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## *Pak Army successfully launch Fatah-3 supersonic cruise missile*

*RAWALPINDI (APP): Pakistan Army conducted a successful launch of the Fatah-3 Supersonic Cruise Missile, marking another significant milestone in the advancement of national defence capabilities.*

*The weapon system is equipped with advanced navigation and propulsion systems and is capable of engaging targets at long range with high precision and lethality at supersonic speed, according to an ISPR press release.*

*Fatah-3 will significantly enhance the operational flexibility and strike reach of the Pakistan Army's Rocket Force Command, further strengthening the country's overall conventional deterrence and defence posture. The launch was witnessed by the Commander, Army Rocket Force Command and senior officers of the Pakistan Armed Forces, along with scientists and engineers. The President and Prime Minister of Pakistan, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces and Services Chiefs commended the successful launch of Fatah-3 and appreciated the dedication and commitment of all those who contributed towards achievement of another significant milestone in development of Pakistan's national defence capabilities.*

## IHC orders all possible facilities for Bushra in jail

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court took serious notice of complaints by Bushra Bibi, wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan, about medical difficulties and security concerns in jail during a hearing on appeals against their convictions in the £190 million case. The court issued necessary directions to the relevant jail authorities.

Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar and Justice Muhammad Asif were hearing appeals filed by Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi against their sentences in the £190 million case. Barrister Salman Safdar and Sardar Latif Khosa appeared for the accused, while NAB Special Prosecutors Javed Arshad and Rafi Maqsood, along with Islamabad Advocate General Naveed Hayat Malik, were also present at the rostrum.

At the start of the hearing, Bushra Bibi's lawyer, Latif Khosa, filed a new miscellaneous application outlining serious problems she was facing in jail. He told the court that she had a severe eyesight problem and that he had previously informed the court about the possibility of surgery, as her current medical condition could further affect her vision.

## ASEAN SG arrives on 3-day working visit to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Dr. Kao Kim Hourn will undertake a three-day working visit to Pakistan from November 18 to 20, at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar. This will be the first high-level visit to Pakistan from the ASEAN Secretariat in over two decades. Pakistan has been an ASEAN Sectoral Dialogue Partner since 1993 and a member of the ASEAN Regional Forum since 2004, a DPM's Office news release said. During the visit, the Secretary-General will call on Pakistan's leadership. The two sides will review the full range of Pakistan–ASEAN relations, explore avenues for enhanced cooperation.

# PM assures full Federal Govt. support for AJK's 100-Day Development Plan

MUZZAFARABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Wednesday, assured the leadership of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) that 0the Federal Government will fully finance and support local development projects using all available resources.

Chairing a meeting to unveil the 100-day development plan for AJK, the prime minister promised financial backing for the initiatives announced by the AJK prime minister.

He also commended the collaborative efforts of the AJK Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Kashmir Affairs Amir Muqam, other federal ministers, and the Chief Minister of Punjab in advancing these uplift projects.

Reiterating Pakistan's firm stance, Prime Minister Shehbaz affirmed that the government will continue extending its complete political, moral, and diplomatic support for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) until they achieve their legitimate rights under UN and UNSC resolutions.

Paying tribute to the martyrs of IIOJK for their supreme sacrifices and expressing solidarity with imprisoned Kashmiri leadership, the prime minister voiced strong optimism that these sacrifices will soon bear fruit.

Highlighting the federal government's assistance for Azad Jammu and Kashmir's development, he also announced that a state-of-the-art Daanish School equipped with AI laboratories and top-tier teaching staff will be inaugurated next month.

Addressing the leadership, he said that expanding the Daanish School network across AJK will provide deserving and brilliant students with access to quality education. Additionally, a campus of the Daanish University is being established in the region.

The prime minister resolved to fully accomplish the vision of PML-N President Nawaz Sharif under his guidance, while expressing strong confidence in the capabilities of the AJK prime minister.



MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, President PMLN Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz and members of the federal cabinet meet President of AJK Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Naqi Khan and Prime Minister of AJK Syed Iftikhar Ali Gillani.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Senator Saleem Mandviwala inaugurate Balochistan Investment and Trade Expo 2026.

# Bridging state-youth divide, empowering young people our priority: Balochistan CM

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has said that effective collaboration among the government, private sector and educational institutions is essential to promoting investment, industrial development and new employment opportunities for young people in Balochistan. Bridging the gap between the state and youth, empowering them and ensuring their economic independence through modern education and skills development remain key government priorities. He assured local and international investors of a favorable business environment, complete security and a system free from unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles, declaring that red tape and administrative complications would not be tolerated.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Balochistan Investment and Trade Expo (BITE 2026) on Wednesday, Bugti said the event aimed to connect local businesses with national and international investors.

The expo, organized by the Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade (BBoIT), was inaugurated by CM Bugti and Senator Saleem Mandviwalla. More than 100 companies, government departments and regulatory institutions established stalls showcasing business and investment opportunities.

Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, BBoIT Vice Chairman Bilal Khan Kakar, FPCCI Patron-in-Chief S.M. Tanveer, senior officials and business leaders attended the ceremony.

Acknowledging infrastructure and security challenges, Bugti said the provincial government was working with federal authorities to improve highways, trade corridors and law enforcement capabilities. He assured investors of protection for their businesses, particularly in industrial areas including Bostan, Hub and Bela.

"Will Provide Investors Full Security, Business-Friendly Environment: CM"

The chief minister said one-window operations and IT-based services were being strengthened to eliminate bureaucratic delays and facilitate investment approvals.

Highlighting youth empowerment, Bugti said government employment alone could not address unemployment. He urged industries to offer jobs and practical training while strengthening partnerships with universities.

He called for market-oriented education in artificial intelligence, information technology, research and technical skills to prepare graduates for modern industrial requirements.

Referring to over 25,000 federal employment opportunities for Balochistan's youth, he said further discussions would focus on creating jobs in border districts, including Chaman, Killa Abdullah and Killa Saifullah, alongside promoting legal trade.

Bugti also emphasized reducing administrative expenditure, improving development spending and encouraging private-sector participation in sustainable economic growth.

*Kamal*

## Sehat card relaunched for journalists in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Health Mustafa Kamal on Tuesday announced the relaunch of the Sehat Sahulat Card for journalists in Islamabad, under which free treatment will be provided at 15 private hospitals.

Speaking to media at the National Press Club after inaugurating a hepatitis screening camp, organized in collaboration with Akbar Niazi Teaching Hospital, the Minister said focal persons will be appointed at PIMS and Polyclinic to facilitate journalists, while facilities at both hospitals are being improved.

He said the CEO of the Sehat Sahulat Programme and representatives of relevant institutions will visit the National Press Club on Wednesday to brief journalists on the procedure.

The Minister also announced a major national hepatitis elimination drive, saying the government will screen 70 million people across Pakistan and provide free treatment to those testing positive.

He said a test worth Rs 7,000 is being provided free of cost, while medicine worth Rs 68,000 will also be provided free to Hepatitis C patients across Pakistan. The programme has started from Islamabad, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, with digital devices provided to operators and an agreement signed with NADRA.

Mustafa Kamal said Pakistan has the highest number of Hepatitis C patients in the world. The disease usually shows its effects after 20 years and can turn into liver cancer if not treated in time.

## Bilawal Bhutto advises govt to 'calm down' & hold a 'debate you started' on provinces

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari responded on Wednesday after a day's worth of volley from government officials over his critical remarks and advised them to "calm down" and to proceed forward with the "debate you started" on the issue of more provinces and a referendum to solve the deadlock.

The remarks come after Defence Minister Khawaja Asif hit back at Bilawal earlier in the day over his criticism of the government and calls for a "political reset", questioning his moral standing to lecture others while pointing to the PPP's 18-year rule in Sindh. Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry and Health Minister Mustafa Kamal also criticised Bilawal over his remarks.

A day earlier, Bilawal had called for a "political reset' to restore public confidence in state institutions, urging the government to revive dialogue with opposition parties, including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), and end political victimisation.

The PPP scion, in a private television channel talk show, reiterated that the economic woes brought about by the regional conflicts have dealt a crushing blow to the masses, resulting in "economic collapse".

"If someone is calling for a reset, I have a right to give my perspective regarding it," he stated, outlining that he put forth his views at yesterday's conference about the nature of the proposed change.

*Fazal Qadir*

## Legislation essential to expand education in remote areas

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Chairman of the Balochistan Assembly Standing Committee on Social Welfare, Fazal Qadir Mandokhail, has stressed the need for effective legislation to provide educational opportunities to children, youth and adults deprived of schooling in remote and underdeveloped areas of the province.

Chairing a committee meeting to review the proposed Balochistan Non-Formal Education Bill 2026, he said the legislation could establish a practical framework for expanding access to education among disadvantaged communities.

The meeting was attended by committee members Mir Asadullah Baloch, Zabid Ali Reki, Farah Azeem Shah and Hadia Nawaz, along with Assembly Secretary Tahir Shah Kakar, Social Welfare Secretary Ismatullah Qureshi and Deputy Secretary Law Ehsan Barkat.

Officials briefed the committee on provisions aimed at providing free basic education, literacy, numeracy, life skills and employment-oriented training through flexible learning programmes.

## Naqvi, Chinese envoy discuss security coop., law enforcement coordination

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry met Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong to discuss Pakistan-China strategic partnership, security cooperation and ways to strengthen coordination between law enforcement agencies of the two countries.

During the meeting, both sides agreed to make mutual coordination between law enforcement agencies more active and effective to enhance cooperation in security-related matters.

It was decided that Chinese instructors would visit Pakistan soon to provide Chinese language training to personnel of the Special Protection Unit (SPU). The training is aimed at improving communication between Pakistani security personnel and their Chinese counterparts.

Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong assured the Pakistani side that China would continue to extend all possible support for the establishment of the Law Enforcement Centre in Islamabad, which is being developed on the Chinese model.

The ambassador appreciated Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's role in extending cooperation and ensuring the timely resolution of issues.

He acknowledged his efforts in addressing matters related to bilateral cooperation.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail in a group photo with MPhil, and Ph.D Scholar during 12 Convocation of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University. Senator, MNA, and Provincial Ministers are also present.

*Mandokhail says*

## Universities must prioritize research over degrees

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has urged universities to move beyond awarding degrees and become centres of research, innovation, critical thinking and modern professional skills, enabling graduates to contribute effectively to national development and meet emerging global challenges.

Addressing the 12th convocation of Sardar Bahadur Khan (SBK) Women's University, the governor claimed that all public universities in Balochistan had overcome their financial difficulties and were now operating with surplus budgets, while their rankings had improved nearly twofold.

He attributed the financial recovery to coordinated efforts by the provincial government, university administrations and relevant institutions, appreciating the contributions of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Nosherwani, Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani and university vice chancellors.

The governor also announced that funds would be allocated in the next provincial budget for constructing a spacious, modern hall at SBK Women's University to accommodate graduating students and major academic events.

Emphasizing the importance of women's education, he said the university played a vital role in developing professional skills, leadership qualities and academic opportunities for women across Balochistan.

## FCCP directs ECP, GoB govt to submit reports in no-confidence motion case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan (FCCP) on Tuesday expressed displeasure over the failure of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the Balochistan government to submit reports regarding a no-confidence motion against former Union Council Chairman Muhammadullah Sherani and directed both sides to file their respective reports.

A two-member bench headed by Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi heard the case.

During the proceedings, the counsel for the Balochistan government informed the court that it had directed the submission of a report at the previous hearing. He said the report had been prepared but its copies were yet to be made for submission to the court. Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi questioned how long it could take to get copies of documents prepared nowadays. He observed that the lawyers came to court without proper preparation, neither reading the documents nor adequately preparing the case.

The judge also asked the ECP's counsel how many officials had travelled from Quetta to attend the hearing, observing that unnecessary expenses were being incurred.

He pointed out that the previous hearing had also been adjourned due to the Election Commission.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Mir Ziaullah Lango, Haji Ali Madad Jattak, Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Parliamentary Secretary Abdul Majeed Badini, MPAs Zamrak Khan Achakzai, Farah Azeem Shah, Mir Younas Aziz Zehri, Haji Mir Zabid Ali Reki and Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch expressing their views on point of order during Balochistan Assembly session.

# CM approves establishment of Panchayat system across Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has given in-principle approval to the establishment of a Panchayat system across the province to provide citizens with an accessible, speedy and low-cost mechanism for resolving local disputes through mutual consent.

Chairing a meeting on the proposed system here on Wednesday, she said the Punjab government was introducing the Punjab Panchayat Act to revive the centuries-old tradition of community mediation within a proper legal framework and make people partners in the justice system. She said courts should not necessarily be the first forum for resolving every mutual dispute, adding that minor conflicts could be settled through dialogue, mutual understanding and the wisdom of respected community members.

According to a briefing, Panchayat committees would be established at union council, village, locality and mouza levels. The committees would resolve disputes with the mutual consent of the parties concerned. Deputy commissioners would appoint permanent local residents enjoying public confidence as Panchayat members. The selection would be based on good reputation, impartiality and wisdom.

Proposed members would include lambardars, teachers, retired judges, retired army officers, retired civil servants and other respected community figures. The briefing said the system would facilitate access to justice for women, minorities, poor and disadvantaged segments of society. It would operate within clearly defined legal boundaries while fully preserving citizens' right to approach courts and seek judicial protection. The CM directed the relevant authorities to prepare a comprehensive plan covering rules, policy guidelines and regulations for the proposed Panchayat program. She also called for clear criteria to define the powers and jurisdiction of Panchayat committees. A negative list specifying matters outside the Panchayat's jurisdiction would also be introduced to prevent possible misuse of the system against women and vulnerable segments of society, the meeting was informed.

CM Maryam Nawaz said the initiative aimed to empower people at the grassroots level by giving them a role in resolving their own disputes.

She said the Panchayat system would help reduce the burden of cases on courts and make speedy and affordable justice possible through community-based mediation.The CM said the government was committed to bringing justice to people's doorsteps through meaningful social reforms.



MUZAFFARABAD: President PML-N Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz along with federal ministers offer condolences to Babar Zulqarnain over demise of his father and former president AJK Raja Muhammad Zulqarnain Khan.

# Punjab minister, religious scholars discuss law and order, madrasa registration

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafique on Wednesday held a meeting with a delegation of Ittehad-e-Tanzeemat-e-Madaris Pakistan (ITMP) to discuss the overall law and order situation and registration of religious seminaries in Punjab.

The meeting was held at the Home Department under the directives of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif as part of ongoing consultations with religious scholars from all schools of thought. The delegation was led by Maulana Qari Hanif Jalandhari, Secretary General of Wafaq-ul-Madaris Al-Arabia Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Khawaja Salman Rafique said that a consultative process was underway with religious scholars from all schools of thought under the leadership of the Chief Minister to promote peace and maintain law and order in the province.

He said that following a recent amendment to the Societies Registration Act, religious seminaries in Punjab could now be registered either with the Punjab Home Department or the Directorate General of Religious Education (DGRE) under the federal government.

He further stated that Rs16 billion had so far been distributed as honorariums among registered mosque imams across Punjab. Describing the meeting with the ITMP leadership as positive, he said religious seminaries had always stood by the government during challenging times.

He emphasised that scholars from all schools of thought were united on the issue of maintaining public peace and ensuring Pakistan's security, adding that religious seminaries held an important position in society.

# SHC hears petition for enforcement of prisoners' rights law

KARACHI (INP): Sindh High Court's (SHC) Constitutional Bench on Wednesday summoned reply from respondents over violation of prisoners' rights in jails on a petition seeking enforcement of the law over the rights of inmates.

The high court bench called report from the IG Jails Sindh, while issuing notice for December 16.

Petitioner said that a law for jail reforms was enacted in the province in year 2019. "Several key parts of the law could not be enforced even seven years to passage of the act".

Petitioner's lawyer said that under the law it is up to the government to form the policy board and the monitoring committees of jails. "Under the law it is mandatory to set up educational and professional training centres in in prisons".

"It is also compulsory to constitute endowment fund for prisoners' families and activating the legal mechanism," lawyer argued.

According to the petition, the number of prisoners in jails, has been around 20,000, while the approved capacity of inmates has been 13,538.

# Governor directs fast-track completion of foreign-funded development projects in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday directed the authorities to accelerate the implementation of all foreign-funded development projects across the province, with special focus on the road project to the tourist destination of Kumrat, the 300MW Balakot Hydropower Project and schemes in flood-affected areas.

Chairing a meeting at the Governor House, the Governor reviewed the progress of development projects being implemented with financial assistance from international development partners. Adviser to Governor on Finance, Tariq Mahmood Pasha, Adviser on Planning and Development, Usman Saifullah Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development, Islam Zeb and other relevant officials attended the meeting.

The meeting was briefed on completed, ongoing and proposed projects being financed by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), German Development Bank and other international institutions.

Officials informed the meeting that a total of 58 foreign-funded development projects were under implementation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including 11 completed projects, 34 under construction and 13 new initiatives. The projects cover key sectors such as health, education, finance, irrigation, agriculture, hydropower and road infrastructure.

The Governor stressed the need to give special attention to the construction of the road leading to Kumrat and directed the authorities to further speed up work on all ongoing development schemes, including the 300MW Balakot Hydropower Project.

# Govt taking efforts to provide basic facilities to people: Nasir Shah

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Local Government, Housing and Town Planning Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Wednesday said the provincial government had adopted strategies to provide all basic facilities to the people residing in urban as well as rural areas of Sindh.

Water Board has been directed to resolve water-related issues at the earliest and provide relief to the people without discrimination, he said this while chairing a meeting regarding water supply and the Korangi Water Pipeline Project.

He said that a modern mechanism will be developed to ensure an equitable distribution of water and improve the water supply system in Korangi.

He directed the Water Board to resolve water-related issues at the earliest and provide relief to the people, stressing that water is a basic necessity of every household.

He directed the Water Board officials to introduce a transparent, fair and organised mechanism for water distribution so that no area or community was deprived of its due supply.

He said that the water problems faced by the people of Korangi must be resolved at the earliest and all necessary work related to the water pipeline project should be completed on a priority basis.

He made it clear that negligence or unnecessary delays in providing basic civic facilities would not be tolerated, adding that resolving public issues and providing relief to citizens at their doorsteps remained among the government's top priorities.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan eating with children during ceremony of a project to distribute food packages to children of the primary school.

*Punjab Governor says:*

# Public opinion very importance regarding the creation of new provinces

LAHORE (Handout): Governor of Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, stated that public opinion is very importance regarding the creation of new provinces. The people of Sindh do not desire the division of their province; no decision can be imposed upon them against their will and opinion. The Sindh Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution opposing the creation of new provinces or administrative units within the province of Sindh. He expressed these views today while speaking to the media and addressing the inaugural ceremony of a project to distribute food packages to children of the primary school located within the Governor House, Lahore.

Governor of Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, remarked that it is government's responsibility to provide healthcare and educational facilities to the public. He said that nutritious food will be provided to children in the two schools situated at the Governor House, Lahore with the support of a welfare organisation. He further stated that the vocational training center located within the Governor House is set to be upgraded into a state-of-the-art facility. The Governor expressed his aspiration that the children studying at the Governor House school may one day attain high-ranking positions.

Speaking to the media

# Five persons killed, Six injured in road accident

MULTAN (APP): Five people, including women and children, were killed and six others seriously injured when a Mazda loader collided with a rickshaw on Multan Road Bypass in Jalalpur Pirwala on Wednesday.

According to Rescue 1122, the deceased were identified as Arsalan, Shaukat, Kashif and Munanzza, while the identity of the fifth victim was yet to be confirmed.

The six injured, including men, women and children were shifted to Nishtar Hospital in critical condition for treatment.

The victims were travelling in a rickshaw from Ali Pur Sadat to attend a wedding in the city when the accident occurred, turning a family celebration into tragedy.

Police have taken the Mazda driver and other staff into custody and impounded the vehicle for further investigation.

# KP drivers to face licence suspension under new traffic violation policy

PESHAWAR (INP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government has introduced a demerit points system for drivers violating traffic laws, with driving licences liable to suspension if motorists accumulate more than 20 penalty points within two years.

The provincial Transport Department has issued a notification formally introducing the system under Section 16 of the Motor Vehicles Ordinance, 1965.

The new mechanism will apply to holders of Light Transport Vehicle (LTV), Heavy Transport Vehicle (HTV) and Public Service Vehicle (PSV) driving licences.

According to the notification, demerit points ranging from two to 15 have been prescribed for various traffic violations, depending on the nature and severity of the offence.

Under the new rules, causing a fatal accident will carry 15 demerit points, while causing serious injuries in an accident will result in 10 points. Drivers who fail to stop at an accident scene or operate vehicles despite having suspended driving licences will also receive 10 points.

Read more: DIG directs to issue fines instead of registering criminal cases for traffic violations

Causing minor physical injuries will carry eight points, while driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol will attract the same penalty.

Six points will be imposed for causing property damage, driving without a valid licence, overloading, violating red traffic signals, dangerous overtaking and reckless driving. The notification further states that drivers travelling at speeds exceeding the prescribed limit by 40 kilometres per hour will receive six demerit points. Disobeying police orders to stop will also carry six points.



LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on law and order Khawaja Salman Rafique held meeting with a delegation of Ittehad-e-Tanzeemat-e-Madaris Pakistan (ITMP) to discuss the overall law and order situation and registration of religious seminaries in Punjab.

# No tolerance for overpricing: AC Brewery

QUETTA (ANN): Assistant Commissioner Brewery Zopash Agha has warned that strict legal action will be taken against shopkeepers involved in overpricing and profiteering, emphasizing that essential commodities must be sold at officially prescribed rates.

Acting on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Quetta West Munir Ahmed Durrani, the assistant commissioner conducted a price control operation on Joint Road, inspecting shops and commercial establishments.

During the inspections, officials checked food prices, the display of official price lists and compliance with government-approved rates.

Zopash Agha directed shopkeepers to strictly follow prescribed prices and refrain from charging customers excessive amounts.

He said the district administration would continue market inspections to protect consumers from illegal profiteering and ensure the availability of essential commodities at regulated prices.

# Joint efforts essential to eradicate polio: DC Ayesha

KALAT (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Kalat Engineer Ayesha Zehri has called for stronger coordination among the district administration, Health Department, World Health Organization (WHO) and other stakeholders to eliminate polio and protect children from lifelong disability.

Chairing a post-campaign review meeting of the Sub-National Immunization Days (SNID), she directed officials to identify shortcomings in the previous vaccination drive and develop an effective strategy for the next campaign.

The meeting reviewed field teams' performance, low-coverage union councils, finger-marking procedures and difficulties in reaching children who were unavailable during vaccination visits.

District Health Officer Dr Abdul Malik, PPHI District Manager Zain-ul-Abideen, District Education Officer Nisar Ahmed Noorzai, Tehsildar Khaliqabad Amjad Ali, WHO representatives and other officials attended the meeting.

Deputy Commissioner Ayesha Zehri emphasized that polio eradication was a shared responsibility requiring coordinated efforts, improved monitoring and effective follow-up in underperforming areas.

# Teachers' absenteeism and negligence will not be tolerated: DC Naseerabad

NASEERABAD (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Naseerabad Varender Lal has warned that teachers' absenteeism and negligence in academic duties will not be tolerated, directing education officials to ensure regular attendance, uninterrupted teaching activities and improved educational standards across the district.

Chairing a meeting of the District Education Committee, the deputy commissioner reviewed the performance of educational institutions, teacher attendance, classroom activities, academic standards and challenges affecting schools.

He emphasized that teachers' absence directly affects students' academic progress and future prospects, making regular monitoring and accountability essential for improving the education system.

Varender Lal said education was the foundation of social and economic development, stressing that modern knowledge, scientific research and technology were vital for preparing young people to meet emerging challenges.

Highlighting the responsibilities of teachers, he urged them to perform their duties with dedication, professionalism and integrity to create a productive learning environment.

The deputy commissioner directed education officers to conduct regular school inspections, monitor teaching activities and take effective measures to address shortcomings in educational institutions.

# ATC sentences minor to 15 months in explosives recovery case

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Wednesday sentenced Muhammad Mujtaba to one year and three months in prison in an explosives recovery case and ordered for confiscation of his property in favour of the state.

ATC Judge Malik Abid Hussain announced the verdict after completion of the trial proceedings. The accused was brought to the court from jail.

The court observed that the prosecution had successfully established the charges against the accused but awarded him a lesser sentence because he was a juvenile.

During the trial, Prosecutor Mian Tufail produced witnesses to establish the charges against the accused.

# Modern dialysis unit inaugurated at Lasbela divisional hospital

*By Aziz Yousafzai*

LASBELA: District Health Officer Dr Abdul Hameed Baloch has said the establishment of a modern dialysis unit at the Divisional Headquarters Hospital Lasbela will provide much-needed treatment facilities to kidney patients locally, reducing their dependence on hospitals in major cities. The dialysis unit was formally inaugurated as part of the provincial government's efforts to improve healthcare services under the vision of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and the directives of Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Dr Abdul Hameed Baloch emphasized that access to quality healthcare was essential for a healthy society and remained a key priority of the Health Department. He said the new facility would help kidney patients receive dialysis closer to home, reducing travel expenses and the difficulties associated with seeking regular treatment outside the district.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Commissioner Lasbela Humaira Baloch, District Council Chairman Sardar Ghulam Farooq Sheikh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Siraj Ahmed Baloch, Municipal Committee Uthal Chairman Syed Somar Shah Kazmi, PPHI Regional Director Dr Mansoor Raisani and Civil Hospital Uthal Medical Superintendent Dr Awais Wajid. Dr Abdul Hakeem Lasi, Dr Tola Ram Lasi, Shahid Khan, Lasbela Welfare Trust representative Muhammad Ramzan Jamot, Pir Qadir Shah and other local representatives were also present.

*Agha Samiullah*

# Public service is officers' foremost duty

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Additional Commissioner Quetta Division Agha Samiullah has said that transfers and postings are a routine part of government service, but every officer's primary responsibility is to serve the public and perform official duties with honesty and dedication. He emphasized that government officers must make every effort to address public grievances and ensure efficient service delivery during their tenure.

He expressed these views while addressing a farewell ceremony organized by Commissioner Office Quetta employees in honor of transferred Assistant Commissioner Political, Quetta Division, Syed Kaleemullah.

The ceremony was attended by Additional Commissioner Agha Samiullah, senior officials and staff members, who appreciated Syed Kaleemullah's services and professional contributions during his posting. Speakers highlighted the importance of teamwork, mutual cooperation, professionalism and respectful working relationships in improving institutional performance.

Agha Samiullah said an officer's performance should be judged by the services delivered to the public, stressing that resolving citizens' problems must remain a priority.

**TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE**

The tender published vide PRQ No 2062/27-10-2026. For the work of "Rehabilitation /Construction of Black Top Road from Coastal Highway to Chakuli, District Gwadar (PSDP No.1182/Z2026.0130) . BPPRA TSE-262710214893." Pursuant to Rule 38 (Cancellation of Bidding Process) of the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules (BPPRA), 2014, the subject tender is hereby cancelled with immediate effect prior to bid acceptance. The mandatory requirement of prior similar work experience valued at 100% of the estimated cost exceeds standard PEC guidelines (50%–80%) and ordinary industry practices, thereby contravening Rule 37 of the BPPRA Rules, 2014 against discriminatory and restrictive qualification criteria.
Email address :Pirkanbaloch@gmail.com.
Contact Number:03327834005

Executive Engineer Roads CWPP&H Department Gwadar.

PRQ No.2521/18-11-2026

www.dpr.gob.pk. @dpr_gob dpr.gob @dgpr.balochistan



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi chairs a meeting to review the progress of development projects being implemented with financial assistance from international development partners.

Daily 6AM, Quetta
Thursday November 19, 2026

## Poor treatment

It is unseemly that a jailed political leader is forced to beseech the chief justices of the Federal Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court and the Islamabad High Court for medical attention.

In an open letter issued Monday, former prime minister Imran Khan detailed his and his wife's medical condition, claiming he faces heightened risk of brain haemorrhage while his spouse could lose her eyesight.

"I will only remain able to prove my innocence if I stay alive. I appeal to your Lordships, on the most basic grounds of human compassion: give me justice before it is too late," reads his letter, penned on his behalf by his lawyer, Salman Safdar.

The government still disputes this, and insists that the two continue to receive adequate medical attention. In fact, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, responding to the letter, said Mr Khan is "[...] among the most privileged prisoners in Pakistan," while telling the PTI to stop "politicising his health".

But even if government ministers believe the former PM is embellishing the facts, what is the harm in allowing him a medical examination under the supervision of his physicians, as the SC directed in August?

Some may argue that the many difficulties Mr Khan finds himself in are self-created. There are many in the ruling dispensation who believe that what is being done to him is 'justice', considering that he, too, had victimised his opponents during his time in power. Mr Khan's speeches about depriving his jailed political opponents of various facilities and amenities granted to them have not been forgotten in those circles.

Still, as far as Mr Khan and his wife's health is concerned, the government must show compassion, if not respect for their rights.

The courts have given the state grounds to deprive Mr Khan and his spouse of their liberty, not their health. If the two prisoners are complaining that their treatment has not been adequate, the government can allow those needs to be met to their satisfaction without making any change to their status as prisoners. There is no conceivable harm in making such an allowance.

Those in power today should also think about the precedent they are setting. Do they want to be treated similarly in the future? The cycle of revenge needs to stop, and compassion alone can break it.

# Predatory medicine

**Murad Moosa Khan**

"Medicine carries a morality that is destroyed when the emphasis is placed on the bottom line. Unless humanism and professionalism remain, medicine will become just another commodity in life's marketplace." — Dr William W. Parmley

Medicine has traditionally been regarded as a profession founded on trust, compassion and an ethical commitment to heal. Patients entrust doctors with their bodies, their fears and, often, their lives. This relationship rests on an implicit promise: that medical decisions will be guided by the patient's best interests. But what happens when the business of medicine begins to take precedence over the practice of medicine?

In his book Predatory Medicine, US cardiologist Jack Vangrow draws attention to an uncomfortable reality: healthcare can become an extractive enterprise in which patients are exploited. He describes how both practitioners and institutions who should be protecting patients, instead exploit patients' limited medical knowledge and trust.

The commercialisation of medicine may not be inherently unethical. Private hospitals, clinics, labs and pharmaceutical firms have an important role in healthcare delivery. Medical innovation and research require investment, and healthcare professionals deserve fair remuneration. The problem arises when profit becomes the dominant consideration and the patient's wellbeing becomes secondary.

Healthcare is a rapidly expanding commercial market in a country where millions cannot afford basic treatment.

Predatory medicine describes many practices that lead to profit-making: unnecessary investigations, excessive prescriptions, avoidable surgical procedures, inappropriate hospital admissions, inflated bills and the promotion of expensive treatments when cheaper, equally effective alternatives exist.

The fundamental problem is the profound imbalance of knowledge and power between doctors and patients. Most patients cannot independently assess whether an investigation is necessary, whether a diagnosis is accurate or whether a proposed intervention offers meaningful benefit. They depend on their physician's integrity and competence. When that trust is exploited, the consequences can be both financial and physical.

Vangrow highlights the culture of professional complicity: doctors who recognise questionable practices but remain silent to protect their careers, professional relationships or financial interests. Predatory medicine, therefore, is not simply about a few unethical practitioners; it becomes embedded in the institutional culture.

Vangrow's observations are highly relevant for Pakistan, where private healthcare has become a hugely lucrative business, while a chronically underfunded public health system struggles to provide even basic services. The private medical sector continues to grow exponentially, with private hospitals, specialist clinics, diagnostic labs and pharmaceutical firms dominating healthcare delivery.

According to Pakistan's National Health Accounts 2021-22, total health expenditure stood at approximately Rs1.96 trillion, with the private sector accounting for 52.6 per cent. Much of this expenditure comes directly from household pockets. The World Bank's latest available data show that out-of-pocket payments accounted for approximately 53pc of Pakistan's current health expenditure in 2023. These figures illustrate the extent to which healthcare costs are transferred from the state to individual households. They also reveal a stark contradiction: healthcare is a rapidly expanding commercial market in a country where millions cannot afford basic treatment.

Public health expenditure remains around one per cent of GDP, leaving government hospitals chronically underresourced, overcrowded and struggling with shortages of medicines, equipment and personnel. While wealthier Pakistanis can access private healthcare, the poor have to suffer the indignity of treatment at government facilities, underscoring a deeply unequal healthcare system.

A particular aspect of predatory medicine is to medicalise ordinary social problems, resulting in unnecessary lab tests, polypharmacy and doctor shopping. This is compounded by potential conflicts of interest involving pharmaceutical firms, labs, medical equipment suppliers and healthcare providers.

Pakistan's regulatory institutions — Provincial Healthcare Commissions (PHCs), PMDC and DRAP — have important responsibilities of licensing, quality assurance, professional conduct and patient safety. However, enforcement remains poor. Regulation must be more effective and independent. PHCs need resources and authority to monitor private hospitals and diagnostic facilities. Transparent disclosure of treatment costs, standardised billing, independent clinical audits and accessible patient complaint mechanisms are required.

Addressing predatory medicine requires more than asking individual doctors to behave ethically. It requires changing the structures and incentives within which healthcare is practised. A functioning, adequately funded public health system is essential not only for providing services to those who cannot afford private treatment but also for preventing the private sector from becoming the only realistic option for millions.

Financial relationships between doctors, pharmaceutical firms, labs and hospitals should be disclosed and appropriately regulated. Clinical decisions must be based on evidence and patient need, not commercial incentives. Medical education must place greater emphasis on professional ethics, the social responsibilities of medicine and the doctor-patient relationship. Being a good doctor is not simply about diagnostic accuracy or technical competence; it is also about recognising vulnerability, avoiding unnecessary interventions and respecting patients' autonomy.

Healthcare is not like any other commodity and a patient seeking treatment is not an ordinary consumer making a purchase in a competitive marketplace. Illness creates vulnerability, distress, dependence and desperation. The relationship between a doctor and patient cannot be driven by market principles. In Pakistan, the ethical foundations of medical practice receive insufficient attention. We may have internationally accredited hospitals and specialists, yet still fail in our obligation to provide equitable and compassionate care.

The purpose of medicine is to heal, relieve suffering and protect human dignity. When profit displaces these obligations, medicine becomes predatory. We not only need more hospitals and better technology, but also a commitment to the ethics and social responsibility that should define the medical profession.

# One light day

**Asad-ul-Mulk**

On Nov 18, 2026, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) spacecraft, Voyager 1, the furthest travelled human-made object, launched in 1977 and since then travelling at a non-stop average speed of 61,200km per hour, will cover a distance of one light day.

In Cosmos, astronomer Carl Sagan writes, "The dimensions of the cosmos are so large that using familiar units of distance, such as meters or miles, chosen for their utility on earth, would make little sense. Instead, we measure distance with the speed of light [ie the distance light travels in one year]". Light travels at the superluminal speed of 1,079,252,848km/h, and thus is capable of orbiting the earth's equator 7.5 times in one second. A Boeing 747, travelling at non-stop cruising speed, which is around 900km/h, would take around 3,300 years to cover a distance of one light day, and reach where Voyager 1 will be today.

For the feat, you would have had to take off in a Boeing 747 in the Bronze Age, when Rameses II was ruling Egypt, and travel continuously at cruising speed to cover a distance of one light day by 2026. Your journey would have had to commence in a world before Christ, Cyrus, Caesar and Confucius. While a light day seems very far, on the cosmic scale, it is mundanely trivial. Our nearest star, Proxima Centauri, is about 4.2 light-years away. A journey Voyager 1 — according to Nasa — is expected to cover in 75,000 years, despite its hypersonic speed. Imagine what lies beyond the gaze of the naked eye.

To fathom the stupefying distances, Richard Dawkins in The Magic of Reality writes, "Go out into a big field with a football and plonk it down to represent the sun [which is 1.3 million times larger than the earth in volume]. Then walk 25 metres away and drop a peppercorn to represent the Earth's size and its distance from the sun. The moon, to the same scale, would be a pinhead, and it would be only 5 centimetres away from the peppercorn. But the nearest other star, Proxima Centauri, to the same scale, would be another (slightly smaller) football, located about six-and-a-half thousand kilometres away". That is about the same distance from London to Chicago.

We naively believe that when we gaze up into the night sky, we witness billions upon billions of stars — and perceive this as infinity. The actual number is close to 6,000, with the furthermost stars visible to the naked eye being posited no further than 15,000 light-years away. Imagine what lies beyond the gaze of the naked eye.

The Milky Way galaxy, with its 100 to 400 billion stars, is estimated by Nasa to be 100,000 light-years across. Our solar system, situated about 27,000 light years from the galactic centre of the Milky Way hosting the super-giant black hole, Sagittarius A*, and orbiting it at a rate of 828,000 km/h, takes approximately 230m years to complete one galactic year.

The last time our solar system was where it is now, dinosaurs had just begun to appear. In The Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs, Gregory S. Paul writes, "Only one galactic year ago the dinosaurs had just appeared on planet earth. When dinosaurs first appeared, our solar system was already well over 4 billion years old, and 95 per cent of the history of our planet had already passed". Our nearest galaxy, the Andromeda galaxy with its one trillion stars, is around 2.5m light years away, what to say of the other two trillion galaxies which are spread across an observable universe with a diameter 93bn light-years across.

Stephen Hawking illuminates in A Brief History of Time how Edwin Hubble's discoveries in 1929 led to "the landmark ob--servation that wherever you look, distant galaxies are moving rapidly away from us.

# Resetting the system

**Zahid Hussain**

The issue of administrative restructuring is back on the political agenda. The interior minister has called for a referendum to seek public approval for the creation of new provinces, arguing that the existing system of governance has "collapsed" and needs a fundamental reset.

In recent months, this contentious issue has been discussed at seminars and other public forums, while political leaders have voiced their individual opinions.

The idea of holding a referendum on such a complex issue is apparently being floated to bypass the constitutional process. Coming from the interior minister, the proposal leaves little ambiguity about whose plan it is. Securing parliamentary approval for a referendum may not be difficult in a pliant house. But can a simple "yes" or "no" referendum resolve the intricate and politically sensitive question of creating new administrative units?

There are certainly compelling reasons to restructure the existing provinces to improve governance. But the approach now being pursued is likely to open a Pandora's box, creating chaos and further aggravating political instability. Several proposals for creating new administrative units may be circulating, but no political party has come forward with a concrete blueprint.

While the PPP has rejected any move to divide Sindh or create new administrative units in the province, the ruling PML-N has yet to adopt an official position, although individual ministers have expressed their views.

There has been an intriguing silence on the issue from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Nawaz Sharif. Not surprisingly, the smaller coalition partners, widely seen as close to the powers that be, have emerged as strong supporters of the restructuring plan, despite its contours remaining unclear.

The question of administrative restructuring cannot be divorced from the broader democratic process. Mr Naqvi, himself a product of a system whose legitimacy remains contested, argues that a referendum is part of democracy. "We all talk about democracy. Parliamentarians represent the people of Pakistan. I request all political parties to consider that most survey reports suggest that new provinces should be created for better governance," he maintains.

Good governance requires rule of law, constitutional supremacy and accountable institutions.

Indeed, an elected parliament represents the will of the people and, in a democratic system, is the supreme legislative body mandated to initiate such changes. Yet, in this case, the debate on a major constitutional issue has not begun in parliament but has instead been initiated from outside it. Has there been any meaningful debate on this critical matter in the legislature, however contested its legitimacy?

The interior minister's appeal to political parties to take note of "survey reports" favouring the creation of new provinces is equally questionable. Opinion polls may offer some indication of public sentiment, but they cannot serve as the basis for constitutional change.

Moreover, we know how limited in scope and reach many such surveys are in Pakistan. Has the minister also taken note of the numerous other surveys reflecting public dissatisfaction with the existing political order?

More importantly, the Constitution clearly lays down the procedure for creating new provinces. The proposal for a referendum appears designed to circumvent these constitutional provisions. The Constitution also prescribes a well-defined procedure for its own amendment. There can be no shortcut to such a fundamental change.

The 18th Amendment provides a useful example. It altered almost one-third of the Constitution, but only after nearly 18 months of intensive deliberations by a multiparty parliamentary committee, which eventually forged a consensus. Why cannot the same democratic and parliamentary process be followed for an issue of such national importance, rather than seeking to resolve it through a referendum?

There is much talk about resetting a system of governance that has supposedly collapsed. There can be little disagreement that the country's political and governance structures are deeply dysfunctional and require fundamental reform if Pakistan is to move forward. It is odd, however, that the rhetoric of resetting the system comes from those who are themselves equally responsible for its present state.

Governance cannot be improved merely by creating new provinces. It requires, above all, a system founded on the rule of law, constitutional supremacy and accountable democratic institutions.

Those now championing administrative restructuring and a reset are also responsible for undermining the democratic process and curtailing judicial independence through the 26th and 27th Amendments, further eroding the Constitution's fundamental principles.

With democratic freedoms increasingly constrained, the country is moving towards authoritarianism. Creating new provinces or redrawing administrative boundaries will do little to improve governance or rescue a collapsing system in such circumstances.

Phrases such as "resetting the system" and "referendum" are familiar instruments. Military rulers in the past have used similar language to consolidate their power and legitimise authoritarian rule. This time, too, the signs are hardly reassuring. The exercise looks less like a genuine attempt at reform and more like an effort to salvage a failing system through cosmetic adjustments.

There has also been talk of a 28th Constitutional amendment. While the contours of the proposed amendment remain unclear, indications are that it could further tighten political control while incorporating administrative restructuring into a broader package of changes. This raises serious questions about the real objectives behind the proposed reforms.

# Not another Yalta

**Mahir Ali**

When the leaders of the USSR, US and UK gathered at a Crimean resort in Feb 1945 for a weeklong trilateral summit, an extensive agenda awaited them. With the Nazis caught in a pincer movement between the rapidly advancing Red Army and its western allies, the European segment of the world war had entered its endgame. The architecture of peace needed to be sketched out.

Historians still argue about whether Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill conceded too much to Joseph Stalin in delineating 'spheres of influence', but it was indisputably a momentous occasion. For better or worse, many of the decisions made at Yalta endured for decades, and some still resonate. No comparable outcome can be imagined from this week's summit in Shenzhen.

It may well turn out to be little more than a grandiose photo-op. A domineering presence on the global stage has additional appeal for Donald Trump following his domestic humiliation in the midterm elections. Vladimir Putin is inevitably keen to be counted among the 'Big 3'. By many accounts, Xi Jinping is a reluctant host — perhaps partly because there's only a vague agenda — "safeguarding world peace and promoting strategic stability in major-power relations", according to Beijing. And he's naturally wary of Trump's tendency to grandstand.

The Iran war could figure in discussions at Shenzhen.

The Iran war is expected to figure in the discussions. Some good could possibly come out of that if both Xi and Putin urge the US president to recognise the error of his ways.

The conflict is particularly painful for China, given its reliance on Iranian crude.

On the brighter side, China's oil imports have decreased by design, while exports of its cutting-edge green tech — including solar panels — have substantially increased. Russia, on the other hand, has been delighted by a sanctions reprieve and a surge in petroleum exports, largely due to the transport hiatus in the Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab straits. Besides, the US/Israeli conflict helps Russia portray its war against Ukraine as a comparable venture aimed at safeguarding its security. Moscow's stance makes slightly more sense than the justifications from Washington and Tel Aviv for their aggression against Iran. China sees both wars as huge strategic errors.

Trump seems to believe the Israeli propaganda that Tehran must be prevented from acquiring a nuclear weapon, an outcome that now logically seems likelier than it did before the attacks. That may help to explain why nuclear proliferation was among the topics he hoped to broach at his talks with Xi and Putin. Back in February, his administration turned down Moscow's proposal to extend a strategic arms reduction treaty, with Trump aspiring for a new deal that includes China, whose expanding nuclear arsenal appears to have alarmed Sinophobes in the US. Given that even its projected stockpiles are a fraction of what's stored in Russian and American silos, Beijing does not wish to play ball.

Shortly before flying to Asia, Trump noted that denuclearisation, Iran, economics, trade and "my favourite topic, Ukraine" would be up for discussion. Volodymyr Zelensky is alarmed by the possibilities, but a carve-up without Kyiv at the table is hardly likely. China sees Ukraine as a European issue that should be discussed at a more appropriate forum. Trump is disinclined, meanwhile, to bring up the Nvidia fiasco after the US chipmaker's CEO Jensen Huang was ousted over revelations about an affair with a purported Chinese 'asset'.

America rem-ains determined to deny China superiority in artificial intelligence throu--gh curbs on chip exports. But that's probably another lost battle. Exactly what the three lea-ders will talk about remains to be seen.

Climate change won't be on the agenda. That's being thrashed out at COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye, where there's no official US representation, given the Trump administration's focus on exacerbating global heating despite rapidly mounting evidence about its catastrophic consequences, from the devastation in Nepal caused by glacier collapse to an estimated 50,000 heatwave deaths in Europe during a scorching summer, not to mention the ecocidal aspect of the Pales-tinian genocide as well as the Iranian, Ukrainian and Sudanese conflicts. Not to mention the ginormous carbon footprint of proliferating US data centres.

As Swedish activist Greta Thunberg accurately spelt it out in Antalya, "The planet is not dying, it is being killed." And the outgoing UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, was equally correct in pointing out: "It's make or bake time." He might have erred, though, in comparing fossil fuels to dinosaurs and claiming the latter "did not have a lobby". They do, and some of its components might be congregating in Shenzhen right now.

# Pak, Singapore discuss strengthening economic, trade and investment ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Singapore on Wednesday discussed ways to deepen bilateral economic cooperation, enhance trade and expand investment opportunities.

According to press release issued by finance ministry here, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb met Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy, Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong in Singapore.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Singapore Fintech Festival 2026, which the Finance Minister is attending. Pakistan's High Commissioner to Singapore, Rabia Shafiq, also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, Finance Minister Aurangzeb highlighted the significance of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Singapore this year, a testament of our longstanding relations.

He observed that bilateral engagements were gaining momentum and recalled the recent visit of Singapore's Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan to Pakistan.

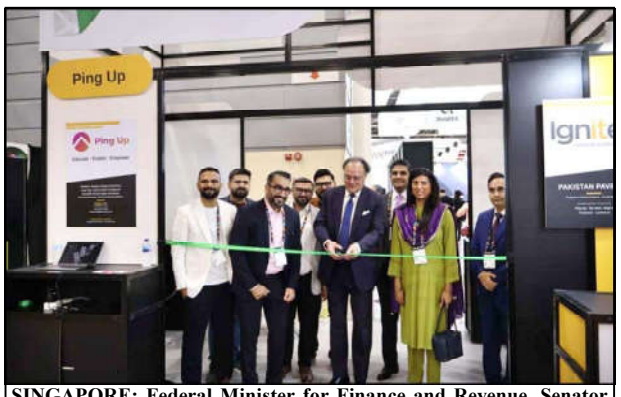
Aurangzeb congratulated Singapore on its forthcoming ASEAN Chairmanship in 2027, noting that Pakistan assumed the Chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

He underscored the potential for closer collaboration between the two countries in areas including finance, artificial intelligence, fintech, trade and investment.

He noted that businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), need to engage directly to better understand the commercial opportunities between the two countries.

The two sides also discussed opportunities to enhance trade in Pakistani food and agricultural products, with the Finance Minister noting the potential to further expand their presence in the Singapore market.

Aurangzeb also reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to regional peace and stability. He expressed hope for peace in the Middle East, underscoring Pakistan's continued efforts to promote peace and stability at the regional and international levels, the press release added.




**SINGAPORE: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, inaugurating the Pakistan Pavilion at the Singapore FinTech Festival (SFF) 2026.**



**ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairing a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on the Export of Surplus Sugar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.**

# Commerce Minister, HBL CEO discuss SME financing, regulatory reforms, global trade expansion

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan held a meeting with a delegation led by Muhammad Nassir Salim, President and CEO of Habib Bank Limited (HBL), to discuss SME financing, digital banking, export facilitation and expansion of Pakistan's trade in key international markets.

Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan emphasized the need to bring Pakistan's largely informal SME sector into the documented economy to improve access to institutional financing, enhance product quality and strengthen export competitiveness, said a release issued here on Wednesday.

He stressed that compliance with international standards, quality assurance and traceability were increasingly important for Pakistani businesses competing in global markets.

The Minister also highlighted the Government's efforts to simplify business regulations, remove overlapping licensing requirements and reduce unnecessary administrative hurdles to encourage investment and industrial growth.

The HBL delegation shared its perspectives on SME financing, digital financial services and the challenges faced by banks in financing undocumented businesses. Both sides discussed measures to strengthen financial inclusion and promote digital transactions and greater economic formalization.

The Minister highlighted emerging trade and investment opportunities across Africa, Southeast Asia and the Middle East, and noted that the Ministry of Commerce was developing country-specific and sector-wise strategies to diversify Pakistan's exports and identify new markets.

He underscored the importance of banking-sector support in providing trade finance, facilitating international transactions and enabling Pakistani exporters to enter and expand in overseas markets.

It was also agreed that the Ministry of Commerce would support HBL in strengthening trade-related banking and financing linkages with Pakistan's key trading partners, including Bangladesh, China, the Maldives and Sri Lanka. Such collaboration would help facilitate trade transactions, improve access to banking channels and support greater bilateral trade with these markets.

Both sides also discussed the Prime Minister's focus on SME development, agriculture and housing, and the role of financial institutions in supporting these priority sectors. The meeting concluded with an understanding to strengthen coordination between the Ministry of Commerce and HBL to facilitate trade, investment, SME development and Pakistan's commercial engagement with key international markets.

# Pakistan keen to benefit from Brazil's expertise in modern agriculture: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, on Wednesday said that Pakistan is keen to benefit from Brazil's expertise in modern agriculture, livestock management, meat production and Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) control.

The minister held a high-level meeting with the Ambassador of Brazil to Pakistan, Olyntho Vieira, to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in agriculture, livestock development, agricultural research, technology transfer and trade.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the proposed visit of a high-level Pakistani delegation to Brazil, tentatively scheduled for the second week of January 2027.

The Federal Minister informed the Ambassador that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif had approved the delegation, comprising federal ministers and senior government officials, to explore opportunities for enhanced agricultural collaboration.

He emphasised that cooperation with Brazil would help Pakistan improve agricultural productivity, strengthen food security and enhance the international competitiveness of its agricultural products.

The minister stated that Pakistani agricultural and livestock experts would visit Brazil to study its advanced farming practices, research institutions and livestock development models. He stressed the importance of translating international experience into practical solutions suited to Pakistan's agricultural conditions.

The Brazilian Ambassador highlighted the significant contribution of Brazil's renowned agricultural research institution, Embrapa, in transforming the country's agricultural sector through scientific research, innovation and capacity building.

Both sides agreed to promote institutional collaboration between the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and Embrapa, particularly in agricultural research, technology transfer, crop productivity and human resource development.

Discussions also focused on strengthening cooperation in sanitary and phytosanitary measures, plant protection, animal quarantine and disease surveillance to facilitate agricultural trade and improve compliance with international standards.

The Ambassador emphasised the importance of adopting affordable and appropriate agricultural technologies that align with Pakistan's local infrastructure, economic conditions and employment requirements.

The meeting also explored Brazil's experience in sugarcane production, ethanol manufacturing and biofuel blending as potential areas for technical cooperation.

Regarding bilateral trade, both sides discussed opportunities to diversify agricultural exports and imports. Particular emphasis was placed on exploring market access for Pakistani Basmati rice in Brazil.

The Ambassador also acknowledged the popularity of Pakistani pink salt in the Brazilian market and highlighted the need to address concerns regarding counterfeit products.



**ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, meets with the Ambassador of Brazil to Pakistan, H.E. Olyntho Vieira, to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation in agriculture, livestock development, agricultural research, technology transfer and trade.**

# Govt. developing national policy to transform marble, granite industry: Haroon

ISLAMABAD (APP): Adviser to the Prime Minister for Industries and Production, Haroon Akhtar Khan on Wednesday said that the government is developing a comprehensive Marble Policy 2026–29 to modernize marble and granite industry, improve mining and processing standards, promote value addition and boost exports.

He spoke at a meeting with representatives of the Marble Association and discussed developing Pakistan's marble and granite industry and formulating a comprehensive national model policy to make the sector globally competitive, a news release said.

The meeting was attended by the coordinator to the prime minister for industries and production and commerce Rana Ihsan Afzaal , the Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan Stone Development Company (PASDEC), Chief Executive Officer of the National Productivity Organization (NPO), Additional Secretary Industries and representatives of the marble industry. Haroon said that the proposed policy would focus on modernising the industry through advanced technology, efficient mining practices and value addition. It would cover the entire value chain, from quarrying and extraction to processing, finishing, polishing and exports.

The adviser said that Pakistan possessed enormous potential in marble and natural stone resources, offering significant opportunities for investment, industrial development and export growth.

# PSX stays bearish, loses over 1, 223 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued its bearish trend on Wednesday, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index losing 1, 223.41 points, a negative change of 0.69 percent, to close at 176, 294.33 points against 177, 517.74 points recorded in the previous trading session.

The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 742.121 million shares, compared to 839.224 million shares traded in the previous session. The traded value of the ready market stood at Rs25.975 billion, up from Rs20.158 billion a day earlier.

Meanwhile, total market capitalisation decreased to Rs19.198 trillion from Rs19.290 trillion recorded in the previous session.

Out of 502 companies that traded in the ready market, 179 posted gains, 285 suffered losses, while 38 remained unchanged, reflecting a negative trend in the market.

WorldCall Telecom led the volume chart with 68.692 million shares, followed by Cnergyico PK with 68.508 million shares and PIA Holding Company with 47.820 million shares.

Among the top gainers in the ready market, Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited surged by Rs283.67 to close at Rs26, 500.00, while Khyber Textile Mills Limited advanced by Rs67.12 to settle at Rs1, 946.88.

On the losing side, Pakistan Services Limited declined by Rs40.30 to close at Rs1, 366.03, while Sazgar Engineering Works Limited fell by Rs30.13 to Rs1, 461.41.

In the futures (DFC) market, turnover stood at 163.189 million shares with a traded value of Rs6.849 billion, compared with 121.302 million shares worth Rs4.372 billion in the previous session.

# Electricity tariff may rise by rs2.88 per unit across Pakistan

KARACHI (INP): Electricity consumers across Pakistan may face an increase of Rs2.88 per unit following a request for an adjustment under the monthly fuel price adjustment mechanism for October.

The proposed increase is expected to place an additional financial burden of more than Rs35 billion on electricity consumers.

The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) has submitted an application to the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), seeking approval for the proposed increase. NEPRA will conduct a hearing on the application on November 26.

According to the details submitted with the application, a total of 10.744 billion units of electricity were generated during October, while 10.352 billion units were supplied to power distribution companies.

The average cost of electricity generation stood at Rs10.75 per unit during the month, compared with the reference cost of Rs7.86 per unit set for October.

The proposed increase is expected to affect consumers of K-Electric as well.

Read more: Industrial electricity tariff reduced by Rs18.94 per unit since March 2024: Power Division

If approved by NEPRA, electricity consumers will have to pay additional amounts in their electricity bills next month under the October monthly fuel price adjustment.

The final decision on the proposed tariff adjustment will be made by NEPRA following the scheduled hearing.

Earlier, the Power Division clarified that the industrial electricity tariff had not been increased, terming a media report suggesting an increase misleading and factually incorrect.

A spokesperson for the Power Division said the Rs. 25.30 per unit cited in the headline is the revised marginal rate under the Incremental Consumption Package for industrial and agricultural consumers. It is not the industrial tariff, the Spokesperson added.

# Preparations accelerate for new steel mills in Gwadar industrial estate

GWADAR (6 AM Report): Preparations for establishing new steel mills at Gwadar Industrial Estate have accelerated, with a team of technical engineers arriving to undertake foundation-related work, according to Gwadar Industrial Estate Development Authority (GIEDA) General Manager Muhammad Hashim Sarwar.

During a visit to the industrial estate, Sarwar reviewed preparations for the proposed steel mills, technical requirements and the progress of industrial infrastructure development.

He said efforts were underway to attract investment, facilitate new industries and improve essential infrastructure in line with the provincial government's industrial development policy and Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti's economic vision.

The general manager emphasized that providing a business-friendly environment and strengthening industrial facilities would help expand manufacturing activities and encourage further private investment in Gwadar. During the visit, Sarwar also inspected Balochistan Packing Plastic Company and reviewed its manufacturing operations. Officials informed him that the company was continuing its regular production activities.

He expressed optimism that the proposed steel mills and other industrial initiatives would increase local production, generate employment opportunities for young people and strengthen Gwadar's economy.

# Pakistan's IT exports hit record monthly high of $453m

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Information Technology (IT) exports reached an all-time monthly high of $453 million in October 2026, registering a growth of 17.4 per cent on a year-on-year (YoY) basis.

Advisor to the Finance Minister Khurram Schehzad, in a post on social media platform X here Wednesday, shared the milestone, stating that the country's IT exports had witnessed significant growth, reflecting the growing momentum of Pakistan's digital economy.

According to the figures shared by the advisor, IT exports during July-October (2026-27) stood at around $1.73 billion.

*Bilal Khan Kakar*

# Balochistan to boost investment through business reforms

***Over 100 companies join BITE 2026; business leaders call for easier licensing, youth training and stronger industry-academia partnerships***

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Vice Chairman of the Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade (BBoIT), Bilal Khan Kakar, has said the provincial government is working to attract investment, strengthen industrial linkages and create employment opportunities through business-friendly reforms, digital services and one-window facilities.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Balochistan Investment and Trade Expo (BITE 2026), he said the province possessed significant potential in trade, agriculture, industry and emerging technologies, requiring stronger connections between local businesses and national markets. Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti formally inaugurated the expo, which features stalls from more than 100 companies, provincial departments and federal regulatory institutions.

Bilal Kakar said BITE 2026 provides a platform for local industries, entrepreneurs and startups to engage with investors, explore business partnerships and expand market access. He highlighted initiatives involving vocational training, e-commerce, agricultural support and business facilitation centres.

FPCCI Patron-in-Chief S.M. Tanveer welcomed the expo and offered cooperation in providing technical and vocational training to Balochistan's youth. He also highlighted investment opportunities in agriculture, food processing and industrial development.

Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Ahmed Gul Kakar urged the government to simplify licensing, No Objection Certificates (NOCs) and regulatory approvals, while improving security along major highways to strengthen investor confidence.

BUITEMS Vice Chancellor Dr Khalid Hafeez emphasized closer collaboration between universities and industries, particularly in robotics, intelligent systems and data science, to equip graduates with market-relevant skills.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, former federal minister Saleem Mandviwalla, provincial ministers, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Shahid Rind, the Iranian Consul General, business leaders and senior officials.

# Balochistan blue carbon project draws global interest, eyes $707 million revenue

***$31 million private investment to restore 34,351 hectares of mangroves; 15% of carbon revenue earmarked for coastal communities***

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan's Blue Carbon Offset Project has attracted international investor interest at the UN climate conference in Antalya, Türkiye, with provincial authorities projecting more than $707 million in carbon credit revenue over 46 years under an initiative aimed at restoring coastal mangrove forests and supporting sustainable development.

Developed under Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti's environmental vision, the project involves $31 million in private investment to restore and conserve 34,351 hectares of mangroves across six coastal clusters in Gwadar, Lasbela and Hub districts.

Secretary Forests and Wildlife Asadullah Faiz, who led Balochistan's delegation, briefed international investors, carbon project developers and environmental institutions on the province's blue carbon potential, climate financing opportunities and conservation initiatives.

According to provincial officials, the project will operate under a 46-year public-private partnership through the Balochistan Public-Private Partnership Authority. The required investment will be financed entirely through private developer equity, without a direct financial burden on the provincial treasury.

Officials said the projected revenue would depend on carbon credit generation and international market conditions, with accounting arrangements aligned with international standards and Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

A key feature of the initiative is the allocation of 15% of carbon revenue to a Community Development Fund, intended to support solar-powered water desalination, clean drinking water, environmentally sustainable livelihoods and economic opportunities for coastal residents.

The delegation also highlighted Balochistan's 770-kilometre coastline, three notified marine protected areas—Astola Island, Miani Hor and Charna Island—and approximately 160,000 hectares of protected mangrove reserves.

Officials identified another 160,000 hectares of potentially suitable coastal and wetland areas for future blue carbon projects. During discussions, a proposal emerged to introduce direct community dividends from carbon credit earnings. Secretary Faiz said the proposal would be submitted to Chief Minister Bugti for policy approval.

The project also requires developers to prioritize local workers, potentially creating employment opportunities in coastal districts. Provincial authorities described the international interest as an encouraging development for climate finance, environmental conservation and sustainable economic growth in Balochistan.

*CM Bugti*

# Fatah-III missile test marks major Defence milestone

***Balochistan CM congratulates Pakistan Army, scientists and engineers, says successful test will strengthen military capabilities and national defence***

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has hailed the successful test of the Pakistan Army's Fatah-III supersonic cruise missile as a significant milestone in the country's defence capabilities, congratulating the armed forces, scientists, engineers and the nation on the achievement.

In a statement, the chief minister said the successful test reflected Pakistan's progress in indigenous defence technology, growing self-reliance and the professional expertise of its military scientists and engineers.

He said the Fatah-III, equipped with advanced navigation and propulsion systems, was designed to engage targets at long distances with high precision while travelling at supersonic speed.

According to Bugti, the missile's induction would enhance the operational capabilities of the Pakistan Army's Rocket Force Command and further strengthen the country's conventional defence and deterrence capabilities.

The chief minister praised the armed forces for their professionalism, commitment and continued efforts to modernize Pakistan's defence infrastructure.

He also welcomed the recognition extended by the President, Prime Minister, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces, and senior military leadership to the institutions and experts involved in the achievement.

Bugti said the dedication, research and technical expertise of Pakistani scientists, engineers and defence professionals were instrumental in advancing national defence self-reliance.

He reaffirmed that continued technological advancement, national unity and strong defence capabilities were essential to safeguarding Pakistan's sovereignty, national security and territorial integrity.



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Nosherwani review under training internal audit unit officers and officials.



QUETTA: Provincial President PPP Senator Sardar Umer Gorgage meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

*MPA Jahanzeb*

# Attack on Nawab Nauroz Khan's historic home an assault on Baloch dignity

QUETTA (Irshad Ali Solangi): Balochistan Assembly member Mir Jehanzeb Mengal has strongly condemned the alleged attack by unidentified armed men on the historic residence of Baloch leader Nawab Nauroz Khan in Gandawah, describing the incident as an assault on the dignity, heritage and traditions of the Baloch people.

In a statement, Mengal said Nawab Nauroz Khan symbolized Baloch history, honour and national identity, adding that any attack on his historic residence was deeply offensive to the sentiments of the Baloch community.

According to reports cited by the lawmaker, dozens of unidentified armed men allegedly stormed the residence and held male and female employees hostage. The reported incident and hostage-taking have not been independently verified.

Mengal expressed serious concern over the allegations, saying that forcibly entering private residences, intimidating civilians and holding innocent people captive violated fundamental rights and traditional social values.

He urged the Balochistan government and law enforcement agencies to immediately investigate the incident, ensure the safe release of any individuals being held and arrest those responsible.

The MPA emphasized that protecting citizens' lives, property and historical heritage was a fundamental responsibility of the government.

He called for prompt legal and administrative measures to prevent similar incidents and uphold public safety and the rule of law.

# Two health workers absent, medicine shortage found at Chaman BHU

CHAMAN (6 AM Report): Assistant Commissioner Chaman (Sadar) Ms Ida Judith Gul has expressed serious concern over the absence of two Lady Health Visitors (LHVs) and an acute shortage of medicines at Basic Health Unit (BHU) Mahmoodabad, directing authorities to ensure staff accountability and restore essential medical supplies immediately.

During a surprise inspection conducted under the Balochistan government's directives, the assistant commissioner reviewed staff attendance, medicine stocks and healthcare services available to patients.

The inspection revealed that two government-appointed Lady Health Visitors were absent from duty, while the medicines supplied for November had already been exhausted before November 18.

Taking notice of the situation, Ms Gul directed the authorities concerned to investigate staff absenteeism, ensure accountability and arrange an immediate supply of essential medicines.

She emphasized that basic health units must provide accessible healthcare to local communities and that the regular availability of medical staff and medicines was essential for effective service delivery.

The assistant commissioner warned that negligence in public healthcare facilities would not be tolerated and essential medical facilities must reach residents of remote and border areas.

Chairing a District Health Committee meeting, the deputy commissioner reviewed hospital performance, staff attendance, medicine availability, cleanliness and healthcare delivery.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Syed Razi Harira, Treasury Officer Muhammad Arif Gujjar, District Health Officer Abdul Rasheed Nasir, Medical Superintendent Dr Naseem Khan Kakar, PPHI District Support Manager Ismatullah Tareen and other health officials.

Dr Naseem Khan Kakar and Ismatullah Tareen briefed the meeting on healthcare facilities, staff attendance and medicine supplies across the district.

# Attempts to sideline JUI-F from national politics will fail: Wasey

KILLA ABDULLAH (ANN): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Balochistan President Senator Maulana Abdul Wasey has said that attempts to exclude his party from national politics or weaken its public support would not succeed, reaffirming its commitment to constitutional supremacy, democratic values and public rights.

Addressing the Dai-e-Aman Conference organized by JUI-F in Killa Abdullah, Abdul Wasey and other party leaders declared that the protection of religious seminaries and party chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman remained central to their political agenda.

The speakers alleged that political pressure, negative propaganda and attempts to undermine the party's leadership would not weaken its ideological foundations or public support.

They emphasized that JUI-F would continue its constitutional, democratic and peaceful struggle to safeguard the independence of religious seminaries, which they described as important institutions providing free education and social support to millions of children.

The leaders expressed confidence in Maulana Fazlur Rehman's leadership and said the party would respond to alleged political victimization through democratic means rather than confrontation or violence.

They also stressed the need for constitutional supremacy, stronger democratic institutions, economic justice and protection of citizens' rights, reaffirming their commitment to establishing an Islamic welfare state.

The conference was addressed by Provincial General Secretary Agha Mahmood Shah, Central Finance Secretary Maulana Salahuddin Ayubi, Maulana Hussain Ahmed Shahrudi, Maulana Hafiz Muhammad Yousaf, Opposition Leader Mir Younus Aziz Zehri, Haji Muhammad Nawaz Khan Kakar, Syed Abdul Wahid Agha and other party representatives.

The speakers reiterated that JUI-F would continue its political activities through peaceful.

# Absent medical staff face salary stoppage, disciplinary action: DC Khalid Shams

BARSHORE (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Barshore Flight Lieutenant (Retd.) Khalid Shams has directed authorities to ensure 100 percent attendance of doctors and medical staff at government hospitals and basic health units across the district, warning that salaries would be paid only to employees performing their duties. He ordered the suspension of salaries and strict disciplinary action against absent and negligent staff, making it clear that no negligence in healthcare services would be tolerated and essential medical facilities must reach residents of remote and border areas.

Chairing a District Health Committee meeting, the deputy commissioner reviewed hospital performance, staff attendance, medicine availability, cleanliness and healthcare delivery.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Syed Razi Harira, Treasury Officer Muhammad Arif Gujjar, District Health Officer Abdul Rasheed Nasir, Medical Superintendent Dr Naseem Khan Kakar, PPHI District Support Manager Ismatullah Tareen and other health officials.

Dr Naseem Khan Kakar and Ismatullah Tareen briefed the meeting on healthcare facilities, staff attendance and medicine supplies across the district.

# Quality education and modern facilities for special children a shared responsibility: DC Sasoli

KHUZDAR (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Khuzdar Abdul Razzaq Sasoli has said that providing quality education, modern facilities and a supportive learning environment for children with special needs is a shared responsibility of the government and private institutions.

He expressed these views while inaugurating a 20-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system and new school furniture provided by Bolan Mining Enterprises (BME) to the National Special Education Complex Khuzdar.

The project was jointly inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Sasoli and BME Manager Nadeem in the presence of the institution's Principal Muhammad Mubarak, Rafiq Danish and other officials.

Speaking at the ceremony, the deputy commissioner said the solar system would help address electricity shortages, ensure uninterrupted educational activities and facilitate the use of computers and other modern learning equipment.

He appreciated BME's contribution, emphasizing that public-private cooperation was essential for improving educational opportunities and creating an inclusive learning environment for children with special needs.

BME Manager Nadeem said the company remained committed to community welfare through initiatives in education, healthcare and social development alongside its mining operations. He assured continued support for the institution.

Principal Muhammad Mubarak thanked the district administration and BME, saying the solar system and furniture would help address longstanding infrastructure challenges and improve classroom conditions.

Rafiq Danish also welcomed the initiative, highlighting the importance of providing children with special needs the resources and encouragement necessary to develop their abilities and confidence.

# Security tightened along Quetta-Chaman highway

KILLA ABDULLAH (6 AM Report): Superintendent of Police Killa Abdullah Khalil Ahmed Bugti has said that security measures have been intensified across the district, particularly along the Quetta-Chaman National Highway, to maintain law and order and protect citizens and travelers.

Acting on the directives of the Inspector General of Police Balochistan and Deputy Inspector General Zhob Range, district police have increased patrols, checkpoints and snap checking at sensitive locations.

Under SP Bugti's supervision, police personnel are conducting regular night patrols, inspecting suspicious vehicles and motorcycles, and verifying identification documents to prevent criminal activities and potential security threats.

The SP emphasized that public safety remained a top priority and warned that strict legal action would be taken against individuals involved in criminal or suspicious activities.

# No compromise on development project quality: DC Varender

NASEERABAD (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Naseerabad Varender Lal has warned that no compromise will be tolerated on the quality of development projects, directing concerned departments to ensure transparency, effective utilization of funds and timely completion of ongoing schemes.

Chairing a meeting of the District Development Committee, the deputy commissioner reviewed progress on projects being implemented under the Balochistan Special Development Initiative (BSDI), particularly Phases II and III.

Officials informed the meeting that all approved development schemes under BSDI Phase II had been completed, while approximately 60 to 70 percent of work on Phase III projects had been accomplished.

The meeting, attended by the Executive Engineer, Local Government Department representatives and other officials, examined construction progress, expenditure and implementation challenges.

Deputy Commissioner Varender Lal directed officials to strengthen monitoring, maintain construction standards and accelerate work on remaining projects without compromising quality.

He emphasized that substandard construction and unnecessary delays would undermine public investment and deprive communities of essential facilities.

The deputy commissioner said development initiatives were intended to improve civic services, strengthen infrastructure and create opportunities for economic and social progress.

He instructed the departments concerned to utilize available resources efficiently and complete the remaining BSDI Phase III schemes within the prescribed timelines, ensuring that development benefits reach the public.



QUETTA: A delegation of representatives of Dera Murad Jamali meeting with Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Sadiq Umrani to discuss the problems faced by their area.

# Youth creativity to help address Quetta's urban challenges: Bashir Ahmed

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Administrator Bashir Ahmed Barrech has said that, in line with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti's vision, the creative potential of young people will be utilized to identify and address Quetta's urban challenges, improve cleanliness, promote beautification and support city development. For this purpose, an inter-university competition titled "My Quetta, My Responsibility" will be organized for students of public and private universities, providing them an opportunity to present innovative and practical solutions to civic problems.

Talking to media representatives, Barrech said the initiative aims to promote civic responsibility among students, encourage innovative thinking and strengthen cooperation between universities and the Metropolitan Corporation.

He emphasized that Quetta belongs to all its residents and that young people have an important role in improving its cleanliness, infrastructure and overall environment.

The administrator said participating students would identify urban problems, examine their causes and propose effective, practical solutions to improve municipal services.

He added that encouraging youth participation in urban development remains a priority under the chief minister's vision.

Barrech expressed hope that the competition would generate useful ideas for Quetta's improvement while strengthening collaboration between educational institutions and the Metropolitan Corporation.

He reaffirmed the corporation's commitment to encouraging the adoption of practical proposals emerging from the competition to support sustainable urban development.

# Registration of unregistered seminaries expedited in Barshore

BARSHORE (6 AM Report): Assistant Commissioner Barshore Syed Razi Harira has said the registration of unregistered religious seminaries has been expedited under federal and provincial government policies and the directives of Deputy Commissioner Flight Lieutenant (Retd.) Khalid Shams.

During a meeting with local religious scholars and seminary administrators, he said registration under the prescribed laws and Balochistan Charities Authority procedures would ensure legal recognition and facilitate access to government services.

The assistant commissioner assured full administrative assistance in documentation, verification and other registration requirements to ensure timely completion of the process.

Religious scholars and seminary representatives welcomed the initiative and pledged cooperation with the district administration.

# No compromise on revenue transparency, healthcare: Ayesha

KALAT (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Kalat Engineer Ayesha Zehri has warned that negligence in public service delivery will not be tolerated, directing revenue and health officials to ensure transparency, accountability and prompt resolution of public complaints.

Chairing separate meetings of revenue officials and the District Health Management Committee, she reviewed agricultural income tax collection, land records, hospital performance, medical staff attendance and the availability of essential healthcare facilities.

During the revenue meeting, attended by tehsildars, revenue officials and patwaris from Kalat and Khaliqabad, the deputy commissioner directed officials to maintain accurate land records, ensure transparent tax collection and resolve citizens' complaints without unnecessary delays.

She emphasized that revenue officials must perform their duties with integrity and professionalism to facilitate the public and improve administrative efficiency.

At the monthly District Health Management Committee meeting, attended by District Health Officer Dr Abdul Malik, Medical Superintendent Dr Somar Khan, District Accounts Officer Abdul Fattah and other officials, the performance of government hospitals and basic health units was reviewed.

Discussions focused on doctors' and technical staff attendance, vacant positions, medicine supplies, ambulance availability and action against unqualified medical practitioners.

# Rs37 million visitor shelters completed at Pak point in Gwadar

GWADAR (6 AM Report): The Balochistan government has completed the construction of visitor shelters at Pakistan Point, a popular tourist destination on Koh-e-Batil in Gwadar, at a cost of Rs37 million. The project aims to promote tourism by providing local and international visitors with improved seating and resting facilities while enjoying the area's scenic coastal views. The project was completed under Phase-I of the Balochistan Special Development Initiative (BSDI), supervised by the provincial Communication and Works Department and Physical Planning and Housing authorities.

The initiative is designed to strengthen Gwadar's tourism infrastructure, improve visitor convenience and enhance the appeal of its natural and coastal attractions. Pakistan Point, located on Koh-e-Batil, is known for its distinctive geographical setting and panoramic views of Gwadar's coastline, attracting visitors from across Pakistan and abroad.

The newly constructed shelters will provide tourists with comfortable resting spaces, particularly during daytime visits.

The provincial government expects the project to improve tourism facilities, encourage visitors and support efforts to develop Gwadar as an attractive coastal tourism destination.

# Sibi to deduct salaries of absent teachers, cancel attachment orders

SIBI (ANN): Deputy Commissioner Sibi Major (Retd.) Ilyas Kibzai has announced that salaries of persistently absent teachers will be deducted and all existing attachment orders in the Education Department will be cancelled to ensure teachers perform their duties at their original postings.

Chairing a meeting of the District Education Group Committee, the deputy commissioner warned that absenteeism and negligence in teaching duties would not be tolerated.

The meeting reviewed teachers' attendance, school performance, educational activities and administrative challenges across the district.

Officials also informed the committee that construction work on nine schools was underway, while work on other approved schools would begin following the release of funds.

Deputy Commissioner Kibzai directed the authorities concerned to accelerate construction while maintaining quality standards and ensuring timely completion.

# Baloch doctors forum demands immediate release of BICVD merit list

QUETTA (ANN): The Baloch Doctors Forum (BDF) has demanded the immediate publication of recruitment results and the final merit list at the Balochistan Institute of Cardiology and Vascular Diseases (BICVD), raising concerns over alleged irregularities and lack of transparency in the appointment process.

In a statement, the forum's central spokesperson said several months had passed since recruitment interviews were conducted, but neither the official results nor the final merit list had been made public.

The spokesperson alleged that appointment orders were being communicated to certain candidates through personal phone numbers instead of following a transparent recruitment procedure. The allegations have not been independently verified.

The forum urged Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the Balochistan Chief Secretary and relevant authorities to publish candidates' marks, recruitment results and the complete merit list, alongside an independent audit of the selection process.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini presides over the meeting regarding crackdown on begging in city.

# Effective measures, concrete planning indispensable to protect children from violence: Azam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, has reaffirmed Pakistan's global commitment to ending violence against children, emphasizing that effective measures and concrete action planning are indispensable to protecting every child in every setting.

Addressing the 2nd Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children in Manila, Philippines, on Wednesday, the Federal Minister stated that the Constitution of Pakistan guarantees the protection of the family, mother, and child, and provides free and compulsory education to every child aged five to sixteen. He noted that Pakistan is advancing the pledge made at the BogoUNiCaetá Conference—to keep children safe from all forms of violence—with tangible practical measures and a clear roadmap in Manila today.

Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar informed the conference participants that last month, Pakistan launched its first-ever National Strategy to End Violence Against Children (2026–2031), alongside the formulation of the Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Policy. He clarified that a comprehensive action plan, annual work plans, and clear responsibilities for federal ministries, provinces, and territories are being established to ensure effective implementation of this strategy.

Highlighting the expansion of the country's child protection system, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar stated that Pakistan had 42 Child Protection Units at the time of the first global conference, which have now been expanded to 81 districts. He said the government aims to extend effective child protection mechanisms to 100 districts by 2030. This system will adopt an integrated, multisectoral approach to address all forms of exploitation, including technology-facilitated violence, while further strengthening improved data and accountability frameworks.

The Federal Minister stressed the importance of positive parenting training, nonviolent discipline, and reforming social and gender norms that perpetuate violence against children. In this regard, Pakistan has developed a training manual titled "Art of Parenting," under which Master Trainers across the country are working closely with families and educational institutions.

Referring to legal reforms, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar noted that over the past two years, new legislation has been enacted in Islamabad, Punjab, Sindh, and Balochistan to set the minimum age of marriage at 18 years. Furthermore, steps are underway to further strengthen existing laws against corporal punishment and ensure their effective enforcement.




**MANILA: Federal Minister for Law & Justice and Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, in a group photo with global delegates and ministers on the occasion of the 2nd Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children in Manila, Philippines.**

# No delays or negligence in resolving public issues: Umrani

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Irrigation Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani has warned that negligence or unnecessary delays in addressing public grievances will not be tolerated, directing concerned authorities to take immediate steps to improve basic facilities and accelerate development projects in Dera Murad Jamali and surrounding areas.

He made these remarks during a meeting with public delegations from Dera Murad Jamali, led by Nisar Umrani, who highlighted longstanding problems affecting local communities.

The delegations raised concerns over inadequate healthcare and educational facilities, electricity supply, clean drinking water, drainage, irrigation infrastructure and challenges faced by farmers.

They also discussed ongoing projects under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), funded through the minister's development allocations, including road construction and rehabilitation, sports grounds, drainage improvements and irrigation-related initiatives.

After hearing their concerns, Minister Umrani contacted senior officials and directed them to take prompt measures to address public complaints and ensure effective implementation of development schemes.

He emphasized that government departments must improve coordination, maintain accountability and prioritize the timely completion of projects to provide meaningful relief to residents.

Highlighting the importance of agriculture to the local economy, the minister said improving irrigation systems and addressing farmers' difficulties were essential for increasing agricultural productivity and supporting rural livelihoods.

Umrani reaffirmed his commitment to monitoring development activities and ensuring that available resources were utilized effectively to improve living standards across Dera Murad Jamali.

The visiting delegations appreciated the minister's response and expressed hope that the directives would lead to practical improvements in public services and development activities.

# Lawyers are pillars of justice, their welfare a government priority: Bugti

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has said that lawyers are a fundamental pillar of the justice system, playing a vital role in upholding the Constitution, ensuring the rule of law, delivering justice and protecting citizens' fundamental rights. He emphasized that lawyers' welfare, professional security and resolution of their concerns remain key government priorities. The provincial government has issued four important notifications providing lawyers with medical facilities equivalent to Grade-18 government employees, a martyrs' package, legal advisory assistance and access to banking facilities.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation comprising members of the Pakistan Bar Council and Balochistan Bar Council, including Advocate Munir Ahmed Kakar, Advocate Nadir Ali Chalgari, Najeeb Ahmed Kakar and Afzal Harifal.

During the meeting, the chief minister handed over four notifications issued by the Law, Health, Home and Finance departments concerning lawyers' welfare and professional benefits. Under the Health Department's notification, lawyers will receive medical facilities equivalent to those available to Grade-18 government employees, while the Law Department's notification provides for legal advisory assistance.

The Home Department's notification extends the government's martyrs' package to families of lawyers killed in terrorist attacks or other untoward incidents while performing professional duties. Similarly, the Finance Department's notification facilitates lawyers' access to bank loans, credit cards and other financial services.

CM Bugti reaffirmed the government's commitment to protecting lawyers and supporting their families, directing relevant departments to ensure effective implementation of the notifications.

He said the legal fraternity's contribution to constitutional supremacy, citizens' rights and the administration of justice deserved recognition and institutional support.



**MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveils the plaque of inauguration of Rathoa-Haryam Bridge.**

# Professional training essential for financial transparency: Nosherwani

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Nosherwani has emphasized that professional training, modern financial knowledge and practical skills are essential for strengthening transparency, accountability and good governance in public institutions.

He made these remarks during a visit to an ongoing training programme organized by the Balochistan Finance Department, accompanied by Finance Secretary Jahangir Kakar and Special Secretary Arif Achakzai.

On the fourth day of the programme, the minister interacted with participating officers, reviewed training activities and stressed the importance of adopting modern administrative practices to improve financial management and institutional performance.

During the sessions, Bashir Ahmed delivered a lecture on corporate governance, public-sector enterprises, institutional management and investment, highlighting transparency, accountability and effective decision-making.

Managing Director of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Unit, Dr Noor Muhammad, briefed participants on the legal and administrative framework of PPP projects, the responsibilities of relevant authorities and the role of private investment in development initiatives.

He emphasized that effective public-private collaboration could improve project planning, resource utilization and public service delivery.

Director MIS Asim Mahmood provided practical guidance on the SAP reporting system, financial data entry, report preparation and digital monitoring procedures.

According to the Finance Department, the training programme aims to enhance officers' professional capabilities, strengthen financial discipline and introduce modern reporting and management practices to improve efficiency and accountability across government institutions.

# PM inaugurates Rathoa Haryam Bridge

MUZZAFARABAD (APP): :Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, on Wednesday, reiterated that the Federal Government was fully committed to the development, prosperity, and provision of better facilities to the residents of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The prime minister inaugurated the reconstructed Rathoa Haryam Bridge in AJK by unveiling the plaque.

President, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Naqi and Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Syed Iftikhar Ali Gilani also participated in the ceremony, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

# Court grants journalist Shahid Maitla two-day transit remand

ISLAMABAD (APP): The District and Sessions Court of Islamabad on Wednesday granted a two-day transit remand of journalist Shahid Maitla, allowing the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) to take him to Balochistan.

The agency left for Balochistan with the journalist after the court's order. Shahid Maitla was produced before Judicial Magistrate Malik Aman here at the District and Sessions Court. The NCCIA Balochistan had requested a seven-day transit remand.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the court reserved its decision and later approved a two-day transit remand.

# Balochistan development projects face delays of up to 30 years: Lawmakers

QUETTA (ANN): Opposition Leader Mir Younus Aziz Zehri, MPA Mir Zabid Reki and other lawmakers expressed serious concern in the Balochistan Assembly over extraordinary delays in completing development projects across the province, saying insufficient annual budget allocations have left numerous schemes unfinished for years. They warned that some projects might remain incomplete even after 30 years if the current pace of funding and construction continues.

Speaking on points of order, the lawmakers said several public welfare projects, including roads, government buildings and infrastructure schemes, remained incomplete due to inadequate funding, depriving citizens of essential facilities.

They criticized the practice of including ongoing projects in annual budgets without allocating sufficient resources for their completion, resulting in prolonged delays and increased public hardship.

Mir Younus Aziz Zehri and Mir Zabid Reki urged the government to review all ongoing development schemes and allocate funds according to actual project requirements and construction progress.

They also recommended scrapping unnecessary or unfeasible schemes and redirecting their allocations toward priority projects serving public interests.

The lawmakers emphasized that completing existing projects should take precedence over announcing new schemes, calling for effective monitoring, transparent fund distribution and a comprehensive strategy to prevent wastage of public resources.

They maintained that efficient utilization of development funds was essential to ensuring timely completion of projects and delivering their intended benefits to the people of Balochistan.

# Two children found dead in Sherani, highway protest erupts

SHERANI (6 AM Report): The recovery of the bodies of two young children from a remote mountainous area of Sherani district triggered a protest by local youths on the national highway, which ended following negotiations between the district administration and community elders. Deputy Commissioner Kaleemullah Kakar took immediate notice of the incident and visited the site alongside Assistant Commissioner Mani Khuwa Subdivision Gul Nawaz Baloch, supervising the recovery and transportation of the bodies. According to the district administration, ambulances were dispatched to the difficult mountainous location, where local residents assisted officials in bringing the bodies down safely.

# Power outages to be reduced in Nawa Killi, Hanna Urak: Bakht

QUETTA (ANN): Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar has said that special measures will be taken to reduce the difficulties faced by residents of Nawa Killi and Hanna Urak due to prolonged electricity load shedding during winter. He emphasized the need to improve power availability in cold weather and provide maximum relief to residents.

He expressed these views during a meeting with Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) Chief Executive Officer Engineer Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Marri in Quetta.

The meeting reviewed electricity supply, prolonged outages and difficulties faced by residents of both areas, particularly during the morning and evening hours.

Bakht Muhammad Kakar said extended power outages during winter severely affect daily life and urged QESCO authorities to take practical steps to improve electricity supply.

During the meeting, both sides agreed to reduce load shedding in Nawa Killi and Hanna Urak, particularly during morning and evening hours, and ensure maximum possible electricity availability. The provincial minister reiterated that providing basic facilities and addressing public grievances remain government priorities, adding that coordination with relevant institutions would continue to improve services during winter.



**ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairing a meeting to review preparations for upcoming high-level bilateral visits and multilateral engagements, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.**



**QUETTA: Senator Saleem Mandviwala meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.**

# BHC nullifies appointment of provincial anti-harassment ombudsperson

QUETTA (6 AM Report): The Balochistan High Court (BHC) has declared the appointment of Mrs Tahira Parveen Baloch as Provincial Ombudsperson for Protection Against Harassment illegal and set aside her appointment notification, directing her to immediately cease performing official duties.

A two-member bench comprising Justice Shaukat Ali Rakhshani and Justice Allah Dad Roshan issued the ruling while deciding a constitutional petition challenging her appointment.

The court observed that merely having served as a District and Sessions Judge did not automatically establish eligibility for the position, particularly where a penalty of compulsory retirement imposed following disciplinary proceedings over allegations of corruption and misconduct had remained in force.

According to the judgment, Tahira Parveen Baloch's appointment did not meet the prescribed legal requirements and was therefore declared unlawful.

The bench directed the Balochistan government to appoint a new ombudsperson in accordance with the relevant legislation and statutory eligibility criteria.

The ruling underscores the importance of legal qualifications and disciplinary records in appointments to public office.

# £190m case PTI founder directed lawyers to adopt delaying tactics instead of arguing: Dr. Tariq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Wednesday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder had instructed his legal team to adopt delaying tactics instead of arguing the case on merit.

Speaking to the media at Parliament House, the minister said the Islamabad High Court was hearing the case related to the PTI founder's conviction in the £190 million corruption case.

# Uproar in BA over remarks against female MPA, ministers stage walkout

QUETTA (ANN): The Balochistan Assembly witnessed strong protests and a walkout over alleged remarks by Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran concerning female MPA Farah Azeem Shah. Provincial Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langove walked out of the House in protest, accompanied by several lawmakers. Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti strongly condemned the remarks, describing them as contrary to Balochistan's traditions and the dignity of the provincial assembly.

Speaking during the session, CM Bugti said he did not wish to respond to a fellow lawmaker's interview but strongly objected to the language allegedly used against the female legislator.

He maintained that he was not intimidated by tribal chiefs or militant organizations, emphasizing that Balochistan's cultural traditions demand respect for women.

Describing Farah Azeem Shah as a sister, the chief minister expressed regret over the incident and said such remarks were unacceptable.

Farah Azeem Shah, addressing the House, emphasized the importance of respecting women in Balochistan's society. She said she continued to respect the lawmaker concerned but left allegations against her character to Allah.

Provincial Minister Zahoor Ahmed Buledi complained that his remarks during a debate on the tribal system had been misrepresented on social media. He proposed restricting coverage of assembly proceedings to state television.

The Speaker also raised the possibility of restrictions on television channels and social media. However, CM Bugti opposed an immediate decision, saying media representatives should be consulted before imposing any restrictions, particularly when several television bureaus were already closing in Balochistan.

# Asif arrives in Brussels to attend Schuman Security, Defence Forum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has arrived in Brussels to participate in the two-day Schuman Security and Defence Forum at the special invitation of European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President Kaja Kallas.

During the forum, the defence minister will present Pakistan's perspective on regional and global security developments and key defence-related issues.

His engagements in Brussels will also include meetings with senior European Union officials responsible for defence and security.

Pakistan's high-level participation in the forum reflects its commitment to promoting international peace, security and defence cooperation. It also highlights Pakistan's defence capabilities, diplomatic significance and constructive role in international affairs. Pakistan remains committed to contributing to global peace and stability, regional security and international defence cooperation.

# Pakistan's global profile rising as youth shine in AI, IT: Rana Mashhood

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Youth Programme Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Wednesday attended the 8th Global Ambassador Awards 2026 in Islamabad as chief guest and distributed awards among foreign ambassadors. While addressing the ceremony, Rana Mashhood said Pakistan is attracting growing international interest for investment, trade and strategic partnerships as the country strengthens its global standing and its young workforce makes significant strides in artificial intelligence (AI) and information technology (IT).

Mr Mashhood said that under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership, Pakistan was pursuing development milestones that had remained unfulfilled in the past, adding that countries, governments and international companies were increasingly showing interest in investing and partnering with the country.

He said Pakistan's diplomatic and trade relations with various countries were gaining momentum, reflecting a positive shift in its international standing. Referring to the recent tripartite defence treaty involving Pakistan, Türkiye and Saudi Arabia, he described it as the beginning of broader strategic cooperation. He maintained that Pakistan had demonstrated its capabilities not only in defence but also in modern technology, adding that his visits with the prime minister to the United Nations General Assembly and different regions of the world had revealed a noticeable improvement in international perceptions of Pakistan.

Highlighting the achievements of young Pakistanis, Mr Mashhood said the country's youth were making their mark in AI and IT, while Pakistani technology companies were increasingly establishing themselves in international markets. He said he was actively exploring overseas employment opportunities for skilled Pakistanis in his capacity as chairman of the Productive Employment Committee constituted by the prime minister.

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