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## PM Shehbaz, Field Marshal Asim Munir attend funeral prayers of two martyred soldiers

RAWALPINDI (6 AM Report): Funeral prayers for Major Omar Nasir Minhas and Havildar Muhammad Adnan Khan, who embraced martyrdom near Noshki district in Balochistan on November 14, were offered at Chaklala Garrison, Rawalpindi, on Sunday.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, senior civilian and military officials, and relatives of the martyred soldiers attended the funeral prayers.

The Pakistan Armed Forces paid tribute to the fallen soldiers, acknowledging their courage, dedication and sacrifice in the service of the country.

The ISPR said the sacrifices of the martyrs would remain a lasting source of pride for the armed forces and the nation.

## Martyrs are pride of the nation: Atta Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Sunday said brave sons of the motherland who laid down their lives for defense of the country are pride of the entire nation.

He made these remarks on his official account on X following his participation in the funeral prayers of Major Umar Nasir Minhas Shaheed and Havaldar Muhammad Adnan Khan Shaheed at Chaklala Garrison, Rawalpindi.

The funeral was also attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. Following the prayers, the minister also met with the bereaved families of the martyrs to offer his deepest condolences.

"The nation will never forget the supreme sacrifices of our martyrs, " said the minister while reaffirming unshakable resolve to eradicate terrorism completely. He prayed to the Almighty to elevate the ranks of the martyrs in Jannah and grant patience to their grieving families.

## Islamabad hosts high-stakes ECO meeting focused on trade, transit, growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan will host the 30th Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Council of Ministers in Islamabad on Sunday, bringing together foreign ministers and senior representatives from member states, as well as regional and international organizations.

As the incoming ECO Chair for 2026-27, Pakistan aims to promote greater regional cooperation in trade, transport, investment and sustainable development.

The meeting is expected to adopt the Islamabad Declaration and approve ECO Vision 2035, a new ten-year framework to strengthen regional connectivity, economic integration, and sustainable growth.

Pakistan will also push for progress on the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) and the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) to facilitate trade and improve cross-border movement across the region.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Defence Forces, Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Minister, senior civilian, military officials and relatives offering Fateha after Namaz-e-Janaza of Major Omar Nasir Minhas Shaheed and Havildar Muhammad Adnan Khan Shaheed, who embraced Shahadat near Nushki, Balochistan, at Chaklala Garrison.

## DPM underscores importance of regional cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Sunday held a meeting with the Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, on the sidelines of the 30th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers here and underscored the importance of strengthening regional cooperation, connectivity and economic integration within the ECO region.

He highlighted Pakistan's priorities during its Chairmanship under the theme "Reviving Regionalism for a Resilient ECO" and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to hosting the ECO Summit in 2027.

The Secretary General appreciated Pakistan's excellent arrangements, hospitality and coordination for the 30th ECO-COM and congratulated Pakistan on its upcoming Chairmanship and hosting of the ECO-COM and ECO Summit in 2027, reflecting the importance Pakistan attaches to regionalism and multilateral cooperation. The DPM/FM appreciated the ECO Secretariat's efforts in advancing the organization's agenda and its support for Pakistan's priorities during its chairmanship. Both sides reaffirmed the importance of close coordination between Pakistan and the ECO Secretariat during Pakistan's chairmanship to ensure effective implementation of agreed initiatives and advance shared goals of regional development and prosperity.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Sunday held a meeting with the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, on the sidelines of the 30th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers here and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Welcoming the Secretary General on his first visit to Islamabad since assuming office, the DPM/ FM reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening the OIC as a unified and effective voice of the Muslim Ummah. He assured the Secretary General of Pakistan's continued support and cooperation in advancing the organization's objectives. The Secretary General appreciated Pakistan's diplomatic efforts during the Iran–US conflict to promote peace and stability in the region.



NORTH DERA BUGTI: People from different walk of life offering Fateha and condolence with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on the sad demise of his aunt and mother of Mir Tariq Bugti.

## Bilawal flays govt actions against JUI-F as 'political vendetta'

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Sunday condemned what he described as government actions against the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), calling them political victimisation, during a telephone conversation with party chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

"The government should tolerate criticism from the opposition, as the role of a responsible opposition is essential to democracy and the parliamentary system," Bilawal told Fazl.

According to a statement issued by the PPP media cell, the two leaders discussed the country's political situation.

Bilawal also urged the government to refrain from actions that could undermine democratic institutions and weaken Parliament, the statement added.

The remarks came amid growing tensions between the government and the JUI-F following the imposition of emergency and governor's rule in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P).

Fazl accused the government of backing out of negotiations with the PTI and the opposition despite initially agreeing to their demands.

## CJP stresses modernisation of district judiciary through international exposure

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Justice Yahya Khan Afridi, on Sunday briefed the first batch of 25 top-performing judicial officers selected from across the country for a bilateral judicial exchange and training programme in China, aimed at recognising professional excellence and strengthening the capacity of the district judiciary.

The pre-departure briefing was held to acknowledge the dedication, professionalism and outstanding performance of judicial officers, particularly those serving in underserved, remote and conflict-affected areas under challenging circumstances, said a press release.

The judicial officers have been nominated in consultation with the respective High Courts. The delegation represents Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Islamabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, and also includes officers serving at the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Federal Judicial Academy.

During the interaction, the Chief Justice appreciated the professionalism and resilience of the selected officers and described them as ambassadors of Pakistan's judiciary.

He urged them to uphold the dignity and values of the judicial institution while gaining insights into China's judicial practices, technological advancements and case management systems.

He emphasised that exposure to international judicial systems would broaden their professional perspectives and introduce them to innovative approaches in adjudication, court administration and institutional efficiency.

He encouraged the participants to translate their learning into practical improvements in the administration and delivery of justice in their respective jurisdictions.

The delegation will participate in the "Seminar for Judges from Pakistan", organised by the National Judges College of China from November 18 to December 1, 2026.

The two-week programme will feature specialised interactive discussions with senior Chinese judges and legal experts, along with visits to courts in Beijing and other designated locations, including Quanzhou. The initiative is being undertaken under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Supreme People's Court of China, providing a framework for enhanced bilateral judicial cooperation through professional exchanges, institutional engagement and capacity building.

## Govt committed to fostering interfaith harmony: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said the government remained steadfast in its commitment to fostering interfaith harmony and religious tolerance, safeguarding the rights of minorities and vulnerable segments of society, curbing hate speech, and advancing the National Action Plan on Human Rights, which underscores human rights education and the promotion of peace.

In a message on the International Day for Tolerance, 16 November 20226, he said, "On the occasion of the International Day for Tolerance, Pakistan joins the international community in reaffirming its commitment to mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and the protection of human dignity. The true essence of tolerance lies in respecting the beliefs, convictions and rights of others, even in the face of differences."

"Islamic teachings provide an enduring guiding light for patience, tolerance, compassion, justice and respect for humanity. The exemplary life and perfect Uswa-e-Hasana of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) provide a timeless model of patience, forbearance and kindness towards others, " he said adding, "The Constitution of Pakistan guarantees dignity, protection, equal opportunities and equality before the law to all citizens, without discrimination on the basis of colour, religion or creed."

"Pakistan's diverse society, comprising different faiths, traditions and cultures, can progress and prosper only through mutual cooperation, understanding and tolerance. Our cultural, linguistic and religious diversity is a source of strength and a valuable national asset, " he remarked.

The Prime Minister said, "The enactment of the National Commission for Minority Rights Act, 2025, represents another significant step towards strengthening the legal framework for the protection of minority rights. Translating these legal safeguards into effective institutional protection and ensuring meaningful access to justice remain among the government's foremost priorities."

"The values of tolerance and forbearance are instilled through upbringing at home, while educational institutions.

# PM Shehbaz, CDF Asim top world's 500 most influential Muslims list

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir shared the top spot in the 2027 edition of "The Muslim 500", an annual list of the world's most influential Muslims, alongside Saudi King Salman, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The 18th edition, compiled by the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre (RISSC), a research institute based in Amman, Jordan, named a joint number one for the first time. The report listed the five leaders in three entries, with the prime minister and the field marshal jointly representing Pakistan.

The decision was linked to the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, signed by Saudi Arabia, Turkiye and Pakistan on August 7. The agreement, the report said, was "modelled on a 'one for all, all for one' approach to security" and had "completely reshaped regional politics".

According to the annual list, "For the first time ever, The Muslim 500 has named a joint Number 1 for its 2027 edition," the report said, adding that the edition "captures a historic turning point, highlighting five leaders whose shared vision for collective security has completely transformed modern Islamic diplomacy."

Both PM Shehbaz and CDF Munir were in the unranked section of last year's list.

On PM Shehbaz, the report noted his previous tenure as Punjab chief minister, describing him as "known to be a workaholic and a rigorous administrator". It credited his government for "successfully pulling back from the brink of default", while noting that he had "firmly championed the pact as a purely defensive instrument of solidarity".

The publication also highlighted his role in mediating during the crisis involving the United States, Israel and Iran, saying he had "successfully positioned Pakistan as an indispensable, neutral peace mediator".



Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Ambassador Sultan Hajiyev meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on the sidelines of the 30th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers in Islamabad.

## CICA chief lauds Pakistan's role in dialogue, de-escalation

ISLAMABAD (UNA): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a meeting with Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Ambassador Sultan Hajiyev, on the sidelines of the 30th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers in Islamabad today.

During the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's support for CICA and its efforts to promote peace, security and stability in Asia through dialogue and confidence-building measures.

He also welcomed the successful convening of the 7th CICA Summit in Baku under Azerbaijan's Chairmanship.

The Secretary General appreciated Pakistan's efforts and constructive role in promoting dialogue and de-escalation.

He also thanked Pakistan for its warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for the 30th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to continued engagement and cooperation within CICA to advance shared objectives of regional peace and prosperity.

## Politics must serve people, not power: Governor

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Governor Mir Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has said that the true purpose of politics is not merely to acquire power or gain temporary popularity but to serve the people with honesty, integrity and a strong sense of responsibility.

In a statement, the governor emphasized that responsible, experienced and accountable political leadership was essential for promoting democratic values, strengthening good governance and addressing public grievances.

He said genuine political leaders earned public confidence through practical achievements, responsible conduct and consistent commitment to public welfare rather than emotional slogans, unrealistic promises or personal influence.

Mandokhail observed that people-oriented politics and responsible leadership had played a significant role in promoting economic development, overcoming social backwardness and improving living standards in developed countries.

He stressed that political parties had an important responsibility to educate citizens about their rights and duties, encourage political awareness and promote democratic attitudes within society.

## IMF urges Pakistan to end petrol subsidy scheme

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has called on Pakistan to phase out its fuel subsidy programme, stressing that any future fuel assistance should be limited, targeted and time-bound.

An IMF spokesperson said Pakistan had been asked to gradually eliminate its fuel support scheme and ensure that any such assistance is accommodated within the FY2026-27 budget.

The spokesperson said Pakistan introduced fuel subsidies in September for low-income motorcycle users. Under the scheme, motorcycle and rickshaw users receive petrol vouchers worth Rs500 per week.

Vehicles with engine capacities of up to 800cc are also being provided a discount of Rs100 per litre, the spokesperson added.

The IMF said it had called for the withdrawal of fuel subsidies under the staff-level agreement reached on October 7, arguing that the existing subsidy programme had a broad targeting mechanism and should therefore be phased out.

Pakistan is implementing economic recovery measures under the IMF's $7 billion loan programme, the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson added that Pakistan had committed to aligning domestic petroleum product prices with international market rates.



ISLAMABAD: The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, in a group photo after a pre-departure briefing session with the first batch of 25 top-performing judicial officers from across Pakistan, selected for a bilateral judicial exchange and training programme in China, at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

# CM Maryam calls for modern tech., intelligence sharing to combat organized crime

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Sunday said that organised crime poses a serious threat to social peace, stability, and development, stressing the need for coordinated efforts at every level to curb such activities.

In her message on the International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime, she said combating human trafficking, drug smuggling, and other illegal activities was an urgent need.

The chief minister noted that Punjab had witnessed a declining trend of up to 70 per cent in the overall crime rate, terming it encouraging. She stated that crime had declined by 41 per cent in Lahore, 16 per cent in Dera Ghazi Khan, 52 per cent in Bahawalpur, and 32 per cent in Sheikhupura.

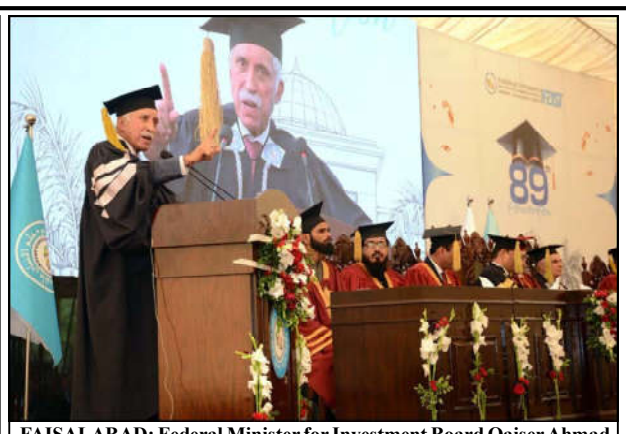
Similarly, crime had decreased by 47 per cent in Multan, 36 per cent in Rawalpindi, 42 per cent in Sahiwal, 67 per cent in Gujranwala, and 58 per cent in Gujrat, she added.

CM Maryam Nawaz said the establishment of District Safe City Authorities, mobile police stations, and digital smart policing initiatives in Punjab was yielding positive results. She stressed that law enforcement agencies needed to play a more effective and proactive role in establishing a crime-free society, adding that modern technology, intelligence sharing, and a coordinated strategy were essential to dismantle criminal networks.

The chief minister stated that the rule of law, protection of citizens, and indiscriminate action against criminal elements were essential for a peaceful and secure society. She highlighted that protecting women and children from human trafficking and exploitation, as well as safeguarding young people from drugs and criminal activities, remained key priorities.

CM Maryam Nawaz emphasized that public awareness, enhanced capacity of police and law enforcement agencies, and cooperation among international organizations and relevant countries were vital to combating organized crime, reiterating her commitment to building a peaceful, secure, and just society.

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**FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Investment Board Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh is addressing the 89th Annual Convocation of FAST National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Chiniot-Faisalabad Campus.**

# Italian Foreign Ministry Secretary General calls on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): Italian Foreign Ministry Secretary General Riccardo Guariglia called on Sindh Governor Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi at Governor House on Sunday.

Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Ugo Ciarlatani and Consul General Fabrizio Bielli were also present during the meeting.

The meeting focused on bilateral relations between Pakistan and Italy, with particular emphasis on enhancing mutual trade and economic cooperation.

The two sides discussed opportunities to expand access for Pakistani marble and granite to international markets.

Emphasis was also placed on introducing Pakistani products to European markets and increasing Pakistan's exports.

The Italian Ambassador stated that the launch of direct flights between Pakistan and Italy could further strengthen trade and people-to-people relations between the two countries.

The meeting also explored new opportunities for investment, industrial cooperation and business linkages between Pakistan and Italy.

Both sides expressed their commitment to transforming the longstanding friendly relations between Pakistan and Italy into a strong and mutually beneficial trade and economic partnership.

# Section 144 enforced across Bannu to maintain law and order

BANNU (INP): Section 144 has been imposed across the Bannu district in view of the law and order situation.

Under the imposition of Section 144, public gatherings and protest rallies have been banned in the district for a period of one month.

Additionally, blocking roads, creating hurdles, and displaying arms and ammunition are strictly prohibited during this time.

Pillion riding and the use of tinted glasses will also remain banned across the district under Section 144.

Earlier, taking timely action, Peshawar police foiled a Fitna al-Khawarij attack on a police check post at the Bannu Kangar bridge, killing four terrorists, ARY News reported, citing the City Police Officer (CPO).

According to the CPO, arms and ammunition were also recovered from the possession of the slain terrorists. The CPO stated that the terrorists, belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij, cowardly attacked the police check post last night at Kangar bridge, but the attack was successfully repulsed.

Meanwhile, Inspector General (IG) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) said that foiling the attack in the dead of night is proof of the police's valor.

# Governor reviews health sector reforms, stresses improved healthcare delivery in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday chaired a special briefing at the Governor House on the province's health sector, where Adviser to the Governor on Health Lt Gen ® Nigar Johar presented a comprehensive overview of the existing healthcare system, key challenges and the government's short and medium-term reform agenda aimed at improving public health services.

The briefing was attended by provincial advisers, senior civil officers and representatives of the media. Lt Gen ® Nigar Johar informed the participants about the current state of public hospitals and healthcare centres, shortage of medical staff, maternal and child health indicators, immunisation coverage and ongoing and proposed reforms in the health sector.

According to the briefing, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has an estimated population of 31.89 million, with 81 per cent living in rural areas and 19 per cent in urban centres. The provincial health department has a workforce of 30, 697 healthcare personnel, including 8, 024 doctors, 3, 970 nurses, 8, 252 paramedics and 10, 451 Lady Health Workers. The province has 18, 432 hospital beds in the public sector, while the World Health Organization recommends 18 beds per 10, 000 population. The briefing noted that additional investment is required to increase hospital capacity, healthcare facilities and human resources in line with population growth.

Participants were informed that the neonatal mortality rate stands at 42 per 1, 000 live births, the infant mortality rate at 53 per 1, 000, while the maternal mortality ratio is 165 per 100, 000 live births. Under-five mortality is 64 per 1, 000 live births, while child stunting has reached 40 per cent. Immunisation coverage currently stands at 68 per cent, with a target to increase it to 78 per cent. The briefing highlighted that 71 Basic Health Units in the merged and newly notified districts remain non-functional due to difficult terrain, long travel distances and security concerns.




**HYDERABAD: Provincial Minister for Food Makhdoom Mehboob Zaman offers dua after inaugurating the Design Building at SABS University of Art, Design and Heritages, Jamshoro, on the occasion of the 21st Degree Show.**

# Dr Qaiser Bashir appointed Dean of Nawaz Sharif Cancer Institute on merit: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has said that the appointment of internationally renowned Pakistani-origin oncologist Professor Dr Qaiser Bashir as Dean of the Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Treatment and Research was made on the recommendation of a selection committee and with the approval of the provincial cabinet.

In a statement on Sunday, the minister dismissed reports regarding the dean's salary as baseless, clarifying that Dr Bashir would be paid after deduction of applicable taxes. He said the appointment was aimed at transforming the institute into an international centre of excellence for cancer treatment, research, medical education and advanced therapies.

Dr Bashir previously served as Professor of Stem Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapy at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, one of the leading cancer institutions in the United States. A graduate of King Edward Medical University, Lahore, he completed his MBBS in August 2001 before receiving advanced training in Internal Medicine, Haematology and Medical Oncology in the US. He also completed clinical fellowships at the University of Colorado and MD Anderson Cancer Center.

According to the minister, Dr Bashir has an extensive research portfolio, comprising 165 peer-reviewed original research publications, besides review articles, research letters and book chapters. His work has appeared in leading international journals, including 'The Lancet Haematology', 'Blood', 'Journal of Clinical Oncology' and 'Blood Advances'.

Salman Rafique said considerable efforts had been made to bring an internationally experienced Pakistani medical expert back home to help develop the institute into a comprehensive facility offering advanced cancer treatment, stem cell and bone marrow transplantation, cellular therapies, modern diagnostic services, scientific research and medical education.

He said the Rs75-billion Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Treatment and Research was being constructed in Lahore and had been opened to the public. The facility would cater to patients from across Pakistan, rather than serving only Lahore or Punjab, he added.

The minister said the institute would operate in accordance with Joint Commission International (JCI) standards, similar to those followed by the Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI).

# PPP Sindh, Karachi leadership reviews venues for Nov 30 Foundation Day gathering

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party Sindh General Secretary Senator Waqar Mehdi, PPP Karachi Division President Saeed Ghani, General Secretary Rauf Nagori, Information Secretary MNA Dr. Sharmila Faruqi and Deputy Information Secretary Asif Khan visited Districts Keamari, Central and West as part of ongoing preparations for the party's November 30 Foundation Day jalsa.

Also present during the visits were PPP District Central President Sardar Khan, District West President Abid Satti and MPA Liaquat Askani, a communique said.

During the visits, the senior leadership inspected various proposed venues for the public gathering and held meetings with district office bearers, local leadership and party workers to review organisational preparations and mobilisation efforts. The leadership emphasised the importance of strengthening coordination between district organisations and ensuring the active participation of party workers in the upcoming Foundation Day celebrations.

They reiterated that November 30 holds immense historical and political significance for the Pakistan Peoples Party, symbolising its enduring struggle for democracy, constitutional supremacy and the rights of the people.




**HYDERABAD: Members of Sindh Police Waiting Candidate Action Committee going to Karachi during a Long March from Sukkur to Karachi for achieve their rights.**

# First snowfall draws tourists to Galiyat, boosting local business

NATHIAGALI (INP): The first snowfall of the winter season transformed the picturesque Galiyat and adjoining mountain valleys into a breathtaking winter wonderland, attracting thousands of tourists from the plains who flocked to the scenic destinations to witness nature's spectacular display of white beauty.

As delicate snowflakes descended over Nathiagali, Ayubia, Dongagali, Khanspur and surrounding areas of Abbottabad district, pine forests, mountain slopes, rooftops and winding roads were wrapped in a pristine white blanket, creating a magical landscape that offered visitors a welcome escape from the hustle and bustle of urban life.

The snowfall brought an extraordinary change to the otherwise tranquil hill resorts, filling them with the laughter of children, the excitement of families and clicking of cameras as visitors captured memorable moments against the backdrop of snow-covered mountains and misty valleys, sharing their experiences with loved ones through social media.

For many tourists, particularly those arriving from the relatively warmer plains of Peshawar, Mardan, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Islamabad and other cities, the first snowfall was not merely a weather event but an opportunity to experience winter in its most enchanting form.

Families walked through snow-covered pathways, children played with freshly fallen snow, youngsters built snow figures, while elderly visitors admired the mountains disappearing behind drifting clouds.

For photography enthusiasts, every turn offered a new frame, with snow-laden pine trees and mountain ridges providing a spectacular natural backdrop at Nathiagali, Thandiani, Ayubia in Abbottabad district and Naran, Kaghan and Babusar Top.

The changing weather added further charm to the Galiyat experience following recent snowfall at Nathiagali and Naran, where at one moment, thick clouds enveloped the mountain peaks and moderate snowfall reduced visibility and moments later, sunshine broke through the clouds, illuminating the snow-covered heights of Mukshpuri and Miranjani at Galiyat.

# Two killed, one injured in separate incidents across Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Two people lost their lives and another was injured in three separate incidents across Karachi on Sunday morning.

According to rescue sources, a 50-year-old man, identified as Farooq Sheikh, was killed after a vehicle hit his motorcycle in the Orangi Town neighborhood.

His body was shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

In a separate incident, rescue sources said a young man was electrocuted at his home on Tara Chand Road in Keamari on Sunday morning. His body was moved to Civil Hospital Karachi.

Meanwhile, a man sustained injuries while resisting a robbery on the Native Jetty Bridge near Tower. Rescue sources identified the victim as 30-year-old Nisar Ahmed. He was rushed to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) for medical treatment.

# Punjab launches e-portal for recruitment of principals in 76 govt colleges

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Higher Education Department has launched an e-portal to invite applications for the appointment of principals in 76 government colleges across the province under the fifth phase of the recruitment process.

According to the department, applications have been invited for vacant male and female principal positions, and interested candidates can submit their applications online through the designated e-portal.

The deadline for submission of applications has been set for 5:00pm on November 20, 2026.

The appointments will be made to fill vacant principal posts in government colleges across Punjab, while candidates have been directed to complete the application process online before the stipulated deadline.

The department has also issued instructions to the Director of Public Instruction (Colleges) and all divisional directors regarding the recruitment process.

# Lahore returns to top of world's most polluted cities list

LAHORE (INP): Polluted air brought Lahore on the top of the most polluted cities of the world on Sunday, posing threat to the public health.

The Air Quality Index recorded 269 reading in Lahore today with wind speed five kilometers per hour. The air quality could improve with increase in the speed of wind in the city to 11 kilometers per hour in the noon, officials said.

The AQI reading recorded 183 in Faisalabad, 177 in Rahim Yar Khan, 174 in Gujranwala and 172 in Bahawalpur in the province.

Air pollution and smog causes breathing problems, irritation in eyes and souring throats, health experts said.

The experts have advised citizens to avoid unnecessarily going out of homes.

Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that the weather conditions could not be controlled but controlling local sources of pollution has been our responsibility. She said that no leniency being shown to control local sources of pollution.

Provincial minister urged farmers to avoid burning of remainder of crops, "Citizens shall avoid to create smoke and be carefull about the environment".

The air pollution and smog haunts Punjab with the onset of the winter. In previous years authorities made desperate efforts to contain smog in cities. The province grappled with severe air pollution, which soared to alarming levels, causing serious public health issues.

For days, Lahore was enveloped by smog, a mix of fog and pollutants, caused by low-grade diesel fumes, smoke from seasonal agricultural burning as temperatures drop with cooling air.

Air pollution level in Lahore, once soared to more than 80 times of the level deemed hygienic by the World Health Organization (WHO).

# Two suspects in Rs90mn robbery escape police custody in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Two suspects detained in connection with a robbery worth Rs90 million at a trader's home in Karachi's Gadap area reportedly misled police officers and escaped custody. They also took a police officer's motorcycle as they fled. The Sindh Inspector General of Police (IGP) has taken notice and sought an immediate report from senior officials.

According to media reports, three suspects, including a goldsmith, were involved in the robbery at the trader's home and had been arrested and held by Gadap police.

However, amid alleged security negligence, two of the three suspects managed to escape after misleading police officers. They also took a motorcycle belonging to an officer at the scene, raising serious questions about police security and surveillance.

Police records show that the major robbery took place at a local trader's home in Gadap around four months ago. During the incident, armed suspects fled with 200 tolas of gold, silver and Rs2.5 million in cash. The combined value of the stolen gold, silver and cash was said to be around Rs90 million. A case was formally registered at Gadap police station, and police reached the suspects after a lengthy investigation.

# Eidgah-Chongra road, Bridge and Water channel near Completion in Astore

ASTORE (INP): A major development project provided by former Gilgit-Baltistan Home Minister Shams-ul-Haq Lone for the people of Eidgah and Chongra has entered its final stages of completion. The project includes the construction of the Eidgah-Chongra Link Road, an RCC bridge and the Eidgah Water Channel.

Its completion is expected to significantly improve road connectivity, irrigation facilities and access to basic services for local residents, while helping resolve their long-standing problems.

With the special directions of Commissioner Diamer-Astore Division Azeemullah Khan and continuous efforts of the district administration, a development project that once appeared difficult to complete has been made possible within a short period of just two months.

The district administration is maintaining close coordination with the concerned departments and contractor to ensure the timely completion of the project and provision of basic facilities to the people. In this connection, Commissioner Diamer-Astore Division Azeemullah Khan, accompanied by the district administration officials, visited the project site and inspected the ongoing construction work.

He also reviewed the progress made so far. Contractor Fareed Gohar, SDO Works Department, elders of Eidgah and other relevant officials were also present on the occasion. During the visit, Commissioner Azeemullah Khan highlighted the importance of the project and said that providing basic facilities to the public and completing development projects in remote areas on time were among the top priorities of the district administration.

He directed the concerned officials and contractor to ensure quality construction without any compromise and complete the project within the given timeframe so that local residents could benefit from it at the earliest.

Later, Commissioner Azeemullah Khan also spoke to the media and shared details about the progress of the project. On the occasion, the elders of Eidgah, including community head Sadaqat Ali, appreciated the ongoing efforts and termed the progress towards completion of the project an important development.

It is worth mentioning that earlier, in the presence of Assistant Commissioner Headquarters Muhammad Shoaib Ahmed, contractor Fareed Gohar had assured that the project would be completed by December 1. He had also given a firm commitment to the Assistant Commissioner to complete the work within the announced deadline.

# Japanese Atsushi Crew holds Interactive dance workshop for Edhi Home children

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Japan Cultural Association Sindh, under the auspices of the Consulate General of Japan in Karachi, organised a special dance performance and interactive workshop for children from Edhi Home and Kiran Foundation at Tulip Hall, Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi. The Consul General Masaru Hattori attended as the Chief Guest.

Atsushi Crew, a Japanese dance group visiting Karachi to participate in the Third Edition of the World Culture Festival organised by the Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi, presented a special performance on the invitation of PJCA Sindh. The group also conducted an interactive dance workshop, involving the children in learning and performing dance movements alongside the Japanese artists, making it a memorable occasion filled with joy and laughter.

Addressing the gathering, Sadia Rashid, President PJCA Sindh, and Masaru Hattori highlighted the importance of such initiatives in strengthening friendship, mutual understanding and cultural ties between Pakistan and Japan.

They appreciated Atsushi Crew for sharing their talent and happiness with the children and providing them with an opportunity to enjoy a memorable experience. Ms. Sadia Rashid also expressed her special gratitude to Dinshaw B. Avari, Chairman of Avari Group and Jamil Mughal, General Manger of McDonald's Pakistan for their generous support in making the event successful.

During their interaction with Shahzad Niaz, Executive Committee Member of PJCA Sindh, Mr. Atsushi Suzuki and his team shared that their perception of Pakistan before arrival had largely been shaped by negative impressions.

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## Growing crisis

An emergency can be judged by the speed with which it draws an effective response. The National Population Council's executive committee has declared rapid population growth a national emergency. But Pakistan has been warned about this crisis for decades, with little to show for it.

People still struggle to obtain reproductive healthcare, clinics run short of contraceptives, and millions of couples lack the information and services needed to plan families. The 2023 census recorded an annual population growth rate of 2.55pc, placing further pressure on schools, hospitals, housing, jobs and water supplies. The state cannot keep announcing plans while failing to provide basic services.

One key decision taken at the meeting was to improve the tracking of contraceptive supplies. But collecting data is only the first step. Provinces must ensure that clinics are adequately equipped, healthcare workers are trained and family planning services reach remote and neglected communities. Religious scholars can also help address misconceptions about birth spacing, particularly by explaining its benefits for mothers and children.

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal has raised another important issue: the National Finance Commission formula, which gives population an 82pc weight in the distribution of provincial resources. His concern that the formula may reward population growth deserves attention.

However, simply giving provinces more money for reducing birth rates could create fresh problems. Provinces with larger, poorer populations already face greater demands for schools, hospitals and other services. Cutting their share would only make these problems worse.

Instead, the government should consider rewarding provinces that improve access to family planning, girls' education and maternal healthcare, while ensuring that funding reflects their actual needs. Above all, the authorities must recognise that population planning is about helping people make informed choices, not merely bringing down numbers.

Calling population growth a national emergency is easy. Ensuring that the response reaches the people who need it is the real challenge.

# Middle power aspirations

**Khurram Abbas**

As the global order shifts away from unipolarity toward fragmented multipolarity, middle powers have gained unprecedented strategic weight. In a fragmented multipolar world, middle powers serve as indispensable diplomatic bridges and economic shock absorbers that keep the international system functioning despite great-power paralysis.

Middle powers lack hegemonic ambitions, and retain the credibility to mediate active conflicts, build agile issue-specific coalitions, and maintain open trade and supply-chain corridors across rival blocs. Ultimately, these middle powers are preventing total global bifurcation of the international system between Washington and Beijing by stabilising their immediate regions and upholding international rules.

However, scholars and policymakers rarely agree on a single checklist for middle power status, largely because different states exert influence through different mechanisms. Some, such as South Korea or Australia, earn the label through thriving, high-tech economies and global trade integration. Others, like Norway or Qatar, leverage niche diplomacy and active mediation to punch above their geographic weight. Still others, such as Türkiye and Pakistan, rely primarily on formidable military capabilities and regional security projection.

Scholars generally evaluate middle power status across three core pillars including military capability, diplomatic outreach, and comprehensive national strength. National strength is largely defined by sustainable economic vitality and technological adaptation.

Over the past two years, Pakistan has demonstrated a resurgence in the first two arenas, vaulting itself back into global strategic relevance. Yet, because its third and most foundational pillar remains weak, Pakistan's recognition as an emerging middle power rests on a fragile foundation that cannot endure without a decisive domestic economic pivot.

A credible middle power must possess the military capacity to defend its sovereignty and project stabilising influence across its neighbourhood. Between 2025 and 2026, Pakistan highlighted its hard-power credentials through both high-intensity deterrence and institutionalised defence partnerships.

History shows that hard power and ingenious statecraft cannot substitute for domestic economic strength.

During the brief but severe four-day conflict with India in May 2025, South Asia witnessed its first multi-domain confrontation integrating aerial clashes, drone swarms, and precision missile exchanges. Pakistan's military response, culminating in Operation Bunyanum Marsoos, demonstrated modern warfare capabilities and aerial superiority. Pakistan's swift military response compelled a rapid White House-facilitated ceasefire on May 10. By denying a larger neighbour unilateral escalation dominance, Islamabad reinforced its conventional and strategic deterrence.

Since May 2025, Pakistan translated its battlefield credibility into a web of security pacts across the Middle East and the Muslim world.

In September 2025, Islamabad and Riyadh signed the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement, and in August 2026, Pakistan joined Saudi Arabia and Türkiye to sign the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement. These pacts not only created a formal collective deterrence network but also enhanced Islamabad's strategic utility in the Gulf. The Badr agreement with Türkiye, Qatar, and Indonesia, has further strengthened Pakistan's position as a net security provider of Arab Gulf states.

Beyond military muscle, middle powers distinguish themselves through niche diplomacy. Following the outbreak of direct US-Israeli military hostilities against Iran in early 2026, traditional Gulf mediators found their channels strained. Adopting a posture of active neutrality, Islamabad stepped in.

In March 2026, the US accepted Pakistan's role as a primary conduit to Tehran, which led to the historic Islamabad peace talks in April 2026 and the subsequent June MoU that temporarily reopened the Strait of Hormuz. Even as the truce faced repeated strain through late 2026, the civil and military leadership of Pakistan continued shuttling proposals between Washington, Tehran, and European capitals. The decision to join Trump's Gaza peace plan as a founding member also proved Islamabad could exercise diplomatic power beyond its immediate borders.

However, despite these military and diplomatic milestones, history demonstrates that hard power and ingenious statecraft cannot substitute for domestic economic strength. In this third pillar, Pakistan exhibits severe structural deficits that undermine its middle power aspirations.

Macroeconomic indicators showed surface stabilisation in FY2025-26 with inflation remaining between 7-9 per cent and GDP growth edging up to 3.7pc. However, the underlying growth model remains weak. For instance, investment hovers near 15pc of GDP, far below the 20-plus per cent threshold required to sustain the 6pc growth rates needed to absorb a booming youth population. Deindustrialisation and high energy costs continue to stifle export competitiveness. Foreign investors are largely concerned with the security situation in Balochistan and KP. Unrest in AJK has further marred prospects of foreign direct investment.

The privatisation process is critically slow, while political consensus is absent over reforms for new provinces. With a low tax-to-GDP ratio and heavy external debt servicing, state solvency still relies heavily on remittances, multilateral bailouts, bilateral rollovers (such as a $3 billion Saudi cash deposit in April 2026) rather than productive capital formation.

Hence, Pakistan today represents a textbook case of an asymmetric emerging middle power. Its disciplined military and seasoned diplomatic corps have successfully leveraged regional crises to earn Islamabad a seat at high-stakes global tables. However, geopolitical leverage built on security crises and external rent is inherently transactional. When regional wars subside or great-power priorities shift, Islamabad — lacking economic autonomy and technological innovation — will risk losing its strategic relevance. Therefore, to cement its status as a genuine middle power, Pakistan must execute an urgent domestic pivot. This requires dismantling elite economic capture, broadening the tax base, overhauling education to build a tech-literate workforce, and enhancing an export-driven industrial base. Until Islamabad matches its battlefield deterrence and diplomatic agility with sustainable economic sovereignty, its middle power status will remain an aspiration suspended over a precarious fault line.

# Good girl rules

**Muna Khan**

I started watching Dar-i-Nijaat because my friend Sahar has been writing about the drama, and we have agreed on most things for longer than either of us would like to admit. Not this time. Sahar sees a story about compassion. I see a story about conditions. It may be the first time we have so firmly disagreed. Thankfully, we have been friends far longer than Abu Bakar has been on air. He won't come between us.

Because that is who everyone is talking about. Abu Bakar, the patient husband half of South Asia seems to have fallen for. I expected to write about him. Instead, I am thinking about Zaryab, who I spent most of the show frustrated with. I am still not sure what the story is asking of her. But I know exactly what everyone else is.

They want gratitude. A woman with a past has been taken in by a good man, and she should know how lucky she is. They want shame. Her relationship with Zamil before marriage, which writer Umera Ahmed confirmed when a fan asked her online, is treated as a stain that must be visible before it can be washed away. And they want a change of heart, ideally a dramatic one, so that by the end, the girl who once put a man ahead of Harvard can be returned to us as a "good wife."

Zaryab, to her credit or her cost, does not initially cooperate. She is sharp, self-absorbed and frequently unbearable. I notice that much of the irritation around her comes with a rulebook attached. A lot of us are not just judging a character. We are checking whether she has behaved correctly as a woman who has fallen.

We seem to prefer the penitent over the feminist.

That rulebook is old. Pakistani television has always sorted its women. The good girl is patient, modest and forgiving, and she is rewarded with love, a home and, eventually, respect. The bad girl wants things. She is ambitious, impatient or careless with her reputation, and she is punished, cast out or redeemed only when someone better decides she is worth saving. Salvation is not something Zaryab earns; it is something Abu Bakar extends. The story decides she is worth saving because a good man decides she is.

So who writes these rules?

The easy answer is the writer. Umera Ahmed has built a career on stories of faith and redemption, and I guess she does it well — this is the first play of hers I'm watching. I got sucked in, despite myself. But a writer does not work alone. There are producers who choose which stories get made, channels that decide what fills prime time, and actors who shape how a character lands. The company that produced the drama was co-founded by ARY's chief executive and by Sheheryar Munawar, who plays Abu Bakar. The man at the centre of the story also helped bring it to the screen.

And then there is us. The drama's makers say it has drawn more than 1.7 billion views across social media. We fill the comment sections with verdicts. She doesn't deserve him. She should be grateful. Wait until she learns her lesson. Every season, the industry learns what we reward, and gives us more of it.

It wasn't always like this. There are so many great roles to cite about prickly, ambitious and unapologetic women who wanted more than the life they were born into. These women made mistakes. Nobody asked them to be grateful for their own lives.

I haven't watched every drama, and I know there are writers still giving us women with spines. But a single drama is a story. A shift is a signal. When the women who draw the biggest audiences are the ones who are forgiven rather than the ones who fight, it tells us something about what we have come to expect of women, on screen and off. We seem to prefer the penitent over the feminist.

# Judges must speak

**Justice (retd) Syed Mansoor Ali Shah**

A judgment is a public document, written in the name of the Constitution and delivered in open court. The people may read it, praise it and criticise it, and the academy, bar, press and civil society should do so freely. Criticism is not the enemy of judicial authority; it is its source. A judiciary whose judgments are never read critically will never grow.

One voice is largely missing from that conversation: the judge who wrote the judgment. In Pakistan, judges mostly retire into silence. That must change. Retired judges must come out among the people, above all into the law schools, and explain their reasoning, or say, with hindsight: "I think I got that one wrong." Such candour teaches the profession and builds public trust and confidence in the institution. A sitting judge who knows retirement means facing the public will brush nothing under the carpet.

A judgment open to criticism falls into one of three kinds. The first plainly violates the Constitution and the law. The second was legally permissible when given, but its consequences proved damaging. The third is the judgment in which the judge was complicit, bending the law to reach an outcome decided elsewhere.

To assess one, read it whole and in context: the moment, the circumstances, the law as it then stood. Then ask whether it was permissible, plainly wrong, or the judge simply listening to power.

Let me test three of my own.

In Pakistan, judges mostly retire into silence. That must change.

In the 2023 case on Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa elections, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and I wanted the high courts to decide first: Lahore had already ordered elections, with appeals pending, and Peshawar was seized of the petitions. Law and practice both counselled that restraint. We read the outcome as four to three, because two colleagues who had already voted to dismiss could not, in our view, be dropped from the count; Justice Athar Minallah, one of them, recorded as much.

In hindsight, the mistake, I believe, was the chief justice's hurried leap in; hearing the matter in appeal, the court could have spoken with one voice. Had we set the count aside and presented a united court, whether that would have produced elections is anyone's guess. Later, the chief justice's own bench rejected the four-three objection and fixed May 14 for Punjab polls, yet could not enforce it. The date passed, contempt was never pursued, and the court fell silent.

The larger lesson is that a court must stand united, and the chief justice's strength is the real spine that holds it together. The Supreme Court as it stands today shows how much rests on that spine.

In the Justice Qazi Faez Isa case, the court unanimously quashed the reference, the majority for malice in law; I held it malicious in fact as well. The majority directed the FBR to examine the family's properties and report to the council; three of us held that no direction was needed, the FBR being free to act under the tax law. On review, that view prevailed.

No one is above the law, and no one below its protection: a judge's spouse answers under the tax law, a judge under the Code of Conduct, only in accordance with law. I am often asked whether we saved the wrong man. We saved due process and the independence of the judiciary, and in doing so we saved a man. What people thought of him later was not our concern then. A judgment is not a character certificate.

In the Practice and Procedure case, I believed, and still believe, that the court had to become collegial rather than be run by one man. Opening the door was not itself the mistake; so long as the court stood united, no one could have walked through it. What we failed to see was that the court was weak within, and weakness inside invites those outside. And it did: a 2024 ordinance gave the chief justice's nominee a seat on the bench-forming committee. Had earlier chief justices brought in the collegial model through the full court, that door need never have opened from outside. This is a lesson, not an accusation.

Each choice was made in good faith, within the law. In hindsight, wiser choices may have been available, but choosing in the moment is the judicial function, and there the judge must be trusted. Unless a judge was complicit, there is nothing to apologise for, only lessons to share.

What must worry us most is complicity. It is not an error of judgment but a surrender of it, and it has hollowed out our courts. A judgment bent to power may be overruled, but the betrayal stays on the record. Error is part of judging. Capitulation is not. And complicity has a way of showing its face, in the promotions, benefits and advantages that later reward it. Today, that trail must be made visible.

A word to the critics. Those quick to call out judicial error must be as open-hearted in acknowledging courage. Dissent, refusal of oath and resignation are the building blocks of an independent judiciary. Ask what a judge gained by resigning when a simple yes would have secured everything. Nothing, except the honour of the institution. Criticism that records every failure and never that courage leaves the next generation no one to look up to.

So let the conversation begin, and let it be honest. Let judges speak: give the context of their decisions, own their errors without fear and explain their choices without apology. And let complicity be named for what it is.

Judicial independence has never been absolute. Sadly, there has always been a chink in the armour, a door left ajar, and someone willing to push it open. No single judgment or judge will close that door. But an honest and open conversation, carried from one generation to the next, can. That will be the real victory: not a court that never errs, but a court with no door through which power can enter.

# Contested frontier

**Aamir Khan**

In a new movie starring Salman Khan, Bollywood has smartly invested in a tale that can reap financial benefits by inflaming the emotions of Indians still traumatised by 1962. But behind the Galwan incident of 2020 lies a tale that is far more fascinating than the movie itself: the riveting story of the Sino-Indian border.

But let us rewind first to the 19th century, when Russia and Britain were fearful that their nemesis was advancing towards an area stretching from present-day Afghanistan to Tibet. Kashmir had come under British control in 1846, but it was not clear where the boundary lay between Ladakh and Tibet. A map drawn by W.H. Johnson suggested that Aksai Chin lay within Kashmir, but later, in 1899, the British proposed a different boundary to China, which showed that a big chunk of Aksai Chin belonged to the latter. In short, there was neither delimitation (verbal or written agreement) nor demarcation (marking the line on the ground) of the border between China and British India in the Western Sector.

Enter the Eastern Sector. Here, again, no boundary existed between China and British India, but the latter did adhere to the so-called Inner and Outer Lines. However, in 1913-14, the momentous Simla Conference was held, attended by representatives of British India, China and Tibet. Britain proposed dividing Tibet into Inner and Outer zones. A weak China asked its envoy to leave and thus, in a moment of great wisdom, saved itself from calamity. However, Tibet, which was claimed by China on the basis of both international treaties and custom, and Britain did sign an agreement, a secret part of which specified the McMahon Line (MML) as the border between India and Chinese Tibet. The border was thus delimited but not demarcated, and was not agreed upon by China. The line was drawn by a marker whose width on the map would cover many mountain crests.

Move forward to 1959. By now, India had gained independence, China had moved from weakness to strength and re-established control over Tibet, the Dalai Lama had fled Tibet to seek refuge in India, Nehru was firmly in command of India, and had extended India's control up to the MML, but there was still no boundary in the Western Sector. And China had been suggesting to India that they stabilise the border, to no avail.

Nehru completely misread what China wanted.

Nehru was a great leader with two minor blemishes: he ruined India's economy and he ruined India's relations with China. He now made three pivotal blunders which would have a long-term impact. First, he completely misread what China wanted. China wanted to settle the border with India around the MML, with one proviso: negotiations on the MML should be held afresh. Why? Remember, the MML was agreed upon by the British and the Tibetans. If China agreed to the MML, it would have to admit that Tibet in 1913-14 was independent.

Second, Aksai Chin, some 15,000sq miles of barren land, was of no use to India but was vital to China because of the presence of a road which connects Tibet with Xinjiang. China would have ceded the Nor-th-East Frontier Agency's (NEFA) 40,000sq miles to India but would never have accepted Indian control over Aksai Chin.

Third, in one of the most self-harming moves, Nehru initiated his infamous 'For-w-ard Policy.' Remember, the borders in both sectors were not demarcated. And we are talking about some of the highest, roughest landscapes here. Nehru ordered Indian troops to move forward and start occupying the spaces in between the Chinese outposts, and even fire upon the Chinese to vacate their posts. The Ind-ian generals warned Nehru aga-inst this madness, but to no avail. A senior Chi-n-ese diplomat told me, "they started cutting up our soldiers to pieces and we did not move a muscle."

On Oct 20, 1962, the Chinese, fed up, attacked across both sectors. The Indian 7 Brigade dissolved into thin air. The war was over as soon as it began. The Chinese occupied NEFA, and, in one of the most astonishing moments in world history, declared that they would unilaterally withdraw.

The war left Nehru's reputation in tatters. It 'gifted' Kashmir to Pakistan on a silver platter, and led India into making a U-turn and accepting the West's military aid. The war also sowed the seeds of an enmity which was many times more prono-unced in an India where the population was never told the truth than in China, where much saner minds had been in command.

In 2026, when Salman Khan's movie on the Galwan incident of 2020 is released to an emotional population, the latter will not be told that it was Nehru's hubris, intransigence and folly which had led to this state of affairs.

History can be more fascinating than Bollywood movies.

# Railways to add 36 locomotives to operational fleet by 2027

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is planning to bring up to 36 non-operational locomotives back into service by June 2027 in a bid to improve train operations, facilitate passengers and enhance the department's revenue.

"Pakistan Railways currently has a fleet of 439 locomotives, of which 267 are operational while 172 remain non-operational, " an official in the Ministry told APP.

He said the department was taking several measures to restore out-of-service locomotives to operational condition to strengthen its capacity and generate additional revenue.

Giving details, the official said that 16 non-operational locomotives were expected to become operational by February 2027, while another 20 locomotives would be available for service after major overhauls by the end of 2026.

The official said that one accidental locomotive, bearing No. 9021, was also expected to be restored after necessary repairs and fitment by June 2027.

Regarding the modernization of the existing fleet, he said that a PC-I for the modernization of 35 locomotives had been submitted to the MPD&SI and the Ministry of Planning; however, it had not yet been considered.

Meanwhile, he said Pakistan Railways has also contacted the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) to explore the restoration of 69 locomotives, with efforts underway to bring them back into operation. He said the restoration of these locomotives is expected to improve the availability of engines, strengthen train operations and help Pakistan Railways increase its passenger and freight earnings.

To a question, he said to enhance on-board passenger facilitation, state-of-the-art dining cars and modern coaches have been introduced on Shalimar Express, Pak Business Express, and Islamabad Express. LED screens with preloaded programs and water dispensers have been installed, while comprehensive janitorial services are now provided on all trains, he added.

He said the enhanced services are also available on outsourced trains, including Green Line, Pak Business, Shah Hussain, Subak Raftar, Subak Kharam, Rawal Express, and Islamabad Express.

The premium dining cars are operational on Khyber Mail, Allama Iqbal Express, and Rehman Baba, while complimentary services such as high tea, bedding, newspapers, hygiene kits, and mineral water are being offered on seven premium trains. Train hostesses have also been introduced on Islamabad Express, he added.



QUETTA: People busy in shop daily commodities form Joint Road Lunda Bazaar under Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Flyover.



LAHORE: People shop for used crockery and other household items at a roadside market on Patiala Road.

# Digital commerce offers massive employment opportunities amid widespread job cuts

MULTAN (APP): Digital commerce is emerging as a major source of employment and business opportunities amid widespread job cuts, as Pakistan's rapidly expanding digital landscape offers enormous potential for e-commerce growth through artificial intelligence, technological innovation and internet-based services transforming businesses worldwide.

E-commerce is no longer confined to selling products through online platforms; rather, it has evolved into a comprehensive business model requiring seamless customer engagement, personalized shopping experiences and efficient services across multiple digital channels.

E-commerce experts Habib Wahab, Aon Raza and Faizan highlighted the need for a customer-focused digital business environment, improved supply chains and reliable payment systems to enable Pakistani businesses to compete in international markets.

According to global market research shared by the Empowerer Institute, worldwide retail e-commerce sales were projected to exceed $5 trillion in 2022 and reach approximately $7 trillion by 2025, reflecting the growing significance of digital trade in the global economy.

The research noted that Pakistan was ranked the 37th-largest e-commerce market worldwide in 2021, generating approximately $5.9 billion in e-commerce revenue. The country's market was projected to reach $7.66 billion in 2022, with further growth expected in subsequent years.

It also indicated that Pakistan's e-commerce market recorded 45 per cent growth in 2021, while contributing 15 per cent to worldwide e-commerce growth during the same year.

Habib Wahab said increasing internet penetration, lower transaction costs and the convenience of online shopping had created new opportunities for businesses in Pakistan. Meanwhile, Aon Raza observed that major urban centers, including Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi and Multan, had emerged as important markets for digital trade.

# Meeting reviews progress on 180-Day livestock farmer reform road map

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Livestock, Asif Rafiq Sunday reviewed implementation and performance of province's 180-day reform roadmap aimed at facilitating livestock farmers.

Accompanied by Secretary Livestock, Asif Rafiq said that core objective of initiative is to prioritize projects that deliver direct, tangible benefits to ordinary farmers, livestock owners, and fishermen across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Addressing participants at meeting, He said that individuals working in livestock, fisheries, and cooperative sectors serve as backbone of provincial rural economy. He said that their efforts not only sustain livelihoods of millions of families but are also critical to meeting province's demand for milk and meat.

He said that providing livestock farmers with adequate facilities and targeted financial support is essential for reducing rural poverty, expanding employment opportunities, and strengthening broader provincial economy.

To achieve these outcomes, KP government has formulated a comprehensive 180-day action plan to provide direct assistance to livestock rearers and fishermen, with accelerated measures already underway for its execution.

The primary aim of the roadmap is to modernize sector by replacing traditional practices with advanced technology, digitalization, transparency, effective monitoring, and improved service delivery, ultimately boosting productivity and placing provincial economy on a stable foundation.

# Chinese enterprise, Pakistani potential, SIFC explores new investment avenues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Engagement with Transsion Holdings Chairman and TECNO Group , CEO Focuses on Business Expansion, Industrial Collaboration and Prospects for Further Chinese Investment in Pakistan.

The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) held a meeting with Mr. George Zhu, Chairman of Transsion Holdings, China, and Mr. Aamir Allawala, CEO of Tecno Group, to explore potential investment opportunities and avenues for enhanced industrial collaboration in Pakistan, said a release issued here on Sunday.

The meeting provided a platform for exchanging views on emerging business prospects, exploring opportunities for industrial cooperation and identifying avenues for greater Chinese investment in Pakistan. Discussions focused on potential business expansion, investment opportunities and mutually beneficial industrial partnerships.

SIFC reaffirmed its commitment to extending institutional support and facilitation to Transsion Holdings and TECNO Group in exploring investment opportunities and expanding their business activities in Pakistan.

The Council reiterated its facilitative role in ensuring effective coordination and promoting a conducive environment for investment, business growth and industrial development.

The engagement reflects SIFC's continued efforts to connect leading international enterprises with Pakistan's investment potential, encourage productive industrial partnerships and promote private-sector participation in economic development. Through sustained engagement with global business leaders, SIFC remains committed to facilitating investment and creating opportunities for stronger industrial and commercial cooperation between Pakistan and China.

# Nadeem welcome recent successive reductions in petrol , diesel prices

HYDERABAD (APP): President Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry Nadeem Ahmed Siddiqui, Senior Vice President Muhammad Fahad Mian and Vice President Irfan Arbiani have welcomed the recent successive reductions in petrol and diesel prices across the country, appreciating the government's initiative.

They have also urged the government to provide further relief to the public in line with the decline in international petroleum prices.

The Chamber office-bearers stated that after exceeding Rs. 400 per litre, petrol and diesel prices have Steadily Turned down to Rs. 330 and Rs. 360 per litre, respectively, which is a Progressive step. However, the heavy taxes, duties and petroleum levies imposed on petroleum products continue to an over burden additionally on the public and the business community. The government should substantially reduce these charges to bring the price of petrol down to around Rs. 250 per litre or to an appropriate level in accordance with international market prices and actual import costs.

They said that the original benefit of turn down petrol and diesel prices can only boon the public when the reduction is reflected in transport fares, freight charges and the prices of essential commodities. The government had better ensure that public transport, intercity bus services, railways and goods transport fares are immediately reviewed and reduced in proportion to the decline in petroleum prices.

They further pointed out that the reduction in transportation and distribution costs of food items, flour, sugar, vegetables, fruits, medicines and other essential commodities must be directly carried to consumers. Merely down falling petroleum prices is not sufficient; the impact of this reduction must also be reflected in the prices of everyday necessities.

President Nadeem Ahmed Siddiqui, Senior Vice President Muhammad Fahad Mian and Vice President Irfan Arbiani emphasized the federal government and district administration to immediately activate price control committees and relevant administrative authorities, take drastic steps against profiteering, hoarding and artificial inflation, and make sure regular monitoring of transport fares and prices of essential commodities.

The Chamber office-bearers urged that the government must furnish meaningful relief through further reductions in taxes and levies on petroleum products.

# Punjab announces November 15 start for sugarcane crushing season

LAHORE (INP) Punjab's sugar mills will begin purchasing sugarcane from November 15, following the issuance of an official notification.

The notification announcing the start of the crushing season was issued after approval by the Governor of Punjab.

Sugar mills will determine sugarcane prices under the market forces mechanism, sources said.

Around 2.452 million acres have been brought under sugarcane cultivation in Punjab this year, marking a 16 per cent increase compared to the previous year, according to sources.

Of the 47 sugar mills operating in Punjab, 41 are currently functional, sources added. The Punjab Food Safety and Consumer Protection Department has stated that farmers' rights will be protected.

Meanwhile, the Sugar Mills Association of Pakistan's North Zone has expressed concerns over the government's notification directing sugar mills to commence the crushing season on November 15, saying mills require at least 15 days to become fully operational.

In a statement, the association said that under the Sugarcane Act, 1950, sugar mills are permitted to commence operations by November 30.

It said boilers and heavy machinery require approximately two weeks to be made fully operational.

The Punjab government issued the notification at 9pm, directing mills to start crushing on November 15. However, the association termed immediate implementation of the directive impractical for the mills.

The association further claimed that out of the government's 300,000 tonnes of imported sugar, 100,000 tonnes remain unsold. It maintained that the crushing season cannot begin until the surplus sugar stocks are cleared.

According to the statement, approximately 1.3 million tonnes of surplus sugar are currently lying in the warehouses of sugar mills. The association said mills had already paid billions of rupees in markup and taxes on unsold sugar stocks.



Vendors sell carpets for livelihood at Airport Road in Quetta.

# Pakistan can emerge as regional trade, transit hub through ECO: ICCI President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Muhammad Zikria Akbar Zia, has welcomed Pakistan's hosting of the 30th Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Council of Ministers, describing it as a landmark opportunity to strengthen regional economic integration, expand trade and attract investment.

The President ICCI said Pakistan's assumption of the ECO Chair for 2026-27 should be utilized to translate regional commitments into tangible economic gains through enhanced private-sector engagement, stronger trade linkages and removal of barriers to cross-border commerce, said a release issued here on Sunday.

Zikria said the expected adoption of the Islamabad Declaration and approval of ECO Vision 2035 could provide a strategic roadmap for regional connectivity, economic cooperation and sustainable development. He emphasized that meaningful progress on the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) and Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) was essential to simplifying trade procedures, reducing transportation costs and facilitating the movement of goods across member countries.

Highlighting Pakistan's strategic geographical position, the ICCI President said the proposed Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (UAP) railway project could be a game-changer for regional connectivity by linking Central Asian markets with Pakistani seaports.

He observed that improved transport infrastructure and efficient transit arrangements would enhance Pakistan's role as a regional trade and logistics hub while providing landlocked Central Asian economies with greater access to international markets.

Muhammad Zikria Akbar Zia noted that Pakistan's growing economic engagement with Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan had created promising opportunities for expanding exports, investment and industrial cooperation.

He stressed that bilateral agreements and diplomatic engagements must translate into practical business partnerships, joint ventures and increased trade volumes. He proposed regular ECO business forums, trade exhibitions, B2B meetings and exchange of business delegations to connect entrepreneurs and promote commercial opportunities across the region.

The ICCI President emphasized that the private sector and chambers of commerce must be active partners in advancing ECO's economic agenda, as sustainable regional integration was impossible without meaningful business-to-business collaboration.



LAHORE: People and shopkeepers are buying different kind of fish from wholesales at whole sale fish market in the Provincial Capital.

# Sahulat Bazaar to be active on Millat Road by Jan 2027

FAISALABAD (APP): Residents of Faisalabad will soon have access to essential food commodities at affordable prices under one roof as the Punjab Sahulat Bazaar Authority has decided to establish a modern 'Sahulat on the go Bazaar' on Millat Road while this project is scheduled for completion by January 2027.

Divisional Commissioner Dr Imran Hamid Sheikh, accompanied by officials of the Sahulat Bazaar Authority, visited the proposed site to review preparations and construction arrangements.

He directed the concerned officials to immediately initiate the installation of sheds and other construction work to ensure timely completion of the project.

He said that 'Sahulat on the go Bazaar' was an innovative initiative of Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz for ensuring availability of essential commodities to consumers at affordable rates in accordance with officially notified DC prices.

He said that the facility would provide fruits, vegetables, chicken and grocery items at comparatively lower prices at a single location, enabling consumers to purchase daily necessities conveniently without having to visit different markets.

# FPCCI official calls for comprehensive industrial reforms to boost exports

LAHORE (APP): Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional Committee on Food Convener Shahid Imran on Sunday called for comprehensive industrial reforms, including the rationalization of energy tariffs, simplified taxation, and subsidized financing, to strengthen Pakistan's manufacturing sector and enhance export competitiveness.

According to a spokesperson, talking to a delegation of industrialists led by Chaudhary Tahir Mahmood Arain from Haroonabad here, he said affordable and uninterrupted electricity, a business-friendly taxation system, and access to low-cost financing were essential to unlock the country's industrial potential.

He urged the government to align industrial energy tariffs with those of regional competitors to reduce production costs and provide a level playing field to local manufacturers. He also called for simplifying the technology-driven tax system and eliminating unnecessary harassment, particularly for export-oriented industries.

Shahid Imran stressed the need for the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the government to establish a targeted financing facility at subsidized rates for labour-intensive industries to encourage investment, expand production, and create employment opportunities.

Highlighting Pakistan's competitive labour advantage, he noted that the country's labour costs were nearly 34 per cent lower than India, 41 per cent lower than Vietnam, and 62 per cent lower than China, offering significant potential for labour-intensive manufacturing, textiles, and export-oriented industries.

Referring to China's industrial transformation, he observed that the country had utilized its large and affordable workforce to attract foreign direct investment, develop a strong manufacturing base, and emerge as a global industrial hub.

However, he cautioned that low labour costs alone could not guarantee industrial growth unless supported by competitive energy pricing, a simplified taxation structure, and affordable financing.

He maintained that addressing these structural challenges was essential to utilize Pakistan's demographic potential, strengthen industrial production, and create sustainable employment opportunities.

# Loralai MPA calls for immediate action on power outages, low voltage

***Haji Muhammad Khan Toor Uthmankhail discusses electricity supply, technical faults and law and order with AC Bori and WAPDA official***

LORALAI (6 AM Report): Balochistan Assembly Member Haji Muhammad Khan Toor Uthmankhail has directed the relevant authorities to take immediate measures to address unscheduled power outages, low voltage and frequent electricity disruptions in Loralai, saying the problems are causing serious difficulties for residents and businesses.

He issued the directives during a meeting with Assistant Commissioner Bori Ahmed Zaib Malazai and WAPDA Executive Engineer Rahimullah Kibzai, where electricity supply, technical issues, law and order and other public concerns were discussed.

The MPA said uninterrupted electricity was a basic public necessity, emphasizing that prolonged outages and voltage fluctuations were affecting households, commercial establishments, agricultural activities and other sectors. He urged electricity officials to reduce unscheduled load-shedding, improve voltage stability and rectify technical faults in the power distribution system to provide relief to consumers.

During the meeting, Executive Engineer Rahimullah Kibzai briefed the lawmaker on the existing electricity situation, causes of load-shedding and technical challenges. He assured that efforts would be made to improve power supply within available resources. The MPA also discussed the district's overall law and order situation with Assistant Commissioner Ahmed Zaib Malazai, stressing the need for effective administrative measures to protect citizens and maintain public safety.

Toor Uthmankhail emphasized stronger coordination between the district administration and relevant departments to improve public services, address complaints and ensure effective governance.

He reaffirmed that resolving public grievances, improving essential facilities and promoting Loralai's development remained his foremost priorities, urging officials to fulfill their responsibilities with dedication and accountability.



**LORALAI: XEN Wapda Raheemullah Kibzai and Assistant Commissioner Ahmed Zaib meeting with MPA Haji Muhammad Khan Tor Utmankhail.**



**QUETTA: Country Head, Sajid Kiyani CEO Haris Yousaf, President Traders Organization Balochistan, Syed Abdul Qayyum Agha and others during the launching ceremony of Grandure by Hashoo/ Al Rehman Group at local hotel.**

# Abida Batool's boxing triumph brings pride to Balochistan: Jamal

***MNA congratulates world boxing champion on Thailand victory, calls for greater support for talented athletes***

QUETTA (6 AM Report): World boxing champion Abida Batool met Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader and Member of the National Assembly Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani at Sarawan House, Quetta, where he congratulated her on winning an international boxing title in Thailand.

Raisani praised her dedication, determination and outstanding performance, saying her achievement had brought pride to Pakistan and Balochistan and inspired young athletes, particularly women.

He said Balochistan possessed immense sporting talent, but young athletes needed better opportunities, professional training and institutional support to compete at national and international levels.

The MNA emphasized that encouraging successful female athletes like Abida Batool would inspire more girls to pursue sports and demonstrate their abilities.

He reaffirmed the importance of supporting talented athletes to help them secure further achievements for the province and the country.

*Naeem Javed*

# Expand tree plantation, protect wildlife habitats

***Wildlife project director inspects environmental restoration schemes in Naseerabad, directs officials to ensure quality and distribute more saplings among farmers***

NASEERABAD (6 AM Report): Balochistan Wildlife Project Director Naeem Javed has directed officials to expand tree plantation activities, strengthen wildlife habitat conservation and ensure transparency and quality in environmental restoration projects across Naseerabad district.

He issued the directives during an inspection of ongoing forest restoration and wildlife habitat improvement schemes in different areas of Chattar tehsil, accompanied by Deputy Conservator of Forests Naseerabad Fareed Ahmed Rind.

During the visit, Rind briefed the project director on initiatives aimed at protecting natural resources, restoring forest cover and improving habitats for wildlife.

He informed the visiting official that local farmers were actively supporting plantation efforts by irrigating saplings supplied by the Forest Department using groundwater resources. The initiative, he said, was helping expand green cover and improve environmental conditions in the area.

Reviewing the progress of development and restoration activities, Naeem Javed emphasized that environmental protection projects must be implemented effectively, with strict monitoring to maintain construction and implementation standards.

He said forest conservation and tree plantation were essential for maintaining ecological balance, protecting natural habitats and ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources.

The project director directed the concerned officials to distribute additional saplings among farmers and encourage greater community participation in plantation and conservation activities.

# Khuzdar police to introduce modern traffic system: SSP

KHUZDAR (6 AM Report): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Khuzdar Muhammad Baloch has announced plans to introduce a modern traffic management system to tackle congestion and improve traffic flow across the city.

The announcement came during his inspection of major roads, intersections and commercial areas alongside Anjuman-e-Tajran Khuzdar President Hafiz Hameedullah Mengal and police officials.

During the visit, the SSP reviewed traffic arrangements, vehicle movement and the performance of traffic personnel, directing officers to take immediate measures against illegal parking and encroachments obstructing busy roads.

Muhammad Baloch said improving traffic management would facilitate commuters, pedestrians and traders while supporting commercial activities in the city.

He emphasized that Khuzdar Police would continue taking practical steps to address public concerns, ensure smooth traffic movement and improve urban conditions. Hafiz Hameedullah Mengal welcomed the initiative and assured the business community's full cooperation with police in addressing traffic problems and maintaining law and order.

He expressed confidence that coordinated efforts between police and traders would help reduce congestion and improve facilities for residents.

# National Party calls for support for November 19 shutdown strike

QUETTA (ANN): National Party Central Secretary General Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi has appealed to the public to support the province-wide shutter-down strike and protests scheduled for November 19 under the joint declaration of the All Parties Conference (APC).

In a statement, Mir Kabeer said the APC declaration reflected Balochistan's collective concerns and public demands, emphasizing the need for unity among political parties.

He directed all National Party district presidents and general secretaries across Balochistan to immediately contact APC member parties, coordinate protest arrangements and formulate a joint strategy to ensure effective participation. Mir Kabeer also instructed district organizations to intensify public awareness and outreach campaigns regarding the strike.

# SP Dukki awards certificates to outstanding ATF personnel

***Muhammad Younus Raza praises dedication, discipline and professionalism, urges police officers to prioritize public safety and crime prevention***

DUKKI (6 AM Report): Superintendent of Police (SP) Dukki Muhammad Younus Raza has awarded appreciation certificates to personnel of the Anti-Terrorist Force (ATF) in recognition of their outstanding performance, professional dedication and commitment to duty.

Addressing a certificate distribution ceremony, the SP said disciplined, courageous and hardworking police personnel were valuable assets to the department, setting an example for their colleagues through professionalism and responsible conduct.

He praised the ATF personnel for their dedication and said recognizing outstanding performance helped strengthen morale, encourage discipline and promote a culture of responsibility within the police force. Muhammad Younus Raza emphasized that protecting citizens' lives and property, maintaining law and order and preventing crime remained the fundamental responsibilities of police personnel.

He urged officers to perform their duties with honesty, vigilance and professionalism, stressing that public service, discipline and accountability were essential for improving police performance.

The SP reaffirmed that Dukki Police would continue recognizing and encouraging personnel who demonstrate exceptional commitment and professional excellence, adding that such initiatives were important for building an effective and motivated police force.

# Encroachments removed from roads, footpaths in Dukki bazaar

DUKKI (6 AM Report): The Dukki district administration has launched an anti-encroachment operation in the city's main bazaar, removing illegal structures, roadside obstructions and merchandise occupying public roads and footpaths to improve traffic flow and pedestrian access.

Acting on the special instructions of Deputy Commissioner Fazal-ur-Rehman Kabdani, Assistant Commissioner Muhammad Akram Harifal supervised the operation alongside district administration officials and relevant staff.

# PPHI Ziarat inspects three health centers, dispatches telehealth equipment

ZIARAT (6 AM Report): PPHI Ziarat District Manager Dr. Farooq Marri has directed health officials to ensure regular staff attendance, uninterrupted availability of medicines and quality healthcare services at Basic Health Units (BHUs) to improve medical facilities for rural communities.

Acting in line with Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti's vision and the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Ziarat Abdul Quddus Achakzai, Dr. Marri conducted surprise inspections of BHU Chena, BHU Zandra and BHU Kawas Gharbi to assess their operational performance.

During the visits, he reviewed outpatient department (OPD) services, staff attendance, medicine stocks, medical equipment and the availability of essential healthcare supplies.

The district manager also inspected infection prevention and control (IPC) arrangements and instructed medical personnel to ensure effective use of the Sehat Dehleez Online App for improved healthcare delivery and accurate reporting of patient-related information.



**QUETTA: A view of meeting of provincial cabinet of Balochistan Government Contractors Association.**

# UoT conducts interviews for Scotland Pakistan scholarships

TURBAT (6 AM Report): University of Turbat Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Kamal Ahmed has said that providing financial assistance and higher education opportunities to talented and deserving female students remains a key priority of the university. He made the remarks while chairing a meeting of the Institutional Scholarship Award Committee, which conducted interviews of female applicants for the Scotland Pakistan Scholarship Scheme.

The meeting was attended by Registrar Gungzar Baloch, Director Finance Shah Baig Syed, Chemistry Department Chairman Dr. Zafar Ali, Education Department Chairperson Ruqayya Meerwani and Financial Aid Office In-Charge Dr. Badal Khan.

During the proceedings, the committee interviewed applicants from various academic departments and reviewed their scholarship applications.

Dr. Kamal Ahmed said the scholarship scheme aimed to help deserving female students overcome financial barriers and continue their higher education, enabling them to contribute to national development.

# Cannabis crops destroyed on 30 acres in Chaman anti-drug operation

CHAMAN (6 AM Report): The Chaman district administration and law enforcement agencies have destroyed illegally cultivated cannabis crops spread over approximately 30 acres during a joint anti-narcotics operation in different areas of the district, officials said.

The operation was conducted in Tor Tangi, Hassanzai, Bostan Karez and Nida Karez under the supervision of the Assistant Commissioner City and the Excise and Taxation Officer (ETO) Chaman.

Personnel from the district administration, Excise Department, Chaman Police, 40 FF, Frontier Corps (FC), Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and Agriculture Department participated in the operation.

# Restoration work begins at Jam Yousaf football stadium in Uthal

UTHAL (6 AM Report): Restoration work has begun at Jam Yousaf Football Stadium in Uthal on the directives of the Lasbela district administration, with local players calling for a comprehensive development scheme to ensure the ground's permanent rehabilitation and improve sporting facilities.

The initial restoration work, including sand filling, cleaning and debris removal, is being carried out with the cooperation of the Communications and Works Department under the supervision of District Sports Officer Khuda Bakhsh Baloch and senior Ground Committee member Javed Baloch.

Officials have arranged eight dumpers of sand for ground improvement, while the Uthal Municipal Committee is undertaking cleaning and debris removal.

Describing Jam Yousaf Football Stadium as Lasbela's only grass football ground, local sports representatives said its uneven surface and deteriorating condition had created difficulties for players and reportedly caused injuries during matches.

They said repeated requests from players and the Ground Committee had prompted the district administration to initiate restoration measures.

Welcoming the work, local footballers stressed that temporary repairs would not provide a lasting solution. They demanded complete ground leveling, restoration of grass and provision of essential sporting facilities.



**QUETTA: A view of students rights conference organized by Islami Jamiat Tulba Balochistan.**

# Balochistan health officer completes senior management course at NIPA

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Health Department officer Dr. Samiullah Kakar has successfully completed the 40th Senior Management Course (SMC) at the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA), Karachi, marking an important milestone in his professional career.

The Senior Management Course is a professional training program designed to strengthen the administrative, managerial and leadership capabilities of senior public sector officials, enabling them to improve institutional performance and public service delivery.

Dr. Kakar, an experienced officer of the Balochistan Health Department, has served in various key positions during his career, contributing to healthcare administration and the management of public health services in the province.

Health Department officials welcomed his achievement, describing the successful completion of the course as a reflection of his professional dedication, administrative experience and commitment to public service.

They expressed confidence that the knowledge and management skills acquired during the training would help strengthen healthcare governance, improve institutional efficiency and enhance the delivery of medical services across Balochistan.

# BUJ announces 24-hour protest camp for press freedom from November 23

QUETTA (ANN): The Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) has announced a 24-hour protest camp outside the Quetta Press Club from November 23 to 24 as part of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists' (PFUJ) nationwide campaign for press freedom and journalists' rights. The decision was finalized during a meeting chaired by BUJ President Manzoor Ahmed Rind, which also reviewed arrangements for a November 17 roundtable conference with parliamentary party leaders. Quetta Press Club President Irfan Saeed, journalists' representatives and committee members attended the meeting. Manzoor Rind directed the committees to finalize protest arrangements and strengthen coordination with political parties, lawyers, human rights organizations and civil society.

He said PFUJ President Afzal Butt and other central leaders were expected to participate in the protest.

# Hundreds of displaced families receive relief supplies in Pasni

GWADAR/PASNI (6 AM Report): Hundreds of displaced families in Pasni have received essential relief supplies provided by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), as the Gwadar district administration stepped up efforts to assist households facing difficult living conditions.

The relief operation was carried out under the provincial government's relief policy and on the special instructions of Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Naqeebullah Kakar, in line with Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti's directives for supporting affected communities.

Assistant Commissioner Pasni Abdul Karim Bugti, accompanied by Tehsildar Abdul Rehman, supervised the distribution of relief goods among families displaced from Shadikor, Zareen kor and Goristani.

According to the district administration, the affected families are temporarily sheltering in Dosi, Salach and Kahda Latif Goth, where they were provided with essential household items and other relief materials to meet their immediate needs.

During the distribution, the assistant commissioner and tehsildar interacted with displaced families, listened to their concerns and assessed their requirements. Abdul Karim Bugti assured the affected households that the administration would continue providing assistance and take necessary steps to address their difficulties.

"Displaced families will not be left alone during these challenging circumstances, and all available resources will be utilized for their relief and rehabilitation," he said. The assistant commissioner emphasized that timely assistance to vulnerable families remained a priority, adding that coordination with relevant departments would continue to ensure effective relief operations.

# President urges Pakistanis to help build tolerant society

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari called upon all Pakistanis to help build a society where every person can live with dignity, practise their faith without fear and express a different opinion without facing hatred or violence.

In a message on the occasion of International Day for Tolerance (16 November 2026), he said, "Our strength as a nation lies in our ability to live together with respect, united by our shared citizenship and our hopes for Pakistan."

"Islam teaches compassion, justice and respect for human dignity. These values also find clear expression in the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. In his historic address of 11 August 1947, he declared: We are starting with this fundamental principle that we are all citizens and equal citizens of one State, " he added. He said, "Article 25(1) of the Constitution of Pakistan gives this principle an unequivocal guarantee: All citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law. These words must guide the conduct of every public institution and be reflected in the daily experience of every citizen."

He said, "Pakistan belongs equally to all its people. Our non-Muslim citizens have helped build this country through their service in education, healthcare, public life, the armed forces and countless other fields. Their place in Pakistan rests on equal citizenship. Every child must feel safe in the classroom, every family secure in its neighbourhood and every worshipper protected in a place of worship. Equal citizenship must be a lived reality for every Pakistani."

"Tolerance also requires us to respect differences of language, culture, belief and political opinion. In a democracy, disagreement must be met with reason and dialogue. We must be able to debate firmly while respecting one another's dignity. A society grows stronger when people can speak, question and participate without fear, " he added.

He said, "The National Commission for Minorities Rights Act, 2025, the Policy on Interfaith Harmony, the Strategy of Religious Tolerance and the National Action Plan on Human Rights 2026 provide important instruments for advancing these commitments. Their implementation must bring effective protection, timely remedies and accountability wherever rights are violated. Parliamentary forums concerned with minority rights must also help ensure that the voices and concerns of our minority communities are heard and addressed."

He called upon religious scholars, community leaders, educators, the media and civil society to challenge prejudice and promote understanding.

"Parents and teachers have a special responsibility to nurture empathy in children and help them appreciate Pakistan's religious and cultural diversity.




**ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan chairs the meeting on the Draft Agenda of the 30th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers 2026.**



**QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Health Bakht Muhammad Kakar listening the problems of the people at his residence.**

## Political leaders continue condolence visits to CM Bugti in Dera Bugti

***MNA Mian Khan Bugti, former federal minister Mir Baz Khetran among dignitaries offering condolences over the death of chief minister's aunt***

NORTH DERA BUGTI (6 AM Report): Political and social figures, government officials and people from various walks of life continued visiting Pakistan House in North Dera Bugti for the second consecutive day to offer condolences over the death of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti's aunt, who was also the mother of former provincial assembly member Mir Tariq Bugti.

Member of the National Assembly Mian Khan Bugti and former federal minister Mir Baz Khetran were among the prominent personalities who met Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and other members of the bereaved family to express their grief and sympathy.

Political and social representatives from Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh also visited Pakistan House to offer condolences and participate in Fateha prayers for the departed soul.

The visitors expressed solidarity with the grieving family and prayed for the forgiveness of the deceased and for strength and patience for her relatives during this difficult time.

The series of condolence visits and Fateha prayers continued at Pakistan House as people from different areas arrived to express their sympathies to the chief minister and his family.

# COP31: Pakistan proposes virtual green university, fund for climate innovators

ANTALYA (APP): Pakistan has proposed establishing a virtual green university through international academic partnerships and launching a dedicated fund to support youth-led climate innovations, as it seeks to translate climate knowledge and research into practical solutions.

Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik presented the proposals while addressing a session titled "From Learning Campuses to Climate Solutions: Advancing Climate Resilience Through Education, Innovation and Partnerships", organised in collaboration with the Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on the sidelines of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP31) in Antalya, Türkiye. Emphasising the need to move beyond climate conference resolutions towards practical outcomes, the minister said Pakistan wanted to build an international platform where students, researchers and academic institutions could collaborate on climate-related challenges and develop solutions relevant to their societies.

Under the proposed virtual green university framework, he invited international academic institutions to collaborate with Pakistan through joint research programmes, faculty and student exchanges, seminars and virtual research centres.

He said the initiative could bring together scholars, experienced researchers and graduate students, particularly from developing countries, to generate knowledge and develop locally relevant solutions to climate challenges.

Dr Malik also offered Pakistan's research facilities, glacier-related data and support for primary research to international scientists interested in studying mountain ecosystems and the changing cryosphere. He said mountain regions were among the first to experience the impacts of changes in the cryosphere, warning that developments in these areas could have consequences for downstream plains in the coming years.

The minister invited international researchers to work with Pakistani institutions on glacier studies, saying the country was prepared to facilitate collaborative research and make relevant data and academic resources available.

A second proposal presented by the minister was the Greenfield fund, intended to provide financial support to innovative ideas and climate-related ventures developed by young people.

He said a fund had been announced and a board established, with a proposed five-member team, including private-sector and investment expertise, to assess promising ideas and help finance their development.

The minister described access to risk capital as a major requirement for encouraging young innovators, arguing that promising ideas often failed to reach commercialisation because of inadequate financial support.

He said Pakistan needed to invest in young scientists, entrepreneurs and graduates rather than relying exclusively on conventional institutional approaches.

"Place your bets on your children, not on conferences and resolutions, " he said, urging institutions to provide young people with the resources and opportunities needed to turn innovative ideas into viable solutions. Dr Malik said innovation should not be confined to science and technology.



**Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman addresses consultative session at Mansoorah Lahore.**

## Syedaal calls on youth to play positive role in national development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Nasar has said that those who work with sincerity, dedication and commitment are ultimately recognised by Allah Almighty and establish their own identity.

He expressed full confidence in the potential of Pakistan's youth, stressing that the country needs fresh leadership in every sphere of life. He was addressing the opening ceremony of the 10th season of the Diplomatic Football League. The ceremony was attended by ambassadors, high commissioners, members of the diplomatic community, organisers and a large number of young participants.

Expressing his passion for football, the Deputy Chairman said he had also been a football player and still wished to play the game. He appreciated the growing interest in football among Pakistani youth and said the country's talented young people needed proper opportunities to excel.

Congratulating the league's organiser, Mubasher Sanjrani, and his team on reaching the 10th season.

## DPM Dar, Egyptian FM discuss regional, global developments

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Foreign Minister of Egypt Dr Badr Abdelatty, on Sunday, exchanged views on regional and international developments.

During a telephone conversation, the two ministers also discussed the forthcoming R4 and R4+E4 meetings in Europe.

Both ministers underscored the importance of strengthening coordination on regional issues and advancing efforts for peace and stability, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

Foreign Minister Abdelatty reiterated the invitation to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to visit Cairo.

The DPM/FM thanked him and responded positively to the invitation.

## *Dr Malik Baloch*
## Literature is the lifeblood of society

***Former Balochistan chief minister pays tribute to late writer Emandar Jabbar Yar, pledges continued support for Brahui language and literature***

QUETTA (PR): National Party President and former Balochistan Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch has reaffirmed his commitment to promoting Brahui language and literature, saying the preservation of mother tongues is essential for protecting Balochistan's cultural identity and intellectual heritage.

Addressing a condolence and literary gathering held in memory of renowned literary figure Emandar Jabbar Yar, he described literature as the lifeblood of society and praised writers, poets and intellectuals for preserving regional languages despite financial hardships and unemployment.

Dr Abdul Malik said the Balochistan Literary Forum, a collective platform of Brahui literary organizations, was playing an important role in promoting the language. He assured continued encouragement and support for its literary activities.

He emphasized that literature and mother tongues connect younger generations with their history, traditions and cultural heritage.

The gathering was chaired by Professor Anwar Zeb and attended by prominent Balochi writer Yar Jan Badini, poet and BSO Pajjar Central Secretary General Abrar Barkat, and other literary personalities.

## Prompt resolution of public grievances top priority: Kakar

***Bakht Muhammad Kakar meets constituents in Nawa Killi, directs officials to address complaints and improve basic services***

QUETTA (ANN): Balochistan Health Minister and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Bakht Muhammad Kakar has directed concerned officials to ensure the prompt and effective resolution of public complaints, emphasizing that improving healthcare and basic services remains a key priority.

The minister issued the directives during meetings with residents, local elders and PPP workers at the Peoples Regional Secretariat in Nawa Killi, Quetta.

During the meetings, visitors from different areas presented their grievances, highlighted local problems and offered suggestions for improving public services.

Kakar listened to individual complaints and instructed relevant departments to examine the issues and take necessary measures for their resolution.

He said direct engagement with citizens was essential for identifying grassroots problems, strengthening accountability and ensuring responsive public service delivery.

The health minister reaffirmed his commitment to maintaining regular contact with constituents and improving coordination with government departments to address public concerns effectively.

## Pakistan takes climate concerns to South Korean media at COP31

ANTALYA (APP): Pakistan has used the international media platform of the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) to highlight its climate change challenges and call for stronger global cooperation to address the growing environmental crisis.

Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik shared Pakistan's perspective on climate change during an exclusive interview with South Korea's leading broadcaster, KBS, at the Pakistan Pavilion on the sidelines of the conference.

The interview focused on Pakistan's climate priorities, key environmental challenges, government initiatives to address climate impacts and the importance of international cooperation in tackling the global climate crisis.

## *Copper, gold mineralization identified at eight sites in Chagai*

***National Resources Limited reports promising results from 25,000 metres of drilling, plans $100 million investment in Balochistan***

*QUETTA (ANN): National Resources Limited (NRL) has announced promising copper and gold exploration results at at least eight locations in Chagai district, Balochistan, following approximately 25,000 metres of drilling.*

*Addressing the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum, NRL Chairman Muhammad Ali Tabba said the company's exploration activities had identified encouraging evidence of copper and gold mineralization in the district.*

*According to the company's report, drilling at one location identified a continuous 295-metre mineralized interval containing an average of 0.43 percent copper and 0.13 grams of gold per tonne.*

*Another 132-metre drilling interval recorded a copper grade of 0.83 percent, indicating further exploration potential.*

*NRL also announced plans to invest $100 million in mineral exploration and related activities in Balochistan.*

*The preliminary findings highlight Chagai's mineral potential. However, further geological studies and technical assessments will be required to determine the size, commercial viability and economic feasibility of the identified mineral deposits.*

## NCCIA recovers Rs 9.66m for fraud victims in 24hrs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) recovered over Rs 9.66 million for victims of online fraud in cases reported across Pakistan during the last 24 hours, including Rs 2.5 million taken from a woman by an alleged fake faith healer operating on Facebook.

According to a compilation of NCCIA's regional reports by APP, the agency's teams in Karachi, Faisalabad, Islamabad, Gujranwala, Lahore and Abbottabad recovered money lost to online fraud, while separate actions were reported against suspects involved in cyber harassment, blackmailing and the online exploitation of children.

# Prolonged power, gas outages disrupt daily life in Quetta

***Residents report 10–12 hours of load shedding, low gas pressure; demand immediate relief and warn of protests***

QUETTA (ANN): Residents of several areas of Quetta are facing serious difficulties due to prolonged electricity outages and low gas pressure, with complaints of daily power cuts lasting 10 to 12 hours.

Residents of Pashtoonabad, Sariab, Nawan Killi, Jinnah Town, Lehri Gate and surrounding areas said simultaneous electricity and gas disruptions were affecting household activities, cooking and businesses.

They expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) and Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), alleging that repeated complaints and directives from relevant authorities had failed to bring meaningful relief.

Residents demanded an immediate end to unscheduled load shedding, improved gas pressure, revised supply schedules and action against excessive utility bills.

They warned of protests outside utility company offices if their grievances remained unresolved.

The positions of QESCO and SSGC could not be obtained.

## JUI-F vows peaceful democratic struggle against political pressure

***Maulana Abdul Wasey and Agha Mahmood Shah emphasize party unity, organizational strengthening and district-level outreach***

QUETTA (UNA): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Balochistan President Senator Maulana Abdul Wasey and Provincial General Secretary Agha Mahmood Shah have reaffirmed their commitment to confronting political pressure and alleged conspiracies through peaceful, constitutional and democratic means.

In a joint statement, the leaders condemned what they described as negative propaganda and character assassination campaigns against JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and the party leadership.

They said such tactics would not weaken party workers' determination but would further strengthen organizational unity and political commitment.

Highlighting the importance of upcoming district visits, the leaders said the initiative aimed to strengthen local party organizations, maintain direct contact with workers and review organizational matters and public concerns.

They expressed confidence that the visits would improve coordination, discipline and consultation within district organizations.

Maulana Abdul Wasey and Agha Mahmood Shah urged district leaders and workers to maintain unity, strengthen organizational activities and continue addressing public issues through peaceful democratic engagement.




**QUETTA: Metropolitan Corporation workers removing debris of a building, demolished during anti encroachment operation at Airport Road.**

# National interests must prevail over political and personal considerations: Hanif

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi has said that the flood-damaged Faisalabad-Lahore railway section has been restored in 45 days through the dedicated efforts of Pakistan Railways employees, highlighting the government's commitment to improving railway infrastructure and services across the country.

Addressing a ceremony on Sunday to mark the restoration of the section, the minister said national interests must always take precedence over political and personal considerations, adding that Pakistan's stability and security should never be compromised.

He said around 1, 500 feet of railway track between Faisalabad and Lahore had been washed away by floods on July 27, 2026. Following the completion of necessary formalities, including the appointment of consultants, preparation of a feasibility report and arrangement of funds, restoration work formally began on September 23. Although the initial completion period was 60 days, the project was completed in just 45 days with the cooperation of a private company.

The minister paid tribute to railway workers, particularly labourers, describing them as the real heroes of the restoration project. He announced special cash rewards for all workers involved and appreciated the contributions of CEO Railways Muhammad Hafeezullah, AGM Infrastructure Hammad Mirza, Chief Engineer Irfan-ul-Haq, Divisional Superintendent Lahore Inamullah and M/s Habib Construction.

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