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Pak extends its airspace ban on Indian aircraft until December 23

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has extended its airspace ban on Indian aircraft until Dec 23, according to a Notice to Airmen (Notam) issued by the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA).

The previous extension of the ban was set to expire on Nov 24.

"Pakistan airspace not available for Indian registered aircraft and aircraft operated/owned or leased by Indian airlines/operators, including military flights," the Notam said.

According to the notice, the ban will remain in place until 23:59 on Dec 23.

The country's airspace is divided into two flight information regions (FIRs) — Karachi and Lahore, according to a Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) document from 2022.

The Notam applies to both the Karachi (OPKR) and Lahore (OPLR) FIRs.

India and Pakistan closed their airspaces to each other's airlines in late April 2025, when tensions between them escalated in the wake of a deadly attack in India-occupied Kashmir's Pahalgam.

On April 24, Pakistan's top brass announced a series of measures, including the closure of its airspace to all India-owned or Indian-operated airlines with immediate effect, as it retaliated against New Delhi's slew of aggressive measures against the country.

New Delhi, without evidence, had alleged that Islamabad backed the Pahalgam attack. However, Pakistan had strongly denied any involvement and offered a neutral probe. The nuclear powers had the fiercest air battle in May, in which Pakistan said it downed seven Indian fighter jets.

Since then, Pakistan has extended the airspace ban several times, forcing Indian carriers to use longer and costlier routes.

At least 10 killed, 27 injured as coach collides with LPG bowser in Gwadar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ten people were killed, and 27 others sustained burn injuries in a collision between a passenger bus and a gas bowser on the Makran Coastal Highway near Gwadar on Thursday.

According to rescue sources, the collision triggered a fire that engulfed both vehicles, leaving 10 passengers dead and 27 others injured, a local news channel reported.

Women and children were also among those killed in the accident, rescue officials added.

Upon receiving information, rescue teams rushed to the scene and launched a rescue operation to evacuate the passengers.

The injured were shifted to nearby hospitals for medical treatment, while the bodies of the deceased were taken for medico-legal formalities.

Police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the accident.

Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious human lives in a traffic accident in Ormara.

The president conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for patience and strength for them to bear the irreparable loss, a Presidency's news release said.

He also prayed for the early and complete recovery of those injured in the accident.

President Zardari directed the authorities concerned to ensure the provision of the best possible medical facilities to the injured persons and their families.

Asim Munir briefed on operations against externally sponsored terrorism

Reaffirms Pak Army's unwavering commitment to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Balochistan in their continued pursuit of peace, prosperity

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, visited Turbat, Balochistan, where he was briefed on the prevailing security environment, operational preparedness and the successful ongoing operations against externally sponsored terrorism.

He was also apprised of the progress of various ongoing socio-economic development initiatives for people of Balochistan, said a press release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Upon arrival the COAS laid a floral wreath at the Shuhada Monument and offered Fateha.

During interaction with troops, the COAS commended their high state of operational preparedness, professionalism and unwavering resolve to defend the motherland, amidst challenging operational conditions.

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir reaffirmed Pakistan Army's unwavering commitment to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Balochistan in their continued pursuit of peace, prosperity and sustainable development.

Earlier, upon arrival, the COAS was received by the Corps Commander Balochistan.



TURBAT: Chief of Defence Forces, Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir addressing troops during his visit to Turbat.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and PM Shehbaz Sharif during a meeting in Aiwan-e-Sadr. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi is also present.

Pakistan security forces kill 22 terrorists in KP IBOs

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan security forces have killed 22 terrorists during intelligence-based operations and separate engagements in different areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on November 16 and 17 on Thursday, quoting Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The military's media wing stated that intelligence-based operations were conducted in South Waziristan, Bannu, and Tank.

During an operation in South Waziristan, Pakistan security forces killed 15 terrorists following an intense exchange of fire.

In Bannu, six terrorists were eliminated during two separate engagements with security forces. Meanwhile, one terrorist was killed during an exchange of fire with security personnel in Tank.

According to ISPR, a total of 22 terrorists were killed during the operations.

Earlier, on Nov 14, 2026, the Pakistani security forces killed eight Indian-sponsored terrorists of Fitna al Hindustan (FAH), including a suicide bomber, during an intelligence-based operation in the Kolpur area of Balochistan.

In a statement issued on 14 November 2026, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said security forces had been conducting multiple intelligence-based operations (IBOs) since 13 November 2026 in Kolpur, Kardagap and Nushki.

The operations include area-clearance activities, security patrols and efforts to protect the Quetta–Taftan National Highway (N-40) for local traffic.

According to the military's media wing, eight militants belonging the Indian-sponsored group Fitna al Hindustan (FAH) were killed during an operation in Kolpur on the night of 13-14 November.

President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday praised the security forces for killing 22 Indian-sponsored Khawarij terrorists during intelligence-based operations in various areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

President, PM discuss political situation, agree to resolve issues thru dialogue

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday discussed the prevailing political and regional situation, including developments in the Middle East, and agreed to resolve all outstanding issues through dialogue and mutual consultation.

During the meeting, the two leaders held a detailed review of the current political situation and agreed that all matters would be resolved through dialogue and mutual consultation, a Presidency's news release said. They emphasised that all stakeholders would sit together and find solutions to outstanding issues through consensus.

The meeting also recalled that previous constitutional amendments had been introduced through mutual consultation among all coalition partners.

Both leaders agreed to continue consultations on all matters and work together to address challenges through dialogue.

The leaders also discussed the previous constitutional amendments, noting that all coalition parties had introduced these through mutual consultation.

Qatar Interior Minister calls on COAS Asim

RAWALPINDI (APP): Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Minister of Interior of the State of Qatar called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) here on Thursday.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, evolving regional and global security situation and avenues for enhancing bilateral security cooperation were discussed, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly in the fields of security, counterterrorism and institutional cooperation.

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in promoting regional peace and stability and acknowledged the longstanding fraternal ties between Pakistan and Qatar. The COAS reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further deepen bilateral engagement with Qatar and underscored the importance of close cooperation in addressing shared security challenges.



ISLAMABAD: Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi introducing the newly developed Advocate Portal to the SCBA at Supreme Court.

PM credits civil-military cooperation for Pakistan's economic stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reaffirmed the government's commitment to placing Pakistan firmly on the path of sustained export-led economic growth, calling for stronger public-private partnerships, investment facilitation and structural reforms to transform the country's economy.

Addressing a gathering of the Pakistan-American Business Council (PABC) here, the prime minister said export-led growth was the only sustainable way forward, stressing that the government was determined to consolidate economic stability gains and create an enabling environment for domestic and foreign investors.

"It has to be export-led, nothing else, export-led growth," he said, highlighting opportunities to expand bilateral trade and investment between Pakistan and the United States.

The prime minister said the government was exploring greater imports of American agricultural products, including soybeans, while seeking wider market access for Pakistani surgical instruments, sports goods and other manufactured products in the US market. He assured American investors that the government was ready to address their genuine grievances and remove bureaucratic hurdles, red tape and procedural delays that discouraged investment.

"I am here to listen to you very attentively and, without delay, put in place a mechanism to address your genuine grievances," he said, emphasizing that transparency, efficiency and timely decision-making were essential to attracting investment.

The prime minister appreciated American companies for maintaining confidence in Pakistan's economy and described them as important ambassadors of the country, acknowledging their contribution to investment, employment generation, exports and national revenue.

Highlighting the improvement in key economic indicators, he said Pakistan's total foreign exchange reserves had reached around US$ 27 billion, including holdings of commercial and central banks, compared with the difficult economic situation in 2023 when the country was facing a serious threat of default. He said inflation, which had stood at around 32 per cent, had declined to 11.5 per cent, while the policy rate had been reduced from 23.5 per cent to 12 per cent.

The prime minister said these improvements had been achieved through hard work, fiscal discipline and collective efforts despite regional and global economic challenges, including the ongoing Gulf crisis.

He acknowledged the sacrifices made by ordinary Pakistanis during the difficult economic transition, particularly vulnerable segments of society, and said the government had introduced targeted subsidies to provide relief to deserving people.

PM Shehbaz said the government had also provided tax relief worth Rs 400 billion in the current budget to stimulate economic activity, adding that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had expressed confidence in the country's economic management.

He said he personally reviewed the implementation of key economic decisions with his team every week to ensure that policy commitments translated into practical results.

CM Bugti

Ensure best medical care for accident victims

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives in a collision between a passenger coach and an LPG bowser near Taji Check Post, directing the district administration and Health Department to ensure the best possible medical treatment for the injured.

Taking notice of the accident, the chief minister ordered authorities to mobilize all available medical resources, continue rescue operations and ensure that no negligence occurs in the treatment of victims.

Chief Minister's Aide on Information and Political Affairs Shahid Rind said the injured had been shifted to Dr. Manja Hospital in Ormara and Pasni Hospital, where they were receiving medical attention.

He said the provincial government was closely coordinating with the concerned authorities to ensure timely treatment and necessary assistance for those affected by the accident.

CM Bugti extended condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the recovery of the injured.

He emphasized that saving lives, ensuring prompt emergency response and providing uninterrupted medical care must remain the immediate priorities, directing the district administration.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti presides over the meeting to review law and order situation in Killa Abdullah and to completely eliminate criminal elements.

Eliminate criminal activities in Killa Abdullah: CM Bugti

Chief Minister orders indiscriminate action against extortion, smuggling and organized crime; seeks implementation report within one week

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has ordered decisive action against criminal elements in Killa Abdullah, directing law enforcement agencies to intensify operations against extortion, smuggling, drug trafficking and other organized crimes without discrimination.

Chairing a high-level meeting on the district's law and order situation, the chief minister approved comprehensive measures to curb criminal activities and restore public confidence in security arrangements.

The meeting was attended by Balochistan Assembly Speaker Captain (Retd.) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, MPA Engineer Zmarak Khan Achakzai, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan and senior civil and law enforcement officials.

Officials briefed the meeting on the prevailing security situation, ongoing operations and challenges in combating organized crime.

CM Bugti emphasized that protecting citizens' lives and property remained the government's foremost responsibility, directing all concerned institutions to strengthen intelligence sharing, operational coordination and enforcement measures.

He instructed the Home Department to ensure effective implementation of the approved measures and submit a detailed progress report within seven days.

The chief minister reiterated that no individual or criminal network would be allowed to undermine public safety or challenge the writ of the state. He stressed that sustained, coordinated and impartial law enforcement operations were essential to dismantling criminal networks, restoring lasting peace and ensuring a secure environment for residents of Killa Abdullah.

Pak delegation to attend SCO Forum in New Delhi from Nov 20-22

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Musadik Masood Malik will lead the Pakistan delegation to the first Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilizations Dialogue Forum, being held in New Delhi from November 20 to 22, 2026.

Dr. Malik is attending the event at the invitation of the Minister of Culture and Tourism of India, according to a Foreign Office statement.

At the Forum, Dr. Malik will share Pakistan's perspective on the salience of dialogue among civilizations and Pakistan's contribution in this area of diplomacy. His statement will also highlight Pakistan's constructive role in the SCO, as well as Pakistan's diverse civilizational and cultural heritage.

Pakistan's participation in this Forum is reflective of its contribution as an active SCO member State to promote dialogue, cooperation and understanding in line with "Shanghai Spirit".

Pakistan delegation will also participate in thematic sessions of the Forum and engage with SCO member States on the sidelines of the Forum. Pakistan is the current chair of the SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS) (SCO-CHS) for the period 2026-27.

Maryam offers Punjab's skills training model for AJK development

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has offered to share Punjab's skills development model with Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), saying market-oriented training programmes can create employment opportunities and help people become financially self-reliant.

Addressing a special meeting in Muzaffarabad on AJK's 100-day development plan, she said the government's responsibility went beyond launching development projects and included ensuring effective service delivery, remaining accessible to the public and promptly resolving their problems.

She said 500,000 people had received IT training in Punjab over the past two and a half years, with many securing employment abroad. The provincial government had also provided financial assistance, including support for travel expenses and visa processing.

Maryam said Punjab had designed its skills development programmes after assessing international job market requirements, enabling participants to acquire market-oriented skills within six months and earn a respectable livelihood, either in their own areas or abroad.

She said the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), whose foundation was laid by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during his tenure as Punjab chief minister, had become a backbone of the provincial government's administrative and development activities. The PITB used technology to monitor development projects, beneficiaries, implementation and progress in real time, helping improve administrative efficiency and oversight, she added.

The chief minister also stressed the need for special attention to law and order and police reforms in AJK. She said initiatives such as hospitals, clinics on wheels and green bus services could deliver meaningful benefits only if supported by round-the-clock monitoring and effective management.

She reiterated that the success of development initiatives depended not merely on their launch but also on their effective implementation and timely resolution of public grievances.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi inspecting the passing out parade of Federal Constabulary.

Peace, rule of law top priority: Governor KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday said that restoration of peace and maintenance of law and order remained the government's foremost priority, adding that there would be no compromise on the writ of the state.

Addressing the Federal Constabulary Passing Out Parade 2026 as chief guest at Shabqadar, Charsadda, the Governor said terrorism was not merely an issue affecting a few individuals or areas but a challenge to national development, economy, education, investment and the future of coming generations.

He said sustainable development was impossible without peace, as insecurity discouraged investment and blocked the path to progress.

The Governor inspected the passing out parade, distributed trophies and prizes among outstanding recruits, and laid a floral wreath at the Martyrs' Memorial, paying tribute to the sacrifices of the country's fallen heroes.

Speaking on the occasion, Faisal Karim Kundi said the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had rendered unparalleled sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.

He said personnel of the police, Federal Constabulary, Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps and other security institutions had laid down their lives for lasting peace, adding that the sacrifices of martyrs represented the hopes and dreams of countless families and would never be forgotten. He paid homage to the martyrs and expressed solidarity with their families, saying Pakistan would always honour those who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

He stressed that defeating terrorism required a comprehensive, coordinated and long-term strategy, along with close cooperation among the police, Federal Constabulary, Frontier Corps, Pakistan Army and other relevant institutions. Congratulating the passing out recruits, the Governor said they had earned the honour of wearing Pakistan's uniform, which symbolised the state's dignity, rule of law, public protection and national security. He urged them to remain committed to safeguarding the country, serving the people and upholding the prestige of their institution.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111226033 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer Roads CWPP&H Department District Pishin invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates **Tender Fee PKR and Bid Security 3%**

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	ACCESS AND INTERNAL ROAD OF KILLI CHURMIAN PSDP No. 1178/ Z2025.2979	79,606,235

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 55,724,364 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-4 and above (Upto 200 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE01-(I) (Road and Pavements Drainage & Retaining Structure). The bidder must attach bid security in the shape of CDR/Bank Guarantee from a scheduled bank and submit original CDR / Bank Guarantee in the office within 24 hours of bid opening, otherwise bid will be declared as non-responsive. The bidder must have completed and undertaken three Similar nature of Works (Roads at least 70% of the Estimated Cost of the project) in last three years **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 04 December, 2026till 10:00 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:00 AM on EPPS System **Address:** Executive Engineer Roads CWPP&H Department District Pishin
Phone no: 0332804675Fax no: 0Email: pishinxen@gmail.com

Executive Engineer Roads CWPP&H Department District Pishin

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Man shot dead by friends after dispute in Sargodha

SARGODHA (INP): A man was shot dead by his friends in the Shahpur Saddar area on Thursday.

According to police, the deceased, identified as Shafqat, 26, was playing volleyball at a playground when his friends opened fire on him following a minor dispute, killing him on the spot.

Police reached the scene and shifted the body to a hospital for a postmortem examination. Further investigation was underway.

ANF seizes 335kg of drugs in 10 operations, arrests seven

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) on Thursday conducted 10 operations in various cities across the country, seizing 335.309 kilograms of narcotics worth over Rs 34.1 million and arrested seven suspects.

According to an ANF spokesperson, during a domestic drug interdiction operation, 4.5 kg of hashish and 700 ecstasy tablets weighing 364 grams were recovered from a suspect near a hotel at Committee Chowk, Rawalpindi. The narcotics had been tactfully concealed inside an MP-3 player.

During inter-provincial drug interdiction operations, 265.2 kg of hashish and 34.8 kg of opium were seized from two vehicles on the M-3 Motorway near Pindi Bhattian.

In another operation, 9.6 kg of hashish was seized from a vehicle at the M-1 Motorway Toll Plaza in Islamabad, while two suspects were arrested. The narcotics had been skillfully concealed inside the vehicle's doors.

The ANF also recovered 8 kg of ice from a suspect near the Painsara Motorway Toll Plaza in Faisalabad.



Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal addressing as a chief guest on the 23rd Commencement Ceremony of Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi.

Sardar Saleem says:

Governor House doors open to families unable to afford daughters' weddings

LAHORE (Handout): The Governor of Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, attended a mass wedding ceremony for 25 couples as the chief guest at Governor House, Lahore, today. The event was organized by Abdul Razzaq Sajid, Chairman of the Al-Mustafa Trust. Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan congratulated the couples entering into matrimony and expressed his best wishes for their future. On behalf of the Governor of Punjab, the newlyweds were also presented with cash gifts (salami) and dowry items.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor of Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, stated that since assuming the office of Governor, he has facilitated the marriages of numerous underprivileged individuals, both in his own constituency and across the entire province of Punjab. He stated that his endeavor is to ensure that no deserving daughter is deprived of marriage due to a lack of dowry or other financial resources.

The Governor of Punjab mentioned that any deserving family unable to afford the expenses for their daughter's wedding may reach out to the Governor House. He remarked that welfare initiatives, such as mass weddings, serve as a beacon of hope for low-income and modest-means families. The Governor commended the efforts of those engaged in such philanthropic work.

He further added that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is the party of the poor, laborers, street vendors, and farmers; it has always championed the cause of the underprivileged and will continue to do so. The Governor noted that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is the only young national leader whose family has made the greatest sacrifices for the country. He highlighted that no other political leadership has endured as much imprisonment and the hardships of incarceration as the leadership of the PPP.

KP forms commission to probe illegal gold mining

PESHAWAR (INP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has formed an inquiry commission to investigate illegal gold mining in the province, including allegations of political patronage and the possible use of mining proceeds to finance terrorist activities.

According to an official notification, the commission will submit its report to the KP governor within 45 days.

Justice (retd) Asadullah Khan Chamkani has been appointed as the commission's head, while Muhammad Yasin Raza will serve as its legal adviser and member. Deputy Inspector General of Police Sher Akbar, Additional Secretary Health Wasif Rehman and representatives of three federal investigative agencies will also be part of the commission.

The commission will investigate illegal gold mining in Kohat, Nowshera, Karak and other districts, including possible links between the activity and an attack on police in Kohat.

It will examine allegations of political and official patronage, identify individuals and groups benefiting from illegal mining, and investigate whether proceeds were used to plan, facilitate or finance terrorist activities.

The inquiry will also determine the quantity and estimated value of illegally extracted gold, financial losses to the national exchequer, and possible money laundering and gold smuggling.

The commission will review the performance of relevant government departments, district administrations and police in preventing illegal mining. It will also investigate why the activity continued despite an official ban.

KP Governor's higher education adviser opens three facilities at University

PESHAWAR (INP): Advisor to Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Higher Education, Dr. Syed Aamer Abdullah, has said that quality education was imperative for sustainable economic growth and prosperity.

"The success in every field of life demands sustained effort, courage and practical steps, along with nurturing the quality of honesty," he said while addressing an interactive session with the students at the theater hall at University of Swat on Thursday.

The KP Governor aide said that students must equip themselves with learning skills, a positive attitude and resilience for a better future. He said the youth must work with greater consistency and dedication to turn their dreams into reality.

He added that the students of the University of Swat are fortunate to have competent faculty, and they should benefit from the opportunities available on campus.



ISLAMABAD: The Gandhara Strategic Dialogue 2026 is being held bringing together distinguished Buddhist monastics, senior government officials and heritage experts to discuss preservation of Pakistan's Buddhist heritage.

NDMA warns of worsening smog across Punjab over next two days

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has warned that smog intensity is likely to increase across several districts of Punjab over the next two days, urging citizens to take precautionary measures and avoid unnecessary travel.

The authority has issued alerts for Lahore, Kasur, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Nankana Sahib, Sargodha, Sheikhupura, Sialkot, Narowal, Okara and Faisalabad.

Other areas expected to experience smog and fog include Jhang, Khanewal, Multan, Khanpur, Kot Addu and Bahawalpur.

According to the NDMA, worsening smog and fog could reduce visibility, disrupt traffic flow and create difficulties for commuters.

The authority also warned that poor air quality could cause breathing difficulties, eye irritation and respiratory problems.

Children, elderly people and individuals with existing respiratory conditions have been advised to take extra precautions. The NDMA urged citizens to monitor air quality and visibility conditions, follow traffic advisories and comply with official instructions while travelling.

Ahsan Iqbal urges female graduates to drive country's economics transformation

RAWALPINDI (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday urged graduating students to equip themselves with emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, and cultivate critical thinking and fact-checking habits to navigate an era of rapid global disruption and misinformation.

Addressing the 23rd Commencement (Convocation) of Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU) as chief guest, he termed the graduating class "Generation 47- 2.0," saying that the next two decades leading to Pakistan's centenary in 2047 will define the nation's destiny and calling on youth to turn perseverance and ambition into progress toward a USD 3.0 trillion economy.

"The first generation, 47-1.0, comprised of people who dedicated their energies to get separate homeland for Muslims under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah", he said terming the present generation as 47-2.0.

He said that today's graduates would lead the nation when the country would be celebrating its 100 years of independence in 2047. The minister said education is the greatest equalizer capable of overcoming any setback, adding that sustainable economic development requires peace, political stability, policy continuity and commitment to reform rather than social media polarization and fake news.

"No one should be allowed to disrup Pakistan's stability, the enemy is always behing this", he said noting that disruption of reforms and creation of hate through social media remained main risks for the country. Referring to FJWU's historic campus, formerly the Presidency, and its namesake Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah, Ahsan Iqbam remarked that the institution stands as a symbol of women's empowerment.

Sharjeel accuses MQM-P of plotting riots in Sindh

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon has accused Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) of allegedly plotting riots in the province, saying the government had received indications of a possible plan to create unrest.

Speaking at a press conference following a Sindh cabinet meeting in Karachi, Memon said the provincial government would deal with any attempt to disturb law and order and would not allow the situation to deteriorate.

"We are not afraid of MQM-P, nor have we ever been. MQM-P has prepared a conspiracy to trigger riots, and we have some indications in this regard. The Sindh government will deal with the situation and will not allow law and order to deteriorate," he said.

Memon said a nationalist party had announced a rally for November 29, while MQM-P had also announced a demonstration at the same location, raising concerns about possible tensions.

He added that the provincial government did not want confrontation with any political party and urged MQM-P and nationalist groups to avoid rallies and demonstrations for the time being.

He announced that the Sindh government had decided not to grant permission to any political party to hold rallies on November 29.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan attending a mass wedding ceremony for 25 couples at Governor House.

Section 144 extended in Punjab for 30 days

LAHORE (INP): The imposition of Section 144 has been extended for another 30 days across Punjab.

The Punjab government has issued an official notification regarding the extension of Section 144.

Under the directive, the use of secret recording devices and spying equipment will remain banned. Additionally, hidden recording devices disguised as eyeglasses, pens, and keychains will also be prohibited. The Home Department stated that the ban also applies to secretly taking pictures, shooting videos, recording audio, and transferring such material.

Furthermore, shops selling secret recording equipment, as well as the online sale and purchase of these devices, are strictly prohibited, the department added. However, the notification clarified that laptops, tablets, mobile phones, and other equipment approved by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) will be exempt from the ban.

Earlier, the Punjab government has extended Section 144 across the province from October 06 to 15 amid concerns of threat to public order and life and property of citizens, ARY News reported.

According to a notification issued by the Punjab Home Department, gatherings, processions and assemblies of five or more people at a public place.

PA Speaker calls for broad political debate on creation of new provinces

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Assembly (PA) Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan on Wednesday called for a broad political debate on the creation of new provinces, equitable distribution of resources and governance reforms, saying that seeking public opinion on the issue was not prohibited by the Constitution.

Addressing a press conference at the Punjab Assembly here, he said the creation of new provinces was ultimately a matter for the assemblies to decide, while a referendum could provide an opportunity to ascertain the people's opinion. He said if the people opposed the creation of a new province, it could not be established, while public support would require political leadership to move forward in accordance with constitutional procedures.

The speaker said the debate should not be treated as a forbidden subject and all political parties should openly discuss the issue to develop a consensus.

Referring to the Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) position, he said the Punjab Assembly had unanimously passed a resolution regarding the division of Punjab, whereas the PPP had staged a walkout when the division of Sindh was discussed. He questioned why a political party supported the division of one province but opposed the other, urging the PPP leadership to clarify its position. He said the matter was part of the assembly's official record and he was not making any statement without documentary evidence. Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said the discussion on new provinces had emerged from wider concerns raised by civil society regarding unequal distribution of resources, differences in per capita development expenditure between major and smaller cities, bureaucratic reforms, governance and devolution of powers to local governments. He said these issues required serious consideration as the country needed a governance system that ensured balanced development across all regions. He said political differences should be addressed through dialogue and suggested that an all-parties roundtable conference could be convened to discuss contentious national issues.

To a question, he said burning houses and installations could not be justified as a political right, questioning how the burning of 29 cantonments could be described as political activity. He also referred to the ten-day war, saying the situation had made several things clear about Pakistan's position and response. He said Pakistan had faced allegations following the Pahalgam incident but handled the situation through effective diplomacy and presented its position before the international community.

Daily 6AM, Quetta
Friday November 20, 2026

Structural reforms

The country's improving macroeconomic health offers little hope when growth remains too weak to create enough jobs or improve living standards. The State Bank's latest annual report makes this contradiction difficult to ignore. It argues that structural reforms are essential for putting the economy on a sustainable high-growth path.

The figures underline the scale of the problem. The SBP has correctly identified premature deindustrialisation, weak investment, inadequate skills and widespread informal employment as major constraints. These problems have accumulated over decades of inconsistent economic policies. The state's reform priorities must therefore address the reasons businesses hesitate to invest and expand.

Infrastructure gaps require attention. Tax administration needs simplification, with a broader tax base. Businesses also need predictable regulations and consistent policies. Repeated policy reversals have made long-term planning difficult for domestic and foreign investors alike. The domestic labour market presents an equally serious challenge. While overall unemployment has risen to 7.2pc in 2025 from 5.7pc in 2018, low female workforce participation keeps a substantial share of potential workers outside productive economic activity. High youth unemployment reflects weaknesses in education and vocational training. Universities and technical institutions must develop skills that employers actually need.

The agricultural sector needs modern irrigation, better technology and climate-resilient practices. However, the most important lesson from the SBP report concerns policy continuity. Structural reforms cannot succeed through isolated announcements or short-lived initiatives. They require political commitment across successive governments. Every change in administration should not bring another round of economic experimentation. The government must recognise that sustainable growth requires a stronger productive base. Without consistent investment, industrial expansion, better skills and higher productivity, economic stability will remain vulnerable. The real test of reform will be whether it creates productive jobs and raises household incomes.

Leveraging the solar revolution

Ali Tauqeer Sheikh

At COP31, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told a high-level dialogue on electrification that "an extraordinary transition has already taken place" in Pakistan: nearly 22 gigawatts of rooftop solar in two years, "a quiet revolution by ordinary citizens seeking affordable power and a cleaner, more predictable future". More than one in 10 motorcycles sold this year, he added, was electric.

He was right to showcase it. Few countries can match that speed. Fewer can accept that their citizens paid for it.

Nobody planned it: capacity payments rose whether plants ran or not, the rupee fell, and the 2023 IMF programme stopped the state hiding these costs in subsidies. Base tariffs doubled between FY22 and FY25, just as Chinese panels became cheap and loadshedding persisted. The IMF did not create the high cost of power. It made it visible, and achieved the revolution by accident, what policy had not.

The dividend is large. By the estimates of Ember, CREA and Renewables First, distributed solar avoided over $12 billion in oil and gas imports by February 2026, with $6.3bn more expected this year, and about 35 million tonnes of CO2 in FY25. Counting grid losses, it supplies about a third of the country's electricity. On farms, solar runs 52pc of 1.83m irrigation pumps, almost entirely without state help. Banks financed less than 5pc of the $14bn invested. The official response has been to contain it, with a sales tax on panels and cuts to net metering.

A showcase needs a strategy. The leveraging should run on two tracks.

Phase one put panels on roofs; phase two must make that power go further.

The first is phase two. Phase one put panels on roofs; phase two must make that power go further. Rooftops have already displaced most of the daytime thermal power they can reach, so more panels alone bring falling returns. Three areas will win the game.

Storage, with a tariff that spreads the grid's fixed costs fairly, so surplus daytime power serves the evening peak. Transport, where petrol imports are still growing: electric motorcycles reached 13pc of sales by August, already ahead of the New Energy Vehicles Policy's schedule. The 30pc target should move from 2030 to 2028 for automobiles, two-wheelers, rickshaws and delivery fleets first, with battery-swap and charging corridors for bikes and freight planned along the motorways now. And solar mini-grids for the 40m people still without electricity.

The prize is worth the effort. Adding 3GW of distributed solar a year would lift avoided emissions to about 50m tonnes by 2030, as per Renew-ables First estimates, more than the power sector now emits. At this year's rate, fuel import savings by then would approach $25bn. Electric bikes save less, but their savings will help poorer hou-seholds, which is where a transition survives or dies.

The second track is harder. If fiscal conditionality could transform mitigation by accident, what could adaptation measures achieve by design, without waiting for grants or loans?

Agriculture uses more than 93 per cent of the country's freshwater, yet produces under $1 of output per cubic metre, against a global average near $17. Solar has made matters worse: once panels are paid for, pumping groundwater costs nothing at the margin. The rice area grew by about 30pc between 2023 and 2025, even as Punjab's water tables fell. Flooded paddies also emit methane, so the same expansion that drains aquifers adds to emissions.

Islamabad and the provinces already hold the levers. Five would do the most.

First, conditional solarisation. Punjab already subsidises tubewell conversion; each should require drip or sprinkler irrigation and a flow meter. The Punjab Water Act 2019 allows new solar wells to be registered.

Second, volumetric abiana. The canal water charge is so low that sugarcane and rice grow where the water cannot support them. Charging by volume and crop is a provincial power, and it raises revenue.

Third, retargeted fertiliser support. IMF pressure ended most of the feedstock gas subsidy to urea plants in 2024. Blanket urea still invites overuse; the excess escapes as nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse gas, or leaches into groundwater. Tying the remaining support, including Kissan Card credit, to soil testing and slow-release coated urea would cut the waste and the fertiliser bill together.

Fourth, alternate wetting and drying for rice. Letting paddies dry between irrigations cuts both water use and methane. Punjab and Sindh can initiate this through their extension services and Kissan/Hari cards, with a low-carbon basmati label for buyers who increasingly ask about embedded emissions.

Fifth, a satellite-enforced no-burn rule. Tying Kissan Card eligibility and wheat procurement to satellite checks on residue burning, already run for smog, is an administrative change. Lahore would breathe cleaner air. None of these needs a donor. The petroleum levy brought in a record Rs1.57 trillion in FY26, and the climate support levy is budgeted at Rs50bn this year. Ring-fencing a fixed share of the first, and all of the second, would fund them without waiting on donor cycles. The provinces, which own agriculture and irrigation, ran a combined cash surplus of Rs1.45tn last year, led by Punjab; only Balochistan's was marginal.

Those surpluses are an IMF target, which brings the Fund back in. Its $1.4bn Resilience and Sustainability Facility already lists irrigation water pricing, but its water measures are hostage to influential interest groups. The two remaining reviews in 2027 can begin the shift; the successor programme should put adaptation at the centre, with these five as structural benchmarks carrying provincial timelines. The Fund's leverage transformed Pakistan's energy use by accident. It can now be used on water deliberately. Some things need capital: flood protection, climate-proofed infrastructure, livestock systems that cut methane. That is where concessional finance belongs. A country that has done the rest with its own instruments makes a far stronger case for it.

Phase one happened by accident. Phase two cannot. Islamabad should design the next transformation, in water as well as power, rather than wait for the next IMF programme to force it. The first revolution cut Pakistan's fuel bill and emissions. The second can make the country resilient.

Arab blood

Muhammad Ali Siddiqi

To shed Arab blood, it is not necessary for the 'shedder' to be a non-Arab.

Thousands, for example, have died in Yemen, while millions have been displaced due to the conflict.

Well, it is war — and in the Middle East. Usually, a war in the Middle East meant a slaughter between Israel and the Arabs. There were exceptions, like Saddam Hussein's Kuwait misadventure, and his attack on Iran, when Imam Khomeini was at the peak of his power. This time it is war among the Arabs with no holds barred.

Fuming with rage, the 90-year-old Saudi monarch, King Salman, has dubbed the Houthis a "terrorist militia" and vowed retaliation. The anger was expected, because Houthi strikes on such a sensitive institution as Riyadh's international airport have killed a number of people. More regretfully, any possibility that the war may not spread disappeared when US President Donald Trump had said, after the Riyadh airport attack last month, that his country could join Saudi attacks on the Houthis.

Arabs are mere spectators of the international drama. Lack of unity doesn't necessarily mean enmity. If the Arabs cannot unite, the least they can do is not make a spectacle of their disunity and invite the world's contempt by talking about liberating Palestine and Jerusalem. Unity, we must know, is a precursor to thought and action.

Some key Arab governments have expressed interest in joining the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, signed on Aug 7 this year, while Iran and the Houthis are allies. The two defence alliances are confrontational in spirit.

A look at numerous recent news reports gives a fairly good idea of how so many Arab governments and factions are at war with each other. So read on:

"In a lightning offensive … the Houthis seized control of Yemen's Red Sea coast and the Bab al-Mandab Strait, which is vital to Saudi crude exports.

"Pakistan also joined the Muslim world in condemning the alleged Houthi attacks on holy cities in Saudi Arabia and called for urgent de-escalation in Yemen.

"Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry condemned the purported targeting of Makkah as a "cowardly terrorist attack," and reaffirmed the kingdom's right to "defend the security of the two holy mosques, the pilgrims, and the entire Saudi territory".

"A Houthi politburo member dismissed the accusation as "a worn-out lie that has been used before and no longer fools anyone".

"The Houthis also claimed Saudi warplanes launched 40 airstrikes … targeting the provinces of Taiz, Marib, and Hodeidah.

"Pakistan's approach to the conflict seems to be to seek an end to hostilities rather than become part of an expanding military confrontation.

"These developments must be seen against the background of Pakistan's growing defence commitments to Saudi Arabia, especially the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (SMDA) and the recently signed Makkah Joint Defence Agreement.

"In September last year, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a treaty under which aggression against either country is to be treated as aggression against both.

"Pakistan already maintains military personnel and defence assets in Saudi Arabia, with the two countries having long-standing military cooperation that predates SMDA."

The more you read, the more you realise how divided the Muslim world is and how this internal Saracenic rivalry in the world of Islam is the greatest asset others have. While talking of Arab unity and joint defence agreement, let us note that the United Arab Emir-ates, a major Arab oil power, has quit both OPEC and OPEC+, of which it has been a member for 60 years.

Exchange rate & other protections

Khurram Husain

There is always something a little off when economists and other experts say that a given course of action is beneficial for industrial growth in the country, but those industries directly connected with that course of action or policy direction are silent on the matter. Normally, industry is very vocal about preserving its interests and either takes the lead in advocating its preferences, or at least responds to suggestions coming from other quarters.

These days we are seeing this happen in two areas. One is the conversation around the exchange rate. All manner of articles have been written about whether the exchange rate needs to be devalued to keep exports competitive. Those advocating this are pointing to the so-called Real Effective Exchange Rate, or REER, which, they say, is overvalued, making Pakistani products expensive in export markets by comparison to our main export competitors.

The REER is a tool used mainly by central bankers and academics to measure how a given country's exchange rate is aligned with the inflation-adjusted exchange rates of its main trading partners.

The way it works is simple. When the REER is 100 there is, in theory anyway, alignment between Pakistan and its trading partners in terms of how well the exchange rate reflects the costs of doing business in Pakistan versus its competitor countries. But if the REER rises above 100 it is considered overvalued, meaning the exchange rate no longer adequately reflects the rising price level within the country by comparison to its competitors, and keeping it at present-day levels will render exports non-competitive.

The more the REER is above 100, the more overvalued the rupee is considered to be. And if it is below 100, then the exchange rate can be considered undervalued, meaning exporters are enjoying a premium in international markets by comparison to the cost of doing business that faces their competitors in other countries.

Conditions that have historically called for an exchange rate devaluation are simply not there today.

Now here is the strange thing. The REER has been above 100 for a number of months now, and is now far enough above its equilibrium level to potentially merit a devaluation. But none among the exporter community is demanding this. Not publicly anyway. All exporter associations, and other chambers around the country, are very vocal about the direction of interest rates, about the taxation burden, about electricity and gas pricing. But not a word about the exchange rate.

So what to make of a situation where economists are saying the currency needs to depreciate to make exports competitive, but exporters themselves are making no such demand?

Another example is with the auto policy that the government has been working on for many months now. A couple of years ago they brought customs duties down on imported vehicles, and are now moving to cut import tariffs further on other manufactured goods. Despite a few years of applying this trade policy, and now moving to codify the gradual elimination of protections in a new auto policy, the auto companies themselves are silent. Sharp objections are being raised by manufacturers of auto parts, organised under an umbrella grouping called Pakistan Auto and Auto Parts Manufacturers Association (PAAPAM), who rightly argue that large investments made in the manufacture of auto parts like vehicle glass, headlights, doors, bonnets, other body parts and lots more are at risk with this new policy. So far their objections have not prevailed over the cabinet, though they have found sympathetic ears within government.

What is striking is the silence of the key stakeholders — the auto companies themselves. Why are those whose business is directly in line to be impacted by this measure not saying anything about it, at least publicly?

The answer is a little obvious: the proposed measure does not adversely impact their interests. The exporters are not asking for a devaluation and auto makers are not asking for the return of the protections behind which they grew up, because their business is not going to be as adversely or favourably impacted by the proposed measures as theory might tell us.

The auto part manufacturers are a different story. They cannot sell their parts to anybody else other than the big auto makers for whom they have been vendors for many years now. Changing that would require a deep process of retooling their plant, and figuring out where auto volumes are sufficiently mature to merit retooling the plant and producing parts at industrial scale.

Given that the auto industry is in the middle of shifting to electric vehicles anyway, such a process of obsolescence and adaptation to a changing market reality is perhaps coming anyway, regardless of how much protection the government extends to legacy manufacturers.

Regarding the exchange rate, policymakers in Pakistan have never paid much mind to the REER in deciding the level they want for the rate. The level is usually decided more with rupee cost of external debt servicing requirements in mind, first and foremost. Adjustments to the exchange rate always come when their hand is forced by market reality, which means devaluations come when the State Bank's liquid reserves fall below the level required to keep rampant dollarisation in check. Never have they based exchange rate decisions on export competitiveness and there is no reason to suppose they are about to change now.

Conditions that have historically called for an exchange rate devaluation are simply not there today. First, there is an abundant supply of dollars by comparison to the supply of rupees in the market.

La nuora Italiana

F.S. Aijazuddin

Three female imports symbolise India: London-born Annie Besant, who became the president of the Indian National Congress in 1917; Gonxha Agnes (later Mother Teresa) who received India's third Nobel Prize in 1979 for the succour she gave to the dying in Kolkata; and Sonia Gandhi (an Italian) who became the longest-serving president of the INC (1998-2017, 2019-2022).

Sonia came to India in January 1968 to marry Rajiv (Mrs Indira Gandhi's eldest son). They wanted nothing more than an unobtrusive life together — he as a commercial airline pilot, she a casalinga or homemaker. However, neither could escape their destiny, nor death which stalked them.

Their first son died soon after birth. Rajiv's younger brother Sanjay plummeted to his death performing aerial stunts over Delhi. Their mother was assassinated in 1984. And Rajiv fell victim to an LTTE suicide bomber in 1991. Sonia has survived, to tell her own story, and theirs.

Sonia Gandhi's memoirs — Belonging: a Journey of Love (2026) — are a rosary of reminiscences. One section marks her minority as a middle-class Italian Catholic; the second, her assimilation into the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty; and the third, her powerful widowhood.

Sonia Gandhi's memoirs are a rosary of reminiscences.

Her marriage to Rajiv alienated her conservative father. He half-expected it to fail, absenting himself from the wedding with "a brief, cold" note: "Remember that the door of this house will always be open for you."

Amongst Sonia's in-laws, Mrs Gandhi remained her closest ally, and for a while Rajiv's younger brother Sanjay. Sonia noticed, though, a simmering tension between the siblings. Sanjay "was intensely competitive — he just had to know more and do better". Rajiv stayed out of politics while Sanjay used his position as his mother's favourite to influence her with insidious, often dangerous advice.

The situation in Mrs Gandhi's joint family household deteriorated after Sanjay's marriage to Maneka Anand, a Punjabi Sikh. Mrs Gandhi thought the immature Maneka too ambitious by half, the half being her pushy mother Amardeep Kaur.

Tensions overflowed after Mrs Gandhi's defeat in the 1977 elections, when the family were compressed into a four-bedroom house at 12 Willingdon Crescent (lent to them by Yunus Khan). They had to share transport, cut back on staff. They became 'hypersensitive'.

Rajiv held Sanjay responsible for their mother's humiliating ouster. During one fracas, Rajiv said vehemently, "I cannot forgive you, Sanjay — you have brought Ma to this pass." Mrs Gandhi, 'upset and agitated', assented: "What Rajiv said is true, Sanjay! How many times you gave orders without my knowledge.'' Ludicrously, according to Sonia, the only real "flare-up between the brothers" occurred after Sanjay's wolfhound savaged Rajiv's meeker dog Zabul.

On Oct 31, 1984, Sonia cradled a dying Indira Gandhi in her lap during the unconscionably long journey to the hospital in an Ambassador car. Surprisingly, there was no ambulance on duty at PM's house.

Sonia tried desperately to prevent Rajiv from inheriting the premiership: "You must say no — for the children's sake, for yourself. You can't do this to us. They will kill you". He replied, "They will kill me anyway." And they did, in May 1991.

Cruelly widowed, Sonia Gandhi could have deflected destiny and returned to Italy. Why did she choose to stay on? Had Mrs Gandhi trained her for the prime ministership? No more than Pandit Nehru had tutored Indira. Mrs Gandhi explained her own self-tutoring: "You come to a river in the middle of a forest and there is a river across the way [.] Unless of your own accord, you learn how to swim, you will have to turn back, or die."

Sonia confes-ses to being tormented at seeing the "all-inclusive ethos" of the Congress Party being as--sailed by "the relentless advance of the communal [BJP] forces". In a move one expected to read in Narendra Modi's memoirs, she turned to the Bhagavad Gita for guidance.

In January 1997, aided by a 'Shastri-ji', she began reading the Gita in translation. After a year of studious meditation, she felt inspired by Krishna's message in the Gita: "Perform your dharma [duty] without regard for the fruit of your action". Despite the objections of her children, she conceded to the demands of the headless Congress. Like Annie Besant and Mother Teresa before her, she felt compelled to answer India's call to duty.

Canvassing tirelessly, Sonia Gandhi led the Congress to victory in 2004 and 2009. During those 10 years, she ill-used Dr Man-mohan Singh as her stringless PM puppet.

Now in opposition, she concedes that PM Modi and she have little in common: he is a product of an ante-diluvian RSS, leap-frogging into the future; she the legatee of Nehru's sentimental secularism. She expects young India to allow Rahul and Priyanka to fulfil their dynastic destiny.

PM Shehbaz stresses modern research to ensure sustainable development of agri sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday stressed the importance of modern agricultural research and technology to ensure sustainable development of the agriculture sector, increase per-acre crop yields and strengthen the national economy.

Chairing a review meeting on the performance of the Ministry of National Food Security under the Prime Minister's Office System (PMOS), the prime minister said the government would extend all possible support and substantial financial assistance to promote agricultural research and innovation.

He emphasized that the adoption of modern agricultural machinery was essential to reducing farming costs and significantly increasing per-acre productivity. Ensuring easy access to modern machinery for farmers, he added, was among the government's top priorities.

The prime minister said an effective system had been established under PMOS to evaluate the performance of federal ministries, divisions and institutions, adding that delays in achieving assigned targets and timelines would not be tolerated.

He also directed that PMOS be further improved and made more effective, while strengthening coordination and communication among the relevant institutions.

The meeting was briefed on the performance of the Ministry of National Food Security under PMOS.

The participants were informed that measures were being undertaken across the country to improve storage capacity for agricultural commodities.

The meeting was also informed that the Mera Kissan Digital Application had been launched to facilitate the registration of farmers from across the country.

Institutional reforms in the agricultural sector are also being undertaken at the government level. In this regard, the National Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Council has been established, and its secretariat has commenced operations.

The meeting was also briefed on the restructuring of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC).

The participants were informed that crop insurance coverage was essential to protecting farmers against losses caused by climate change and natural disasters. Work is currently underway to improve agricultural insurance.



SINGAPORE: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, interacting with members of the Pakistani diaspora and business community in Singapore at a dinner hosted by Pakistan's High Commissioner to Singapore, Ms. Rabia Shafiq, at Pakistan House.

Finance Minister urges diaspora to promote investment in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday urged the Pakistani diaspora and business community in Singapore to play an active role in promoting Pakistan as an investment destination and strengthening economic ties between the two countries.

He made these remarks during an interaction with members of the Pakistani diaspora and business community at a dinner hosted by Pakistan's High Commissioner to Singapore, Rabia Shafiq, at Pakistan House, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

The minister briefed participants on Pakistan's improving macroeconomic stability and the government's measures to strengthen the economy and reduce the fiscal deficit.

He highlighted the government's commitment to fiscal discipline, structural reforms and creating a conducive environment for investment.

Recalling his time spent in Singapore, Senator Aurangzeb described the Pakistani diaspora as a valuable national asset and an important partner in the country's economic development. He encouraged overseas Pakistanis, particularly business community members, to facilitate greater engagement between Pakistani and Singaporean investors.

He also highlighted investment opportunities in Pakistan across various sectors and briefed participants on the government's privatisation programme. He noted that the privatisation of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) would help reduce the financial burden on the national exchequer, contain government expenditure and improve economic efficiency.

Members of the Pakistani business community shared their perspectives on strengthening Pakistan's investment appeal and attracting foreign investors.

They also discussed opportunities for greater business-to-business engagement and offered suggestions for promoting investment and economic cooperation.

KPOGCL organises briefing for Advisor on Energy & Power

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber PAkhtunkhwa Oil & Gas Company Limited (KPOGCL) organised briefing for Osman Saifullah Khan, Advisor to Governor for Planning & Development, Energy and Power, Science Technology and Information Technology.

The briefing was held in the Conference Room Energy and Power and was attended by relevant officials.

The meeting gave a detailed briefing on follow-up with OGDCL Chairman, non-operational blocks, ongoing consultations with OGDCL, obstacles faced, and required decisions.

Advisor Osman Saifullah Khan emphasized effective coordination to activate non-operational blocks and remove obstacles.

Gold prices decline by Rs3,700 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The prices of gold witnessed a decline in the local market on Thursday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola falling by Rs3,700 to settle at Rs395,236, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold decreased by Rs3,172 to Rs338,851, while 10 grams of 22-karat gold declined by Rs2,908 to Rs310,624.

In the international market, the price of gold decreased by $37 to $3,727 per ounce, the association reported.

Meanwhile, the price of silver per tola fell by Rs43 to Rs5,005, while the price of 10 grams of silver declined by Rs37 to Rs4,290.

All necessary measures to promote investment and trade in Balochistan: Bilal

Balochistan Investment and Trade Expo 2026 concludes in Quetta; investors and industrialists explore business opportunities as government pledges continued support

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade (BBoIT) Vice Chairman Bilal Khan Kakar has reaffirmed the provincial government's commitment to creating a business-friendly environment, attracting investment and promoting industrial development, saying sustained government support and stronger private-sector participation are essential to unlocking Balochistan's economic potential.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the Balochistan Investment and Trade Expo (BITE 2026), he said the two-day event provided a common platform for investors, industrialists, traders and entrepreneurs to explore business opportunities and establish commercial links.

The province's first investment and trade expo concluded in Quetta after attracting participants from across Pakistan, including business organizations, government departments and development partners.

Bilal Khan Kakar said the initiative reflected Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti's vision of strengthening trade, supporting small and medium enterprises and encouraging investment in the province. He assured the business community of continued government cooperation.

Speaking at the ceremony, BUITEMS Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Khalid Hafeez emphasized entrepreneurship, startups and stronger university-industry partnerships, urging young people to become job creators rather than relying solely on employment opportunities.

Participants welcomed the expo as a positive step toward expanding commercial networks, promoting local industries and highlighting Balochistan's investment potential.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on the performance of Ministry of National Food Security and Research under Prime Minister's Office System.

Muhammad Ali says:

Privatisation a catalyst for economic transformation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Adviser to the Prime Minister on Privatisation, Muhammad Ali on Thursday outlined Clarity, Cooperation, and Consistency (the 3Cs) as principles to drive sustainable economic transformation, attract private investment, and reduce the fiscal burden of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs).

Addressing the 6th Pakistan Prosperity Forum, organized by the Policy Research Institute for Market Economy (PRIME), the Adviser emphasized that building investor confidence is a nation's greatest economic advantage during times of regional and global uncertainty.

Addressing the event which was also attended, including PRIME Institute CEO Dr. Ali Salman and IMF Resident Representative Dr. Mahir and Economic Adviser to the British High Commission Mr. Louie Dane, Muhammad Ali stated that while Pakistan cannot control external geopolitical tensions or global energy disruptions, it can strengthen domestic resilience through structural reforms thereby promoting clarity.

He stressed that privatisation is not merely an end in itself, but a vital mechanism to mobilize private capital, enhance operational efficiency, and deliver lasting economic value.

Highlighting the unsustainable cost of maintaining the status quo, the Minister revealed that during the first half of Fiscal Year 2026, SOEs recorded aggregate losses of Rs 342.8 billion, while government fiscal support surged by 31% to Rs 804 billion compared to the previous year.

He underscored that the government's core mandate is policy formulation and fair regulation rather than operating commercial businesses, even profitable ones, where no compelling public interest exists.

The Adviser noted that recent landmark transactions reflect a shift toward bringing in fresh capital, management expertise, and innovation rather than focusing solely on sale proceeds.

He highlighted the case of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), where the initial closing in June 2026 injected Rs 80 billion in new equity into the airline alongside Rs 10 billion in sale proceeds, with the second closing in June 2027 set to bring an additional Rs 90 billion (Rs 45 billion for the government and Rs 45 billion for the entity).

Emphasizing that the government cannot achieve economic transformation alone, the Adviser called for strong cooperation between public institutions, private enterprises, employees, and regulators.

Tanveer warns fertilizer dealers against overpricing, cancellation of licences

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday warned that profiteering, unjustified price increases and manipulation of fertilizer distribution would not be tolerated and action would be taken against those involved in overpricing.

The minister chaired a high-level meeting of the Fertilizer Review Committee with representatives of fertilizer manufacturing companies and other relevant stakeholders and reviewed the supply, demand and pricing of urea and Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) during the 2026–27 agricultural season.

The Federal Minister expressed serious concern over reports of unjustified increases in fertilizer prices at the retail level despite stable prices at the manufacturing level. He strongly criticised dealers involved in arbitrary pricing and profiteering, describing such practices as unacceptable exploitation of farmers.

"When fertilizer prices at the manufacturing level are stable, there is no justification for dealers to charge arbitrary and inflated prices. Farmers cannot be left at the mercy of profiteers," the minister stated.

Rana Tanveer Hussain directed fertilizer companies to take full responsibility for regulating their dealership networks and ensuring transparent pricing. He stressed that dealers found involved in overcharging, hoarding or artificial price escalation must face strict action, including immediate cancellation of their dealership licences or authorisations by the respective fertilizer companies.

The Minister also expressed concern over weak enforcement and maladministration at the district level, which allow unscrupulous dealers to manipulate prices.

He called for stronger coordination between fertilizer companies, provincial authorities and district administrations to ensure effective market monitoring and accountability.

During the meeting, the Committee reviewed the fertilizer supply situation and noted that there was no issue regarding the availability of DAP.

The minister emphasised that adequate supplies must be reflected in fair market prices and that artificial price increases under the pretext of shortages would not be tolerated.



ISLAMABAD: Adviser to PM on privitisation, Muhammad Ali witness the signing of Financial advisory services agreement for the outsourcing of Lahore and Karachi airports.

SECP directs companies to deposit unclaimed dividends

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has directed companies to deposit dividends, profits or interest that remain unclaimed for three years in a designated federal government account.

Under Section 244 of the Companies Act, 2017, the requirement applies to dividends due on company shares and modaraba certificates, as well as profit or interest payable on Term Finance Certificates (TFCs) and Sukuks, said a news release here on Thursday.

The three-year period begins from the date, the dividend becomes due and payable or for TFCs and Sukuks from the instrument's maturity date.

Through Circular No. 25 of 2026, the SECP has specified Account No. G1120G, titled "Companies Unclaimed Instruments and Dividend and Insurance Benefits and Investors Education Account". The account is maintained under the Public Account of the Federation with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) or the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP).

Before transferring the amount, a company must send a 90-day notice by registered post to each shareholder at their last known address.

Pakistan trade delegation to visit Maldives, both sides agree on Priority sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and the Maldives agreed that a Minister led delegation of Pakistani officials and business representatives shall visit in December pursuant to the agreement to enhance Pak-Maldives trade to $ 200 million, between Prime Minister of Pakistan and President of Maldives.

The two sides agreed, in principle, to establish institutional arrangement by creating joint working groups to expand bilateral trade, assess the feasibility of a direct Karachi–Malé shipping service and facilitate Maldivian imports of essential commodities from Pakistan, said a release issued here on Thursday.

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan led the Pakistani side in the virtual meeting with Mohamed Saeed, Minister of Economic Development, Transport and Trade of the Maldives.

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan and Secretary Commerce Jawad Paul attended the meeting.

The Maldivian High Commissioner to Pakistan, senior officials from the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Commerce, and representatives of the Maldives State Trading Organization, Maldives Ports Limited and Invest Maldives also participated.

Jam Kamal Khan said on the directions of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, a Pakistani delegation will visit the Maldives at the earliest to follow up on President Dr Mohamed Muizzu's recent visit to Pakistan.

Mohamed Saeed welcomed the proposal and identified direct maritime connectivity and imports of essential commodities from Pakistan as immediate priorities for the Maldives.

He said identifying the types and volumes of cargo available for shipment would help determine the viability of the proposed route.

Bilal pushes EFS reforms to facilitate exporters, spur export-led growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kiyani on Thursday chaired a meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee to Review the Export Facilitation Scheme (EFS), focusing on simplifying procedures, facilitating exporters and strengthening compliance and revenue safeguards to promote export-led growth.

The meeting reviewed proposed amendments to the scheme aimed at making it more accessible and predictable for exporters while ensuring transparency and effective oversight.

The minister reiterated the government's commitment to advancing the Prime Minister's vision of a business-friendly environment, export-led growth and greater private sector participation.

He emphasised that the proposed amendments should reduce compliance costs, encourage new investment and local value addition, and ensure that benefits under the scheme remained linked to actual export performance.

The committee reviewed proposals to simplify exporter categorisation, rationalise authorisation periods and broaden access to the scheme for both new and established exporters.

It also discussed introducing a uniform value-addition formula to replace varying calculations across Collectorates, drawing on available data.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research , Rana Tanveer Hussain chairs a high-level meeting of the fertilizer review committee to review fertilizer supply, demand and pricing directing strict action against dealers involved in overpricing and profiteering to safeguard farmers' interest.

PSX turns bullish, gains 477 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) bounced back to a bullish trend on Thursday, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index gaining 477.86 points, a positive change of 0.27 percent, to close at 176,772.19 points against 176,294.33 points recorded in the previous trading session.

The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 724.776 million shares, compared to 742.121 million shares traded in the previous session. The traded value of the ready market stood at Rs21.153 billion, down from Rs25.975 billion a day earlier.

Meanwhile, total market capitalisation increased to Rs19.233 trillion from Rs19.198 trillion recorded in the previous session.

Out of 499 companies that traded in the ready market, 242 posted gains, 229 suffered losses, while 28 remained unchanged, reflecting a positive trend in the market.

WorldCall Telecom led the volume chart with 141.485 million shares, followed by Pervez Ahmed Co with 69.409 million shares and TPL Life Insurance with 42.240 million shares.

Among the top gainers in the ready market, PIA Holding Company LimitedB surged by Rs542.50 to close at Rs14,699.00, while Bhanero Textile Mills Limited advanced by Rs62.27 to settle at Rs1,166.49.

Pakistan offers strategic gateway for Hong Kong investors to regional markets

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has called for establishing stronger institutional linkages between Pakistan and Hong Kong, including direct trade connections and a Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Islamabad.

It said that the such initiatives would help to unlock new opportunities for bilateral trade, investment and business collaboration across multiple sectors.

The proposal was put forward by ICCI President Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia during an interactive meeting with a delegation of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Kuala Lumpur, headed by its Director, Fung Ho Yin Owin, which visited ICCI to explore avenues for expanding trade and investment cooperation between the two sides. The delegation, accompanied by Asim Nawaz Tiwana, Director, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Islamabad, comprised Ms. Wong See Yui Audrey, Deputy Director; Lam Po Kui Leonard, Deputy Director; Ms. Chen King Wan Vivien; Ms. Yuen Yuk Ling Stephanie; and Song Chee Weng Damien.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Fung Ho Yin Owin said that it was his first visit to Pakistan and described the experience as impressive, meaningful and encouraging for exploring the country's business and investment potential.

He expressed interest in developing stronger engagement with Pakistan, particularly in areas offering mutual economic benefits.

He also underscored the importance of educational and cultural exchanges, observing that closer people-to-people interaction could play a significant role in bringing the communities of both sides closer and creating a stronger foundation for sustainable economic relations.

Welcoming the delegation, ICCI President Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia said that Pakistan and Hong Kong shared considerable potential for mutually beneficial economic cooperation, which needed to be translated into practical business partnerships through stronger institutional connectivity and direct engagement between their business communities.

He emphasized that establishing direct linkages between the two sides would facilitate closer coordination, enhance business-to-business interaction and encourage investment partnerships.

He particularly highlighted the importance of B2B and people-to-people (P2P) engagements in building lasting commercial relationships.

Resolving employees' issues more important than election victory: Umrani

Senior provincial minister congratulates Shaheen Panel on Civil Secretariat Staff Welfare Association election victory, assures full support to newly elected leadership

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Senior Provincial Minister Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani has said that winning elections is important, but the real challenge for elected representatives is to fulfill their responsibilities and take practical steps to resolve employees' problems.

In a congratulatory message following the Shaheen Panel's victory in the Balochistan Civil Secretariat Staff Welfare Association elections, Umrani, who also serves as Provincial Minister for Irrigation and PPP parliamentary leader, congratulated newly elected President Comrade Younus Zehri, General Secretary Qaim Khan Kakar and other cabinet members.

He said democratic elections reflected the confidence of employees in their representatives, who must now justify that trust by prioritizing staff welfare and addressing legitimate grievances.

Umrani expressed hope that the newly elected leadership would work sincerely to improve the welfare of Civil Secretariat officers and employees.

He assured the association of his full cooperation and support in efforts to resolve employees' legitimate issues and improve their working conditions.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Engineer Abdul Majeed Badini meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.



TURBAT: Chief of Defence Forces, Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir laid a floral wreath at the Shuhada Monument and offered Fateha during his visit to Turbat.

Access to information is a constitutional right: Rahmat Saleh

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Assembly Standing Committee on Information Chairman Rahmat Saleh Baloch has said that access to information is a constitutional right of citizens, emphasizing that legislation must ensure transparency and public interest while protecting information legally classified as confidential or exempt from disclosure.

Chairing a committee meeting at the Balochistan Assembly, he stressed the importance of balancing public access to information with legal confidentiality requirements.

The committee reviewed the Balochistan Right to Information (Amendment) Bill 2026, focusing on the proposed Information Commission's composition, members' qualifications, professional expertise and legal powers.

Former Information Secretary Imran Khan briefed participants on the bill's objectives, explaining that citizens could approach the Information Commission if relevant institutions failed to provide requested information.

The committee agreed that three of the proposed commission's five members should come from relevant professional fields to strengthen its expertise, effectiveness and institutional performance.

Rahmat Saleh Baloch said parliamentary standing committees played a vital role in examining legislation and addressing legal and administrative concerns before implementation.

Committee members Hadia Nawaz Bahrani, Sanjay Kumar and Safia Bibi attended the meeting, along with Assembly Secretary Tahir Shah Kakar, Special Secretary Abdul Rehman, Deputy Secretary Law Saeed Iqbal and other officials.

Encroachments on public roads will not be tolerated: AC

JAFFARABAD (6 AM Report): Assistant Commissioner Dheeraj Kalra has warned that illegal encroachments on roads, sidewalks and public passages in Dera Allah Yar will not be tolerated, directing shopkeepers to remove unauthorized structures and obstructions or face legal action.

Acting on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Jaffarabad Khalid Khan, a joint team of the Municipal Corporation and Traffic Police, led by AC Kalra, conducted an anti-encroachment operation following public complaints.

3 dev. projects worth Rs35.36m completed in Gwadar, Pasni

GWADAR (6 AM Report): Three development projects worth Rs35.36 million have been completed in Gwadar district under Phase-I of the Balochistan Special Development Initiative (BSDI), providing improved sports and infrastructure facilities for students and fishermen.

The projects include a modern futsal ground costing Rs23.636 million and a parking shed worth Rs6.733 million at Government Boys Degree College Gwadar, aimed at promoting sports activities and improving parking facilities for students, teachers and staff.

Sports to promote integrity, merit and transparency among youth: Meena Baloch

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Adviser on Sports and Youth Affairs Meena Majeed Baloch has said that sports will be promoted as an effective means of fostering integrity, merit, transparency and discipline among young people while raising awareness against corruption.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the Inter-Universities Anti-Corruption Day Sports Festival at BUITEMS Markhor Auditorium, she said the provincial government was expanding sports opportunities across Balochistan under Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti's vision.

The weeklong festival, jointly organized by the Sports Department, National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan and Anti-Corruption Establishment, concluded with BUITEMS securing first position and the University of Balochistan finishing second.

Meena Majeed Baloch announced cash awards of Rs500,000 each for three athletes, totaling Rs1.5 million. The recipients included footballer Junaid Shah, who represented Pakistan in the SAFF Championship, and cricketers Syed Fareeduddin and Imran Khan, members of Pakistan's victorious IMC Over-40 Cricket World Cup team.

She also announced a special sports tournament in Kuchlak to encourage youth participation in healthy recreational activities.

The ceremony was attended by MPA Malik Naeem Khan Bazai, Sports Secretary Dura Baloch, DG Sports Dr. Yasir Khan Bazai, DG NAB Balochistan Niaz Hassan, BUITEMS Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Khalid Hafeez and other officials.

Trophies were distributed among winning and runner-up teams, marking the conclusion of a festival aimed at strengthening sportsmanship, healthy competition and anti-corruption awareness among university students.

Equipping youth with digital and entrepreneurial skills our priority: VC Dr. Gul Hassan

TURBAT (6 AM Report): University of Turbat Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Gul Hassan has said that equipping young people with modern technology, artificial intelligence, digital skills and entrepreneurial capabilities remains a key university priority, enabling them to create employment opportunities and contribute to economic development.

Speaking during a visit to the ongoing four-day Kech Academic Gala 2026, the vice chancellor described the event as a platform for promoting innovation, entrepreneurship and practical technological skills among students.

Accompanied by Pro Vice Chancellor Dr. Kamal Ahmed, faculty members, business representatives and educationists, he inspected stalls featuring student projects, business initiatives and technological innovations.

According to a university spokesperson, hundreds of applications were received from students, emerging entrepreneurs, the Anti-Narcotics Force and various institutions, with 100 stalls shortlisted for participation.

The gala features an AI boot camp, robotics and science projects, digital marketing initiatives, Balochi handicrafts, books, fine arts, photography, virtual gaming and traditional food stalls. Live music and cultural performances have also attracted considerable public interest. Dr. Gul Hassan appreciated the students' creativity and entrepreneurial ideas, emphasizing that the university aims to provide practical skills alongside academic qualifications in line with Higher Education Commission guidelines and its strategic development plan.

Balochistan finance department

Professional training essential for financial discipline, transparency

QUETTA (6 AM Report): The Balochistan Finance Department has emphasized the need to strengthen the professional capacity of Internal Audit Unit officers to ensure financial discipline, transparency and efficient utilization of public resources. On the fifth day of its ongoing skill development training program, officials attended sessions covering budget preparation, project management, financial responsibilities and development expenditure. Additional Secretary Budget Fakhruddin conducted the opening session on budget formulation and project management, highlighting essential financial planning and administrative procedures.

Additional Secretary Budget Fayyaz Ali briefed participants on the responsibilities of Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs), financial management and proper maintenance of official records.

In the concluding session, Additional Secretary Development Muhammad Qasim discussed development budgets, project portfolios, fund allocation and release policies. He also explained sectoral budget distribution, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and procedures for modifying or canceling development projects.

University of Balochistan will continue AI training, says vice chancellor

QUETTA (6AM Report): University of Balochistan Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Zahoor Ahmed Bazai said artificial intelligence had become an essential tool and the university would continue holding workshops to train its faculty and administrative officers in its use. He was speaking as chief guest at the closing ceremony of a three-day workshop on practical applications of AI.

According to the university's public relations department, the University Training and Development Centre (UTDC) organized the workshop to help faculty and administrative officers use AI tools to carry out office work, teaching and research more efficiently.

On the final day, GIL Director Dr Waheed Noor led a hands-on session on AI applications and software. He demonstrated how to use these tools to draft reports, letters and summaries and prepare presentations. He said cloud-based AI could help administrative officers complete routine tasks more efficiently and in less time.

Kashif Zubair

Safe food is every citizen's right

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Food Authority Director Operations Kashif Zubair has said that access to safe, hygienic and quality food is a fundamental right of every citizen, emphasizing that food safety standards must also be maintained in prisons and other government institutions.

He made these remarks during an inspection of Quetta Jail, accompanied by Deputy Director Naseebullah Nasir and Food Authority inspection teams. The officials examined food provided to inmates, kitchen operations, storage facilities and hygiene arrangements.

QESCO interview schedule extension sought amid heavy rush

GWADAR (6 AM Report): Additional Deputy Commissioner General Gwadar Dr. Abdul Shakoor has directed authorities to ensure adequate facilities, security and orderly arrangements for candidates attending Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) walk-in interviews, as an unusually large turnout prompted a request for a three-day extension of the interview schedule.

During a visit to the interview venue, Dr. Shakoor reviewed security, crowd management, seating arrangements and the interview process. He instructed officials to provide shaded waiting areas and ensure smooth movement of candidates.

Dr. Khilji

Modern curriculum, teaching methods key to quality education

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Textbook Board Chairman Dr. Gulab Khilji has emphasized that research-based curriculum development, modern teaching methods and effective education policies are essential to improving educational standards and preparing students for future challenges.

Addressing the 3rd International School Awards and Global Schools Conference 2026, where he represented Balochistan, Dr. Khilji called for aligning curricula with contemporary research, emerging educational needs and practical skills development.

He said meaningful educational reforms required stronger coordination between curriculum development, academic research and policymaking, alongside innovative teaching practices to improve students' learning outcomes.

The conference, organized by International School Networks (ISN) in collaboration with educational partners, brought together policymakers, researchers, curriculum specialists and education leaders from Pakistan and abroad.

Participants included MNA Shamila Rana, Dar-e-Arqam School System CEO Chaudhry Munir Ahmed and Mian Musaddiq Munir.

Dr. Khilji said international educational forums provided opportunities to exchange ideas, recognize achievements and promote sustainable improvements in school education.

His participation also highlighted Balochistan's priorities in curriculum modernization, educational quality and the development of skills needed for future generations.

NP demands best medical care for victims of Turbat-Karachi highway accident

QUETTA (ANN): The National Party has expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and injuries in a tragic passenger bus accident near Basol on the Turbat-Karachi Highway, urging the Balochistan government to ensure immediate and comprehensive medical treatment for all injured passengers.

In a statement, the party's central spokesperson said the accident involving an Azad Dasht passenger bus had devastated several families, describing the loss of precious human lives as an irreparable tragedy.

The spokesperson called on the provincial government and relevant authorities to arrange emergency medical assistance, transfer critically injured passengers to major hospitals where necessary and ensure that no delays or negligence occur in their treatment.

Expressing concern over recurring road accidents on Balochistan's highways, the party emphasized that passenger safety and the protection of human lives were fundamental government responsibilities requiring effective preventive measures.

The National Party extended condolences to the bereaved families and wished the injured a speedy recovery, urging authorities to prioritize medical assistance, strengthen highway safety measures and take practical steps to prevent similar tragedies.



LASBELLA: Parliamentary Secretary for Law, Tourism and Culture Nawabzada Zareen Khan Magsi listening the problems of the people.

AC Dheeraj

Shopkeepers who breach official price limits face strict action

DERA ALLAH YAR (6AM Report): Dera Allah Yar Assistant Commissioner Dheeraj Kalra said shopkeepers found overcharging, profiteering or selling goods above official rates would face strict legal action. He directed officials to visit markets daily, check prices and enforce the official rates.

Kalra chaired the Price Control Committee meeting at the direction of Jaffarabad Deputy Commissioner Khalid Khan, following instructions from Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan. Trade union representatives, office-bearers of traders' associations and officials from relevant departments attended. The committee reviewed the availability and prices of essential goods across the city and assessed compliance with official rates. It discussed the prices of vegetables, fruit, meat, pulses, rice and other daily necessities. Traders were directed to sell quality food at the prescribed rates and refrain from raising prices without authorization.

Strict action against organized begging, child exploitation: DC Quetta

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini has warned of strict legal action against organized begging networks and individuals exploiting children for begging, directing the district administration to intensify enforcement measures across the city.

Acting on his instructions, a team led by the Assistant Commissioner City conducted anti-begging operations at Ufone Chowk, Serena Chowk, Anscomb Road and Meezan Chowk.

According to the district administration, nine minors were taken into protective custody and handed over to the Social Welfare Department for further legal and welfare procedures.

DC Badini expressed concern over the increasing incidence of begging and the exploitation of children, saying coordinated efforts were essential to address the issue and protect vulnerable minors.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presides over the meeting.

Merit-based recruitment for 5,387 Balochistan quota vacancies: Federal Officials

QUETTA (6AM Report): The federal government has decided to fill 5,387 vacant positions reserved for Balochistan across 31 federal ministries and divisions, with recruitment tests scheduled from November 20 to December 8 under the Livelihood Development Plan.

Officials disclosed the arrangements during a meeting attended by representatives of federal ministries and divisions, where recruitment procedures, departmental responsibilities and coordination with district-level committees were reviewed.

According to the briefing, vacancies have been advertised through official government platforms, while authorities have outlined measures intended to ensure merit-based recruitment and equal opportunities for eligible candidates, including those from remote districts.

Applicants have been advised to keep their educational certificates, CNICs, domicile documents and other required records ready for the recruitment process.

Federal departments have also been tasked with preparing lists of selected candidates and maintaining recruitment records for submission to the relevant coordination committees.

Cannabis crops destroyed on 34 acres in Pishin anti-drug operation

PISHIN (6 AM Report): Authorities destroyed cannabis crops cultivated on approximately 34 acres of land in Pishin district during a joint operation against illegal drug cultivation, officials said. Acting on the directives of the Deputy Commissioner Pishin, joint teams comprising the district administration, Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Department, Intelligence Bureau and district police conducted the operation under the supervision of the Assistant Commissioner Pishin. Officials said cannabis crops were destroyed on approximately 11 acres in Ghawaz Killi Manzari and 23 acres at two locations in Killi Bala Manzari, both in Hurmzai tehsil.

Action against absent medical staff, transparent medicine distribution ordered: Yasir

TURBAT (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Kech Yasir Iqbal Dashti has directed health authorities to ensure regular attendance of doctors and medical staff, uninterrupted availability of essential medicines and quality healthcare services at government hospitals and basic health units across the district, warning that negligence and absenteeism would not be tolerated.

Chairing a District Health Committee meeting, the deputy commissioner ordered departmental action against absent employees in accordance with regulations and called for transparent medicine distribution and stronger monitoring of healthcare facilities.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Communication and Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa presides over the meeting regarding recruitment under deceased quota. Secretary C&W Babar Khan is also present.

Pakistan warns India against 'weaponizing shared rivers prompting a clash at UN

UNITED NATIONS (APP): :A senior Pakistani diplomat has accused India of "weaponizing water" by suspending the decades-old Indus Waters Treaty and threatening downstream supplies, calling the move an "unlawful action" during an informal UN Security Council meeting on natural resources and conflict. "Such actions endanger the livelihoods and well-being of more than 240 million people and risks escalation between the two neighbouring States, " Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, warned at the 15-member Council meeting convened by Liberia under Arria-Formula format named after a former Venezuelan Ambassador to the UN, Diego Arriva.

The purpose of the debate was to examine how natural resource cooperation can curb illicit conflict financing, protect livelihoods, and advance peace amid rising global competition over critical minerals.

Arria-Formula meetings are informal that enable Security Council members to have a frank and private exchange of views on relevant subjects.

The meeting brought together Council members and other UN member states, alongside experts and practitioners from international organizations, academia, the private sector, and civil society.

In his remarks, the Pakistani envoy emphasized that cooperation among neighbouring States and the peaceful settlement of resource-related disputes were essential to preventing conflict, something reinforced by Security Council resolution 2788 on utilizing the peaceful means of dispute settlement.

"These principles are particularly relevant to the management of shared transboundary resources, including water, where respect for international law and mutually agreed arrangements is indispensable to regional peace and stability, " Ambassador Jadoon said.

Rejecting India's "unlawful action" with regard to the suspension of the water treaty with Pakistan, he pointed out that he Permanent Court of Arbitration had reaffirmed that the treaty remains fully in force and that India remains bound by its obligations.

"No State should be permitted to use shared natural resources as instruments of coercion or political pressure, in violation of international law and binding treaty obligations, " the Pakistani envoy told delegates.

On the relationship between natural resources and conflict, Ambassador Jadoon stated that natural resources should serve as instruments of sustainable development, shared prosperity and peace, rather than exploitation and conflict.

Expressing Pakistan's solidarity with African countries in their pursuit of sovereign control over natural resources, he noted that external interference, illicit exploitation, political exclusion, weak institutions and elite capture often turned resource wealth into a source of conflict.

He cited the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) as a tragic example of immense mineral wealth sustaining conflict instead of delivering prosperity.

In this regard, he highlighted three priorities for preventing resource-related conflicts: addressing their underlying political and governance-related drivers through inclusive settlements and equitable resource-sharing; disrupting conflict financing through supply-chain traceability; responsible sourcing and international cooperation.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Security Cooperation between the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) of Qatar and Federal Constabulary of Pakistan.

Naqvi, Qatar Interior Minister agree to expand cooperation in police training, cybersecurity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Qatar's Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya), Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, have agreed to expand cooperation between Pakistan and Qatar in police training, cybersecurity, counter-narcotics and internal security.

The Qatari Interior Minister visited the Ministry of Interior, where he held a one-on-one meeting with his Pakistani counterpart, Mohsin Naqvi. The two ministers also held talks at the delegation level and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening Pakistan-Qatar relations and taking bilateral cooperation to new heights.

During the meeting, both sides agreed to expand the scope of the Police Officers Exchange Programme. They also decided to increase cooperation between Qatar's National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) and Pakistan's National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA).

The two ministries further agreed to improve coordination to promote cooperation in different areas. Qatar will also establish a modern firing range at the National Police Academy.

Mohsin Naqvi said the visit of his Qatari counterpart would play an important role in further strengthening relations between the two countries. He thanked Qatar for providing modern scanners to Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF).

The interior minister said joint operations and information-sharing between the relevant agencies of Pakistan and Qatar were continuing. He added that cooperation between the two countries had led to the detection of 300 drug-related cases over the past four years.

Naqvi said Pakistan wanted to ensure that its territory was never used for drug smuggling. He also said cybercrime was an international issue and Pakistan was taking steps to address the challenge.

CM Bugti

Balochistan's talented youth are architects of province's bright future

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has said that talented young people are the true architects of the province's economic development and brighter future, emphasizing that internationally trained engineers will play a vital role in advancing the Reko Diq project and strengthening Balochistan's industrial sector.

He expressed these views during a meeting with 18 young engineers, including four women, from the second batch of Reko Diq Mining Company's (RDMC) International Graduate Development Program (IGDP), who recently returned after completing professional training in Argentina and Zambia.

The delegation, led by RDMC Country Manager Zarrar Jamali, briefed the chief minister on their technical training, practical experience and exposure to international mining operations at Barrick's facilities.

CM Bugti appreciated the engineers' achievements and praised RDMC and Barrick for investing in local talent development, saying international training would help create a skilled workforce and expand employment opportunities in Balochistan.

RDMC Country Manager Zarrar Jamali said the company remained committed to linking the Reko Diq project's development with local employment and professional capacity building.

He disclosed that the 18 engineers were selected in 2024 through a competitive, merit-based process from more than 3,000 applicants across Balochistan. The selected candidates belong to Chagai, Quetta, Gwadar, Panjgur, Khuzdar, Loralai, Noshki, Musakhel, Killa Saifullah and Zhob.

The engineers thanked the company for the international training opportunities and pledged to apply their newly acquired skills to the development of Reko Diq and Balochistan's economy.

President felicitates Oman's Sultan on 56th National Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has extended warm felicitations to Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and the people of the Sultanate of Oman on the occasion of the country's 56th National Day, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation.

In his felicitation letter to the Sultan, the president appreciated Oman's socio-economic progress under his leadership and acknowledged the country's constructive role in promoting regional peace and stability.

He also lauded Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's commitment to dialogue, diplomacy and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

President Zardari said Pakistan and Oman enjoyed longstanding bonds of friendship and brotherhood, rooted in geographical proximity, shared faith, cultural affinities and enduring people-to-people ties.

Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to expanding bilateral relations, he expressed the desire to enhance cooperation with Oman in various sectors, particularly trade and investment, logistics, food and energy security, information technology and artificial intelligence.

PM lauds Qatar's steady support, eyes wider economic partnership

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, on Thursday thanked Qatar's leadership for its unwavering support to Pakistan and said there was considerable potential to expand bilateral economic cooperation, as the two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on security cooperation and an Action Plan on the fight against drugs.

The prime minister was speaking during a meeting with Qatar's Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya), Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, who called on him here, along with a delegation, a Prime Minister's Office news release said. Warmly welcoming the Qatari dignitary on his first visit to Pakistan, the prime minister reaffirmed the longstanding brotherly relations between the two countries. He expressed the hope that the visit would further strengthen cooperation between the Ministries of Interior and other relevant institutions of Pakistan and Qatar.

Prime Minister Shehbaz conveyed his warm greetings to His Highness the Amir of the State of Qatar and thanked the Qatari leadership for its support. He particularly appreciated Qatar's continued supply of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

, which, he said, contributed to meeting Pakistan's energy requirements.

Highlighting the strong people-to-people ties, the prime minister noted that around 300,000 Pakistanis were working in Qatar and making meaningful contributions to its development and prosperity.



QUETTA: A delegation of Graduates those who completed their graduation under Barrick and RDMS International Graduate Program Phase-II meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

Khawaja Asif highlights Pakistan's contribution to UN peacekeeping missions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that Pakistan's active contribution to global peace, security and United Nations peacekeeping missions reflected its longstanding commitment to international peace and stability.

Addressing the Schuman Security and Defence Forum at the European Parliament in Brussels, he said that around 237, 000 Pakistani personnel had served in 48 UN peacekeeping missions over the past seven decades. He said 183 Pakistani personnel had sacrificed their lives while serving in international peacekeeping missions, according to a press release.

The minister stressed that collective understanding, a joint strategy and cooperation-based security policies were essential to maintaining global peace.

He warned that a sudden reduction in UN peacekeeping missions in conflict zones could further increase threats to human security.

Khawaja Asif said peacekeeping mandates should be realistic, adequately resourced and aligned with sustainable political solutions. He also called for effective representation of troop- and police-contributing countries in the formulation of these mandates.

Emphasizing that peace was not merely the absence of war, he said human security must be prioritized to achieve lasting stability. The defence minister observed that climate change; food insecurity and economic vulnerabilities were further aggravating global conflicts.

He added that Pakistan was among the countries directly affected by the adverse impacts of climate change.

He stressed the need to resolve longstanding disputes in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions to ensure global peace. The minister also called for uninterrupted humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected areas and the fulfilment of climate and development commitments.

Pak, Turkiye to formalise judicial coop., MoU to be signed on Nov 23

The Supreme Court (SC) will host a high-level delegation from the Court of Cassation of the Republic of Turkiye from November 23 to 27, 2026, led by Omer Kerkez, President of the Court of Cassation, along with judges and senior officials.

A key highlight of the visit will be the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on judicial cooperation at the SC on November 23.

The MoU is expected to establish a structured and forward-looking framework for collaboration, focusing on judicial exchanges, capacity building and the sharing of best practices in adjudication.

One killed, five injured in firing after clash in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): One person was killed and five others sustained injuries in a firing incident following a clash near the Bhusa Mandi area of Quetta, according to police sources quoted by TV channels.

According to initial reports, the incident occurred when a shopkeeper refused to open his shop due to a strike in the area. Following the refusal, suspects allegedly opened fire, killing the man on the spot and injuring five others.

Bakht Kakar

Providing transport facilities to female students, fulfilling public promises our priority

QUETTA (ANN): Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar has said that providing safe and convenient transportation to female students and fulfilling commitments made to the public remain key government priorities.

Speaking at the inauguration of a special bus service for female students of Nawa Killi, the minister said the initiative would help overcome transportation difficulties and improve access to educational institutions.

In a gesture of encouragement and inclusion, Bakht Muhammad Kakar invited a female student with disabilities to formally inaugurate the bus service.

The bus will operate across different areas of Nawa Killi, providing transportation to students traveling to and from their educational institutions.

The minister emphasized that improving transportation facilities would help female students continue their education without unnecessary difficulties, reaffirming his commitment to addressing public concerns through practical measures.

Students, teachers and the principal welcomed the initiative and thanked the minister, expressing hope that the service would ease daily commuting challenges and support uninterrupted educational activities for girls in Nawa Killi and surrounding areas.

Maulana Abdul Wasey

Restore security of Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Asad Mahmood immediately:

PISHIN (ANN): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Balochistan President Senator Maulana Abdul Wasey has strongly condemned the federal government's alleged withdrawal of official security from party chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Maulana Asad Mahmood, demanding its immediate restoration and an explanation for the decision.

Addressing the Protection of Religious Seminaries and Restoration of Peace Conference in Pishin, he announced that he would surrender his own security provided by the Balochistan government in protest.

Maulana Abdul Wasey said both leaders had previously faced terrorist and suicide attacks, warning that withdrawing their security could expose them to serious threats. He maintained that protecting national political leaders was a constitutional and moral responsibility of the government.



Members of all parties protest against unrest law and order situation in Quetta.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal chaired a meeting and directed Federal and provincial governments to take urgent measures to reduce passenger and freight transport fare.

Strengthen monitoring of precursor chemicals: DC Quetta

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini has directed relevant departments and law enforcement agencies to adopt a coordinated strategy for monitoring the sale, purchase, transportation and movement of precursor chemicals, emphasizing effective implementation of the Precursor Tracking and Traceability System (PTTS).

Chairing a meeting of the District-Level Implementation Committee, the deputy commissioner stressed that accurate recordkeeping, timely information sharing and close interagency coordination were essential for effective monitoring and traceability.

The meeting reviewed administrative and operational arrangements for implementing PTTS, including the availability of records, monitoring procedures and information exchange among relevant institutions.

Representatives of Quetta Police, Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), Special Branch, Intelligence Bureau, Customs, Agriculture and Industries departments, Frontier Corps, Mines and Minerals Department, intelligence agencies and assistant commissioners attended the meeting.

DC Badini directed all participating departments to fulfill their assigned responsibilities and maintain regular coordination to ensure effective tracking of precursor chemicals.

He emphasized that a unified approach and timely exchange of information would strengthen implementation of government policies and improve oversight of precursor-related activities across the district.

Aleem Khan says:

New provinces after public consultation

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan here on Thursday announced that the long-awaited Peshawar Northern Bypass project would be completed within the next two months, saying the mega infrastructure project would significantly improve connectivity, facilitate transportation and open up new avenues of trade, investment and economic activities in the region.

The minister expressed these views while talking to media persons after visiting the under-construction Peshawar Northern Bypass to review progress on the mega project funded by the Federal Government.

He said the government had expedited construction activities to ensure its early completion, adding that further delays in the strategically important project would not be tolerated.

He said the National Highway Authority (NHA) was investing around Rs five billion in the project, which would provide a major boost to the road infrastructure of Peshawar and adjoining areas.

The Prime Minister would be invited to inaugurate the project upon its completion, he added.

Aleem Khan said construction work on its various sections, overhead bridges and flyovers had been accelerated.

Speaker Achakzai

End unannounced power, gas outages; ensure zero load shedding in urban areas

Balochistan Assembly Speaker reviews QESCO and SSGC performance; lawmakers raise concerns over low voltage, excessive bills and delayed projects; details of government electricity dues sought

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Assembly Speaker Captain (Retd.) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai has directed the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) and Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) to take immediate measures to end unannounced power and gas outages, address public complaints and ensure zero load shedding in urban areas.

Chairing a meeting with senior officials of both utilities at the Balochistan Assembly, the speaker said consumers paying their electricity bills should not suffer because of defaulters. He emphasized that the performance of utility companies must be judged by actual public relief rather than assurances and statistics.

Several provincial lawmakers expressed serious concerns over prolonged power outages, low voltage, excessive billing and delays in completing energy projects funded under the Provincial Public Sector Development Program (PSDP).

They also criticized the lack of responsiveness from QESCO officials and called for better coordination between electricity and gas suppliers to prevent simultaneous outages during the harsh winter.

Highlighting billing irregularities, Speaker Achakzai cited the case of a woman in Chaman who reportedly received a Rs57,000 electricity bill despite having only two fans and three light bulbs at her residence. He demanded an effective mechanism for resolving such complaints.

The speaker also questioned continued electricity shortages despite the reported conversion of approximately 27,000 agricultural tube wells to solar power.

Briefing the meeting, QESCO Chief Mujeeb Marri attributed supply difficulties to electricity theft, outstanding government dues and administrative challenges. He assured lawmakers that efforts would be made to provide uninterrupted electricity in areas free from power theft.

SSGC General Manager Raheel Malik cited gas shortages linked to the Iran conflict, theft and pipeline damage as major challenges. He proposed appointing focal persons in different areas to facilitate prompt resolution of supply complaints.

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