award with development and sustainability indicators to encourage provinces to maintain balanced population growth.

Ahsan Iqbal said the population challenge was not limited to healthcare or family planning but was also closely linked to girls' education, women's economic empowerment and social awareness.

He called upon federal and provincial governments to treat the issue as a national emergency and adopt a joint strategy to address it.

He said controlling population growth was indispensable for Pakistan's economic security, achievement of development targets and the future of coming generations.

The minister called for collective national efforts focusing on healthcare, education, community awareness and changes in social attitudes to effectively address the challenge.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal chairs the first meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Population Council (NPC), co-chaired by Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal.



Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Syed Imran Ahmad Shah, met a delegation of youth led by the Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) in Islamabad to discuss social protection, poverty alleviation and initiatives aimed at creating greater opportunities for the youth and underprivileged communities of Balochistan.

Religious scholars' role vital for peace, stability: Governor

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has said religious scholars play a vital role in promoting lasting peace, political stability and sustainable development, urging them to encourage tolerance, mutual respect and interfaith harmony.

He made the remarks during a meeting with a Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Sami (JUI-S) delegation led by its central chief, Maulana Abdul Haq Sani, at Governor House Quetta.

The delegation included Maulana Khuzaima, JUI-S Provincial Chief Mufti Abdul Wahid Bazai and Maulana Faizul Haq Haqqani.

The meeting focused on the country's political and social situation, peace and stability in Balochistan, development and social reforms.

Governor Mandokhail emphasized that religious scholars, through their influence in society, could help strengthen peaceful coexistence, respect for differing opinions and constructive dialogue among communities.

Referring to political developments, he said political vacuums were inevitably filled, but responsible leadership must ensure they are addressed through constructive engagement and public welfare initiatives.

He stressed that politics should serve social reform, public interests and collective progress, rather than deepen divisions.

The governor reaffirmed that cooperation among political leaders, religious scholars and civil society was essential to strengthening social harmony and achieving lasting peace and development in Balochistan.

CJP consults bar representatives on e-filing pilot for family cases

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) and Chairperson of the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC) Justice Yahya Afridi on Thursday held a consultative meeting with representatives of provincial bar councils, the Islamabad Bar Council and the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan to discuss the proposed e-filing pilot for family cases and the establishment of Women Facilitation Centres.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Punjab, Sindh, Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan Bar Councils, along with office-bearers of the Supreme Court Bar Association.

The participants reviewed draft e-filing templates developed under the proposed National Unified E-Filing and Electronic Judicial Record System for pilot implementation in family cases at selected judicial stations.

The chief justice asked each provincial bar council and the Islamabad Bar Council to nominate two members of the Bar to review the templates and suggest improvements before the launch of the pilot project.

Emphasising the importance of consultation with the legal fraternity, the CJP said the e-filing system should be practical, effective and user-friendly, reflecting the professional experience of practising lawyers and the needs of litigants.

The bar representatives appreciated the proposed e-filing initiative and the establishment of Women Facilitation Centres, observing that these measures could improve access to justice, particularly for women, and make the family justice system more accessible and responsive.

The consultation reflected a shared commitment to involving the legal fraternity in judicial reforms, using technology to improve court services and strengthening access to justice for women and children.



QUETTA: MPA Zarak Khan Mandokhail meeting with Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Sardar Kohiyar Khan Domki.

BHC disposes of PECA petition, directs journalists to Federal Constitutional Court

QUETTA (ANN): The Balochistan High Court (BHC) has disposed of a joint constitutional petition filed by the Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) and the Balochistan Bar Council challenging the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), directing the petitioners to approach the Federal Constitutional Court, where a related case is already pending.

A two-member bench comprising Chief Justice Kamran Malakhail and Justice Najmuddin Mengal heard the petition.

Advocate Rahib Baloch, a member of the Balochistan Bar Council, represented the petitioners, while BUJ Senior Vice President Fareedullah Khan was also present during the hearing.

Speaking to reporters afterward, Advocate Rahib Baloch said Constitutional Petition No. 17/2025, titled Abdul Qayyum vs. Government of Pakistan, was already pending before the Federal Constitutional Court, with petitioners from all four provinces involved.

He said the BHC disposed of the joint petition on that basis and directed the petitioners to seek to become parties to the pending constitutional proceedings.

According to the lawyer, the journalists and lawyers can now pursue their legal objections to PECA before the Federal Constitutional Court.

The Balochistan High Court did not issue a final ruling on the constitutional validity of PECA, and the substantive legal challenge remains unresolved.

Two martyred cops laid to rest with full honours

SWABI (APP): The funeral prayers of Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Waleed Khan and Constable Zulfiqar, who embraced martyrdom in a firing attack by unidentified assailants the other night here, were offered at Police Lines Swabi with full state honours.

Regional Police Officer (RPO) Mardan Qasim Ali Khan, District Police Officer (DPO) Swabi Waqas Rafiq, SP Iftikhar Khan, SP Shafiur Rehman Khan, SDPOs, other police officers, social figures, family members of the martyrs and people from different walks of life attended the funeral.

A smartly turned-out police contingent presented a salute to the martyrs, while senior police officers laid floral wreaths on their coffins and paid tribute to their sacrifices.

Law minister appoints Zafar Baloch as coordinator

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Law Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan on Thursday appointed Zafar Zaman Khan Baloch as his Coordinator. On the occasion, the provincial minister extended his best wishes to Zafar Zaman Khan and expressed confidence that he would discharge his new responsibilities with dedication, commitment and professionalism. Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan said the appointment would help make the process of mutual consultation and coordination more effective. He emphasized that efficient coordination played a vital role in improving institutional performance and strengthening the public service delivery system.

The minister expressed confidence that Zafar Zaman Khan would play an active role in addressing public grievances, maintaining effective liaison with relevant stakeholders and fulfilling his assigned responsibilities.

DPM emphasises newly formed AJK & GB governments to take fresh, result-oriented initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, on Thursday emphasised that the newly formed AJK & GB governments should take fresh, result-oriented initiatives to effectively resolve governance challenges and improve public service delivery. The deputy prime minister chaired a meeting here to review matters pertaining to Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) with the Government of Pakistan, a DPM's Office news release said.

Highlighting the historical significance of AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan and the enduring sacrifices of their people, the DPM/FM directed all concerned to ensure close co-ordination with the respective governments to expedite ongoing development projects and deliver tangible socio-economic relief to the people.

The meeting focused on administrative and governance issues across both regions. Participants examined institutional mechanisms to streamline federal-regional co-ordination, address pending legislative and financial matters and accelerate socio-economic development projects including roads, infrastructure, healthcare and regional connectivity. The meeting was attended by Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON; SAPM Tariq Bajwa; Secretary, Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON; and senior officials from the concerned ministries.

Development, counterterrorism top priorities: Minister Gello

QUETTA (ANN): Balochistan Revenue Minister Mir Asim Kurd Gello has said economic development, public welfare and the elimination of terrorism remain key priorities of the provincial government, emphasizing that no compromise will be made on security or the quality of development projects.

He made the remarks during meetings with delegations from various districts, where political developments, ongoing projects and public grievances were discussed.

Gello said the government and security agencies were working through a coordinated strategy to restore lasting peace and combat terrorism across the province.

He emphasized the need to strengthen economic activity, create employment opportunities for young people and accelerate development in underserved areas.

The minister said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) considered Balochistan's progress essential to Pakistan's overall economic stability.

Delegations briefed him on local problems and delays affecting development schemes. Gello assured them that the relevant departments had been instructed to improve project implementation and address public complaints.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to transparency, timely project completion and equitable development, saying public resources must deliver meaningful benefits to communities across Balochistan.



Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman meets with journalist delegation led by Zahir Nasir in Quetta.

IHC reserves verdict on pleas seeking suspension LG polls in capital

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday reserved its verdict on petitions seeking to halt local government elections in the federal capital and suspend the election schedule.

During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel argued that if the election schedule was not suspended, candidates would have spent millions of rupees on their campaigns.

Justice Umair Majid Malik remarked that if someone chose to spend millions of rupees, it was not the court's responsibility. He observed that it was alarming if candidates spent Rs10 million on an election but declared expenditure of only Rs 100,000.

Justice Umair Majid Malik heard a petition filed by Chaudhry Amjad Ali. The petitioner's counsel, Adil Aziz Qazi, submitted that new delimitation was carried out in 2024, following which the election schedule was announced. However, a new Local Government Ordinance was introduced in 2026.

The court asked whether the ordinance had become law.

Nine killed, three injured as van plunges into river

GHIZER (APP): At least nine people were killed and three others injured after a passenger van plunged into the River Yasin near the Ghizer area of Gilgit-Baltistan, according to rescue sources cited by television channels.

Initial reports suggested that the accident occurred while the van was crossing a bridge when it suddenly fell into the river. Following the incident, rescue teams rushed to the scene and launched an operation to retrieve the victims from the water.

Rescuers recovered the bodies of nine people and rescued three injured passengers, who were subsequently shifted to a nearby hospital for medical treatment.

AJK President calls for heroes' contributions to be taught in schools

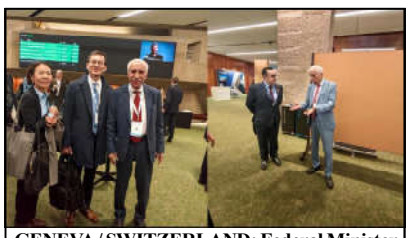
MIRPUR (INP) Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Muhammad Najeeb Khan has stressed the need to include the contributions and sacrifices of national heroes, particularly Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan and Captain Hussain Khan Shaheed, in educational curricula to familiarise youth with the region's history and Kashmir freedom movement.

Addressing a seminar organised here by the Sudhan Educational Conference in Islamabad , he said historical awareness was essential for young people amid growing misinformation on social media.

He highlighted Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan's contributions to education and women's empowerment and recalled Captain Hussain Khan Shaheed's sacrifices during the struggle against the Dogra regime.

He said the establishment of the Azad Government on October 24, 1947, was the result of the sacrifices of their forefathers.

AJK Legislative Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Tariq Farooq and former presidents Sardar Masood Khan and Sardar Yaqoob Khan also highlighted the importance of preserving the region's history and passing the legacy of national heroes to future generations. Federal Minister Sher Afzal Marwat, Sudhan Educational Conference President Sardar Shahzaib Shabbir and other political and social figures attended the seminar.



GENEVA/ SWITZERLAND: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh held important meetings on the sidelines of the 30th world investment conference.

No negligence in Dera Allah Yar drainage project: Khosa

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Minister for Communications and Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa has warned that negligence or delays in the Dera Allah Yar drainage project will not be tolerated, emphasizing its timely completion and strict adherence to construction standards.

Chairing a review meeting, the minister described the scheme as the city's first major drainage project, aimed at providing a lasting solution to rainwater accumulation and longstanding drainage problems.

The meeting was attended by Parliamentary Secretary for S&GAD Abdul Majeed Badini, Communications and Works Secretary Babar Khan, Chief Engineer Naseerabad Zone Muhammad Bashir Nasir, Chief Engineer Federal Projects Dr. Sajjad Baloch, Technical Adviser Ehsanullah Dotani and other officials. Project consultants participated virtually.

Officials briefed the minister on construction progress, technical challenges and obstacles affecting implementation.

Khosa directed the authorities to improve drainage discharge points to ensure faster and more effective removal of rainwater from the city.

He also ordered the formation of a special technical team to examine the project's design, construction quality and drainage infrastructure and recommend necessary improvements.

The minister said completion of the project's first two phases would significantly improve drainage facilities in Dera Allah Yar and reduce difficulties faced by residents during rainfall.

He instructed the concerned departments to resolve technical issues through close coordination, stressing that construction quality and timely delivery must remain non-negotiable priorities.

Meetings with Imran linked to 28th amendment, formation of smaller provinces: Saad

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader and former federal minister Khawaja Saad Rafique has analysed Imran Khan's meetings in jail, the proposed 28th Constitutional Amendment, the creation of smaller provinces and the possibility of governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stressing the urgent need for a new Charter of Pakistan.

In a post on social media platform X, Khawaja Saad Rafique said Imran Khan's meetings in jail with his incarcerated wife, Bushra Bibi, and lawyers were welcome and positive. He said Imran Khan's solitary confinement should not only end, but if he wished, all stakeholders should move beyond past bitterness and create a conducive environment for peaceful politics for his party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Expressing his assessment, he said that although he had no confirmed information in this regard, he believed the meetings in jail could be linked to the proposed 28th Constitutional Amendment, the creation of smaller provinces and the issue of governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said that after the PPP rejected the division of Sindh, a proposal might now be being placed before Imran Khan to secure a two-thirds majority in Parliament: if he cooperated on the matter, the establishment could provide political concessions to the PTI in return for its support.

The former federal minister further said it was also possible that a proposal had been made to end governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in exchange for complete federal cooperation in tackling the serious issue of terrorism and a guarantee that there would be no future attacks on Islamabad.

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