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PM Shehbaz to visit Russia from Nov 30

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is going to visit Russia from November 30 to December 02 accompanying a delegation.

According to sources, PM Shehbaz Sharif will be accompanied by a large delegation of businessmen and that he will also address a joint business forum in the Russian capital.

The prime minister will meet Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The regional situation and bilateral relations between Pakistan and Russian will be discussed during the prime minister's Moscow visit. Pakistani and Russian officials are expected to meet in Moscow on November 23–24, 2026, to discuss a bilateral payment mechanism.

Resolving banking and third-country payment hurdles could help expand bilateral trade.

The two countries in October agreed over to finalizing an extradition treaty and an agreement on the exchange of criminals, while holding high-level talks to expand bilateral trade, economic and defence cooperation during a visit by Russian interior minister to Islamabad.

Petrol price cut by Rs3, diesel rate unchanged

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has reduced the price of petrol by Rs3 per litre, bringing it to Rs319, while keeping the price of high-speed diesel unchanged at Rs357 per litre, according to a notification issued by the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA). The revised prices will take effect from November 24. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) has given the government a 15-day ultimatum to withdraw its decision to revise petroleum product prices daily. Speaking at a press conference in Karachi, association representatives warned that dealers could shut down petrol stations if the current policy continued.

The association has objected to the daily pricing mechanism introduced amid the ongoing Middle East crisis, arguing that the arrangement has created difficulties for petroleum dealers.

APHC calls for international action on Kashmir dispute

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has called on the international community to hold India accountable for alleged human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and ensure the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

In a press statement issued on Monday, the APHC said the people of IIOJK had been denied their fundamental human, civil and democratic rights for the past 78 years, including the right to life.

It said repression, arbitrary restrictions and the use of force had made daily life increasingly difficult for the people of the occupied territory.

The APHC maintained that denying Kashmiris their right to self-determination was contrary to the principles of the United Nations Charter and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

It also questioned India's claims of being the world's largest democracy, saying that Kashmiris continued to be deprived of the right to decide their political future.

The APHC urged the international community not to remain silent and called for a free and impartial plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with relevant UN resolutions.



Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF) called on the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim at Perdana Putra, Putrajaya.

PM vows no cap on homes for poor, sets Rs. 1,000b disbursement target under Apna Ghar Programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday declared that there is no limit on the number of homes the government will build for the poor, vowing to construct millions if needed so that no deserving family is left without a roof over its head, and set an ambitious target of Rs.1,000 billion in disbursements under the Apna Ghar Programme over the next six months.

Addressing the ceremony held to mark the milestone of over Rs100 billion in loans reaching citizens under the Apna Ghar Programme, the prime minister said it was a matter of deep concern that while a few enjoy every comfort, a vast number of people are deprived of shelter, education, healthcare and dignified employment. This, he said, was not the Pakistan envisioned by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The prime minister recalled how a visit to a widow's one-room rented home in Lahore, early in his career as a member of the Punjab Assembly, changed him and led to the Ashiana housing schemes in Punjab. The woman, who stitched clothes to feed her children and care for a seriously ill daughter, represented, he said, the reality faced by millions of families.

He said that housing schemes in the past had mostly served the elite, who did not need bank loans, while the real need was among labourers, widows, orphans and low-income families across Pakistan, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. If the state could not provide even a roof to such families, he said, it had no right to rule.

The prime minister said the programme was launched in April 2026. In about six and a half months, he said, banks had disbursed Rs112 billion against loan sanctions of about Rs500 billion. He called this a good start but said the journey ahead is long and must be covered at "lightning speed".

He directed the finance minister, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) governor, the housing minister and the banks to aim for Rs1, 000 billion in disbursements in the next six months. He assured them that any hurdles and legal impediments would be removed jointly, without exposing banks to undue risk.

The prime minister said banks had initially been reluctant to enter this segment because of comfortable returns on treasury bills and government deposits. He praised those that came forward and said he was told the scheme was free of corruption and nepotism.

He recalled a beneficiary from Peshawar saying that no one had asked him about his party affiliation, and called this a mark of transparency and merit. He said he had told bankers that even a wrongful recommendation from the prime minister should be reported to him by phone, as the resources belong to the people who deserve them.

Announcing recognition for the top five high-performing banks, he said they would be given blue passports, with a notification to be issued the same day. He said it would be for each bank's owners or CEOs to decide who would hold them.



QUETTA: Representatives of UNICEF Ziaur Rehman Sumalani and Umer Durrani meeting with acting Governor Balochistan Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

PTI announces three conditions for alliance with PPP

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and renowned lawyer Senator Barrister Syed Ali Zafar said the party supports the creation of new provinces and a referendum on the matter.

He said a final decision would be made after the draft of the 28th Constitutional Amendment and details concerning the provinces become available.

Barrister Ali Zafar said the party would review the draft of the 28th Constitutional Amendment before deciding. He added that PTI supports new provinces and a referendum on their creation, and that the procedure for establishing provinces should be decided after the referendum.

Referring to statements about government affairs and corruption in Punjab, the PTI leader said provincial ministers themselves were making serious statements about corruption. He said allegations made by the opposition would be a different matter, but government ministers were making the allegations, putting the provincial government's position at risk. Speaking to Dunya News, Barrister Syed Ali Zafar said PTI had set three conditions for an alliance with the Pakistan Peoples Party: reserved seats must be returned to PTI; governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa must end; and the PPP must sit with PTI on the opposition benches in Parliament and the Senate.

Pak, Portugal agree to establish Joint Ministerial Commission to boost trade, investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Portugal on Monday agreed to establish a Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) as an intergovernmental mechanism to oversee and expand cooperation across multiple sectors, including trade, investment, agriculture, energy and information technology.

The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed during the one-on-one and delegation-level talks between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar and Portuguese Minister of State and Foreign Affairs Paulo Rangel, who is here on a two-day official visit, coinciding with the 77 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The two leaders, addressing a joint press stakeout following the talks and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on visa abolition for diplomatic passport holders, admitted that there was immense potential to promote bilateral cooperation in trade and investment.

Welcoming the Portuguese delegation in the month marking the 77th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations established on November 7, 1949, Deputy Prime Minister Dar said that the talks built upon their May 21 meeting in New York and the fourth round of Bilateral Political Consultations held in Islamabad in July.

Both leaders acknowledged that current bilateral trade, largely restricted to textiles, fell well short of its true potential. To address trade barriers and diversify commerce into agri-food, information technology, and footwear, Ishaq Dar proposed a Joint Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation.

DPM Dar also accepted the invitation to visit Lisbon, when JMC would hold its inaugural session, followed by a second round in Islamabad. Dar also proposed holding a bilateral leadership summit in the third or fourth quarter of 2027, alongside establishing Parliamentary Friendship Groups in both houses of Pakistan's Parliament and the Portuguese legislature.

The deputy prime minister invited Portuguese enterprises to invest in Pakistan through the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

He told the media that the Board of Investment (BOI) and Portugal's trade and investment agency (AICEP) would sign an MoU on investment protection later in the day at the Pakistan-Portugal Business Forum.

Both sides also reviewed progress on amending their Double Taxation Convention and updating investment protection frameworks.

Imran's life is in danger

Opposition leaders urge top judges to intervene to protect Imran health

ISLAMABAD (INP): Opposition leaders in the Senate and National Assembly have written to the superior judiciary, demanding that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan be shifted to Shifa International Hospital within 24 hours.

In their letter, the opposition leaders called for the implementation of the court order issued on August 18, 2026, directing that the former prime minister be kept in a hospital.

They demanded that a medical board be constituted in coordination with Shifa International Hospital in accordance with the court's order. The board should include a cardiologist, a retina specialist, a general surgeon and other medical specialists.

The opposition leaders also called for Imran Khan's medical examination under the supervision of his personal physician, Dr Faisal, and his sister, Dr Uzma. They demanded that both doctors be given full and continuous access during his medical examination.

The letter further demanded that Imran Khan's medical records be provided to his family and lawyers within 24 hours.

The opposition leaders requested the appointment of a judicial officer or commission to monitor implementation of the court orders and sought a compliance report within seven days. They also called for the hearing of the pending contempt of court petition and appeals filed by Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi.

Field Marshal Asim reaffirms Pakistan's resolve to deepen defence ties with Malaysia

RAWALPINDI (APP): Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), undertook an official visit to Malaysia aimed at further strengthening bilateral defence and military cooperation.

The COAS called on the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim at Perdana Putra, Putrajaya, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The meeting focused on bilateral relations, defence and security cooperation, and evolving regional and global security dynamics. Both leaders exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and underscored the importance of sustained engagement to promote regional peace, stability and security, it further said.

The Prime Minister warmly welcomed the Field Marshal and acknowledged the longstanding bonds of friendship, mutual trust and cooperation between Pakistan and Malaysia.

He reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations, particularly in the fields of defence and security.

The COAS appreciated Malaysia's constructive role in promoting peace and stability in Southeast Asia and reiterated Pakistan's resolve to further deepen defence cooperation and institutional linkages between the Armed Forces of both countries.

Both sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening bilateral defence ties through regular high-level exchanges, enhanced military cooperation and sustained dialogue on regional and international security issues.

Upon arrival at the Ministry of Defence Malaysia (MINDEF), Kuala Lumpur, the Field Marshal was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour. General Tan Sri Haji Malek Razak Sulaiman, Chief of Defence Force of Malaysia.



Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar witnessing the signing of an MoU between Pakistan's Board of Investment (BOI) and the Portuguese Trade and Investment Agency (AICEP), in Islamabad.

Naqvi meets PM Shehbaz after talks with Shujaat on new provinces, law and order

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday and briefed him on the country's law and order situation, hours after holding discussions with Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on the creation of new provinces and other national issues.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Naqvi briefed the premier on the overall law and order situation across the country.

"The two also discussed the prevailing national situation," the PMO's Media Wing said.

The meeting followed Naqvi's visit to Shujaat's Lahore residence earlier in the day, where the two discussed the country's political and security situation, the devolution of powers to the grassroots level and proposals for establishing new provinces.

Shujaat said the creation of new provinces was directly linked to public convenience, better governance, administrative efficiency and the country's future. He said strengthening and empowering administrative units could also be an effective way forward.

"Ordinary citizens are Pakistan's biggest stakeholders," he said, adding that the country would not forgive its leaders if they failed to take the right steps today. Naqvi said it was imperative to take all decisions in accordance with the wishes of the people of Pakistan. The interior minister also briefed Shujaat on measures taken to counter terrorism and maintain peace in Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

Pakistan, Türkiye sign MoU to strengthen judicial cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Türkiye on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen judicial cooperation through institutional exchanges, professional training and sharing of legal expertise.

The agreement was signed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi and President of Türkiye's Court of Cassation Ömer Kerkez during the visit of a high-level Turkish judicial delegation to the Supreme Court.

The MoU provides a framework for cooperation in judicial education, capacity building, legal research and professional training, including faculty exchanges and joint programmes between the Federal Judicial Academy of Pakistan and the Justice Academy of Türkiye.

Key areas of collaboration include cybercrime, financial crime, constitutionalism, human rights, judicial ethics, climate justice, gender-responsive justice, alternative dispute resolution and the use of technology in courts.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar, Mir Ziaullah Lango, MPAs Mir Zabid Ali Reki and Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman expressing their views during Balochistan Assembly session.

Bilawal urges

'Democratic reset' to rebuild public trust in parliament, judiciary and electoral process

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday called for a "democratic reset" to restore public confidence in state institutions, stressing that any effort to reform the country's governance system must be rooted in democracy, unity and public trust.

Addressing the Sindh Youth Card inauguration ceremony in Karachi, Bilawal said, "If there has to be a reset, it should only be a democratic one. Through the proposed reset, we must rebuild the confidence of the public in the parliament, judiciary, election process, and accountability."

The PPP chairman said Pakistan was facing multiple challenges, including economic instability, conflict, terrorism, climate change and emerging threats linked to artificial intelligence, which required a united national response.

Reflecting on his two decades in politics, the PPP chairman said he had interacted with numerous politicians during his political journey but was now disappointed with the state of affairs.

He said if he himself felt disappointed, the level of frustration among ordinary citizens, particularly young people, could only be imagined.

Bilawal stressed that restoring public trust in the political and institutional system was essential for the country to move forward, calling for an approach that prioritised people's welfare over political divisions. He also proposed leveraging technology to curb corruption and improve governance, saying a united Pakistan would be better positioned to tackle future crises.

Speaking against the backdrop of conflict in the Middle East and concerns about a potential global economic crisis, Bilawal urged political parties to abandon divisive politics and focus on public welfare.

PPP asks MQM-P to reconsider Karachi rally dates at first meeting amid tensions over new provinces

KARACHI (INP): The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) held their first face-to-face meeting on Monday following an escalation in tensions and exchange of heated statements over the proposed creation of new provinces.

Delegations from both parties met in the chamber of the opposition leader at the Sindh Assembly, with the PPP delegation requesting MQM-P to reconsider the dates of its planned rallies in Karachi on November 29 and December 6.

The PPP delegation, led by senior party leader Nisar Khuhro, included PPP Sindh General Secretary Senator Waqar Mehdi, Sindh Home Minister Ziaul-Hassan Lanjar and Local Government Minister Nasir Hussain Shah.

The MQM-P delegation was led by Dr Farooq Sattar and included Opposition Leader in the Sindh Assembly Ali Khurshidi and the deputy opposition leader.

During the meeting, the PPP leaders urged MQM-P to postpone its planned rallies and hold them on another date, citing concerns about a possible law-and-order situation in the city.

The PPP delegation pointed out that Sindhi nationalist leader Dr Qadir Magsi had announced his rally nearly a month ago and requested MQM-P not to hold its event on the same day, warning that two simultaneous political gatherings could lead to tensions or clashes in Karachi.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, Nisar Khuhro said the PPP did not oppose political rallies, adding that every political party had the constitutional and democratic right to hold political activities.

He maintained that the Sindh Assembly had already passed a resolution against the creation of new provinces, describing it as the final decision of the provincial legislature on the matter.

Dr Farooq Sattar said MQM-P would consult its leadership and review the proposal before giving a final response on whether to postpone its November 29 rally or change the date of its December 6 event.

He said the party had already made preparations for the rally and was also preparing for a proposed referendum, making an abrupt postponement a difficult decision.

Sattar complained that the government delegation had arrived late for the meeting, saying an earlier approach would have given his party more time to consider the request.



Peoples Party Sindh President Nisar Khuhro meets with Muttahida Qaumi movement delegation led by Dr. Farooq Sattar and opposition leader Ali Khurshidi at Sindh assembly building.



ISLAMABAD: President of the Court of Cassation of Türkiye Honorable Ömer Kerkez being briefed to Chief Justice of Pakistan Honorable Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi during visit at Supreme Court.

New provinces should be established through pilot project: Punjab Governor

ATTOCK (APP): The establishment of new provinces should initially be tested in one province rather than imposed simultaneously across the country, Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said on Monday.

Speaking to the media in Attock after offering condolences over the death of a close relative of veteran Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) worker Lala Muhammad Afzal, the governor said all aspects and potential consequences must be carefully examined before making a decision on creating new provinces.

He questioned whether the merger of the former FATA region with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had brought an end to terrorism, stressing that a pilot project in one province could help determine whether the creation of a new province improves access to healthcare, education and employment opportunities.

He said there was no disagreement among the government's coalition partners over the issue of new provinces and a referendum, adding that the PML-N and PPP were approaching the matter in accordance with their respective party manifestos.

Regarding the proposed division of Sindh, Sardar Saleem Haider said the Sindh Assembly had already passed a resolution opposing the creation of new provinces with a two-thirds majority. He maintained that the provincial assembly was elected through public votes, and its mandate and decisions should be respected.

Responding to a question about 14 reserved seats of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), he said his position would be in line with that of the PPP, and whatever decision the party made would be acceptable to him.

PPP Attock District President Malik Riasat Ali Sadhrial, other party office-bearers and a large number of workers were also present on the occasion.

Rangers arrest four suspects linked to over 300 street crimes

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Rangers have arrested four suspects allegedly involved in multiple robbery and street crime incidents during an intelligence-based operation in the Memon Goth area.

According to a Rangers spokesperson, the arrested suspects have been identified as Zain-ul-Abideen, Shayan, Akbar alias Shani and Rashid Rasheed.

Rangers recovered five pistols, one repeater, a 12-bore rifle along with ammunition, 39 snatched mobile phones and cash from their possession.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the suspects, along with their accomplices, were allegedly involved in more than 300 incidents of robbery, street crime, illegal possession of weapons, and snatching motorcycles, mobile phones and cash in Malir and adjoining areas.

According to investigators, Zain-ul-Abideen, Shayan and Akbar alias Shani used firearms to rob citizens, while Rashid Rasheed was responsible for selling mobile phones stolen by the gang.

Authorities said the suspects had recently snatched Rs75,000 and two mobile phones from two employees of a private bank in Gonga Goth.

CM orders resolution of cleanliness complaints within hours across punjab

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Chief Minister (CM), Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Monday directed the introduction of a QR code-based system for cleanliness-related complaints across the province for the first time, enabling citizens to access details of Suthra Punjab sanitation workers and register complaints through QR codes displayed at different locations.

Under the initiative, citizens will also be able to provide feedback on cleanliness arrangements by scanning the relevant QR codes.

Chairing a special meeting to review matters relating to the Suthra Punjab program, the CM directed the authorities concerned to ensure that cleanliness complaints were addressed within a few hours.

She also ordered the installation of dustbins at various locations and stressed the need to train and encourage rural residents to dispose of waste in designated bins.

The meeting agreed on measures to ensure cleanliness operations in villages twice a week.

CM Maryam Nawaz reviewed a proposal to link the salaries of Suthra Punjab officers with their performance and directed the authorities to ensure adequate availability of sanitation workers and machinery throughout the province.

She ordered daily deep cleaning of one tehsil and directed officials to achieve the door-to-door waste collection target at the earliest.

She also instructed the use of modern machinery to remove weeds and bushes along roadsides, emphasizing that equal attention must be paid to cleanliness in urban and rural areas.

Hanif Abbasi announces girls hostel, Rs. 250m gymnasium at AAUR

RAWALPINDI (APP): Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Monday announced that a well accommodated girls hospital would be constructed at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) to further ease female students' stay at the University. Addressing at inaugural session of the Annual Students' Week, the minister also announced the construction of a Rs.250.0 million state of the art sports gymnasium. "An international-standard sports arena is being constructed at the campus", he announced adding that routes for 80 new green buses launching in the city will be aligned to facilitate commuting students.

Highlighting major healthcare and infrastructure milestones in Rawalpindi, Abbasi shared that a 400-bed Children's Hospital was being established near Asghar Mall, while the Rawalpindi Institute of Urology and Transplantation (PKLI North) had performed around 10 kidney and 12 liver transplants over the past two months, each costing Rs.6.0 million completely free of charge for Punjab domicile holders under the Chief Minister's initiative.

He urged the students to potentially contribute in various segments during the students week, organized under the theme "Exploring the World of Social Entrepreneurship".

Earlier, the Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR highlighted the main features of the ongoing students week.

The event will feature a wide range of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities aimed at promoting students' creativity, leadership, innovation, entrepreneurial skills, and engagement with society.

KP govt distributes Rs 38.7mln scholarships among minority students

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Monday distributed educational scholarships worth Rs 38.7 million among students from minority communities to support their higher education and ensure equal access to academic opportunities.

Adviser on Auqaf Maulana Tayyab Qureshi, who attended the distribution ceremony as chief guest, said the government was providing special scholarships to minority students to help them pursue higher education.

He said the initiative reflected the government's commitment to promoting education, providing financial assistance and creating equal opportunities for students from minority communities. Under the programme, 240 intermediate students will receive Rs 60,000 each, while 120 BS students will get Rs 80,000 each.

Similarly, 80 students pursuing professional degrees will receive Rs 100,000 each, while 20 MPhil scholars will be awarded Rs 150,000 each. PhD scholars will receive scholarships of up to Rs 250,000 per student.

Maulana Tayyab Qureshi said the government would also distribute laptops among minority students soon and introduce digital skills training and coaching programmes to enhance the professional capabilities of minority youth.

He described Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a model province for interfaith harmony and said the government would continue working to improve educational opportunities and help minority students build a bright future.

He made it clear that forced religious conversions would not be allowed, adding that the entire nation had always stood by minority communities during difficult times. He also acknowledged the valuable contributions of minority communities to Pakistan.

Kundi condemns IED blast targeting police vehicle in Lakki Marwat

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday strongly condemned the improvised explosive device (IED) blast targeting a police vehicle in Lakki Marwat, expressing deep sorrow over the injuries sustained by police personnel and civilians.

The Governor termed the attack by Fitna al-Khawarij on police officials and innocent citizens a highly regrettable and cowardly act. He said such terrorist attacks could not weaken the unwavering resolve of the government, police and security forces in the fight against terrorism.

Maryam Nawaz seeks report on fatal accident near Uch Sharif

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister (CM), Maryam Nawaz Sharif has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious human lives in a tragic traffic accident near Uch Sharif.

In a message on Monday,the CM extended her heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families and prayed for strength and patience for them to bear the irreparable loss.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif also sought a detailed report on the unfortunate accident and directed the relevant authorities to provide the necessary details.

IHC seeks responses on JIT plea in 13yr-old girl's death case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued pre-admission notices to police and other respondents on a petition seeking the formation of a joint investigation team (JIT) to probe the death of a 13-year-old girl allegedly following torture at the federal capital's Police Lines.

Justice Azam Khan issued the order on a petition filed by Advocate Yasir Nadeem Ramday.

According to the order, the petitioner sought the constitution of a JIT to ensure a transparent investigation into the case. He also requested departmental action against an FIA officer.

Transparency, merit to be ensured in federal recruitment: DC Hub

HUB (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Hub Captain (Retd.) Jumma Dad Khan Mandokhail has reaffirmed that transparency, merit and equal opportunities will be ensured throughout the recruitment process for vacant positions in federal departments.

Interviews continued for the second consecutive day under his supervision, with candidates from Hub and Wadh appearing before recruitment panels on Monday. Educational qualifications, academic certificates and other required documents were thoroughly examined as part of the selection process.

The interviews are being conducted in the Hub region under special directives from Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan to ensure transparent and merit-based recruitment.

According to the district administration, all interview panels are operational, while necessary administrative, logistical and security arrangements have been made to facilitate candidates and ensure uninterrupted proceedings.

Deputy Commissioner Mandokhail is personally monitoring the interviews, overseeing document verification, administrative discipline and the implementation of merit-based procedures.

The district administration stated that the recruitment initiative aims to provide employment opportunities to qualified and deserving candidates without discrimination. It added that available resources are being utilized to ensure a fair and organized selection process.

Under the announced schedule, interviews for candidates from Khuzdar were held on November 22, followed by Hub and Wadh on November 23. Candidates from Lasbela will appear for interviews on November 24, while interviews for Awaran candidates are scheduled for November 25.



Members of All Sindh Primary Teachers Association hold protest rally in Garhi Khuda Bux demanding service structure, promotions, and salary release.

ADC Ismail Lashari

Ensure transparent use of education funds, merit in exams

USTA MUHAMMAD (6 AM Report): Additional Deputy Commissioner Usta Muhammad Muhammad Ismail Lashari has directed school authorities to ensure transparent utilization of education funds and maintain merit and discipline during examinations, warning that financial irregularities, negligence and unfair practices will not be tolerated.

Acting on the special directives of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ramzan Palal, the additional deputy commissioner visited Government Boys High School Rustam Khan Jamali, where he reviewed the utilization of cluster budget funds, expenditure records and resources allocated for educational needs.

He directed the school administration to maintain complete financial records, including bills and supporting documents, and ensure that government funds are utilized strictly in accordance with prescribed rules and regulations.

Lashari emphasized that education funds must be used effectively to improve basic facilities, strengthen school administration and provide students with a better learning environment.

During the visit, he also inspected the ongoing annual middle school examinations, reviewing examinations seriously.

Senate body directs strict enforcement of formula milk law

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services on Monday directed the relevant authorities to strictly enforce existing laws, launch a nationwide breastfeeding awareness campaign and strengthen monitoring of medicine prices to protect public health. The meeting, chaired by Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti at Parliament House, Islamabad, reviewed implementation of its previous recommendations regarding the regulation and advertisement of formula milk for children aged one to 36 months.

Minister for National Health Services Mustafa Kamal, committee members and representatives of the Ministry, Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) and other relevant institutions attended the meeting.

During the meeting, PEMRA officials informed the committee that the matter was pending before the court and that a revised advertisement had not yet been received. They said the advertisement would be aired on electronic media upon receipt.

Expressing serious concern, the chairman said the matter directly concerned the health and future of coming generations and directed the authorities to take the committee's recommendations seriously.

The chairman instructed PEMRA to ensure that breastfeeding awareness advertisements were broadcast on major television channels to maximize public outreach. He also directed that advertisements of formula milk and related products prohibited under existing law must not be aired. The committee emphasized that mother's milk was the best nourishment for infants and called for an immediate public awareness campaign to promote breastfeeding.

It directed the ministry to prepare the awareness advertisement within 15 days and air it using the allocated five per cent free airtime on television channels, subject to necessary approvals. The chairman also directed the ministry to ensure the establishment of the National Infant Feeding Board under the relevant law to oversee matters relating to infant feeding and nutrition.

During the discussion, members stressed that existing legislation must be implemented in letter and spirit and that an executive notification could not override an Act of Parliament.

The committee sought the relevant notification and documentary record concerning the reported transfer of regulatory jurisdiction over formula milk from DRAP to another division.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111227433 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Assistant Director Local Govt, Quetta invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 1000 PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	INSTALLATION OF SOLAR SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC AMENTIES AND MASJIDS IN QUETTA CITY	9,898,831

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 6,929,181 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million)In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is EE11(i) (Solar), EE11(ii) (Solar Energy), EE11(iii) (Solar Energy system). The bidder must attach bid security in the shape of CDR/Bank Guarantee from a scheduled Bank of Pakistan. In case of person other than the owner of the firm participates in the bidding process he must possess notarized authority letter having project name and details of representative and owner of firm. The bidder must produce the BPPRA generated challan having NTN of firm and TSE of project **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 10 December, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 10 December, 2026till 11:30 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:30 PM **Address:** Assistant Director, Local Govt & Rural Development Deppt Quetta
Phone no: 0081920209 Email: sadlgrdquetta@gmail.com

Senior Assistant Director
LG &RD District Quetta East

DPRQ/PRQ No.2593/23-11-2026

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TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111227653 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer (Building) Washuk invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 1000 PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	DEVELOPMENT OF FOOTBAL GROUND AT NAG DISTRICT WASHUK PSDP NO:3641 Z2025.2345	78,185,684

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 54,729,978 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm VALID PEC GREEN CHALLAN AND CDR **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 10 December, 2026till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System **Address:** Executive Engineer Building District Washuk
Phone no: 3337813105 Email: eebuildingwashuk@gmail.com

Executive Engineer (Building)
CWPP&H Department
District Washuk

DPRQ/PRQ No.2583/23-11-2026

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Daily 6AM, Quetta
Tuesday November 24, 2026

AMR awareness

It is an irony in the world of medicine that even as new treatments bring hope to millions of patients, some older therapies are rapidly losing their efficacy. This point merits serious reflection as we approach the end of World AMR Awareness Week 2026. Although primarily focused on the misuse of antibiotics, which kill bacteria, antimicrobial resistance also encompasses the immunity developed by fungi, viruses, and parasites in the body to standard drugs.

The 2026 theme for AMR Awareness Week — 'One health, one action: prevent AMR now' — widens the scope of the campaign by underlining the importance of collective efforts and shared responsibility in fighting a scourge that kills millions every year. An interconnected world — where the health of people, animals, and the environment is inextricably linked — demands as much.

The numbers are concerning. WHO says that over 4.7m annual deaths worldwide are associated with antibiotic resistance. The number of such deaths is projected to rise to 39m by 2050, with developing countries bearing the brunt. Official figures for Pakistan indicate that AMR contributes to around 200,000 deaths every year.

Given a fragile healthcare system, limited medical accountability, and few public health awareness drives, this number does not come as a surprise. Doctors routinely prescribe antibiotics even for viral ailments. There is also a tendency to self-medicate, and pharmacists often sell antibiotics that might not be needed at all. On the other hand, many of those who do need antibiotics may stop taking them midway through the course when their symptoms improve.

In this way, germs learn to withstand the onslaught of the very drugs intended to destroy them. The high incidence of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis and typhoid in the country bears alarming testimony to the fact. Sadly, official apathy reigns — public health authorities have not even focused on the prevention and control of infection, let alone regulating the use of medicine.

Clean surroundings, uncongested accommodation, safe drinking water, and regular vaccination have a direct bearing on people's health. To guard against a greater crisis and curb infection rates, Pakistan must ensure that appropriate drug usage goes hand in hand with preventive measures to reduce the need for medicines.

The ECO dream

Khurram Abbas

The 30th meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) Council of Ministers was held in Islamabad on November 15-16. The event offered a timely reminder of a regional bloc that remains rich in potential, yet under-realised. Convened under Pakistan's 2026-27 chairmanship with the theme "Reviving Regionalism for a Resilient ECO," the gathering brought together foreign ministers and senior diplomats from across the 10-nation bloc to adopt the Islamabad Communiqué and chart the road toward ECO Vision 2035.

While the diplomatic optics in the capital projected a renewed commitment to trade facilitation, transport connectivity, and energy security, the real test lies in whether member states can finally translate decades-old aspirations into tangible economic interdependence.

To understand the promise and pitfalls of this forum, one must look at its origins as the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD), founded in July 1964 by Pakistan, Iran and Turkiye. The RCD sought to leverage historical and cultural affinities for socioeconomic and infrastructural collaboration. However, hampered by limited economic complementarities and geopolitical shifts, most notably the 1979 Iranian Revolution, the RCD eventually became dormant.

It was revived as the ECO in 1985 and underwent a transformative expansion in 1992 with the inclusion of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and the five newly independent Central Asian Republics. In contemporary international relations, this bloc spanning over eight million square kilometres and home to nearly 500m people matters immensely as a Eurasian bridge. At a time when global supply chains are fragmenting and great-power rivalries are hardening, the ECO represents a vital non-Western platform capable of linking resource-rich Central Asia with the warm waters of the Arabian Sea and European markets via Turkiye.

The real test lies in whether members can translate aspirations into economic interdependence.

Despite operating in one of the world's most conflict-prone neighbourhoods, the ECO possesses compelling structural drivers for regional integration. First, the economic complementarity between its members creates a natural logic for cooperation. The hydrocarbon and mineral wealth of Central Asia and Iran pairs seamlessly with the industrial bases, agricultural output, and massive consumer markets of Pakistan and Turkiye. Furthermore, the landlocked geography of six of its 10 members makes regional connectivity not merely an economic preference, but an existential necessity for diversifying trade routes.

Second, regional integration within the ECO framework can serve as a stabilising buffer against geopolitical volatility. In a region marred by lingering sanctions on Iran, prolonged instability in Afghanistan, and shifting security dynamics in the South Caucasus, economic interdependence raises the cost of conflict and institutionalises dialogue. Projects such as the Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad (ITI) cargo corridor, the Ashgabat Agreement, and emerging joint border trade zones demonstrate that technical and commercial frameworks can survive political friction. By focusing on low-politics areas such as customs harmonisation under the ECO Trade Agreement, climate resilience, and tourism, the bloc allows neighbours, despite having strained ties, to compartmentalise security disputes while gradually building the physical and institutional infrastructure of peace.

For Pakistan, the ECO occupies an increasingly central place in its geo-economic and strategic calculations. With the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation effectively paralysed by New Delhi's political intransigence, Islamabad has deliberately pivoted westward and northward to avoid regional isolation. The ECO provides Pakistan with a natural diplomatic forum where it enjoys deep historical, cultural, and religious ties without the hegemonic friction that characterises South Asian politics. Being an active member of ECO, Islamabad is eager to position itself as the indispensable transit hub connecting landlocked Central Asia to global maritime trade through the ports of Karachi and Gwadar.

Beyond diplomatic utility, the ECO directly aligns with Pakistan's domestic economic imperatives, particularly energy security and trade diversification. Islamabad views regional energy initiatives such as the TAPI gas pipeline and the CASA-1000 power project as critical lifelines that can only succeed within a cooperative ECO ecosystem. Also, Islamabad believes that expanding preferential trade agreements with Central Asian states and Turkiye offers Pakistani exporters access to untapped markets, reducing Islamabad's over-reliance on traditional Western destinations.

Yet, any realistic assessment of the ECO's future must confront its most critical geographical and political bottleneck: Afghanistan. Positioned squarely at the crossroads of South and Central Asia, Afghanistan is the indispensable land bridge required to turn ECO's connectivity blueprints into reality. However, due to the presence of transnational terrorist groups like IS-K and TTP, chronic insecurity continues to deter international investors, inflates transit insurance costs, and stalls flagship projects such as the Trans-Afghan Railway and TAPI. Without verifiable counterterrorism guarantees and secure transit corridors across Afghan territory, the physical integration of Central Asia with Pakistani ports remains an aspiration rather than an actionable trade route.

Further, the absence of an inclusive governance structure that prevents Kabul from gaining formal international recognition creates operational, legal and technical impediments. Without recognising the Taliban's legitimacy in Kabul, it is difficult to standardise customs, enforce binding trade treaties, or unlock international financing needed for cross-border megaprojects.

The ECO dream cannot be realised if member states do not confront several difficult questions in the 19th ECO summit, to be held in Islamabad in 2027. How will ECO devise resilient financial and trade mechanisms to bypass or overcome the crippling impact of US sanctions on Iran, which routinely paralyses banking channels and stalls joint energy ventures? What viable security framework can be established with Kabul to neutralise terror threats when the interim administration remains diplomatically unrecognised and politically exclusive?

More critically, can ECO members muster the collective political will to forge a unified regional security architecture specifically tasked with protecting transnational pipelines, railways, and pow-er grids traversing insecure Afghan territory?

COP failure

Huma Yusuf

Overshoot. That's the word we'll now hear to gloss over the global collective failure to tackle climate change. No more talk of the climate apocalypse, not even of the emergency or breakdown. Instead we get three simple syllables, which in an age of hyper-masculinity, techno-determinism and intergalactic ambitions may even have a positive ring.

This is the outcome of the UN climate change conference, COP31, which was wrapping up this weekend in Turkiye. Overshoot is the term being used to accept, for the first time at a COP, that humanity has failed to stick to the 1.5-degree warming goal agreed in Paris in 2015. The first step to recovery is admitting you have a problem, but sadly this COP, with its resignation to the overshoot reality, is more likely the beginning of the end.

This COP's largest failure did not unfold in Antalya, but rather in Shenzhen, where the leaders of the world's superpowers met and agreed to ramp up oil production. There could be no greater slap in the face of the climate movement.

China's decision not to bid to host COP33 in 2028 was also a disappointment, denying the climate movement the strong leadership it needs. With its turbo-charged approach to electrification, China would have been the fillip needed. But Beijing has opted not to enter the fray of climate diplomacy, given that COP33 will be a stocktake moment following the publication of the latest climate reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. These reports will cover topics such as the causes of climate change, adaptation ideas and options to avoid worsening the situation, and hosting COP33 would be an implicit endorsement of the science, one Beijing is not willing to make. The fight against climate change will be fought by the people.

The fact that COP31 ran over because countries were disagreeing over whether to explicitly mention fossil fuels in the conference agreement is a sign of how dire the climate debate has become. Fossil fuel producers, led by Saudi Arabia, were pushing to remove mentions of oil, gas and coal (and the related requirements to transition away from these) in favour of fantasies of carbon capture and storage. Panama's environment minister hit a nerve when he decried fossil-fuel producing countries' and companies' efforts to hold the climate negotiations hostage, saying the world was in 'love with [its] kidnappers.' (This is an uncomfortable situation for Pakistan, as it juggles the reality of its climate vulnerability, its position as a leading voice among climate-affected developing countries, and its growing closeness and defence ties with the Kingdom.) Talk of climate justice was also muted. The adaptation fund generated paltry pledges, and there was intense lobbying, led by a few countries including Saudi Arabia and the Vatican, against maintaining a gender lens for conference commitments. This is another setback given how hard-won the acknowledgement was that climate change affects different groups differently, with the impact being significantly higher on women and marginalised and vulnerable communities. The overshoot will intensify challenges.

This bleak outcome is particularly upsetting because the emphasis on electrification for this COP under Turkiye's leadership was a positive step to tackling policy implementation challenges. A key priority was the 35-by-35 Global Electrification Pledge, which commits to increasing electricity's share of global final energy consumption to 35pc by 2035. This felt like a realistic goal given this year is the first time that renewable sources (solar) outstripped oil and gas to contribute the largest share of global energy.

Pakistan was ce--lebrated as a pos-ter child for this electrification ef--f-ort, given we have boosted the share of electricity generated from solar from one to 28pc between 2018 and 2025.

Problems & prescriptions

Umair Javed

The upward trajectory of the Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) reading, which clocked in at 110 in October 2026, is a frequent subject of debate among economic commentators. Some argue that it shows the currency is being 'artificially managed', as was the case in past such episodes which usually preceded painful adjustments. Others have pointed out that the REER is just one indicator among several to assess the position of an economy's health.

An excellent piece by Dr Ishrat Husain on these pages lays out the latter's position quite categorically: "REER has a legitimate but limited purpose. It measures changes in the nominal exchange rate adjusted for relative price movements against trading partners. But an index reading of 100, based on a selected base year, doesn't establish an optimal exchange rate. Nor does a deviation from 100 automatically signal overvaluation or undervaluation. REER says little about balance-of-payments sustainability, foreign exchange availability from non-trade sources or exporters' ability to compete through quality, technology, productivity, and delivery."

Knowledgeable experts will continue to weigh in on this issue, but it is worth looking at the exchange rate from the economy's current vantage point. A minor current account surplus, a primary (fiscal) surplus, monthly central bank purchases, not sales, of dollars from the open market, increasing reserves, and a very narrow spread between the interbank and open market rate suggest there is nothing immediately scandalous about the current rate.

The PKR's value is where it is because the inflow of dollars has been robust on account of some export growth plus significant remittance inflows, positive real interest rates, selective administrative checks on imports, and the dollar's own position against other currencies.

FDI's future looks uncertain under geopolitical fracturing and tariffs are loudly back on the menu.

Taking a slightly broader timeframe, what is also clear is that at its existing level of productivity the Pakistani economy's current rate of sustainable growth — ie growth that doesn't blow up the external sector and/or cause domestic inflation — is around 4pc. Of this, 2.5pc is attributable to natural population growth, and the remaining is what the economy contributes by way of actual productivity.

It is with this bleak baseline condition that many experts push for a gradual, enforced devaluation of the currency as a policy position. The argument here is that this downward flexibility is an important ingredient, among others, for export competitiveness. Given the government's stated position of catalysing export-led growth, enforced depreciation along with import liberalisation appears to be the logical path to take.

This prescription can be found with near-universal frequency in government documents, multilateral donor/lender documents, and in expert/technocratic commentary at any point over the last two decades. The fact that it is never acted upon in full is a political economy question. The government, in practice, prioritises some societal segments over others (importers over exporters), picks some objectives over others at different times (stabilisation versus growth), and chooses to inflict pain on some rather than others (who gets rents versus whose subsidies get taken away).

But there is another cloud looming on the horizon of this prescription. What if the country has missed the boat of beneficial global trade integration altogether?

The strategy of economic development of much of the Third World/Global South since the mid-20th century has gone through three phases: protectionist import-substituting industrialisation from the 1950s to the 1970s; structural adjustment and market-led liberalisation (starting in the 1980s); and dreams of integrating into global value chains (GVCs) through export-led strategies (from the 1990s onwards).

Pakistan repeatedly pays homage to the third approach, but success remains limited at best. It has achieved reasonable integration in textiles and a few other sectors, but has little else to boast about. The wide range of conflicts that characterise its political economy have constrained baseline productivity to such a large extent that the country possesses or makes little of note that the world wants. Its natural advantage in cheap labour has been undone by poor human capital formation and other burdens, such as its energy sector and struggles with political violence. As a result, its industrial base remains shallow and growth remains anaemic.

In the current moment, the prospects for favourable integration look even dimmer. If AI and robotics development continues at pace, the marginal cost of labour across the world will fall further. Why then would integrating Pakistan's cheap and mostly unskilled labour into any value chain, at any level of sophistication, make sense?

Bluntly put, where the world produces the things it consumes has already been decided to a very large extent. China is the factory of the world, and those economies functionally integrated with China's factors (its South-East Asian partners) have a future in global trade. The rest of the developing world mostly does not.

Simultaneously, we're witnessing increased insistence on new domestically oriented industrial policies, which prioritise re-industrialisation and on-shoring. FDI's future looks uncertain under geopolitical fracturing and tariffs are loudly back on the menu of policy options to protect industrial employment. This means that an emerging multipolar world order might see economic delinking rather than greater integration.

All of this is to say that while the benefits of export-led growth are well known, the world in which export-led growth is possible for Pakistan may no longer exist. If this admittedly pessimistic reading is correct.

The US & India

Touqir Hussain

A critical look at US-India relations is essential to understand US-Pakistan ties. It might help dispel a long-held public perception in Pakistan that US-India relations have somehow been a function of the ups and downs in US-Pakistan ties. And that in establishing the extraordinary relationship with India in the last couple of decades Washington has finally "chosen" India over Pakistan.

The foreign policy establishment acknowledges the cyclic nature of US-Pakistan relations. But uplifted by the recent fissures in US-India ties, charmed by President Trump's compliments, infused by an enduring faith in the US-Pakistan alliance, and confident of Pakistan's coveted geopolitical salience, it remains ever optimistic that Washington would come back, and relations would be rekindled to their "halcyon" days.

Both the public and official views need revision, based as they are on faulty assumptions that consider the two relationships as competitive and comparable. That is why one keeps hearing successive Pakistan leaders asking the US to treat the two countries equally, and arguing at home that Pakistan needs to keep a balance in relations with China and the US. This is an erroneous view.

Indians forget Washington's critical help in many areas.

The problem is Pakistan cannot wean itself away from the pride of having been a preferred ally of the US once upon a time. But this notion refers to a world of the Cold War days in which the US had a single interest in South Asia, which Pakistan was capable and India was unwilling to advance. That South Asia is no more.

There is a new world out there. Its complexity and disorder present a multiplicity of security and strategic challenges, its globalised economy offers exceptional opportunities, and its uncertainty compels countries to hedge, expand, and diversify their partnerships. In this world, India and Pakistan would both have roles for the US, though relations with Pakistan would be transactional and of limited bandwidth, and with India strategic and broad-based. These are two different relations, and neither derives from the strength or weakness of the other, or is based on "choosing" one over the other.

Coming to US-India ties, beneath the trade dispute and H1-B visa frictions US-India strategic cooperation and economic relations continue to thrive. There is substantial collaboration on defence production, space, AI, and maritime security.

In a recent piece, Sameer Lalwani of the Carnegie Endowment pointed out that trade rose to its highest level of $240 billion last year. And the new 10-year framework for the US-India Major Defence Partnership calls for advanced exercises and closer defence-industrial ties. Major US tech companies pledged nearly $68bn towards AI infrastructure investments in India last year. Micron, a leading semiconductor firm, opened its first assembly and test facility in India early this year. And recently Applied Materials and Lam Research announced investments in India's semiconductor industry.

Prime Minister Modi bruised President Trump's ego by not acknowledging his role in the 2025 India-Pakistan ceasefire. But this has not impacted the substance of relations. Trump has not reversed ties; he has simply put a brake on them.

As for tariffs, these have indeed caused strains but they are not India-specific; they are being applied across the board as Trump's economic instrument and geopolitical weapon. The reality is he would not allow countries to become economic competitors and geopolitical rivals with America's help and at its expense. US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Landau said in his speech at the Rai-sina Dialogue ear--ly this year that the US would not repeat mistakes made with China with India.

India was so pa---mpered by Pre--sident Biden and Trump in his first term that it came to have a sense of entitlement. Now it is complaining about losing its extra-special status.

Indians forget Washington's critical help in many areas. The US, for instance, has long supported Indian indigenous technology development. GE engines have been central to India's domestic fighter jet industry. India's first indigenous fighter aircraft Tejas relied on an F-16 testbed, and its development of a fifth-generation fighter relies on US wind tunnels.

From Pakistan's standpoint, what is im--p-ortant is that US-India differences have not impinged on India's importance for Wash-in--gton in the US-China strategic competition. And it will likely endure. Any occasi-o-nal adjustment in it will not bring dividends for US-Pakistan ties. We need to delink the two relationships in our analysis.

The bottom line: the US will continue to engage both India and Pakistan as there are no alternatives to each relationship. The alternative to India is India, and the alternative to Pakistan remains Pakistan.

Banks approve Rs560bn for affordable housing under Apna Ghar scheme: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday said banks had so far approved Rs560 billion in financing under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Apna Ghar Programme, describing the initiative as a major step towards making affordable housing accessible to ordinary Pakistanis, with around 19, 000 families having benefited from the scheme.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the achievement of Rs100 billion in disbursements under the Prime Minister's Apna Ghar Programme, the finance minister said around Rs112 billion had so far been disbursed, while the substantial amount approved by banks reflected the programme's potential to help thousands of families realise their dream of owning homes.

Aurangzeb said that while Pakistan was moving towards social stability under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, it was equally important to ensure that the benefits of economic progress reached ordinary Pakistanis and their families.

He said the government had made every effort to channel available financial resources into sectors that directly benefited the common man, with small and medium enterprises (SMEs), exports and targeted relief measures among its key priorities.

Referring to targeted subsidies introduced amid the ongoing conflict, he said relief had particularly been extended to motorcycles and small vehicles to support the middle class and relatively underprivileged segments of society.

Regarding the Apna Ghar Programme, the minister said banks' approval of Rs560 billion in financing was an important milestone, adding that thousands of allocation letters had already been issued to applicants seeking houses and apartments.

He expressed confidence that the programme would continue to expand, benefiting families across all provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, with both small towns and major cities included in its scope.

The finance minister commended the Ministry of Housing and Works, State Bank of Pakistan, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, Pakistan Banks Association and participating commercial banks for their contributions to the initiative.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presents shields to CEOs and senior management of commercial banks in recognition of their performance in loan disbursement for Prime Minister's Apna Ghar Programme.

Maritime Technical Institute to be established in Gwadar under Pak-China Cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry on Monday said that Pakistan-China cooperation will establish a new engineering and technology institute in Gwadar to train young people in specialised skills required by the port, shipping and maritime industries,

He was speaking at a pre-board meeting of the Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), where development projects and initiatives to strengthen technical education in the port city were reviewed.

Briefing the meeting, GPA Chairman Noorul Haq Baloch said the GPA, Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCTVI), University of Gwadar and China's Qingdao Harbour Vocational and Technical College had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish the Pakistan Overseas Engineering and Technology Institute in Gwadar.

Welcoming the initiative, Junaid Chaudhry said the agreement would lay the foundation for specialised maritime education, technical training and human resource development. He stressed that technical education should be aligned with the operational requirements of ports and the maritime industry.

Under the five-year cooperation framework (2026-2030), the partner institutions will collaborate on academic programmes, curriculum development, skills training, faculty development, joint research and practical learning.

The proposed curriculum will cover navigation technology, marine engineering, maritime safety, ship technology and port machinery to prepare students for the evolving needs of the shipping and maritime sectors.

The minister emphasised the importance of equipping young people in Gwadar and Balochistan with industry-relevant skills, saying technical education would improve employment prospects, support economic growth and develop a skilled workforce for emerging industries.

He described the MoU as an important milestone in Pakistan-China educational cooperation, saying it would strengthen institutional capacity, promote industry-oriented education and expand professional opportunities for local communities.

Junaid also expressed optimism that Shandong Port Group's involvement, in collaboration with the University of Gwadar, would strengthen industry-academia linkages by providing students with technical expertise and practical exposure.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships, Tican Express, Snarth and Pacific Star-1 carrying Container, Palm oil and LPG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal and Engro Vopak Terminal on Monday.

Meanwhile three more ships, Cetus Orca, Flim Inspire and Silver Gentrude scheduled to load/offload Rice, Wheat and Soya Bean Seed also arrived at outer anchorage during last 24 hours.

Ten ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, Tican Express, Northen Light and Pegasus-8 left the port on today morning.

Cargo volume of 115,212 tones comprising 108,956 tones imports cargo and 6,256 export cargo carried in 3,342 Containers (3,342 TEUs Imports & 0 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

Twenty ships at Outer Anchorage of the Port Qasim, out of them a liquid cargo carrier 'Al-Adailiah' & another ship 'Stamatis-B' carrying Gas oil and Container are expected to take berths FOTCO and QICT respectively on Monday.

Federal Minister inaugurates FoodAg Pakistan 2026

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, and Uganda's Minister of State, Desire Muhooza on Monday inaugurated the 4th International Food & Agro Exhibition, FoodAg Pakistan 2026, at the Expo Centre Karachi.

The ceremony was attended by dignitaries, international delegates, senior government officials, representatives of regulatory authorities and members of the business community.

Organized by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), the four-day exhibition is being held from 23 to 26 November 2026 and brings together 400 Pakistani exhibitors and 850 international delegates from 72 countries.

Participating sectors include rice; fruits and vegetables, fruit pulp and beverages; meat, poultry, dairy and fisheries; seafood; processed foods, including biscuits, confectionery, sweets, pasta, snacks, ketchups, sauces and jams; cereals, spices and salt; honey and food ingredients; and food-related services.

On the opening day, 2, 000 B2B meetings were held between Pakistani exhibitors and international buyers, covering sourcing requirements, product specifications and potential commercial partnerships. Follow-up meetings have been scheduled for the remaining days of the exhibition to take these discussions forward.

In parallel, a series of bilateral meetings were held today on the sidelines of the exhibition with delegations from Malaysia, Brazil, Uzbekistan and The Gambia, alongside relevant Pakistani government institutions, including TDAP, the Pakistan Halal Authority (PHA), NAFSA and the Department of Plant Protection (DPP).

The meetings focused on halal certification and mutual recognition, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) requirements.

China, Pakistan to establish Joint Research Center for high water-efficiency

ISLAMABAD (INP): Gansu Academy of Agricultural Sciences (GAAS), Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) and five universities in Punjab Province have reached an agreement to jointly establish the China-Pakistan Joint Research Center for High Water-Efficiency Agriculture.

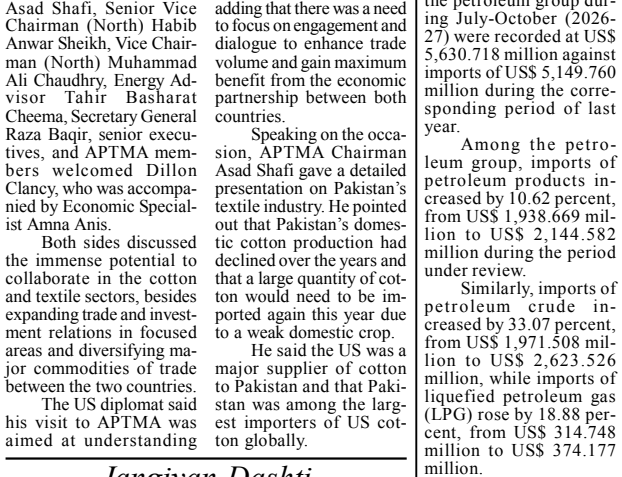
It aimed at strengthening bilateral agricultural science and technology cooperation and promote sustainable agricultural development in arid regions, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday.

The center will focus on key technologies such as mulched drip irrigation, efficient water utilization, cereal-legume intercropping and high-yield cultivation in arid areas.

The partners plan to conduct joint field experiments and technology demonstrations, share research data and technical expertise, and establish bilateral demonstration bases.

The cooperation will also promote academic and personnel exchanges through expert visits, technical training, field observations, joint master's and doctoral student training, and academic seminars, helping strengthen research capacity and facilitate knowledge sharing between the two sides.

Under a two-tier coordination mechanism, PHEC and GAAS will be responsible for policy support, resource coordination and administrative facilitation, while GAAS and the five Pakistani partner universities will undertake the center's construction, operation and research activities.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and Uganda's Minister of State for Agriculture Desire Muhooza cut the ribbon to inaugurate FoodAg Pakistan 2026 at the Karachi Expo Centre, accompanied by Federal Minister for the Board of Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh.

US consulate, APTMA discuss ways to boost bilateral textile trade

LAHORE (APP): The US Consulate General Lahore's Political and Economic Chief, Dillon Clancy, and the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) on Monday discussed ways and means to foster bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and the United States.

APTMA Chairman Asad Shafi, Senior Vice Chairman (North) Habib Anwar Sheikh, Vice Chairman (North) Muhammad Ali Chaudhry, Energy Advisor Tahir Basharat Cheema, Secretary General Raza Baqir, senior executives, and APTMA members welcomed Dillon Clancy, who was accompanied by Economic Specialist Amna Anis.

Both sides discussed the immense potential to collaborate in the cotton and textile sectors, besides expanding trade and investment relations in focused areas and diversifying major commodities of trade between the two countries.

The US diplomat said his visit to APTMA was aimed at understanding Pakistan's textile industry and exploring the substantial potential to expand economic and trade relations between Pakistan and the US. He appreciated Pakistan's textile industry for adhering to global compliance standards.

Dillon Clancy said Pakistan had strong potential to grow in textile apparel and other sectors, adding that there was a need to focus on engagement and dialogue to enhance trade volume and gain maximum benefit from the economic partnership between both countries.

Speaking on the occasion, APTMA Chairman Asad Shafi gave a detailed presentation on Pakistan's textile industry. He pointed out that Pakistan's domestic cotton production had declined over the years and that a large quantity of cotton would need to be imported again this year due to a weak domestic crop.

He said the US was a major supplier of cotton to Pakistan and that Pakistan was among the largest importers of US cotton globally.

POL imports rise 9.34% to US$ 5.63b in July-October

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of the overall petroleum group increased by 9.34 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year (2026-27), as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The total imports of the petroleum group during July-October (2026-27) were recorded at US$ 5,630.718 million against imports of US$ 5,149.760 million during the corresponding period of last year.

Among the petroleum group, imports of petroleum products increased by 10.62 percent, from US$ 1,938.669 million to US$ 2,144.582 million during the period under review.

Similarly, imports of petroleum crude increased by 33.07 percent, from US$ 1,971.508 million to US$ 2,623.526 million, while imports of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) rose by 18.88 percent, from US$ 314.748 million to US$ 374.177 million.

However, imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) declined by 47.19 percent, from US$ 924.760 million to US$ 488.358 million.

On a year-on-year basis, petroleum group imports increased by 17.14 percent to US$ 1,610.346 million in October, against US$ 1,374.725 million in October 2025.

On a month-on-month basis, the imports also increased by 26.84 percent compared to imports of US$ 1,269.586 million in September.

NEEM secures investment from ADB ventures to help expand digital payments

ISLAMABAD (APP): Neem, a Pakistan-based B2B fintech company, that helps businesses receive, manage, and pay out money digitally, has secured an investment from ADB Ventures, the venture capital arm of the ADB.

The seed investment will support Neem's product development, help expand its team, and accelerate the onboarding of enterprise and merchant clients across Pakistan, said ADB press release here Monday.

It said, Pakistan had made strong progress in digitizing consumer payments, with the State Bank of Pakistan's instant payment system, Raast, and mobile wallets bringing millions of people onto digital rails. Business payments, however, have not kept pace.

Quoting State Bank of Pakistan, it said, an estimated 71% of retail transaction value is still settled in cash, and companies looking to go digital must integrate separately with banks, wallets, payroll providers, and reconciliation tools, a process that can be slow, costly, and hard to scale.

Neem aims to close this gap by giving businesses a single platform to manage how money comes in, how it is tracked, and how it is paid out. Its API-first system combines collections, disbursements, a programmable ledger, and finance workflows, and connects directly with a company's existing operating systems to automate settlement and reconciliation in real time.

Neem currently serves more than 70 enterprise clients across logistics, utilities, insurance, manufacturing, and retail.

"Pakistan is laying a strong foundation for digital payments, and the next step is ensuring that businesses of all sizes can fully benefit from this progress," said Emma Fan, ADB Country Director for Pakistan.

"Neem is helping enterprises move away from cash and fragmented systems toward payment solutions that are faster, more transparent, and easier to manage," Emma Fan added.

The impact extends well beyond the enterprises Neem serves directly. As businesses digitize their payments, the suppliers, small merchants, and gig workers they pay are brought into the formal financial system.

Neem's solutions are built to meet the payment needs of businesses of every size.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, meets a high-level Syngenta delegation to discuss cooperation in agricultural biotechnology, advanced seed technologies, and enhanced crop productivity.

Jangiyan Dashti

Study visits help women connect with business world

SBK Women's University students visit Quetta Chamber, learn about trade and business opportunities; support pledged for women's economic empowerment

QUETTA (UNA): Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vice President Jangiyan Dashti has said that educational visits play an important role in connecting young people, particularly women, with professional life and the business world.

He emphasized the need to strengthen cooperation between educational institutions and the business community to promote women's entrepreneurial skills and economic independence.

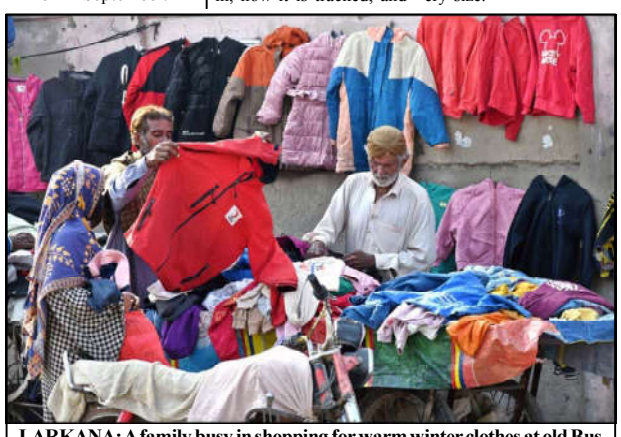
Dashti made these remarks during a study visit by students of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University to the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The visit was organized by the university in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to develop leadership and entrepreneurial skills among young people, particularly women.

He said such visits provide students with practical exposure to business operations, commercial activities and economic opportunities while building their confidence and interest in entrepreneurship.

During the visit, students were briefed on the chamber's services, the business environment, domestic and regional trade, and various commercial activities.

The students appreciated the initiative, saying they gained valuable insights into Balochistan's trade with neighboring countries and other Pakistani provinces, trade volumes, business challenges and emerging commercial opportunities.

They said the visit helped them better understand the business environment and explore opportunities for future economic participation.



LARKANA: A family busy in shopping for warm winter clothes at old Bus Stand Road.

Gold prices surge by Rs7,800 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The prices of gold witnessed a significant increase in the local market on Monday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola rising by Rs7,800 to settle at Rs384,136, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold increased by Rs6,687 to Rs329,334, while 10 grams of 22-karat gold rose by Rs6,130 to Rs301,900.

In the international market, the price of gold increased by $78 to $3,616 per ounce, the association reported. Meanwhile, the price of silver per tola increased by Rs135 to Rs4,735, while the price of 10 grams of silver rose by Rs116 to Rs4,059. The price of silver in the international market also increased by $1.35 to $42.57 per ounce, the association added.

Pakistan invites Portuguese investors to tap into $40b investment opportunities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) of Pakistan and Portugal's Agency for Investment and Foreign Trade (AICEP) recently convened a high-profile Pakistan-Portugal Business and Investment Forum, marking a significant step toward enhancing bilateral trade and investment cooperation between the two nations.

The forum served as a platform to invite Portuguese investors to explore promising investment projects worth $40 billion across diverse sectors of Pakistan's economy.

Addressing the inaugural session, Dr.Erfa Iqbal, Additional Secretary (Country Wing) of SIFC, emphasized the enormous potential for investment and trade between Pakistan and Portugal.

She highlighted sectors such as textiles and cotton, information technology, aerospace, defence, manufacturing, electric vehicles, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, agriculture, and food processing as key areas ripe for collaboration.

Dr. Erfa underlined that Pakistan has a pipeline of projects valued at $22 billion in sectors including industry and production, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals and healthcare, mining, ports and maritime, tourism, oil and gas, power, food security, and agriculture. Despite this, the existing bilateral trade volume of approximately $250 million remains significantly below the untapped potential, signaling vast opportunities for expansion.

The SIFC invited Portuguese investors to leverage Pakistan's attractive investment environment by engaging through various mechanisms such as joint ventures, public sector organizations, potential investment fund structures, and direct investment opportunities. The focus is on fostering mutually beneficial partnerships that can drive industrial development, technology transfer, and export growth.

Dr. Erfa emphasized that strengthening cooperation between Pakistan and Portugal is expected to diversify economic engagement and promote industrial collaboration, creating sustainable commercial linkages that benefit both countries.

This strategic alliance aligns with the shared interest to transform trade potential into actionable outcomes that support long-term economic growth.

Representing Portugal, Mr. Bruno Paed Moreira, Executive Member of the Board at AICEP, expressed optimism about the growing economic ties.

Public engagement, collective efforts for development to continue: Noor Dummar

Several JUI-F members join provincial minister's political group with families and supporters at Sanjavi gathering; political and tribal elders attend

SANJAVI (6 AM Report): Provincial Minister for Community Management Department (CMD) and Chairman Balochistan Food Authority Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dummar has said that public engagement, mutual consultation and collective efforts for regional development will continue, emphasizing the importance of cooperation in addressing local issues.

Addressing a political joining ceremony in Killi Batte Ter, Sanjavi, the provincial minister said the inclusion of new supporters would strengthen political and public connections and promote collective efforts for the area's development.

During the gathering, several individuals associated with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) announced their decision to join Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dummar's political group along with their families and supporters.

Among those joining were Malik Aqal Shah Bazai, President of the Bazai Youth Organization, under the leadership of Haji Muhammad Salman, along with Haji Taj Muhammad, Mian Khan, Kismatullah, Muhammad Azam, Muhammad Ali, Mir Hamza, Saifullah, Kaleemullah, Shamsullah, Ikramullah and several others.

The ceremony was attended by prominent political and tribal figures, including Malik Lajwar Khan Dummar, Municipal Committee Sanjavi Chairman Haji Khan Muhammad Dummar, Union Council Kazha Chairman Haji Nasruddin Tareen, Union Council Baghaw Chairman Nizamuddin Dummar, Deputy Chairman Dunya Khan Bacha Andar, and other local representatives, religious scholars and community elders.

Welcoming the new members, Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dummar thanked them for expressing confidence in his leadership and reaffirmed his commitment to maintaining close contact with residents and addressing their concerns through consultation.



SANJAVI: Provincial Minister for Commodity Management and Chairman Balochistan Food Authority in a group photo with those who joined party.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Haji Muhammad Khan Lehri and MPA Zamrak Khan Achakzai meeting with Provincial Minister for Health Bakht Muhammad Kakar.

Modern technology to improve public services, road safety: DIG Quresh

QUETTA (ANN): National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) West Zone Deputy Inspector General Dr. Quresh Khan has said that modern technology will be utilized to improve public services, strengthen road safety and ensure greater transparency and efficiency in administrative operations.

He made these remarks while inaugurating a Public Service Vehicles Management Information System (PSVMIS) point in Quetta, describing the initiative as an important step toward modernizing public service delivery.

Dr. Quresh Khan said the new system aimed to facilitate citizens and passengers, streamline relevant services and improve administrative performance through digital technology.

He emphasized that technology-based solutions could enhance institutional efficiency, ensure timely service delivery and promote transparency in official procedures.

The DIG said the NHMP remained committed to providing quality services, promoting safer travel on national highways and improving facilities for motorists and passengers.

He described the establishment of the PSVMIS point as part of the department's efforts to adopt modern technology and strengthen its public-oriented services.

Dr. Quresh Khan directed concerned officers and staff to perform their duties professionally, provide necessary guidance to citizens and ensure efficient service delivery.

He reaffirmed that the NHMP would continue introducing technology-driven improvements to strengthen public services, administrative efficiency and road safety across its jurisdiction.

Ensure immediate wheat procurement, affordable flour supply: PkNAP

QUETTA (ANN): The Pakhtunkhwa National Awami Party (PkNAP) has expressed serious concern over the reported absence of government wheat reserves and rising flour prices in Balochistan, urging the provincial government to immediately procure wheat from the Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation (PASCO) to prevent a potential food shortage.

In a statement issued by its provincial secretariat, the party warned that delays in wheat procurement could worsen flour shortages and prices over the next three to four months, before the arrival of the new crop.

The party criticized what it described as inadequate planning and delayed government decisions, saying the absence of wheat reserves could disrupt flour mill operations, reduce market supplies and place additional financial pressure on low-income families, laborers and daily-wage workers.

PkNAP questioned why wheat procurement had not been completed despite an allocation of Rs5.75 billion for the Food Department during the current financial year.

According to the statement, a procurement summary had reportedly been forwarded to the chief minister for approval, but the purchasing process remained incomplete.

Ensure basic facilities for prisoners, resolve jail issues promptly: Ombudsman

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Provincial Ombudsman Balochistan Saadatullah Khan Bazai has directed concerned authorities to ensure essential facilities for prisoners and take effective measures to address sanitation, overcrowding and administrative problems at Quetta Central Jail.

On his special instructions, a team comprising directors and other officials of the Provincial Ombudsman Secretariat conducted a surprise inspection of the prison to assess inmates' living conditions and available facilities.

The delegation inspected various prison wards, sections for female and juvenile inmates, the hospital, dental clinic, mini laboratory, kitchen, library and other facilities.

During the visit, officials met prisoners and jail staff, heard their complaints and issued necessary instructions on matters requiring immediate attention.

The inspection identified several concerns, including the unavailability of hot water for ablution during Fajr prayers, inadequate sanitation, overcrowding and electricity supply problems.

The delegation directed the jail superintendent to take practical steps to improve hygiene, ensure access to hot water and other basic necessities, and coordinate with relevant authorities to resolve electricity and administrative issues. The team also reviewed rehabilitation and educational facilities, appreciating the handicraft and vocational training center for female prisoners, computer and fine arts classes for juvenile inmates, the library and the futsal ground.

Officials described these initiatives as positive contributions to prisoners' education, rehabilitation and social reintegration.

The delegation further emphasized strengthening measures against drug use within the prison and improving programs aimed at inmates' welfare and rehabilitation.

Intensify crackdown on criminals, armed groups, drug dealers: DIG Sohail

KILLA ABDULLAH (6 AM Report): DIG Zhob Range Sohail Khalid has directed police to intensify the crackdown on criminal elements, illegal armed groups and drug dealers in Killa Abdullah, emphasizing that maintaining law and order, restoring the writ of the state and protecting citizens' lives and property remain top priorities.

Chairing a high-level security meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Killa Abdullah, he stressed that action against lawbreakers must be taken without discrimination or regard for political influence, recommendations or external pressure.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Killa Abdullah Munawar Hussain Magsi, District Police Officer Khalil Ahmed Bugti, SDPOs, SHOs and other concerned security officials. Participants reviewed the district's overall law and order situation, ongoing operations against criminal networks and progress made in police enforcement activities.

DIG Sohail Khalid directed police officials to adopt a coordinated strategy against criminal organizations, illegal armed groups and individuals involved in drug trafficking, ensuring that those responsible for unlawful activities are brought to justice. He ordered intensified police patrols, snap checking, security checkpoints and intelligence-based operations across the district to prevent criminal activities and respond promptly to potential security threats.

Prompt resolution of public issues, basic facilities top priority: DC Quddus

ZIARAT (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Ziarat Abdul Quddus Achakzai has said that the prompt resolution of public grievances and provision of basic facilities remain the district administration's top priorities, directing concerned departments to address citizens' complaints transparently and on merit.

He made these remarks while hearing complaints from residents of different areas of Ziarat at his office. Citizens presented individual and collective grievances and submitted applications concerning various public issues.

The deputy commissioner listened to their concerns and instructed relevant officials to take immediate action on legitimate complaints, ensuring that all applications are processed fairly and without unnecessary delays.

Abdul Quddus Achakzai emphasized that public service, transparency and timely grievance redressal are fundamental responsibilities of government departments. He assured citizens that the district administration would utilize available resources to improve essential services and address public concerns.

He further said that his office remained accessible to the public and encouraged residents to approach the administration without hesitation regarding their problems.

Teacher absenteeism, poor teaching performance will not be tolerated: DEO

CHAMAN (6 AM Report): District Education Officer (DEO) Chaman Ashok Kumar Rajput has warned that teacher absenteeism, negligence and poor teaching performance will not be tolerated in government schools, emphasizing that discipline, regular attendance and quality education remain the Education Department's top priorities.

During a surprise inspection of Government Boys High School Mahmoodabad, the DEO found two teachers absent without justification and issued show-cause notices, directing them to submit written explanations within three days.

Headmaster Asadullah accompanied the DEO during the inspection and briefed him on the school's academic activities and facilities.

Rajput examined attendance registers and relevant records before visiting classrooms to assess teaching standards and ongoing educational activities. Finding the teaching process unsatisfactory, he ordered a formal inquiry into the school's academic performance.

NAB Balochistan to hold open court on Nov 26 for corruption complaints

QUETTA (6 AM Report): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan has announced an open court on Thursday, November 26, 2026, to receive public complaints concerning major financial corruption cases falling within its legal jurisdiction.

According to an official notification, Director General NAB Balochistan will personally hear complaints from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the NAB Regional Office on Shahrah-e-Gulistan, Quetta Cantonment.

The open court is being organized under the NAB chairman's directives, which require public complaint hearings on the last Thursday of every month.

NAB has directed complainants to submit written applications containing their full name, father's name, a copy of their Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC), complete residential address, signature or thumb impression, and contact number or email address.

The bureau clarified that anonymous or fictitious complaints would not be entertained. Only verified complaints falling within NAB's legal jurisdiction will be considered, and applicants will be required to submit an affidavit on stamp paper before their complaints are processed.

Citizens may submit complaints in person or by post to NAB Balochistan's Regional Office at Shahrah-e-Gulistan, Quetta Cantonment, or email them to balochistan@nab.gov.pk.

Applications can also be submitted at the NAB Complaint Office located at the Deputy Commissioner's Office on Anscomb Road, Quetta.

For further information and assistance, citizens may contact NAB Balochistan's complaint office at 081-9203614 or 081-9203468.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Haji Abdul Majeed Badini and MPA Mir Ubaidullah Gorgage during a meeting with Provincial Minister Sardar Kohiyar Khan Domki after conclusion of BA session.

Convince reluctant parents, ensure polio vaccination of every child: DC Quetta

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini has directed concerned authorities to intensify efforts to convince parents refusing polio vaccination and ensure that no child remains deprived of essential immunization.

Chairing a meeting to review preparations for an extended polio vaccination campaign targeting children whose parents have persistently refused vaccination, he emphasized coordinated efforts among the district administration, Health Department and polio eradication teams.

Officials from the Health Department and polio program attended the meeting and briefed participants on campaign preparations, vaccination challenges and proposed strategies to address cases classified as hard refusals.

The meeting decided that assistant commissioners and magistrates would actively perform field duties during the extended campaign, working closely with health officials and vaccination teams to engage reluctant parents and encourage them to vaccinate their children.

Mehrullah Badini said polio eradication was a national responsibility requiring effective coordination, public cooperation and sustained efforts from all concerned institutions.

He directed officials to prioritize reaching unvaccinated children, addressing parental concerns and strengthening community engagement to improve vaccination coverage.

Providing free veterinary services at livestock farmers' doorsteps our priority: Dr. Sabir

GWADAR (6 AM Report): District Livestock Officer Gwadar Dr. Sabir Ali has said that providing free veterinary services to livestock farmers in remote and rural areas remains a priority of the Livestock Department, emphasizing the need to protect animal health, prevent infectious diseases and strengthen the livelihoods of farming communities.

Under his supervision, a Livestock Department team led by Dr. Barkat organized a free mobile veterinary camp in Talafi and surrounding areas of Gwadar, where hundreds of animals received medical examinations, treatment and preventive vaccinations against infectious diseases.

Equip youth with modern IT skills to create employment opportunities: DC Quetta

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini has emphasized the need to equip young people with modern information technology skills to create sustainable employment opportunities and promote economic independence.

Chairing a meeting on the proposed IT Hub project, he said the initiative would help develop young people's professional capabilities, encourage freelancing and enable them to participate in the growing digital economy.

The meeting was attended by the Director IT, Assistant Commissioner City Ameer Hamza and an IT Officer.

Officials briefed the deputy commissioner on the project's proposed training programs, covering digital marketing, e-commerce, freelancing, advanced IT skills and emerging technologies.

The meeting also discussed strategies to expand employment opportunities, strengthen digital entrepreneurship and increase youth participation in technology-driven economic activities.

Mehrullah Badini said information technology was becoming increasingly important in the modern economy, making practical digital training essential for improving young people's employment prospects.

He emphasized that the IT Hub should focus on developing market-relevant skills to help young people pursue freelancing, entrepreneurship and other professional opportunities. The deputy commissioner directed concerned officials to ensure effective implementation of the project and make training programs practical and results-oriented, enabling more young people across Balochistan to acquire modern digital skills and access dignified employment opportunities.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini presides over the meeting regarding establishment of IT Hub and Digital skills.

AC Chaman Aida Gill, husband seriously injured in road accident, shifted to Quetta

CHAMAN (ANN): Newly appointed Assistant Commissioner Chaman Aida Judith Gill and her husband sustained serious injuries when their vehicle plunged into a ravine on the Quetta-Chaman Highway near Zhara Band in the Khojak Pass area.

According to police officials, the assistant commissioner was traveling from Chaman to Quetta with her husband when their vehicle reportedly went out of control due to excessive speed and fell into a ravine.

Both Aida Gill and her husband suffered serious injuries.

No further delay in Talli-Sibi road rehabilitation: DC Sibi

SIBI (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Sibi Major (Retd.) Ilyas Kibzai has warned that further delays in the rehabilitation of the deteriorating Talli-Sibi Road will not be tolerated, directing concerned authorities to expedite work and ensure the timely completion of development projects across the district.

Chairing a review meeting attended by the Deputy Project Director of Talli-Sibi Road and officials of relevant departments, the deputy commissioner expressed concern over repeated public complaints about the road's poor condition and the difficulties faced by commuters.

During the meeting, the Deputy Project Director informed participants that partial funding for the road rehabilitation project had been released, while the remaining funds were expected to be provided next week.

He assured the meeting that rehabilitation work would be accelerated during the first week of December, with machinery expected to begin operations at the project site. The meeting also reviewed progress on other development schemes in Sibi, including funding arrangements, construction activities, implementation challenges and the pace of ongoing work.

No compromise on public safety, strengthen security measures: DC Chaman

CHAMAN (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Chaman Habib Ahmed Bangulzai has declared that no compromise will be made on maintaining law and order, preventing crime and protecting citizens' lives and property, directing district authorities and police to further strengthen security measures across the district.

He issued directives to Assistant Commissioner Sadar Ms. Aida Judith Gill, Assistant Commissioner City Azizullah Khan Kakar, SP Chaman and DSP Chaman to ensure coordinated security operations and maintain close cooperation between the district administration and law enforcement agencies.

The deputy commissioner ordered intensified snap checking, regular police patrols and surprise checkpoints at the city's entry and exit points, sensitive locations and major roads to prevent criminal activities and maintain public safety.

He directed security personnel to conduct thorough checks of suspicious individuals, vehicles and motorcyclists, including necessary questioning and verification of identity documents.

Fully support BUJ's charter of demands for journalists' rights, press freedom: Dawood Shah

QUETTA (PR): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Balochistan President Dawood Shah Kakar has announced full support for the Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) Charter of Demands, emphasizing that press freedom is a cornerstone of democracy and suppressing journalists' voices amounts to silencing the public.

According to a statement issued by the PTI Balochistan provincial secretariat, a delegation led by PTI Quetta Division President Zain-ul-Abideen Khan Khilji visited the journalists' protest camp outside the Quetta Press Club on the provincial president's instructions and conveyed his message of solidarity.

The delegation condemned the alleged restrictions on press freedom, forced layoffs of journalists and media workers, closure of media organizations' bureau offices and violations of workers' rights.

Dawood Shah Kakar called for an immediate end to unlawful dismissals, timely payment of journalists' outstanding dues and necessary amendments to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) in consultation with representative journalist organizations.

He also demanded the withdrawal of allegedly baseless cases against media houses and effective measures to protect journalists from threats, harassment and restrictions on freedom of expression.

President, PM welcome Portugal's support for Pakistan's GSP+ status and regional peace mediation role

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday welcomed Portugal's continued support for the country's GSP+ status and its role in promoting regional peace.

Portugal's Minister of State and Foreign Affairs Paulo Rangel, on an official visit to Pakistan from November 22 to 23, met with the president in Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad today. The Portuguese minister also separately held a meeting with PM Shehbaz.

According to the president's secretariat, the president appreciated Portugal's support for Pakistan's GSP+ status and sought continued cooperation for the welfare, integration, consular access and protection of the rights of the Pakistani community in Portugal. Describing Portugal as an important partner within the European Union, President Zardari highlighted considerable opportunities for expanding bilateral cooperation beyond traditional textiles. The president identified opportunities in agriculture, processed foods, pharmaceuticals, engineering, sports goods and IT services.

He also proposed establishing a Pakistan-Portugal Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment to address trade barriers, identify opportunities and facilitate commercial cooperation. The president also stressed the importance of collaboration between the two countries in education, research, technology and sports, including university partnerships, faculty and student exchanges, and cooperation between technology institutions and incubators.

"He welcomed the partnership between FC Porto and Sialkot Football Academy and encouraged further exchanges in coaching, youth tournaments and training programmes," the statement issued by the secretariat read. It further underscored that the president expressed hope for the early finalisation of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding on agricultural cooperation and the establishment of a bilateral technical working group.

Furthermore, President Zardari congratulated Portugal on its election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the term commencing January 1, 2027, during the meeting and wished it a successful tenure.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority, Zia Hussain Shah Pose for group photograph with foreign Ambassadors and observers during IAEA Annual Meeting of the International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres (NSSC Network).



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Mr. Paulo Rangel, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Ayaz calls for collective action, effective implementation of child protection laws

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has called for collective national efforts, effective implementation of existing legislation and stronger institutional mechanisms to ensure the safety, protection and welfare of children across Pakistan.

He expressed these views while addressing the National Seminar on Child Safety, titled "Strengthening the Legal Framework for Child Protection in Pakistan, " as chief guest at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS). The seminar was organised by the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights (PCCR) of the National Assembly, under the Convenorship of Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan, MNA, in collaboration with Save the Children.

In his keynote address, Ayaz Sadiq underscored that the protection, welfare and rights of children constitute a collective national responsibility.

Highlighting disparities in access to education, nutrition, healthcare and essential facilities, he stressed that every child, irrespective of background or geographical location, deserves a safe environment and protection from all forms of abuse and exploitation. He emphasised the role of parents and educational institutions in imparting moral values, civic sense and ethical responsibilities alongside formal education.

The Speaker also highlighted the contributions of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, SDGs Secretariat, Young Parliamentarians Forum and PCCR in advancing parliamentary engagement and coordination with provincial legislatures.

He expressed confidence that the seminar would contribute towards meaningful legislative reforms and practical measures for safeguarding children's future.

Security official martyred in attack at toll plaza on Kohat Indus Highway

KOHAT (APP): A security official identified as Obaidullah , on Monday was martyred in an attack at a toll plaza on the Kohat Indus Highway, according to local reports. The incident occurred at the toll plaza along the Kohat section of the Indus Highway, resulting in the martyrdom of security personnel Obaidullah.

Three bullet riddled bodies found in Bannu

BANNU (INP): Three bullet-riddled bodies found in tehsil Domel of Bannu district, police said on Monday.

"Three bullet-riddled dead bodies found at company road in Domel police station jurisdiction," officials said.

The slain persons included two brothers named as Abdul Razzaq and Sajid alias Jeeda, sons of Rahamzada, while the third deceased identified as Adil Nawaz, a native of Lakki Marwat, a guest of the two deceased brothers.

Three men were allegedly killed in a firing incident.

After the incident police reached to the crime scene and shifted the bodies to hospital for post-mortem and other medical formalities. Police has registered triple murder case on the complaint of a brother of two deceased and initiated investigation.

Pakistan offers nuclear security expertise, training support to IAEA member states: PNRA Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA), Zia Hussain Shah on Monday said Pakistan is offering its expertise and training capabilities to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) member states to strengthen nuclear security frameworks, particularly in countries embarking on peaceful nuclear energy programmes.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 2026 Annual Meeting of the International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres (NSSC Network) here, he said Pakistan had developed strong indigenous capabilities in nuclear safety and security through an independent regulatory framework, skilled human resources and state-of-the-art training facilities.

He explained that an independent regulatory body required three essential components, including a strong legal mandate, competent human resources and adequate institutional resources.

He said PNRA is legally empowered to regulate all aspects of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including nuclear power generation, medicine, agriculture, research and industry. Highlighting the importance of professional expertise, he said Pakistan benefited from the Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS), which produced highly qualified graduates in nuclear safety, security and related disciplines.

These professionals were recruited by regulatory bodies, licensees and technical support organizations, while PNRA also directly inducted graduates and provided them with specialized training.

Atta Tarar calls

Apna Ghar Scheme practical manifestation of PM's vision for public welfare

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Monday highlighted the successful disbursement of loans worth more than Rs 100 billion under the Apna Ghar Scheme which is a practical manifestation of the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for public welfare.

Addressing a ceremony held here at the Jinnah Convention Centre to mark the milestone of massive loans disbursement under the Prime Minister Apna Ghar Scheme, Tarar said disbursement of loans worth over Rs 100 billion is an outcome of effective policy framework which was worked out in consultation with all stakeholders.

With public welfare as a prime objective of the programme, he said, the prime minister has chaired numerous meetings for the success of the programme.

"People from across Pakistan are present at the ceremony today, who have fulfilled their dream of owning a home under the Prime Minister Apna Ghar Scheme," he remarked.

Citing a common perception in the country that says "a man builds a house while a woman turns it into a home," the minister noted the presence of women in the hall that have not only built their houses but also given them the status of a home.

Shahida Rauf, Ume- Kulsoom elected chairpersons of BA standing committees

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Members of the Balochistan Provincial Assembly Shahida Rauf and Umm Kulsoom have been elected chairpersons of two standing committees, according to separate notifications issued by the Provincial Assembly Secretariat.

Shahida Rauf has been elected Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Planning and Development, while Umm Kulsoom will head the Standing Committee on Irrigation, Energy, Environment, Forests and Wildlife.

The Balochistan Assembly Secretariat has formally notified both appointments through separate official notifications.

Korea–Pakistan collaboration launched to strengthen world heritage conservation in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and the Republic of Korea have launched a joint initiative to strengthen the country's capacity for the conservation and management of World Heritage Sites, marking a new phase of bilateral cooperation in cultural heritage preservation. Under the initiative, the Department of Archaeology and Museums (DOAM), Ministry of National Heritage & Culture, in collaboration with the Korea Heritage Agency (KHA), commenced a four-day Capacity Building Programme for the Conservation and Management of World Heritage in Pakistan, running from November 23-26. The opening ceremony was attended by Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan, Han Sung-ho, and Secretary, Ministry of National Heritage & Culture, Asad Rehman Gilani, along with federal and provincial government representatives, international experts and other stakeholders.

The programme aims to enhance Pakistan's institutional, technical and professional capabilities in safeguarding its World Heritage properties through international expertise, knowledge-sharing and improved coordination among relevant institutions. A key feature of the opening day was a Town Hall Meeting, bringing together federal and provincial representatives, international experts and stakeholders to review the existing conservation and management framework for Pakistan's World Heritage properties and discuss challenges and priorities for their effective protection.

Over the next three days, participants will attend specialised lectures, technical discussions and practical training sessions conducted by three international experts.

The sessions will cover the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), management planning, conservation methodologies and threat analysis.

CM expresses grief over death of journalist Hammadullah's uncle

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of the uncle of young Quetta-based journalist Hammadullah, extending heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved family.

In a condolence statement, the chief minister said he shared the grief of journalist Hammadullah and his family during this difficult time.

He prayed to Almighty Allah to forgive the deceased, elevate his ranks and grant him a high place in Jannat-ul-Firdous.

The chief minister also prayed for patience, courage and strength for the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

Dr Tariq urges opposition to hold talks on national, public interest issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Monday urged the opposition to engage in discussions on issues of national and public interest.

Speaking to a private television channel, he said political parties should hold meaningful dialogue on key issues, including education, health, population growth and terrorism.

Commenting on the establishment of new provinces, he said public opinion and political consensus were essential for creating new provinces in the country.

Responding to a question about the imposition of Governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), he said the imposition of an emergency, was aimed at eliminating terrorism from the province.

Protecting buses, trucks and oil tankers is govt's responsibility: Dr. Malik

QUETTA (ANN): National Party President and former Balochistan Chief Minister Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch has said that protecting buses, trucks, oil tankers and other commercial vehicles is a fundamental responsibility of the government, expressing serious concern over alleged extortion at checkpoints, vehicle abductions and ransom demands affecting transporters across the province.

Speaking on a point of order during a Balochistan Assembly session, he said transporters were facing mounting difficulties due to insecurity and alleged illegal collections at various checkpoints, severely affecting their businesses and livelihoods.

Dr. Malik Baloch emphasized that transportation is one of Balochistan's major sources of employment after agriculture, with thousands of families depending on the sector for their livelihoods.

He alleged that various groups were stopping and abducting vehicles and demanding ransom, while transporters were also subjected to extortion at checkpoints. He urged the government to take immediate measures to ensure the safety of transporters and their vehicles. The National Party chief also criticized Pakistan State Oil's (PSO) oil supply and license cancellation policy, saying that dealers were not receiving timely supplies despite a requirement to lift oil within three months or face cancellation of their licenses.

He questioned how dealers could meet the prescribed deadline when oil supplies were not made available on time, arguing that the policy was creating additional difficulties for businesses already facing economic pressures.

Zmarak Achakzai

Attempts to silence Balochistan's voice for rights, resources unacceptable

QUETTA (ANN): Awami National Party (ANP) Parliamentary Leader Engineer Zmarak Khan Achakzai has said that attempts to silence voices demanding Balochistan's legitimate rights and control over its coastal and natural resources will not be accepted, reaffirming his commitment to raising provincial concerns at every available forum.

Addressing a protest sit-in organized by journalists in Quetta, he said several resolutions concerning public grievances and provincial rights had been presented in the Balochistan Assembly, but such resolutions were often not given due importance at the national level.

He emphasized that the struggle to protect Balochistan's rights would continue despite efforts to marginalize the province's voice.

Expressing solidarity with protesting journalists, Achakzai described the media as the fourth pillar of the state, saying journalists in Balochistan had continued performing their professional duties despite difficult working conditions and security challenges.

He warned that weakening independent journalism would deprive citizens of an essential platform for communicating their concerns to authorities and holding institutions accountable.

The ANP parliamentary leader urged television channel owners and media organizations operating in Balochistan to protect journalists' employment and economic rights.



QUETTA: President PFUJ Afzal Butt, President Quetta Press Club Irfan Saeed and other journalists hold protest sit-in.



BEIJING: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, meets Fu Zhiheng, President of China Great Wall Industry Corporation (CGWIC), to discuss Pakistan-China cooperation in space exploration and Pakistan's historic first astronaut mission.

Sindh challenges federal notification transferring five SSPs to Balochistan

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government has objected to the transfer of five Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) from the province to Balochistan and decided not to release their services to the federal government. In this regard, Sindh Chief Secretary has formally written to the Secretary Establishment Division, demanding the withdrawal of the transfer notification issued on November 13, 2026. In its letter, the Sindh government maintained that consultation with the chief minister is mandatory before transferring police officers from one province to another. However, no consultation was held with Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah before issuing the transfer orders. The provincial government referred to Rule 15(1) of the Civil Servants Rules, 1954, arguing that transfers made without the chief minister's consultation were contrary to the prescribed rules. The five officers included in the transfer notification are SSP Hyderabad Shahzaib Chachar, SSP Jamshoro Muhammad Zafar Siddique, SSP Sukkur Ahmed Faisal Chaudhry, SSP Matiari Abdul Aleem and SSP Tando Muhammad Khan Haseeb Javed Soomro Memon.

The Sindh government said 41 out of 80 sanctioned Grade-18 posts in the provincial police were already vacant.

Hafiz Naeem

Equip Balochistan youth with modern IT skills, create employment opportunities

Jamaat-e-Islami chief visits Bano Qabil IT Lab in Quetta, praises students' performance; Alkhidmat Foundation briefs him on expansion plans and new IT centers

QUETTA (ANN): Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Emir and Bano Qabil Program Patron-in-Chief Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman has said that Balochistan's youth possess immense talent but lack adequate opportunities and facilities to develop their potential, emphasizing the need to equip them with modern IT and digital skills for sustainable employment and economic independence. Speaking to students during a visit to the Bano Qabil IT Lab in Quetta, he said Alkhidmat Foundation had expanded the program to Quetta and other parts of Balochistan to provide Pashtun and Baloch youth with access to modern information technology education, technical training and employment-oriented skills.

During the visit, Hafiz Naeem reviewed educational and technical activities, interacted with trainees and appreciated their performance, encouraging them to make full use of the available learning opportunities. He said information technology and professional skills had become essential in the rapidly changing global economy, enabling young people to pursue self-employment, develop their creative abilities and access international markets through digital platforms.

The Jamaat-e-Islami chief described the Bano Qabil initiative as an important step toward empowering Balochistan's youth through quality IT education and practical training without discrimination. He emphasized that the program aimed to develop market-relevant skills, improve employment prospects and help young people achieve financial independence while contributing to national development. Alkhidmat Foundation Balochistan President Abdul Majeed and General Secretary Muhammad Usman Kakar briefed Hafiz Naeem on plans to expand the Bano Qabil Program to other areas of the province, enhance training facilities and establish new IT centers at proposed locations.

Hafiz Naeem urged students to focus on learning, innovation and professional development, stressing that dedication and modern technological skills could help them secure better livelihoods and become economically self-reliant.

Maulana Abdul Wasey

Responding to national, constitutional demands with force is undemocratic

KINGRI, MUSAKHEL (UNA): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Balochistan President Senator Maulana Abdul Wasey has said that responding to national questions and constitutional demands through force, intimidation and provocation reflects an unwillingness to engage in dialogue and democratic processes.

Addressing the Tahaffuz-e-Deeni Madaris Conference in Kingri, Musakhel district, he emphasized the need to uphold constitutional supremacy, protect religious seminaries and respect the legitimate rights of Balochistan's people over the province's natural and mineral resources.

Maulana Abdul Wasey criticized the government for allegedly spending billions of rupees on ceremonial and publicity activities instead of addressing public grievances and fulfilling its constitutional and legal responsibilities.

He said Balochistan was facing serious challenges due to what he described as flawed government policies, ineffective governance and continued neglect of public concerns.

According to the JUI-F leader, genuine development and prosperity in Balochistan require public participation in decision-making, equitable distribution of resources, adherence to constitutional principles and protection of religious and national identities.

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