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Ahsan arrives in Beijing for historic launch of Pakistan's first astronaut

BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal arrived in Beijing on Sunday to attend the departure ceremony of Pakistan's first astronaut, marking a historic milestone in the country's journey into space and a new chapter in Pakistan-China friendship.

The minister was received at Beijing Airport by Yang Yunli, Vice President of the space company, along with officials of the Embassy of Pakistan.

Ahsan Iqbal would depart for the space mission centre on Monday wnd meet the two Pakistani astronauts who have successfully completed their training. One of the two astronauts would be finally selected for the space mission before the flight.

Describing the upcoming spaceflight as a historic moment for the entire nation, the minister said Pakistan's first astronaut would become the first foreign guest aboard China's space station. He said the landmark mission would also serve as a new symbol of the enduring brotherhood between Pakistan and China.

"This flight represents Pakistan's journey towards space, carrying the dreams of our youth beyond the Earth," he said.

The minister further said that Pakistan-China friendship, higher than the Himalayas, would soar even higher than the skies with this historic flight.

HEC to introduce MOFA attestation option on degree attestation portal

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a major relief for thousands of students struggling with lengthy and cumbersome attestation procedures, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) decided to integrate the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) attestation option into its online degree attestation portal.

Under the proposed facility, students applying for degree attestation will also be asked whether they require attestation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

The proposed feature will enable students to indicate their MOFA attestation requirements at the initial application stage, helping streamline and coordinate the degree attestation and verification process.

Once the new feature is introduced, the process is expected to become more integrated, saving students time and effort and reducing unnecessary hassle.

HEC aims to continuously upgrade its online system and provide students with faster, more transparent and technologically advanced services. Officials said the initiative is part of HEC's broader digital transformation plan to make all student-related services accessible online, ensuring convenience, transparency and efficiency.

President Zardari discusses political situation with DPM, NA speaker

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari met Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq at the President House to discuss the overall political situation and other important matters.

Former prime minister Raja Pervez Ashraf and Senator Sherry Rehman also attended the meeting.

Earlier, Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting at the Foreign Office to review Pakistan's forthcoming bilateral engagements and diplomatic activities.

The Foreign Secretary and senior officials briefed the meeting on preparations for proposed high-level visits.

Participants discussed opportunities to strengthen cooperation with various countries in key sectors, as well as Pakistan's priorities for the planned visits.

Dar directed the relevant authorities to ensure tangible outcomes from the visits and finalise the necessary arrangements.

He also instructed the relevant ministries and divisions to maintain close coordination and ensure timely implementation and follow-up of decisions.

Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari, Sunday, expressed profound sorrow and grief over the death of senior journalist and renowned human rights advocate Hussain Naqi.

The president paid tribute to Hussain Naqi's lifelong services to journalism, freedom of expression and the promotion of human rights, the President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release. President Zardari said Hussain Naqi played a significant role in advancing journalism and strengthening democratic values. His valuable contributions would always be remembered.

He also extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq called on President Asif Ali Zardari. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Senator Sherry Rehman are also present on this occasion.



MUSCAT: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik and Minister of Energy and Minerals of Oman Eng. Salim Al Aufi witnessing the signing of a Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) for petroleum products between Pakistan State Oil Company Limited (PSO) and OQ Trading (OQT).

Oman to supply petroleum products, $200m credit facility to PSO under new agreement

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and Oman on Sunday signed an agreement under which the Gulf country's state-owned OQ Trading would supply petroleum products, as well as a $200 million credit line, to the Pakistan State Oil (PSO). This could provide Pakistan with a means to strategically diversify its sourcing of petroleum products as the Strait of Hormuz continues to be choked by the US-Iran conflict into its ninth month.

According to an announcement from the Petroleum Division, the agreement between the two state-owned entities was signed during Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik's visit to Muscat, where he met with Oman's Minister of Energy and Minerals Eng. Salim Al Aufi.

The two sides discussed opportunities for strengthening bilateral cooperation in the oil, gas and minerals sectors. During the meeting, both ministers discussed avenues for mutually beneficial cooperation and welcomed the establishment of the Pakistan-Oman Joint Working Group on Oil and Gas. They agreed to make optimal use of this institutional mechanism to further strengthen bilateral engagement and advance cooperation in the energy and mining sector.

Following the meeting, the two ministers witnessed the signing of a Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) for petroleum products between PSO and OQ Trading (OQT), Oman's global commodity trading company. OQT has also agreed to extend a $200m credit line to PSO to facilitate petroleum purchases.

Welcoming the agreement, both ministers expressed confidence that its implementation would further strengthen Pakistan-Oman energy ties and support Pakistan's efforts to enhance energy security through diversification of energy imports.

"The agreement marks an important milestone in the commercial relationship between the two companies and provides a structured arrangement for petroleum product supplies from OQT to PSO.

, supporting supply reliability amid continued volatility in regional energy markets," the Petroleum Division's statement said.

It noted that OQT has already established itself as a major supplier of gasoline to PSO, supplying more than 1m tonnes during 2026. The newly signed agreement builds on this established trading relationship and provides a framework for expanding commercial cooperation, the statement added.

Beyond gasoline, OQT has also strengthened its presence in Pakistan's liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) market, supplying both state-owned and private sector buyers.

According to the Petroleum Division, OQT's LPG supplies to Pakistan are expected to exceed 120,000 metric tonnes by the end of 2026, reflecting the company's continued commitment to meeting market demand and maintaining energy flows amid regional supply disruptions. The meeting and the signing of the agreement underscore the shared commitment of Pakistan and Oman to expanding bilateral energy cooperation, strengthening commercial partnerships and exploring new investment opportunities across the oil, gas and minerals sectors, the statement added.

Musadik visits Pakistan High Commission in Delhi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change, Dr Musadik Malik on Sunday visited the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, where he met with the officers and staff of the diplomatic mission.

During the visit, Dr Musadik Malik planted a sapling on the High Commission's lawn.

The federal minister also held an informal interaction with members of the mission, exchanging views and engaging in discussions with them.

CTD eliminates 3 terrorists in joint operation

PESHAWAR (APP): In a significant blow to militancy, three terrorists affiliated with banned outfit Fitna-ul-Khawarij were eliminated during an intelligence-based joint operation conducted by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and law enforcement agencies.

According to a statement issued by CTD office on Sunday, the killed militants have been identified as Abdullah, Saeedullah, and Saeed Nawab, all of whom were involved in anti-state activities and were plotting imminent attacks on sensitive government installations.

Following successful engagement, security forces recovered a cache of arms and ammunition from possession of deceased terrorists, including two Kalashnikovs, three hand grenades, a pistol, three magazines, and personal identity cards.

PM vows to eradicate terrorism from country

Praises security forces for successful operation in Peshawar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Sunday, commended the security forces for the successful joint operation against Fitna al-Khwarij in the Mattani area of Peshawar.

He observed that the timely and decisive action of the security forces thwarted a major threat of terrorism and ensured the protection of the lives and property of the people, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The sacrifices and successes of the security forces in the war against terrorism are commendable, he added.

The prime minister said that the operations of the security forces against terrorism are a reflection of national resolve and morale, adding the government is determined to eliminate terrorism.

Provision of best possible services to citizens Govt's mission: Mohsin Naqvi

Visits NADRA center, orders early redressal of citizens' complaints

LAHORE (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the NADRA Center on Peco Road and spent two hours listening to complaints and concerns of citizens visiting the facility.

During the visit, the minister issued on-the-spot directives to the concerned authorities for immediate resolution of public complaints.

He directed officials to promptly address issues relating to identity cards of elderly women, while documentation processes of several citizens were also completed during his presence.

Citizens, including men and women, expressed satisfaction with the services and arrangements at the center, saying that the waiting time had been reduced to 10 to 15 minutes, compared to nearly two hours during their visits two years ago.

The interior minister appreciated the improved arrangements for visitors despite the rush and commended the centre's in-charge and other staff members. He directed the staff to ensure proper guidance and assistance to citizens at every stage.



QUETTA: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman addressing public gathering during his visit to Quetta.

Forces recover massive arms cache hidden by fitna al-khawarij

NORTH WAZIRISTAN (INP): Security forces recovered a huge cache of arms, ammunition, and explosive materials during an operation in the Mir Ali area of North Waziristan.

Security forces conducted a search operation in the Hyber Khail area, where they uncovered a large stockpile of weapons and explosives.

According to security sources, the arms and ammunition had been hidden by Fitna al-Khawarij terrorists inside an empty house.

During excavation inside the house, forces recovered an anti-aircraft gun, a heavy machine gun, and an RPG-7. Security sources added that the seized items also included RPG rounds and quadcopter drop kits.

Hiding such dangerous weapons and ammunition inside a residential area poses a severe threat to human lives. Furthermore, the recovery of modern weaponry and quadcopter drop kits points to the terrorists' external linkages.

Security sources also revealed that forces discovered an explosives manufacturing laboratory belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij during the raid.



ISTANBUL: Federal Minister for Law and Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar meets H.E. Akýn Gürlek, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Türkiye, on the sidelines of the Women and Justice Summit.

Empower Balochistan's people, ensure resource rights: Hafiz Naeem

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman has urged the federal and provincial governments to empower Balochistan's people through an effective local government system, quality education, employment opportunities and recognition of their rights over the province's natural resources.

Addressing the "Haq Do Balochistan" public gathering at Sadiq Shaheed Ground in Quetta on Sunday, he said addressing longstanding grievances could encourage disillusioned youth to abandon violence and join peaceful democratic and political struggle. The gathering was also addressed by JI Balochistan Emir and MPA Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman Baloch, Provincial General Secretary Murtaza Khan Kakar, Vice Emir Shakeel Roshan and other party leaders. Hafiz Naeem demanded completion of the Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline, reopening of the Chaman trade corridor, expansion of formal trade with Iran and accelerated exploration of Balochistan's gas reserves. He also called for extending gas supplies across the province through virtual pipelines.

Criticizing the province's political structure, he alleged that landlords, tribal chiefs, influential families and elements of the establishment had deprived ordinary citizens of their rights for decades.

He questioned why minerals extracted from Balochistan were transported elsewhere for processing instead of establishing industries within the province, emphasizing that local communities should receive priority in employment and economic opportunities generated by their resources.

Expressing concern over the large number of out-of-school children, he urged the government to expand educational facilities, IT training and interest-free or small business loans to help young people become economically independent.

Referring to JI's welfare organization, Alkhidmat, he said its free IT training initiatives demonstrated that large-scale skills development was possible even with limited resources.

The JI chief demanded transparent elections and respect for the public mandate, alleging that candidates defeated at the polls had entered assemblies through Form 47. He also criticized Karachi's mayoral election process.

Bilawal warns US-Iran dialogue collapse could widen conflict

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari warned that the Iran-US conflict could spread beyond its current boundaries if the ongoing diplomatic process collapses, while expressing optimism that both sides would reach a settlement soon."As far as the potential risk for escalation, I think that has been a consistent theme. If this dialogue process falls apart, the concern is that this conflict would exacerbate, it would spread, it would ferment, and it wouldn't be confined to what it is right now. So, this is why we all hope that the peace process is successful," said Bilawal in an interview with TRT World.

Bilawal said Pakistan had played a key role in securing the initial ceasefire and sustaining dialogue between the two sides, adding that Islamabad remained actively involved in the process. "As far as the peace process between Iran and the United States is concerned, Pakistan has played a key role in achieving the initial ceasefire and sustaining a dialogue between the two conflicting parties. At the moment, Islamabad's role is still very active in the process," he added.

The former foreign minister said he hoped the dispute would be settled as soon as possible so countries could focus on restoring economic growth and addressing wider global challenges.

He said the international community was concerned not only about the security and humanitarian consequences of the conflict but also its economic costs, which were being borne by people across the world. "Everybody is paying the price of this war, at the pump, at the grocery store, in inflation," he said, adding that the conflict was affecting economic growth, employment and poverty levels.

No option to lose war against terrorism, says KP Governor Kundi

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said on Sunday that there is no option but to win the war against terrorism, adding that Governor's Rule in the province was imposed because of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and would end once conditions improve.

Speaking to the media in Peshawar, Kundi said he was a representative of the federal government and had been nominated by President Asif Ali Zardari. He criticised PTI leaders for their past remarks about Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, saying they had insulted him but were now treating him as a 'saviour'.

Kundi said PTI leaders should apologise to Maulana Fazlur Rehman for the names they had called him.

The governor also said Maulana Fazlur Rehman's statement about the martyrs was wrong. He added that the provincial government had been formed and continued to function without Maulana's support.

Kundi said he would, at the very least, refrain from abusing Maulana Fazlur Rehman. He stressed the need to ensure accountability and justice in the province.

He also criticised federal ministers for their remarks against Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, describing them as inappropriate.

Kundi was of the view that the differences should be resolved through dialogue.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi in a meeting with Provincial President PML-Q Intikhab Chamkani at his residence.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over the meeting to review implement a drought relief package for affected families in Tharparkar and Umerkot.

Murad reviews Rs5.3bn drought package, directs timely Rs8,000 assistance to Tharparkar, Umerkot families

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed the Chief Secretary and elected representatives of Tharparkar and Umerkot to ensure effective coordination, transparent implementation and timely disbursement of financial assistance to drought-affected families under the Rs5.3 billion relief package.

Presiding over a review meeting at the CM House, the chief minister examined the proposed declaration of calamity-affected areas, district-wise beneficiary data and the financial implications of extending direct cash assistance through the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

The chief minister reiterated that the government would provide Rs8,000 to each eligible family in three instalments, with the first instalment to be released by December 1, the second by January 1 and the third by February 1.

"Providing immediate relief to drought-affected families is our priority. No deserving household should be deprived of assistance because of administrative delays or shortcomings in coordination," the chief minister said.

He directed the Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah to ensure close coordination among the Relief Department, Board of Revenue, Finance Department, district administrations and BISP so that all arrangements for the timely release of funds were completed.

The chief minister also called upon elected representatives from Tharparkar and Umerkot to remain actively engaged with their respective constituencies, facilitate the identification of deserving families and bring any implementation-related issues to the attention of the government.

"Relief must reach the people who need it most. Our elected representatives and district administration must work together to ensure transparency, fairness and effective delivery of assistance at the grassroots level," he said.

Governor Punjab says

Equestrian sports showcase Pakistan's heritage, soft image

RAWALPINDI (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan on Sunday said that horse riding is a cherished part of the country's history, civilization, culture and traditions, and that such sporting events help introduce the younger generation to their cultural heritage while projecting Pakistan's positive image, talent and hospitality internationally.

He was speaking as chief guest at the closing ceremony of a three-day Riding Gala and Tent Pegging competitions organized by the local Riding Club in Rawalpindi.

The governor congratulated the club's management on holding the gala in a grand and well-organized manner. He described the youth as the nation's most valuable asset, adding that developing sports grounds is an urgent need of the hour to hone their abilities and steer them toward positive activities.

"Promoting healthy and traditional sports preserves our cultural identity while nurturing a passion for sports and a spirit of positive competition among the new generation," he said.

The three-day event drew enthusiastic participation from riders, equestrian enthusiasts, children and families.

Speaking on political matters, the governor said all political parties should rise above personal and party differences and work together in the national interest to resolve the challenges facing the country and achieve national development.

He added that the Pakistan Peoples Party remains the voice of the common man and represents the hopes of the people.

Member National Assembly and Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Danyal Chaudhry, Commodore (retd) Muhammad Ilyas and other notable figures were also present at the ceremony.

Senator Waqar grieves over death of journalist Hussain Naqi

KARACHI (APP): General Secretary of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Sindh Senator Waqar Mehdi has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the passing of renowned journalist and intellectual Hussain Naqi.

He said, "Hussain Naqi was a champion of human rights and freedom of the press."

Mehdi said that throughout his life, the late Hussain Naqi consistently struggled for the rights of the oppressed classes.

He said that late Hussain Naqi's contributions and role in upholding democratic values, freedom of the press and human rights will always be remembered.

Green Ride campaign plans 10,000 saplings across Punjab

BAHAWALPUR (INP): International biker Mukarram Khan, accompanied by fellow riders, arrived in the district on Sunday in connection with the Green Ride Awareness Campaign and stressed the need for practical measures to promote tree plantation to overcome environmental pollution.

According to a spokesperson, talking to media persons, he said that under the campaign, launched with the full support of the Punjab Forest Department, the team will travel nearly 2,000 kilometers across Punjab and plant 10,000 saplings at various locations.

Gilani attends Qul ceremony of late Makhdoomzada Syed Ali Raza Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani attended the Qul ceremony held in memory of his cousin, Late Makhdoomzada Syed Ali Raza Gilani, for the spiritual reward (Isal-e-Sawab) of the departed soul.

The ceremony was held on Sunday at the late Makhdoomzada's residence, Al-Mustafa House.

The ceremony was attended by Member of the National Assembly Syed Ali Qasim Gilani, Chairman Public Accounts Committee Punjab and Member of the Provincial Assembly Syed Ali Haider Gilani, the late Makhdoomzada's brothers Makhdoomzada Muhammad Mustafa Gilani and Makhdoomzada Asad Mustafa Gilani, his son Syed Kabir Gilani, Makhdoom Javed Hashmi, members of the Gilani family, political and social figures, and other distinguished guests.

On the occasion, Allama Mazhar Saeed Kazmi led special prayers for the forgiveness of the departed soul and elevation of his ranks in the hereafter. Renowned Naat reciters Hameed Nawaz, Waheed Nawaz and Saeed Nawaz presented devotional tributes in praise of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). Nazim-e-Aala Jamaat Ahle Sunnat Punjab, Allama Farooq Khan Saeedi, also delivered a special address.

During the ceremony, Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani performed the traditional dastarbandi (turban-tying ceremony) of the late Makhdoomzada's son, Syed Kabir Mustafa Gilani.

Among those who attended the Qul ceremony were Sajjadah Nashin of the Shrine of Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed, Makhdoom Syed Abu-ul-Hasan Gilani; Syed Ahmad Mujtaba Gilani; Makhdoom Rajan Bakhsh Gilani; Moeen-ul-Islam Bukhari; Makhdoom Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah Gilani; Makhdoom Syed Amir Gilani; Makhdoom Hassan Raza Gilani.

Nasir Hussain says:

Sindh's division will never be accepted

HYDERABAD (INP): Sindh Local Government Minister Nasir Hussain Shah gave a firm response to the ongoing debate about creating new provinces, saying there could be no compromise on Sindh's unity and that the province is one today and will remain one in the future.

Speaking to journalists in Hyderabad, he said the Pakistan Peoples Party was not afraid of a referendum. However, if a decision were made without taking the party into confidence or by disregarding it, the PPP would stand with the people of Sindh. He said Sindh's unity would be preserved at all costs and that no compromise on it would be accepted.

The provincial minister said Sindh was one in the past, remains one today and will continue to be one. He reiterated that the PPP was not afraid of a referendum, but said democratic and political considerations should be taken into account before any action. If a decision were made without taking the PPP into confidence or by disregarding it, he said, the party would stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Sindh.

Questioning the proposals and discussion about creating new provinces, Nasir Hussain Shah asked where businesspeople had suddenly got the idea of creating provinces and why they felt the need to speak about the matter.

He said ground realities and public sentiment should be considered in discussions on sensitive issues concerning the division or unity of the province, rather than making unjustified or unexpected statements. The PPP, he said, stood by its position that Sindh's unity must be maintained and would stand with the people of Sindh against any attempt to divide the province.

Maryam orders legal action after five family members die in Khushab Crash

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of five members of the same family in a tragic traffic accident on Khushab-Sikaser Road.

The CM extended her heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved family and prayed for strength and patience for the grieving relatives.

Taking notice of the incident, she directed the authorities concerned to initiate immediate legal action against the dumper driver allegedly responsible for the accident. She expressed her profound sympathy with the affected family over the tragic loss of precious lives.

Suspect booked in 9 FIRs in Karachi shot, arrested in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (APP): A suspect booked in 9 FIRs in different police stations in Karachi was shot and injured before being arrested after an encounter with Makki Shah police.

The police spokesman informed here on Sunday that Makki Shah police spotted 2 suspects riding on a motorbike and signalled them to stop for checking.

However, he added, the suspects tried to escape and opened fire on the police.

He claimed that Feroze Gul Gopang sustained a gunshot to his leg during the return fire but his accomplice managed to escape.

Gopang was later shifted to Liaquat University Hospital (LUH) for surgery of his gunshot injury.

According to the police spokesman, Gopang was booked in 4 FIRs in New Town and 2 in Mubeena Town police stations in addition to one FIR each at Shah Faisal, Gadap and Aziz Bhatti police stations.

The police claimed recovery of a 30-bore pistol from his possession.



Peoples Party Shaheed Bhutto activists protest FIR cases against party leaders at Larkana Press Club.

CM welcomes Sikh pilgrims on Baba Guru Nanak's 557th birth anniversary

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Sunday warmly welcomed Sikh pilgrims arriving in Pakistan from across the world to participate in celebrations marking the 557th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak.

In her message, the chief minister said Pakistan, particularly Punjab, was a land of peace, love, religious tolerance, and interfaith harmony. She said providing the Sikh community with the best possible facilities to visit their sacred religious sites in Pakistan was the government's responsibility.

Paying tribute to Baba Guru Nanak, Maryam Nawaz said he was an ambassador of peace, love, and brotherhood whose teachings promoted harmony and mutual respect among communities. She said Sikh pilgrims visiting Pakistan were honored guests, adding that all possible measures were being taken to ensure their warm hospitality, comfort, and convenience during their stay.

The CM said the warm welcome extended to Sikh pilgrims reflected Pakistan's longstanding traditions of hospitality and its commitment to religious tolerance. She added that the Punjab government was committed to providing a peaceful and conducive environment to followers of all religions for performing their religious rituals and visiting sacred places.

CM Maryam Nawaz said the promotion of religious tourism was an effective means of projecting Pakistan's positive and peaceful image before the international community.

KP introduces new registration framework for religious seminaries

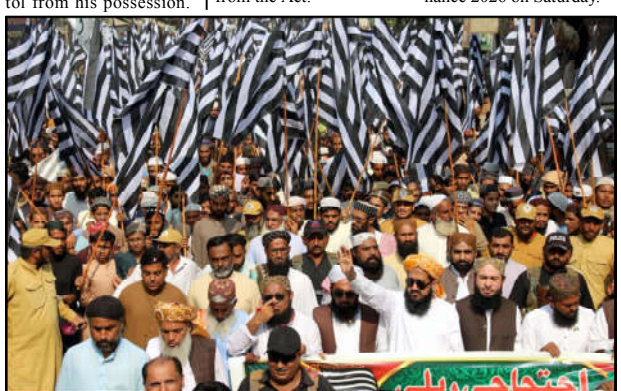
PESHAWAR (INP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has introduced a revised legal framework for the registration of religious seminaries through KP Societies Registration (Amendment) Ordinance, bringing seminary registration under the provisions of the provincial Societies Registration Act.

Under the amendment, religious seminaries across the province will be required to comply with the registration requirements outlined in the Societies Registration Act, while seminaries already registered with the Directorate General of Religious Education will be exempt from the Act.

The amendment introduces an additional provision in Section 21 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Societies Registration Act to clarify the exemption for seminaries registered with the Directorate General of Religious Education.

The ordinance has been promulgated with immediate effect, according to the details of the legislation.

The development establishes a revised regulatory framework for the registration of religious seminaries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is to be noted that President Asif Ali Zardari promulgated the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Special Initiatives Ordinance 2026 on Saturday.



Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) leaders and activists protest in solidarity with JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman against new provinces and media trial in Sindh.



Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab leads Dua at ZMC family park road inauguration by Karachi Metropolitan Corporation.

Education Depts to ensure public commitments under 180-day plans: Dr. Aamer

PESHAWAR (APP): Adviser to the Governor, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for education and social welfare, Dr. Aamer Abdullah here Sunday directed the elementary and secondary education department and higher education, libraries and archives department to ensure the implementation of commitments made to the public and targets set under the 100-day and 180-day plans for the development and improvement of the education sector.

He emphasized that progress made by both departments in this regard would be regularly reviewed and that concrete measures taken, along with their outcomes, must be reported to him.

He issued these directives while chairing a joint meeting of the two departments at the committee room of the Elementary and Secondary Education Department. The meeting was attended by Secretary Elementary and Secondary Education Mahmood Aslam Wazir, Secretary Higher Education, Archives and Libraries Abidullah Kakakhel, Special Secretaries Qaiser Alam and Fazal Hussain, and other relevant officers of both departments.

Addressing the meeting, the adviser for education said that the key initiatives and fundamental measures announced before the public during a recent press briefing on the education sector would serve as the guiding priorities for all future development and administrative activities. He directed the departments to ensure that all instructions issued and targets set were implemented within the stipulated timelines.

Dr. Aamer Abdullah urged the secretaries of both departments to mobilize their respective administrative and subordinate formations to translate into action the initial directives issued after he assumed his responsibilities as Adviser for Education, as well as the commitments made to the public.He stressed the need for a comprehensive and effective strategy, with clearly defined responsibilities, to achieve these objectives.

He also directed the departments to establish an effective monitoring mechanism to oversee ongoing initiatives in the education sector and regularly assess implementation progress. For this purpose, he instructed the formation of a dedicated team on key activities, priorities and it's important milestones.

FIA recovers Rs17.4m, returns money to two citizens

LAHORE (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), Faisalabad Zone, recovered Rs17.4 million allegedly misappropriated by two accused individuals and returned the entire amount to the two rightful owners.

The recoveries were made on the directives of Director FIA Faisalabad Zone Saqib Sultan, according to details shared by the agency.

FIA Investigation Officer Muhammad Ali Sial recovered Rs10 million from an accused individual and handed over the amount to the affected citizen, Takreem Rasool.

In a separate case, FIA officer Khalid Saeed recovered Rs7.4 million from another accused individual and returned the money to its rightful owner, Kashif.

The combined recovery of Rs17.4 million was subsequently handed over to the two citizens.

After receiving their money, both citizens expressed gratitude to the FIA officers and appreciated their efforts in securing the recovery of their funds.

Dr. Jalaluddin elected Pakistan cardiac society's youngest president

BICVD Quetta executive director formally takes oath at CardioCon 2026 in Islamabad during society's 55th annual national conference

ISLAMABAD (6 AM Report): Professor Dr. Jalaluddin Achakzai, a prominent cardiologist from Balochistan and Executive Director of the Balochistan Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (BICVD), Quetta, has been elected the youngest president of the Pakistan Cardiac Society.



Dr. Achakzai formally took the oath of office during CardioCon 2026, the society's 55th Annual National Conference, held in Islamabad.

With two decades of experience in cardiovascular treatment, medical education and research, Dr. Achakzai currently serves as Executive Director of BICVD Quetta.

His election has been described as a significant achievement for Balochistan's medical community, bringing national recognition to a cardiologist from the province. As president, Dr. Achakzai will lead the society's activities related to cardiovascular medicine, professional collaboration, medical education and research.

Daily 6AM, Quetta
Monday November 23, 2026

Wage enforcement

The finance ministry's order asking ministries, departments and public bodies to confirm that they pay workers the minimum wage is welcome, though long overdue. It is troubling that a parliamentary committee had to step in because government organisations had failed to increase workers' wages four months after the new rates were announced.

The committee rightly questioned why senior officials are quick to raise their own salaries and benefits but slow to do the same for low-paid workers. Paying salaries through banks and requiring departments to report whether they follow the rules should make it easier to identify violations.

But reports alone are not enough. The government must check salary records, ensure that workers receive any unpaid wages and punish departments that break the rules. Workers should not have to rely on parliament to secure wages they are already entitled to under the law. The government cannot expect private businesses to follow minimum wage laws when its own departments fail to do so. Such failures only encourage private employers to ignore the law.

Yet violations are hardly confined to government offices. Many private employers pay workers less than the legal minimum, particularly those hired on temporary contracts or through contractors. Such arrangements must not become an excuse to deny workers their rightful wages or allow employers to escape responsibility. Labour inspectors must check what workers are actually paid. The provinces, which have different minimum wage rates, must also ensure that employers follow the law.

This requires regular inspections, a simple way for workers to report violations, and penalties for employers who refuse to comply. Workers who report underpayment must also be protected from losing their jobs or facing punishment. Without such protection, many will stay silent rather than risk their livelihoods.

The law must also protect domestic workers. In affluent households, domestic workers often labour long hours for a pittance, with little power to demand better pay or treatment. Their work takes place behind closed doors, making abuses harder to detect and leaving them with few ways to complain. A minimum wage is meaningful only when even the least visible worker can rely on it.

Reforming Karachi's governance

Dr Noman Ahmed

Karachi's governance appears to be in a serious paradox. On one hand, one finds political leaders of various ranks cutting ribbons and unveiling plaques around pedestrianised food streets and making promises for more such amenities. On the other hand, a major regional financial institution is expressing its frustration with the alleged inability of the government for slow progress on a major transportation project. The ordinary resident of Karachi is ever critical of the poor service levels in respect to water supply, sewerage, waste management, disruptions in transport corridors, rising road accidents, declining air quality and many other problems.

It is also disappointing to note that in many neighbourhoods, the local government entities have also fared poorly. While the news of ruckus in the municipal halls between rival political factions does reach the common man through media reports, the presence on the ground and engagement of municipal councillors and office-bearers of other ranks is conspicuous by its absence. There are several points that need to be reviewed to bring about real reform.

In the present form, there is fragmentation in roles, responsibilities and budgetary allocations for routine affairs. Take infrastructure development as an example. In the past, this task was largely performed by the Karachi Development Authority (KDA). Bridges, culverts, siphons, flyovers, arterial roads, parks, playgrounds, pedestrian bridges and a range of other components of infrastructure were planned, designed and developed either through departmental undertaking or through consultancy and contractual arrangement. As the authority was manned by capable technocrats and dedicated engineers and staff, the quality of works was satisfactory. Many of these facilities still continue to serve, with minor repairs and adjustments.

A Karachi-level steering committee should be formed comprising the heads of all civic bodies functioning under the Sindh government.

It was assumed that with the expansion of the city, increase in population and other complexities, new entities were needed to perform similar functions. Two new development authorities were created for Lyari and Malir. Similar functions were assigned to them. But the overall performance, quality of human resource, and capability to perform those functions stipulated in their respective laws leaves much to be desired. We now have multiple authorities, entities and corporations for overlapping tasks. We have separate authorities and entities for managing mass transit, waste management, katchi abadis, master planning, water supply and sewerage, and construction of bus rapid transit (BRT). An ordinary resident is directly or indirectly affected by the performance of these entities or lack thereof. Citizens are unsure whom to contact in respect of any specific grievance. Additionally, the three-tier municipal system with a metropolitan corporation, town municipal corporations and union committees adds further to this confusion. If an excavator comes and digs the lane in front of houses without notice, the residents run from pillar to post to find out the real culprit. In an ideal situation, if these entities were responding to their assigned tasks and delivering services according to mandates, the situation may have been acceptable. But this is not what one observes.

The political leadership at the provincial and city level generally speaks in quantitative terms. Number of development schemes announced, ongoing and completed; inauguration ceremonies held; billions of rupees budgeted, processed and spent; and the geographical locations covered are some of the figures of speech in performance claims highlighted by politicians. But none of these helps the ordinary citizen in addressing the chronic issues this metropolis continues to suffer from.

There is an exponential rise in the city's population due to migration. Poor law and order conditions in many parts of the country and loss of livelihood in several underdeveloped locations push people towards Karachi for survival. The bulk of this population needs basic urban services and low-skill employment opportunities to access a decent living. Urban housing is a perennial issue, especially for those who wish to start a new life.

Due to ultra-high prices of developer-built housing, overcrowding in the existing housing stock results. The extremely low number of large public buses makes a decent commute an uphill task. While BRTs are being planned and developed, they will only account for a fraction of total passenger trips generated daily in the city. Drinking water comes with a cost. Where piped water is available, its quality remains questionable.

Even in katchi abadis, people buy water from shops with unverified brand names and tariffs. There is a serious parking crisis in the southern and eastern commercial zones of the city. Vendors and hawkers along transport corridors are routinely evicted, though they sell merchandise at prices generally conducive to low-income households. But there are no designated spaces for hawkers and vendors' markets. The city also suffers from absence of animal shelters and asylums. A sizable animal population suffers from cruelty. This must be addressed.

So, what can be done? There are several steps that can be taken almost instantly. A Karachi-level steering committee can be constituted comprising the heads of all the civic bodies functioning under the auspices of the provincial government. This committee must review the individual performance of each authority according to its legal mandate and suggest reforms where required.

The operational and financial details of planned, ongoing and completed projects must be put on a central digital dashboard, accessible to citizens. A complaint redressal system for service delivery agencies must be put in place. Some agencies do have complaint-registration windows, but the general response is very slow. A broad-based consultation must be carried out with the citizens of Karachi whenever any major development initiative or urban planning work is undertaken. Without the people's input, development has no relevance.

Whose trauma?

Muna Khan

The first time I heard the phrase "lived experience," I was sitting in a graduate school seminar in 2017. A classmate used it to end an argument. Her experience was lived. Others', apparently, was not, or at least not in the way that counted. I remember thinking: what does that even mean? What other experience is there?

Then came the trigger warnings. Before we even got to university, we were sent messages about how certain readings might upset us and we could opt out of reading them, even attending that lecture. We were offered space to step out, to take care of ourselves, to process. Trauma was everywhere in that classroom, and it was handled gently.

Except, I noticed, when it came from somewhere else. Anyone from the Global South or Muslim, for example, was not entitled to the same level of care accorded to the majority, usually privileged. To clarify, care for us seemed real and perhaps even was sincere. It just didn't travel very far. Our histories were material for discussion. Theirs were wounds to be protected.

I have been thinking about that classroom again because of the debate around a book I haven't read yet.

Our suffering is news. Theirs is trauma.

Catherine Liu's Traumatised: The New Politics of Public Suffering has set off discussions I have been following for weeks, in podcast clips, interviews and reviews. Which may, in itself, prove her point.

Liu, a professor at the University of California argues that trauma, once a clinical term for the aftermath of real violence, has become a kind of currency for the professional class: academics, journalists, therapists, NGO workers, even people like me. Presenting trauma as something everyone shares, she says, makes it easier to ignore the suffering that comes from poverty and exploitation, and to replace the hard work of politics with the softer work of recognition.

You don't have to agree with all of it to recognise what she is describing. The word is everywhere. Students use it to ask for extensions. Employees use it to describe a difficult meeting. Celebrities use it to sell memoirs. I am not mocking anyone who is genuinely suffering. But a word stretched this far loses its shape. And a culture that rewards the word will get more of it.

Liu traces part of that reward back to a moment in 1986 when Oprah Winfrey told her TV audience she had been sexually abused as a child. It was a brave moment, and it helped many women speak about what had happened to them. But it also did something else. It made pain into a brand. In Liu's words, televised confession turned private trauma into "spectacle, content, and commodity all at once." Oprah went on to build the most successful daytime talk show in history, and an empire.

Oprah needed a network. Today, all anyone needs is a phone. The confession is now a format, and every platform is a studio. Share your story, own your truth, grow your following. The platforms profit either way.

So who gets rewarded when they say the word? Usually those with a platform, a polished story and the right audience. Those who know the language. Those whose pain is legible to the people listening.

Which brings me to Gaza.

For more than two years, Palestinians have recorded their own suffering, live, on their phones, for the whole world to see. Children pulled from rubble. Parents writing their children's names on their arms. By any measure, they have the strongest claim to the word. And yet what they meet is so often doubt, fatigue or silence. Their footage is questioned. Their numbers are disputed. Their grief is treated as propaganda.

Legislative scrutiny

Ahmed Bilal Mehboob

Pakistan's parliament and the provincial assemblies have an elaborate infrastructure of parliamentary oversight and scrutiny of the executive. There are more than 200 parliamentary committees in the six houses, including 35 in the National Assembly, 45 in the Senate, 45 in the provincial assembly of Punjab, 34 in Sindh, 38 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 15 in Balochistan.

Each committee comprises 20 to 30 members varying from house to house. These members elect a committee chair in their first meeting; the chair is entitled to two personal staffers, a chauffeur-driven and fully maintained official car and an exclusive office. The committee members and the chair are entitled to travel and daily allowances for the days of the meeting and two days before and after the meeting. All this is paid for from the taxpayers' pocket and is fully justified in view of the work assigned to these committees. Unlike the British parliamentary committees, which meet only during the plenary sessions of parliament and therefore do not incur any extra travel or daily allowance cost, parliamentary committees in Pakistan mostly meet when the legislature is in recess and hence, extra travel and daily allowances are to be paid separately.

The Indian parliament has adopted another measure and constituted joint committees of the Lok Sabha (equivalent to our National Assembly) and the Rajya Sabha (like Pakistan's Senate), which not only speeds up scrutiny in the committees, but results in some savings as well. In Pakistan, we have independent and separate committees both for the National Assembly and the Senate. Although the Indian joint committees system is efficient, it deprives parliament of a double layer of scrutiny which is available in Pakistan.

The problem arises when important bills are summarily processed within days or even hours.

In all systems of governance, whether presidential like the US, parliamentary like the UK and Pakistan, the parliaments — whatever name these are known as — rely on the committees to do most of the substantive work, especially the oversight of the executive, which primarily includes scrutiny of legislation. In any work which requires detailed scrutiny like the annual budget, a constitutional amendment, ordinary legislation or, as in the case of the US, confirmation of senior appointees in the executive and judiciary, committees play a pivotal role. It is not practical to do such work in plenary.

Rules of almost all the legislatures in Pakistan provide that each legislation, after it is introduced in the plenary, will be referred to the relevant committee for detailed deliberations and scrutiny. In extraordinary circumstances, the plenary has the authority to suspend the rule and consider the legislation in the plenary without referring it to the committee concerned. One of the criteria by which the quality of democracy and effectiveness of legislative oversight in a country is assessed is the percentage of legislation which is not referred to the committees; the higher the percentage, the less democratic and effective the country and the legislature are considered. An associated criterion is the time taken and the number of meetings held to scrutinise the legislation in a committee. If legislation is referred to a committee to fulfil a formality and the committee returns it to the plenary in a day or two, it reflects very negatively on the democratic credentials of the parliament.

As far as the number of bills passed by the legislatures is concerned, Pakistan has a reasonably good record. In the National Assembly, an average of 50 bills have been passed per year during the past four assemblies. The problem arises when the bills, especially the most important ones like constitutional amendments, are summarily processed within a couple of days, and sometimes within hours. For example, a record 279 bills were passed during the previous 15th National Assembly (2018-2023), which is the highest compared to the previous three assemblies starting from 2002.

Although legislative activity had increased, the way these bills were passed without debate and scrutiny of the committees was widely criticised by legislators, media and political commentators. The coalition government passed 73 bills in the last session alone within 21 days. Almost half the bills (36) were not referred to the standing committees concerned and rushed through the plenary without a meaningful debate.

The current 16th National Assembly has so far passed 162 bills in its 32 months of existence. The National Assembly data shown on its official website does not indicate the statistics about the bills referred to the committees or otherwise. Transparency demands that this particular information should be available to citizens and media. In the absence of such data, time-consuming research needs to be undertaken bill by bill to know the extent to which the standing committees were involved in the legislative process.

According to analysis carried out by Pildat, 39 per cent of the bills passed by the current assembly so far were not referred to the committees and instead, the rules were suspended to pass the bill in the plenary directly. This translates to 48 (38pc) government bills and 15 (42pc) private members' bills. This, by no means, is a good record.

The situation becomes even more disappointing when we see that such important legislation such as the 26th and 27th Constitutional Amendments — which have had far-reaching impact on state institutions like the judiciary and the armed forces — are passed within a couple of days. The 26th Amendment was introduced in the Senate on Oct 20, 2024 and was passed the same day. The National Assembly passed it the next day and the president gave his assent later in the day. It was notified in the Gazette later in the evening. Such important legislation was wrapped up in two days. The 27th Amendment was also passed with the same hurry.

Future wars

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

The four-day military confrontation between India and Pakistan last year and the US-Iran war this year have revealed how today's wars have become far more complex than the conventional conflicts humanity has experienced over millennia. The days of massed soldiery, mechanised armour, and standardised formations are over. Today's wars are hybrid and employ every instrument of power a state can muster.

These wars involve cyberattacks, economic coercion, psychological manipulation through electronic and social media, and cultural invasions.

Critically, today's wars employ lethal technologies, which have left traditional battlefield concepts behind. These autonomous weapons are guided by specialised semiconductors, microchips, and sensors.

The changing nature of war has coincided with the sharp descent of the world order into disarray. Wars and armed conflicts between and within states have broken out in various parts of the world. The pledge that all states had made to the UN Charter to respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity is no longer being honoured.

Two distinguishing features of today's warfare are advanced missiles and armed drones, which have transformed the nature of war by enabling high-precision, long-range, and rapid response capabilities.

In last year's India-Pakistan war, Pakistan used missiles to down several Indian aircraft flying well beyond visual range. In the US-Iran war this year, both sides relied mostly on missiles guided by infrared sensors and satellite communication rather than conventional confrontation.

Autonomous weapons lack the capability to understand the context or apply compassion. There is greater likelihood of violating the laws of war and committing war crimes without assigning accountability. Further, the speed and agility of these technologies could cause conflicts to spiral out of control.

These technologies will also be used to break an adversary's morale by targeting its economic assets or supply chains. During the Iran war, for instance, President Trump threatened to destroy Iran's power grid and bridges, even its civilisation.

The kind of technologies a nation possesses will now determine the extent of damage that a future war would impose on an adversary's policy options. The ability of a nation to acquire and em--ploy modern technologies is thus critical to both wag--ing future wars and surviving them.

What makes future wars more frequent and unaccountable is the evolving global ecosystem, where use of force has emerged as the primary arbiter of international relations. Major powers have no qualms about using force illegally, unilaterally, and disproportionately to overpower adversaries.

In such an uncertain environment, middle and small powers are looking for ways to fend for themselves and make alliances with like-minded countries. This has nudged countries to focus more on R&D for developing not only war-related technologies but also their own digital and satellite-based communication links. That requires a stronger economy, credible information instruments, and creative narrative-building to deter aggression.

Diplomatic tools must be geared up to avert such complex multidomain future wars. The world needs a new global compact of indivisible security, akin to the UN Charter, to bind states into mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. This is the only way to avert the devastating wars of the future.

Governor Kundi says:

KP offers vast opportunities for solar energy investment

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday invited local and foreign companies to invest in the province's renewable energy sector, saying Khyber Pakhtunkhwa offered vast opportunities for investment in solar energy and public-private partnership (PPP) projects.

The Governor was addressing the media after visiting the International Solar Energy Meet Pakistan exhibition organized by White Paper Summits (WPS) in Peshawar as the chief guest.

During the visit, the head of the exhibition, Khwaja Wahaj, briefed the Governor on the latest solar technologies and various products displayed by participating companies. The Governor toured different stalls and appreciated the participation of national and international companies, describing the exhibition as an important platform for promoting renewable energy, modern solar systems and investment opportunities.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said more companies should be encouraged to participate in such exhibitions and assured investors that they were welcome to invest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said companies could also participate in development projects under the public-private partnership model. He also expressed keen interest in modern solar technology and alternative energy sources.

Talking to reporters, the Governor said defeating terrorism remained the government's top priority and there was no option but to win the fight against militants. He said the police, Pakistan Army and the people were united against terrorism, referring to the recent intelligence-based operation near Peshawar in which terrorists were killed.

The Governor said lasting peace was essential for accelerating development in the province. He stressed that political differences should be resolved through dialogue and constitutional forums rather than abusive language, adding that he respected all political leaders, including Maulana Fazlur Rehman, despite political differences.

He said he was serving as the constitutional representative of the federation in the province and emphasized that inter-provincial and political issues should be discussed at relevant forums, including the Council of Common Interests (CCI).

Faisal Karim Kundi said inadequate financial support for the police had weakened efforts to maintain law and order, claiming that only Rs1.2 billion had been provided against a requirement of Rs40 billion. He also expressed concern over allegations that illegal mining was being used to finance terrorists and called for strict action against those responsible.



KARACHI: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Commerce Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan posing for a group photo with International and local chefs during the Soft Launch Ceremony of 4th International FoodAg Pakistan 2026 and Global Cuisine Show, starting from Nov 23 to 26, at a local hotel.

Saif ur Rehman says:
Mechanisation requires effective policies to protect employment

LAHORE (APP): Chairman Small Business Chambers Saif Ur Rehman on Sunday said rapid mechanization was reducing demand for manual labour, while countries undergoing structural transformation could successfully absorb displaced workers through the expansion of industrial and service sectors.

According to a spokesperson, he said technological advancement and mechanization were essential for improving productivity, reducing production costs, and enhancing competitiveness. However, their impact on employment required effective economic planning and timely policy interventions.

Saif Ur Rehman said Pakistan should focus on developing labour-intensive industries, promoting small and medium enterprises (SMEs), expanding the services sector, and encouraging entrepreneurship to create alternative employment opportunities for workers affected by automation. He emphasized that the transition from traditional to technology-driven production should not leave workers behind, adding that investment in technical and vocational education was essential to equip the workforce with skills required by modern industries. He urged the government to formulate a comprehensive national strategy to manage technological transformation by integrating education, skills development, industrial growth, and employment policies.

The chairman said SMEs could play a pivotal role in absorbing surplus labour, as they represented a major source of employment and livelihood.

Pak, South Africa explore avenues for trade, investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of the Progressive Business Forum (PBF), South Africa, visited the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to explore opportunities for expanding bilateral trade, investment and business partnerships between the two countries, under the "Pakistan's Look Africa Policy."

The delegation, led by PBF Group Chairperson Dr Gwen Ramokgopa, was accompanied by Pakistan's High Commissioner to South Africa, Malik Muhammad Farooq, a news release said on Sunday.

During the meeting, discussions focused on strengthening bilateral economic cooperation, developing business-to-business (B2B) linkages and identifying mutually beneficial investment and commercial opportunities.

The engagement also highlighted the potential for enhanced private-sector collaboration through stronger business networks, identification of investment prospects and promotion of commercial partnerships between the business communities of Pakistan and South Africa.

In line with Pakistan's Look Africa Policy, SIFC has been actively engaging with African countries to expand economic cooperation, promote Pakistani exports and attract foreign investment.

Such engagements reflect SIFC's continued efforts to facilitate international business connections and create opportunities for mutually beneficial economic partnerships.

FBR introduces online complaint management system for taxpayers

LAHORE (APP): The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has introduced an online Complaint Management System through its IRIS portal, enabling taxpayers to register and track complaints without visiting government offices.

According to the FBR, taxpayers can now submit complaints directly through the IRIS portal. The department has also outlined the procedure for filing complaints to facilitate users.

Through the 'Load Data' option on the portal, taxpayers can check the latest status of their complaints, which are categorised into four types: Open, Overdue, Resolved and Feedback Pending.

The system also allows taxpayers to independently monitor the progress of their complaints and check their current status online.

Complaints related to delayed tax refunds, jurisdiction matters and departmental services can also be submitted through the platform.

The FBR said the initiative was aimed at improving transparency and efficiency in complaint registration, tracking and timely resolution, while facilitating taxpayers through an online mechanism.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi visiting various stalls during International Solar Energy Exhibition organized by White Paper Summit.



MUSCAT: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik held a meeting with Oman's Minister of Energy and Minerals H.E Eng. Salim Al Aufi.

Buying Pakistani products can strengthen national economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Providing employment opportunities and enabling people to earn a lawful livelihood is also a form of religious service, said Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan's Women Wing, Dr Humaira Tariq, on Sunday.

Addressing the second day of the two-day "Mera Brand Pakistan Expo 2026" at Tulip Marquee in Islamabad, she said Islam teaches people to ease hardships, facilitate others and create opportunities for earning a halal livelihood.

She said that rising inflation, around 15 million out-of-school children and limited access to healthcare facilities were among the major challenges facing Pakistani society.

Dr Humaira Tariq said supporting people economically, providing them with skills and business opportunities, and working to reduce public hardships were central to Jamaat-e-Islami's mission.

She observed that women during the era of the Companions of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) also participated in economic activities and earned halal livelihoods, contributing to different spheres of life.

She said the Women Wing of Jamaat-e-Islami was providing platforms, including the Pak International Business Forum, to highlight the potential of Pakistani women and create opportunities for their economic empowerment.

Appreciating the public response to locally manufactured products at the exhibition, she urged people to take pride in Pakistani products and promote the slogan, "Be Pakistani, Buy Pakistani Products", saying that supporting local businesses would strengthen the national economy.

Deputy Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami's Women Wing, Samina Saeed, addressing the "Har Dil Tak Quran" mini-stage, said the Holy Quran was not merely a book for recitation but a comprehensive code of life providing guidance on character, conduct, social relations and business affairs.

She said a strong connection with the Quran transformed people's hearts, thinking and actions, adding that applying Quranic teachings in economic activities and social services was essential for genuine success.

The Vice President of the Pak International Business Forum said the Mera Brand Pakistan Expo served as an effective platform connecting local manufacturers, business communities, women entrepreneurs, young people and consumers.

He said the exhibition had enabled Pakistani brands to showcase their products, reach new customers and explore opportunities for business expansion, contributing to economic growth and self-reliance.

On the second day, stalls featuring clothing, food and dairy products, bakery items, education and training, information technology, modern technology.

Pakistan Railways reclaims 443 acres in Sukkur

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has reclaimed 443 acres of encroached land worth Rs2.9 billion in Sukkur Division between 2024 and the first four months of fiscal year 2026-27, as the department steps up its anti-encroachment drive with a comprehensive recovery plan targeting illegally occupied railway properties across the division by December 2026.

According to official documents available with Wealth Pakistan, the department recovered 283 acres during 2024-25, another 131 acres in 2025-26 and 29.1 acres in the first four months of the current fiscal year, bringing the total recovered area to 443 acres. The reclaimed land has an estimated value of Rs2,902.903 million.

Agricultural property accounted for the overwhelming majority of the recovery, with 406.36 acres, or 91.7 per cent of the total. The remaining recovered land comprised 26.64 acres of commercial property and 10 acres of residential land.

Separately, Pakistan Railways auctioned 244.02 acres of agricultural land during 2025-26 at an indicated rate of Rs35,000 per acre, generating approximately Rs8.54 million.

Despite the recovery, a substantial portion of railway land in Sukkur Division remains under different forms of occupation or awaits proper utilisation.

The division has a total railway landholding of 26,068 acres, of which 18,913.74 acres are under operational use and other regularised arrangements, including staff colonies, leased properties and regularised katchi abadis. The remaining 7,154.26 acres comprise land encroached upon by private individuals, unauthorised occupation by government departments, and open or balance land. The latter category alone accounts for 3,618.735 acres.

To intensify the recovery campaign, Pakistan Railways has drawn up an extensive programme extending until December 2026, identifying specific dates, railway jurisdictions, locations and categories of encroachments for removal across Sukkur Division.

The planned operations target agricultural encroachments along railway sections, commercial establishments at station yards, residential occupations, unauthorised occupation of railway quarters and temporary structures.

PGMEA delegation greets newly elected SCCI office bearers

SIALKOT (APP): A delegation of the Pakistan Gloves Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PGMEA), led by Muhammad Sarwar, Chairman, PGMEA, visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) to congratulate its newly elected Office Bearers on assuming their respective offices.

The delegation comprised Muhammad Siddique, Senior Vice Chairman (SVC), Muhammad Abbas, Vice Chairman, Malik Naseer Ahmad and Amjad Hussain Sheikh, Former Chairmen, along with members of the PGMEA Executive Committee.

During the visit, the delegation extended heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Khawar Hussain Spall, President, SCCI; Asad Naseer Malik, Senior Vice President (SVP); and Chaudhry Jahangir Rashid, Vice President (VP), on their election to the respective positions.

The PGMEA delegation expressed its best wishes for the successful tenure of the newly elected leadership and hoped that their leadership would further strengthen the business community and promote the interests of Sialkot's export-oriented industries.

Punjab Wheat release and flour distribution order 2026 to take effect immediately

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Wheat Release and Flour Distribution Order 2026 has been notified and will come into effect on November 22.

The notification was issued by the Food Safety and Consumer Protection Department following approval by the provincial cabinet.

According to a spokesperson for the Food Safety and Consumer Protection Department here on Saturday, the price of government wheat has been fixed at Rs 4,500 per 40kg, while a 10 kg bag of flour produced from government wheat will be available at Rs 1,275.

Under the new order, government wheat will be released only to approved and operational flour mills and licensed atta chakkis.

The spokesperson said flour mills and atta chakkis would be required to sign agreements with their respective District Food Controllers to receive government wheat.

Its release will be subject to advance payment into designated bank accounts and subsequent verification. Daily verification of proceeds from the sale of flour produced from government wheat has also been made mandatory.

The government has decided to maintain the previously approved wheat-milling capacity of flour mills across Punjab, with no increase permitted in the milling capacity of existing approved roller bodies.

Wheat supplies will be arranged through a mix-and-match mechanism involving PASSCO, aggregators and imported wheat. District-wise quotas will be allocated according to population and requirements, while District Food Controllers will distribute the quotas among flour mills and atta chakkis in their respective districts.

Flour mills will also be allowed to mill privately procured wheat alongside government wheat. Mills receiving government wheat will be permitted to transport products made from privately procured wheat to other provinces.

ECO has vast potential to boost regional trade, investment: Iftikhar Ali

LAHORE (APP): Former SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Iftikhar Ali Malik on Sunday said the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) had enormous potential to promote regional economic cooperation, trade, and investment among its 10 member states.

According to a spokesperson, he said the organization had, however, made limited progress towards achieving its objectives due to various challenges, including tariff and non-tariff barriers, inadequate regional connectivity, and slow progress in economic integration. He stressed that all ECO member states, particularly Pakistan, should play a proactive role in making the organization an effective platform for regional economic growth and prosperity. He said the region was endowed with abundant natural resources, a large consumer market, skilled human resources, and strategically important trade routes. Enhanced cooperation in transport, energy, agriculture, information technology, tourism, and industrial development could create new employment opportunities and accelerate sustainable economic growth.

Iftikhar Ali Malik called for simplifying customs procedures, harmonizing trade regulations, improving border infrastructure, and developing efficient regional transport and logistics networks to reduce the cost and time of doing business.



QUETTA: Group photo Head Zara Parveen with the winners during the award ceremony organized by Balochistan Women Promote Talent and New Pehnawa Boutique & Salon.

DRAP launches online licensing, registration system

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has operationalized an online licensing and registration system for its Health and Over-the-Counter (HOTC) Division to facilitate the digital processing of applications under the Alternative Medicines and Health Products Rules, 2026.

According to a memorandum, the new online system has been deployed at DRAP website, enabling stakeholders to submit applications for licensing and product registration electronically.

The development follows the notification of the Alternative Medicines and Health Products Rules, 2026, through S.R.O. 2117(I)/2026 dated November 16, 2026. DRAP has also updated its online fee portal in accordance with the revised fee structure under the new rules. All stakeholders have been directed to generate and use revised fee challans for their applications.

Applicants who have already deposited fees under the previous structure will be required to pay the differential amount through the online fee portal, wherever applicable, to meet the revised requirements. The authority has advised pharmaceutical manufacturers, chemists, druggists and nutraceutical manufacturers to comply with the new regulatory requirements, online application procedures and revised fee structure to avoid delays in processing their cases.

"4th Int'l FoodAg Pakistan" soft launching ceremony held with target to secure $1bln deals

KARACHI (APP): The soft launching ceremony of a-four-day 4th International FoodAg Pakistan 2026 and Global Cuisine Show was held with a target amounting approximately to $1billion deals compared to the previous deals of approximately over $730 million in 3rd FoodAg edition, at a local hotel here on Sunday.

The FoodAg 2026 is commencing from 23-26 November 2026 at Karachi Expo Centre, which being organized by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), aimed at celebrating Pakistan's food Agri potential and the flavours of the world.

While addressing the Soft Launch Ceremony and talking to APP, Coordinator to Prime Minister on Commerce Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan has said that Pakistan possesses enormous potential in the agriculture sector and the key challenge is to translate this potential into value-added growth.

He said that the 4th FoodAg targets approximately $1billion deals compared to the previous deals of approximately over $730 million in 3rd FoodAg edition.

He said that the FoodAg features around 400 exhibitors from 20 different sectors and 800 buyers from 75 countries as well as offers a comprehensive plan to promote and strengthen Pakistan's food industry.

The PM's Coordinator said that international chefs would showcase a variety of cuisines, providing attendees with an excellent opportunity to experience and taste different culinary offerings.

Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan said that our focus is to move beyond traditional commodities towards value-added products.

He advised Pakistani exporters to take full advantage of this opportunity to explore new markets and establish business partnerships.

He expressed confidence that such initiatives would further strengthen Pakistan's capacity to provide quality food products to international markets.

He added that the first three days of the event have been specifically dedicated to business professionals, while the fourth day will be open to the general public.

Appreciating TDAP's efforts, Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan said that the platform truly showcases the beauty, potential and diversity of Pakistan while promoting its products and business opportunities to the world.

He said that the event is a comprehensive B2B platform.

Chief Executive TDAP Faiz Ahmed also highlighted the importance of the FoodAg.

Chefs from China, France, Sweden, turkey, Morocco, south africa, Japan, Malaysia, Vietnam, Sweden also shared their views about the program.

Quality healthcare at doorsteps our priority: Noor Dummar

Provincial minister inaugurates new emergency unit and labor room at Sanjavi Hospital, pledges improved maternal healthcare and continued development of medical facilities in remote areas

SANJAVI (6 AM Report): Provincial Minister for Commodity Management and Chairman Balochistan Food Authority Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dummar has said that providing quality healthcare facilities at people's doorsteps is among the Balochistan government's top priorities, with particular emphasis on improving medical services in remote areas.

He made these remarks while inaugurating a new emergency unit and labor room at Sanjavi Hospital. Officials from relevant departments, local elders and residents attended the ceremony.

The provincial minister said the government was taking practical measures to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and ensure that residents, particularly women and children, could receive essential medical treatment without traveling to other cities.

He said the newly established emergency unit would facilitate timely medical assistance to patients, while the labor room would improve maternity services and maternal and newborn healthcare in the area.

Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dummar emphasized that a healthy society forms the foundation of sustainable development, adding that improving healthcare accessibility and strengthening medical infrastructure remained essential government responsibilities.

He reaffirmed his commitment to continuing healthcare development initiatives in remote areas and utilizing available resources to provide better medical facilities to local communities.

The minister said efforts to improve public welfare and healthcare delivery would continue to ensure that residents of Sanjavi and surrounding areas have access to quality medical services closer to their homes.



QUETTA: Regional Head Association for Academic Quality (AFAQ), Abdul Aleem presenting souvenir to Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Balochistan chief MPA Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman Baloch during prize distribution ceremony of Brain Battle test.

Young voices, endless dreams: Balochistan's children aspire for a brighter future

QUETTA (APP): For the children of Balochistan, every school bell rings with the promise of a brighter tomorrow, every book opens a window to new possibilities, and every lesson brings them a step closer to their dreams.

From the classrooms of Quetta to the far-flung corners of the province, young hearts share a common aspiration: to learn, to grow and to become the architects of a prosperous future for themselves and their homeland.

"I wish that everyone goes to school, makes new friends, receives quality education, and returns home happily," said Saima Qasim, a fourth-grade student at Model Public High School, Quetta, expressing her hopes for a future in which every child has the opportunity to learn and fulfil their dreams.

Her words reflect the aspirations of thousands of children across Balochistan who want to continue their education, develop their abilities and contribute positively to their families, communities and province.

World Children's Day, observed globally on November 20, provided an opportunity to highlight these aspirations under this year's theme, "My Day, My Rights, My Future."

The theme emphasized the importance of listening to children' s voices, recognizing their fundamental rights and ensuring that they have opportunities to shape their own futures. For children in Balochistan, access to education remains one of the most important steps towards achieving these aspirations.

Despite ongoing government initiatives, challenges such as non-functional schools, limited educational facilities in remote areas and disparities in girls' enrollment continue to require attention. A class-VIII student, Musawir Ali, said every child should enjoy fundamental rights, particularly equal opportunities to receive quality education, so that they could develop their abilities and bring pride to their country and province.

He also urged parents to send their children to school and support their education, stressing that educated children could play an important role in the development and progress of society.



Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Administrator Bashir Ahmed Barraich inspects landscaping and vegetation planting on Zarghoon Road in red zone.

Promote students' academic, creative skills: Labor Dept

QUETTA (6AM Report): The Balochistan Labor and Manpower Department has launched a series of academic and extracurricular competitions for students of Workers Model Higher Secondary Schools to promote creativity, communication skills, confidence and academic excellence. The opening ceremony was held at Workers Model Higher Secondary School for Girls, Nawa Killi, Quetta, in line with Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti's vision and the directives of Labor and Manpower Secretary Saleh Muhammad Nasar. School Principal Tasnia Rabab formally inaugurated the competitions, which include spelling, essay writing, painting, and speech contests in Urdu and English.

Hundreds of students from Workers Model Higher Secondary School for Boys, Sariab Gahi Khan Chowk, Workers Model Higher Secondary School for Girls, Nawa Killi, and other participating institutions attended the ceremony and demonstrated their talents. Section Officer Labor and Manpower Rashid Khan Noorzai, representatives of the Honor Debating Society, teachers and other guests were also present. Honor Debating Society representative Muhammad Asif Shayan briefed participants on the competitions, their objectives and the importance of developing writing, public speaking and creative skills.

Organizers said the initiative aims to encourage healthy academic competition, strengthen students' self-confidence and provide opportunities to develop their talents beyond classroom learning.

The department emphasized that promoting academic excellence alongside extracurricular activities is essential for students' overall development.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Health Bakht Muhammad Kakar enquiring about the health of child affected due Thalassemia during his visit to Thalassemia Centre.

Dr. Malik Baloch

Hussain Naqi's struggle for democracy, press freedom will be remembered

National Party chief mourns veteran journalist's death, pays tribute to his lifelong commitment to human rights, freedom of expression and democratic principles

QUETTA (6 AM Report): National Party President and former Balochistan Chief Minister Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch has expressed profound grief over the death of renowned journalist, intellectual and human rights advocate Hussain Naqi, describing his passing as an irreparable loss to journalism, democracy and the human rights movement.

In his condolence statement, Dr. Malik Baloch said Hussain Naqi devoted his life to promoting democratic values, defending press freedom and protecting human rights, remaining steadfast in his principles despite imprisonment and pressure during authoritarian rule.

He described the late journalist as a symbol of integrity, principled resistance and freedom of expression, saying Naqi continued to uphold democratic ideals and human rights even under difficult circumstances.

The former chief minister said Hussain Naqi's lifelong struggle for justice, democracy and journalistic independence would remain a source of inspiration for future generations.

He said the National Party paid tribute to Naqi's contributions to democratic movements, press freedom and human rights, recognizing his unwavering commitment to his principles. Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, relatives and the journalistic community.



QUETTA: Workers of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Balochistan Minority Wing hold a protest in favor of their demands outside QPC.

Preserving Lasbela's culture, heritage our priority: Zareen

LASBELA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Parliamentary Secretary for Law, Culture and Tourism Nawabzada Mir Zareen Khan Magsi has said that preserving and promoting Lasbela's unique culture, historical heritage and regional traditions remains a government priority.

Speaking in connection with the Lasbela Cultural Festival 2026, organized with his special support and guidance, he said such events aim to promote local arts, handicrafts, traditional sports and customs while introducing younger generations to their cultural identity and heritage.

The festival featured traditional sports, horse riding, bull exhibitions and other regional activities, attracting enthusiastic participation from local residents and spectators. Prizes and trophies were distributed among participants who demonstrated outstanding performances in various competitions.

Nawabzada Mir Zareen Khan Magsi emphasized that Balochistan's cultural traditions form an essential part of its identity and historical legacy, making their preservation and transmission to future generations particularly important.

He said cultural festivals also provide opportunities to encourage local artists, artisans and individuals associated with traditional sports while promoting regional customs and cultural values.

PPP leader calls for special award to recognize Romana Gul Kakar's services

QUETTA (ANN): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Balochistan Provincial Council member Hayatullah Khan Kakar has urged the provincial government to confer a special award on Additional Secretary Finance Romana Gul Kakar in recognition of what he described as her outstanding public service, professional dedication and contributions to the people of Balochistan.

In a press statement, Hayatullah Kakar praised the officer's performance, saying her commitment to serving underprivileged and deserving communities had remained evident throughout her administrative career. He said Romana Gul Kakar had demonstrated professionalism, efficiency and dedication while serving in the Education Department and had continued to discharge her responsibilities with integrity and commitment in her current position as Additional Secretary Finance.

The PPP leader maintained that hardworking and dedicated government officers deserved institutional recognition, as acknowledging their contributions would encourage greater efficiency, accountability and commitment within the provincial administration.

No negligence in immunization, healthcare services: Mehr

BARKHAN (6AM report): Divisional Director Health Services, Koh-e-Suleman Division, Dr. Mehr Din Khetran has warned that negligence in childhood immunization, vaccine storage and the delivery of essential healthcare services will not be tolerated.

During a monitoring visit to CD Salech Health Center in Rakhni sub-tehsil of Barkhan district, he reviewed the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), vaccine availability, cold chain management, temperature monitoring, medicine stocks and essential medical equipment.

Dr. Khetran directed healthcare staff to ensure timely childhood immunization, proper vaccine storage and uninterrupted delivery of basic medical services. The inspection revealed that the District Health Officer (DHO) Barkhan had not conducted a monitoring visit to the facility during the previous two months.

Journalism loses principled, veteran journalist in Hussain Naqi: CM Bugti

Balochistan chief minister and aide Shahid Rind mourn senior journalist's passing, pay tribute to his lifelong commitment to press freedom, democratic values and journalistic integrity

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and his aide on Information and Political Affairs, Shahid Rind, have expressed profound grief over the death of veteran journalist and advocate of democratic values Hussain Naqi, describing his passing as a significant loss to Pakistan's journalistic community.

In his condolence statement, Chief Minister Bugti said Hussain Naqi was a principled, experienced and thoughtful journalist who devoted his life to defending freedom of expression, promoting democratic values and upholding professional integrity.

The chief minister said Naqi earned a distinguished place in journalism through his unwavering commitment to ethical reporting, principled positions and freedom of expression.

"His passing is a great loss to the journalistic community, and his lifelong struggle for press freedom and democratic principles will always be remembered," the chief minister said.

Separately, Shahid Rind paid tribute to Hussain Naqi, describing him as a seasoned and principled journalist whose dedication to journalistic ethics, freedom of expression and democratic ideals remained exemplary.

Rind said Naqi's professional commitment, intellectual integrity and steadfast adherence to his principles had earned him lasting respect within the media community.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Shahid Rind extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and the journalistic community.

They prayed for the departed soul's eternal peace and a place in Jannat-ul-Firdous, and for strength and patience for the grieving family.

PkMAP

Struggle for constitutional supremacy, parliamentary sovereignty to continue

Preparations finalized for Dec 2 public gathering in Quetta marking Khan Shaheed Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai's 53rd death anniversary; party reviews organizational arrangements and workers' participation

QUETTA (ANN): Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) leaders have reaffirmed their commitment to continuing the struggle for constitutional supremacy, parliamentary sovereignty, equality among nationalities and the establishment of a genuinely democratic federation.

Addressing a meeting of the party's Tehsil Sadar Committee in Quetta, leaders said the party was pursuing a peaceful democratic struggle under Chairman Mahmood Khan Achakzai to protect Pashtun national and political rights and ensure that all state institutions operate within their constitutional limits.

The meeting, chaired by Tehsil Secretary Naeem Pir Alizai, finalized preparations for a public gathering scheduled for December 2 in Quetta to commemorate the 53rd death anniversary of Khan Shaheed Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai.

Provincial Senior Vice President and Quetta District Secretary Syed Sharaf Agha, Provincial Secretary for Parliamentary Affairs Advocate Hazrat Umar Achakzai, Provincial Liaison Secretary Gul Khilji, Labor Secretary Habib-ur-Rehman Bazai and other district and tehsil leaders attended the meeting.

The speakers alleged that constitutional and democratic principles were being undermined in the country, while Pashtuns continued to face discrimination and denial of their national and political rights.

They said PkMAP, under the leadership of Mahmood Khan Achakzai, who also heads Tehreek Tahafuz Ayeen-e-Pakistan, was advocating constitutional supremacy, parliamentary independence, equality among nationali-



QUETTA: Group photo of Sardar Abbas Mughal, Dr Abdul Baqi, Jahangir Mughal and others after Dastar Bandi ("tying of the turban") during All Pakistan Tanzeem-e-Mughalia convention.

Federal recruitment to be merit-based, transparent: DC Hub

Interviews begin at TTC Hub under deputy commissioner's supervision; candidates from Khuzdar interviewed on first day, followed by Hub and Wadh on Nov 23, Lasbela on Nov 24 and Awaran on Nov 25

HUB (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Hub Captain (Retd.) Jumma Dad Khan Mandokhail has said that recruitment for various positions in federal departments will be completed transparently and strictly on merit, ensuring equal opportunities and necessary facilities for all candidates.

Interviews for federal vacancies commenced at the Technical Training Center (TTC) Hub under the deputy commissioner's supervision, with comprehensive administrative and security arrangements in place.

Following the directives of Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, the interview process formally began at 9 a.m. on Sunday. Candidates from Khuzdar district appeared before the interview panels on the first day.

The deputy commissioner personally monitored the proceedings to ensure transparency, administrative discipline and the smooth conduct of interviews without inconvenience to applicants.

According to the district administration, all interview panels were fully operational, with necessary arrangements including furniture, seating, laptops, supporting personnel and clerical staff. Special security measures were also implemented for candidates and interview teams.

Under the announced schedule, candidates from Khuzdar were scheduled for November 22, followed by Hub and Wadh on November 23, Lasbela on November 24 and Awaran on November 25.

The district administration reaffirmed its commitment to completing the recruitment process fairly and transparently, strictly following the announced schedule and ensuring equal treatment of all applicants.

Efforts underway to grant fishermen legal worker status, social protection: Secretary Fisheries Tariq

World Fisheries Day events in Quetta, Gwadar and Ormara demand fishermen's policy, ILO Convention 188 ratification, social security registration, action against illegal trawling and welfare measures for coastal communities

QUETTA (ANN): Balochistan Secretary for Fisheries and Coastal Development Tariq Qamar has said the provincial government is taking measures to recognize fishermen as formal workers, strengthen their economic and social protection, and modernize the fisheries sector to create better employment opportunities in coastal communities.

He made these remarks while addressing a seminar organized by the Pakistan United Workers Federation (PUWF) Balochistan in Quetta on November 21 to mark World Fisheries Day. Similar events were held in Gwadar and Ormara to highlight fishermen's rights, employment challenges and welfare concerns.

The secretary said the government was working on various initiatives to develop the fisheries industry, improve facilities and ensure greater protection for fishing communities.

The seminar was also addressed by Director General Labor Bashir Shahwani, Commissioner Compensation Mushtaq Jaffar, Workers Welfare Board Director Ilyas Jaffar, PUWF Balochistan President Ali Bakhsh Jamali, General Secretary Pir Muhammad Kakar, National Party Labor Secretary Dad Muhammad Baloch and other labor representatives.

Speakers highlighted fishermen's contribution to the national economy, food security and coastal employment, while expressing concern over low incomes, job insecurity, inadequate facilities, marine pollution, illegal trawling and limited access to social protection.

The participants demanded that the proposed Balochistan Fishermen Policy Bill 2025–2035 be presented to the provincial assembly and that Pakistan ratify International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 188 to strengthen legal protection and working conditions in the fishing sector.

They also called for the registration of all fishermen with the Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) and provincial social security institutions to ensure access to pensions, healthcare and other welfare benefits.

The speakers urged the government to expand overseas employment opportunities for fishermen, ensure representation of male and female fishing workers on district and tehsil-level committees, and utilize corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds of coastal companies in consultation with local communities.They demanded meaningful participation of fishermen in consultations on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other coastal development projects, alongside effective action against illegal trawling, marine pollution and environmental degradation.

For fishermen's families, the participants proposed 50 percent scholarships for higher education, residential plots under housing schemes, and vocational training and business development opportunities for women. They also called for reserving 50 percent of permanent positions in fish processing and packaging companies for women. Participants welcomed the seminar as the first joint initiative of its kind between PUWF Balochistan and the relevant government department to address fishermen's rights and welfare. PUWF Balochistan representatives reaffirmed their commitment to advocating for fishermen and other workers, emphasizing legal recognition, social security, improved employment conditions and a dignified livelihood.

Azam Tarar reaffirms commitment to women's empowerment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar has said that following Pakistan's hosting of the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Women in July 2026 and assuming its chairmanship for the next two years, Pakistan is now working with member states to advance concrete measures for women's education, economic empowerment and digital safety in line with the Islamabad Declaration.

Addressing the Leaders' Session of the 7th International Women and Justice Summit in Istanbul, Türkiye, and during important meetings with Turkish ministers on the sidelines of the Summit, the Federal Minister said that Pakistan and Türkiye enjoy exemplary relations based on shared history, mutual trust and a common commitment to justice and human dignity.

He said that, in the modern era, Pakistan had implemented a National Strategy to Prevent Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence to address the risks women face from online harassment and the misuse of artificial intelligence (AI).

On the sidelines of the Summit, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar also held separate bilateral meetings with Türkiye's Minister of Justice, H.E. Akin Gürlek, and Minister of Family and Social Services, H.E. Mahinur Özdemir Göktas.

During the meeting with the Turkish Minister of Justice, both sides agreed to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Türkiye in the fields of law and justice. In the meeting with the Minister of Family and Social Services, discussions focused on enhancing cooperation in human rights, women's empowerment and social protection programmes.

Member of the Punjab Provincial Assembly and Chairperson of the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau Punjab, Ms. Sarah Ahmed, was also part of the delegation.



ISTANBUL: Federal Minister for Law and Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar addresses the Women and Justice Summit, organized by KADEM in collaboration with Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye.



SANJAVI: Provincial Minister for Commodity Management and Chairman Balochistan Food Authority Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dummar a meeting with Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Loralai Range Junaid Ahmed Sheikh at Dummar House.

Recognize Pashtuns, Baloch's first right to resources: Aimal Wali

CHAMAN (By Sardar Khondai): Awami National Party (ANP) Central President Senator Aimal Wali Khan has demanded recognition of the first right of Pashtun and Baloch communities over their natural resources, alleging that proposals to divide provinces were aimed at maintaining control over regional wealth rather than improving governance and public services.

Addressing a public gathering at High School Football Ground in Chaman to commemorate Khan Jilani Khan Achakzai and Asad Khan Achakzai, he alleged that prolonged insecurity and terrorism had weakened local communities politically and economically.

The gathering was presided over by ANP Balochistan President Asghar Khan Achakzai and attended by party leaders, workers and residents.

Aimal Wali Khan said Pashtun communities had endured decades of terrorism, unemployment, insecurity and economic hardship despite living in a region rich in minerals and natural resources. He emphasized that local populations must receive priority in resource ownership, economic opportunities and constitutional rights, adding that sustainable development required political empowerment and equitable access to regional wealth. Expressing concern over restrictions on trade along the Durand Line, he said the suspension of cross-border commercial activities had severely affected livelihoods. He maintained that historical, cultural and family ties between communities on both sides of the border should be respected.

The ANP chief called for greater Pashtun-Baloch unity and a coordinated political strategy to address shared challenges, stressing that democracy, constitutional supremacy, parliamentary sovereignty and peaceful political struggle were essential for lasting peace.

Paying tribute to Khan Jilani Khan Achakzai and Asad Khan Achakzai, he said their sacrifices reflected the party's commitment to Bacha Khan's philosophy of nonviolence and democratic resistance.

Addressing the rally, ANP Balochistan President Asghar Khan Achakzai alleged that armed groups, highway insecurity, drug cultivation and trafficking, exploitation of resources and tribal disputes had contributed to instability and economic hardship in Pashtun-Baloch areas.

Senate Chairman says:

Pakistan needs talented, responsible professionals to strengthen country's economy

MULTAN (APP): Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said on Sunday that Pakistan needed talented, responsible and forward looking professionals to strengthen country's economy and shape a more prosperous future.

He expressed these views while addressing the ICMA Multan 36th convocation. He said the success would not be measured by the qualifications but integrity, professional ethics and positive differences qualifying graduates make in society.

He said that this year held special significance as ICMA celebrated 75 years of its remarkable journey since its establishment in 1951. ICMA has played a significant role in developing highly skilled management accounts who have contributed to Pakistan's corporate sector, industry, financial management and economic development.

The diamond jubilee was not merely a celebration of institutional history, it is a tribute to 75 years of dedication to education, professional integrity and nation building.

He appreciated Muhammad Yasin president ICMA Pakistan and entire leadership for their commitment to advancing professional education, strengthening the accounting profession and developing future business leaders.

He congratulated all the graduating students who have successfully completed their professional qualifications.

"Today is an important milestone in your lives, but remember that graduation was not the end of your journey. It was the beginning of greater responsibilities and new opportunities", Gilani added.

He urged the newly graduates as they step into your professional careers, always remember that their greatest achievement would not simply be what they accomplish for themselves but what they contributed to the country.

May Allah Almighty bless you with continued success and guide you towards a future filled with purpose, integrity and achievement, he maintained.

President ICMA Pakistan, Muhammad Yasin , briefed the history of the institution and it's contributions for the country over the years.

On this occasion, Muhammad Abdul Qayyum, vice president ICMA, Ghulam Mustafa

Khawaja Asif says

Dialogue on creation of new provinces will yield results soon

ISLAMABAD (APP): Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Sunday expressed confidence that talks, debates, consultations and meetings regarding the creation of new provinces would yield results soon through consensus among all stakeholders.

Speaking to a private TV channel, he said several quarters had presented their proposals and viewpoints regarding the creation of new provinces.

"Any final draft will definitely be reached through mutual consensus among all stakeholders through a common plate forum," he said.

Responding to a question, the defence minister highlighted the need for creating new provinces to ensure the devolution of power and resources to the grassroots level.

He emphasised the importance of further strengthening the process of transferring authority to ordinary citizens to promote public welfare and ensure that people benefit from government resources and services.

Minister Dummar

Peace, public safety in Ziarat, Harnai, Sanjavi top priority

Provincial minister meets DIG Loralai Range Junaid Ahmed Sheikh; discusses law and order, crime prevention, police performance and coordination with district administration

SANJAVI (6 AM Report): Provincial Minister for Commodity Management and Chairman Balochistan Food Authority Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dummar has said that maintaining peace and law and order in Ziarat, Harnai and Sanjavi, protecting citizens' lives and property, and promoting regional prosperity remain top government priorities.

He expressed these views during a meeting with Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Loralai Range Junaid Ahmed Sheikh at Dummar House, Killi Aras, Sanjavi.

The meeting reviewed the overall security situation in Ziarat and Harnai districts and Sanjavi tehsil, focusing on public safety, crime prevention, police performance, district administration and other matters of mutual interest.

Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dummar emphasized that effective coordination and close cooperation between the police and district administration were essential for maintaining lasting peace and preventing criminal activities.

He stressed the need for joint efforts by relevant institutions to strengthen security, improve law and order, address public concerns and create an environment conducive to regional development and prosperity. Deputy Commissioner Ziarat Abdul Quddus Achakzai, Superintendent of Police Ziarat Abdul Malik Durrani, Assistant Commissioner Ziarat Sher Shahid Ghilzai, Harnai Focal Person Haji Baz Muhammad Dummar.

Creation of new provinces inevitable for country's development: Kamal

KARACHI (INP): Federal Minister for Health and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Syed Mustafa Kamal has stated that the creation of new provinces is inevitable for the development and security of the country.

The MQM-P leader and former Karachi mayor made these remarks while addressing a youth convention and a political gathering of the Pashtun Qabail Movement on Saturday night.

Addressing the gatherings, Syed Mustafa Kamal said that the growing population and lack of basic facilities are paralyzing the country both administratively and economically.

He accused the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) of usurping the rights of local residents through fake domiciles over the past 16 years, adding that the establishment of new provinces would provide local youth with better access to education and employment.

Kamal claimed that his party had previously liberated Karachi from the influence of the Indian intelligence agency RAW, and asserted that all oppressed people across Pakistan must now be granted their rightful dues.

"Neither will we be intimidated by anyone's threats, nor will anyone be allowed to incite linguistic riots," he declared, emphasizing that it is their duty to protect the lives, properties, and assets of all multilingual communities residing in Karachi.

During the events, representatives of the youth and the Pashtun Qabail Movement voiced their support for Mustafa Kamal's demand for new provinces.

PM expresses grief over Hussain Naqi's death

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Sunday, expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of senior journalist and human rights activist Hussain Naqi.

In his condolence message, the prime minister said that Hussain Naqi's death marked the end of a glorious chapter in journalism and democracy.

He observed that Hussain Naqi was a principled journalist who had fearlessly raised his voice throughout his life for freedom of expression, democratic values and human rights, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister also extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, the journalist community and human rights organisations.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and give the bereaved family the strength and courage to bear this irreparable loss.

Pakistan to host NSSC Network annual meeting from Nov 23-26

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan will host the 15th Annual Meeting of the International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres (NSSC Network) in Islamabad from 23 to 26 November 2026, in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The four-day meeting will bring together representatives of the IAEA and 49 Member States of the NSSC Network to discuss ways to strengthen nuclear security training and support, promote international cooperation and exchange experience in this field, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

"Pakistan previously hosted the NSSC Network Annual Meeting in 2016, when it was held for the first time outside the IAEA headquarters in Vienna.

Modern healthcare, hospital upgrades top priority: Bakht Kakar

Health Minister highlights treatment of millions through Health Card, free bypass surgeries and digital healthcare reforms in collaboration with University of Oslo

QUETTA (ANN): Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar has said that providing modern healthcare facilities, upgrading public hospitals, expanding cardiac treatment services and introducing digital health systems remain top priorities of the provincial government.

He said the government was taking measures to ensure quality medical treatment for low- and middle-income families closer to their homes, reducing the need for patients to travel to other provinces.

The minister noted that patients previously had to visit Karachi, Lahore and other major cities for cardiac procedures and treatment of complicated diseases. However, the establishment of modern medical institutions and expansion of healthcare facilities in Balochistan were gradually improving the situation.

Bakht Kakar said millions of patients had received treatment through the Health Card program, thousands had benefited from cardiac care, and hundreds had undergone free bypass surgeries. He described these initiatives as significant steps toward reducing the financial burden of medical treatment on vulnerable families.

Highlighting ongoing reforms, the minister said the Health Department was working with Norway's University of Oslo to promote digital healthcare systems and strengthen transparency, accountability and administrative efficiency.

He explained that the digital initiative aims to improve hospital monitoring, track doctors' attendance, ensure medicine availability and assess the performance of healthcare institutions at the district level.

These measures, he said, would help identify service delivery gaps, address administrative shortcomings and improve healthcare standards across the province.

The minister emphasized that revitalizing hospitals in remote areas, expanding modern medical facilities and adopting digital technology were essential to strengthening Balochistan's healthcare system. Reaffirming the government's commitment to healthcare reforms, Bakht Muhammad Kakar said efforts would continue to ensure equitable access to quality treatment, particularly for disadvantaged communities, without unnecessary travel or financial hardship.



LAHORE: Indian Sikh Yatrees arrive in Pakistan after crossing the Wagah border to participate in celebrations marking the 557th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism.

Senior journalist Hussain Naqi passes away at 90

LAHORE (APP): Prominent Pakistani journalist and human rights activist Hussain Naqi passed away in Lahore at the age of 90, leaving the journalistic community and human rights circles mourning his death.

Naqi was a member of the Lahore Press Club and served as treasurer of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP). He was also a serving member of the commission's council. Regarded as an influential figure in Pakistani journalism, he remained associated with the struggle for press freedom.

Murder case registered against MPA Khetran, three bodies recovered

QUETTA (ANN): A murder case has been registered against Balochistan Assembly member Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, while police have arrested a suspect and recovered the bodies of three people allegedly killed and buried, officials said.

According to police, an investigation was launched following the registration of the murder case against the provincial lawmaker.

Police said the three bodies were recovered on information provided by the arrested suspect. One of the bodies was reportedly found near Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran's residence.

The recovered remains have been shifted to a hospital for postmortem examinations and necessary legal procedures, police officials said.

Authorities said further details surrounding the deaths and the circumstances of the alleged killings would be determined through the ongoing investigation and postmortem findings.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Health Bakht Muhammad Kakar cutting the birthday cake of child affected due Thalassemia during his visit to Thalassemia Centre.

Survey illegal tube wells, improve water supply: BHC

Court rejects incomplete reports after finding 227 of 295 tube wells lack NOCs; orders investigation into alleged illegal occupation of government tube wells, pipeline repairs and comprehensive water supply planning

QUETTA (6 AM Report): The Balochistan High Court (BHC) has ordered a comprehensive survey of illegal tube wells in Quetta and surrounding areas, an investigation into alleged illegal occupation of government tube wells, and effective measures to improve water supply across the city.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Muhammad Kamran Khan Mulakhail and Justice Muhammad Najmuddin Mengal issued the directives while hearing a constitutional petition concerning water supply problems in Quetta.

During the hearing, a report submitted by the Deputy Commissioner Quetta East revealed that 227 of 295 tube wells were operating without No Objection Certificates (NOCs), while only 68 possessed valid NOCs.

The court rejected the report as incomplete, observing that it failed to provide comprehensive information about the total number and legal status of tube wells operating in Quetta and its surrounding areas. The bench also expressed dissatisfaction with the report submitted by a committee headed by the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Secretary and the minutes of its November 5, 2026, meeting.

The court directed the PHE Secretary to constitute an effective team to conduct a fresh, comprehensive survey of all tube wells and submit detailed findings identifying illegal installations.

Regarding allegations of unauthorized occupation of government tube wells, the bench directed the Deputy Commissioners of Quetta East and West to investigate the matter and submit reports at the next hearing. Meanwhile, officials of the Balochistan Water and Sanitation Authority (B-WASA) informed the court that approximately 80 percent of its pipelines used to supply water from private tube wells in certain areas of Hazara Town had been disconnected. Further surveys were required to assess the situation in other localities.

Officials reported that nine tube wells near Karkhasa Dam were operational, supplying water to eastern and western parts of Hazara Town on alternate days. Arrangements were also underway to transfer water from four tube wells in Sajawalabad to storage facilities, including a 300,000-gallon reservoir at Hazara Town Cemetery.

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