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DPM underscores sustainable reforms to stabilise power sector, provide relief to consumers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister (DPM/ FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday underscored the need for sustainable solutions and close inter-institutional coordination to stabilise the power sector and provide tangible relief to end consumers.

The deputy prime minister chaired a meeting to review power sector management here, a DPM's Office news release said.

DPM/FM Dar emphasised the importance of effective debt management, financial discipline and coordinated reforms to ensure that energy requirements are fully met, particularly during the summer season.

The meeting discussed managing power sector debt and deliberated on viable financial and structural measures to address the issue. Financing through commercial banks alongside reviewing international best practices for reducing energy sector debt and effectively managing transmission and line losses also came under discussion.

The meeting was attended by SAPM Tariq Bajwa; Secretary Power Division, and representatives of concerned ministries, power distribution companies and financial institutions.

PM Shehbaz praises Malik's representation at SCO dialogue in New Delhi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday appreciated Federal Minister for Climate Change Dr. Musadik Masood Malik for effectively representing Pakistan at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilizational Dialogue held in New Delhi.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Dr. Musadik Malik, who called on him here, said that while vigorously representing Pakistan at the civilizational dialogue, he presented history and ground realities in an excellent manner.

He also praised Dr. Malik's style of expression and his use of the Urdu language at the forum.

"You have introduced a commendable new standard of diplomacy based on restraint and intellectual clarity to highlight Pakistan's positive image and identity in the region," Prime Minister Shehbaz remarked. Dr. Musadik Malik briefed the prime minister in detail regarding his visit to India.

Wanted terrorist killed in Karak IBO

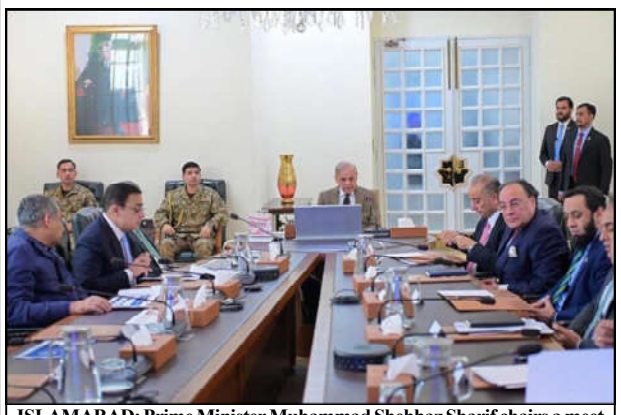
PESHAWAR (APP): Security forces have killed a highly wanted terrorist, identified as Shoaib alias Saif-ul-Islam during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Karak district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday.

According to official sources, the deceased terrorist was affiliated with Fitna al-Khawarij and was involved in the killing of DSP Imran- -ud-Din in Karak.

Security agencies had been monitoring his movements for several weeks. Acting on intelligence about his presence in the area, security forces launched a coordinated operation, triggering an intense exchange of fire between the forces and the wanted terrorist.

The terrorist was killed following the exchange of fire.

Security forces said intelligence-based operations against terrorists were continuing to eliminate terrorism and ensure peace and stability across the country.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding restructuring of NCCIA.

Digital economy, not govt jobs, to empower Balochistan's youth: Bugti

Balochistan's first-ever Digital Expo to be held at BUITEMS from December 21 to 24; talented youth to be connected with national and international companies

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has said that the future of the province's youth lies not in dependence on government jobs or illegal economic activities but in artificial intelligence, modern technology, entrepreneurship and the digital economy. Describing talented youth as Balochistan's greatest asset, rather than its mineral resources, he pledged to provide national and international opportunities to make them economically independent.

The chief minister formally announced that Balochistan's first-ever Digital Expo 2026 would be held at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) from December 21 to 24.

Announcing the dates through a digital dashboard at a ceremony held at the Chief Minister's Secretariat on Wednesday, Bugti said the four-day expo would showcase government departments' digital achievements and reforms while connecting talented young people with national and international companies.

He said the world was rapidly embracing digitization and artificial intelligence, while his government was taking practical measures to transform Balochistan's traditional administrative system in line with modern requirements.

The chief minister said poor governance contributed to alienation among young people, emphasizing that the shortcomings of any government should not be regarded as a failure of the state.

He urged young people to benefit from emerging opportunities, improve their families' economic conditions and contribute to the progress of Balochistan and Pakistan.

Bugti said the government could not be an unlimited source of employment, adding that decades of dependence on public-sector jobs had increased non-development expenditures and constrained resources for education, healthcare and other essential services.

He emphasized that young people in Dera Bugti, Zhob, Turbat, Buleida, Kharan, Awaran and other remote areas should have opportunities to earn through digital platforms and establish businesses without leaving their hometowns.

Leghari highlights Pak's diplomatic role in US-Iran conflict, calls for stable energy supplies

MOSCOW (APP): Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari on Wednesday said Pakistan is playing a proactive role in promoting peace and facilitating dialogue amid the US-Iran conflict, while stressing that uninterrupted global energy supplies are essential to economic stability.

In an exclusive interview with RT in Moscow, the minister said Pakistan had been positioned to play an important regional role for decades, but its contribution had become more proactive over the past year due to improved coordination among state institutions and the country's leadership.

He credited Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir, for strengthening Pakistan's role, saying all state institutions were working in coordination on foreign policy and economic matters.

Leghari said the US-Iran conflict had sent economic shockwaves across the world, worsening poverty and affecting countries that were on the path to economic recovery.

He said Pakistan had sought to play its role in helping resolve the crisis and had received appreciation from key global players, including the United States, Russia and China.

Emphasising the need for an early end to the conflict, he said uninterrupted energy flows were essential for all countries, whether developed or developing, energy exporters or importers.

"Free access to energy without any blockages" was necessary for global economic stability, he said, adding that the world could not afford further delays in restoring energy flows. He also welcomed engagement among major powers, including Russia, China.



Maldives Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Mohamed Amin meeting with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in Islamabad.

Pakistan makes history as first astronaut Zeeshan Ali reaches China's Tiangong space station

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's first astronaut, Muhammad Zeeshan Ali Wednesday reached a historic milestone as the Shenzhou-24 spacecraft carrying him successfully docked with China's Tiangong space station, marking Pakistan's entry into human space exploration.

According to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA), the spacecraft successfully docked with the space station three hours and 38 minutes after liftoff from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in China.

The spacecraft was launched at 8:18 a.m. Beijing time (5:18 a.m. Pakistan time) aboard a Long March-2F carrier rocket. It successfully separated from the carrier rocket approximately 10 minutes after liftoff and entered its preset orbit, CMSA confirmed.

The three-member crew comprises Chinese astronauts Tang Hongbo, who is commanding the mission, and Wu Yi, serving as mission pilot, along with Pakistani astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali as payload specialist. Ali became the first Pakistani astronaut to enter orbit and the first foreign national to board China's Tiangong space station.

During his approximately one-week stay in space, Ali will undertake Pakistan's scientific experiments in microgravity, developed in collaboration with Pakistani researchers and academic institutions.

According to the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission of Pakistan (SUPARCO), the research programme covers materials science, fluid physics, life and biological sciences.

, and biotechnology, with potential applications in climate resilience, food security and industrial innovation.

One of the experiments involves cultivating microalgae as a potential nutrient source and oxygen generator to support life sustainability during future long-duration space missions.

The scientific programme also includes examining the effects of microgravity and cosmic radiation on quinoa seed longevity, studying the healing efficiency of microcapsule-based self-healing composite materials, and evaluating the durability of hybrid composite materials under the extreme conditions of outer space. The three experiments involving quinoa seeds and composite materials will be deployed on external experiment modules of the Chinese space station and remain exposed for one year.

The scientific programme is being undertaken in collaboration with the Centre for Space Utilization, Shanghai Institute of Technical Physics, Dalian Maritime University and Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

PM directs swift restructuring, modernisation of NCCIA and resolution of cybercrime cases

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to expedite the restructuring process of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) to transform it into an effective and modern institution and align the system for the prevention and investigation of cybercrimes with modern needs.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting regarding the restructuring of the NCCIA, said that protecting the public from cybercrimes was among the government's priorities.

He directed the deployment of experts from the information technology and artificial intelligence sectors in the NCCIA and all its subordinate offices, and the hiring of the best and merit-based human resources in the agency.

The prime minister said that the restructuring of the institution should focus on the use of AI and modern technology, while utilising all available resources to resolve pending cybercrime cases.

To review the reform proposals presented by the NCCIA, Prime Minister Shehbaz ordered the formation of a committee comprising federal ministers Mohsin Naqvi, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Muhammad Aurangzeb, and Shaza Fatima Khawaja, which would submit its recommendations to him by the end of the current week.

During the meeting, recommendations regarding the restructuring of the NCCIA were presented, and its performance, administrative structure, and future course of action were also reviewed.

In a briefing, the participants of the meeting were told that there was a proposal to convert the NCCIA into a national-level Pakistan Cyber Police, for which the best human resources would be recruited on merit.

It was informed that a specialised system for national security concerning cybercrimes had become operational, and all possible measures were being taken under the existing system to resolve cybercrime cases.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Azam Nazeer Tarar, Dr. Musadik Masood Malik, Ahad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, and Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani, and senior officers of the relevant departments.

Military leadership felicitates nation on Pakistan's first human spaceflight mission

RAWALPINDI (INP): Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Naval Chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf, Air Chief Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu and Commander National Strategic Command General Syed Aamer Raza have extended heartfelt felicitations to the nation, SUPARCO and the scientific community on the historic launch of Pakistan's first human spaceflight mission. According to the ISPR, the military leadership said that the journey of Wing Commander Muhammad Zeeshan Ali, Pakistan's first astronaut and the first foreign astronaut to travel to China's Tiangong Space Station, marks a defining moment in the country's scientific and technological advancement and is a source of immense pride for the entire nation.

The military leadership commended SUPARCO's scientists, engineers and technical teams for their unwavering dedication, professionalism.

and sustained efforts in achieving this historic national milestone.

It said Pakistan's entry into human spaceflight reflects the immense potential of its human capital, scientific ingenuity and technological capabilities. The landmark achievement will inspire future generations of Pakistanis to pursue excellence in science, technology and innovation, contributing to national progress and prosperity.

The Armed Forces of Pakistan also expressed profound appreciation to the leadership, government and people of the People's Republic of China for their invaluable support and cooperation in enabling Pakistan to achieve this significant milestone. The military leadership said the ironclad friendship between Pakistan and China, higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the seas and sweeter than honey, had reached new heights, extending beyond the frontiers of Earth into outer space.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti inaugurates the first-ever Digital Balochistan Expo 2026, organized by the Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade in collaboration with the Planning and Development Department.

Pakistan, Maldives agree to expand cooperation in tourism, trade, sports: Mohsin Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi and Minister of State for Interior, Talal Chaudhry on Wednesday met Maldives Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mohamed Amin and discussed ways to expand cooperation between the two countries in tourism, sports, health, trade, manpower and other sectors.

During the meeting, both sides agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation and explore opportunities in different fields.

The Maldivian minister appreciated Islamabad's infrastructure and sanitation system. He said he was pleased to see the city's rapid development, beauty and natural landscapes. He said Islamabad had strong potential to become a tourism capital.

The Maldives minister also informed the meeting that the country's national airline would soon launch direct flights between Pakistan and the Maldives.

Welcoming the decision, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said direct flights would make travel to the Maldives easier for Pakistani citizens.

Atta Tarar says: Misinformation, disinformation biggest threat of modern age

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said misinformation and disinformation are the biggest threat of the modern age, in which the definition of a broadcaster is changing rapidly.

Delivering his remarks as a panelist at an international conference on Social Media Platforms and the Post-Truth Era, organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), the minister noted the dynamic landscape of social media in Pakistan, with almost 100 million social media users and 160 million smartphone users in the country.

"When something goes viral, it takes merely minutes and spreads like wildfire. To claim that a narrative is false, certain questions need to be asked. Number one is what the source of the news is and whether it is coming from an authentic source," he said in response to a question posed by the moderator about "false narrative".



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar addresses the National Dialogue on Human Rights and Drug Policy in Pakistan.

Dr Tariq Fazal congratulates Pakistani astronaut on reaching Tiangong space station

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Wednesday congratulated Pakistani astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali on reaching China's Tiangong space station, calling it a landmark moment for Pakistan's scientific ambitions.

In a message on his social media account, Dr Tariq Fazal said the achievement was "a testament to the spirit of scientific exploration, international cooperation and the limitless potential of human ambition."

He said the milestone also reflected the time-tested Pakistan-China friendship, built on mutual trust and shared aspirations, and a long-standing commitment to cooperation in science, technology and space exploration.

Govt slashes petrol by Rs4, diesel by Rs5 for Nov 26

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government on Wednesday decreased the price of petrol by Rs4 per litre and that of high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs5 per litre for November 26.

A press release from the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority said petrol stood at Rs314 per litre, while HSD was Rs348 per litre.

The latest revision comes a day after the government decreased the price of petrol by Re1 per litre and that of HSD by Rs4 per litre for November 25.

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Punjab cabinet approves 5,000 electric buses, AI-powered police vehicles

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz Sharif, on Wednesday approved a series of developmental, administrative and welfare initiatives including the recruitment of 3,080 Prisons Department employees, 50 AI-powered electric vehicles for police and inclusion of dozens of development schemes in the provincial Annual Development Programme (ADP). The 38th cabinet meeting also reiterated the government's commitment to introducing 5,000 electric buses across Punjab. The cabinet paid tribute to the chief minister for her recent visits to various cities and appreciated the public response during her engagements with people.

Addressing the meeting, the CM said that the public's appreciation of the government's service-oriented initiatives deserved credit. She said the achievements were not hers alone but were the result of the collective efforts of ministers, advisers and special assistants.

She said she considered every day better than the previous one a measure of success, adding that the government had made progress despite financial difficulties faced by ordinary people.

Referring to her recent visits,she said people had showered flowers on her during public engagements after two and a half years,while residents of Rawalpindi had presented her with copies of the Holy Quran. She also referred to the completion of the government's target of building 250,000 houses.

The chief minister welcomed Sikh pilgrims visiting Punjab and said she had directed officials to provide trolleys after noticing pilgrims carrying their luggage on their heads. She also questioned the relevant departments over their failure to repair damaged roads without waiting for her intervention. She directed lawmakers to ensure immediate implementation of approved development projects and tasked Food Minister Salma Butt with bringing down flour prices.

Among the key approvals, the cabinet sanctioned 50 AI-based electric vehicles for Punjab Police, recruitment against 3,080 vacancies in the Prisons Department and fresh appointments in the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau. It also approved the purchase of 10 operational vehicles for Murree Police.

The cabinet approved the inclusion of 62 development schemes for Dera Ghazi Khan, 27 schemes for Muzaffargarh and two projects for Okara in the ADP. Funds were also approved for the immediate repair of a dilapidated bus stand.



Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif addressing the eighth convocation of Fatima Jinnah Medical University in Lahore.

Law minister calls for public awareness of alternative dispute resolution

LAHORE (APP): A meeting of the Punjab Alternative Dispute Resolution Authority (PADRA) was held on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Provincial Law Minister Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan to review the authority's progress, the Punjab Alternative Dispute Resolution Act 2026 and the proposed rules for its implementation.

The minister was given a detailed briefing on the authority's recent performance and informed that the Punjab Alternative Dispute Resolution Act 2026 was passed on November 18, 2026. The draft Punjab Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules 2026, approved by the authority during the meeting, have been forwarded to the Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department for further legal proceedings.

The meeting was also briefed on the proposed establishment of the Punjab Mediation and Arbitration Centre (PMAC), which will serve as a platform for professional training, capacity building and research as an authority-approved think tank in the field of alternative dispute resolution.

Officials highlighted key features of the proposed rules, including a comprehensive eligibility and accreditation mechanism for ADR service providers, centres and training institutes. The framework also envisages mandatory 40-hour training instead of a written examination, procedures for referring cases to the ADR system.

Karachi ranks second among world's most polluted cities

KARACHI (INP): Karachi has emerged as the second most polluted city in the world after its Air Quality Index (AQI) climbed to 236.

According to the latest report published by a global environmental monitoring website, Karachi recorded an AQI of 236, placing its air quality in the "very unhealthy" category.

The report highlighted that the concentration of fine particulate matter in the city's atmosphere has exceeded the World Health Organization's recommended limits by several times.

Cooler weather and reduced wind speeds have also contributed to the accumulation of pollutants in the atmosphere, preventing them from dispersing.

Under the internationally recognised AQI classification, readings between 201 and 300 fall within the "very unhealthy" category, indicating increased health risks associated with exposure to polluted air.

Medical experts have warned that the rapidly worsening air quality in Karachi poses a serious threat to residents' health. Prolonged exposure to polluted air may increase respiratory difficulties, throat irritation, allergic reactions and eye irritation.

Experts have particularly advised children, elderly people and individuals suffering from asthma.

Governor Kundi

Quran connects different countries, cultures through common spiritual bond

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday said that the Holy Quran connects different countries, nations and cultures through a common spiritual bond, adding that its message transcends borders, and that unity, mutual respect and peace remain the real strength of the Muslim world.

Addressing the second International Qirat Competition 2026 on its second day, the governor said that Islam is a religion of peace, mercy and justice, adding that there is a need to introduce Islam's true message of peace to the world.

He said the Holy Quran teaches the protection of human life, justice, compassion and respect.

Familiarising the younger generation with the teachings of the Holy Quran is a pressing need, as its teachings instil patience, discipline, respect and a sense of responsibility among young people.

The governor said the true reflection of the Holy Quran lies not merely in beautiful recitation but also in practically following its teachings.

He termed the organisation of the international competition a commendable initiative, saying it would further strengthen Pakistan's religious and cultural ties with the Muslim world.

Highlighting the importance of such events in promoting Quranic teachings globally and fostering mutual respect and harmony among Muslim countries, he said Pakistan advocates peace and would continue playing its role in promoting global peace.

He added that the International Quran Recitation Competition also reflected Pakistan's message of peace, tolerance and harmony.

Governor Kundi congratulated Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousuf and his team on organising the second International Quran Recitation Competition.

Azma Bokhari slams Fazlur Rehman over 'below-the-belt' remarks against institution

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari on Wednesday criticised Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman over what she described as objectionable remarks targeting a national institution, saying such statements and incitement to violence were inappropriate.

Speaking to a priviate TV Channel about the detention of Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Bokhari said the government had exercised its authority while keeping the law and order situation in view.

She said Fazlur Rehman appeared angry these days and had crossed several red lines through his statements.

"Sometimes he taunts military personnel over their salaries. Even today, he issued a video statement containing several objectionable remarks, particularly targeting an institution. Inciting violence and making below-the-belt remarks against an institution is not wise," she said.

Bokhari said the government respected Fazlur Rehman and considered him an elder, adding that ministers had remained in contact with him to defuse tensions.

"We respect Maulana Fazlur Rehman. He is our elder, and our ministers were in touch with him to cool down his anger.



State Minister for Interior, Talal Chaudhry meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi in Islamabad.

Governor Kundi, State Minister discuss KP security situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi and State Minister for Interior, Talal Chaudhry held a meeting here on Wednesday and discussed in detail the overall security situation and law and order issues in the province.

During the meeting, matters related to maintaining lasting peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, elimination of terrorism and effectively addressing security challenges came under discussion.

Both sides emphasized the need for effective coordination and a coordinated strategy between the federal and provincial governments to improve the law and order situation in the province.

The meeting also discussed measures for ensuring protection of lives and properties of the people and further strengthening the efforts of security institutions.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and State Minister Talal Chaudhry agreed to continue joint efforts for promoting peace and stability in the country, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and for eliminating the menace of terrorism.

Zeeshan Ali's space journey marks beginning of a new era: CM

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed gratitude over the departure of Pakistan's first astronaut on an orbital space mission, congratulating astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali and the entire nation on the historic milestone.

In her message, the chief minister said Zeeshan Ali's departure for the space mission marked the beginning of a new era, adding that the journey towards new heights initiated by his space voyage would continue unabated. She congratulated Zeeshan Ali and the nation, describing the space mission as a significant achievement and expressing optimism that the journey towards further milestones would continue.

Rana Sanaullah says referendum cannot create new provinces

LAHORE (INP): PML-N leader Rana Sanaullah has said a referendum cannot lead to the creation of new provinces, stressing that any such change must be made through a constitutional process.

"Referendum is a means of seeking guidance from the people," he said while speaking on a programme "Capital Talk" on Tuesday, adding that there was nothing wrong with seeking public opinion when differences existed over the issue.

His remarks come amid growing debate over the creation of new provinces, with political leaders from the ruling coalition expressing differing views on the proposal. Sanaullah said that the debate over new provinces had not started in the right manner, adding that the issue should be brought before parliament so all stakeholders could present their views.

"If this matter had been initiated in parliament on 30 July, we would have reached a conclusion by now," he said.

He maintained that differences over the creation of new provinces could only be resolved when the matter was formally discussed in parliament. He added that the concerns of different provinces would be addressed once the issue came before the legislature.

Commenting on the Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) position, Sanaullah said the party had made its stance on the provinces issue clear.

According to Sanaullah, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) leadership was trying to bring all sides towards an agreement acceptable to them.

He said that the debate involved other matters, including administrative units and the federal structure, besides the creation of new provinces. He added that the PML-N would convene a meeting and make a decision through consultation when the matter reached a decisive stage.



KARACHI: Rescue workers busy carrying out search and rescue operations at the site of a six-storey under-construction building that collapsed in the Karachi Administration Employees Housing Society near Baloch Colony.

Two policemen injured in firing by robbers in Mailsi

BUREWALA (APP): Two police constables were injured when three armed robbers opened fire on police personnel pursuing them after a robbery near 109 Pul in the jurisdiction of Mitro police station in Mailsi, police said on Wednesday.

According to police, the suspects snatched cash and a mobile phone from a citizen before fleeing. When police personnel chased them, the armed men opened fire, injuring Constables Zubair and Ramazan.

The injured policemen were shifted to DHQ Hospital Vehari for treatment. DPO Vehari Tassawar Iqbal and SP Investigation Muhammad Usman visited the hospital to inquire after their health and directed doctors to ensure the provision of the best possible medical care.

Both injured constables are being shifted to Nishtar Hospital, Multan, for further treatment.

Pakistan closes multiple air routes for two days

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan has temporarily closed several air routes within the Lahore Flight Information Region (FIR) for two days on November 25 and 26 due to operational reasons, according to a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM).

The affected air routes will remain unavailable from 5:30am to 9:30am on both days, with the restrictions applying from ground level to unlimited altitude, the NOTAM stated.

The affected routes include A466, N644, P500, M881, G201, G202, L750, G326, J139, J119, J124, J138, J141, J145, J164, J165, J153, J116 and J166.

Five alternative air routes have been designated to facilitate aircraft operations during the closure period.

The NOTAM also specifies alternative climb and descent routes for Multan, Faisalabad and Dera Ismail Khan to ensure continued flight operations. For Multan, aircraft will use the Murli route, while Nitiv has been designated for Faisalabad and Reget for Dera Ismail Khan.

Read More: Pakistan's first astronaut in space as China launches Shenzhou-24

Federal govt plans three Daanish schools in Sindh

ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal government plans to establish three Daanish schools in Sindh at Tando Muhammad Khan and Karachi's Orangi Township and Ibrahim Hyderi/Malir to expand access to quality residential education for talented and deserving children from underprivileged communities, according to an official document available with Wealth Pakistan.

The proposed schools are part of the nationwide Daanish Schools Initiative, which aims to provide fully residential, merit-based education to children, particularly those belonging to poor, remote and less developed areas.

The three Sindh projects are at different preparatory stages, including procurement, PC-I approval, feasibility and design, while physical construction has yet to begin at any of the locations.

Under Section 10 of the Daanish Schools Authority Act, 2026, admissions to the institutions will be merit-based, with priority given to destitute children in the categories prescribed under the law. These include orphans who have lost both parents and have no guardian, children living with a surviving parent after losing one parent, and those whose parents are illiterate.

, own no immovable property, and where either parent is disabled and has no source of income.

The merit criteria for admission will be determined under regulations framed within the statutory framework.

The initiative seeks to ensure that socioeconomic background and geographical location do not deprive children of access to quality education.

The proposed institutions are envisioned as centres of educational excellence, offering modern academic infrastructure, residential facilities, technology-enabled learning, science and robotics laboratories, sports and co-curricular activities, character building and comprehensive student welfare services.

To institutionalise and expand the programme at the federal level, the government has established the Daanish Schools Authority under the Daanish Schools Authority Act, 2026.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-26271112281O3 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 PHE DIVISION KHARAN 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 2000 PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	S/INSTT: OF SOLAR SYSTEM U/C CHAR KOHAN AND HAFIZ REHMATULLAH 2) S/INSTT: OF SOLAR SYSTEM U/C PATKIN 3) S/INSTT: OF SOLAR SYSTEM U/C NOROZ KALAT (UNDR PSDP-NO-4424Z2026.2632 FOR THE YEAR 2026-27 (PACKAGE-5)	22,978,782

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 16,085,147 PKR Amount in1 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 CE21, CE09(ii) (Water Supply), EE11(i) (Solar), EE11(ii) (Solar Energy), EE11(iii) (Solar Energy system), EE11(iv) (General Operational Works only), EE11(vi) (General Electrical Works Only). Firm should be registered with PEC Firm must have completed 03 similar nature of work i,e, solar system, WSS, Drilling of Bores in any Government Department in last 3 years The bidder shall submit Rs. 100/- affidavit, duly attested by 1st Class Magistrate, Oath Commissioner, or Notary Public, no conflict of interest, blacklisting, major litigation, non-performance, or failure to sign any contract during the last five year Submission of the required Bid Security @2% of estimated cost (Non confidential, without envelope). In case Bid Security is not submitted, the bidding firm shall be declared as ineligible / non-responsive Submission of the required Bidding document Fee Rs.1500/- in account C0-262702 in Shape of Green Challan **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 2,000 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 10:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:00 AM Address: EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION KHARAN Phone no: 0847510697Fax no:Email: mirnoor007@gmail.com

DPRQ/PRQ No.2618/25-11-2026

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION KHARAN

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TENDER NOTICE

TSE-26271112281O3 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) CWPP&H Department District Sohbat Pur 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 2,000 PKR and Bid Security 3%**

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	Construction of Deputy Commissioner , House at Sohbatpur	51,883,690

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 36,318,583 PKR Amount in1 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-5 and above (Upto 65 million)In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works) , CE10(vii) (General Buildings and Maintenance), EE11(iv) (General Operational Works only). Presence in active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan BRA Registration is required The Bidder must have completed 2 Assignments of similar nature of work Turnover generated by the system of 1 subsequent year Registration with Pakistan engineering council Bidder must provide affidavit confirming no conflict of interest not blacklisted no major litigation no nonperformance in last 5 years and no failure to sign contract Bidder must have completed at least 2 similar projects each with 50% of estimated cost Pursuant to Sub-Clause 43.1 of the General Conditions of Contract, the Work Shall be completed on or before the date Stated **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 10 December, 2026till 12:00 PM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 01:00 PM on EPPS System **Address:** B&R Building Office Sohbat Pur District Sohbat Pur Balochistan Phone no: 3334440028 Email: xenbuildingsp@gmail.com

DPRQ/PRQ No.2634/25-11-2026

Executive Engineer (Building) CWPP&H Department District Sohbat Pur

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Daily 6AM, Quetta
Thursday November 26, 2026

In unsafe hands

An HIV outbreak among children should have been a turning point for Taunsa's main public hospital. Instead, an investigation by the BBC suggests that little has changed.

Undercover footage from the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, filmed about eight months after the government's crackdown in March 2025, shows syringes being reused, injections administered through clothing, and unqualified volunteers treating children with contaminated vials — each lapse a potential death sentence.

HIV is not like any other infection. It is a lifelong, incurable virus that weakens the immune system, leaving children vulnerable to repeated illness and dependent on continuous treatment to survive.

The scale of the crisis in Taunsa is staggering. At least 331 children tested positive for HIV between November 2024 and October 2025, with infections continuing even after official intervention. Fewer than one in 20 parents tested positive, pointing strongly towards transmission within healthcare settings. Some children have died; others now face a future defined by a preventable infection.

Why do these practices continue? As explained to the BBC by a paediatrician, the reasons lie in how the system functions. In many settings, injections are preferred even when they are not needed because patients expect them and doctors go along. At the same time, hospitals face shortages of medicines and supplies, with staff required to make limited stock last the month. In such an environment, cutting corners is routine, even when it is dangerous.

Weak infection control training and the tolerance of unqualified personnel adds to the risks. In effect, the system begins to normalise malpractice.

The Punjab government has cited screenings, treatment centres, auto-disable syringes, and action against quack clinics as its response. Yet its questioning of the investigation and maintaining that no conclusive link to the hospital has been established is tough to reconcile with what the footage clearly shows.

The redeployment of officials previously under scrutiny further weakens confidence.

Tragically, Taunsa is not the first. The outbreak in Ratodero in Sindh in 2019, where hundreds of children were infected and new cases still emerge, offers a troubling parallel.

We cannot treat these outbreaks as one-off incidents. Preventing another outbreak requires consistent enforcement of infection control, reliable medical supplies, stricter limits on unnecessary injections and transparent accountability. Without these, the conditions that enabled this crisis will persist.

When a fake video can end a girl's education

How AI is reshaping online abuse of women in Balochistan

By Nimra Arshad



For a woman in Quetta, or anywhere in Balochistan, a fake video of herself is not a technical question. It can decide whether she goes back to university, whether her brother takes her phone and whether her family believes her. As artificial intelligence makes such fakes easy to produce, the meeting point of AI and gender-based violence in the province is a story that deserves far more attention than it gets.

Artificial intelligence now let's abusers fabricate evidence with a single photograph. In Balochistan, where family reputation can outweigh facts, internet shutdowns, distant cybercrime offices and fear of stigma leave many women without help.

Imagine opening your phone and finding a video of yourself. Your face, your voice, your dupatta. You are doing something you have never done, in a place you have never been, with a person you barely know. The caption says you have brought shame on your family.

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence, or TFGBV, is violence carried out through phones, social media, messaging apps and other digital tools. It includes blackmail, stalking, hacking, sharing private images without consent, sextortion and coordinated smear campaigns.

It is not a separate world from "real" violence. As one Pakistani commentator put it, it sits on the same continuum as every other form of gender-based violence, a reflection of the same inequalities.

AI has added a new and frightening tool to that list: the ability to fabricate. With a free app and a single photograph, someone can now produce a convincing fake image, video or voice clip. No hidden camera is needed. No private moment is needed. Just a face.

The best data available in Pakistan comes from the Digital Rights Foundation (DRF), whose helpline logged 3,171 complaints of tech-facilitated gender-based violence in 2024. In cases involving non-consensual intimate images, 85 percent targeted women. In 2025, women reported 1,709 cases to the helpline, compared with 1,279 reported by men.

Deepfakes are already part of that picture. DRF recorded 155 deepfake cases among the 1,371 complaints it received in 2023. DRF's founder, Nighat Dad, has described the trend as a disturbing new frontier of gender-based violence, with cases rising steadily.

For Balochistan, the more important finding concerns who is reporting. Of the cases DRF handled in 2025, Punjab accounted for 69.5 percent. DRF itself links that to population size and to better access to reporting mechanisms. In other words, a province that appears to have fewer cases may simply have fewer women able to report them.

DRF also noted that 892 complaints came from cities with no office of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), and that 79 percent of cyber harassment cases were referred to that agency, yet access to justice remains uneven.

When the numbers from a place are small, it is worth asking who is missing from them.

Experts who study the issue say AI does not create misogyny. It magnifies it. It takes old beliefs, that a woman's reputation is her family's property and that a photograph is proof of guilt, and gives them faster, cheaper and more convincing tools. Three problems stand out. The proof problem. Before, an abuser needed a real photo or video. Now none is needed. A woman who has done nothing can still be targeted.

The speed problem. A fake can reach hundreds of WhatsApp groups before a woman even learns it exists. Fact-checkers can later prove it is false, but the correction rarely travels as far as the lie.

The silence problem. Because "the video exists" is often treated as enough, many women choose not to fight at all. They delete accounts, stop posting, leave their studies or stay quiet. That silence is exactly what the abuser is after.

Every province has its own version of this problem. Balochistan's has particular layers.

Honour, reputation and family. In a tribal and conservative setting, an accusation can matter more than the evidence. That is exactly the power a fake exploits. Low access to education to begin with. Al Jazeera reported in 2020 that female literacy in Balochistan stood at 33.5 percent, and that fewer than 12 percent of women in the province went past primary school. Every girl who reaches university has already beaten difficult odds. Anything that gives a family a reason to pull her out is a serious loss.

Connectivity that comes and goes. In August 2025, mobile internet was suspended across all 36 districts of Balochistan for what authorities called security reasons. For most of the province's roughly 15 million people, mobile data is the only way to get online. The Balochistan High Court ordered it restored after about two weeks. Whatever the security reasoning, the effect on women is easy to see: less reliable access to online classes, helplines, reporting tools and trusted contacts, and less chance to learn digital safety skills. Distance from justice. DRF's own data shows how far services can be from the people who need them. A complaint process that is difficult, far away or requires travel is, for many women in rural Balochistan, no process at all.

To understand what is at stake, there is no need to look abroad. Quetta only has to remember what happened at the University of Balochistan in 2019. That autumn, a scandal broke on the campus. Hidden cameras had been found in places such as washrooms and smoking areas, and footage from them was allegedly used to blackmail and harass students.

Dire straits

F.S. Aijazuddin

Recent events have given a new twist to history. A Chicago-born pontiff from Rome has publicly rebuked an American Christian crusader.

Normally, popes issue insipid encyclicals or harmless homilies. In 1968, for example, Pope Paul VI issued Of Human Life — a justification of the Catholic church's opposition to methods of birth control. (One sceptic wondered how a celibate bachelor felt qualified to guide married couples on such an intimate matter.)

Previous popes chose not to interfere even when human rights were being violated. In the 1940s, Pope Pius XII refrained from any condemnation of the Nazis or Stalin's pogroms. Hitler let Mussolini handle the Vatican. Stalin silenced the pope with the cutting question: "How many divisions has the Pope?"

This Easter, Pope Leo XIV felt impelled to speak out against a fellow countryman — the US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth — who had appealed to "Almighty God who trains our hands for war and our fingers for battle" (Psalm 144). On Palm Sunday, Pope Leo XIV, in the name of the same God and quoting from the same Holy Bible, reproached Hegseth: "When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening. Your hands are full of blood!" (Isaiah 1:15).

Did Trump deliberately send Vance to Islamabad to fail?

It is perhaps telling that the recent negotiations between the US and Iran held in Islamabad on April 11 did not begin with a prayer from any faith. It might have given the talks a chance. Instead, the divine and Israel were both noticeably absent.

The composition of the US team revealed nonseriousness. Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner are Jewish real estate developers from New York. They had disappointed the Iranians twice earlier. They have a record of being midwives who specialise in lucrative abortions. Neverthe-less, Iran accepted them, hoping that Vice-President J.D. Vance might bring some gravitas and maturity to the table.

They were wrong. President Trump sabotaged the Islamabad talks even before they had begun by announcing: "If it doesn't happen, I'm blaming J.D. Vance. If it does happen, I'm taking full credit." With that, Trump ensured the failure of his VP, just as president Joe Biden, by delaying his withdrawal from the presidential race in 2024, scotched his VP Kamala Harris' chances.

It has been reported that, during a White House meeting on Feb 12, Vance sided with CIA director Ratcliffe who described Benjamin Netanyahu's proposal to attack Iran as "farcical". Vance told Trump: "This is a bad idea, but if you want to do it, I'll support you." He warned that such a war would cause "regional chaos".

Did Trump deliberately send Vance to Islamabad to fail? Or, subtler still, did Vance (a recent convert to Catholicism) sacrifice himself this Easter so that he could resurrect himself to succeed a damaged, declining Trump? Vance knows he is only a heartbeat away from the presidency, as were H. Truman to F.D. Roose-velt (1945), L.B. Johnson to J.F. Kennedy (1963), and G. Ford to R. Nixon (1974).

Vance disclosed in his final statement in Islamabad that the US had wanted Iran to abjure nuclear ambitions, forever. Was it lost on him that he made this demand in the capital of a country that is said to possess an estimated 170 nuclear weapons and which hasn't signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty? (Iran signed the NPT in 1968.)

Is the ongoing war really about Iran's nuclear capability? Or the hydrocarbons choking the veins of the Gulf Ara-b-s? Or the dangerous gauntlet run by traffic in the Strait of Hormuz?

Building on global goodwill

Ali Tauqeer Sheikh

Pakistan's role in brokering the first direct US-Iran talks since 1979 has generated immense global goodwill. Can Islamabad strategically deploy this diplomatic credibility? Peace between the nuclear-armed Pakistan and India in South Asia is no less vital than Middle East stability and hinges on reviving cooperation on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). Such initiatives translate Pakistan's diplomatic capital into structural stability — foundational to regional security and our shared capacity to manage the accelerating climate risks to the subcontinent. By focusing on water, a domain of acute shared vulnerability, Islamabad can address areas where the cost of non-cooperation hits ordinary populations hardest, and where political barriers to progress are lower than in traditional security matters.

The treaty's effective suspension, driven by India's withdrawal from treaty mechanisms after the April 2025 Pahalgam attack and Pakistan's unilateral filing at the Permanent Court of Arbitration, has paralysed the Indus basin's institutional machinery. This breakdown has occurred at the worst possible moment, leaving both nations without a functional framework to manage the increased frequency of transboundary climatic events and disasters.

The 2025 floods were a compound event. Record heatwaves first saturated the glaciers and atmosphere, then an early and intense monsoon hit river systems already at capacity. The transboundary dimension is the sharpest new argument. India's opening of dam gates after reservoirs reached full capacity caused sudden downstream surges. Crucially, this happened after the IWT's unilateral suspension. Instead of using the Permanent Indus Commission as stipulated in the IWT, India informed Pakistan of the floods through diplomatic channels — meaning the very mechanism designed to prevent this kind of uncoordinated release was gone. All three major rivers (Ravi, Chenab, and Sutlej) overflowed simultaneously for the first time in the country's history.

The Himalayan glaciers feeding the Indus are melting rapidly, a trajectory that will intensify flood events in the near term and produce structural water scarcity by mid-century. These risks are shared equally by Pakistan and India's northern states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and occupied Jammu & Kashmir, which draw from the same glacier systems, in addition to downstream Punjab and Haryana, making water security a vulnerability that transcends political divides.

The IWT's technical framework remains legally valid and needs only political will to activate.

The IWT's technical framework remains legally valid and needs no new negotiation to activate — only political will. The World Bank as treaty broker, and UN climate and disaster-risk bodies to which both countries are signatories, offer multilateral entry points for re-engagement on technical grounds without either side bearing the domestic cost of appearing to concede. Water data is not a concession. It is information that protects populations on both sides of the border.

The case for reviving the treaty's technical mechanisms is, therefore, as much a disaster-risk management argument as a political one. Coordinated data-sharing on river flows, early warning systems for flood events, joint reservoir management, and agreed protocols for upstream infrastructure development are technically available under the treaty framework. Their absence means that downstream populations in Pakistan are more exposed to upstream decisions made without consultation, and that early warning of floods in both countries is less effective than it could be.

The World Bank has a historical role in pressing both governments back towards technical engagement. Pakistan should actively seek Washinton's nod for that intervention. India halted treaty participation over alleged cross-border terrorism and resists engagement that might appear to vindicate Pakistan without reciprocal action. But there is a distinction between political normalisation and technical cooperation that both governments have, at various times, recognised.

Water cooperation is security by another name. A Pakistan that proposes the revival of technical-level treaty mechanisms as a climate and disaster-risk initiative, rather than as a political negotiation, creates space for India to engage without visible concession. The framing is not cosmetic. It changes the domestic political calculus in New Delhi by allowing the BJP government to present engagement as responsible stewardship rather than as accommodating Islamabad.

A deeper reason distinguishes this moment from past attempts to revive Indus cooperation. Since the 1972 Shimla Agreement, Pakistan has engaged India from a position of structural disadvantage, defined by a smaller economy and a downstream riparian status that cast it as a 'supplicant' in negotiations. For half a century, Pakistan's calls for functional water management were dismissed as political manoeuvring rather than shared-risk arguments. By invoking Shimla's bilateralism principle to resist international arbitration, India maintained a comfortable status quo of delay, leaving Pakistan without effective multilateral leverage.

The Islamabad talks have altered this geometry. For once, Pakistan is not approaching the table with a grievance or a request. Instead, it arrives having delivered a global public good — the first direct US-Iran contact in five decades, at considerable diplomatic cost for no bilateral gain. This represents a structural shift from any position Pakistan has occupied since Shimla.

The resulting goodwill is operational, not sentimental; it shows a capacity for disciplined, multilaterally anchored diplomacy. This shift changes how a Pakistani proposal on water will be received by both India and the global institutions and capitals that matter most. This window will not stay open indefinitely.

Butterfly effect

Naveed Gilani

Does the flutter of a butterfly's wing on a flower in one part of the world cause a hurricane in another thousands of miles away? Literally, no, but metaphorically, yes. What is known as 'the butterfly effect' shows that a little event can lead to significant results over time. The little event I am talking about is providing nutrition to an underprivileged schoolchild and the significant result is the huge gain it spawns over his/her lifetime. In economic terms, what we put in is multiplied multifold, returning as a continuous stream for the child beyond the school years.

Nutrition has always been a cornerstone of human development. Anthropologists have compared the development of human populations and have found that nutrition has a profound influence on fundamental aspects of the physical and cognitive development of humans. We have learnt that investing in nutrition is not just a matter of public health but also a strategy for economic advancement.

Abundant empirical evidence shows the impact of proper nutrition on a child's physical robustness while laying the groundwork for optimal brain development. The earliest years, particularly from pregnancy to age five, are critical for physical growth and cognitive formation. Yet the challenge does not end once children start school. For millions aged five to 15, adequate nutrition during the school day is essential for sustaining attention, improving learning and ensuring that the education system can translate schooling into a healthier, smarter and more productive workforce that drives economic growth.

Pakistan's child nutrition statistics for ages five to 15 present a grim picture. Of the roughly 63 million school-age children, about 38.3 per cent are stunted (low height for age), 28.5pc are wasted (low weight for height), and 17.5pc are underweight. Whatever the exact numbers, it is known that hunger and poor nutrition remain serious challenges for a large number of children. These figures show that much needs to be done to address the nutritional deficit and help unlock the potential of these young minds.

Adequate nutrition during the school day is essential.

One could argue that society has a responsibility to address poverty, reduce inequality, and ensure that no child goes hungry. While that ethical argument is important, there is also a more pragmatic and equally compelling perspective: the economic case.

Recognising the link between nutrition and learning, countries around the world have adopted school meal programmes to support both child nutrition and education. School meal programmes are a highly effective investment in human capital, generating measurable returns through improved education, health, and future productivity. In this sense, school meals are not merely a welfare intervention of filling the stomach; they also represent a structural change in the child's future.

A primary school cycle is typically five years (Grades 1-5) in Pakistan. This is the period where school meals would be most beneficial. In fact, it aligns well with how economists think about human capital investments. The investment period may be only five years, but the benefits extend across the child's entire working life (35 to 40 years). In other words, a short investment with a very long economic return — the proverbial butterfly effect. The World Food Programme estimates that every dollar invested in school feeding can generate between $7 and $35 in long-term economic benefits, depending on local conditions. Even setting aside these estimates, the economic logic remains compelling. If sustained nutrition during the primary school years were to raise lifetime productivity by even 5pc, the resulting increase in earnings and economic output would far exceed the modest cost of providing meals during those same five years.

With firsthand data from our work with school meal programme, I can say that providing one cooked meal for each school day to one child for five years costs around Rs70,000. Based on conservative productivity gain estimate, this investment spread over five years would generate nearly Rs900,000 over a working lifetime.

My back-of-the-envelope estimate tells me that even if we were to invest in nutrition for only 10pc of the children the GDP gain would generate around $400 billion in lifetime economic output. What begins as a simple daily meal in a village classroom thus becomes a powerful investment in the country's future productivity.

Economic logic is a no-brainer, and the moral case is undeniable. Investing in the nutrition of schoolchildren is one of the simplest, most practical steps we can take to strengthen the country's future workforce. As the old proverb reminds us, "The best time to act was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now."

PM reaffirms Govt's push to boost IT exports, youth employment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, on Wednesday, reaffirmed the government's commitment to leveraging Pakistan's IT export potential as a primary engine for economic growth and youth employment.

He stressed that attracting domestic and foreign investment into the IT and IT-enabled services (ITeS) sectors remains a top priority, directing authorities to ensure technology zones function strictly as hubs for innovation and export growth.

Chairing a review meeting regarding Information Technology and Telecom Sector, the prime minister directed a third-party audit of all operational IT parks under the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) by forming a committee, besides asked for a comprehensive review of STZA laws to prevent potential misuse of corporate establishment provisions.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Rana Tanveer Hussain, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Dr Musadik Masood Malik, Ahad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Attaullah Tarar, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, and Mustafa Kamal; Advisor to the PM Muhammad Al, Minister of State Bilal Azhar Kayani, provincial chief secretaries and senior officials.

During the briefing, officials informed the meeting that Alibaba is developing a comprehensive 'Super App' for the Government of Pakistan under the Strategic Transformative Framework, which will consolidate all public-facing government services onto a single digital platform.

Reviewing sector-wide performance, the ministry reported that Pakistan's IT exports stood at US$ 4.6 billion through June 2026, with an additional US$ 1.24 billion recorded during the July–September 2026 quarter. Freelance exports had reached US$ 1.165 billion by June this time.

It was informed that number of IT companies had surged while functioning of the digital public services were also enhanced. The meeting was further told that 32 technology zones were being developed across seven clusters nationwide, 21 of which are operational and 11 under construction.

Around 300 tech firms had set up operations in these zones, bringing in Rs100 billion in realized investment, while projects worth Rs 105 billion were in the pipeline.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding Information Technology and Telecom Sector.

ADB approves $250 mln loan to strengthen Pakistan's PPP framework

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a $250 million policy-based loan to help Pakistan strengthen its public-private partnership (PPP) framework, develop a pipeline of bankable and sustainable projects that can attract private capital and support the country economic growth.

The financing will support reforms to help the government prepare market-ready projects, particularly high-quality, cost-efficient infrastructure, and improve fiscal risk management, said a news release.

"Rigorous project appraisal, transparent disclosure, and sound management of fiscal risks are essential to translate Pakistan's PPP pipeline into sustainable infrastructure investment," said ADB Country Director for Pakistan Emma Fan.

This program, she said, demonstrated ADB's commitment to support Pakistan in strengthening public investment and financial management, improving infrastructure development, and mobilizing greater private sector investment through PPPs.

The Promoting Sustainable Public–Private Partnerships Program builds on a first phase approved in 2024, which strengthened the legal and policy frameworks for PPPs.

Under the second phase, the government has taken steps to bring Pakistan's federal PPP and privatization functions together under a unified platform.

The program also supports dedicated PPP units in four line ministries and agencies, and a national framework for monitoring and disclosing PPP-related fiscal liabilities.

With ADB support, the government has approved a medium-term PPP pipeline for 2026–2030.

The National PPP and Investment Knowledge Hub will provide training and tools to federal institutions, while provincial governments will also be able to benefit from its knowledge-resources and peer-learning activities.

Pak, China discuss new opportunities in energy, mining sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik met Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong to advance investment across upstream, offshore, minerals, mining and downstream energy infrastructure, building on President Xi's priorities announced at APEC 2026 in Shenzhen.

The Minister was accompanied by Additional Secretary (Policy) Zafar Abbas and Pakistan State Oil (PSO) Chief Executive Officer Jawwad Ahmed Cheema, and held a high-level meeting with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, and his commercial team, said a news release issued here on Wednesday.

The two sides explored transformative investment opportunities and agreed on concrete steps to deepen bilateral cooperation across Pakistan's energy and mining sectors. Ali Pervaiz Malik congratulated Pakistan Air Force Wing Commander Muhammad Zeeshan Ali on his historic participation in China's Shenzhou-24 space mission from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center.

The Minister commended this landmark achievement, which has made Wing Commander Muhammad Zeeshan Ali the first Pakistani in orbit and the first foreign visitor to China's Tiangong space station, describing it as a proud moment for Pakistan and a testament to the enduring friendship and growing scientific and technological cooperation between Pakistan and China. The engagement comes days after China hosted the 33rd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Shenzhen on 18–19 November 2026, held under the theme "Building an Asia-Pacific Community to Prosper Together" with openness, innovation and cooperation as its priorities. The Pakistan–China energy partnership reflects that same vision: open markets that welcome new investors, innovation through Chinese technology and industrial expertise, and practical cooperation that connects Pakistan's resources with the wider region's growth.

The meeting covered a broad spectrum of collaboration, including upstream oil and gas exploration, offshore development, mineral exploration, mining and the establishment of strategic energy infrastructure. Particular emphasis was placed on unlocking investment potential in Balochistan and on emerging offshore opportunities, including the development of integrated offshore hubs.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, meets a delegation of Qatar's Baladna Group to discuss agricultural trade, livestock development, dairy production and joint investment opportunities.

Digital transformation no longer optional for businesses: ICCI President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia, has underscored the need to accelerate digital transformation, embrace emerging technologies and strengthen innovation-driven entrepreneurship to unlock Pakistan's economic potential.

He said that technological advancement has become a key determinant of competitiveness, productivity and sustainable economic growth. Addressing DevOps Days Islamabad, he appreciated Cloud Native Islamabad and Cloud Native Security Pakistan for bringing together technology experts, industry professionals, developers and young innovators on a common platform to exchange knowledge and explore emerging technological trends.

He observed that DevOps, Cloud-Native Technologies, Platform Engineering, Cybersecurity and Site Reliability Engineering had evolved beyond specialised technical disciplines to become essential pillars of the modern business ecosystem.

Similarly, emerging fields such as MLOps and Agentic AI were creating new possibilities for businesses, industry, education and governance.

The ICCI President said Pakistan, particularly Islamabad, had tremendous potential to emerge as a competitive technology and innovation hub, given its talented youth, expanding IT workforce and growing startup ecosystem. However, he stressed that this potential could only be realised through investment.

PSX turns bearish, loses over 421 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bearish trend on Wednesday, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index losing 421.03 points, a negative change of 0.24 percent, to close at 178,121.25 points against 178,542.28 points recorded in the previous trading session.

The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 643.869 million shares, compared to 644.770 million shares traded in the previous session. The traded value of the ready market stood at Rs18.507 billion, down from Rs23.066 billion a day earlier.

Meanwhile, total market capitalisation decreased to Rs19.19.360 trillion from Rs19.385 trillion recorded in the previous session.

Out of 501 companies that traded in the ready market, 232 posted gains, 236 suffered losses, while 33 remained unchanged.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik in meeting with Chinese Ambassador H.E Jiang Zaidong.

Pakistan, Italy discuss increased cooperation to modernize marble sector, boost exports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Commerce, Industries and Production Rana Ihsan Afzal on Wednesday chaired a meeting with an Italian delegation and explored avenues for further cooperation in modernizing Pakistan's marble sector, enhancing its production capacity and boosting exports.

Secretary Industries Ahsan Ali Mangi, Additional Secretary Industries and Production Humaira Zia Mufti, CEO Pakistan Stone Development Company (PASDEC), and other senior officials attended the meeting, said a news release. The discussions focused on the development of Pakistan's marble industry, formulation of a comprehensive Marble Policy, adoption of modern technologies, introduction of advanced mining techniques, skills development and enhancement of the sector's production and export potential.

Speaking on the occasion, Rana Ihsan Afzal said the government, in line with the vision and directions of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, was taking effective measures to modernize the marble industry and unlock its vast economic and export potential. He acknowledged the efforts of Advisor to the Prime Minister for Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan in promoting the growth of the marble sector, adding that a comprehensive strategy was being developed to transform the industry into a modern, competitive and export-oriented sector.

Rana Ihsan emphasized that the government was formulating a practical and comprehensive Marble Policy through extensive consultations with all relevant stakeholders to address the industry's challenges and create an enabling environment for investment, technological advancement and sustainable growth.

Pakistan, Russia set $5 billion bilateral trade target by 2030: Leghari

MOSCOW (APP): Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari on Wednesday said Pakistan and Russia have set a target to increase their bilateral trade volume to $5 billion by 2030, describing it as an important step towards strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries.

Addressing the 11th session of the Pakistan-Russia Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) in Moscow, co-chaired by him and his Russian counterpart, he said the two countries had significant opportunities to expand trade, investment and cooperation in key sectors.

Leghari said Pakistan considers Russia a valued friend and partner in development, stability, and long-term economic progress, adding that the two sides had gathered with a "clear purpose" to advance bilateral ties.

"I acknowledge the efforts of the technical teams on both sides whose consultations have brought us to this plenary with a comprehensive protocol, " the minister said, noting that the breadth of the agenda reflected a shared desire to broaden cooperation and make the mechanism more result-oriented.

He stressed that decisions must not remain on paper, and each initiative must be followed through by the concerned ministry or organization with "clear responsibility, regular communication, and a focus on implementation."

He said the estimated bilateral trade potential of around $2 billion could be realised through the establishment of an alternative banking channel, while stronger institutional engagement and private-sector participation would help achieve the proposed higher target.

Rupee gains 01 paisa against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rupee on Wednesday appreciated by 01 paisa against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 276.46, down from the previous day's close of Rs 276.47.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the dollar's open-market buying and selling rates were Rs 277.35 and Rs 280.05, respectively.

The Euro increased by Rs 0.71 to close at Rs 302.53, down from Rs 301.82 the previous day, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.73, while the British Pound went up by Rs 0.86 to Rs 361.69 from Rs 360.83 the previous day.

The exchange rate of the Emirate Dirham remained stagnant at Rs 75.27, and the Saudi Riyal surged by 02 paisa to close at Rs 73.69.

Gold prices decline by Rs 11, 500 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The prices of gold witnessed a significant decline in the local market on Wednesday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola falling by Rs 11, 500 to settle at Rs 373, 936, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold decreased by Rs 9, 860 to Rs 320, 589, while 10 grams of 22-karat gold declined by Rs 9, 039 to Rs 293, 883.

In the international market.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan poses for a group photograph with members of the Chinese delegation at the 4th FoodAg International Exhibition at Karachi Expo Centre.

Railways to add 36 locomotives to operational fleet by 2027

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

"Pakistan Railways currently has a fleet of 439 locomotives, of which 267 are operational while 172 remain non-operational," an official in the Ministry told APP. He said the department was taking several measures to restore out-of-service locomotives to operational condition to strengthen its capacity and generate additional revenue. Giving details, the official said that 16 non-operational locomotives were expected to become operational by February 2027, while another 20 locomotives would be available for service after major overhauls by the end .

Pak, Qatar eye major agricultural partnership to unlock livestock, dairy and export potential

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Wednesday underscored the potential for transforming Pakistan-Qatar agricultural cooperation into a long-term commercial partnership, promoting foreign investment, export diversification, technological advancement and sustainable food security.

The minister held a meeting with a delegation of Qatar's leading Baladna Group to explore opportunities for expanding bilateral agricultural trade, attracting investment and establishing joint ventures in livestock development, dairy production, animal feed and agricultural value addition. Highlighting the longstanding brotherly relations between Pakistan and Qatar, the minister emphasized the need to translate these ties into stronger economic and commercial partnerships. He noted that agriculture contributes approximately 24 percent to Pakistan's GDP, with livestock accounting for over 60 percent of the agricultural sector.

The Baladna delegation identified Pakistan as a potential strategic supplier of animal feed for its expanding international operations. The group expressed interest in sourcing maize, soybean, alfalfa, Rhodes grass and other forage crops from Pakistan to diversify its global supply chains. Rana Tanveer Hussain highlighted Pakistan's surplus maize production through hybrid seed technology, geographical proximity to Middle Eastern markets and competitive production potential.

Shipping Activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was report at the port where a containers carrier 'SLS Topaz' berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal on Tuesday.

Meanwhile two more ships, MYD Ningbo and Antigoni Force carrying Container and Coal also arrived at outer anchorage during last 24 hours.

A total of eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Alex and An Hai Vincent left the port on today morning, while four more ships, SLS Topaz, MYD Ningbo, HT Pioneer and Sea Destiny are expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo volume of 114,270 tones comprising 82,538 tones imports cargo and 31,732 export cargo carried in 3,300 Containers (1,500 TEUs Imports & 1,800 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

Efforts intensified to establish Chinese industries in Gwadar free zone, local hiring priority proposed

GWADAR (6 AM Report): Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Noor-ul-Haq Baloch has said that creating employment opportunities for local communities and providing business, legal and administrative facilities to investors are key priorities. Efforts to attract Chinese investment and establish new industries in the Gwadar Free Zone have been intensified, with a proposal to prioritize youth from Gwadar, followed by Makran and the rest of Balochistan, in recruitment. These developments emerged during a meeting attended by representatives of the Gwadar Port Authority, China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC), Guangdong Metal Processing Industry Association and a Qingdao-based company.

The meeting reviewed prospects for establishing new factories and industrial units, promoting investment, improving the business environment and facilitating investors.

Noor-ul-Haq Baloch said investors in the Gwadar Free Zone enjoyed various incentives, including import duty exemptions, while proximity to the port facilitated the import of raw materials and export of finished products, giving the free zone a competitive advantage over other industrial centers.

Participants agreed to provide technical and vocational training to local youth in line with Chinese industry standards. The GPA chairman highlighted the role of the Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute in developing a skilled workforce to meet industrial requirements. The meeting also reviewed land allocation, leasing, licensing and construction permits within the free zone. Noor-ul-Haq Baloch assured investors of all possible assistance in obtaining legal and administrative approvals.



Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and IFC Regional Vice President Imad Najib Fakhoury attend signing of mandate agreement for partial credit guarantee facility in Karachi.

Violence against women unacceptable, perpetrators must face justice: Dr. Rubaba

Providing survivors with protection, legal assistance and justice instead of fear and social stigma is a shared responsibility of the state and society

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Adviser on Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has said that all forms of violence against women and girls are unacceptable, stressing the need for effective measures to ensure survivors' access to justice without fear and hold perpetrators legally accountable.

She said providing survivors with protection, confidence and justice instead of fear, pressure and social stigma was a shared responsibility of the state and society.

She expressed these views at the launch of the 2026 global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, organized jointly by the Women Development Department, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and EVA Alliance.

Dr. Buledi described violence against women as a serious societal challenge requiring effective legislation, strict enforcement of laws, institutional cooperation and greater public awareness.

She emphasized that survivors must receive legal assistance, psychological support and essential services while ensuring their dignity and confidentiality. Those responsible for violence, she added, must be held accountable in accordance with the law.

The provincial adviser said the campaign was not merely an awareness initiative but an opportunity to renew collective commitment to protecting women and girls. She urged government institutions, civil society and relevant organizations to work together to prevent gender-based violence.

Dr. Buledi reaffirmed the provincial government's commitment to protecting women's fundamental rights, preventing gender-based violence and ensuring a safe environment through collaboration with relevant institutions and international partners.

She stressed that a safe, just and dignified society could only be achieved when every woman and girl felt secure, empowered and confident in her access to justice.

Women Development Secretary Sher Shah Ghilzai, UNDP Balochistan Head Zulfiqar Durrani, UNFPA Balochistan Head Sadia Atta, FDI Pakistan Head Uzma Yaqoob and other speakers also addressed the ceremony.



QUETTA: Advisor to CM for Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi addressing at the launch of the 2026 global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign in Quetta.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti addresses the launching ceremony of the first-ever Digital Balochistan Expo 2026, organized by the Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade in collaboration with the Planning and Development Department.

Commissioner Lasbela

Dualization of N-25 national highway an urgent need

LASBELA (6 AM Report): Commissioner Lasbela Division has said that the dualization of the N-25 National Highway, one of Balochistan's most important trade and transport corridors, is an urgent need. He directed authorities to take effective measures to prevent accidents, ensure smooth traffic flow and protect passengers' lives and property amid increasing traffic pressure.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting with National Highway Authority (NHA) officials, attended by general managers of Hub and Khuzdar and relevant technical officers.

The meeting reviewed the highway's dualization, increasing traffic pressure, accident risks, identification of hazardous locations, road infrastructure improvements and provision of safe travel facilities.

The commissioner directed NHA officials to prioritize road safety measures in ongoing and proposed development projects and strengthen coordination with relevant institutions to address existing challenges.

Participants reaffirmed their commitment to improving road infrastructure and safety standards along the N-25 through institutional cooperation and a coordinated strategy.

DEO Sibi

Cultural heritage our identity, science foundation of a bright future

SIBI (6 AM Report): District Education Officer Sibi Abdul Sattar Langove has said that cultural heritage defines our identity, while science lays the foundation for progress and a bright future. He emphasized that extracurricular activities play a vital role in nurturing students' talents, encouraging creative thinking and preparing them for practical life.

He expressed these views while addressing a cultural festival, Meena Bazaar and science exhibition as chief guest at Government Girls High School Dhapal Khurd.

District Education Officer (Female) Irum Noreen, Assistant Director Monitoring and Evaluation Mahjabeen, Deputy District Education Officer Tariq Almas, the school principal, teachers and students attended the event.

Abdul Sattar Langove inaugurated the exhibition and visited various stalls featuring food, jewelry, handicrafts and scientific models prepared by students, who explained their practical applications.

He praised the students' creativity and interest in science, commending the principal and teachers for organizing the event. He assured continued departmental support for constructive extracurricular activities.

Commissioner Loralai

Adopt effective strategy for repatriation of undocumented foreigners, revenue recovery

LORALAI (6 AM Report): Commissioner Loralai Division Wali Muhammad Bareech has directed authorities to adopt an effective strategy for the repatriation of undocumented foreign nationals, recovery of outstanding government dues, enhancement of provincial revenue and strengthening of institutional coordination.

The commissioner has convened three important meetings, directing deputy commissioners of Loralai, Dukki, Musakhel, Harnai and Ziarat, along with relevant officials, to attend with complete preparations.

The meeting on the repatriation of undocumented foreign nationals has been convened in accordance with the Balochistan Home Department's notification dated October 4, 2023. Participants will review the repatriation process, administrative arrangements and necessary measures.

The DIG Police Loralai, deputy commissioners of all five districts and representatives of Loralai Scouts, intelligence agencies, Special Branch, NADRA and the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees Balochistan will attend the meeting.

A separate meeting on government revenue collection will review district-wise performance, achievement of prescribed targets, agricultural income tax and recovery of outstanding government dues.

The agenda also includes reviewing quarterly collections of stamp duty, irrigation charges, Ushr, land mutation fees, district and municipal fees, capital value tax, acreage-wise inspections of Rabi and Kharif crops, and revenue performance against prescribed targets.

Commissioner Bareech directed all deputy commissioners to attend personally with verified statistics and complete records to identify obstacles to revenue collection and formulate an effective strategy to address them.

Benefit from free medical consultations under Sehat Dehleez: DC Kibzai

SIBI (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Sibi Major (Retd.) Ilyas Kibzai has urged citizens to fully benefit from free medical consultations with qualified doctors from the comfort of their homes under the Sehat Dehleez program, which has so far completed 5,500 free medical consultations across Sibi district.

Launched under a special initiative of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the digital healthcare program is being implemented by PPHI Balochistan with provincial government support to ensure timely and quality healthcare services, particularly in remote areas.

The program provides free online medical consultations, prescriptions and referrals to advanced healthcare facilities when necessary.

Major (Retd.) Ilyas Kibzai described Sehat Dehleez as an important public welfare initiative aimed at bringing healthcare services to citizens' doorsteps through modern technology. He encouraged residents to utilize the digital service for routine medical concerns and appreciated the provincial government's efforts to improve healthcare accessibility in remote areas.

Citizens can access free Sehat Dehleez services through the web application and Google Play Store.

The initiative marks significant progress in promoting digital healthcare and improving access to medical services across Balochistan, particularly in underserved communities.

Gwadar targets polio vaccination of 35,664 children, forms 207 teams

GWADAR (6 AM Report): Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Gwadar Dr. Abdul Shakoor has directed officials to ensure timely completion of microplans, field teams' training, effective monitoring and security arrangements for the upcoming four-day anti-polio campaign, targeting 35,664 children under five across the district from December 12 to 15.

A total of 207 vaccination teams have been formed, while 20 union council in-charges and 38 area in-charges have been appointed to ensure effective supervision.

The arrangements were reviewed during a meeting of the District Polio Eradication Committee (DPEC), chaired by Dr. Abdul Shakoor on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Naqeebullah Kakar.

The meeting was informed that the vaccination teams comprised 166 mobile, 29 fixed and 12 transit teams.

Dr. Abdul Shakoor directed relevant departments to strengthen institutional coordination and finalize all operational and security arrangements, particularly in sensitive areas, before the campaign begins.

He emphasized that all departments must discharge their responsibilities diligently to ensure the campaign's success and achieve the prescribed vaccination target.

The meeting also reviewed the previous campaign's performance, vaccination targets, team deployment and security arrangements.

District Health Officer Dr. Yasir Tahir, Medical Superintendent Mir Abdul Ghafoor Kalmati Teaching Hospital Dr. Hafeez Baloch, WHO representative Dr. Jahanzeb Khan Durrani, Divisional Support Polio Officer Dr. Ghulam Mujtaba.

Ensure timely completion, quality of development projects: DC Ziarat

ZIARAT (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Ziarat Abdul Quddus Achakzai has directed officials to accelerate development projects without compromising construction quality, ensuring that citizens, particularly farmers, benefit from these initiatives without delay. The district administration also issued directives to ensure the success of the upcoming anti-polio campaign and improve healthcare services at basic health units.

The deputy commissioner inspected an agricultural tube well under construction in Zandra under Phase III of the Balochistan Special Development Initiative (BSDI), reviewing construction quality and progress.

Major Amir of 155 Wing, Executive Engineer Irrigation Ziarat Umair Ali and the contractor accompanied him. The deputy commissioner directed the engineer and contractor to ensure timely completion in accordance with prescribed construction standards.

Meanwhile, on the deputy commissioner's directives, Assistant Commissioner Habib-ur-Rehman Kakar chaired a meeting to review preparations for the four-day anti-polio campaign scheduled for December 12 to 15.

He directed officials to finalize arrangements, ensure vaccination teams' attendance and performance, and strengthen monitoring to ensure that every child under five received polio vaccine drops.

Separately, following directives from Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and DC Abdul Quddus Achakzai, PPHI District Manager Dr. Farooq Marri inspected Basic Health Units in Shinlaz and Baghaw.

He reviewed outpatient records, medicine availability, cleanliness, maintenance, infection prevention, prenatal and postnatal healthcare services, and staff attendance.

Ensure additional classrooms, improved facilities at girls' schools: DC Quetta

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini has directed officials to take practical measures to construct additional classrooms, renovate school buildings and improve basic educational facilities at girls' schools across the city to provide students with a conducive learning environment. He also emphasized the timely completion of development projects and continuous monitoring of construction and renovation work.

He issued these directives while chairing a meeting with Martin Dow Chief Executive Officer Salwa Zainab to discuss educational projects under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

The District Education Officer (Female), Deputy District Education Officers, Assistant Commissioner City and other relevant officials attended the meeting.

Participants discussed the construction of additional classrooms, renovation of school buildings and improvement of basic educational facilities at various girls' schools in Quetta.

The deputy commissioner assigned officials responsibilities for conducting school visits, identifying construction and renovation requirements, implementing projects and ensuring continuous monitoring. Meanwhile, Mehrullah Badini chaired a separate meeting on administrative coordination between Quetta East and West districts, attended by Deputy Commissioner Quetta West Sana Mahjabeen, additional deputy commissioners, assistant commissioners and other administrative officers.



LORALAI: Commissioner Loralai Division Wali Muhammad Barrech presides over the meeting regarding collection of governmental revenues.

Ensure quality healthcare, accountability at basic health units: DC Kibzai

SIBI (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Sibi Major (Retd.) Ilyas Kibzai has directed officials to ensure quality healthcare services, effective accountability, accurate recordkeeping and timely reporting at all basic health units across the district, emphasizing the need to improve institutional performance and service delivery.

He issued these directives while chairing a monthly review meeting at the PPHI district office, attended by PPHI District Manager Dr. Salar Khan Satakzai, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Lala Samad Khan Usmani and heads of basic health units.

The meeting reviewed AI-based staff attendance, digital reporting through the District Health Information System (DHIS2), prenatal and postnatal healthcare services, and accuracy of medical records.

Participants also discussed the effective use of rapid diagnostic tests for timely malaria diagnosis, quality family planning services and measures to improve healthcare data accuracy. DC Major (Retd.) Ilyas Kibzai directed heads of all basic health units to submit accurate reports within prescribed deadlines, maintain comprehensive records and ensure quality healthcare services.

Participants reaffirmed their commitment to improving healthcare delivery and key performance indicators of basic health units across Sibi district.

Ensure effective implementation of security directives: DC Khalid

JAFFARABAD (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Jaffarabad Khalid Khan has directed relevant departments to ensure effective implementation of government directives to maintain law and order, protect citizens' lives and property, and prevent subversive and illegal activities across the district.

He stressed the need for stronger interdepartmental coordination and cooperation to improve security arrangements and ensure public safety.

He issued these directives while chairing three separate meetings of the District Coordination Committee, District Intelligence Coordination Committee and District Implementation Committee, attended by heads of district departments and representatives of intelligence agencies. The meetings reviewed the mapping and profiling of individuals listed under the Fourth Schedule, security arrangements for railway tracks, bus terminals, national highways and key installations, and potential threats to law and order.

Registration of religious seminaries and tenants, the status of undocumented foreign nationals, security of non-local workers, prevention of smuggling of Iranian oil and narcotics, illegal spectrum-related activities and updating the BISA dashboard were also discussed. The meetings also reviewed matters relating to the potential misuse of the press and social media for subversive activities, alleged involvement of government employees and possible misuse of public resources.

Strict enforcement of safety regulations essential to protect miners' lives

MACH (6 AM Report): Mines officials have emphasized that effective enforcement of safety regulations, greater occupational safety awareness and improved professional skills are essential to protecting miners' lives, preventing accidents and ensuring a safe working environment.

They expressed these views during a one-day training workshop organized for mine managers and supervisors in Mach.

Inspector of Mines Mach Qurban Ali Umrani, Junior Inspector of Mines Muhammad Osama and Electrical Inspector of Mines Arif Hussain Umrani provided comprehensive training on mining safety procedures, safe machinery operation, electrical safety, accident prevention and emergency response.

The officials stressed the importance of promoting safety awareness among mining personnel and strictly observing precautionary measures during mining operations.

Participants appreciated the training sessions, describing the initiative as an important step toward protecting miners' lives, enhancing professional capabilities and promoting a safer working environment in the mining sector.

Ensure all health facilities are functional, staff absenteeism will not be tolerated: DC Kakar

SHERANI (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Sherani Kaleemullah Kakar has directed authorities to ensure that all government health facilities across the district are fully functional, warning that absenteeism among doctors and medical staff, negligence in official duties and shortcomings in healthcare delivery will not be tolerated.

He warned of disciplinary action against negligent officials and also directed education authorities to ensure teachers' and students' attendance and improve education standards at government schools.

He issued these directives while chairing separate review meetings on health and education at the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Mani Khuwa.

The health sector meeting reviewed the operational status of government hospitals and basic health units, staff attendance, availability of medicines and healthcare services.

Kakar directed officials to ensure the presence of medical personnel and availability of essential medicines and basic healthcare facilities, particularly to provide timely treatment to residents of remote areas.

Meanwhile, the District Education Group meeting reviewed the overall performance of government schools, teachers' and students' attendance, academic activities and institutional challenges.

The deputy commissioner emphasized that improving education standards and strengthening the performance of government schools were among the district administration's key priorities.

He directed education officials and teachers to discharge their responsibilities diligently, ensure regular attendance, maintain uninterrupted academic activities and resolve institutional problems through mutual consultation and effective planning.

Assistant Commissioner Satno Ragha Habib-ur-Rehman Nasar, District Health Officer Dr. Saifuddin Bugti, Medical Superintendent Dr. Abdullah Kakar, PPHI District Support Manager Dr. Abdul Qadir, District Treasury Officer Muhammad Aslam, District Education Officer and representatives of relevant organizations and teachers' associations attended the meetings.

Kakar reaffirmed the administration's commitment to improving healthcare and education services through effective departmental coordination and institutional accountability.

DC Haseeb

Focus on missed children, vaccine refusing parents

LORALAI (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Loralai Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Haseeb Shuja has directed authorities to pay special attention to children missed during previous anti-polio campaigns, parents refusing vaccination and sensitive areas, emphasizing that no child under five should remain unvaccinated.

He said all available resources would be utilized to protect children from lifelong disability and achieve complete polio eradication. He issued these directives while chairing a meeting of the District Polio Eradication Committee (DPEC), which reviewed preparations for the upcoming anti-polio campaign. The meeting discussed microplanning, deployment and training of vaccination teams, security arrangements, monitoring mechanisms, interdepartmental coordination and strategies to address potential challenges.

The deputy commissioner directed relevant departments and partner organizations to strengthen mutual cooperation and complete all necessary arrangements before the campaign begins.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini, Deputy Commissioner Quetta West Madam Sana Mahjabeen in a group photo with CEO of Martin Dow Madam Salwa Zainab.

President stresses strengthening Pakistan-Bangladesh ties through trade, parliamentary exchanges

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday emphasised the need to strengthen Pakistan-Bangladesh relations through expanded parliamentary exchanges, trade and economic cooperation, educational links and people-to-people contacts, calling for a forward-looking approach based on sovereign equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit.

The president expressed confidence that the visit of Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament, Hafiz Uddin Ahmad Bir Bikram, would help advance bilateral relations and pave the way for more high-level exchanges between the two countries.

The president met with a parliamentary delegation of Bangladesh, led by Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, here at Aiwan-e-Sadr, a Presidency's news release said.

President Zardari said Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Bangladesh, which are rooted in shared history, common faith and deep cultural and familial affinities.

The president noted the renewed momentum in bilateral relations, particularly in high-level exchanges, education, trade, culture and people-to-people contacts. He highlighted the considerable potential for cooperation in agriculture, industry, food security, disaster management, digital governance, space research and defence.

He also expressed hope for the early finalisation of around 26 MoUs under consideration, which would provide an institutional framework for expanding bilateral cooperation.

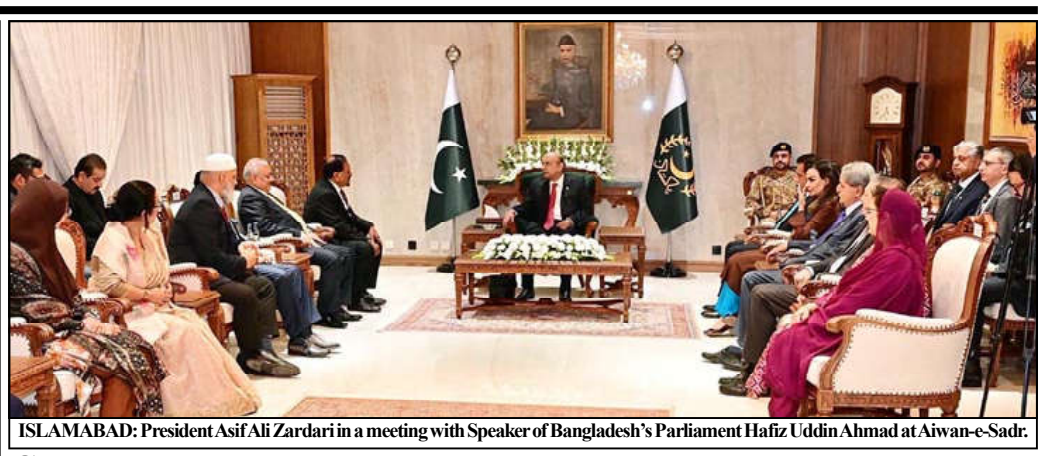
President Zardari congratulated Bangladesh on the election of Barrister Adib Chowdhury, Chairman of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, to the Executive Committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). He expressed Pakistan's desire to further strengthen parliamentary cooperation, including at international parliamentary fora, and welcomed efforts to establish a Pakistan-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship Group.

The president offered Pakistan's assistance in facilitating training for Bangladeshi parliamentary officials at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) and sharing its institutional expertise in operating a bicameral legislature.

President Zardari highlighted Pakistan's educational initiatives, including the Pakistan-Bangladesh Knowledge Corridor launched last year, which offers 500 fully funded scholarships to Bangladeshi students at leading Pakistani universities. He noted that 170 Bangladeshi students have already joined Pakistani universities, while another 20 are expected to join shortly.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Baugti talking to a representative delegation of journalists, led by President of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), Afzal Butt.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with Speaker of Bangladesh's Parliament Hafiz Uddin Ahmad at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Govt ads to newspapers to be linked to media workers' salary payments: CM Bugti

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has announced that the issuance of government advertisements to newspapers will be made conditional on the regular payment of media workers' salaries to safeguard their economic rights. He said resolving journalists' longstanding issues and establishing a journalists' colony were among the government's priorities, with practical measures underway to provide housing facilities.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of the Quetta Press Club and Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ), led by Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) President Afzal Butt.

The meeting discussed the closure of television channel bureaus in Quetta, financial and professional challenges facing journalists, the journalists' housing scheme and other welfare-related matters.

The chief minister emphasized that timely payment of media workers' salaries and protection of their economic rights were essential, announcing that government advertisements to newspapers would be linked to regular salary payments.

Appreciating the services of Balochistan's journalists despite challenging circumstances, Bugti said independent, responsible and active journalism played a vital role in bringing about positive social change and highlighting public issues.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to resolving journalists' longstanding grievances, adding that necessary measures were being taken to establish a journalists' colony.

The delegation apprised the chief minister of the challenges facing the journalist community, particularly the closure of television channel bureaus, and sought government cooperation in addressing these issues.

Bugti assured the delegation that journalists' concerns would be addressed through relevant forums, reaffirming the provincial government's continued support for their welfare, economic rights and resolution of professional challenges.

National conference calls for stronger safeguards for freedom of expression

ISLAMABAD (INP): A national conference on Wednesday called for stronger safeguards for freedom of expression, journalist safety and accountability, while urging greater respect for the public's "right to information", stronger safeguards for media practitioners and special measures to protect women journalists from online and offline harassment.

On January 28, 2025, the Senate passed the Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Act, 2025, significantly expanding the government's powers to regulate online content and penalise digital offences. The legislation drew widespread criticism from journalists, media organisations and rights activists, who argue that it undermined the fundamental right to freedom of expression.

The conference in Islamabad comes as censorship under the PECA becomes increasingly entrenched, while journalists and media organisations face mounting safety and economic challenges, despite the enactment of special legislation aimed at combating impunity and signs of improvement in the national economy.

The conference titled "The Future of Freedom of Expression: Technology, Safety and Accountability" urged stakeholders to explore practical solutions, foster institutional dialogue and develop a shared commitment to addressing these challenges.

Freedom Network Executive Director Iqbal Khattak, while welcoming ambassadors, parliamentarians, representatives of public institutions, media practitioners, civil society organisations, academia and journalism students, stated: "A society should not be judged only by how freely it allows people to speak when they agree with those in power, but by how well it protects their right to speak when they disagree."

The discussions generated several recommendations to address the interconnected challenges confronting Pakistan's media landscape.

Participants called for institutionalising journalist safety training within newsrooms to strengthen awareness of legal risks and equip journalists with the skills necessary to navigate digital spaces safely and effectively.

Recognising the relationship between financial sustainability and editorial independence, participants recommended that media organisations diversify their revenue streams through subscription-based models and reduce their reliance on government advertising.

In response to AI-driven misinformation, participants emphasised the need for multiple layers of human oversight, rigorous editorial verification and greater scepticism when assessing information circulating on social media.The discussion on gender, technology and journalist safety underscored the need to institutionalise solidarity and support networks among women journalists and establish a unified referral mechanism to facilitate the reporting and redress of complaints concerning harassment and other threats.

Quality, technical education key to overcoming under development: Dr. Malik

QUETTA (6 AM Report): National Party President and former Balochistan Chief Minister Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch has said that quality higher and technical education is essential to overcoming underdevelopment and achieving political, economic and social progress.

He emphasized that Balochistan's female students could play a significant role in overcoming the challenges facing the nation through their intelligence, exceptional abilities and creative thinking. However, inadequate policies, financial resources and opportunities remain major barriers to realizing their potential.

He expressed these views while addressing the closing session of the Second International Conference on Emerging Trends in Science and Technology (ICETST-2026), organized by Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University, Quetta, as chief guest.

Dr. Malik Baloch praised the scientific research and innovative ideas presented by female students, emphasizing the need to provide them with adequate resources, opportunities and encouragement.

He said that during his tenure as chief minister, the education budget was increased from 4 to 26 percent, while three medical colleges and six universities were established.

Describing education as a provincial responsibility, he stressed the need to prioritize its development. He cited students from low-income families in Balochistan who had secured merit-based scholarships in physics at European universities as evidence of the province's exceptional talent.

The former chief minister said that knowledge, research and technology were driving global progress, emphasizing the importance of quality and technical education aligned with modern market demands.

Highlighting the growing significance of artificial intelligence (AI), he urged Balochistan's youth to develop expertise in emerging technologies, scientific research and innovation to compete globally.

He maintained that Balochistan's youth possessed immense potential and needed adequate opportunities, encouragement and sustained hard work to excel.

National Party Balochistan Working Committee member Mashkoor Anwar and Provincial Education Secretary Sadia Badini accompanied him on the occasion.

Zardari says Pakistan will deepen ties with Bosnia and Herzegovina

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday said that Pakistan would continue to develop its ties with Bosnia Herzegovina across different fields, including politics, diplomacy, defence, education, and culture.

The president, in his message on the Statehood Day of Bosnia Herzegovina, said, "On 25 November, we join the people of Bosnia in celebrating their Statehood Day."

Recalling bilateral history, he noted that Pakistan recognised the independence of Bosnia in 1992, recalling that during the war, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and he supported the independence of its people and that Pakistan also welcomed Bosnia's refugees.

Pakistan, PATH discuss local vaccine manufacturing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal met a delegation of the global health organisation PATH, led by its President and Chief Executive Officer Nikolaj Gilbert, to discuss strengthening Pakistan's local vaccine manufacturing capacity through technology transfer and technical cooperation. The delegation included Professor Jeremy Farrar, Chief of Asia, Middle East and Europe, Dr. Nabeel Gohar, Senior Adviser, and Dr. Khokhar, Executive Director of Remington Pharmaceuticals.

During the meeting, both sides held detailed discussions on local vaccine production, transfer of modern technologies and provision of technical assistance to develop Pakistan's vaccine manufacturing capabilities.

The federal minister emphasized the need to expand domestic vaccine production, develop advanced manufacturing capacity and strengthen international cooperation in the sector.

Justice Sector Support Programme benefits nearly 30,000 citizens: Aqeel Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Law and Justice, Barrister Aqeel Malik has appreciated the contribution of the Justice Sector Support Programme towards strengthening Pakistan's justice system, saying its community outreach initiatives have benefited nearly 30,000 citizens.

He was addressing the "Showcasing Impact and Sharing Learnings" event of the programme, organised by The Asia Foundation (TAF) with the support of the US Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), here on Wednesday.

The minister said the programme had expanded its outreach to 56 districts across Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, trained more than 5,300 justice-sector officials and engaged over 29,500 citizens through community outreach initiatives.

He said the programme's achievements in capacity-building, institutional development and community engagement had contributed to strengthening the country's justice system.

Barrister Aqeel Malik stressed the need to sustain these achievements and further enhance institutional capacity to make the justice system more effective, accountable, accessible and responsive to citizens' needs.

He appreciated The Asia Foundation, the US Department of State's INL and partner institutions for their continued support and contributions to strengthening Pakistan's justice institutions.

The minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to advancing justice-sector reforms, promoting institutional cooperation and ensuring accessible and effective justice for all citizens.

Ministerial reappointment an honor and responsibility to serve people: Ali Madad Jattak

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Agriculture Minister Haji Mir Ali Madad Jattak has said that his reappointment as provincial minister is not merely an honor but also a major responsibility to serve the people, pledging renewed commitment to resolving public issues and promoting development in Sariab and across Balochistan.

He expressed these views during a meeting with local elders, political and social figures, and citizens at his residence, Jattak House, Quetta.

The visiting delegations apprised the minister of public grievances, basic needs and development priorities, presenting various suggestions. Jattak assured them of all possible measures to address their concerns.

He said public service was the cornerstone of the Pakistan Peoples Party's politics, emphasizing that maintaining close contact with citizens, resolving their problems and ensuring basic facilities remained his foremost priorities.

The minister pledged to strengthen coordination with relevant departments to address electricity, gas, water, healthcare, education and employment issues.



SKARDU: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan inspecting NHA work at Jaglot Skardu Road.

Irresponsible use of medicines threatens human, animal health and food safety: Saleh Baloch

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Secretary Livestock and Dairy Development Saleh Muhammad Baloch has said that growing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) poses a serious threat to human and animal health and food safety, emphasizing that responsible use of medicines, vaccination, improved biosecurity and intersectoral cooperation are essential to addressing the challenge.

He stressed the need for practical measures to achieve a significant reduction in antimicrobial use in agrifood systems by 2030.

He expressed these views during an awareness session organized jointly by the Livestock and Dairy Development Department and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at the Animal Sciences Institute, Quetta, to mark World AMR Awareness Week 2026.

Saleh Muhammad Baloch emphasized that combating antimicrobial resistance required collective efforts from the health, livestock, environment and food sectors, alongside veterinarians, farmers and private-sector stakeholders.

Director General Animal Health and Extension Services Dr. Muhammad Farooq Tareen described AMR as an immediate challenge, stressing the importance of improved animal care, vaccination and responsible use of medicines.

During a technical briefing, FAO representatives Waleed Mehdi and Dr. Mujeeb-ur-Rehman explained that antimicrobial-resistant bacteria and resistance genes could spread among humans, animals, food and the environment.

They highlighted alternatives to antibiotics, effective surveillance, laboratory diagnostics and preventive measures at the farm level.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairing a meeting to review power sector management, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Zeeshan's achievement a source of immense national pride: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Wednesday congratulated the entire nation on Pakistan's significant achievement in the field of space exploration, terming it as a historic milestone and a source of immense national pride.

In a congratulatory message, Bilawal Bhutto extended his heartfelt felicitations to Pakistan's first astronaut, Zeeshan Ali, on making history and bringing honour to the country through his remarkable achievement. He said Zeeshan Ali's success heralded a bright future for Pakistan, adding that his journey into space was a moment of immense pride, joy and national honour for all 260 million Pakistanis.

Bilawal Bhutto said Pakistan, the world's only Muslim nuclear power, was now advancing towards new frontiers in space research and exploration, demonstrating its growing scientific and technological capabilities.

He said that cooperation between Pakistan and China in the field of space research reflected the longstanding friendship, mutual trust and shared commitment of the two countries towards progress and development. "Today, our green and white flag has been raised in space; tomorrow, Pakistani youth will turn their dreams of reaching the Moon and exploring destinations beyond into reality, " he said.

Violence against women is a grave violation of human rights: Azam Nazeer Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar said that violence against women is a grave violation of human rights, while ensuring the protection, dignity, equal rights and access to justice for women and girls is the shared responsibility of the state and society.

In a statement issued in connection with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Federal Minister said that women and girls must be protected from domestic violence, harassment, sexual violence, exploitation, discrimination and other forms of abuse. Effective enforcement of laws, timely justice, accountability and the provision of legal and support services to survivors are essential to ending violence.

Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the Ministry of Human Rights is providing legal and support services for the protection of women's rights. Helpline 1099 is operational to provide free legal advice, assistance with complaints and guidance on human rights violations, helping affected individuals access relevant institutions and services.

He said that the National Action Plan for Human Rights 2026 includes practical measures for the protection and promotion of women's rights, while efforts are focused on effective enforcement of laws and support for victims of violence against women.

The Federal Minister emphasized the importance of the national strategy to address technology-facilitated gender-based violence, stating that women must also be protected from harassment, threats and other forms of abuse on digital platforms.

He said that efforts are underway to strengthen support services through women's protection and rehabilitation centres, institutional coordination and effective support mechanisms, enabling women affected by violence to access protection, guidance and essential services.

Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar said that ending violence against women requires not only legal measures but also a change in social attitudes. State institutions, media, civil society and the public must collectively contribute towards this objective.

The Federal Minister reaffirmed that building a safe, just and equal society for women and girls and protecting their fundamental rights is a national responsibility.

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