ABC Certified

DAILY 6 AM Quetta

Founded by: Syed Nadir Shah

daily6AMquetta@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Tariq Khan

Ph: 2824096 Vol : XIX No. 224 Jamadi-us-Sani 17, 1448 AH, Saturday November 28, 2026, Pages 6, Price Rs. 5 Fax: 2826036

DPM, FM Fidan agree to translate strong political ties into tangible economic dividends

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister (DPM/ FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Foreign Minister of the Republic of Türkiye, Hakan Fidan, on Friday agreed to translate their strong political ties into tangible economic dividends and maintain close coordination under the Makkah Agreement for Joint Defence to promote dialogue and de-escalation.

The deputy prime minister and the foreign minister of the Republic of Türkiye, met on the sidelines of the 2nd meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee (SPDC) of the Makkah Defence Alliance here, a DPM's Office news release said.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the growing momentum in bilateral cooperation, particularly in trade, investment, defence and energy. They reaffirmed their support for each other on matters of mutual interest.

Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan thanked Pakistan for its warm hospitality and commended its active diplomacy in advancing regional peace and stability.

PM directs PR ministry to ensure timely completion of projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the Minister for Railways to take effective measures to ensure the timely completion of ongoing projects under the ministry.

He issued the directive during a meeting with Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi, who called on him at the Prime Minister's House.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed ongoing and proposed railway projects, along with other matters related to the ministry.

Nawabzada Mir Aminullah Raisani passes away, CM Bugti mourns

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Nawabzada Mir Aminullah Khan Raisani, the eldest son of former Balochistan Governor Shaheed Nawab Ghaus Bakhsh Khan Raisani, passed away at a private hospital in Lahore.

The deceased was the elder brother of Chief of Sarawan and former Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Muhammad Aslam Khan Raisani, late Nawabzada Asadullah Khan Raisani, Nawabzada Babu Abdul Nabi Raisani, Nawabzada Haji Lashkari Khan Raisani and Shaheed Nawabzada Siraj Khan Raisani.

Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti expressed profound grief and sorrow over his passing, describing the demise as a deeply saddening loss for the Raisani family.

In his condolence message, the chief minister extended heartfelt sympathies to Nawab Muhammad Aslam Khan Raisani and the bereaved family.

He prayed to Almighty Allah to grant the departed soul a high place in Jannah and bless the bereaved family with the strength and patience to bear this irreparable loss.

The timing of the funeral prayers and the place of burial will be announced later.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting to review the affairs of Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) in promoting export-led growth and enhancing the country's exports.

PM highlights PCSIR's key role in boosting export-led growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) could play an important role in promoting export-led growth and increasing the country's exports.

He was chairing a meeting on matters related to the PCSIR, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

The prime minister said the PCSIR could also contribute significantly to the ecosystem for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the expansion of exports.

He directed all PCSIR laboratories obtain accreditation in line with international standards so that internationally recognized certification and validation of Pakistani export products can be facilitated.

The prime minister also directed the PCSIR to make its research role more effective in order to enable domestic products to compete in global markets.

He further directed that cooperation with the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) be enhanced for the industrial and technical training of youth.

The prime minister called for the report of the third-party validation conducted on the PCSIR.

He also constituted a committee to review the mandate of the PCSIR, its performance to date and its potential future role.

The committee will examine the objectives behind the establishment of the PCSIR, its legal responsibilities, the measures taken so far and the possibilities for making full use of the institution's capacity in the future.

It will also determine how the PCSIR can be made more effective in contributing to the national economy, industrial development and the growth of exports.

Earlier, the meeting was briefed on the responsibilities and performance of the PCSIR.

The briefing was informed that the PCSIR has 10 research laboratories and units across the country, along with seven technical training institutes, while 12 new laboratories are in the final stages of completion.

Pakistan seeks verification of reports about migrant boat tragedy

ISLAMABAD (INP) Foreign Office spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan on Friday said that there has been no independent verification so far of media reports regarding a boat carrying Pakistani migrants capsizing off the coast of Libya.

The spokesperson, responding to a media query on the reports, said, "We have seen some media stories pointing to a reported boat capsizing incident off the coast of Libya. There has been no independent verification of such reports so far. We hope and pray it is not true." He said that the Pakistan Embassy in Tripoli was actively pursuing the matter to ascertain the facts, including the presence of Pakistani nationals.

The spokesperson said that the embassy had contacted the relevant Libyan government authorities, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other relevant stakeholders and that it would share further information as soon as verified details become available.

Petrol price drops by Re1 per litre, diesel remains unchanged

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has reduced the price of petrol by Re1 per litre and kept the rate of high-speed diesel (HSD) unchanged, according to an Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) notification issued on Friday.

Following the revision, petrol will be available at Rs312 per litre, while diesel still costs Rs346 per litre.

According to Ogra, the revised prices will be effective from November 28-30.

Ogra has also begun publishing daily petroleum prices on its website to improve transparency and allow changes in international oil prices to be passed on to consumers more quickly.



GWADAR: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti distributing appoint orders amongst Women Secondary School Teachers.

Ahsan pushes major CPEC projects, Gwadar shipping revival in China talks

BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday discussed a wide-ranging agenda of infrastructure, energy, industrial and trade cooperation with Vice Chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Zhou Haibing, seeking early progress on key projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

During the meeting, the minister also sought duty-free access for all Pakistani goods to the Chinese market through a non-reciprocal arrangement, separate from the existing bilateral free trade agreement and modelled on China's zero-tariff access for African countries.

Highlighting the trade imbalance, he pointed out that Pakistan's imports from China stood at $22.34 billion in 2025-26, compared to exports of $2.71 billion.

He proposed bilateral technical talks on product coverage, rules of origin and an implementation timetable.

The minister called for early completion of the financing agreement for the 102-kilometre Thor Nullah–Raikot section of the Karakoram Highway (KKH), the first priority under the wider Rs576 billion Thakot–Raikot realignment project.

The realignment is aimed at keeping the highway operational in areas where the existing route is affected by hydropower projects on the Indus River.

He also discussed Chinese participation in upgrading the ML-1 railway beyond the Karachi–Rohri section, for which Pakistan is exploring Asian Development Bank financing. He called for progress on four joint road feasibility studies, including the Babusar Tunnel project.

On Gwadar, Ahsan Iqbal sought Chinese support for restoring regular shipping services, including through engagement with COSCO, and proposed a joint study on strategic petroleum storage at the port.

The discussions also covered the Gwadar Free Zone, the second phase of the Eastbay Expressway and a proposed corridor linking Chagai's mining areas with Gwadar for mineral processing and exports.

Under the second phase of CPEC, the minister sought progress on the Kohala and Azad Pattan hydropower projects and proposed joint work to assess the feasibility of converting selected power plants from imported coal to locally available Thar coal.

He also sought Chinese approval for the Siah Diq copper project and proposed jointly developing two to three model special economic zones (SEZs).

Makkah alliance reaffirms regional peace, condemns Houthi attacks on KSA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening trilateral defence cooperation and promoting regional peace and stability during the second meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee of the Makkah Alliance for Defence, hosted by Pakistan on Friday.

The high-level meeting reviewed the evolving regional security situation and discussed ways to enhance coordination on matters of mutual interest, reduce regional tensions and encourage the peaceful resolution of disputes through dialogue and diplomacy.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar said the three countries had agreed to continue consultations and strengthen cooperation to address shared security challenges and support efforts aimed at maintaining regional stability.

Pakistan was represented by Deputy Prime Minister Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. The Saudi delegation included Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud and Chief of the General Staff General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili.

The Turkish delegation comprised Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, National Defence Minister Yasar Güler and Chief of the General Staff General Selçuk Bayraktaroglu.

During the discussions, the three sides strongly condemned what they described as persistent attacks by the Houthi militia targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure in Saudi Arabia. They reaffirmed their collective determination to support the Kingdom in protecting its security, sovereignty and territorial integrity in accordance with the collective defence provisions of the Makkah Agreement for Joint Defence.

The participating countries also reiterated their commitment to the agreement's fundamental principles, including collective defence, mutual solidarity and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all member states.

The meeting reviewed progress on implementing decisions taken during previous sessions of the Makkah Alliance for Defence. The three sides expressed satisfaction with developments towards establishing and operationalising the alliance's secretariat in Saudi Arabia.

They also pledged to expand cooperation in defence industries, joint technological development, military training and capacity-building to strengthen the capabilities and coordination of their armed forces. Such collaboration, they said, would help address common security concerns and contribute to broader regional peace and stability.

JUI-F claims Fazl held, Lahore police deny detention

LAHORE (INP): The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) claimed its chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman had been arrested near Thokar Niaz Baig, but the Lahore police rejected the claim, saying he had returned to his residence along with his convoy.

JUI-F Deputy Secretary Information for Lahore Hafiz Zain claimed that party chief Fazl had been arrested near Thokar Niaz Baig, alleging that Lahore Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Bilal Siddique Kamyana and DIG Operations Faisal Kamran had detained him.

However, the DIG Operations rejected the claim, saying Fazl had not been arrested as he had returned to his residence along with his convoy.

The police official also said traffic on Multan Road and the motorway was flowing smoothly.

The conflicting statements came amid tensions surrounding the JUI-F protests and restrictions on the party's planned activities in Punjab as per the party officials' statements. The JUI-F had earlier alleged restrictions on Fazlur Rehman's movement in Lahore, prompting the party to approach the Lahore High Court over his alleged confinement. Police, however, denied arresting or formally placing him under house arrest. In the plea filed before the LHC, the petitioner contended that police cordoned off Fazl's residence and restricted his movement, effectively placing him under house arrest.

The petitioner maintained that the JUI-F chief was scheduled to attend an all-parties conference (APC) organised by the Lahore High Court Bar Association.

The petitioner requested the court to order Fazl's recovery and also sought an immediate hearing of the petition.

Tensions between Fazl and the federal government have increased since mid-October, particularly after he criticised the Centre's decision to impose governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The seasoned politician also accused the Centre of failing to honour its commitments despite his efforts to mediate between the PML-N and PTI-led KP government.



GWADAR: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti presides over the meeting regarding affairs of Mekran Division.

CM Bugti

Ban Iranian oil transportation in passenger buses on Makran route

GWADAR (6 AM Report): Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti has ordered a complete ban on the transportation of Iranian oil in passenger buses operating on the Makran route, warning that violators and the transport companies concerned will face immediate and strict legal action. He said passenger buses were intended to provide safe transportation to citizens and would not be allowed to engage in illegal oil transportation.

Chairing a high-level meeting in Gwadar on Friday, the chief minister directed authorities to ensure effective enforcement of the ban and take indiscriminate action against violators.

The meeting finalized a three-phase strategy to address public grievances and improve departmental performance across Makran Division, setting deadlines of seven to 10 days for immediate measures, 20 days for medium-term measures and 60 days for long-term initiatives.

The meeting reviewed a comprehensive report on the Secretaries' Committee's recent visit to Gwadar, Kech and Panjgur. Additional Chief Secretary Development Zahid Saleem briefed participants on public consultations, inspections of educational and healthcare facilities, and progress on development projects.

Tarar slams JUI-F protest, takes aim at Bilawal over referendum

ISLAMABAD (INP): Information Minister Attaullah Tarar stepped up his criticism of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, accusing the JUI-F chief of encouraging confrontation and questioning the PPP chairman's stance on a referendum and Imran Khan's imprisonment.

Speaking in a priviate TV Channel, Tarar downplayed the disruption caused by the JUI-F protests, urging Fazlur Rehman to avoid confrontation and find a way forward rather than block roads.

He alleged that the JUI-F chief was seeking confrontation despite efforts by members of his own party to persuade him otherwise.

Tarar also made a sharp remark about the JUI-F, likening its conduct to that of a militant organisation and questioning whether Fazlur Rehman stood with Pakistan or Afghanistan and the Taliban.

"He (Fazl) will have to decide whether he wants to stand with Pakistan or with Afghanistan and the Taliban. He is behaving like a militant group," he said.



QUETTA: Activists of JUI taken out rally led by District Amer Maulana Abdul Rehman Rafique against arrest of JUI Leader Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman.

Bilawal says

South Punjab constitutional right to separate province, opposes dividing Punjab

RAHIM YAR KHAN (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said he did not support dividing Punjab into four parts and instead backed making South Punjab a separate province. He said the province would be established through democratic struggle and that no undemocratic means would be accepted for this purpose.

Addressing a gathering in Rahim Yar Khan, Bilawal Bhutto said he wanted to warn "conspiratorial elements" that the demand for a South Punjab province would not be allowed to become controversial. He said the people of South Punjab were politically aware and believed in democracy, and would therefore secure their province through democratic struggle.

Bilawal Bhutto said he supported a South Punjab province because it was the wish of the people there. He added that the Punjab Assembly had also supported making South Punjab a province, and said he stood with the people's wishes and the assembly's position.

Expressing his personal view, he made clear that he did not support dividing Punjab into four parts and did not agree with the position that the province should be split into four separate parts.

The PPP chairman said his support was limited to making South Punjab a separate province.

He said he backed continuing the democratic struggle to achieve this objective.

Sindh CM interacts with over 105 participants of 28th National Security Workshop

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that Karachi remains one of the country's most progressive, inclusive and economically vibrant cities, offering employment and livelihood opportunities to people from across Pakistan.

He said improved law and order, expanding infrastructure, healthcare facilities and industrial development reflected the provincial government's performance, despite attempts by political opponents to create a negative perception of the city.

"If Karachi were underdeveloped, life difficult and employment opportunities scarce, why would people continue to settle here? This shows that Karachi is meeting people's essential needs and providing employment opportunities," he said.

The Chief Minister was speaking during an interactive session with more than 105 participants, including 25 women, of the 28th National Security Workshop, led by Major General Muhammad Raza and accompanied by eight faculty members, at the Chief Minister's House on Thursday.

Responding to questions, Mr Shah highlighted Sindh's development achievements, improved security, investment opportunities, religious harmony and youth empowerment. He said Karachi's ranking among the world's most dangerous cities had improved from sixth in 2013 to 138th, reflecting sustained efforts to improve law and order.

He cited Thar coal power generation, Shahrah-e-Bhutto, improved drainage and road infrastructure, free cancer treatment through CyberKnife and extensive cardiac treatment facilities at NICVD as major achievements. He said international donor agencies had confidence in the provincial government and were partnering in its development initiatives.

"Donor agencies have confidence in the provincial government, which is why they are partnering with us in the province's development. Our PPP unit has successfully completed and undertaken projects that previous governments could not," he said.

Rejecting attempts to divide Sindh, the Chief Minister recalled that Hyderabad Division had been divided into four districts in 2005, creating administrative complications and political fiefdoms. He said the people of Sindh would not allow similar attempts to divide the province.

On the recent building collapse in Karachi, he termed the incident tragic and said the government had taken strict action, removing the Secretary Local Government and the Director General of the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA).



Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets Kenyan Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Bare Duale at CM house in Karachi.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi in a group photo with a delegation of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council at the Governor House.

Governor Sindh inaugurates "Captured Moments" Photography Exhibition

KARACHI (APP): Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi organised a photography exhibition titled "Captured Moments", featuring the works of renowned photographer Abid S. Masti Khan, at Ahmed Pervez Art Gallery. Governor Sindh Syed Nihal Hashmi, the chief guest, inaugurated the exhibition alongside President Arts Council Muhammad Ahmed Shah.

Secretary Arts Council Ejaz Farooqi, renowned artist Shahid Rassam, photographer Abid S. Masti Khan and other personalities from the world of art and culture were also present.

The exhibition features Abid S. Masti Khan's photographs of snow-covered mountains in the northern areas, natural coastlines of Sindh and Balochistan, and other scenic landscapes. It will remain open to the public on 28 November, from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, at Ahmed Pervez Art Gallery, Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Governor Sindh Syed Nihal Hashmi has said that Pakistan's natural beauty, historical landmarks and cultural heritage are integral to the country's national identity, and their preservation and promotion are a collective responsibility. Photography is not merely an art of capturing images but also a means of preserving beautiful and meaningful moments and projecting Pakistan's positive and peaceful image to the world.

The Governor Sindh congratulated Abid S. Masti Khan on his artistic contributions and appreciated his efforts in capturing Pakistan's natural beauty through his camera.

CM GB issues directives for establishment of Sasta Bazaars across all districts of the region

GILGIT (APP): Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan Amjad Hussain has issued directives for the establishment of Sasta Bazaars (subsidized markets) across all districts of the region to provide quality daily essential commodities to the public at affordable and fair prices. He instructed all Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners to formulate and submit actionable recommendations for setting up these markets in their respective districts within the next three days.

The chief minister issued these directives while chairing a high-level meeting with all Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners here Friday. He announced that in the first phase, Sasta Bazaars would be established at the divisional headquarters in Gilgit, Skardu, and Chilas, after which the initiative would be expanded to all remaining districts in a phased manner.

Highlighting the objectives of the initiative, Chief Minister Amjad Hussain stated that the primary aim of the Sasta Bazaars was to offer quality essential items under one roof at reasonable rates, thereby easing shopping difficulties for citizens while simultaneously reducing traffic congestion. He directed the administrative heads to identify suitable locations for the markets, noting that the provincial government will construct temporary infrastructure at these sites to hand over to interested traders.

Ensure timely completion of girls' degree college, no compromise on quality: Ramzan

USTA MUHAMMAD (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Usta Muhammad Muhammad Ramzan Palal has directed officials to ensure the timely completion of Government Girls' Degree College, warning that substandard construction materials, unnecessary delays and negligence in development projects will not be tolerated.

He issued these directives during an inspection of the college being constructed under the Balochistan Socioeconomic Development Initiative (BSDI).

The deputy commissioner reviewed various sections of the under-construction building, construction materials, pace of work and overall project progress.

SDO Buildings Ashiq Ali Bohar briefed him on completed and ongoing construction activities, challenges and future plans.

The deputy commissioner directed officials to complete all construction works, including the BS Complex, within the stipulated timeframe, ensuring strict compliance with approved designs, government regulations, engineering principles and technical standards. He instructed engineering officials to regularly monitor construction activities and assess quality at every stage to ensure the building was durable, safe and equipped to meet modern educational requirements.

Overseas Pakistanis, Kashmiris, backbone of national economy

MIRPUR (APP): A prestigious reception on Friday was hosted in honour of the Pakistani and Kashmiri communities at Quaid-e-Azam Hall in Birmingham, UK, by prominent British Pakistani businessman and former Presidential Adviser on Overseas Pakistanis in the UK, Muhammad Aslam Mughalit was officially said.

Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Tourism Sardar Yasir Ilyas was the chief guest, while Chairman of the Pakistan Overseas Foundation Syed Qamar Raza, along with a large number of distinguished members of the Pakistani and Kashmiri communities, business personalities, social and political leaders and journalists from across the UK, attended the event, a message reaching and released to the media here on Friday.

Hosts Muhammad Aslam Mughal and Aamir Aslam Mughal warmly welcomed the guests upon their arrival at Quaid-e-Azam Hall, the message said.

The venue was beautifully decorated with national flags, while participants exchanged greetings and demonstrated a strong spirit of unity and solidarity within the community.

Addressing the gathering, speakers described overseas Pakistanis and Kashmiris as the unofficial ambassadors for resolving their issues on a priority basis, which was the government's responsibility.

Speaking to the Prime Minister, Sardar Yasir Ilyas said the government was committed to extending special facilities to overseas Pakistanis in the fields of tourism and investment.

Advance planning, effective coordination essential to combat drought: Naveed

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan Director Planning and Coordination Naveed Ahmed Sheikh has emphasized that timely planning, anticipatory action, institutional capacity building and effective coordination between national and provincial institutions are essential to mitigating the impact of drought and safeguarding communities across Balochistan.

He expressed these views as a guest speaker at a workshop on drought anticipatory action and contingency planning in Islamabad.

Sheikh presented a detailed overview of Balochistan's drought situation, briefing participants on PDMA's contingency planning framework, preparedness measures and disaster management strategies.

The workshop brought together institutional representatives and experts specializing in disaster risk management, financial resource management and anticipatory action.

The workshop aimed to align drought preparedness and contingency planning with the priorities of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) and provincial disaster management authorities. Participants also exchanged technical knowledge, experiences and best practices.

Fog forces closure of several Motorway sections

LAHORE (INP): Several sections of motorways have been closed to traffic due to dense fog, affecting commuters and motorists in different parts of the country.

According to details, the M-2 Motorway has been closed from Lahore to Kot Momin. Traffic has also been suspended on the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway, while the M-4 section from Faisalabad to Pindi Bhattian has been closed.

Practical training essential to enhance government officers' professional skills: Ayub Hazara

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Director General Excise North Muhammad Ayub Hazara has emphasized that practical training, professional expertise, administrative discipline and interdepartmental cooperation are essential to improving the performance of government institutions and strengthening effective governance.

He expressed these views while addressing trainee superintendents and office coordinators of the Balochistan Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD) during their study visit to the Excise, Taxation and Anti-Narcotics Department.

The director general briefed participants on the department's administrative structure, functions, responsibilities and operational procedures.

The trainee officers were also apprised of revenue collection mechanisms, the taxation system, drug prevention measures and departmental responsibilities related to narcotics control.



Governor Sindh, Syed Nihal Hashmi, inaugurates 'captured moments' photography exhibition by Abid S. Masti Khan at Ahmed Pervez art gallery in Karachi.

Over 40,000 children to receive polio drops in Kalat: DC Ayesha Zehri

KALAT (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Kalat Engineer Ayesha Zehri has said that collective efforts from all segments of society are essential to achieving a polio-free society, announcing that 40,269 children will be targeted during the upcoming four-day nationwide anti-polio campaign beginning December 12.

Chairing a meeting to review campaign preparations, she directed officials to ensure effective monitoring and complete vaccination coverage so that no child misses polio drops.

District Health Officer Dr. Abdul Malik briefed the meeting, saying the campaign would continue from December 12 to 15, covering children up to five years of age across 19 union councils in two tehsils of Kalat district. The deputy commissioner emphasized that healthy children were the foundation of a healthy society, urging religious scholars, preachers, journalists, poets and writers to actively promote public awareness about polio eradication.

TENDER NOTICE

The office of the Assistant Director Local Government Kalat invites sealed percentage tender on composite schedule of rate 2026/Market Rate (NSR) Government of Balochistan (amended up to date) from interested contractors / firms for the following works under PSDP Work and the Time Limit 30 June 2027

S. No.	Name of Scheme	Amount
1	REHABILITATION OF BABA CHAND DARBAR AND SHEVALA MANDIR KALAT **TSE-2627111227523**	14,000,000

Procurement shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules -2014. **Eligibility of Bidders**' Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the bidding documents and BPPRA NIT. **Bidding Procedure: Single Stage, Two Envelop Biding Procedure. Bid Security**: The Bids must accompany bid security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents**: The bidding documents can be downloaded from www.bppra.gob.pk (free of cost) and the same can be obtained from the office of the undersigned upon payment of prescribed tender fee of Rs. 2000 PKR, deposited Bearing Account Title **ADLG KALAT** on Account **C08760 Last Date of Bid Submission**: The Technical Bid must be submitted latest by **14 December, 2026** till 11:00 AM. **Tender Opening**: All tenders will be opened on the same day at the office of the undersigned at 12:00 PM. **Address**: Office of The ADLG KALAT **Bid Validity**: 90 Ninety Days

DPRQ/PRQ No.2689/27-11-2026

Assistant Director Local Govt: RD Kalat

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

DG Agriculture Masood

Ensure fertilizer company's legal compliance, prevent environmental pollution

GWADAR (6 AM Report): Director General Agriculture Extension Balochistan Masood Ahmed Baloch has directed a fertilizer manufacturing company to fulfill all legal and registration requirements, ensure safe disposal of chemical waste and take effective measures to prevent marine and environmental pollution.

He also directed the company to prominently display QR codes on fertilizer bags and provide distribution records to the Agriculture Department.

He issued these directives during a visit to Agri Fertilizers Manufacturing Company in Gwadar North Free Zone, undertaken in line with the chief minister's development vision and under the guidance of Agriculture Secretary Dawood Ahmed Khilji.

Company officials briefed the delegation on production activities, fertilizer manufacturing and distribution mechanisms.

The delegation was informed that the company was currently producing diammonium phosphate (DAP) and sulfate of potash (SOP) fertilizers for distribution to Karachi and Lahore. Masood Ahmed Baloch directed the company's management to complete all registration requirements and legal documentation pertaining to the agriculture, industries, labor and environment departments to ensure timely registration under the PTTS system.



Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) activists protest alleged house arrest of Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman and detention of party workers at Karachi press club.

Punjab govt issues important update regarding E-Bike balloting process

LAHORE (INP): The Punjab government has issued an important update regarding the balloting process for the second phase of the Chief Minister Punjab E-Bike Scheme, saying that the selection process for students will be held soon.

In a statement shared by the Punjab Transport and Mass Transit Department, the government renewed hopes among thousands of students awaiting the results of their applications to determine whether they will receive an electric bike under the scheme. The provincial government plans to distribute 100,000 electric bikes among students through a computerised balloting process. More than 600,000 completed applications have reportedly been received, making the selection process highly competitive.

According to the department's latest announcement, balloting for the electric bike scheme will take place soon. However, officials have not yet announced a confirmed date for the balloting or the publication of the successful candidates' list.

PDMA Balochistan showcases climate resilience initiatives at COP31 in Türkiye

ANTALYA, TÜRKIYE (6AM Report): Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan Director General and Relief Commissioner Jahanzeb Khan Ghorezai highlighted the province's efforts to strengthen climate resilience, disaster preparedness and community-based adaptation at the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Representing Balochistan at the global climate summit in Antalya, Ghorezai delivered a presentation at the Pakistan Pavilion during a panel discussion titled "Building Climate-Resilient Frontlines: Institutionalizing Disaster Risk Reduction and Anticipatory Action in Balochistan."

The session brought together international delegates, development and humanitarian organizations, climate experts, researchers and policymakers.

Ghorezai highlighted Balochistan's integrated climate resilience and disaster preparedness program, aimed at strengthening institutional capacity, emergency response mechanisms and community resilience in one of Pakistan's most climate-vulnerable regions. Key initiatives presented included the modernization of emergency operations centers, development of multi-hazard early warning systems, promotion of anticipatory action mechanisms and strengthening of Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) capabilities.



The delegation emphasized that proactive disaster preparedness could significantly reduce human and economic losses associated with climate-induced emergencies.

PDMA Balochistan also showcased its women-led village disaster management committees.

Daily 6AM, Quetta
Saturday November 28, 2026

Revamping audits

The government's decision to overhaul the audit system is long overdue. Weak audit oversight has undermined confidence in corporate financial reporting, discouraged investment and weakened accountability across the economy. The concerns raised by the Prime Minister's FBR Task Force deserve serious attention.

Investors, lenders and regulators depend on audited financial statements to assess the financial health of companies. When those statements cannot be trusted, the entire investment environment suffers. The country's failure to meet international standards for independent audit oversight is particularly damaging.

The International Organisation of Securities Commissions has declared Pakistan non-compliant with these requirements. The EU has also withdrawn its equivalence status for independent audit oversight. These setbacks should have prompted corrective action much earlier.

The proposed amendments to the SECP law and the Audit Oversight Board framework are therefore welcome. Greater independence for the oversight board, restrictions on members having links with audit firms and regular risk-based inspections could improve accountability. Giving the board powers to investigate complaints and pursue suspected falsification should also strengthen enforcement.

However, changing laws and creating regulatory powers will not automatically produce credible audits. The question is whether the new arrangements can withstand pressure from influential companies, audit firms and other vested interests. Replacing one professional group's dominance with greater state influence would hardly constitute reform.

There is also a wider problem that cannot be ignored. Pakistan's public-sector audit system suffers from similar weaknesses. An IMF governance assessment last year highlighted the Auditor General's limited independence, staff shortages and poor parliamentary follow-up. Thousands of pages of audit reports have produced little corrective action.

This illustrates a fundamental weakness in the country's approach to accountability. Audit findings frequently expose irregularities, but those responsible rarely face timely consequences. The government must ensure that corporate audit reform does not become just another exercise in legislative compliance.

Public health reform

Zafar Mirza

Two weeks ago, I participated in the Georgetown Pakistan Forum in Washington, DC, organised by Pakistani students at the university.

The forum brings together policymakers, business leaders, technologists, academics, students and diaspora representatives to discuss Pakistan's future and promote evidence-based policies, public-private partnerships and solutions for Pakistan and its 1.2 million-strong Pakistani-American diaspora.

I acknowledge the two student leaders who, with their passionate team, organised the event: Rai Hasen Masoud of the School of Foreign Service, president of the Georgetown South Asian Society, and Shahaan Shafi of the School of Health, president of its Academic Council.

Seven policy working groups covered community health, maternal health, defence and strategic stability, democracy and gover-nance, critical minerals and energy, technology for finance and ed----ucation, and health financing and infrastructure.

Pakistan's public health crisis is the consequence of political choices and misplaced priorities.

Public health was a recurring theme during the forum. I participated in two working groups, a panel discussion and the concluding plenary, where I spoke about reforming public health in Pakistan. Here is my argument.

The WHO defines public health as the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organised efforts of society.

Pakistan's public health situation is a crisis. Consider a few indicators. Our population is growing at 2.4 per cent annually, while the total fertility rate is 3.6. We add a population more than that of New Zealand every year. Meanwhile, economic growth in 2025-26 is projected at 3.65pc, barely exceeding population growth. This leaves little room for per capita prosperity to improve.

Maternal and child health indicators are troubling. Pakistan has the world's second-highest neo--natal mortality rate, while approximately half of women of reproductive age suffer from anaemia.

A quarter of our children remain unvaccinated against vaccine-preventable diseases. Pakistan remains one of only two countries where polio cases persist, obstructing global eradication efforts. We also have the world's largest hepatitis C burden, Asia's fastest-growing HIV epidemic, increasingly spreading beyond high-risk groups, and the fifth-largest tuberculosis burden globally.

The situation is no better regarding non-communicable diseases. Every third adult above 18 suffers from type-2 diabetes, while every fourth adult above 40 has hypertension. Both increase risks of cardiovascular disease, stroke and kidney complications. Lifestyle medicine needs to be integrated at all levels of the healthcare system. Mental health remains the most neglected area, with limited access to appropriate care.

What went wrong, particularly when so many of these conditions are preventable?

The answer lies in decades of government neglect, chronic underinvestment, an overwhelming emphasis on curative healthcare, growing social inequity and poverty, and failure to develop a strong primary healthcare system.

Can we reverse this situation? Certainly. Other countries have demonstrated that progress is possible. This requires political commitment and 10 reforms.

First, government spending on health should progressively move towards the WHO-re--com-mended benchmark of 5pc of GDP. Health must become a fiscal priority. Essential public hea--lth programmes, including immunisation, HIV and TB control, should be sustainably financed through domestic resources rather than continued dependence on development partners. Emergency preparedness also requires adequate investment.

Second, generalist bureaucracy has increasingly become a constraint on health sector development. Pakistan's Central Superior Services comprises 12 occupational groups, but health is not among them. Ministries of health should be led predominantly by technically qualified professionals, supported by competent administrators.

Third, the 18th Constitutional Amendment devolved health responsibilities to provinces, but national coordination has weakened. Health challenges do not respect administrative boundaries. Common standards, surveillance, disease-control strategies, global health commitments and emergency preparedness require effective intergovernmental coordination.

Fourth, Pakistan needs a National Health Service (NHS) framework to ensure integrated healthcare delivery, bringing public and private providers together. Drawing lessons from the UK's NHS, we should institutionalise public-private partnerships to expand access, improve quality and make better use of existing resources.

Fifth, primary healthcare must be strengthened. Prevention, early diagnosis and health promotion should form the foundation of our healthcare system. These services belong primarily at community and primary-care levels, not in tertiary hospitals. This requires empowered district health departments, functional facilities and a stronger focus on preventive and promotive services.

Sixth, we need to rationalise our health workforce through better planning of its size, distribution and skills. Medical education must respond to national healthcare needs, with appropriate proportions of doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and community health workers.

Seventh, responsible use of digital technologies and AI can improve health information systems, strengthen governance, expand access through telemedicine and standardise care. These investments must be guided by equity, accountability and data protection. Eighth, patient safety and quality must become priorities, supported by stronger regulatory standards and enforcement. Healthcare should heal, not harm. Effective infection prevention and control, safe injections and blood transfusions are essential. The transmission of hepatitis C and HIV through unsafe medical practices demonstrates the consequences of neglecting patient safety.

Ninth, we must engage the Pakistani medical diaspora through a coherent government policy that institutionalises mechanisms to mobilise the expertise, experience, technology and investment of health professionals abroad.

Tenth, we must strengthen intersectoral action. Health is shaped well beyond hospitals and health facilities. Environmental pollution, climate change, food systems, urban planning, education and lifestyle behaviours all influence health outcomes. The health sector must lead collaboration to address these wider determinants.

Pakistan's public health crisis is not inevitable. It is the consequence of political choices, misplaced priorities and institutional weaknesses. What is required is a shift from treating illness to protecting and promoting health. The challenge is not simply to spend more on healthcare, but to govern better, invest wisely and build a system that puts people and prevention first.

Beyond our means

Khurram Zia Khan

It is unfortunate that most people in Pakistan spend more than they earn. It is a fact that inflation is seriously diminishing the public's buying power and adversely impacting whatever savings they have. In this scenario, people should think about changing their lifestyle and focusing on saving more. This argument is supported by the fact that Pakistan has one of the highest rates of consumer borrowing for non-productive purposes in South Asia. People are not borrowing to start a business; they are borrowing to maintain certain lifestyles.

Pakistan's domestic savings ratio is one of the lowest in the world. It dropped from 17.4 per cent of GDP in 1992 to just 6.4pc in 2024, the weakest in a generation and far lower than countries in the region. Pakistan's 30-year average savings is 10.9pc of GDP. Bangladesh's average is approximately 21pc, India's is around 28pc, and Vietnam's is around 30pc.

People should realise that whatever they earn is their own property, but rash spending habits are damaging for themselves and also for the country. The nation's overall poor savings habits are also a critical reason for the state's reliance on loans from global donors.

Pakistan's savings ratio has fallen massively in the last 30 years because domestic lifestyles have changed. Parents of past generations knew how to say no. Yet many parents of today proudly fulfil their child's every wish, come what may. This type of thinking has played a part in making people live beyond their means. If parents really love their children, they should focus on fulfilling their actual needs, which are food, clothes, education and health. All things other than these basics are actually demands.

Pakistan's domestic savings ratio is one of the lowest in the world.

Good parenting involves fulfilling children's needs and managing their demands in a rational manner. A good parent believes that he or she earns for their children, and it is his or her responsibility to secure their future by making sacrifices in the present.

We as a nation make wrong spending choices in our daily routines while during weddings and funerals, spending tends to go haywire because of social pressures. For weddings, many families spend beyond their means to keep up with the Joneses. Pakistan's average monthly income is Rs40,000-80,000, but an average marriage easily costs Rs1.5 million to Rs2.5m, which is equivalent to three to five years' total salary for a middle-class parent or guardian.

Dowry is another burden for a bride's family. It is unfortunate that 13.5m women in Pakistan are unmarried because their families cannot afford dowry-related expenses. It is unfortunate that even after giving dowry, the greed of some remains unfulfilled, and they do not shy away from harming the bride whose dowry is not as per their expectations. According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, more than 2,000 women die each year in dowry-related disputes.

More than 1.6m marriages take place in Pakistan annually, and more than Rs110 billion is spent on these weddings every year. Marriages are happy occasions, but even during moments of grief, such as a death in the family, unnecessary expenditures are made, because of various rituals.

As these examples illustrate, living beyond one's means appears to be the daily economic behaviour of the nation. Moreover, a middle-class family pays 30pc-40pc of its income to private schools and private hospitals because the government is unable to provide the basic rights of health and education to the people. The majority of the population is relying on private setups for health and education, and this segment is eating up a large chunk of income.

More credit, fewer women

Samia Salik

Imagine Sakina, up at the crack of dawn to go see her precious Billo, a fine cow her father had given her. This would be Sakina's 30th day selling Billo's milk to a nearby farm owner who wanted good milk for his young children. She was excited to get paid. She got ready to head out, feeling like a businesswoman.

Three years later, Sakina has four animals. She feeds them, looks after them and gets the milk ready for collection. She knows when a cow is giving less milk, when feed becomes heavier on the pocket and when it makes sense to buy another animal.

Her 40-plus customers know how rich the milk is. But ask them where it comes from and they'll tell you it's from Kareem bhai, the doodh wala. Kareem is Sakina's husband. He delivers the milk and his name is also the one on the ledger that she has maintained all these years.

Sakina is sure she could manage 10 animals. She decides to start with two more cows and goes to a bank for a loan. That's when the name in the ledger becomes a problem. She has years of milk sales to show the bank. She's kept the records herself but they are in Kareem's name. The bank decides against giving her a loan.

Pakistan's agricultural lending ambitions must look beyond the size of the portfolio.

The State Bank of Pakistan's Banking on Equality figures show that agricultural financing to women rose from Rs44 billion in 2021 to Rs105bn in 2025 in nominal terms. In those same years, the number of women agricultural borrowers fell from 436,000 to 377,000, a decline of about 14 per cent. The data doesn't show why fewer women borrowed or who received the additional financing. Yet the amounts lent more than doubled while the number of women borrowers fell.

That matters for Banking on Equality 2026. The policy asks banks and development finance institutions to aim to double their financing portfolios for women and qualifying women-owned or women-led businesses across priority sectors by the end of 2028. A bank can grow its loan book by lending more to people it already knows. Reaching a woman like Sakina takes a closer look at who's been running the business all these years.

Agriculture accounts for roughly 23pc of Pakistan's GDP, and livestock makes up nearly two-thirds of the sector's value added. The Labour Force Survey 2024-25 tells us that about six in 10 employed women work in agriculture, forestry or fishing. What's harder to see is who gets paid for that work and who decides how the money is spent.

Take three women who look after cattle. One is paid a wage. Another tends the family's animals and earns no income of her own. The third runs a dairy business like Sakina's. To decide if a loan makes sense, a bank needs to understand how each woman earns her living and how much of that income she can use to repay it.

Sakina's milk delivery records could give the bank a place to start. Then come the questions she already asks herself. How much does feed cost? What happens to her income when a cow stops producing milk? What does she already owe? Banking on Equality encourages banks to consider evidence like this when assessing women-owned and women-led businesses.

There's one question the loan officer needs to ask a woman like Sakina directly. When the buyer pays for the milk, who can use that money? A buyer could put the supplier account in her name tomorrow and still hand the cash to Kareem. If the loan is in her name, the bank will expect her to pay it back. Can she decide where to sell the milk and set aside enough for the next instalment?

In Kenya, CGAP documented how Agrilife and New Kenya Cooperative Creameries used digital delivery records to help dairy suppliers get advances against milk they'd already delivered. A separate study of two Kenyan dairy cooperatives found that farmers short of cash or facing uninsured health expenses shifted sales towards buyers who paid on the spot.

Financing a cow means working out what it might produce in the future. And records kept in a farmer group's name may tell a bank very little about what one woman sold. Could we use the records buyers already keep to show what women like Sakina actually sell and earn? A provincial livestock department could bring milk buyers and banks together to work with women who already run dairy businesses and want to expand. Ask buyers to record what each woman delivers and what she's paid. If she wants to be paid into an account, let her choose one she can operate herself. If the money is paid in cash or through several buyers, the department maintains a record. With her consent, the bank can use those records alongside its usual checks and see whether they change its decision.

After a year, we should know whether banks approved applications they would previously have declined and whether more women received payments directly. We can follow the loan cycles for longer too. Could the women keep up with repayments? After feed, veterinary bills and instalments, did they have more income left? Could they decide what to do with it?

SBP can do something now. Put the amount lent and the number of individual women who borrowed on the same page. Show how many took out a formal loan for the first time and where borrower numbers are falling.

Sakina knows the business and what it will take to grow it. She went to the bank to get support but came back without a loan or a clear way forward.

When the banks report back in 2028, we should look at how many women like Sakina got far enough to have someone sit down with them and assess their potential for growth. Sakina may still look at the instalment and decide to wait. But that should be her decision to make.

Constitutional liability

Aamir Latif Siddiqui

Every out-of-school child is a living reminder to the state of its constitutional commitment, and these reminders have been increasing since the inception of Pakistan. Now these living reminders have crossed 25 million.

Seventy-nine years after independence, Pakistan is still struggling to fulfil one of the most fundamental responsibilities of a modern state, ensuring that every child receives an education. A nuclear state has produced generations without an education system capable of accommodating them.

Pakistan's failure to educate its children is not a recent phenomenon, nor did the constitutional responsibility of the state begin with Article 25-A in 2010. The commitment dates back to the country's early constitutional history. The 1956 Constitution explicitly recognised the state's responsibility to eliminate illiteracy and provide free and compulsory primary education. The 1962 Constitution retained this commitment. The 1973 Constitution went further through Article 37(b), requiring the state to remove illiteracy and provide free and compulsory secondary education within the minimum possible period.

The insertion of Article 25-A through the 18th Constitutional Amendment in 2010 was therefore not the beginning of the state's educational responsibility. It was an attempt to transform a longstanding constitutional aspiration into an enforceable fundamental right. Yet, decades of constitutional commitments have failed to produce universal educational access.

From the promise of compulsory primary education in 1956 to the guarantee of education for every child aged 5-16 in 2010, the state has repeatedly renewed its commitment without ensuring its fulfilment.

Every child denied education represents lost human capital.

The question is why, despite repeated constitutional commitments, successive governments have failed to ensure that every child has access to a school. It seems every government has also failed to realise that every child denied education represents lost human capital and another potential victim of intergenerational poverty.

A country cannot build a knowledge economy, strengthen democratic institutions, or achieve sustainable development while leaving millions of its children disconnected from education and the opportunities that accompany it. The children are not the liability. The liability is created by a system that allows millions of children to grow up without education, skills, opportunities, or meaningful participation in society.

Unesco data indicates that Pakistan has a substantially higher proportion of primary-school-age children out of school compared with India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka. While these countries have made considerable progress in expanding educational access, Pakistan continues to struggle with millions of children excluded from the education system.

This regional disparity suggests that the crisis is not merely a consequence of poverty or population growth, but also reflects persistent failures of educational planning, governance, investment and political commitment.

Bringing over 25m out-of-school children into the education system is not merely a matter of an enrolment campaign. It requires an enormous expansion of educational infrastructure, human resources and recurring public expenditure.

Assuming 40 students per classroom, Pakistan would need approximately 628,750 classrooms to accommodate these children. At an illustrative staffing ratio of 1.2 teachers per classroom, the country would require approximately 754,500 additional teachers. If these teachers were recruited at the initial BPS-14 pay of Rs27,060 per mon-th, the annual salary bill alone would be roughly Rs245 billion. This estim-ate covers basic salaries only, excludes allowances, pensi-o--ns, and teacher tr--a-ining. The capital cost of constructing schools with basic amenities, as well as recurring administrative expenditure, would certainly be a substantially higher fiscal commitment.

The scale of the challenge is enormous, so is the cost of inaction. Pakistan's reported education expenditure of Rs962bn in FY2024-25 was already insufficient to meet the needs of its existing education system. The question is therefore not simply how much it would cost to educate the excluded children, but why a country that has constitutionally guaranteed education to every child has failed to develop a sustainable financing mechanism to fulfil that guarantee.

A constitutional right cannot remain confined to the pages of a constitution, nor can the state continue to measure its educational achievements through policies announced, schools inaugurated, or budgets allocated. The real measure of its commitment must be the child sitting in a classroom, learning to read, write, think, and participate in society.

PM directs simplification of SME loan procedures to improve access to finance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the relevant authorities to simplify loan procedures for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and facilitate their access to finance to boost economic activity, generate employment and promote entrepreneurship.

Chairing a high-level meeting on improving access to credit for the SME sector, the prime minister directed that SMEs' export data available through the Pakistan Single Window, as well as their participation in supply chains through Exim Insurance and digital invoicing, be considered as alternative collateral for securing bank loans.

He also called for the cash flow of SMEs to be considered an alternative criterion for assessing their eligibility for financing and directed a review of the prudential regulations governing bank lending to the sector. The prime minister further instructed that banks be provided access to relevant data held by government institutions to speed up the loan disbursement process.

Emphasising the need for comprehensive banking support, he said banks should extend assistance to SMEs not only through loans but also by facilitating the issuance of Letters of Credit (LCs) and bank guarantees.

He added that banks achieving their designated SME lending targets would be encouraged and rewarded. The meeting was informed that banks were taking steps to strengthen their institutional capacity to accelerate lending to SMEs.

The banks expressed their commitment to providing Rs2,000 billion in loans to SMEs by June 2028 and increasing the number of SME borrowers to 775,000. The target includes the disbursement of Rs886 billion in new loans and the provision of financial facilities to 449,000 new SME borrowers.

The prime minister observed that SMEs were the backbone of the country's economy and said facilitating the sector would help expand economic activity, create employment opportunities and promote entrepreneurship. He also stressed the need to provide SMEs with effective guidance and support in accessing financial resources, preparing business documentation and capitalising on export opportunities.

The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers Rana Tanveer Hussain, Ahad Khan Cheema and Riaz Hussain Pirzada; Prime Minister's Adviser Haroon Akhtar; Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kiani; State Bank of Pakistan Governor Jameel Ahmad.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding SME Financing.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema in meeting with Mr. Imad N. Fakhoury, Regional Vice President for the Middle East and Central Asia at the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

Pakistan, IFC discuss enhanced cooperation in priority sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Senator Ahad Khan Cheema here on Friday met Regional Vice President for the Middle East and Central Asia at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Imad N. Fakhoury to discuss ways to further strengthen cooperation between Pakistan and IFC.

According to press release issued by Economic Affairms Ministry, Cheema while welcoming Fakhoury on his first visit to Pakistan in his current capacity, appreciated the significant expansion of IFC's portfolio in Pakistan and its growing engagement with the government.

He expressed satisfaction with the recent momentum in engagement and emphasized the importance of building on it to mobilize greater private investment in support of Pakistan's development priorities.

The discussions covered a range of priority areas, including housing finance, public-private partnerships, privatization of distribution companies (DISCOs), agriculture and access to finance for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The Minister highlighted the importance of IFC's support in strengthening long-term housing finance, expanding access to affordable housing and facilitating financing for developers.

He appreciated IFC's engagement with the Public-Private Partnership Authority (P3A) on developing a bankable Federal PPP pipeline and strengthening the regulatory framework. Discussions also covered IFC's support for the privatization of DISCOs, including assistance with the privatization process and post-privatization arrangements.

Cooperation in agriculture, including modern storage, value-chain financing and electronic warehouse receipts, was also discussed, with a focus on improving farmers' access to finance.

The Minister further highlighted the importance of expanding access to finance for MSMEs, while ensuring that financing delivers tangible benefits for businesses and supports employment generation.

Cheema reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening the enabling environment for private-sector investment and assured IFC of the continued support and facilitation in advancing its role in Pakistan's development.

On the occasion, Fakhoury appreciated the government's engagement and reaffirmed IFC's commitment to supporting Pakistan's priorities.

He briefed the Minister on IFC's ongoing and proposed initiatives in housing finance, PPPs, DISCOs, agriculture and MSME financing, and assured that IFC would continue working closely with the relevant government stakeholders to advance these areas.

ADB approves $468 million financing for resilient agriculture in Pakistan's provinces

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday approved two loans totaling $468 million to improve water and agriculture management in Pakistan's provinces, strengthening community resilience to shocks related to the changing climate, boosting rural livelihoods, and enhancing food security for about 728,000 people. A $208 million concessional loan for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Resilient Irrigated Agriculture Livelihoods Development Project will help scale up agricultural productivity and increase incomes for smallholder farmers in Nowshera, Swabi, and Upper Chitral districts through resilient irrigation systems and modern agricultural technologies, said ADB press release issued here.

Additionally, the project will provide livelihoods training for women, while supporting measures to increase the role of women in water governance.

A $260 million concessional loan for the Integrated Hill Torrent Management Project will help mitigate flash flood risks and enhance floodwater harvesting in hilly areas of Punjab.

"These projects will significantly contribute to strengthening food security, while responding to growing environmental pressures and the impacts of the changing climate," said ADB Country Director for Pakistan Emma Fan.

"Resilient water management infrastructure and sustainable farming practices are vital for the economic potential of rural communities in these two provinces," Emma added.

The project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will construct and rehabilitate irrigation systems to be more resilient to disasters. It will introduce modern water management practices, provide capacity-building activities for farmers, and promote smart agricultural technologies.

The project in Punjab will bolster flood resilience by building critical water management infrastructure for water retention, drainage, and flood protection.

It will also promote sustainable agricultural practices including spate irrigation, as well as nature-based solutions that use floodwater as a resource to improve community water access, recharge aquifers, and restore ecosystems.

The projects will not only safeguard communities from the adverse impacts of natural hazards, advance provincial disaster preparedness, but also increase agricultural yields, create more jobs, and provide a reliable water source for agriculture, community consumption, and ecosystem restoration.



Pakistan sugar mills association chairman Asim Ghani Usman addresses media in Lahore.

Privatisation of public sector entities to improve efficiency: Muhammad Ali

KARACHI (APP): The Advisor to Prime Minister on Privatisation and Chairman of the Privatisation Commission Muhammad Ali, has said that the primary objective of privatisation is to improve the efficiency of public sector entities, reduce financial losses, ensure the effective utilisation of national resources and ease the financial burden on the national exchequer.

He expressed these views during his visit to Korangi Association of Trade and Industries (KATI).

He said the government was committed to ensuring a transparent, merit-based and nationally beneficial privatisation process, while safeguarding the productive capacity of institutions, the legitimate rights of employees and the services provided to the public.

He informed that work was underway on 17 major privatisation projects, including nine power distribution companies, three major airports, financial institutions and the insurance sector. He said the privatisation of PIA and First Women Bank demonstrated that significant economic objectives could be achieved through the cooperation of all relevant stakeholders.

The meeting was attended by KATI President Sheikh Umer Rehan, Deputy Patron-in-Chief Zubair Chhaya, Senior Vice President Farrukh Qandhari, Vice President Nasir Sheikh, former chairmen Syed Johar Qandhari, Ehteshamuddin, Rehan Javed and Bashir Jan Muhammad, former NEPRA Chairman Tauseef H. Farooqi, along with industrialists and association members.

Muhammad Ali said that the due diligence process for the privatisation of FESCO, GEPCO and IESCO was underway, with bidding expected in the first quarter of 2027. The privatisation of HESCO and SEPCO would also be taken up in subsequent phases.

He added that the government was targeting the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) during the same period for outsourcing the operations of Islamabad International Airport.

PSX turns bearish, loses over 396 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a bearish trend on Friday, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index losing 396.79 points, a negative change of 0.22 percent, to close at 177,663.90 points against 178,060.69 points recorded in the previous trading session.

The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 717.779 million shares, compared to 618.812 million shares traded in the previous session. The traded value of the ready market stood at Rs19.515 billion, up from Rs18.204 billion a day earlier.

Meanwhile, total market capitalisation decreased to Rs19.299 trillion from Rs19.363 trillion recorded in the previous session.

Out of 495 companies that traded in the ready market, 156 posted gains, 309 suffered losses, while 30 remained unchanged.

Pervez Ahmed Co led the volume chart with 83.811 million shares, followed by Yousuf Weaving with 57.716 million shares and Agha Steel Industries with 52.734 million shares.

Among the top gainers in the ready market, Tandlianwala Sugar Mills Limited surged by Rs48.41 to close at Rs532.55, while The Premier Sugar Mills advanced by Rs36.32 to settle at Rs486.33.

On the losing side, Sitara Chemical Industries Limited declined by Rs56.05 to close at Rs517.62, while Pakistan National Shipping Corporation fell by Rs29.89 to Rs620.51.

In the futures (DFC) market, turnover stood at 626.450 million shares with a traded value of Rs23.239 billion, compared with 371.419 million shares worth Rs17.736 billion in the previous session. Of the 306 companies traded in the DFC market, 75 advanced, 227 declined, and four remained unchanged.

SBP injects over Rs 651bln to maintain liquidity in the market

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), on Friday, injected Rs 651.8 billion through Reverse Repo Purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operations (OMO) for maintaining liquidity in the market.

The central bank conducted the Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) for 7 and 14-day tenors on November 27, 2026, and injected Rs 375.9 billion against 10 quotes while other Rs 275.9 billion were injected through Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based OMO.

The central bank, for the Reverse Repo Purchase of 14-day tenor, received 8 bids cumulatively offering Rs 970.7 billion at the rate of return ranging between 12.06% to 12.09%. The SBP accepted Rs 360 billion against 7 quotes at 12.07% rate of return. The total amount offered at 12.07% was Rs 751 billion, out of which SBP accepted Rs 290 billion on a pro rata basis.

Moreover, the SBP also received 3 bids for the 7-day tenor, cumulatively offering Rs 15.9 billion at the rate of return ranging between 12.04% to 12.07 %. The SBP accepted all the 3 quotes with the entire amount at 12.04% rate of return.

Meanwhile, SBP also conducted Shariah Compliant Mudarabah-based Open Market Operation for the 7 and 14-day tenors. The central bank received 4 bids for the 7-day tenor, offering Rs 93.9 billion at the rate of return ranging between 12.06% to 12.07%. SBP accepted all the 4 quotes with the entire amount at 12.06% rate of return.

The central bank, for the 14-day tenor, received 6 quotes offering Rs 257.8 billion at rate of return ranging between 12.06% to 12.07%.

SBP accepted an amount of Rs 182 billion against the 6 quotes at 12.06% rate of return. The total amount offered at 12.06% was Rs 255.8 billion, out of which SBP accepted Rs 180 billion on a pro rata basis.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity remained active at the port where five ships namely, BSG Barbados, Eraclea, Pacific Era, Pangeo and Star Raptor scheduled to load/offload Containers, Cement, Palm oil and Coal, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Terminal, HFP&S Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Meanwhile six more ships scheduled to load/offload Rice, Coal, Palm oil, LNG and LPG also arrived at outer anchorage of Port Qasim during last 24 hours.

A total of nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, a container vessel BSG Barbados is expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo throughput of 181,149 tonnes, comprising 123,996 tonnes imports cargo and 57,153 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 3,600 Containers (imports 2,500 TEUs and exports 1,100 TEUs) was handled at the Port, during the last 24 hours. A total of 25 ships are at outer anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them, two ships namely, Al-Mashabiyyah and Cymona Eagle & another ship MSC Colombi V carrying LNG, Coal and Containers are expected to take berths EETL, PIBT and QICT respectively on Friday, while another containers ship Spirit of Betram is due to arrive at the port on Saturday and MSC Ellen X is due to arrive on Sunday.

Fair competition vital for transparent markets: Ikram

KARACHI (APP): Director General (Market Intelligence Unit) of the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), Dr Ikram ul Haq said that fair competition is the foundation of every vibrant and transparent market.

In a competitive environment, businesses strive to improve the quality of their products, reduce prices and provide better services to consumers, resulting in greater efficiency, transparency and innovation across the market.

He mentioned that companies producing substandard products gradually lose their position in the market, while businesses charging unnecessarily high prices are compelled by competition to reassess their pricing strategies. Ultimately, consumers benefit directly through access to quality products at reasonable prices and a wider range of choices.

He expressed these views while addressing an awareness session on competition laws organized by the School of Law, and Office of the Students' Adviser of the University of Karachi, in collaboration with the Competition Commission of Pakistan at the KU's Jinnah Auditorium located at the Dr. A.Q. Khan Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, on Friday.

Explaining the role and powers of the Competition Commission of Pakistan, Dr Ikram said that the Commission is a quasi-judicial law enforcement body vested with the authority to conduct hearings, impose penalties and issue orders. In addition, it performs a quasi-regulatory role by reviewing the policies and actions of other regulatory institutions from the perspective of competition law.

He said that the Commission also plays an important role in matters relating to various government and regulatory bodies.

He mentioned that whenever a policy, regulation or proposed legislation is likely to adversely affect market competition or consumer interests, the Commission issues policy notes to the relevant institutions to help prevent potential negative consequences in a timely manner.

Dr Ikram stated that the primary objective of the Competition Commission of Pakistan is to promote healthy competition in the market and prevent anti-competitive practices. The Competition Act encompasses several important areas, including deceptive marketing practices, oversight of business mergers, legal exemptions, advocacy and awareness, research, and investigations. The law also grants institutional autonomy to the Commission, enabling it to perform its functions independently.

Digital Balochistan expo to meet international standards: Bilal Kakar

Focus on digitalization of public services, institutional capacity building and technological innovation; preparations and proposed activities reviewed

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade (BBoIT) Vice Chairman Bilal Khan Kakar has said that Digital Balochistan Expo 2026 will be organized in accordance with international standards to promote digital reforms, strengthen institutional capacity and improve public service delivery through modern technology.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting to review preparations for Digital Balochistan Expo 2026, attended by BBoIT Chief Executive Officer Abdul Manan and other relevant officials.

During the meeting, the vice chairman was briefed on preparations, administrative arrangements and proposed activities for the upcoming expo.

Kakar described the expo as a significant step toward realizing Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti's vision of modernizing governance and public service delivery.

He said the event would showcase progress in digital reforms, technological innovation and the digitalization of government services.

Describing the recently held Balochistan Investment and Trade Expo (BITE 2026) as a historic success, Kakar said it had helped project Balochistan's positive image internationally while highlighting investment, trade and business opportunities in the province.

He emphasized that Digital Balochistan Expo 2026 would build on these efforts by providing an effective platform for digital development, technological advancement and innovation across the province.



QUETTA: Vice Chairman BBoIT Bilal Khan Kakar presides over the meeting to review preparation of Digital Balochistan Expo.

Transparency, efficient use of resources key to institutional improvement: CM Bugti

Entire Gwadar tehsil to be granted municipal corporation status, additional funds announced; Gwadar Municipal Corporation hailed as a model for other local bodies

GWADAR (6 AM Report): Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti has said that institutional improvement depends more on transparency, accountability and effective utilization of available resources than on additional funding, emphasizing that quality municipal services can be delivered even with limited resources by preventing corruption and ensuring financial and administrative transparency.

Describing the performance of Gwadar Municipal Corporation as a model for other local government institutions, the chief minister announced that the entire Gwadar tehsil would be granted municipal corporation status and additional funds would be provided to strengthen its operational capacity.

He expressed these views during an inspection of the Gwadar Municipal Corporation building, where he reviewed institutional performance, administrative reforms, available facilities and sanitation services.

Gwadar Municipal Corporation Chairman Majid Johar and relevant officials briefed the chief minister on administrative reforms and measures undertaken to improve municipal services.

Bugti praised the municipal leadership and administration for transforming the institution into an effective operational model through sound planning, transparency and corruption prevention despite limited resources.

He appreciated the renovation of the corporation's building, modernization of its administrative system, establishment of a digital laboratory, formation of municipal police and fire brigade services, and provision of modern street-sweeping machines.

The chief minister said extending municipal corporation status to the entire Gwadar tehsil would broaden the coverage of municipal services and improve civic facilities.

He assured the corporation that its demands regarding development projects, including the installation of paving tiles, would be addressed and additional funds provided to enhance institutional capacity.



GWADAR: MPA Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman presenting souvenir to Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir regarding during his visit to Gwadar.



QUETTA: DG NAVTEC Dr. Hussain Bakhsh Magsi meeting with acting Balochistan Governor Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

Zahid Saleem, Mujeeb say

No negligence in timely treatment, medicine supply will be tolerated

GWADAR (6 AM Report): Additional Chief Secretary Development Balochistan Zahid Saleem and Health Secretary Mujeeb-ur-Rehman have said that providing quality, timely and accessible healthcare services without discrimination remains a top priority of the provincial government, warning that negligence in patient care, medicine supply and diagnostic services will not be tolerated.

They expressed these views during a detailed inspection of Mir Abdul Ghafoor Kalmati Teaching Hospital Gwadar on the directives of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

Medical Superintendent Dr. Hafeez Baloch briefed the officials on the hospital's performance, available medical resources, healthcare facilities, medicine supply, challenges and future plans, while Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Naqeebullah Kakar highlighted ongoing district-level healthcare initiatives.

The senior officials inspected the emergency department, outpatient department (OPD), general wards, laboratory and pharmacy, reviewing the functionality of medical equipment, availability of essential medicines, diagnostic facilities, patient care and sanitation arrangements.

Ensure transparent examinations, prevent cheating: AC Dukki

DUKKI (6 AM Report): Assistant Commissioner Dukki Muhammad Akram Harifal has directed examination staff to ensure transparency, fairness and strict discipline during the annual middle-standard examinations, warning that negligence in preventing cheating will not be tolerated.

He issued these directives during an inspection of the examination center at Government Boys' High School Dukki, conducted on the special instructions of Deputy Commissioner Fazal-ur-Rehman Kabdani.

During the visit, the assistant commissioner reviewed seating arrangements, the examination environment, staff attendance and other administrative matters.

He directed examination staff to maintain strict discipline and adopt effective measures to prevent cheating, ensuring equal opportunities for all students to demonstrate their abilities.

Harifal emphasized that transparency and merit in the examination system were essential to improving educational standards, warning against any negligence or irregularities.

The district administration continues to monitor examination centers across Dukki to strengthen transparency, improve examination arrangements and promote quality education.

No negligence in restoring Quetta's beauty, improving civic services: Liaquat Lehri

QUETTA (6 AM Report): MPA and Parliamentary Secretary for Transport Mir Liaquat Ali Lehri has said that negligence in restoring Quetta's beauty, maintaining cleanliness and providing quality municipal services to citizens will not be tolerated.

He directed the Metropolitan Corporation, Irrigation Department and Safa Quetta to accelerate the cleaning of major stormwater drains through coordinated efforts to prevent drainage blockages during rainfall and emergencies.

He issued these directives during a detailed inspection of various localities and major stormwater drains alongside Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Administrator Bashir Ahmed Barech, in accordance with the instructions of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti. During the visit, they reviewed sanitation, garbage collection, drain cleaning and drainage arrangements in Shahbaz Town, Fakirabad, areas around the University of Balochistan, Ghausabad and adjoining localities.

Relevant officials briefed them on the ongoing cleanliness campaign, operational challenges and the removal of silt and garbage from major drains.

Administrator Bashir Ahmed Barrech directed officials to mobilize all available machinery and resources to immediately remove garbage heaps and accumulated silt from drains across the city.

He announced that sanitation operations would be monitored daily and warned that strict action would be taken against negligent personnel.

He urged citizens to dispose of garbage at designated collection points instead of dumping it into drains and streets, calling for public cooperation in keeping the provincial capital clean.

Divide Balochistan into four provinces, devolve powers: Malik Imran

QUETTA (ANN): Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Balochistan President Malik Imran Kakar has called for dividing Balochistan into four provinces and devolving powers to the grassroots level, claiming that the provincial government has failed to maintain law and order and address public grievances. Addressing a press conference at the Quetta Press Club on Friday, he alleged that the provincial government's performance had been limited to issuing statements of condolence, condemnation and congratulations.

Kakar said the country's growing population and widening class disparities had aggravated public hardships, while powerful circles and the bureaucracy remained reluctant to devolve authority. He urged PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to study referendum-related legislation introduced during Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's tenure rather than oppose the creation of new provinces.

He said Balochistan accounted for approximately 44 percent of Pakistan's territory, making it difficult to administer remote areas, including Gwadar, from Quetta.

Kakar claimed that 22 secretaries were making decisions for the entire province, while development activities remained concentrated between Airport Road and Zarghoon Road in Quetta, leaving other areas underdeveloped.

Expressing concern over rising flour prices, he claimed that a bag of flour priced at Rs13,700 in Sindh was being sold for more than Rs18,000 in Balochistan.

Expand rescue 1122 services in Loralai: Commissioner Barrech

LORALAI (6 AM Report): Commissioner Loralai Division Wali Muhammad Barrech has directed officials to expand Rescue 1122 services across the district, ensuring timely medical assistance and emergency response during road accidents, storms, heavy rainfall, natural disasters and other emergencies.

Expressing concern over the availability of only one Rescue 1122 center in the district, he emphasized that emergency services should not remain limited to maternal and child healthcare.

He issued these directives during a meeting with the in-charge and staff of the Medical Emergency Response Center (MERC) Base 1122 Loralai at his office.

The meeting reviewed emergency response services, interdepartmental coordination, standard operating procedures (SOPs), geographical coverage and data compiled by lady health workers on maternal and child health.

Chief officer Asad injured in shooting near Dhadar

SIBI (UNA): Chief Officer Muhammad Asad, son of Ahmed Khan Muhammad Hasni, sustained a gunshot wound to the neck when unidentified armed men opened fire near Behra Behram in the Dhadar area of Bolan.

According to reports, the incident occurred at around 10 p.m. when Muhammad Asad was traveling from Quetta to Sibi. Armed men reportedly signaled him to stop and opened fire when he did not stop his vehicle, leaving him injured.

The injured official was immediately taken to Civil Hospital Sibi, where he received initial medical treatment before being referred to Quetta for further medical care due to the nature of his injury.

Transporters raise concerns over N-70 toll plaza locations; Commissioner holds consultations

LORALAI (6 AM Report): Transporters have expressed reservations over the locations of toll plazas and toll tax collection along National Highway N-70, demanding that ground realities, traffic volume and the interests of transporters be considered when determining toll plaza locations.

Commissioner Loralai Division Wali Muhammad Barrech chaired a consultative meeting to review the concerns, objections and recommendations of transport unions and National Highway Authority (NHA) officials.

The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioner Ejaz Ahmed Jaffar, NHA Deputy Director Revenue Muhammad Essa, Deputy Director Muhammad Nawaz Soomro, Balochistan Truck Union President Baloch Khan Utmankhel and representatives of various transport unions.

Transporters particularly objected to the location of the toll plaza at Thang Check Post in Killa Saifullah, arguing that it was not situated on the main traffic route and had relatively low traffic volume, raising concerns over fair and effective toll collection. NHA Deputy Director Muhammad Essa briefed the meeting on the economic, commercial and regional significance of N-70, traffic movement and the establishment of toll plazas.

Ensure medical staff attendance, timely supply of medicines: Badini

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini has directed health officials to ensure regular attendance of medical staff, timely availability of medicines and improved healthcare services at hospitals and health centers, emphasizing that quality healthcare remains among the government's top priorities. He issued these directives while chairing a District Health Committee review meeting, which assessed healthcare facilities, medical staff attendance and the overall performance of hospitals and health centers across the district.

Officials briefed the deputy commissioner on staff absenteeism, medicine supplies and the artificial intelligence (AI)-based attendance monitoring system. Badini directed relevant officials to strengthen administrative efficiency, ensure regular staff attendance and take effective measures to improve healthcare services for the public.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary for Energy Mir Asghar Rind meeting with Chief Executive Officer QESCO Engineer Mujeeb ur Rehman.

Jaffarabad launches awareness campaign to highlight national, scientific achievements

JAFFARABAD (6 AM Report): The Jaffarabad district administration has launched a public awareness campaign under government directives to highlight the national and scientific contributions of a distinguished Pakistani scientist.

Under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner Jaffarabad, special banners have been displayed along major highways, prominent intersections and public places across the district.

The initiative aims to raise public awareness about the achievements and contributions of prominent academic and scientific personalities who have rendered valuable services to the country.

No child in Kohlu should miss polio vaccination: DC Zehri

KOHLU (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Kohlu Abdul Hameed Zehri has directed officials to ensure that every child under five receives polio drops, emphasizing that polio eradication is not merely a departmental activity but a national responsibility to safeguard the health and future of coming generations.

Chairing a meeting to review preparations for the upcoming anti-polio campaign, he warned that negligence or shortcomings during the vaccination drive would not be tolerated.

The meeting reviewed the formation of vaccination teams, microplanning, security arrangements, monitoring mechanisms and potential challenges during the campaign.

The deputy commissioner directed officials to focus on door-to-door vaccination, identification of missed children, awareness among vaccine-hesitant parents and follow-up visits to ensure complete vaccination coverage.

He called for coordinated measures to reach every child in sensitive and remote areas, effective monitoring of vaccination teams' attendance and performance, and prompt resolution of difficulties faced by field workers.

Zehri emphasized that cooperation from parents, tribal elders, religious scholars, political and social figures, and local communities was essential to eradicating polio.

Educated, strong and peaceful families lay foundation for a developed society: DC Khuzdar

KHUZDAR (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Khuzdar Abdul Razzaq Sasoli has said that educated, strong and peaceful families are the foundation of a prosperous society, emphasizing that women's empowerment through education and skills development, protection of their rights and elimination of violence and extremism are essential for sustainable social progress.

He expressed these views as chief guest at a creative and educational seminar organized under the Dukhtaran-e-Pakistan campaign at Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University, Khuzdar.

The seminar was jointly organized by the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP), in collaboration with the Center of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism, under the theme "Strong Families, Strong Society: From Poverty to Prosperity."

A large number of women and female students attended the event, wearing orange as a symbol of solidarity and commitment to ending violence. Students also shared their perspectives on the campaign's objectives.

Major anti-encroachment operation in Quetta, strict action warned against repeat violators

QUETTA (6 AM Report): The Metropolitan Corporation Quetta launched a major anti-encroachment operation along Sariab Road, Link Badini, Bibi Ziarat and Musa Colony, removing illegal structures from roads and sidewalks while warning of strict legal action against repeat violators.

The operation was conducted in line with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti's vision and on the special directives of Metropolitan Corporation Quetta Administrator Bashir Ahmed Barech.

Ensure recovery of govt dues on Kharif crops: DC Khalid

JAFFARABAD (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Jaffarabad Khalid Khan has directed Revenue Department officials and tehsildars to ensure the timely recovery of all government dues levied on Kharif crops, warning that negligence, inefficiency or unnecessary delays will not be tolerated.

He issued these directives while chairing a meeting to review the recovery of government dues for the Kharif season across Jaffarabad district.

During the meeting, officials individually briefed the deputy commissioner on recovery progress and the status of outstanding dues.

Khalid Khan directed officials to ensure the recovery of outstanding government dues from farmers and discharge their responsibilities diligently to accelerate the revenue collection process.

All Harboi water revenue spent on welfare activities: Dr. Shakeel

QUETTA (ANN): Alhamd Group Chairman Dr. Shakeel Ahmed Roshan has said that Harboi Water is not merely a commercial venture but a humanitarian initiative dedicated to the education, healthcare and better future of orphaned children, with 100 percent of its revenue allocated to welfare activities through the Alhamd Foundation.

He expressed these views while addressing a certificate distribution ceremony organized by Harboi Water Company at Alhamd University, Quetta, reaffirming his commitment to expanding the initiative across Balochistan and the country.

Subdivide polio zones to ensure 100% vaccination coverage: DC Barshore

BARSHORE (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Barshore Flight Lieutenant (Retd.) Khalid Shams has announced the decision to subdivide existing polio vaccination zones across the district to ensure 100 percent vaccination coverage, strengthen monitoring and ensure that no child misses polio drops.

Paying tribute to frontline polio workers, he described them as the nation's true heroes, serving with dedication in difficult and remote areas to protect children from lifelong disability.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting of the District Polio Eradication Committee at the Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall.

The meeting reviewed the performance of November's subnational polio vaccination campaign and finalized the schedule and preparations for the nationwide anti-polio campaign in December 2026.

After reviewing the existing area maps assigned to vaccination teams, the meeting decided to divide vaccination zones into smaller operational areas to improve monitoring and ensure access to every child.

Expressing satisfaction with the performance of relevant departments, Khalid Shams said all available resources would be mobilized to keep Barshore polio-free and ensure timely and effective implementation of the upcoming campaign.



GWADAR: Additional Chief Secretary Development Zahid Saleem and Secretary Health Mujeeb ur Rehman being briefed by MS of Mir Abdul Ghafoor Kalmati Teaching Hospital Dr. Hafeez Baloch.

Fertilizer sales only through registered dealers, prevent illegal hoarding: DC Dukki

DUKKI (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Dukki Fazal-ur-Rehman Kabdani has said that fertilizer purchases and sales across the district will be conducted exclusively through registered dealers in accordance with prescribed regulations, while strict monitoring will be ensured to prevent illegal hoarding, unauthorized transportation and misuse of fertilizers. He said maintaining complete records of fertilizer arrivals, sales, transportation and stocks in the Precursors Tracking and Traceability System (PTTS) would be mandatory. He issued these directives while chairing a meeting of the District Implementation Committee on PTTS enforcement in accordance with the directives and notification issued by the Balochistan Home Department. The meeting reviewed the formation and operational status of monitoring committees at district, tehsil and union council levels, fertilizer distribution and storage mechanisms, and mandatory recordkeeping under PTTS.

The deputy commissioner directed relevant departments to activate monitoring committees at all administrative levels through effective coordination and ensure continuous monitoring of fertilizer sales, transportation and storage.



GWADAR: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti being briefed about Municipal Corporation Gwadar. Provincial Ministers, MPA Gwadar Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman and others high ups are also present.

No sale of govt jobs, recruitment only on merit: CM Bugti

GWADAR (6 AM Report): Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti has said that no government job will be sold in Balochistan, emphasizing that public sector recruitment will be based solely on merit and competence rather than political influence or personal recommendations.

He said government jobs were the rightful entitlement of qualified and deserving candidates, warning that no one would be allowed to deprive them of their rights.

The chief minister expressed these views while distributing appointment orders among 99 secondary school teachers recruited on merit in Gwadar.

Bugti personally handed over appointment orders to successful female teachers and sought their feedback on the transparency of the recruitment process. The teachers expressed satisfaction, saying they had secured government jobs on the strength of their qualifications without political influence or personal recommendations.

They also thanked the chief minister for providing employment opportunities.

Bugti said his government had pledged on its very first day on the floor of the provincial assembly that no government job would be sold in Balochistan, adding that the promise was now being fulfilled through practical measures.

He said Balochistan's youth possessed immense talent and needed fair opportunities and a conducive environment to demonstrate their abilities.

The chief minister emphasized that eliminating political interference in government recruitment would help restore young people's confidence in state institutions and strengthen administrative transparency.

He described merit-based recruitment as the foundation of good governance, institutional reforms and sustainable development, stressing that no compromise would be made on transparency and merit.

Bugti reaffirmed that merit was not merely a government slogan but a fundamental principle of governance, pledging to continue transparent recruitment and safeguard the future of Balochistan's youth.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi poses for a group photo with participants during the inaugural ceremony of Lok Mela 2026 at Lok Virsa.

Ahsan seeks zero-tariff access to Chinese market to boost exports to US$ 25bln

BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal has sought China's support for preferential, zero-tariff access for Pakistani goods to its market, aiming to increase Pakistan's annual exports to China from around US$ three billion to US$ 20-25 billion.

The proposal was discussed during a meeting between Ahsan Iqbal and Liu Haixing, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee (IDCPC), a news release said on Friday.

The minister followed up on a proposal discussed on November 3 and previously raised by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

He cited China's tariff concessions to African countries as a possible model for enhancing the competitiveness of Pakistani exports in the Chinese market, which imports nearly $3 trillion worth of goods annually.

Ahsan Iqbal also sought support for the proposed Pakistan-China Knowledge Corridor, envisaging doctoral studies and specialised research opportunities for around 10,000 Pakistani scholars over ten years.

The initiative would involve scholarships, partnerships with leading Chinese universities and co-financing, with priority areas including artificial intelligence, engineering, advanced manufacturing, modern agriculture, biotechnology and mineral sciences.

Discussing the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he identified industrial and agricultural cooperation, business partnerships, technology transfer, minerals and green development as key priorities.

He said the first phase of CPEC had attracted around US$ 25 billion in investment, added more than 8,000 megawatts of power generation capacity and delivered 888 kilometres of highways and motorways, while creating an estimated 236,000 direct and indirect jobs.

He linked the next phase of CPEC with Pakistan's URAAN development programme and China's 15th Five-Year Plan, emphasising the importance of policy continuity.

Marking 75 years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, the minister observed that bilateral ties had enjoyed broad political support across successive governments in Pakistan.

He proposed designating focal persons and setting timelines for implementing the May 2026 memorandum of understanding between the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the CPC.

Promote dialogue, tolerance and mutual respect for national unity and lasting peace: Buledi, Rind

Peace a collective responsibility of society, not just the government; political, social and intellectual circles urged to work together for national harmony

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Provincial Adviser Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi and Special Assistant to the Balochistan Chief Minister Shahid Rind have emphasized the need to promote dialogue, tolerance and mutual respect to strengthen national unity, sustainable peace and social harmony.

They called upon political, social and intellectual circles to play a constructive role through a common platform for the country's development, stability and prosperity.

They expressed these views while addressing the "National Dialogue for Peace and Unity," attended by political and social leaders, distinguished personalities and representatives from various walks of life.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi said building a strong and prosperous society required mutual respect for diverse viewpoints, cultures, traditions and sentiments. She described dialogue, tolerance and mutual understanding as effective means of resolving differences and promoting social harmony.

Shahid Rind said achieving national unity and lasting peace was not solely the government's responsibility but a collective obligation of every member of society.

He emphasized that resolving issues through dialogue, understanding differing perspectives and respecting dissent were fundamental characteristics of a strong and united nation.

The speakers highlighted Pakistan's rich linguistic and cultural diversity, saying mutual respect and tolerance could further strengthen national cohesion. Participants stressed the importance of constructive dialogue, mutual trust and a coordinated national strategy, reaffirming their commitment to collective efforts toward a peaceful, united and prosperous Pakistan.

IAEA, Pakistan renew focus on Intl nuclear security cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 15th Annual Meeting of the International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres (NSSC Network), hosted by Pakistan in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), concluded here after four days of technical discussions, expert exchanges and engagements aimed at strengthening international cooperation in nuclear security. Held from November 23 to 26, the meeting brought together international delegates and nuclear security experts to discuss emerging challenges, institutional sustainability, human resource development and the future of international cooperation in nuclear security training.

The meeting commenced at the Pakistan Centre of Excellence for Nuclear Security (PCENS), where senior officials from Pakistan and the IAEA delivered opening remarks. A commemorative plaque was also unveiled to mark ten years since Pakistan first hosted the NSSC Network Annual Meeting in 2016. A special event was organised on the second day at the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) Headquarters to mark 20 years of Pakistan–IAEA cooperation in nuclear security.

The event featured an exhibition of indigenous nuclear security technologies developed by Pakistan's national industry, providing local technology developers an opportunity to interact directly with IAEA representatives and international delegates.

DPM, Iranian FM discuss regional situation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a telephone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi and discussed cooperation at multilateral fora, including within the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Foreign Minister Araghchi reiterated the invitation to Pakistan to participate in the 18th ECO Summit, scheduled to be held in Tehran next month.

The two leaders also exchanged views on the wider regional situation and efforts to promote peace and security in the region.

Arrests, restrictions and state pressure cannot deter our constitutional struggle: JUI-F

QUETTA (ANN): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leaders have said that arrests, threats, restrictions and state pressure cannot force the party to abandon its constitutional and democratic struggle, emphasizing that democracy entails constitutional supremacy, civil liberties, respect for political dissent and recognition of the public mandate.

They expressed these views while addressing a protest rally and public gathering organized by JUI-F Quetta under the leadership of District Emir Maulana Abdul Rehman Rafiq.

The protest was organized against the reported arrests of Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Senator Maulana Abdul Wasey, Opposition Leader Mir Younus Aziz Zehri, lawmakers and other party leaders and workers, as well as alleged unconstitutional restrictions on political gatherings.

The rally started from the party's district office and passed through Jinnah Road, Kandahari Bazaar, Shara-e-Iqbal and Meezan Chowk before culminating in a public gathering at Manan Chowk.

Criticizing the government's conduct, the speakers accused those claiming to uphold democracy of adopting authoritarian practices to silence political opponents and deprive citizens of their constitutional and democratic rights.

They reaffirmed JUI-F's commitment to constitutional supremacy, the rule of law, parliamentary sovereignty and democratic freedoms, pledging to defend public rights through every constitutional and democratic forum.

Maulana Abdul Rehman Rafiq, Agha Mahmood Shah, Mufti Muhammad Rozi Khan, Malik Sikandar Khan Advocate, Haji Ainullah Shams, Maulana Hafiz Hussain Ahmed Sharoodi, Majlis Tahaffuz-e-Khatm-e-Nabuwwat Emir Mufti Muhammad Ahmed.

Minister for Power calls on PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari on Friday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and briefed him on matters related to the Power Division.

During the meeting, the minister apprised the prime minister of the proceedings and outcomes of the 11th session of the Pakistan-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC), held during his recent visit to Russia.The two sides also discussed matters related to the ministry.

11 killed in Kamalia road accident

KAMALIA (APP): At least eleven persons were killed in a road accident took place in Kamalia area of Punjab, tv channels reported on Friday.

Initial reports said that the incident occurred when a rashly driven tractor-trolley collided with a car, killing the victims on the spot. Following the accident, rescue team rushed to the site and shifted the bodies to hospital. Police have arrested the driver of the tractor-trolley, and started investigation.

Mastung bar, lawyers' issues to be resolved promptly: BHC CJ

Chief Justice Muhammad Kamran Khan Malakhail issues directives regarding Anti-Terrorism Court bar room; delegation appreciates measures to improve judicial facilities

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan High Court Chief Justice Muhammad Kamran Khan Malakhail has assured the Mastung Bar and legal fraternity of a prompt and effective resolution of their outstanding issues, issuing immediate directives regarding the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) bar room and other related matters.

He gave the assurance during a meeting with a delegation of the District Bar Association Mastung, which discussed various issues concerning the bar, judicial facilities and challenges facing the legal fraternity.

The delegation expressed gratitude to the chief justice for his initiatives and directives regarding the transition of the Sessions Court to solar energy, restoration of water filtration plants, and establishment and improvement of consultation room facilities.

The delegation comprised High Court Bar Association President Mir Attaullah Langove, Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan Vice President Abdul Malik Baloch, District Bar Association Mastung President Mir Khalil-uz-Zaman Alizai, Executive Committee Member Muhammad Ali, Advocate Akram Shah and other members of the Mastung Bar.

Balochistan High Court Registrar Nasir Khan Yousafzai was also present during the meeting.

Support local artisans to empower women and youth: Asfandyar Khan

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Provincial Parliamentary Secretary for Urban Planning and Development Asfandyar Khan has said that the Balochistan government will continue to support local artisans, promote their creative talents and expand employment opportunities to ensure the economic empowerment of women and youth.

He expressed these views while addressing the Annual Products Exhibition 2026, organized by the Innovative Development Organization (IDO) in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at City Marriage Hall, Quetta.

PDMA Balochistan Deputy Director Rescue Asghar Ali Jamali attended the event as guest of honor. The parliamentary secretary presented him with an honorary shield and commemorative souvenir in recognition of his humanitarian, rescue and emergency relief services.

Jamali described the exhibition as an excellent platform for talented women and youth to showcase their products, traditional handicrafts and cultural heritage.

ECP rules out role in allocation of tickets to women

ISLAMABAD (APP): Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has clarified that political parties have the exclusive authority to allocate tickets to women candidates on general seats under existing electoral laws, and the commission cannot intervene in their internal decisions or direct them to award tickets for constituencies where women have better chances of winning.

In a clarification issued on Friday, the ECP spokesperson responded to a news report published in an English-language newspaper regarding directions allegedly issued by a parliamentary committee, asking the commission to ensure that political parties allocate the mandatory five per cent quota for women under Section 206 of the Elections Act.

Prompt resolution of public issues our top priority: Ali Madad

Agriculture minister holds open court at his residence, hears citizens' grievances and assures their resolution on a priority basis

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Provincial Agriculture Minister Haji Mir Ali Madad Jattak has said that public service is the cornerstone of his politics and the prompt resolution of citizens' grievances remains his foremost priority.

He emphasized that elected representatives must remain accessible to the people, understand their difficulties and take practical measures to address their concerns.

He expressed these views during an open court held at his residence, attended by a large number of residents, tribal elders, political and social figures, and party workers.

During the session, citizens highlighted various local issues, basic needs and other difficulties. The minister listened to their complaints and assured them of all possible assistance in resolving their problems.

Jattak stressed that direct engagement with citizens was essential to understanding their concerns and ensuring effective solutions. He pledged to strengthen public welfare initiatives and make every possible effort to address citizens' difficulties.

Tribal elders and party workers also presented their suggestions regarding local development and public issues.

The minister reaffirmed that open courts and direct public engagement would continue to ensure the timely resolution of citizens' grievances and promote collective efforts for the area's development and prosperity.



A group photo of the 15th Annual Meeting of the Nuclear Security Support Centres (NSSC) Network in Islamabad.

Ensure timely public information, maintain office discipline: DGPR

Askar Khan makes surprise visits to departmental sections, directs officials to ensure punctuality, professional accountability and improved performance

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Director General Public Relations Balochistan Askar Khan has directed officers and staff to ensure the timely dissemination of information to the public, maintain office discipline and improve departmental performance through the effective discharge of professional responsibilities.

He emphasized that the Public Relations Department serves as a vital communication link between the government and the public, making operational efficiency and timely information dissemination essential.

He expressed these views during surprise visits to various sections of the department on Friday, accompanied by senior departmental officers.

During the visits, the director general reviewed departmental performance, administrative affairs and the discharge of official duties, interacting with officers and staff regarding their respective responsibilities.

Askar Khan directed all personnel to perform their duties with dedication, integrity and accountability while ensuring regular attendance, punctuality and compliance with departmental rules and regulations.

He also emphasized the importance of teamwork, professional competence and a positive attitude in improving departmental efficiency and strengthening public service delivery.

Aslam Ghori says:

Fazlur Rehman gave himself up for arrest to avert bloodshed

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman gave himself up for arrest to save the country from bloodshed, violence and unrest.

JUI-F spokesperson Aslam Ghori claimed that Fazlur Rehman had been held up for more than 11 hours in Lahore's Thokar Niaz Baig area, where police and the district administration had blocked his way. Fazlur Rehman had set out to attend a rally in Sargodha, but Lahore police stopped him from proceeding. The Lahore DIG advised him to return home, but he refused. Later, the Lahore CCPO arrived at the scene and informed him that orders had been issued for his arrest.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Agriculture Haji Ali Madad Jattak listening the problems of the people during open katchery at his residence.

Editor: Tariq Khan printed at Shah Priniting Press Quetta and Published from Al-Syed Building M.A. Jinnah Road Quetta Ph. 2824096 Fax: 2826036; e-mail: news6amqta@yahoo.com