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IHC admits appeals against PTI founder, Bushra Bibi's convictions in £190 mln case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has admitted appeals filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, challenging their convictions in the £190 million case. The court has scheduled the hearing of the appeals for November 18.

A two-member bench comprising IHC Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar and Justice Muhammad Asif will hear the appeals. The court has sought arguments from the parties in connection with the appeals challenging the convictions. Meanwhile, in compliance with the court's directions, a meeting between Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi and their lawyers had also been arranged. According to the two-page order issued by IHC Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar and Justice Muhammad Asif, lawyers Salman Safdar and Latif Khosa must restrict their discussions with Imran Khan to legal matters and avoid political discussions.

The court observed that both lawyers, being professionals with legal expertise, should limit themselves to matters concerning the ongoing legal proceedings.

Ayaz lauds security forces for eliminating 74 terrorists

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Friday paid rich tribute to the security forces for eliminating 74 terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Hindustan during successful counter terrorism operations in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In a statement, the Speaker lauded the professional expertise, operational capabilities and courage demonstrated by the security forces in the successful operations against terrorists.

He said the sacrifices and achievements of the security forces in the war against terrorism were highly commendable.

Ayaz Sadiq said the brave operations being carried out by the security forces to completely eliminate terrorism from the country were a matter of national pride.

He emphasized that the entire nation stood shoulder to shoulder with the security forces in the fight against terrorism.

The Speaker said terrorists and their facilitators would never succeed in achieving their nefarious designs.

CM Bugti's aunt passes away, leaders express condolences

QUETTA (6 AM Report): The aunt of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, wife of Mir Ali Muhammad Bugti and mother of Mir Tariq Hussain Bugti, passed away at a private hospital in Multan.

Her funeral prayers will be offered on Saturday, November 14, at 9 a.m. at Pro Bhagi, Bekar graveyard. Senior Provincial Minister and Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentary Leader Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Provincial Adviser on Sports and Youth Affairs Meena Majeed Baloch, along with provincial ministers, advisers, parliamentary secretaries and members of the Balochistan Assembly, expressed grief over her death.

In his condolence message, Umrani extended sympathies to Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Mir Tariq Hussain Bugti and the bereaved family, praying for the departed soul and strength for her relatives.

PM calls for shift from raw mineral exports to domestic processing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday called for a shift in Pakistan's mineral sector from exporting raw resources to developing domestic processing and manufacturing industries, saying the country's mineral wealth must translate into greater economic opportunities at home.

Addressing the Pakistan Mineral Investment Forum 2026, the prime minister reiterated his commitment to ending the practice of shipping unprocessed minerals abroad, and said that Pakistan must move towards value addition by strengthening its downstream industries.

"The chapter of shipping Pakistan's precious minerals out of the country in a raw form must be closed forever," he said, renewing his commitment to ensuring that the country's mineral resources are fully utilised within Pakistan.

He expressed confidence that the day was not far when the export of raw minerals would come to a complete halt and Pakistan's valuable mineral resources would instead serve as a foundation for domestic industrial development.

The prime minister urged foreign investors to establish mineral processing and manufacturing facilities in Pakistan rather than limiting their investments to extraction activities.

He emphasised that projects, including Reko Diq and other developments along the Tethyan Copper Belt, should contribute to establishing refineries, cement plants, and cable and conductor manufacturing industries.

He called upon the investors to "mine, process and manufacture in Pakistan" before exporting to the rest of the world.

He described the approach as the government's vision for a fair and mutually beneficial partnership with international investors.

PM Shehbaz Sharif highlighted the development of Reko Diq as one of the world's largest untapped copper and gold deposits, where production is expected to commence in 2028.

The project, which remained stalled for nearly two decades, is now moving towards operational implementation, he added.



ISLAMABAD: World Bank Country Director for Pakistan Bolormaa Amgaabazar meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

CCLC approves Foreign Exchange Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2026

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

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

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

It also approved replacing references to the Federal Government with the names of relevant competent authorities in various laws administered by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP).

AI Geo Navigators launches NIGRAAN at COP31 Türkiye

ISLAMABAD (APP): AI Geo Navigators, a Pakistan-based climate-tech and geospatial intelligence company, officially launched NIGRAAN (National Integrated Geo Risk Alert & Atmospheric Network) at the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) in Antalya, Türkiye.

The launch took place at the Pakistan Pavilion under the theme "From Climate Data to Early Action: Launching NIGRAAN - Pakistan's GeoAI Platform for Climate Risk and Early Warning."

The event brought together climate professionals, international experts, researchers, and representatives from different organizations to discuss how geospatial intelligence and artificial intelligence can support climate risk assessment, early warning systems, and informed decision-making.

NRL reports copper-gold mineralisation across eight discoveries in Chagai

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Resources Limited (NRL) has identified copper and gold mineralisation across at least eight porphyry discoveries in Balochistan's Chagai district, with nearly 25, 000 metres of drilling delivering encouraging results as the company advances towards its first mineral resource estimate.

One drill hole returned 295 metres of continuous mineralisation grading 0.43% copper and 0.13 grams per tonne of gold, including a 132-metre interval grading 0.83% copper, Chairman Muhammad Ali Tabba said while addressing the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026.

The discoveries span 5.6 square kilometres in Darigwan, adjoining NRL's earlier discovery at the Tang Kaur copper-gold porphyry system. Tabba said further investigations at exploration licence EL214 were expected to establish substantial resources, subject to completion of exploration and formal resource estimation.

A joint venture between Fatima Fertilisers, Liberty Mills, and Lucky Cement Ltd, NRL holds five exploration licences in Balochistan, comprising two copper-gold projects, one lead-zinc project and two antimony projects, with exploration work ongoing.

NRL plans to initiate environmental, hydrogeological, metallurgical, and geotechnical studies in 2027, with the aim of completing a bankable feasibility study by the end of the decade.

Governor Jaffar Mandokhel

Political dialogue, mutual trust essential for Balochistan's progress

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has said that political dialogue, mutual trust, democratic values and the protection of public rights are essential for achieving lasting peace, development and prosperity in the province.

Speaking to delegations from various districts of Balochistan at Governor House Quetta on Friday, Mandokhail said the primary purpose of politics was to safeguard people's rights and promote collective progress through consultation and shared understanding.

He emphasized that political maturity and effective leadership were reflected in a leader's ability to maintain direct contact with the public, encourage dialogue and uphold democratic principles. The governor said promoting tolerance, mutual respect and understanding was necessary to overcome hatred, mistrust and misunderstandings in society. He urged political leaders and responsible citizens to play a constructive role in building confidence and strengthening social harmony.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar chairs a meeting of the Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC).



Balochistan to strengthen cooperation with global development partners: CM

Chief minister meets World Bank Country Director Bolormaa Amgaabazar, discusses expanded cooperation in education, healthcare, clean water and infrastructure development

ISLAMABAD (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has said that the provincial government will strengthen cooperation with the World Bank and other international development partners to accelerate sustainable development, improve essential public services and promote economic stability across the province.

He made the remarks during a meeting with World Bank Country Director for Pakistan Bolormaa Amgaabazar, where both sides discussed opportunities to expand development cooperation in Balochistan.

Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan was also present at the meeting.

The discussions focused on ongoing and proposed development initiatives in education, healthcare, clean drinking water and infrastructure, along with opportunities for greater cooperation in these sectors.

The World Bank country director expressed interest in exploring further development cooperation and partnerships in Balochistan.

Bugti said improving public services, strengthening the provincial economy and ensuring sustainable development remained key priorities of his government.

He emphasized that Balochistan's progress was essential not only for the province but also for Pakistan's broader economic growth and stability.

The chief minister said the provincial government was prioritizing transparency, effective monitoring and results-based planning to ensure development funds were used efficiently and public projects delivered meaningful benefits.

He stressed that cooperation with international development institutions was important for addressing Balochistan's long-standing challenges, particularly in education, healthcare, water supply and infrastructure.

Bugti also highlighted government efforts to create a favorable environment for investment, stimulate economic activity and expand employment opportunities for young people.

He reaffirmed the provincial government's commitment to building stronger partnerships with the World Bank and other international organizations to improve living standards and achieve long-term development goals.

Both sides discussed opportunities for future joint initiatives. However, no new funding commitment, project approval or formal agreement was announced during the meeting.

IHC suspends notification for LG elections in capital

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday suspended the October 21 notification announcing local government elections in the federal capital and granted a stay on the election schedule, while seeking replies from the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and other respondents by November 26.

Justice Umair Majid Malik issued the interim order on a miscellaneous application seeking suspension of the election schedule, filed by citizen Amjad Ali.

According to the written order, the petitioner's counsel submitted that the Islamabad Local Government Ordinance 2026 had lapsed, resulting in the revival of the original Local Government Act 2015.

He argued that the Election Commission had suddenly decided to hold local government elections on October 21 and issued the election schedule on the same day.

The counsel contended that no decision had been made regarding the delimitation of 125 union councils, their nine wards each, or the constituencies of the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI).

He maintained that delimitations carried out under the amended law could not serve as the basis for elections under the revived Local Government Act 2015.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, addressing participants of the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum (PMIF) 2026.

CDF Asim says: Pakistan aims to become competitive destination for long-term mineral investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, on Friday said that unlocking Pakistan's mineral wealth was a collective national objective.

Addressing participants of the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum (PMIF) 2026 here, he said that the objective was not merely to export raw materials but to develop the entire value chain, from refining to manufacturing.

"We seek to foster long-term partnerships that generate sustainable economic value for Pakistan and its partners," he said.

Field Marshal Asim Munir said that the aim was to make Pakistan a competitive destination for long-term mineral investment. Every possible measure was being taken and would continue to be taken to ensure the security of the entire mining ecosystem, he said.

The COAS said that mines and miners, investments, industries, projects and all associated people would be protected.

He said that mineral development must necessarily benefit local communities, adding that people living in mineral-rich areas should see tangible improvements in their lives.

Pak reaches over 24million children in nationwide polio drive

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan has vaccinated more than 24 million children under five during its latest nationwide polio campaign, demonstrating the continued commitment of health authorities and frontline workers to protecting children against the crippling disease.

According to the Pakistan Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI), the fifth nationwide sub-national vaccination campaign of 2026 was conducted from November 2 to 8 across 97 districts, with more than 200,000 frontline polio workers taking part in the drive.

The workers administered oral polio vaccine (OPV) drops through door-to-door visits, schools, fixed vaccination centres and transit points to ensure maximum coverage of children.

The campaign achieved coverage of over 9.196 million children in 13 selected districts of Punjab and approximately 7.104 million in 20 districts of Sindh.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, around 4.697 million children were vaccinated across 27 districts, while Balochistan reported vaccination of more than 2.236 million children in 31 districts.

Security forces kill 74 militants in Balochistan, KP operations: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan's security forces have killed 74 suspected militants in separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the military's media wing, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), said on Friday.

According to an ISPR statement, 31 militants were killed during operations launched on November 3 in the Kurram area of Quetta district, while another 43 were killed in Mir Ali and Orakzai areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa over the past 48 hours.

The military said security forces conducted extensive intelligence-based operations against militant hideouts in Balochistan as part of an ongoing counterterrorism campaign.

During the operations in Quetta district, troops engaged several suspected militant positions, killing 31 militants following multiple encounters. Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered, the statement said. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, security forces expanded their operations to Mir Ali and Orakzai to target suspected militant networks.

The ISPR said 35 militants were killed in Mir Ali and eight in Orakzai following intense exchanges of fire.

Security personnel also recovered a large quantity of weapons, ammunition, homemade explosives and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) during subsequent searches.

The military alleged that the militants were linked to India-backed groups it identifies as Fitna al-Khawarij and Fitna al-Hindustan. The allegations of Indian sponsorship could not be independently verified.

According to the ISPR, further clearance operations were underway to locate remaining militants and dismantle their networks.

Iqbal's philosophy of selfhood, hard work key to Pakistan's progress: Information Secretary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Ashfaq Ahmad Khalil on Friday urged the youth to understand the philosophy and message of Allama Muhammad Iqbal and embrace self-confidence, selfhood, hard work and action to contribute to the country's progress and prosperity. He said the responsibility for Pakistan's future rested on the shoulders of its youth, who had played an important role in the creation of the country and now had a key role in taking it forward.

He was addressing a ceremony organised by the Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications (DEMP) in connection with Iqbal Day, which featured a painting exhibition and documentaries highlighting the poet/philosopher's life and vision.

Ashfaq Ahmad Khalil said Allama Iqbal had conveyed a message nearly a century ago that later became one of the intellectual foundations of the Pakistan Movement. The younger generation understood the significance of that message and needed to translate it into practical action, he added.

Noting that nearly 60 per cent of Pakistan's population comprised young people, he said their potential and active participation were essential for national development. Appreciating DEMP's efforts, the information secretary said the documentary produced to promote Iqbal's philosophy had effectively incorporated selected verses from his poetry, with particular emphasis on the concept of Khudi (selfhood).

He also praised the footage and the documentary prepared by a university student, saying it presented Iqbal's message in a manner relevant to the younger generation.

Speaking about the growing influence of digital and social media, he said technology offered both opportunities and challenges, stressing the need for its responsible and constructive use.

He observed that young people were increasingly using digital platforms and artificial intelligence, adding that these technologies should be employed responsibly to benefit society.

Ashfaq Ahmad Khalil said, on the directions of Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, a dedicated digital media wing had been established in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to disseminate accurate and fact-based information.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Information and Broadcasting, Ashfaq Ahmad Khalil cuts the ribbon to inaugurate a painting exhibition organized by the Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications (DEMP) in connection with Iqbal Day at the Information Services Academy (ISA).



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique addressing the participants during inaugural ceremony of Prime Portal at University of Health Sciences.

Samar visits PDMA KP headquarters

PESHAWAR (APP): Adviser to the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations, Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Samar Haroon Bilour on Friday visited the provincial headquarters of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to a spokesperson for the KP Information Department, the Adviser was briefed by relevant officials at the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) on the modern monitoring system, real-time data, digital dashboards and emergency response mechanisms.

The briefing highlighted that PDMA was actively working across all districts of the province to manage natural disasters and ensure prompt responses to emergency situations.

Officials informed her that the authority's toll-free helpline 1700 remained operational round the clock to provide public information, guidance and address complaints. They said that 185 safe camp sites had been identified across the province to ensure public safety during emergencies, while essential relief supplies had been stocked at the Humanitarian Response Facility established at Jalozai to meet emergency requirements.

Samar Haroon Bilour was also given a detailed briefing on the digital compensation system, financial assistance to disaster-affected people, relief operations and rehabilitation projects.

The officials further informed her that modern technology and early warning systems had been introduced to ensure timely identification of natural disasters and an effective response.

Speaking on the occasion, Samar Haroon Bilour said that Pakistan's Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) Framework was the first of its kind in South Asia. She said that the Prime Minister of Pakistan had presented the GBViE Framework as a national document at COP29. The framework strengthened gender-sensitive preparedness for natural disasters and emergency situations while ensuring better protection for women, children and other vulnerable segments of society, she said.

The Adviser appreciated PDMA's overall performance, institutional initiatives and public service activities.

She said that modern systems, improved planning and effective coordination among relevant institutions were essential to dealing with natural disasters efficiently. She assured that every possible support would be extended to further strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of PDMA. She also lauded the professional commitment and dedicated services of PDMA officers and staff in serving the public.

Peshawar traffic police personnel receive first aid training

PESHAWAR (APP): City Traffic Police Peshawar has arranged a two-day first aid training programme for its officers and personnel to equip them with emergency response skills and enable them to provide immediate medical assistance to accident victims and other injured people.

The training was organised on November 11 on the instructions of Chief Capital Police Officer Dr Mian Saeed and under the supervision of Chief Traffic Officer Dr Zahidullah.

SSP Traffic Headquarters Peshawar Roziya Altaf coordinated the session with Rescue 1122 personnel.

Speaking on the occasion, Roziya Altaf said the training aimed to equip traffic police personnel with basic first aid skills so they could provide immediate assistance to injured people before the arrival of rescue teams or their transfer to hospitals.

Rescue 1122 personnel demonstrated practical techniques for administering first aid, handling injured people and responding promptly to emergency situations.

The SSP also distributed first aid kits among different traffic police vans and arranged practical guidance for personnel on their proper use.

Sindh govt decides to gradually shift official vehicles to electric

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government has decided to gradually transition vehicles used by government departments to electric vehicles (EVs) as part of its efforts to reduce public expenditure, save fuel and promote environmentally friendly transportation.

The decision was taken during a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Austerity, chaired by Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon in Karachi on Friday.

Speaking at the meeting, Sharjeel Memon said the conservation of public resources remained among the provincial government's top priorities. He added that measures were being introduced to reduce government expenditure while ensuring environmental protection.

He said the Sindh government wanted electric vehicles to become the preferred choice in the future, with the entire government transport system gradually shifting towards environmentally friendly technology.

According to the decision, electric vehicles will be given preference when purchasing new vehicles for government departments. The meeting also approved the purchase of new vehicles for the Home Department, Anti-Corruption Establishment, and Universities and Boards Department.

Sharjeel Memon said promoting electric vehicles across government departments would help reduce expenditure and ease the financial burden of fuel costs on the provincial exchequer.

"The future belongs to electric vehicles, and the government wants public institutions to reduce their dependence on fuel," he said, adding that the phased transition would also lower the day-to-day operational expenses of government departments.

Sindh Minister for Local Government Nasir Hussain Shah said emissions from conventional vehicles were adversely affecting the urban environment and air quality.

CM Inspection Team visits Faisal Masood Teaching Hospital

SARGODHA (APP): The Chief Minister's (CM) Inspection Team, headed by Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Shoaib Mirza, visited Faisal Masood Teaching Hospital, Sargodha, on Friday to review the provision of healthcare facilities and ongoing improvement measures.

Deputy Commissioner Sargodha Hussain Ahmed Raza Chaudhry, Assistant Commissioner Ahmed Sher Gondal and Coordinator to the CM Inspection Team Mian Subhan also accompanied him during the visit.

The team reviewed medical facilities, patient care services, cleanliness arrangements and administrative matters at the hospital. It also examined steps being taken to improve healthcare services and address the difficulties faced by patients.

Briefing the visiting team, Medical Superintendent Dr Sihial Khawaja said that the number of beds in the surgical emergency department had been increased from 24 to 45 to facilitate patients.

He informed the team that the painting of the hospital's interior walls had been completed, while EPDM sheets had been installed on ramps to ensure the smooth movement of patients. To reduce congestion in the main building and improve the management of facilities, the pathology section had also been shifted to the adjacent TB Hospital.

KP to ensure transparent distribution of Zakat, Ushr funds strictly on merit

PESHAWAR (APP): Adviser to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Auqaf, Hajj, Religious and Minority Affairs and Zakat and Ushr Maulana Tayyab Qureshi on Friday said the government would ensure transparent distribution of Zakat and Ushr funds strictly on merit, without any political discrimination.

He said the Auqaf Department was also taking steps to improve transparency and financial discipline, adding that illegally occupied Auqaf properties would be retrieved from encroachers.

Addressing the Friday congregation at the historic Mahabat Khan Mosque, he said a zero-tolerance policy would be adopted against corruption in the department and no illegal occupation of Auqaf land would be tolerated.

The adviser stressed that Zakat and Ushr assistance would reach deserving people through a transparent mechanism, without discrimination on the basis of political affiliations.

He strongly condemned the attack on police personnel in Kohat, saying terrorism and peace could not coexist and Islam had no room for terrorism or extremism.

He said lasting peace was essential for promoting economic and business activities, adding that the government would continue taking effective measures to maintain law and order and protect the lives and property of citizens.

Qureshi also called for unity, tolerance and mutual respect in society, urging people to express differences of opinion through civilised dialogue rather than turning them into hostility.

He urged worshippers to remain grateful to Allah for the blessings of health and well-being, seek forgiveness for their sins and make repentance and good deeds part of their daily lives.

Special prayers were offered for the security and protection of the martyrs of Kohat, the holy sites in Makkah and Madinah, and the people of Kashmir and Palestine.

Peshawar police ban private jirgas across city

PESHAWAR (INP): Peshawar police have imposed a complete ban on private jirgas across the city, warning of strict action against those organising such gatherings at hotels and wedding halls.

Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Mian Saeed announced that private jirgas would not be tolerated in the city and warned that strict legal action would be taken against organisers.

He said hotels and wedding halls found hosting private jirgas would also face action, adding that the premises concerned would be sealed if such gatherings were held there.

According to the CCPO, private jirgas held in the city often involved the display of weapons, raising security concerns.

Police said the decision was taken in the wake of a recent firing incident during a private jirga at a hotel, in which two people were killed.

In a related development, police in Peshawar's Badaber area arrested three suspects on June 25, 2026, in connection with an alleged gang rape case.

Punjab launches digital platform to monitor medical training across institutions

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government has introduced a digital platform, HPE-PRIME, or Health Professions Education – Progress, Research, Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation, to monitor and evaluate the education, training and professional competencies of medical and healthcare trainees across the province. Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique inaugurated the PRIME Portal at the University of Health Sciences (UHS) during a ceremony on Friday.

The portal will integrate education and training in medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy and allied health sciences into a digital monitoring system. It will replace manual logbooks with electronic records of training activities and enable digital monitoring of trainees' practical skills, clinical experience, research progress and supervisors' performance.

Addressing the ceremony, Khawaja Salman Rafique said improving the healthcare sector was a top priority of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. He stressed that modern hospitals and healthcare facilities must be supported by a well-trained medical workforce to ensure quality treatment for patients.

He congratulated the UHS on developing the digital monitoring platform and expressed hope that it would bring significant improvements to postgraduate medical education and training.

He said the objective of medical education was not merely to award degrees or increase the number of doctors but to produce competent professionals capable of making accurate clinical decisions, performing medical procedures and providing quality healthcare.

The minister said the UHS supervised undergraduate and postgraduate training at around 230 institutions, making effective monitoring, accurate data collection and regular assessment of professional competencies essential. The new system would help supervisors evaluate trainees' performance, identify shortcomings and improve training standards.

He added that the provincial government was establishing new medical colleges and hospitals under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. In collaboration with the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC), more than 700 additional MBBS and BDS seats had also been introduced.

He said the data generated through PRIME would help identify gaps in professional training and facilitate evidence-based decisions to strengthen the healthcare system.



LARKANA: Residents of Railway Station area protest against railway administration's action on encroachments in Larkana

Three killed in firing incident in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD (APP): Three persons were killed in a firing incident on Jhumra Road in Faisalabad, according to police sources quoted by TV channels on Friday.

Initial reports said the incident occurred when the victims were returning after attending a court hearing. Unidentified armed men opened fire on them, killing all three on the spot.

Following the incident, a police team rushed to the scene and shifted the bodies to a nearby hospital. Police have launched a search operation to trace and apprehend those involved in the firing.

Further investigation into the incident is underway.

Malik Ahmad stresses importance of education and reading culture

LAHORE (APP): Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan on Friday attended the Educational Arena Expo, Book and Stationery Fair 2026 at Expo Centre Lahore as chief guest and formally inaugurated the exhibition.

During his visit, the speaker toured various stalls displaying books, stationery and educational materials.

He took keen interest in the exhibits and appreciated the organizers for providing a platform to promote reading, learning and intellectual activities.

He said growing public interest in books and educational activities was an encouraging development.

Talking to the media Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said education, healthcare and sanitation reforms were prominent features of the Punjab government's good governance agenda.

He appreciated the initiatives taken by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif in these sectors, saying the measures aimed to improve public service delivery and the quality of life.

Referring to the Suthra Punjab Programme, he said access to a clean environment was a fundamental right of citizens and the initiative should be viewed as more than a sanitation campaign. He stressed the need to extend effective sanitation services to rural areas as well.

The speaker highlighted the importance of bringing out-of-school children back into the education system and protecting them from child labour.

He said financial assistance, including stipends, could encourage families to send their children to schools.

He also referred to the establishment of Maryam Nawaz Health Clinics, observing that improved access to healthcare facilities in rural areas was an important step towards addressing public needs.

Emphasizing the fair and equitable distribution of public resources, Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said development initiatives should benefit people without political discrimination.

Citing the tractor scheme in his constituency, he said around 80 per cent of its beneficiaries belonged to political opponents, adding that he had no objection to the distribution of benefits strictly on merit.

He also mentioned development projects, including road construction, undertaken in areas represented by political opponents.

Discussing the agriculture sector, the speaker referred to initiatives such as the Kisan Card, subsidies and provision of modern agricultural machinery.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Dera Bugti invites Sealed tenders/Bids from the firms/contractors for the following works 2026-27. Tender Fee 1500/- and Bid security 2 % for each work. Time limit three months.

S #	NAME OF WORK	Qty	APP. COST(M)	TSE No
1	CONSTRUCTION OF INTAKE STRUCTURE WSS SUI TOWN (SOURCE GOPAT)	1 Job	21,518,082/-	TSE-2627111224293

The Procurement will be finalized as per B-PPRA Rules and regulations, the firm must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant category and relevant discipline who have renewal for the year 2026-27 and registered with tax authorities i.e. BRA, NTN & Sales Tax Department active filers where applicable who are on ATL of FBR three-year similar experience and turnover of last three years. The tender fee must be deposited in head of account **C02721 – 02726** through Green challan in any National Bank of Pakistan.
Pursuant to sub clause 43.1 of the general condition of the contract the work shall be completed on or before the date stated.\
The bidder shall submit a Rs, 100/-stamp affidavit (Attested by first class Magistrate) with TSE Number and title of work certifying that all documents provided are true and correct. Any misleading information shallliable to disqualification.
BPPRA Generated E-Challan(in case not provided the firm should be considered non-Eligible)
Undertaking on Rs100 judicial stamp paper that the firm has never been involved in litigation with any Government / Semi Government Organization (In Favor of XEN PHE Division Dera Bugti also mention Work Name & TSE Number
Bidder Must Sign and Stamped All Submitted Documents.
Audit Report Previous Last Three Years.
Bidder Must be provided Completion Certificate 3 Nos
Authorized representative company will be allowed having specific authorization letter for the scheme mentioned above (the Authorization letter/ deed must be provided on Non-Judicial stamp paper valuing Rs. 100 duly attested by first class Magistrate.
METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single Stage, One envelope procedure.
BIDDING DOCUMENTS / TENDER DOCUMENTS: Can be downloaded from B-PPRA Website or on Production of Tender Fee and Tender documents cost Rs: 1500/- for each work.
(I) ISSUANCE: The tender form will be issued to bidders after publication of notice in newspapers from the presentation of requisite documents i.e tender fee (Non-refundable). Bid security / earnest money mentioned above, original valid Engineering Council Certificate in relevant / required category, registration with BRA income tax certificate (NTN) etc. **SUBMISSION**: Last date for submission of bids **30-11-2026 at 12:00 PM. OPENING**: The sealed bids will be opened on **30-11-2026 at 01:00 PM (iv)Place of issuance, submission inquiries and opening will be: ADDRESS:** Office of the XEN PHE Division Dera Bugti. Telephone No. 0835 – 410533/0835 – 410433 E-Mail: DB4023@bppra.gob.pk
Other terms and conditions are attached with tender documents.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Public Health Engineering
Division Dera Bugti

DPRQ/PRQ No. 2447/13-11-2026

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Members of Mili Labour federation hold protest demonstration for basic rights in Karachi.

Daily 6AM, Quetta
Saturday November 14, 2026

Under fire

The bloodshed continues unabated. On Wednesday, at least 12 policemen were martyred in the line of duty in KP. Ten lives were lost in an ambush in Kohat while a police party was returning from a clearance operation, and two more were martyred in Swabi when a police patrol came under fire.

Separately, an explosive-laden pickup slammed into the main gate of a police station in Dera Ismail Khan, but the attack was promptly repelled. Thankfully, no police casualties were reported in the latter incident. Still, a dozen lives lost in a single day and at least a dozen more injured and hospitalised is a heavy toll for a provincial police force engaged in a relentless, fierce fight against terrorists threatening the state's writ every day. The Kohat ambush, in particular, appears to have been a major security incident. By police accounts, a team that conducted a joint operation with the civil administration against illegal gold mining in the Darbukach area was returning after completing its objectives when it was ambushed by what appears to have been a very large group. At least 18 attackers were killed as the police fought back.

Official data shows that police fatalities and injuries in the first half of this year alone had doubled from the year before. The number of attacks, on the other hand, had risen by 34pc. The data suggests that attacks on police have become increasingly deadly, and, coupled with shortfalls in personnel, arms and necessary equipment, the KP police are increasingly vulnerable as they play a frontline role in ongoing operations against terrorists.

Though October saw a marked improvement in the number of attacks compared to just a month earlier, the three incidents on Wednesday underline how fragile those gains can be if the police are not strengthened while the state has the upper hand. After the centre took control of the province, it bears full responsibility for the police's protection. The new administration appointed to oversee KP's affairs must immediately ensure that the provincial security forces receive all the funds they have requested and fill vacant posts on an urgent basis. It must ensure armoured vehicles, protective equipment, night-vision devices and better weapons are supplied to frontline personnel, and that intelligence and army backup are available during police operations in high-risk areas.

Constrained partnership

Zafar Mirza

"Trust takes years to build, seconds to break, and forever to repair." Anonymous

This observation aptly describes Pakistan's relationship with one of its most important international health partners.

Since 2003, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tu--berculosis and Malaria has disbursed more than $1.1 billion to Pakistan's HIV, tuberculosis and malaria programmes. In August 2020, however, it invoked its Additional Safeguard Policy (ASP) on Pakistan.

Behind this bureaucratic terminology lies an extraordinary decision: the Global Fund no longer had sufficient confidence in the country's arrangements for managing its gra-nts and implementing disease-control programmes.

More than six years later, this decision deserves serious public scrutiny.

Established in 2002, the Global Fund is one of the most successful innovations in international health financing. It mobilises resources to support countries fighting these three diseases and has helped save an estimated 72 million lives globally. Pakistan has been a significant beneficiary.

The Global Fund normally operates through a partnership model in which national stakeholders identify priorities, nominate implementing organisations and oversee grants through a Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM). The underlying philosophy is country ownership: international resources should strengthen national institutions, not substitute for them.

The Global Fund's observations point to serious weaknesses in governance & institutional accountability.

In 2004, the Global Fund Board adopted ASP to address situations where normal funding arrangements could not adequately protect its investments. It permits oversight and direct involvement in selecting principal recipients and implementing partners. In effect, decisions normally taken by national institutions can be assumed by the international financing agency.

This is an exceptional, temporary arrangement, reflecting serious concerns about governance, institutional capacity, accountability or programme implementation. Since its introduction, it has been invoked in around 30 countries but revoked in only three: Cuba, Myanmar and Côte d'Ivoire. This shows that entering ASP is easier than exiting it.

Why was Pakistan placed under ASP? The ans-wer lies in a candid letter dated Aug 6, 2020, from the Global Fund to the Pakistan government.

It expressed serious dissatisfaction with Pakistan's response to HIV and TB, noting stagnating or declining TB notifications and an almost unchecked increase in HIV incidence. Significantly, it stated that public-sector principal recipients had failed to translate domestic and external financing into effective programmes.

The letter specifically criticised the performance of the Common Management Unit (CMU), responsible for coordinating the three disease programmes, and identified inadequate leadership in managing challenges arising from devolution.

These observations point to serious weaknesses in governance, leadership, coordination and institutional accountability. Consider this: Between 2020 and 2022, Pakistan changed the national coordinator of the CMU 10 times in three years. Many appointments were political.

The epidemiological consequences are equally troubling. While many states have reduced new HIV infections, Pakistan has moved in the opposite direction. According to WHO and UNAIDS estimates reported in Dec 2025, annual new infections increased from approximately 16,000 in 2010 to 48,000 in 2024 — a 200pc increase.

ASP's implications extend beyond these programmes. For a country seeking international inv-estment, development assistance and credibility in global institutions, its inability to demonstrate satisfactory governance of externally financed hea--lth programmes sends a deeply damaging message.

But ASP should not be viewed merely as an international embarrassment. Its more serious implication is the erosion of national ownership. When external partners increasingly determine arrangements, domestic institutions risk becoming less accountable for results.

Pakistan must therefore develop a credible, time-bound roadmap for exiting ASP.

The Aug 2020 letter identified the conditions for its revocation: timely provincial budget disbursements for HIV and TB; satisfactory programme performance and financial risk management; demonstrated political commitment; compliance with audit recommendations, etc.

These are not unreasonable demands.

Federal and provincial governments must jointly establish a high-level mechanism to monitor progress against each condition through independently verifiable indicators.

Civil society and affected communities must also be meaningfully engaged.

There is another dimension requiring urgent attention: financial sustainability.

For over two decades, Pakistan has depended heavily on the Global Fund for essential components of its HIV, TB and malaria responses. In 2024, 90pc of HIV financing came from the Fund. This assistance has been invaluable. But indefinite dependence on external financing is neither desirable nor realistic, particularly as international development assistance comes under increasing pressure.

Pakistan needs a carefully planned transition towards greater domestic financial responsibility. This does not mean abruptly replacing Global Fund resources or imposing unaffordable obligations on provincial governments overnight.

The FCDO-financed, Oxford Policy Managem-e-nt-implemented Global Fund Accelerator Prog-ra-mme is providing valuable analytical support and recommendations. Federal and provincial governments must make optimal use of this opportunity. They should negotiate a gradual increase in domestic financing. Public financing should progressively assume responsibility for recurrent expenditures, while increasingly covering medicines and prevention services.

Crucially, exiting ASP and transitioning from donor dependence are related but distinct processes.

The Global Fund has stood by Pakistan through successive health emergencies and institutional challenges. Its continued engagement, even after invoking ASP, demonstrates that its objective is not to abandon Pakistan but to protect investments and improve results. Pakistan must respond with the seriousness this partnership deserves.

Ultimately, the most compelling argument for reform is not the restoration of international prestige. It is the right of millions of Pakistanis to effective prevention, diagnosis and treatment. The real achievement will be transforming a constrained partnership into a confident, accountable and genuinely country-owned response to three preventable and treatable diseases.

Beyond diplomacy

Laraib Sajid

Pakistan's relationship with competing global powers, and effective participat-i---on in international peace efforts, have of--fe-red the country avenues to exercise inf--luence beyond its economic weight. It has managed to grab international attention due to its role as a mediator in facilitating dialogue between the United States and Iran. However, diplomatic recognition does not automatically translate into economic prosperity for a country. Pakistan needs to convert its growing diplomatic relevance into sustainable and durable economic partnerships, which include foreign direct investment, regional connectivity and technology transfer.

Pakistan has increasingly sought to use international platforms to seek its economic interests. Its engagements with multilateral forums such as the United Nations, OIC and SCO provide opportunities to promote trade, attract investment and build partnerships. The economic diplomacy initiatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its dedicated coordination with the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) highlight an acknowledgement that economic policy and foreign policy can no longer operate in isolation.

Last month, the SIFC presented an inv-e--stment pipeline to a Senate committee comprising 38 projects with an anticipated in--v-estment potential of approximately $40 bil--lion. This is an encouraging indicator of opportunities being pursued. However, this investment pipeline should not be conside-red the same as realised investment. Inves--tors assess the legal, regulatory and administrative environment in which their inv--estments will operate instead of merely relying on the strength of diplomatic assurances.

Constitutional federalism needs to work for economic development.

The problem does not simply lie in burea-ucratic inefficiency; rather it goes deep into the unresolved question of Pakistan's fede-ral structure. The 18th Amendment stren-g-thened provincial autonomy by transferring responsibilities from the centre to the provinces. Some of the sectors in which SIFC at--tracts investments including tourism, agriculture, and minerals require provincial participation as they are outside the mandate of the Federal Legislative List. There-fore, an investment proposal initiated at the federal level may still require provincial approvals and administrative permissions. The SIFC was formulated in 2023 through an amendment in the Board of Investment Ordinance, 2001. However, it is unable to resolve the institutional divide between the centre and provinces on matters related to investment. Section 10E of the Ordinance empowers SIFC to issue recommendations, advice or directions to federal regulatory bodies, public sector entities, authorities and government depart--ments. This section does not expressly extend this directive authority to provincial governments.

Such hurdles create an uncomfortable situation for international investors. An in--v--estor attracted through assurance of a st-reamlined approval process and diplom-atic engagements may encounter delays once the project reaches the provincial level.

The solution does not lie in undermining provincial autonomy or doing expansive interpretation of SIFC's mandate. Such a solution may give rise to constitutional disputes and alienate provincial governments. The goal should be to make the existing constitutional federalism work for economic development.

There are institutional mechanisms that can bridge the divide. The Interprovincial Coordination Committee provides a mechanism for coordination between the federation and provinces. Its mandate includes promoting a uniform approach to matters of common national concern. Investment-related bottlenecks can be for-mally placed be---fore it.

Ambition without scale?

Ehsan Malik

Pakistan's newly announced Auto Policy 2026-31 promises cheaper vehicles, higher localisation, exports, employment, improved safety and cleaner transportation. These are worthy objectives. But can they be achieved simultaneously in an industry constrained by limited scale, proliferating makes and models, and the absence of competitive upstream steel, petrochemical and aluminium industries?

More importantly, does the policy risk undermining one of the few enduring achievements of decades of automotive protection: the engineering capabilities developed by component manufacturers, with applications in agriculture, defence and other industries?

The policy deserves credit for recognising that protection has not delivered internationally competitive vehicles. Gradual tariff reductions, export targets and electric-vehicle incentives signal change. But reducing tariffs without addressing high energy, taxation and financing costs risks weakening domestic manufacturers before they become competitive.

Previous auto policies have produced an insufficiently recognised benefit: the engineering capabilities developed by component manufacturers. Guided by international assemblers, Pakistani firms have acquired expertise in precision machining, sheet-metal pressing, plastic moulding, rubber products, glass, wiring and numerous other components. Industrial clusters around Port Qasim, Lahore-Sheikhupura and elsewhere demonstrate capabilities extending beyond automobiles. Losing them would erode an industrial foundation that Pakistan needs for manufacturing diversification and import substitution.

Competition among brands is desirable, but proliferation of incompatible platforms undermines supplier competitiveness.

Support for technological upgrading, testing and certification is welcome. However, indiscriminate tariff reductions could expose these firms to overseas competitors operating at vastly greater scale, before domestic cost disadvantages are addressed.

Protection should neither be indefinite nor un--conditional. A differentiated, time-bound appro-ach should preserve engineering capabilities with demonstrable competitive potential, linking support to productivity, quality, scale and exports.

Mandatory localisation targets require scruti-ny. Components manufactured locally using im--por-ted steel, polymers, machinery and tooling cannot reasonably be counted as entirely indigenous. Pakistan lacks integrated automotive-grade steel, petrochemical and aluminium supply chains. The appropriate measure is domestic value addition after deducting imported inputs, including those embedded in locally purchased components.

Higher local procurement does not necessarily deliver equivalent foreign-exchange savings. Policy must measure genuine indigenous value addition, technological upgrading and net foreign-exchange contribution separately.

Pakistan's limited vehicle market is increasingly divided among manufacturers, models and variants. Each additional platform can require separate moulds, dies and tooling. Small production runs raise costs and discourage sophisticated manufacturing.

Competition among brands is desirable, but proliferation of incompatible platforms undermines supplier competitiveness. Common components, platform sharing, contract manufacturing and supplier consolidation should be encouraged.

Pakistan's motorcycle industry offers an instructive parallel. Standardised designs, large volumes, extensive vendor networks and a substantial replacement market have enabled component manufacturers to develop capabilities while making transportation accessible to millions.

Cars require more demanding standards and higher tooling investment, but the lessons of affordability, standardisation and scale remain relevant.

Pakistan should encourage one or more safe, fuel-efficient, affordable small-car platforms through collaboration with established international manufacturers. Shared components and higher volumes could support meaningful domestic value addition, strengthen vendors and eventually create export opportunities.

Encouraging electric vehicles is appropriate, particularly motorcycles, three-wheelers, small cars and public transport. However, concessional imports of completely built-up vehicles and completely knocked-down kits may accelerate adoption without developing domestic engineering capabilities. The transition should include a roadmap enabling existing component manufacturers to enter EV supply chains.

The policy envisages approximately $6 billion in cumulative automotive exports over five years. But who will buy these vehicles?

Complete-vehicle exports depend on foreign principals allocating production and overseas markets to Pakistani operations. Such decisions are scale-dependent and cannot be mandated. Potential African and other markets present additional challenges. Pakistan generally lacks preferential trade agreements with these destinations, leaving its vehicles exposed to tariffs while competing against established Asian manufacturers.

Export incentives introduce another risk. WTO rules restrict subsidies contingent on export performance, while importing countries can impose countervailing duties following investigations establishing subsidisation and injury.

Export targets need identifiable customers, commercial commitments, market access and demonstrated net foreign-exchange earnings.

The proposed Automotive Development Levy, expected to raise Rs232bn over five years, raises another question. Pakistan's experience with the Export Development Fund offers a cautionary lesson. Financed through a levy on exports, it supported various initiatives, but its effectiveness in delivering sustained competitiveness remains debatable.

Midterm lessons

Asif Saad

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

The explanation that interests me most is more fundamental.

The US economy was hardly in collapse. The stock market had recently reached unp-recedented highs, economic growth remai-n--ed respectable, unemployment was not a ma--jor concern, and overall household weal--th had reached high levels by mid-2026.

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

Growth is no longer enough as a political argument.

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

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

We call this trickle-down economics.

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

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

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

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

And this is where democracy enters the story.

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

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

That is the lesson Pakistan should pay attention to. We spend a great deal of time discussing economic stabilisation and growth. Forex reserves improve. Inflation falls. The current account looks better. The stock market rises. All these matter. No economy can prosper for long without macroeconomic stability. But stabilisation and growth are not prosperity.

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

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

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

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

The US economy showed that it is possible to have strong gro-wth, low unemploym-ent and extra--ordi-na-ry levels of financial wealth and still have voters deeply dissatisfied with their economic circumstances. Pakistan should take that ser--iously. Macroeconomic stability is necessary.

But Pakistan should be conscious of the timing of the economic model it is now pursuing. Privatisation, deregulation, reducing the state's commercial footprint and relying more on private enterprise are central to the reform programme.

But these are also elements of the market-led economic model that has dominated much of the West for several decades and whose outcomes are now being questioned by voters there. The lesson is not that Pakistan should reject markets. It is that we should not assume that markets, privatisation and growth will by themselves produce broadly shared prosperity. None of them is sufficient if ordinary citizens cannot see a meaningful connection between national economic progress and their own lives. And in a real democracy, eventually they will say so.

Turkish minister highlights cooperation opportunities with Pak in mining sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Türkiye Ahmet Berat Çonkar on Friday said Türkiye and Pakistan had considerable opportunities to strengthen cooperation in mining technology, local mineral processing, vocational training and industrial development.

Addressing the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF26), he said Türkiye's experience showed that a successful mining industry required a predictable investment environment, strong institutions, modern infrastructure and a clear vision to transform natural resources into lasting economic value.

He said Türkiye was working to strengthen its regulatory framework, streamline administrative procedures and enhance investment security through transparent licensing procedures and effective coordination among public institutions.

He said reliable energy supplies, transportation networks and logistics infrastructure were also essential for reducing operational costs and making mining projects commercially viable.

Highlighting the importance of geological knowledge and institutional capacity, he said exploration was the foundation of the mining industry, while reliable geological information helped reduce investment risks and exploration costs.

He said Türkiye's General Directorate of Mineral Research and Exploration (MTA) played a critical role in geological research and mining exploration. The country had also established TÜVEK, its National Geoscience, Data and Core Sampling Information Centre, to improve access to geological information and support informed investment decisions.

Çonkar said Türkiye focused on developing the entire mining value chain rather than concentrating solely on mineral extraction.

He said that of approximately 90 minerals traded commercially worldwide, 77 existed in Türkiye, while the country currently produced nearly 60 of them.

He said Türkiye aimed to create greater economic value through domestic processing, refining, the production of intermediate and finished products, and the development of mining technologies and equipment.

He said this required cooperation between governments and the private sector, technology transfer, research and development, and stronger domestic industrial capabilities.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairing a meeting to review the restructuring of the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC), at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



GENEVA, SWITZERLAND: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, held a productive meeting with Soren Toft, Chief Executive Officer of Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), at the company's office in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss potential investment opportunities and avenues for expanding MSC's engagement with Pakistan.

Barrick chairman terms Pak Minerals Investment Forum 'important' for global future

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Barrick Mining Corporation John L. Thornton on Friday termed the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF26) 'important' not only for Pakistan and the region but also for the world, saying the forum could play a significant role in shaping a more prosperous and peaceful future.

Addressing the two-day Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026, he said, "This forum is, of course, important to Pakistan. It's important to the region, but it's important to the world today, and even more in the future."

"We all know we need a more prosperous and peaceful world, and I believe this forum is ground zero for that undertaking.

The chairman said Khewra was home to the world's second-largest salt mine and was the source of Himalayan salt lamps enjoyed around the world.

He said Pakistan had a rich history of global trade, pioneering technology and partnerships with the international community through its mineral wealth.

"This is a tradition that goes back to the dawn of civilization," he added.

Thornton said the tradition continued today through Reko Diq, describing it as more than a mining project. He said it was a partnership between Pakistan, Barrick, local communities and international investors to unlock one of the world's major mineral resources.

"If successful, it can be a model for how responsible resource development attracts investment, creates opportunity and connects a country more deeply to the global economy, " he added.

The chairman said it was important to highlight this perspective because he was a student of history and viewed their role as part of a broader historical journey.

"Our role is to partner with you, with Pakistan, and help bring the benefits of your great global traditions and your mineral exports to the world, " he said.

He said Barrick was one of the world's leading mining companies and had remained a steadfast partner to Pakistan through difficult times, adding that the company intended to continue this partnership.

Referring to recent developments in the energy sector in Pakistan, he said discoveries in oil and gas had increased significantly over the past 24 months. "These are plain facts, and they have not gone unnoticed, " he said.

BOI minister holds meeting with MSC CEO, global shipping giant expresses interest for investment

Geneva (APP): Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, held a productive meeting with Mr. Soren Toft, Chief Executive Officer of Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), at the company's office in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss potential investment opportunities and avenues for expanding MSC's engagement with Pakistan.

During the meeting, the Federal Minister highlighted Pakistan's strategic geographical location, its access to major regional markets and the potential of its seaports, including Karachi Port, Port Qasim and Gwadar, as gateways for international trade and maritime connectivity, said a release issued here on Friday.

Mr. Soren Toft expressed keen interest in exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan and discussed the potential for expanding the company's business engagement with the country. The Federal Minister welcomed MSC's interest, noting that the company's global scale, expertise and extensive maritime network could create significant opportunities for Pakistan's shipping, logistics and trade sectors.

The Minister invited an MSC delegation to visit Pakistan to explore potential areas of cooperation and investment firsthand. The invitation was welcomed by MSC, which agreed to arrange a delegation visit, paving the way for further engagement and detailed discussions on potential projects and business opportunities.

The Federal Minister observed that engagement with a global shipping and logistics leader of MSC's stature could be highly significant for Pakistan's efforts to strengthen maritime infrastructure, improve trade connectivity and attract international investment.

Potential areas of cooperation include port-related infrastructure, container handling, shipping and logistics services, warehousing, transshipment and integrated supply-chain solutions.

Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, is one of the world's largest shipping and logistics companies. Founded in 1970, MSC operates a global network of approximately 1, 000 vessels, serving over 520 ports across more than 155 countries, and accounts for around 21–22 percent of global container shipping capacity. Under the leadership of CEO Mr. Soren Toft, the company has established a major presence in international shipping, logistics and global trade.

The Federal Minister emphasized that Pakistan offers substantial opportunities for international maritime and logistics companies seeking to expand their regional footprint.

He reiterated the Government's commitment to facilitating foreign investors, strengthening investor confidence and translating international interest into concrete investment partnerships.

The meeting marks an encouraging step towards enhanced engagement between Pakistan and one of the world's leading shipping companies, with the proposed MSC delegation visit expected to provide an opportunity to advance discussions on potential investment and cooperation.

PM assures Ivanhoe Mines of full facilitation for mineral sector investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday assured Ivanhoe Mines of full government facilitation for investment in Pakistan's mineral sector, particularly in the exploration and development of copper, gold and other critical mineral resources.

During a meeting with Founder and Executive Co-Chairman of Ivanhoe Mines, Robert Friedland, the prime minister said Pakistan was rich in mineral resources and was committed to working with international partners to harness its vast mineral potential, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

He welcomed Ivanhoe Mines' interest in investing in Pakistan and its cooperation with local partners, saying the government's priority was to provide a conducive environment for investment in the mineral sector.

The prime minister said the recognition of Pakistan as a preferred destination for mineral investment reflected growing confidence among international investors in the country's mineral potential and investment climate.

He also welcomed the exchange of memorandums of understanding (MoUs) during the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum, describing it as a positive development towards strengthening cooperation in the sector.

Prime Minister Shehbaz assured the visiting delegation that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) would extend full support and facilitation to Ivanhoe Mines for its investment-related initiatives in Pakistan.

The delegation appreciated the prime minister's leadership and acknowledged his efforts for regional peace and stability as well as economic reforms.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Federal Ministers Muhammad Aurangzeb and Ali Pervaiz Malik, Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi and SAPM on Energy Lieutenant General (Retd) Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, along with senior officials concerned, attended the meeting.

Rupee gains 01 paisa against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rupee on Friday appreciated by 01 paisa against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 276.60, compared to the previous day's closing of Rs276.61.

According the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the dollar's open-market buying and selling rates were Rs 277.25 and Rs 279.55, respectively.

The Euro declined by Rs 0.96 to close at Rs 305.81, down from Rs 306.77 the previous day, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen decreased by 01 paisa and closed at Rs 1.72, while the British Pound came down by Rs 1.15 to Rs 365.94 from Rs 367.09 the previous day.

The exchange rates of the Emirate Dirham and the Saudi Riyal remained unchanged to close at Rs 75.31 and Rs73.70, respectively.

Gold prices decline by Rs4, 900 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The prices of gold witnessed a significant decline in the local market on Friday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola falling by Rs4, 900 to settle at Rs411, 636, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold decreased by Rs4, 201 to Rs352, 911, while 10 grams of 22-karat gold declined by Rs3, 851 to Rs323, 513.

In the international market, the price of gold decreased by $49 to $3, 891 per ounce, the association reported.

Meanwhile, the price of silver per tola fell by Rs111 to Rs5, 467, while the price of 10 grams of silver declined by Rs95 to Rs4, 687. The price of silver in the international market also decreased by $1.11 to $49.89 per ounce, the association added.

Baker's nomination to boost Pakistan-US trade ties: Shaikh Imtiaz Hussain

KARACHI (Staff Reporter): President of the US-Pakistan Business Development Forum and Chairman of the Pakistan-USA Business Council at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Shaikh Imtiaz Hussain, has welcomed the reported nomination of Natalie Baker as US ambassador to Pakistan, expressing hope that her appointment will strengthen bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation.

Congratulating Baker on behalf of Pakistan's business community, Hussain described the reported nomination by US President Donald Trump as an encouraging development for economic diplomacy between Islamabad and Washington.

He praised Baker's diplomatic experience and her engagement with Pakistani government officials, business leaders and institutions during her service as chargé d'affaires at the US Embassy in Islamabad.

Hussain said closer cooperation in information technology, critical minerals, energy, agriculture and infrastructure could create significant investment opportunities for both countries.

He particularly emphasized the potential for partnerships in artificial intelligence, cloud computing, cybersecurity and digital infrastructure, alongside increased US investment in Pakistan's oil, gas and mineral sectors.

The business leader said Pakistan's private sector was eager to strengthen business-to-business partnerships with American companies, chambers of commerce and investors to promote exports, technology transfer and employment opportunities.

He also called for expanded cooperation between universities, educational institutions, professionals and civil society organizations, saying stronger people-to-people contacts would help build lasting trust.

Hussain expressed confidence that sustained diplomatic engagement would further strengthen cooperation on regional stability, counterterrorism and economic development.

He hoped that Baker's appointment, subject to US Senate confirmation, would mark the beginning of a new phase of trade, investment and friendship between Pakistan and the United States.



GENEVA, SWITZERLAND: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, held a productive meeting with Soren Toft, Chief Executive Officer of Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), at the company's office in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss potential investment opportunities and avenues for expanding MSC's engagement with Pakistan.

PSX gains over 500 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Friday, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index gaining 500.11 points, a positive change of 0.28 percent, to close at 177, 873.88 points against 177, 373.76 points recorded in the previous trading session. The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 1, 042.810 million shares, compared to 1, 070.480 million shares traded in the previous session. The traded value of the ready market stood at Rs31.001 billion, slightly down from Rs31.636 billion a day earlier.

Meanwhile, total market capitalisation increased to Rs19.336 trillion from Rs19.224 trillion recorded in the previous session.

Out of 497 companies that traded in the ready market, 284 posted gains, 184 suffered losses, while 29 remained unchanged, reflecting the dominant bullish trend across the market.

WorldCall Telecom led the volume chart with 303.196 million shares, followed by Kohinoor Spinning with 59.505 million shares and LSE Financial Services with 46.791 million shares. Among the top gainers in the ready market, PIA Holding Company Limited surged by Rs298.00 to close at Rs14, 342.00, while Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited advanced by Rs157.93 to settle at Rs26, 457.91.

Finance minister meets Transsion holdings, discusses investment, exports, industrial cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, met with Mr. George Zhu, Founder and Chairman of Transsion Holdings, a multibillion dollar conglomerate in China, along with his delegation, to discuss the company's ongoing operations in Pakistan, future investment plans and opportunities to strengthen local manufacturing and Pakistan's export potential. The Finance Minister welcomed Transsion Holdings' continued investment and expansion interest in Pakistan and its contribution to the country's manufacturing sector. The company shared an overview of its operations in Pakistan, including its presence in the smartphone, electric bike and energy storage segments, and outlined its plans for further investment and business expansion, said a release issued here on Friday.

The discussions focused on strengthening local manufacturing, promoting deeper localisation and developing a broader industrial ecosystem through the establishment of supporting industries and local supply chains. The company highlighted the potential to expand beyond assembly operations towards greater value addition and component manufacturing, creating opportunities for local businesses and further investment.

The Finance Minister underscored that sustained macroeconomic stability provides a strong foundation for investor confidence and long-term business planning. He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to maintaining the reform trajectory and highlighted the importance of export-oriented growth, greater value addition and stronger integration into global supply chains for enhancing Pakistan's competitiveness.

The potential to position Pakistan as a manufacturing and export hub was also discussed. The company described Pakistan as a strategic market, highlighting its sizeable domestic consumer base, geographic location and business environment as important factors supporting its long-term plans. The discussion also underscored the opportunity to leverage Pakistan's manufacturing capacity to serve international markets.

The Finance Minister encouraged continued engagement between Transsion Holdings and relevant government institutions to explore opportunities for further investment and business expansion in Pakistan. Both sides expressed interest in strengthening cooperation and enhancing Pakistan's potential as an export base.

SBP injects over Rs 1 trillion to maintain liquidity in the market

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected Rs 1, 049.85 billion through Reverse Repo Purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operations (OMO) on Friday for maintaining liquidity in the market.

The central bank conducted the Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) for 7 and 14-day tenors on November 13, 2026, and injected Rs 854.65 billion against 15 quotes while other Rs 195.2 billion were injected through Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based OMO.

The central bank, for the Reverse Repo Purchase of 14-day tenor, received 18 bids cumulatively offering Rs 1, 089 billion at the rate of return ranging between 12.02% to 12.08%. The SBP accepted Rs 722 billion against 9 quotes at 12.06% rate of return. The total amount offered at 12.06% was Rs 750 billion, out of which SBP accepted Rs 613 billion on a pro rata basis.

Moreover, the SBP also received 6 bids for the 7-day tenor, cumulatively offering Rs 132.65 billion at the rate of return ranging between 12.02% to 12.09 %. The SBP accepted all the 6 quotes with the entire amount at 12.02% rate of return.

Meanwhile, SBP also conducted Shariah Compliant Mudarabah-based Open Market Operation for the 7 and 14-day tenors. The central bank received one bid for the 7-day tenor, offering Rs 42 million at 12.06% rate of return which was accepted at the offered rate.

The central bank, for the 14-day tenor, received 4 quotes offering Rs 279.8 billion at rate of return ranging between 12.04% to 12.07%. SBP accepted an amount of Rs 153.2 billion against the 4 quotes at 12.04% rate of return. The total amount offered at 12.04% was Rs 245 billion, out of which SBP accepted Rs 118.4 billion on a pro rata basis.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Commerce and Industries Chaudhary Shafay Hussain presides over the meeting of Board Members of Punjab Small Industries Corporation.

Ensure easy access to ID documents for persons with disabilities: CM Bugti

NADRA launches dedicated mobile registration service in Gwadar following MPA Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch's request

GWADAR (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has emphasized improving access to identity documents and essential government services for persons with disabilities, as a dedicated NADRA Mobile Registration Van (MRV) service was launched in Gwadar district.

According to an official statement, the facility was introduced following a request from Gwadar MPA Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch, who highlighted the difficulties faced by persons with disabilities in reaching NADRA registration centers.

The provincial government described the initiative as the first of its kind in Balochistan, aimed at bringing identity registration services closer to residents with mobility challenges.

The mobile registration facility is expected to reduce travel difficulties and improve access to identity documents required for various government services.

The government said ensuring equal and dignified access to public facilities for persons with disabilities remained a priority.

The statement added that coordination between elected representatives and relevant institutions would continue to address practical barriers faced by persons with disabilities and improve public service delivery.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Hadia Nawaz and MNA Jamal Shah Kakar talking with Provincial Minister Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Sardar Dawood Kharal meeting with Balocistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

No compromise on dev. quality: DC Shams

Barshore deputy commissioner inspects proposed DC Complex site and ongoing police, education & healthcare projects, orders timely completion

BARSHORE (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Barshore Flight Lieutenant (Retd.) Khalid Shams has said no compromise will be made on the quality, transparency or timely completion of development projects, warning that negligence and unnecessary delays will not be tolerated.

He made the remarks while inspecting land allocated for the proposed Deputy Commissioner Complex and ongoing development schemes in the police, education and healthcare sectors.

District Police Officer Abdul Sattar Dashti, Assistant Commissioner Barshore Syed Razi Harira and officials from relevant departments accompanied him during the visit.

Engineers briefed the deputy commissioner on the proposed complex's master plan, access road and construction progress at police facilities, educational institutions and healthcare centers.

Shams directed officials and contractors to strictly follow approved technical specifications, maintain construction standards and strengthen project monitoring to ensure timely completion.

He also appreciated Provincial Parliamentary Secretary Asfandyar Khan Kakar's efforts to improve infrastructure, public services and law and order in the district.

The deputy commissioner said development activities were being pursued in line with Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti's priorities to improve public service delivery.

He expressed hope that the proposed DC Complex and other development schemes would strengthen district administration and improve residents' access to education, healthcare and essential government services.

Rain forecast in parts of Balochistan as cold intensifies

QUETTA (6 AM Report): The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast predominantly dry weather across Balochistan, with cold conditions prevailing in northern districts and isolated rain accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds expected in Quetta, Khuzdar, Lasbela and surrounding areas.

According to the department, temperatures have declined across northern Balochistan, with Ziarat recording a minimum of 5°C and Kalat 6°C. Zhob and Chaman recorded 9°C each.

Quetta registered a minimum temperature of 11°C, while Nok Kundi recorded 18°C, Sibi 19°C and Turbat 21°C.

In coastal areas, Gwadar and Jiwani recorded minimum temperatures of 20°C each.

Ensure irrigation water reaches tail-end farmers: Noorzai

Naseerabad commissioner reviews Pat Feeder and Kachhi canals, orders desilting, embankment repairs and action against water theft during Rabi season

NASEERABAD (6 AM Report): Commissioner Naseerabad Division Salahuddin Noorzai has directed irrigation authorities to ensure equitable distribution of canal water to tail-end farmers during the Rabi season to protect wheat cultivation and other agricultural crops.

He issued the directives during a meeting with Chief Engineer Canals Qurban Ali Jatoi, where irrigation water availability, canal maintenance and distribution challenges were reviewed.

Superintending Engineer Irrigation Circle Mudassir Zafar Khoso, SSP Naseerabad Asad Nasir, Executive Engineer Pat Feeder Canal Shams-ul-Mulk Badini and Executive Engineer Kachhi Canal Ilahi Bakhsh Gajani attended the meeting.

Noorzai emphasized that Naseerabad Division was a major agricultural region of Balochistan and that timely irrigation supplies were essential to maintaining crop production.

He directed officials to accelerate canal desilting, strengthen embankments and take effective measures against illegal water diversion and theft.

During the meeting, irrigation officials briefed the commissioner on water availability, ongoing maintenance work and operational challenges affecting the Pat Feeder and Kachhi canals.

The officials acknowledged difficulties in supplying irrigation water during the current Rabi season and assured that available resources would be utilized to improve distribution.

Noorzai stressed better coordination among relevant departments to remove supply bottlenecks and ensure that farmers, particularly those at the tail ends of canals, received their fair share of irrigation water.

No compromise on food safety standards: BFA

QUETTA (6 AM Report): The Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) has intensified its crackdown on substandard and adulterated food across the province, sealing a baking unit in Quetta and imposing fines on several food businesses in Zhob, Sohbatpur and other areas.

According to a BFA spokesperson, a baking unit on Mekangi Road in Quetta was sealed following a public complaint. Inspectors found poor sanitation, improper storage, missing manufacturing and expiry dates, and inadequate pest-control arrangements.

Inspections along Samungli Road and Spini Road also resulted in fines against pizza outlets, bakeries and baking units over unhygienic conditions, rusty refrigerators, uncovered waste bins, unsafe cooking oil and improper food-handling practices.

In Zhob, inspection teams tested milk samples from 30 shops in New Abadi and Jail Road. One shop was fined after water adulteration was detected, while another faced action over expired beverages and poor hygiene.

Food business operators were also instructed to fulfill licensing requirements.

Meanwhile, in Sohbatpur, several bakeries, confectionery wholesalers and grocery stores were fined for operating without licenses, keeping expired food products, failing to protect sweets from flies and violating hygiene and labeling standards.

The BFA spokesperson said inspections and enforcement operations would continue across Balochistan to ensure the availability of safe, hygienic and unadulterated food.

The authority warned that violations involving food quality, adulteration, expired products and licensing requirements would invite legal action without discrimination.

Free eye camp treats 1,600 patients in Usta Muhammad

USTA MUHAMMAD (6 AM Report): Around 1,600 patients received free eye examinations and nearly 200 underwent surgery during a two-day medical camp at Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital Usta Muhammad.

The camp, organized by the Leprosy and Blindness Control Program Balochistan, provided free consultations, medicines, surgical treatment and intraocular lenses to deserving patients.

THQ Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr. Zain-ul-Abideen said the initiative aimed to provide accessible eye care to low-income patients unable to afford treatment in major cities.

The medical team was led by surgeon Dr. Siddique Jafri, with Dr. Shoaib Baloch, Syed Mahfooz-ul-Islam and other specialists providing medical services.

Dr. Zain-ul-Abideen appreciated the support of Provincial Minister Sardarzada Mir Faisal Khan Jamali, Sardar Haroon Khan Jamali and Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ramzan Palal in organizing the camp.

He also acknowledged the contributions of District Health Officer Dr. Amir Ali Jamali, Dr. Aslam Nazir and hospital staff.

Emphasizing the importance of early diagnosis and treatment in preventing vision loss, he called for the continuation of free eye camps for underserved communities.

QESCO recruitment interviews to begin November 16 in Turbat: DC Dashti

TURBAT (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Kech Yasir Iqbal Dashti has said that interviews for advertised vacancies in the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) will be held from November 16 to 20, 2026, at Circuit House Turbat.

The schedule was finalized during his meeting with QESCO Turbat XEN Grid Gahram Gichki, with male candidates scheduled for November 16–19 and female candidates for November 20.

Candidates have been directed to bring their original CNIC, local and domicile certificates, educational documents, one photocopy of each document and two recent passport-size photographs.

Dashti said necessary arrangements would be completed to ensure a smooth, organized and transparent interview process.

No child should miss polio vaccination: DC Bangulzai

Chaman deputy commissioner reviews November polio campaign, directs improved coverage, monitoring and identification of missed children

CHAMAN (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Chaman Habib Ahmed Bangulzai has directed health officials to ensure that no child remains deprived of polio vaccination and that shortcomings identified during the recent campaign are addressed before future drives.

He issued the directives while chairing a review meeting on the November 2026 Special National Immunization Days (SNID) campaign.

Representatives of the Health Department, World Health Organization (WHO) and partner organizations briefed the meeting on vaccination coverage, field team performance and operational challenges.

The meeting also reviewed the identification of missed children, microplanning and arrangements for upcoming vaccination campaigns.

Bangulzai emphasized stronger coordination among health teams and partner organizations, continuous field monitoring and effective use of available resources to achieve vaccination targets.

He said protecting children against polio was a shared national responsibility and directed officials to strengthen future campaigns to ensure complete coverage across Chaman district.

Ensure prompt resolution of public issues: AC Prem Kumar

PIR KOH (6 AM Report): Assistant Commissioner Pir Koh Prem Kumar has said that resolving public grievances at the local level and ensuring easy access to government services remain key priorities of the district administration.

He made the remarks while presiding over an open court (Khuli Kachehri) in Pir Koh subdivision, organized in line with Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti's public service vision and on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner North Dera Bugti Riaz Khan Dawar.

The meeting was attended by an FC wing commander, district officials.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Sardar Kohiyar Khan Domki, MPA Malik Naeem Bazai and Zarak Khan Mandokhail during a meeting.

Smooth traffic, improved security priorities in Dukki: SP

DUKKI (6 AM Report): Superintendent of Police Dukki Muhammad Younis Raza has said coordinated measures will be taken to improve traffic flow, strengthen security and address transportation difficulties faced by residents and businesses in the city.

He made the remarks while chairing a meeting at the SP Office, attended by Assistant Commissioner Dukki Muhammad Akram Harifal, representatives of Anjuman-e-Tajran and transporters' associations.

The meeting reviewed traffic congestion, restrictions on heavy vehicles, security arrangements and measures to facilitate commercial activities.

Participants discussed growing traffic problems and proposed solutions to reduce road congestion and minimize disruptions to businesses and commuters.

The meeting agreed to develop a joint strategy to regulate heavy vehicle movement and improve traffic management through consultation among relevant stakeholders.

SP Raza emphasized that public safety, smooth transportation and a secure business environment remained key priorities of the police and district administration.

Representatives of the police, district administration, traders and transporters reaffirmed their commitment to continued coordination to address traffic challenges, improve security and support commercial activities in Dukki.

No negligence in public health: AC Aida Gill

CHAMAN (6 AM Report): Chaman's first female Assistant Commissioner, Aida Judith Gill, has said protecting public health and consumer rights will remain a top priority, warning that violations of food safety and hygiene standards will not be tolerated.

After formally assuming office, Gill visited local markets and commercial areas to assess sanitation, product quality and compliance with safety regulations.

She directed shopkeepers to maintain cleanliness, ensure the sale of safe and quality products, and remove expired or substandard items from their premises.

Gill emphasized that market monitoring would continue to protect consumers and improve business conditions.

She warned that legal action would be taken against businesses found violating health, safety and consumer protection regulations.

PhD achievement to strengthen research at UoT: VC Gul Hasan

University of Turbat faculty member Dr. Durdana Rafique successfully defends doctoral research at International Islamic University Islamabad

TURBAT (6 AM Report): University of Turbat (UoT) Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Gul Hasan has said that the successful doctoral defense of faculty member Dr. Durdana Rafique will further strengthen the university's academic and research capabilities.

Dr. Rafique, Assistant Professor in the Department of English, successfully defended her doctoral research at the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) on November 12, 2026, under the supervision of Dr. Akhtar Aziz.

Congratulating her, the vice-chancellor described the achievement as a valuable addition to UoT's growing community of PhD-qualified faculty members and a reflection of its commitment to academic excellence.

He expressed hope that her qualification would contribute to advancing research in English linguistics and literature.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr. Kamal Ahmed, Dean of the Faculty of Literature and Languages Dr. Abdul Saboor, Department Chairman Dr. Shah Mir Baloch and other university officials also congratulated Dr. Rafique on her achievement.

Resolve ex-servicemen's grievances on priority: AC

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Assistant Commissioner (Sadar) Quetta Muhammad Yousaf Hashmi has directed relevant departments to address the grievances of retired military personnel and their families on a priority basis, emphasizing timely assistance and improved coordination among government institutions. He issued the directives while chairing a District Armed Services Board meeting, held on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini.

Representatives of the Armed Services Board, police, NADRA, Health Department and Quetta Metropolitan Corporation attended the meeting.

No obstruction to development projects will be tolerated: AC Zhob

ZHOB (6 AM Report): Assistant Commissioner Zhob Dawood Ahmed has warned that no obstruction to the construction of the city's new pushcart market will be tolerated, directing that the project site remain free from encroachments and unauthorized parking.

He issued the warning while supervising an anti-encroachment operation at the old Dera Ismail Khan bus stand, where police and District Anti-Encroachment Force personnel cleared the proposed market site.

During the operation, at least 200 vehicles were removed, while shopkeepers and mechanics were instructed not to park vehicles within the construction area.

Dawood Ahmed said construction of the new market had formally begun, with heavy machinery deployed to level the land.

He added that police and anti-encroachment personnel would remain stationed at the site to prevent further obstructions and ensure uninterrupted construction work.

According to the district administration, the proposed market will provide organized business space for pushcart vendors and small traders, while helping reduce traffic congestion and improve local employment opportunities.

Ensure timely, transparent payments to deserving women: BISP Director

USTA MUHAMMAD (6 AM Report): Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Director Abdul Rahim Baloch has emphasized the need to ensure transparent, fair and timely financial assistance to deserving women from low-income families, saying beneficiaries should not face unnecessary delays or difficulties in receiving payments.

He made the remarks during a meeting with Assistant Commissioner Usta Muhammad Maria Shamoon, where payment procedures, beneficiary guidance and complaint resolution under BISP were discussed.

Baloch said the program aimed to provide financial relief to economically vulnerable women and stressed that assistance must reach eligible beneficiaries without irregularities or unnecessary obstacles.

He emphasized stronger coordination with the district administration to facilitate payments, guide beneficiaries and promptly address complaints.

Assistant Commissioner Maria Shamoon assured the BISP director of the district administration's full cooperation in resolving difficulties faced by deserving women.

She said effective coordination among relevant institutions was essential to ensuring transparency in financial assistance programs and delivering government support to eligible families.



Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Administrator Bashir Ahmed Barraich to visit Joint Road.

Strict action against encroachments on Joint Road: Barrech

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Administrator Bashir Ahmed Barrech has warned that strict legal action will be taken against individuals involved in reestablishing encroachments or illegal parking along Joint Road.

He issued the warning during an inspection of Joint Road, where he reviewed the ongoing anti-encroachment campaign and expressed satisfaction over the clearance of roadside obstructions.

Barrech appreciated the performance of municipal staff and directed officials to maintain regular monitoring to prevent encroachments from returning and ensure the smooth movement of traffic and pedestrians.

He said keeping roads and sidewalks clear remained a priority for the Metropolitan Corporation.

The administrator also announced that preliminary work had begun on a proposed fruit market in Quetta, aimed at promoting commercial activity and creating organized employment opportunities for small traders and workers.

He said several potential locations had been examined for the project, which was being pursued in line with Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti's development vision.

Metropolitan Magistrate Dr. Imran Zeb, Traffic DSP Raheel and other municipal and traffic officials accompanied the administrator during the visit.

PM directs effective measures to ensure local benefits from Reko Diq, mineral projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the relevant authorities to ensure that local communities, particularly the people of Balochistan, directly benefit from mineral development projects through employment, skills development and improved economic opportunities.

Chairing a meeting with a delegation of Barrick Mining Corporation, led by its Chairman John Thornton, the prime minister emphasized that effectively utilizing Balochistan's natural resources and mineral wealth was essential for the province's development and public prosperity, a Prime Minister's Office news release said. He said the government's priorities included creating employment and skills development opportunities for local youth, ensuring their participation in the benefits of mineral projects and promoting the development of communities surrounding project sites. Welcoming Barrick Mining Corporation's participation in the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum, the prime minister described the Reko Diq project as a major milestone for investment in the country's mineral sector and a project of strategic importance to Pakistan's economic future.

He said the successful implementation of Reko Diq would establish a benchmark for future investment in the country's mining sector and help create new opportunities for international investors.

The prime minister said Pakistan was committed to utilizing its extensive mineral resources and developing an enabling environment for investment through improved trade and investment policies, infrastructure development and modern technology.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the policy, regulatory and infrastructure frameworks required to promote investment in Pakistan's mineral sector. The prime minister also expressed the government's desire to benefit from Barrick's expertise and experience beyond the Reko Diq project to support the broader development of the country's mining industry. The visiting delegation appreciated the government's initiative to organize the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum, describing it as an important step towards advancing mineral development in the country. The delegation also expressed keen interest in investing in the establishment of mineral processing industries in Karachi and Gwadar.



Peoples Party Women's Wing Central President Faryal Talpur hosts dinner for senior journalists and anchorpersons at Bilawal House in Lahore.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by Chairman of Barrick Mining Corporation John Thornton meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

President calls for prevention, early diagnosis of diabetes to be made national priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has called on all Pakistanis to make prevention, healthy living and early diagnosis a national priority on World Diabetes Day.

In his message on the international day observed on 14 November, the president said this year's theme, "Early Action on Diabetes", underlines that timely action can save lives and prevent serious complications.

Citing the latest International Diabetes Federation estimates, the president noted that 34.5 million adults in Pakistan were living with diabetes in 2024, with more than one-quarter of them undiagnosed. He said the scale of the burden demands sustained action to protect public health and well-being.

The president said many cases of type 2 diabetes can be prevented or delayed through a balanced diet, regular physical activity, a healthy weight and avoiding tobacco. He urged citizens to reduce sugary drinks and limit foods high in sugar and unhealthy fats, and to make walking, exercise and sport part of daily life. He added that families and schools have a special responsibility to encourage healthy habits from childhood.

The president urged the federal and provincial governments, healthcare professionals, educational institutions, media and civil society to organise coordinated awareness campaigns throughout the year in Urdu and regional languages. These, he said, should offer simple, practical guidance on prevention, warning signs, and when and where to seek screening.

He said efforts should extend across Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Islamabad Capital Territory, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, with particular attention to women, older persons, low-income families, and rural and remote communities.

Overseas Pakistanis valuable national asset: Syedaal Nasar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Nasir Friday said overseas Pakistanis are a valuable national asset who, through their hard work, capabilities and professional services abroad, not only project a positive image of Pakistan but also play a significant role in strengthening and developing the national economy.

He said the welfare of overseas Pakistanis, the resolution of their problems and the provision of better facilities remained among the government's key priorities.

He expressed these views during a meeting with Malik Noor Awan, President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Japan.

The meeting discussed issues faced by the Pakistani community in Japan, employment opportunities, bilateral trade and investment, and new avenues of cooperation between the two countries.

The Deputy Chairman Senate appreciated Malik Noor Awan's services for the Pakistani community in Japan and acknowledged his efforts for their welfare, progress and the resolution of their issues.

He said overseas Pakistanis were also strengthening the national economy through remittances, and expressed optimism that these would increase significantly in the coming years, further contributing to economic growth, prosperity and stability.

Japan announces US$ 4.3m grant to support Pakistan's polio program

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Government of Japan has announced a new grant of US$ 4.3 million to procure essential oral polio vaccines as part of its continued support to Pakistan's polio eradication efforts.

The Pakistan Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) will use these funds to procure more than 28 million vaccine doses to support polio campaigns in 2027.

Pakistan is one of only two countries in the world where wild poliovirus transmission has not yet been interrupted.

The country has made significant progress in reducing polio transmission, with cases declining from 74 in 2024 to 31 in 2025, and 8 cases reported so far in 2026. Six of the eight cases in 2026 have been reported from south Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where insecurity and access constraints continue to pose significant challenges to reaching every child.

The continued detection of poliovirus underscores the need for sustained efforts to interrupt transmission everywhere and protect every child.

In an urgent effort to eradicate the incurable disease, the Government of Pakistan, with support from partners, has developed the National Emergency Action Plan 2026–27 under the Roadmap to Zero, setting out a focused approach to interrupting poliovirus transmission by the end of 2027.

Each national immunization drive targets over 45 million children under five, supported by more than 400,000 frontline health workers who play a vital role in reaching communities and delivering vaccines.

"The Government of Japan's contribution comes at a critical time as Pakistan intensifies its efforts to interrupt poliovirus transmission and end this preventable disease," said Ayesha Raza Farooq, the Prime Minister's Focal Person on Polio Eradication. "Every dose of vaccine supported through Japan's contribution brings us closer to a polio-free Pakistan.

Raheela Hameed Khan

Talented female students deserve full encouragement

Education minister distributes Rs10 million in cash prizes on behalf of CM Bugti to students who performed at Balochistan Assembly's Independence Day celebrations

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani has said encouraging talented female students and providing opportunities to demonstrate their abilities are among the provincial government's key priorities.

She made the remarks while distributing Rs10 million in cash prizes on behalf of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti among female students who presented the national anthem and tableaux at the Balochistan Assembly during Independence Day celebrations on August 14, 2026.

The prize distribution ceremony was held at Government Girls High School, Mission Road, Quetta.

Addressing the gathering, Durrani praised the students for demonstrating talent, confidence and patriotism, saying their performances had brought pride to Balochistan.

She emphasized that co-curricular activities, alongside academic education, play an important role in character development, creativity and building students' self-confidence.

The minister reaffirmed the provincial government's commitment to recognizing young talent and expanding opportunities for female students to participate in educational and co-curricular activities.



ISLAMABAD: Provincial Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango in a group photo with founder of BAP Senator Syed Ahmed Hashmi and MPA Ruqiya Hashmi.

Ahsan seeks permanent mechanism to address TTS faculty pay disparities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday called for a permanent, transparent and sustainable mechanism to address salary disparities among faculty members under the Tenure Track System (TTS), ensuring fair compensation and retention of highly qualified academic talent in the country.

Chairing a meeting on the TTS salary structure, the minister stressed the need for a clear and objective formula to ensure appropriate differentiation in the pay structures of Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors.

He called for an independent mechanism for future salary adjustments to prevent recurring disparities and avoid repeated deliberations at the government level.

Expressing concern over the departure of talented Pakistani professors to other countries for better opportunities, Ahsan Iqbal said the country's investment in educating and training its academic talent must be protected through fair remuneration and a sustainable compensation structure.

He directed the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to support the proposed salary adjustment framework with accurate data and clearly defined financial implications, including existing disparities, inflation-based adjustments and a forward-looking mechanism linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The minister cautioned the HEC against presenting incomplete or inaccurate information, warning that the Commission would be held accountable if it was found to have misled the forum.

The meeting discussed measures to resolve existing TTS salary disparities and establish a predictable and transparent framework for future salary revisions.

Ahsan Iqbal stressed that the existing salary disparities must be addressed through a clear and objective formula, ensuring appropriate differentiation in the pay structures of Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors.

He called for an independent mechanism for future salary adjustments to avoid recurring discrepancies and repeated government-level deliberations.

Islamabad to become first fully cashless city by Dec 31

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government has decided to make Islamabad the country's first fully cashless city, with 31st December set as the deadline.

Chairing a meeting in Islamabad, Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry said consultation and suggestions of all stakeholders are important for the successful implementation of the Cashless Islamabad initiative.

The Minister of State said no cash payments will be accepted at any department of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) or the Capital Development Authority (CDA) after 30th November.

He said the government aims to bring all merchants in Islamabad into the cashless payment system by 31st December. He said around twenty-six thousand merchants in Islamabad have already been connected to the digital payment system.

Talal Chaudhry said digital payment facilities will be provided at every level, from street vendors to major business centres.

Kamal reviews performance of health helpline

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Health Services Syed Mustafa Kamal has reviewed the latest developments, system upgrades and overall performance of the 1166 Health Helpline, emphasizing the need to make the public service more efficient, transparent and responsive.

The minister was given a detailed briefing on the latest progress of the helpline dashboard, newly introduced features and improvements made to the system.

The briefing also covered mechanisms for registering public complaints, monitoring their progress, ensuring timely resolution and improving the overall functionality of the helpline.

Security operations to continue until terrorism is eliminated: CM

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has said that security operations will continue until terrorism is eliminated, reaffirming the government's commitment to protecting citizens, maintaining national security and establishing lasting peace across Pakistan.

In a statement, Bugti praised security forces for their intelligence-based operations against suspected militants, saying several hideouts had been targeted, militants killed and weapons, ammunition and explosives recovered.

He commended the professionalism and commitment of security personnel, emphasizing that coordinated efforts among law enforcement agencies and other state institutions were essential to combating terrorism.

The chief minister alleged that India-backed militant organizations were attempting to destabilize Pakistan, but maintained that security forces would continue efforts to counter such threats.

He said the operations were part of Azm-e-Istehkam, a national counterterrorism initiative approved by the Federal Apex Committee under the National Action Plan.

Bugti reiterated that the government would not allow militant groups to undermine peace or threaten public safety in Balochistan and other parts of the country.

Meanwhile, Shahid Rind, the chief minister's aide on information and political affairs, praised intelligence-based operations conducted in Kurram district since November 3.

He claimed that security forces had targeted several militant hideouts, killed militants and recovered weapons, ammunition and explosives.

Balochistan Assembly rejects resolution against tribal system

QUETTA (ANN): The Balochistan Assembly on Friday rejected a resolution seeking the abolition of the tribal chieftaincy system in the province, with six lawmakers voting against and five supporting the motion.

The resolution, moved by Jamaat-e-Islami MPA Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch, called for enforcement of the 1976 law abolishing the Sardari system and measures to protect citizens from exploitation, forced labor and unlawful tribal authority.

During the debate, Provincial Minister Zahoor Buledi supported the resolution, arguing that exploitative tribal practices had deprived people of equal rights and access to justice.

MPA Ali Madad Jattak also backed the motion, saying educated youth increasingly opposed oppressive tribal practices.

However, MPA Sheikh Zarak Khan Mandokhail opposed the resolution, maintaining that all tribal chiefs and nawabs should not be collectively blamed, as several had contributed positively to Balochistan's development.

Opposition Leader Mir Younus Aziz Zehri said no tribal leader was above the law but emphasized that the contributions of respected tribal figures should not be ignored.

MPAs Zabid Ali Reki and Farah Azeem Shah also opposed exploitation and injustice while cautioning against treating all tribal leaders alike.

Following the debate, the resolution was put to a vote and defeated by a narrow margin.

Dr. Malik

Organized political struggle key to Balochistan's rights

National Party chief calls for stronger party organization, broader public participation and protection of provincial resources

QUETTA (ANN): National Party President and former Balochistan Chief Minister Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch has said that organized political struggle and principled democratic politics are essential to protecting Balochistan's resources, securing public rights and strengthening representative governance.

He made the remarks during a meeting with the National Party's Quetta East Organizing Committee and senior party leaders, where organizational activities in Quetta East and West were reviewed.

Dr. Malik urged party officials to strengthen grassroots networks, expand public outreach and encourage participation from all communities in the province.

He alleged that efforts were being made to restrict democratic and political activities in Balochistan, emphasizing the importance of political awareness, organizational discipline and adherence to democratic principles.

The former chief minister said the National Party's 17-point charter of demands provided a framework for securing provincial rights, economic authority and democratic governance.

Welcoming federal government measures concerning Balochistan's share in federal employment, he called for implementation of the party's remaining demands to promote lasting peace, political stability and development.

National Party Central Information Secretary Ali Ahmed Langove, central committee members Niaz Baloch and Dr. Ramzan Hazara, along with other provincial and district leaders, attended the meeting.

Participants reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the party's organizational structure and expanding political engagement across Quetta.



QUETTA: MPA Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch expressing his views on the resolution during Balochistan Assembly session.

GDA expands solar-powered street lighting across Gwadar

GWADAR (6 AM Report): The Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) has installed streetlights along major roads, key routes and prominent public locations across Gwadar, while converting several lighting installations to solar power to improve energy efficiency and reduce dependence on conventional electricity.

According to the GDA, the initiative is part of the provincial government's efforts under Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti's development vision to improve urban infrastructure, public safety and tourism facilities.

The authority said the installation of streetlights had improved nighttime visibility and made travel more convenient for residents and visitors.

Street lighting along Marine Drive has also enhanced the coastal road's nighttime appearance, adding to its appeal as a recreational and tourist destination. The GDA said converting several streetlights to solar energy would help minimize disruptions caused by power outages, prolonged load-shedding, rising electricity costs and cable theft. The authority described the initiative as part of its broader efforts to develop Gwadar into a safer, better-lit and environmentally sustainable coastal city.

Dialogue, strong state-citizen relations key to resolving Balochistan's issues: Kakar

Former caretaker PM urges youth to pursue education and reject violence; Fawad Chaudhry calls for political solutions, Zahid Mahmood stresses dialogue at book launch

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Former caretaker Prime Minister and Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that resolving Balochistan's challenges requires stronger relations between the state and its citizens, mutual respect and recognition of rights and responsibilities.

Addressing the launch of Babar Yousafzai's book Chiragh-e-Rah, Kakar urged young political activists to pursue knowledge, develop their abilities and create opportunities for themselves. He said the state was responsible for citizens' economic well-being and security, while citizens must also fulfill their responsibilities.

He emphasized strengthening national unity beyond ethnic identities and encouraged young people to set ambitious goals. Criticizing the violent narratives of the BLA and TTP, he condemned the glorification of suicide attacks and called for responsible political discourse.

Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry said Balochistan's problems could not be resolved through military measures alone and required meaningful political engagement. Acknowledging past mistakes at the federal level, he stressed the need for dialogue, political leadership and an understanding of the province's historical and regional circumstances.

Chaudhry also appreciated the book's discussion of artificial intelligence and its ethical implications, suggesting that it be introduced in schools across Balochistan.

Retired Major General Zahid Mahmood said politicians, the military and bureaucracy had made mistakes in the past, but the focus should now be on solutions rather than blame. He maintained that sustainable peace required negotiations and meaningful participation by Balochistan's people, including ordinary citizens.

He urged greater investment in youth education, guidance and constructive opportunities to counter frustration and violent influences, describing the 95-page book as a useful initiative. Author Babar Yousafzai said Chiragh-e-Rah aimed to inspire young people through education, positive thinking and guidance drawn from Islamic teachings and traditional wisdom.

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