Daily

VOICE OF MASSES

Simultaneously published from Quetta, Gwadar, Hub, Karachi, Islamabad

ABC Certified

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol XXVII No. 113, Jamadi-ul-Sani 21, 1447 AH Saturday December 13, 2025 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

Terror threat re-emerging from Afghan soil

PM Shehbaz emphasizes to resolve disputes peacefully through dialogue, diplomacy

Pakistan calls for peaceful disputes' resolution, urges world to press Afghan regime on counter-terrorism commitments

ASHGABAT (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the peaceful settlement of global disputes, while urging the international community to press the Afghan Taliban to honour their international obligations and curb terrorist groups operating from Afghan soil.

"Peaceful resolution of disputes is a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign diplomacy. It is in the same spirit that Pakistan supported the Gaza Peace Plan and its subsequent endorsement by the UN Security Council," the prime minister said in his address to the international forum held in connection with the International Year of Peace and Trust 2025, the International Day of Neutrality, and the anniversary of Turkmenistan's permanent neutrality.

The prime minister pointed out that Pakistan began the year by assuming its place as non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, where the country was striving to uphold global peace and security.

"While we persevere in this quest for peace, the scourge of terrorism is, however, raising its head yet again, and this time, unfortunately, Afghan soil," he said urging the international community to press the Afghan Taliban regime to fulfill its international obligations and commitments and rein in terrorist elements operating from its territory.

Meanwhile, he expressed gratitude to the brotherly countries- Qatar, Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Iran- for their sincere desire and efforts to achieve permanent ceasefire, "which, as I

Continued on page 2



ASHGABAT: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing The International Forum dedicated to The International year of Peace and Trust 2025, The International Day of Neutrality and the 30th Anniversary of the Permanent Neutrality.

PM reaffirms resolve to further strengthen ties with Turkiye

ASHGABAT (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday reaffirmed his firm resolve to further strengthen bilateral cooperation with Turkiye in all areas of mutual interest including political, energy, economic, defence and investment.

During a meeting with President of the Republic of Türkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, on the sidelines of the International Forum dedicated to the International Year of Peace and Trust in Ashgabat, the prime minister expressed his satisfaction at the frequent leadership level engagements between the two countries this year.

During the meeting, the two leaders reaffirmed the significance of the historic and deep fraternal bonds between the two nations, that were rooted in shared values and a common aspiration for peace and prosperity.

The prime minister expressed his satisfaction at the convening of the 16th session of the Pak-Turkiye JMC that would ensure implementation of the decisions of the 7th HLSCC, a press release issued by the PM House said.

While identifying energy, petroleum and minerals as priority sectors, the prime minister welcomed Turkish interest and investments in these areas.

He urged the two sides to ensure the timely implementation of the recently signed MOUs/agreements in these critical sectors. He said that Pakistan sought to benefit from Turkish expertise in the privatization of distribution companies. In this regard, it was decided that Ministerial level exchanges between the two countries would take place very soon.

The prime minister underscored the importance of regional connectivity as manifested by the revival of the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul rail network.

Both leaders also exchanged views on regional as well as global developments.



ASHGABAT: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the President of Turkiye H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of the International Forum on Peace and Trust.

Promotion of scientific education & dev. of minerals:

Governor calls for strengthening cooperation between UoB and Government institutions

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail visited the University of Balochistan here on Friday.

During the visit, the Governor participated as the chief guest in a training workshop on the practical use of geophysical instruments for officers of the Mines and Minerals Department. The senior journalist Sohail Warriach also accompanied the Governor Balochistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail praised the academic contributions, research progress and the hard work of the teachers and students of the University.

He emphasized that there is a need to further strengthen cooperation between the university and government institutions for promotion of scientific education and development of mineral resources in the province.

Senior journalist Sohail Warriach conducted an exclusive interview with the Governor, which focused on the universities of the province and the higher education sector. The interview highlighted major issues, challenges and reforms needed in higher education. The Governor presented his vision regarding educational standards, institutional transparency and the welfare of students.

Registrar Muhammad Tariq Jogezai, along with deans, directors, and senior administrative officers, welcomed the Governor.

The ceremony was attended by DG Mines and Minerals Abdullah Jan Shahwani, deans, directors, faculty members, and senior administrative officers, who provided a detailed briefing on the GIL Laboratory, development initiatives, projects, and performance of the university.

During the workshop, Chairman of the Department of Geophysics Dr. Moheebullah gave a comprehensive briefing on the objectives of the training, its technical aspects, and practical benefits.

At the end of the ceremony, shields were presented to the Governor of Balochistan and the senior journalist, and certificates of appreciation were distributed among the participants.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail inspecting the products prepared by University of Balochistan during his visit to UoB.

Maternal & child health programs being modernized:

Comprehensive reforms rapidly underway to strengthen health sector in Balochistan: CM Bugti

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that comprehensive reforms are underway rapidly to strengthen the health sector in the province, aimed at providing the public with quick, easy and reliable access to medical treatment.

The ongoing reforms in the health sector would serve as a foundation for a strong, secure, equitable and healthy future for the people of Balochistan in the coming years.

In his special message on the occasion of Universal Health Coverage Day, the Chief Minister said that quality and accessible healthcare is not only a fundamental right of every human being, but also the primary responsibility of the state. He added that the Government of Balochistan is taking practical, sustainable, and effective measures to fulfill this responsibility.

The Chief Minister said that comprehensive reforms are rapidly underway to strengthen the health sector in the province, with the aim of providing the public with quick, easy, and reliable access to medical treatment. He stated that the Government of Balochistan is committed to ensuring that every citizen of the province receives quality medical facilities on an equal basis—whether they live in the cities or in remote mountainous areas.

He said that in many regions of Balochistan, basic healthcare services are being provided in the truest sense for the first time since the creation of Pakistan, which is proof of the historic and extraordinary initiatives taken by the present provincial government. The Chief Minister

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Inspector General Police Balochistan Muhammad Tahir presides over the meeting via video link of All Regions Police Officers at Central Police Office.

Five policemen injured as security forces repel terrorist attack in Bannu

RAWALPINDI (INP): Terrorists from the "Fitna-al-Khawarij" attacked Sheikh Landak checkpoint in the jurisdiction of Hovid Police Station in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu, according to District Police Officer (DPO) Yasir Afridi.

The 'Fitna-al-Khawarij' is the state-designated term for terrorists affiliated with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Police personnel opened retaliatory fire, foiling the attack, with several terrorists reportedly killed or injured. Five police officials were also injured and shifted to the hospital.

Following the attack, DPO Afridi reached the site with additional personnel. He cordoned off the area and launched a search operation for the terrorists.

DPO Afridi later visited the hospital to check on the injured personnel. He reviewed the medical facilities being provided to them.

President sets January 24 as GB election date

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday approved the schedule for the upcoming Gilgit-Baltistan general elections, according to an official notification.

The notification confirmed that polling for the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly will be held on January 24, 2026.

Following the president's approval, Chief Election Commissioner Abid Ali stated that the Election Commission of Gilgit-Baltistan will soon issue a detailed election schedule. He added that the commission plans to convene an all-parties conference to hold consultations with political stakeholders.

The previous GB Assembly completed its five-year tenure and was dissolved on November 24, resulting in the dissolution of Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan and his cabinet. Subsequently, Justice (retd) Yar Muhammad Nasir, former judge of the GB Chief Court, took oath as the region's caretaker chief minister.

The last elections for the GB Assembly were held in November 2020, across 24 constituencies.

All available resources being utilized to maintain law and order in Balochistan: IGP

Tahir directs officers to further improve security arrangements in respective areas & ensure protection of public by all possible means

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Inspector General of Police, Muhammad Tahir has said that the Balochistan Police is utilizing all available resources to maintain law and order in the province.

The IGP expressed these views while presiding over a video-link meeting with police officers from all ranges of the province at the Central Police Office on Friday.

During the course of meeting, officers gave detailed briefing to the IGP on the law-and-order situation and other security arrangements. Additional IG Police Javed Ali Mehar, Additional IG Police CTC Agha Muhammad Yousuf, DIG Headquarters Hassan Asad Alvi, DIG Quetta Police Imran Shaukat, DIG CTD Aitezaz Ahmad Goraya, DIG Special Branch Tahir Allauddin Kasi, DIG Crimes Branch Dr. Farhan Zahid and AIG Operations Naveed Alam were also present.

The IGP Muhammad Tahir directed the officers

Continued on page 2

Lt Gen Rahat opens IT Lab at Panjgur Campus, joins cultural festivals in Mand and Tump

PANJGUR/MAND/TUMP (UNA): Commander Balochistan, Lieutenant General Rahat Naseem visited the University of Makran Panjgur Campus and various Baloch cultural festivals, reaffirming the Pakistan Army's commitment to promoting education and preserving cultural heritage in the region.

During his visit to the University of Makran Panjgur Campus, the Corps Commander met faculty members and students. He formally inaugurated the Innovista IT Lab, established with the support of the Pakistan Army to equip youth with modern technological and IT skills.

He also announced the distribution of 50 laptops to outstanding students in recognition of their academic excellence. Students welcomed the initiative, stating that such support from the Pakistan Army is

Continued on page 2



LAHORE: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani awards certificates of completion to participants of the 8th Maritime Security Workshop (MARSEW-8) at Pakistan Navy War College.

Forced DNA testing is a violation of fundamental rights, rules Apex Court

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan has ruled that compelling an individual to undergo a DNA test is a clear violation of fundamental rights, declaring that such an order infringes upon personal dignity and cannot be made part of the legal process.

In a significant judgment, the apex court set aside the directives of the Lahore High Court and the Special Judge Anti-Corruption Pakpattan, which had required a citizen, Khalid Hameed, to undergo a compulsory DNA test. The Court held that forcing a person to take a DNA test in matters such as paternity disputes or alleged tampering with documents constitutes a blatant violation of fundamental rights.

According to the approved written judgment authored by Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar, DNA testing is a highly sensitive, private procedure and can only be mandated in specific criminal cases—particularly those involving rape or sexual offences—where the law explicitly requires it. The Court observed that no such legal ground existed in the present case.

The judgment further noted that the private complaint filed by the petitioner was originally related to allegations of forgery and corruption. Questions of paternity or lineage were not directly connected with the case. The Supreme Court clarified that crimes such as forgery must be proven through evidence and documentary record, not through DNA testing.

Pak, UK vow to strengthen security, immigration cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry met with the UK's Minister of State for International Development and Africa, Baroness Chapman of Darlington, on Friday.

The meeting focused on Pakistan–UK relations and key matters of mutual interest.

Both sides discussed in detail the security situation, issues related to Afghanistan, and the extradition requests Pakistan has sent to the United Kingdom.

A significant portion of the meeting centered on the Upscale Programme, particularly cooperation on tackling serious crimes and the process of relocating Afghan nationals to the UK. Talal Chaudhry emphasized that under the Upscale Programme, collaboration on addressing serious offences and enhancing security cooperation will be further strengthened.

Baroness Chapman praised Pakistan's efforts in improving immigration cooperation between the two countries and expressed the UK's commitment to expanding joint initiatives.

The meeting highlighted a shared resolve to deepen bilateral collaboration in security, immigration, and regional stability.

Nawaz Sharif urges NFC funds for GB, Azad Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former Prime Minister and PML-N President Nawaz Sharif has emphasised that the NFC Award is the right of all units, and Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan should receive funds under it.

Nawaz Sharif chaired a key PML-N political committee meeting on Azad Kashmir in Islamabad, discussing the region's political situation, upcoming elections, and party organization. Leaders from Azad Kashmir, led by Shah Ghulam Qadir, and from Gilgit-Baltistan, including Hafiz Hafeez ur Rehman, attended along with party



figures like Rana Sanaullah, Maryam Aurangzeb, Ahsan Iqbal, and others.

During the meeting, Shah Ghulam Qadir briefed Nawaz Sharif on Azad Kashmir's current government and electoral plans. Nawaz Sharif announced a two-day visit to Azad Kashmir next month to finalize organizational, electoral, and public outreach strategies.

Five die, four missing as van rolls down into Kahuta river

KAHUTA (INP): Five people died, and four were missing when their Toyota Hiace van fell into River Jhelum in Kahuta area of Rawalpindi.

According to details, the van, carrying 14 passengers, was coming from Hajera in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and plunged into the river while navigating a sharp turn near Garari Bridge in the Kahuta area of Rawalpindi on Thursday.

According to Rescue 1122, five people have been confirmed dead while five others including the driver were rescued. Navy divers have arrived at the accident site and joined the operation to locate the missing passengers. Three of the deceased were identified as Khawaja Naeem, 45, an assistant professor at a government inter college in Hajira; his mother, Fatima Begum, 67; and Adeel Arif, 22.

Pak, Iraq to finalize new pilgrims facilitation plan

BRUSSELS (INP): Pakistan and Iraq have agreed to deepen cooperation in pilgrim management, security and counterterrorism following a high-level meeting between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Iraqi Interior Minister General Abdul Amir Al-Shammari in Brussels.



During the talks, the Iraqi minister announced that he would soon undertake an official visit to Pakistan to develop a comprehensive joint framework aimed at improving facilitation for pilgrims.

The meeting covered a wide range of bilateral matters, including efforts to strengthen coordination between the two interior ministries.

Both sides agreed to institutionalise information-sharing mechanisms

Continued on page 2

Pakistan seal record win against Malaysia in U19 Asia Cup opener

DUBAI (INP): Pakistan made a commanding start to their U19 Asia Cup 2025 campaign, thrashing Malaysia by a record 297 runs at The Sevens, Dubai, on Friday.

After setting a daunting target of 346 runs, the Green Shirts' bowlers dismantled the Malaysian batting lineup for just 48 runs in 19.4 overs.

Pakistan's innings was powered by spectacular centuries from Sameer Minhas and Ahmed Hussain. The pair forged a monumental third-wicket partnership of 293 runs, with Sameer finishing unbeaten on 177 off 148 balls, striking 11 fours and eight sixes. Ahmed scored 132 from 144 deliveries, including eight fours and two sixes, before falling hit-wicket in the penultimate over.

Earlier, Pakistan had lost two early wickets for 30 runs, but the partnership between the middle-order batters turned the innings into a commanding total of 345/3 in their allotted 50 overs.

Malaysia's attempt to chase the imposing target ended in disaster. None of their batters managed double figures, with captain Deeaz Patro and Muhammad Akram top-scoring with just nine runs each. Pakistan's bowling was clinical, with Ali Raza and Mohammad Sayyam taking three wickets apiece, Daniyal Ali Khan claiming two, and Niqab Shafiq picking up one. Malaysia's Nageswaran Sathnakumaran, who took two wickets, was costly, conceding 91 runs in his 10 overs.



KARACHI: Gold Medallist Furqan Ahmed from Punjab pose for group photo with Aqeel Javeed Butt,Abdullah Sohail,Amina Babar,Haifz Imran Jutt,Aaina Chourdhry,Rashid Naddem Butt,Usman Aqeel Butt,Waseeem Akram,Zaheer Akram, and others during 35th National Games in Karachi.

PM Shehbaz emphasizes to..

Continued from page 1

this regard, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents a universal blueprint for a better and peaceful world. Socio-economic development and the welfare of our people are my government's foremost priority.

"We have made significant strides in several key areas, including by advancing financial inclusion, bringing women and the marginalized into the economic mainstream," he said adding that in the face of global warming, Pakistan had demonstrated its strong commitment to undertake cleaner and greener solutions, transforming our landscape and setting a global example in ecosystem restoration. "However, like many developing nations, our quest for sustainable development is facing the headwinds of climate-induced disasters and inequities in international economic relations."

PM Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan had suffered in 2023 devastating floods, faced human life losses and economic losses, and then again this year it faced catastrophic situations because of climate change devastations.

The prime minister added that climate change, poverty and inequality were not isolated challenges. These are transnational threats that demand international solutions built on the foundation of shared responsibility and unity of purpose. "Access to advanced technologies, especially digital technologies, must also be equitable and without any kind of discrimination," he added.

He also appealed the global leaders to let this forum serve as a genuine call to action and urgent action for a new paradigm of international relations, where we move from zero-sum mindsets to purposeful cooperation. "Let us invest in connectivity, not just as conduits for transportation of goods, but as bridges for people, ideas and prosperity." Earlier, the prime minister felicitated the leadership of Turkmenistan on the 30th anniversary of its permanent neutrality.

Senate Deputy Chairman briefed on FIA Cyber Crime Wing performance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman Senate Syedal Khan on Friday met Director General of the FIA Cyber Crime Wing, Syed Khurram Ali, at the Parliament House, where the DG gave a detailed briefing on the wing's functions, performance, and challenges.

The Director General explained that the Cyber Crime Wing (CCW) is a specialized department of FIA operating under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA 2016). Established in 2007, the wing is equipped with modern technology and possesses expertise in digital forensics, technical investigations, information security audits, penetration testing, and professional training.

He further noted that the CCW is the only national institution that directly receives public complaints and takes legal action against perpetrators of cybercrimes.

Deputy Chairman Senate Syedal Khan appreciated the services of the Cyber Crime Wing, expressing concern over baseless propaganda targeting political leaders and prominent personalities on social media.

25 percent coverage achieved under Digital Wallet SIMs: Minister

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PASS), Syed Imran Ali Shah, visited the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Sindh Regional Headquarters in Karachi here on Friday. He was briefed on the region's performance and ongoing initiatives.

The Minister was received by Adnan ul Hassan, Director General, BISP Sindh Region, along with officers of the Central Zone.

The regional team presented a detailed overview of current progress, program implementations, and statistical analyses of beneficiary support systems across Sindh.

During the briefing, the Federal Minister urged the DG Sindh to explore the possibility of launching a pilot initiative to further enhance service delivery and beneficiary facilitation.

He appreciated the hard work of the regional team despite limited resources, acknowledging their efforts in reducing financial hardships for vulnerable communities.

"Poverty alleviation demands financial assistance alongside skill-based learning. This can only be achieved by equipping women—who have talent but lack resources—with skills and support," the Minister stated.

Pak–Qatar to further strengthen cooperation in education

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Wajiha Qamar, met Ali Al Khater, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Pakistan, at the Qatar Embassy following her successful participation in WISE 12 in Doha. According to the ministry on Friday, She expressed her sincere gratitude to Mrs. Lolwa Al-Khater for the warm hospitality and the opportunity to engage in high-level global dialogue on innovation, inclusion, and future-oriented education.

During the meeting, Wajiha Qamar briefed the Ambassador on key takeaways from WISE 12 and highlighted Pakistan's commitment to advance quality education.

Pak, Iraq to..

Continued from page 1

related to security cooperation, counterterrorism strategies and measures to curb human trafficking.

The ministers emphasised the need for sustainable and effective collaboration to manage the growing movement of pilgrims between the two countries.

General Al-Shammari praised Pakistan's recent reforms to regulate and organise pilgrim groups formally, describing the measures as unprecedented and highly commendable.

He said that under the current administration, Pakistan had introduced effective systems that would greatly support Iraqi authorities in managing incoming groups.

Iraq's Minister for Interior also assured Mohsin Naqvi that all pilgrims listed by Pakistan's Interior Ministry would be allowed entry into Iraq.

Mohsin Naqvi reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to ensuring the safety, dignity and convenience of its citizens travelling to Iraq, stressing that the government regarded these responsibilities as a top priority.

He noted that Pakistani pilgrims would not be allowed to overstay their permitted duration in Iraq and said relevant institutions in both countries would maintain close coordination to prevent violations.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also expressed appreciation for Iraq's continued cooperation and its traditional hospitality toward Pakistani visitors.

Comprehensive..

Continued from page 1

said that maternal and child health programs are being modernized so that future generations can benefit from a safer and improved healthcare environment.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti stated that investment in the health sector is, in fact, an investment in social stability and the foundation of a prosperous future. To ensure free treatment for the poor and vulnerable segments of society, comprehensive reforms are being implemented in government hospitals.

The positive outcomes of these reforms have not only started to become evident but are also genuinely transforming people's lives.

He maintained that in any emergency or disaster situation, a strong healthcare system serves as the true protective shield for the public and the provincial government is giving special attention to improving the health sector with this very approach in mind. Rapid progress is being made through effective policies to ensure equal access to treatment and to achieve public welfare goals.

Lt Gen..

Continued from page 1

helping bring positive change to the educational landscape of the region.

Later, the Corps Commander attended Baloch cultural festivals in Mand and Tump, where he visited local cultural stalls, traditional crafts, and musical displays.

Highlighting the importance of cultural events, he termed them a vital source of national unity and social harmony.

Local residents appreciated the Corps Commander's participation, noting that such initiatives by the Pakistan Army boost public morale and promote healthy community activities.

All available..

Continued from page 1

to further improve security arrangements in their respective areas and ensure protection of the public by all possible means.

He emphasized that the police force must take effective measures to prevent crime by using modern technology.

The IGP also stated that all police officers must fully perform their duties to maintain law and order and show immediate response in any emergency situation.

Rana Sanaullah says:

Court's verdict about Faiz Hameed sends strong message of 'Equality before Law'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Adviser to Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah expressed on Friday that the Court's verdict regarding Faiz Hameed's case is an important example of military accountability.

In an exclusive interview with a private news channel, Sanaullah said that everyone, regardless of their position, must face the law and described it as "a consequence of actions".

He highlighted that it serves as a reminder that no one is exempt from accountability. He also expressed his respect for the Armed Forces, acknowledging that their trust and credibility have been further solidified. At the same time, he criticized Faiz Hameed, suggesting that his actions had a negative impact on the country's stability. He remarked that Faiz Hameed and others in similar positions should take this as a lesson.



Sindh Minister for Local Government Syed Nasir Hussain Shah awards winners of tent pegging tournament at 35th National Games in Karachi.

منسوخی نیلامی ٹھیکہ ادوئی معدنیات

بحوالہ اشتہار نمبر PRQ No.2663/02-12-2025 جس میں مختلف اضلاع کے ٹھیکے برائے وصولی ادوئی معدنیات شائع ہوئے تھے جو کہ اب ناگزیر وجوہات کی بناء پر منسوخ کیے جاتے ہیں۔ جس کے تاریخ کا تعین بعد میں کیا جائے گا۔

ڈائریکٹر جنرل مائنز اینڈ منرلز بلوچستان

PRQ No2784/12-12-2025

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

TENDER NOTICE

The NATURAL CALAMITIES & OTHER DISASTER (ESTABLISHMENT) invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. **TSE-252612922581 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. T/Fee 1000 PKR**

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Earth Moving Machinery (Total Item(s) Count: 9)	2 %

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 1,600,000 in Previous 3 Years Turn over of at least 1,650,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan JV is not permissible Submission of the required Bid Security In case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive Submission of the required Bidding document Fee All required Vehicle parts and accessories must be genuine. Affidavit on Rs.100/- stamp paper with TSE number and work title, duly notarized, confirming bid info is true. If any document is fake/forged, bidder shall be blacklisted and guarantee forfeited. Submission of the Financial Audit Report Chartered Accountant Firm of Last 03 Years i.e. 2023,2024,2025 Submission of Audit completion under section 25 of Sales Tax Act 1990 **Procedure Of Procurement**: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding 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 under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 31 December, 2025during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 31 December, 2025till 12:30 PM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:30 PM Address: Grain Silos Sheikh Manda Airport Road Quetta

Phone no: 0819241118Fax no: 0819241126
Email: pdma.balochistan2007@gmail.com

Assistant Director
NATURAL CALAMITIES & OTHER DISASTER (ESTABLISHMENT)

AB No.582/12-12-2025

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

TSE-252612922564 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Request for Proposal for selection of Consultancy service invited on Electronic Public Procurement System (EPPS) from well reputed national/International firms (JV) / service provider meeting with eligibility criteria, viz having registration with FBR for Income Tax and BRA and who are on Active Taxpayers List (ATL) having registration with PEC as a Consulting Engineering Firm, and are not black listed in any procuring agancyv or authority for prepration of Hiring of *"Consultancy Services from Consulting Firms"* Titled as *Consultancy services for Detail Design and Top Supervision for Construction of Road Harnai – Spin Tangi (PSDP No. 1488/Z2025.1049), Harnai District* Bid Security 2% *Detail as under:*

S.No.	Description	E/Cost
1	Consultancy services for Detail Design and Top Supervision for Construction of Road Harnai – Spin Tangi (PSDP No. 1488/Z2025.1049), Harnai District	5,387,716

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** 2 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity Turn over of at least 5,000,000 PKR Amount in 1 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List BRA Registration Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan PEC/PCAD Registration Valid PEC with full codes of Project Profile Codes: 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1214, 1215, 1222, 1224, at least 70 acre Physical Master Planning Project/ MHVRA project in last 03 years **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. The **FINANCIAL PROPOSALS** shall be opened of those consultants whose technical proposal is considered and approved. The Selection of Consultants shall be made as per Evaluation Criteria method as mentioned in the 'Date Sheet' of this "Request for Proposal" document. The incomplete request for proposal or received after due date mentioned above will not be considered. The RFP Documents can be downloaded from BPPRA Website **(www.bppra.gob.pk). Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by **28 December, 2025** till **09:00 AM**. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at **10:00 AM Address:** Office of the Executive Engineer **Phone no:** 0334240079 **Email:** naseerahmedshah808@gmail.com

Executive Engineer Road CWPP&H Department District Harnai

PRQ No.2798/12-12-2025

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

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-252612919463 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The ECONOMICE & MARKET COMMITTEE LORALAI SERETARY MARKET LORALIA invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2025 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates **Tender Fee 1000/- and Bid Security 2%**

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	Construction of Main Roads Agriculture Market Committee Loralai	29,747,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 20,822,900 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Complete Profile of Firm Stamp Paper of Rs.100 **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 26 December, 2025during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 26 December, 2025till 11:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM Address: SECRETARY MARKET COMMITTEE LORALAI Phone no: 3023890578 Email: mzahirmandokhail@gmail.com

Deputy Director
ECONOMIC & MARKET COMMITTEE LORALAI SECRETARY MARKET LORALAI

AB No.570/12-12-2025

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

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-252612921063 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer (Building), Sariab CW, PP&H Department, District Quetta invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2025 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates **Tender Fee 1000/- and Bid Security 3%**

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF MULTIPURPOSE HALL GOHARABAD GOHARABAD QUETTA. PSDP NO.5963/2025-26	9,901,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 7,500,000 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million)In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works) , CE10(vii) (General Buildings and Maintenance), CE11(i) (General engineering Works only). Rs.1000/- deposit in the Account C-02716 in NBP or Government treasury inshape of Green Challan (non-refundable) in favor of the undersigned Bid Security of 3% of the Estimated Cost in shape of Deposit at call, Bank Guarantee by a scheduled Bank in Pakistan Power of Attorney on Rs.100 Stamp Paper authorizing a person tosubmit the Bid. The Bid must accompany a power of Attorney issued byauthorized representative of the company having the name and CNIC No. of the person **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 26 December, 2025during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 26 December, 2025till 11:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM **Address:** Executive Engineer Buildings Sariab, CW, PP&H Department Quetta Phone no: 0819213555 Email: xen.p2qta@gmail.com

Executive Engineer (Building), Sariab CW, PP&H Department, District Quetta

PRQ No.2792/12-12-2025

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

TENDER NOTICE

The Pak Oman Hospital invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. **TSE-252611914072 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB Tender Fee Not Required**

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	National Defense and Public Order and Security and Safety Services (Total Item(s) Count: 1)	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** 5 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity Worth PKR. 5 Million each in Previous 3 Years Accumualted Turn over of at least PKR.5 Million in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List BRA Registration Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Financial Audited Reports Must have technical staff of at-least 45-50 members within Balochistan. Must have minimum 30 valid arm licenses within Balochistan Updated License/Registration Updated PTA License / Certificate Must have corporate office in Quetta and Gwadar District. **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding 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 under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 26 December, 2025till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Pak Oman Hospital Airport Road Pasni Phone no: 3331303672 Email: hospitalpakoman@gmail.com

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
PAK OMAN HOSPITAL

AB No.585/12-12-2025

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

TENDER NOTICE

The Fatima Jinnah Institute of Chest Diseases, Quetta. invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. **TSE-252612919221 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.** Tender Fee 500 PKR

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Stationary (Total Item(s) Count: 72)	2 %

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** 5 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 1,700,000 in Previous 3 Years Turn over of at least 1,500,000 PKR in 1 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan JV is not permissible Submission of the required Bid Security In case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive Submission of the required Bidding document Fee Sample of all items will be required for ensuring the quality and standard. Must unconditionally agree with all the terms and conditions specified in the Bidding Documents and Contract Agreement. Reasonablity **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage One Envelope Bidding 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 under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 500 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 30 December, 2025during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 30 December, 2025till 09:30 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 10:30 AM Address: Fatima Jinnah Institute of Chest Diseases, Brewery Road, Quetta. Phone no: 0819213188Fax no: 0819213189 Email: fjicd2020@gmail.com

Executive Director
Fatima Jinnah Institute of Chest Diseases, Quetta.

PRQ No.2780/12-12-2025

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

Govt. committed to work with private sector to find sustainable solutions to health sector challenges: Kakar

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar and Secretary Health Mujeeb Panezai visited the office of Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade (BBoIT), on Friday.

They had important meeting with Vice Chairman of BBoIT, Bilal Khan Kakar and Chief Executive Officer, Qaim Lashari.

The meeting focused on exploring private-sector investment opportunities in Balochistan's health sector and discussed potential areas for future collaboration.

During the meeting, all participants agreed that private-sector involvement is essential for modernizing the province's basic healthcare infrastructure and ensuring the delivery of quality and accessible medical services to the public. Discussions also covered possible investment models, opportunities under Public–Private Partnerships (PPP) and potential projects in hospital development, diagnostic centers, medical equipment, pharmaceuticals and supply chain, telemedicine, and digital health solutions.

The Provincial Health Minister, on the occasion, stated that the Health Department fully supports investment-friendly policies and that the provincial Government is committed to working with the private sector to find sustainable solutions to the challenges faced by the health sector.

He emphasized that enhancing healthcare services remains one of the government's top priorities.

The Secretary Health Mujibur Rehman Panezai briefed the participants on ongoing and proposed development initiatives, explaining that private-sector participation would significantly accelerate progress and improve the effectiveness of health-related projects across the province.

The Vice Chairman BBoIT Bilal Khan Kakar assured that creating a conducive environment for investors in the health sector is a key priority of the provincial government.

He added that BBoIT would continue to provide one-window facilitation, guidance, and policy support to both domestic and foreign investors to ensure an efficient and transparent investment process.

The CEO BBoIT, Qaim Lashari highlighted the importance of modern technologies, innovative investment models, and private-sector participation in improving healthcare services, especially in remote regions of the province.

He noted that BBoIT is working on an integrated strategic framework aimed at achieving long-term and sustainable development in the health sector.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhel talking to tribal elites from different tribes at Governor House.

Ali Madad Jattak pledges continued development & public service for Saryab

Independent Report

QUETTA: Member of the Provincial Assembly Haji Ali Madad Jattak emphasized that serving the public remains the core focus of his politics and his top priority. He expressed gratitude to the residents of Saryab for their continued trust and vowed to fulfill their expectations through sustained efforts.

Haji Ali Madad Jattak held a special meeting with his constituents at Jattak House in Asifabad, accompanied by senior Pakistan Peoples Party leaders. The discussion focused on the area's fundamental issues, public difficulties, and developmental needs.

Assuring complete attention to resolving local problems, he stated that the pace of development projects and welfare initiatives in the constituency would be accelerated. The meeting was attended by a large number of party workers who briefed him on local challenges, administrative matters, and public requirements. They also praised his people-centered policies and his continuous efforts for the welfare of the community.

Concluding the meeting, Haji Ali Madad Jattak reaffirmed that the Pakistan Peoples Party has always been a guardian of public rights and will continue to take concrete measures to ensure the development of Saryab and Quetta in the future.

Khosa highlights modernization of roads and building infrastructure under CM Bugti's leadership

Independent Report

QUETTA: Pakistan Muslim League-N Balochistan Parliamentary Leader and Provincial Minister for Communications and Construction, Mir Saleem Ahmad Khosa, pledged to actively contribute to the province's progress and prosperity. Speaking to various delegations, he said that under Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti's leadership, Balochistan's road and building infrastructure is being modernized to benefit the public. Khosa emphasized that addressing citizens' issues remains a top priority and assured that the public would never be disappointed or lose trust in governance. He vowed that all resources would be mobilized to solve public problems at their doorstep, with no tolerance for negligence or inefficiency, and that strict legal action would be taken against those who fail in their duties.

He underlined that PML-N has consistently worked to improve public welfare and services, and timely resolution of public concerns is paramount. Noting the economic challenges facing the country and province, Khosa called for collective efforts to advance development. He reaffirmed his commitment to fulfill all electoral promises, implement revolutionary initiatives for constituency welfare, and expand development projects.

Khosa also stressed that his politics have always focused on public welfare and development rather than discord, asserting that any obstacles erected by opponents will be overcome to continue the journey of progress and infrastructure development in the province.



LORALAI: MPA Haji Muhammad Khan Tor Utmankhail inaugurates new block at DHQ hospital.

MPA Mandokhail calls for collective action to promote democratic values

Independent Report

QUETTA: Pakistan Muslim League-N leader and Balochistan Assembly member Sheikh Zarak Khan Mandokhail emphasized that democracy in Pakistan is strengthening and addressing public issues remains a top priority. Speaking to various delegations, he said that everyone must work together to promote democratic values and never leave the public disheartened or disappointed.

He stressed that serving the people is the core purpose of his work and assured that citizens' needs will be prioritized across all forums. Mandokhail highlighted that maintaining law and order is a shared responsibility, adding that regions with stability will naturally progress toward development and prosperity. He strongly condemned terrorism, stating that the government and security agencies are united, with the public standing alongside security forces to eliminate terrorism from the province and country. Sheikh Zarak Khan also stressed that Islam teaches respect for humanity, religious harmony, and a society free from violence.

Authorities dismiss rumors regarding Sabzal Road CPEC Project

Independent Report

QUETTA: Authorities have dismissed circulating social media rumors regarding damage to the CPEC Sabzal Road project. Deputy Project Director, Chief Minister's Package Quetta Development, Abid Mahmood, clarified that all work is proceeding according to schedule and that no unnecessary excavation or demolition has occurred. He confirmed that a flyover is being constructed under the Quetta Development Package as planned. Residents were urged to rely on verified sources instead of unfounded social media reports. Mahmood emphasized that the project is progressing smoothly.



NASEERABAD: Deputy Commissioner Captain (retd) Zulfiqar Ali Karar inaugurates polio campaign by administering polio drops to child.

PML-N always believes in public services: Naeem

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan Muslim League- Nawaz (PML-N) Central Senior Leader and Focal Person Prime Minister Youth Program Chaudhry Naeem Karim on Friday said that the PML (N) has always believed in public service.

He said that this is the reason why development activities are showing momentum in different parts of the country. Those who speak against the country and institutions are in no way the well-wishers of the people and the country, the law would take its course against such elements. In a statement issued by the PML (N) Balochistan here, Chaudhry Naeem Karim said that whenever the PML (N) has come to power in the federal and provincial governments, it has taken practical steps for the development and prosperity of the country and its people.

He said that due to the tough decisions of the government, Pakistan has once again embarked on the path of development and prosperity, and this development is not being digested by some elements and they are busy conspiring against the government and institutions, who would get nothing but failure.

He said that serving the people and solving their problems is the top priority of the PML-N and thanks to the clear strategy of the party leadership, the pace of development projects is increasing in the federation and the provinces and the people are benefiting from the fruits of development. He said that the PML-N is actively participating in the local government elections in Balochistan Quetta and it would win the local government elections to be held in Quetta on December 28 with a clear majority. The party leaders and workers are running their election campaigns for the success of the PML-N candidates in the local government elections and the mayor of Quetta would be from the PML-N.

Special teams to ensure full coverage during polio vaccination campaign

Independent Report

CHAMAN: Deputy Commissioner Chaman Habib Ahmed Bangalzai chaired a meeting with health officials and polio officers to review preparations for the upcoming national polio campaign, scheduled to begin on December 15.

During the meeting, officials presented a detailed report on the previous campaign, highlighting challenges such as vaccine refusal and accessibility issues in remote areas. DC Bangalzai directed the formation of special teams to reach children whose parents were initially reluctant to vaccinate them.

He emphasized that all children under five in Chaman must receive polio drops during the campaign.

Officials were warned that negligence or lapses by staff would not be tolerated.

Serious irregularities reported in Balochistan Health Dept recruitment

Political influence allegedly leads to nepotism, denying genuine candidates their rights

Independent Report

UTHAL: Reports have emerged of major irregularities in the recruitment process for vacant positions in Balochistan's Health Department, raising serious concerns among public and political circles. Sources claim that local political groups influenced the entire recruitment process, allocating posts to relatives and preferred candidates, with approximately 80 percent of appointments reportedly going to members of a single community.

Reliable sources indicate that alleged front men of these political groups submitted pre-prepared lists to relevant departmental officers and the recruitment committee, instructing them to issue appointment orders only for the names on those lists. As a result, deserving candidates were reportedly deprived of their rightful opportunities.

Public, political, and



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor University of Balochistan Professor Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Bazai and Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal Captain Shaheen Khalid Khan exchanging documents after signing MoU.

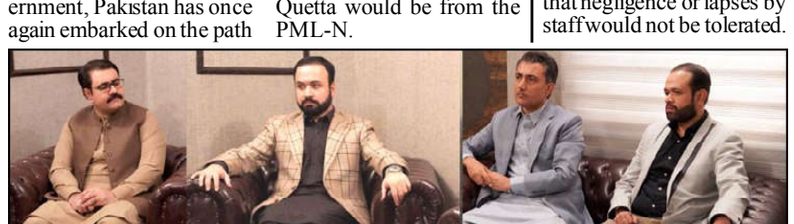
DC Kalat distributes relief checks among 100 poor people of minority community

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kalat Munir Ahmad Durrani and former convener of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam MC Councilor Syed Huzaifa Shah distributed relief checks among the poor and needy people of the minority community on Friday. According to official sources, relief money was approved by Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan MPA Ravi Pehuja for about 100 poor people of the minority community.

Deputy Commissioner Munir Ahmad Durrani distributed the relief checks among the Hindu community, the Valmiki community and the Christian community in his office.

On this occasion, leaders of the minority community, including former convener of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam and MC Councilor Syed Huzaifa Shah, specially attended the ceremony.

Deputy Commissioner Munir Ahmad Durrani said that the minority community is an important part of our society and plays a very important role in regional and national development. He said that the problems being faced by the minority community are being solved on a priority basis.



QUETTA: Vice Chairman BBoIT and CEO Qaim Lashari meeting with Provincial Minister for Health Bakht Muhammad Kakar. Secretary Health Mujeeb Panezai is also present.

5-day Rangeland Management Training Program held in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): A five-day Rangeland Management Training Program (RMTP) for officers of the Forest Department, tribal elders and various NGOs was successfully held in Balochistan from 08 to 12 December 2025 under the chairmanship of Secretary Forest and Wildlife Department Balochistan Abdul Fattah Bhangar.

The main objective of this training program was to bring about sustainable management of rangelands in the province, environmental protection and improvement in the livelihood of the local community.

Officers of the Forest Department, tribal elders and representatives of various non-governmental organizations participated in the training and gained detailed awareness about the environmental, economic and social benefits of rangelands.

In the training sessions, the participants were taught practical methods for effective use of rangelands and its conservation through modern methods, practical exercises, group work and field visits.

At the closing ceremony, Additional Secretary Munir Musiani and Conservator Monitoring and Evaluation Farooq distributed certificates among the successful participants, while FAO Provincial Coordinator Waleed Mehdi gave a detailed briefing to the distinguished guests on the objectives of the training and the results achieved.

During the training program, renowned experts Dr. Muhammad Isa Jan and Syed Ghulam Muhammad highlighted the importance of rangeland, its livelihood support and promotion of ecological balance in the province, and informed the participants about practical methods of sustainable use of rangeland and community involvement.

The participants described the training as very useful and said that it helped them learn the methods of effective use of rangeland and its positive effects could also be seen in the economic improvement of the local community in the future.

Awareness seminar highlights critical role of polio vaccination

By Danesh Mengle

KHUZDAR: An awareness seminar on polio eradication was held at the Municipal Hall in Khuzdar, organized jointly by the district administration, health department, and local organizations. The seminar aimed to educate the public on the importance of polio vaccination and promote collective efforts to eliminate the deadly disease. Deputy Commissioner Khuzdar Abdul Razzaq Sasoli was the guest of honor, while CBO Samina Rand served as stage secretary. The program began with a recitation of the Holy Quran by Hafiz Abdul Karim Gangu.

Balochistan political and religious leaders criticize federal policies, call for transparent elections

Independent Report

QUETTA: Leaders of political and religious parties in Balochistan criticized federal policies, saying they deepen the province's underdevelopment and threaten public welfare. They warned that continued mismanagement and lack of coherent foreign and domestic strategies could trigger unrest akin to past regional upheavals.

Jamaat-e-Islami Provincial Chief and Senator Maulana Abdul Wasey, National Party Provincial President Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch, and Opposition Leader Mir Younus Aziz Zehri issued separate statements, highlighting that the February 8 elections were allegedly rigged to block democratic parties. They argued that fake assemblies have fueled unrest across the province, with citizens from all communities protesting for justice.

The leaders emphasized that Balochistan's only solution lies in fair and transparent elections, allowing representatives chosen directly by the people to govern.

Quetta market inspection ensures sugar price control and fair trade

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Quetta district administration conducted an inspection of local markets, including poultry shops, to review sugar prices and overall compliance with government pricing policies. Special Magistrate Dr. Imran Zaib, accompanied by industrial officials, led the inspections to ensure fair trade practices and prevent price manipulation. During the inspections, officials checked prices, availability, and record-keeping. Five individuals were arrested for violating price regulations, and several shops received strict warnings. Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the administration will not tolerate violations of fixed rates and will continue daily monitoring to protect consumers from inflation.

U.Muhammad launches Dec. national polio drive

Independent Report

USTA MUHAMMAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ramzan Pallal inaugurated the December 2025 National Immunization Days (NID) polio campaign in Ustam Muhammad. The three-day campaign, running from 15 to 18 December, will vaccinate 69,555 children under one year of age.



JAFFARABAD: Deputy Commissioner Khalid Khan presides over the meeting to review arrangements for anti-polio campaign.

DC Quetta attends annual result program at girls' school/college

Independent Report

QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Mehrullah Badini, visited the newly renovated Girls' School/College and participated as chief guest in the annual result program, accompanied by Secretary of Reconstruction Naseem Lehri. Students showcased tableaux, speeches, and other activities, which were highly appreciated by attendees. Awards and shields were distributed to position-holder students by the Deputy Commissioner and Secretary. Speaking at the event, DC Badini emphasized that education is fundamental to building a bright future for children and that girls' quality education remains a top government priority. Parents were urged to focus on children's learning, development, and motivation. The DC also praised the efforts of school administrators and teachers, assuring full cooperation to further improve the institution. The program highlighted the administration's commitment to creating a supportive educational environment and promoting academic excellence.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini distributes prizes and shields amongst the children and teachers during annual result of Tameer-i-Nau Girls College.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Saturday December 13, 2025

New provinces?

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's call to prioritise new provinces where there is already a consensus appears to be a response to the widespread speculation that certain powerful quarters are thinking about dividing the existing ones into multiple administrative units. These rumours have gained traction following claims by MQM-P leaders that the PML-N intends to introduce another constitutional amendment aimed at empowering local governments. That suggestion has triggered a wider debate, fuelled largely by political anxieties, over the possibility of creating smaller provinces across the country, especially a Karachi province.

Speaking to the media recently, Mr Bhutto-Zardari pointed to a Punjab Assembly resolution calling for a South Punjab province, noting that there is also cross-party agreement in the National Assembly on aspects of the matter. He argued that the consensus achieved on a South Punjab province should first be focused on before moving forward. "Before talking about 20 new provinces, let's start where everyone already agrees," he said. Yet he appeared to rule out the possibility of that happening soon.

The demand for multiple smaller provinces is not new; it stems from public frustration with the unwillingness of the existing provinces to establish effective LG systems that can address citizens' problems. This is in spite of constitutional directives to create LGs and devolve political, administrative and financial power to them. Rhetoric aside, there seems to be an unspoken consensus among political parties that LGs must remain weak and ineffective. Meanwhile, the PPP chairman's contention that Sindh's LG structure is more robust than the newly passed LG law in Punjab may represent an accurate comparison between the two provinces, but it does not mean that the system of local governance in Sindh is very effective, or that it reflects the true spirit of the relevant constitutional provision.

However, it must be stressed that the division of provinces as smaller administrative units will not solve our governance woes; and may, in fact, exacerbate the problem. Not just that. Changing the historical boundaries of the federating units, when there is no credible demand for it, except for some calls for a South Punjab and a Hazara province, can be politically explosive. The solution to public problems and poor service delivery lies in strengthening local democracy by devolving powers to LGs as the Constitution requires.

That said, no matter how misplaced the present focus on creating new provinces for administrative efficiency is, any credible and popular demand for further units that comes from the people should not be dismissed. Such proposals must be debated and the will of the people determined before they are put before the legislature, as constitutionally required, to ascertain the level of consensus.

Health governance & IMF report

Zafar Mirza

When people moan about weak health governance and corruption in the health sector, I remind them it is a small piece of a larger problem. Fixing governance issues in the health system has its limits. Still, one should not give up and be mindful of the larger context. One cannot build an island of good governance in the health sector alone when it is surrounded by an ocean of bad governance on a high tide where undressed big boys are ski boarding. The IMF's recent damning report, Pakistan: Governance and Corrup-tion Diagnostic Assessment, explains the high tide.

Apart from giving staggering numbers for the termite of corruption, which has built its mounds and subterranean nests in our society, it also raises a shrill cry over the absence of any meaningful reforms, which each of the four IMF programmes in the last 10 years have flagged.

Let's first talk about the scale of corruption. The IMF analysis shows that Pakistan is losing between a five to 6.5 per cent of GDP to corruption which is a direct consequence of weak governance. In other words, Pakistan could have generated a GDP increase of between 5pc and 6.5pc by implementing governance reforms.

Let's see what a 5pc to 6.5pc increase in GDP would mean in real terms. Pakistan's GDP is around $400 billion; 5pc to 6.5pc of this figure would be $20bn to $ 26bn, equivalent to Rs5,600bn to Rs7,280bn. To bring in perspective, the total health expenditure of Pakistan, which means government health expenditure plus what people spend out of their pocket, is equal to approximately $11bn (Rs2,000bn). So, the level of corruption in Pakistan is 2.5 times more than the total health expenditure in the country. If through a magic wand all this corruption could be stopped and the amount saved spent on health, government spending on health could be increased almost five times, since the government health expenditure is around 1pc of GDP. Ah! If only wishes were horses! Without understanding the macro, the micro cannot be fixed.

Another way of understanding 5pc to 6.5pc of GDP is that it is equivalent to 30pc of Pakistan's annual budget, 65pc of the value of our exports and 60pc of our total remittances. And, by the way, the IMF assesses the scale of corruption at only the federal level. Imagine if the figures from the provinces were to be added!

The government's role in the economy, weak checks and balances on the bureaucracy, serious issues of capacity, the "interplay of political patronage and public policymaking" and "concerns over vulnerabilities to corruption of judicial institutions" are serious underlying issues of governance in Pakistan, which erode investors' (foreign and local) confidence and diminish public trust in the system.

At the end of the day, the cumulative effect of these factors is that "citizens are regularly required to pay officials for access to services". And at a "higher level, official policies and practices have been shaped by economic and political elites to make use of public authority to enrich themselves at the cost of greater societal well-being and economic growth". State capture takes place through politics which eases the unchecked elite capture of the economy.

The nature of corruption is also evident from the report's 15 recommendations. Governance-related recommendations that constrain private sector development include improvement in public procurement contracts; transparency in the SIFC; streamlining SECP regulations; digitising regulations; and accelerating the resolution of the backlog of economic disputes lying in the courts. Recommendations related to governance weaknesses that act as barriers to fulfilling public sector functions involve: rationalising and simplifying the taxation system; strengthening the FBR; improving the budgeting process; enhancing PSDP efficiency and integrating parliamentarians' projects into the PSDP process; and developing action plans for the top 10 federal agencies with corruption vulnerabilities.

Lastly, there are four recommendations for addressing governance weaknesses that directly reduce accountability/ oversight. These include: ensuring independence of the auditor general of Pakistan; enhancing the investigation and prosecution of money-laundering offences; publication of asset declarations of high-level federal civil servants; and developing a merit-based system for appointments to the key federal oversight bodies — CCP; SECP and NAB.

Readers must be asking what all this has to do with the governance of the health system. Governance weaknesses and the consequent corruption in the country is the sum total of governance problems and ongoing corruption in all sectors. No sector can be singled out and improved entirely and sustainably in isolation. All sectors are intertwined and interdependent. Take public procurement in the health sector. Who doesn't know of the level of corruption in public medical procurement and the low quality of medicines supplied by companies through government tenders? Public sector health managers and professionals benefit through commissions from suppliers of medical equipment and expensive machinery, pharmacies and diagnostic labs. These are open secrets of day-to-day life at public sector hospitals. And, there is hardly any regulation of these practices in the private sector.

At the macro level, health governance is marred by unclear federal and provincial functions and lack of coordination on important public health issues of national concern. There is a general lack of transparency and accountability, as in all other sectors. The issue of lack of administrative and managerial capacity cuts across the sector. There is also the issue of generalist civil servants making big technical decisions with far-reaching economic and health implications, and technical people not understanding the rules of business of government. Lack of coordination between the health and population sectors has affected both for too long and merging them has been a political issue. The list goes on and on.

As citizens of the state, health professionals or otherwise, it is imperative to understand the larger extractive political system, the issues of governance and corruption, develop a collective consciousness and take action. Without understanding the macro, the micro cannot be fixed. Before this IMF report fades away, society and citizen groups in all sectors need to read it and relate to it through their own lives and the sectors in which they work.

The dichotomies

Adeel Wahid

A battle can be won or lost on how the issue in a dispute is framed. In the aftermath of the 26th and 27th Amendments to the Constitution, different concepts can be invoked to make sense of the reality around us.

The challenge, however, is that in framing an issue, one ought to be able to grasp the core of what is at stake. Otherwise, it can be that the two sides take positions and dig in their heels, without coming close to addressing the central issue. There is a need, therefore, to explore the dichotomy that best explains and captures the essence of what exactly it is that divides the proponents (or apologists) of the amendments from those who bemoan them.

Military vs civilians: Who gets to decide the important questions of policy — the military or the civilians? — remains a central issue of governance in Pakistan. There has been and remains a disbalance. No one disputes it. The civilians who enjoy marginal powers, and momentary protections, boastfully see themselves as 'realists', presenting the governance structure as a 'hybrid regime', and adding alongside, with much emphasis, that there is nothing wrong with it.

Most say that this is how things are, which is hard to dispute. A few go further, and say that this is how it should be. Civilians are riven with factions; the military has discipline. If a top-down strictly regimented governance structure is put in place, orders are executed in a timely fashion, efficiency increases and policies are given effect. Or so the fiction goes.

Pushing back on this narrative does not attain much. Those who are committed to their belief in the inherent superiority of the military as an institution best placed to govern, will, time and again, find scapegoats in civilians. It is because of the latter, the thinking goes, that the establishment's rule does not translate into the success it promises, notwithstanding repeated experiments on this front.

The elite have always ruled the roost. What is actually different after the amendments?

Elite vs the many: In recent times, phrases like 'elite capture' are liberally thrown around, and rightly so. It has been an ongoing debate since at least Plato: whether to place a premium on the expertise of the few, or on the wisdom of the crowd? Pakistan has repeatedly erred on the side of the few.

In Pakistan, the elite are those who rise in the defence and civilian bureaucracies, using the archaic and abusive structures of governance to exert influence and power. The former of the two bureaucracies also co-opts politicians, who are already influential and affluent, often due to their lineage. They have landholdings or otherwise operate as local hegemons. Some of them may also have credentials to showcase.

The framework gives us a truism that the elite are in control in Pakistan, much like the truism that the civilian-military relationship is far from balanced — but nothing more. What is missing is the framework through which we can answer why this is wrong. The elite have always ruled the roost. What is actually different after the amendments?

Venerating men vs protection from those with a need to be venerated: Over time, there has been a realisation that we need a system of governance where one man or a few men do not usurp decision-making. That efforts have to be made actively to disperse power, to protect the people from the whims of a few; and to also be able to benefit from the minds and experiences of the many.

As apologists of the amendments rightly point out, this is not, or has not been, a default position through history. The default has been that the highly ambitious or a lucky few, or both, have governed, in their absolute discretion, deciding the fate of the many, often on the basis of whim.

To be able to live a life of dignity, where one is not at the mercy of those who find themselves in power, people came up with a concept that there ought to be a rule of law and not of men. By 'rule of law' is meant neutrality, impartiality and fairness in treatment; that, certain rights, in most situations, are to be enjoyed by all, without it being a charity, concession or a favour from the one in power. With the recent amendments, however, we can sense that the rule of men can be through laws.

What is of essence, then, is that the law has to protect the many from those who seek to be above the law, who, by virtue of their accomplishments, self-belief or just mere delusion consider themselves as deserving of a status not to be accorded to any other. With that higher status comes the hubris to unilaterally decide who amongst the people is to be blessed while others are shunned. But for the rest of us, not so inclined or lucky, there has to be an opportunity still to live a life of dignity, without needing to bow before any man, whatever his claim to fame.

In other words, the laws which had been conceptualised as a shield for the people — even if highly deficient and ineffective — are now wielded as a sword by those in power. With these amendments, the casualty is the aspiration that we were to work out a system that allowed us not to bow before another man.

That we were to move towards making available to us forums where, when our dignity is trampled upon, we can claim that we are being wronged, and hope that in this world too, there would be recourse. And this is, essentially, the primary issue at stake, that bowing before power has now been mandated by law.

Work at home

Parvez Rahim

In Pakistan, we have two categories of individuals working within households — domestic workers and home-based workers. There is a difference in the work each does. Domestic workers, commonly refer-red to as 'maasi' are employed for regular household chores like cooking, cleaning and laundry. They can work either part-time or full-time, usually on the basis of informal verbal contracts. They may also be engaged to care for children, the elderly or the sick.

The number of domestic workers ranges from around 4.5 million to 8.5m. The ILO reports 8.5m, while another source estimates 4.5m. However, these figures cannot be authenticated as it is difficult to collect statistics for individuals working in homes, as they are widely scattered. There is also a strong likelihood that these numbers overlap with those of home-based workers.

The latter category is more formal and closer to the jobs performed by their counterparts in industrial and commercial est-ablishments. They perform a wide variety of tasks, primarily in manufacturing, ie, garments, carpets, footwear, jewellery, etc, and services including virtual assistance, customer service data entry, writing, etc. The work is often categorised as traditional, manual labour, intensive work, or modern skill-based professional activity.

Official estimates place the number of home-based workers in Pakistan at around 4.4m to 4.8m, while unofficial sources suggest the total could be as high as 20m. Out of the 20m, 12m are women, which comes to 60pc. Their output may not be less than that of men but they are still paid less than them.

Karachi's women have played a notable role in forming the HBWWF.

A report in this paper says that "Globally, women make up about two-thirds of the health workforce but earn, on average, 20pc less than men and remain underrepresented in leadership positions".

Karachi's women have played a remarkable role in forming the Home-Based Women Workers Federation in December 2009. The HBWWF has been advocating for the rights of women with more vigour and enthusiasm than its male-dominated counterparts. It was officially registered with a membership of about 1,000 but now has over 4,500 members in Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab. There is also a broader union called the Federation of Sindh Home-Based Workers, which is a federation of various unions in Sindh.

HBWWF had persuaded the Sindh government to legislate the Sindh Home-Based Workers Act, 2018. This law relates to the protection of rights of persons who work in the informal or unorganised sector carrying out remunerative work within their homes or surroundings. The act stipulates that the wages of home-based workers will not be less than the minimum wages under the Sindh Minimum Wages Act, 2015. They are also eligible for "all those social, medical and maternity benefits, compensations and marriages and death grants" available under the labour laws.

Thereafter, the Punjab Domestic Workers Act, 2019, was enacted followed by the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Domestic Workers Act, 2022. They provide for issuance of appointment letters to domestic workers, regulation of daily working hours, grant of sick leaves and festival holidays, maternity leave for female workers and minimum wages as per the law. Termination of employment is subject to a month's prior notice in writing either by the domestic worker or employer and a month's wages is to be paid in lieu of notice.

A dispute resolution committee will be formed to resolve disagreements between employers and workers. No one under 15 years will be allowed to work in households in any capacity.

These provisions, derived from various labour laws, have never been fully co--mplied with by ent-repreneurs of industrial and comme--r--

cial establishments. How can we expect millions of households in Pakistan, with limited inco-mes and no knowledge of laws, to ad--h-ere to them? In fact, these provisions sho--uld be included in the act for home-based workers, whose nature of work and discipline are closer to that of factory workers. Consequently, neither the Punjab nor the ICT law has been implemented, nor have the respective governments tried to enforce them.

Recently, Saudi Arabia issued guidelines for the conduct of domestic workers and their employers. As domestic workers there belong to different nationalities, it is important for the government to regulate their conduct through these guidelines. Unlike Pakistan, where most laws go unhe-eded, the Saudi government will ensure their compliance in letter and in spirit from the beginning.

The Punjab government and ICT are advised to abrogate their respective acts and issue realistic guidelines to be followed by employers and domestic workers. It will also be convenient for the labour department to check compliance.

Weather & terrorism

Mohammad Ali Babakhel

One of three militants, clad in a chadar, attacked the FC Headquarters, Peshawar, on a cold, foggy, dusty morning. It set me thinking about the relationship between weather and terrorism. Weather may impact the frequency, tactics, planning, location, logistics and intensity of terrorism and CT operations. Globally, terrorists attack in favourable weather, adjusting strategies according to logistics, mobility and visibility. Drought or floods can spawn conditions for radicalisation; dry weather enables ambushes, IEDs and coordinated attacks.

Militant movement increases in mountainous areas in summer. Melting snows in parts of KP (including former Fata) and Balochistan aid militants, especially along the western border, to regroup. Better weather enhances visibility and aids infiltration and attacks. In winter, militants' mobility is hindered in hilly areas; they are either dormant or target urban centres, opting especially for extortion and kidnapping for ransom, or collaborating with organised criminal groups in arms and narcotics peddling. In summer, they prefer to attack at night or early morning.

IS in Iraq used dust storms to evade drone surveillance and air strikes. In Nigeria, in the dry season, Boko Haram intensified attacks due to better mobility. Muddy terrain in rains reduced mobility for the military and militants. Flooded roads and jungle paths during monsoons in Sri Lanka restricted large-scale operations by the military and LTTE. Poor visibility limited surveillance. Africa sees fewer attacks in militancy-infested areas in rains, but militants often regroup or train then. Militancy surges in dry weather. LTTE launched major attacks between March and August. In stormy season, it limited its coastal movement and sea-based attacks. It hid landmines in rainy weather, while the military would delay offensives to avoid logistical disruption. Weather influences attacks' timing but not militants' aims.

Militancy surges in dry weather.

For terrorists, low visibility in fog hinders surveillance, camera performance, border and coastline security, and drone and helicopter observation. Tourism and public events increase in good weather and terrorists may strike where there are more people. Extreme weather drives indoor online activity, potentially increasing recruitment by extremists. Such weather disrupts terrorist acts but also destroys infrastructure, requiring instant state relief. Terrorists can exploit LEAs' relief efforts. By providing relief, militants try to win victims' trust. Displacement may fuel desperation in youth, making them prone to extreme narratives. When climate events destroy livelihoods, groups like Boko Haram amplify the message: 'join us and get food, protection, or revenge'. Climate change triggers more poverty, displacement and economic stress, and reduces local administrative capacity, which extremists exploit to propagate their narrative especially in IDP camps. Hence, improved coordination among LEAs, emergency services and community is needed during and after natural disasters.

Seasonal migration impacts militants' recruitment drives. Nomads migrate in winter looking for work or shelter. At these times, the youth, particularly may be more vulnerable and recruited by militants. To curb this requires nomads' registration by special branches and UCs. Disaster preparedness must be improved to prevent militants from exploiting humanitarian gaps. Deradicalisation programmes must be integrated into emergency relief. Financial resources of humanitarian groups must be scrutinised. Official grants can be given in disasters to those working legally.

Drought too can fuel migration and social alienation. Militant gr--oups may offer incentives and play on people's deprivation to instil radical ideas. If states don't respond well, militants try to fill the vacuum with extremist ideologies. To keep comfortable, militants improvise with locally available gear for protection and camouflage. Insulated layered clothing is used in winter to prevent frostbite.

In summer, lightweight wear prevents heat strokes. Footwear is critical and militants use boots with waterproof lining in snow-covered areas, canvas shoes for deserts, and ventilated boots with drainage holes in forests. Thermal blankets, rain ponchos and gloves help resist weather effects.

In severe weather, protecting vital installations like airports, power plants, communication towers, etc, demands more security. LEAs' CT strategies must integrate preparedness and climate adaptation; use climate data to forecast higher terrorist activity periods; improve disaster response to curb militant exploitation; reduce recruitment risks; and collaborate with other agencies, including LGs. This will help forecast resource needs and aid better operation planning.

Anyone acting against country's integrity will be dealt with iron hand: Bilawal

All political parties should do politics within their own sphere

Independent Report

LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, met with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. The political situation in Punjab was discussed in detail in the meeting.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also appreciated Governor Sardar Saleem Haider's extensive services in Punjab for the party and the people of Punjab. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also met with party workers including parliamentarians, ticket holders, senior journalists, business personalities, student unions and the legal community. On this occasion, leaders of various political parties announced to join PPP. Representatives of Peoples Student Federation and Peoples Youth Organizations met Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto?

Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan expressed his gratitude to Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for visiting Punjab, stating that he deeply appreciates his presence in the province. He said that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's visit has infused new enthusiasm among the party's members.

The Punjab Governor said that no effort will be spared to convey Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's message from street to street. He said that the large number of people joining the PPP is a testament to the leadership skills of the party leadership. The Punjab Governor said that the PPP is the only political party that not only understands the problems of the people but is also committed to solving them on priority basis.

Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that all political parties should do politics within their own sphere.

He said that those who act against the integrity of the country will be dealt with iron hands. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the PPP is a democratic political party that has taken up the cause of public service.



LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in a group photo with party workers including parliamentarians, ticket holders, senior journalists, business personalities, student unions and the legal community during a meeting at Governor House. Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan is also present on the occasion.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over agriculture department meeting at CM House in Karachi.

KP CM orders push for federal dues, merit based governance

KP Cabinet approves e-transfer policy 2025 for teachers

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi on Friday chaired a provincial cabinet meeting where key decisions were taken regarding the province's financial rights, governance reforms, and development planning.

The Chief Minister welcomed the formation of a sub-committee in the National Finance Commission (NFC) to address provincial rights, terming it a positive step.

He said the committee headed by the Provincial Finance Advisor will present detailed recommendations to the federal government regarding outstanding dues owed to KP.

Afridi noted that the merged districts were promised an annual allocation of Rs100 billion; however, only Rs168 billion has been released over seven years, leaving Rs532 billion still unpaid.

He directed the Finance Department to issue weekly reminders to the federal government regarding pending NHP and NFC arrears and instructed all provincial departments to do the same concerning their respective outstanding dues.

Emphasizing transparent governance, the CM told newly appointed secretaries, who attended the meeting, that their appointments were made strictly on merit. He urged them to uphold merit in administrative decisions and warned that any complaints of corruption would result in immediate legal action. Afridi also directed all departments to submit proposals for the 2026–27 Annual Development Programme (ADP) by mid-February.

He stressed that public welfare must remain the top priority in all development initiatives and that projects should be designed to maximize facilitation for citizens.

Maryam Nawaz says:

Punjab govt aims to strengthen ties with Dutch universities, promote joint research

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the provincial government aims to strengthen ties with Dutch universities and promote joint research programmes.

CM Maryam Nawaz met the Netherlands ambassador, Robert Jan Siggers, where both sides agreed to enhance Dutch cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, higher education institutions, technical training, water management, education, and research. Several other matters of mutual interest were also discussed.

Maryam Nawaz extended her best wishes to the ambassador on his recent appointment and said that Dutch partnership could bring a major breakthrough in improving potato yield. She added that the presence of Dutch companies in Pakistan boosts investors' confidence, noting that relations between Pakistan and the Netherlands are rooted in shared development goals.

The chief minister further stated that Punjab provides a conducive environment for investors and expressed a desire to expand cooperation between Pakistan and the Netherlands.

CM Sindh vows comprehensive reforms to boost agriculture

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Friday stressed the need to gradually shift the province's cropping patterns to suit climate realities, water availability and market demand. He noted that traditional practices are increasingly unsustainable due to water scarcity, soil degradation, and changing weather conditions. He was presiding over an agriculture department meeting at CM House. The meeting was attended by Minister of Agriculture Muhammad Bux Khan Mahar, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary Agriculture Zaman Narejo, the President/CEO of Sindh Bank, and Deputy CEO Asad Shah. They reviewed the ongoing initiatives and future strategies to strengthen Sindh's agricultural sector.

The chief minister described agriculture as the backbone of Sindh's economy, emphasizing the need for a modern, research-driven, and financially inclusive approach. "Our farmers are the foundation of our rural economy. We must support them with timely credit, advanced technology, and scientific guidance so they can increase productivity and shift toward high-value crops," he said.

The CM called for enhanced collaboration between the government, research institutions, and universities to introduce new seed varieties, improve soil health, and promote precision agriculture.

Coach overturn in Khairpur leaves three dead, several passenger injured

ISLAMABAD (APP): Atleast three people, including a woman were killed and dozens of others passengers injured when their coach overturned early Friday morning in Khairpur due to dense fog.

According to details, rescue officials said that five of the injured passengers are in critical condition and were immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for emergency treatment, private news channel reported.

Hospital sources said that the condition of the critically injured remains precarious, while other passengers are receiving medical care for multiple fractures and head injuries.

PHC reviews six missing persons petitions; detailed reports sought

PESHAWAR (APP): The Peshawar High Court on Friday undertook a comprehensive review of six petitions related to missing persons, with Chief Justice SM Atiq Shah seeking accountability from federal and provincial authorities.

The Additional Advocate General, Deputy Attorney General, Home Department focal person, and senior police officials appeared before the court.

During the hearing, the court sought detailed reports from the federal and provincial governments, as well as all concerned parties, in two of the cases.

Two petitions were referred to the Missing Persons Commission for further action, while two cases were disposed of after the recovery of the missing individuals. In a petition filed by a woman seeking the recovery of her children, the Additional Advocate General informed the court that the relevant SHO had travelled to Karachi to trace the children's father.

Driver killed as trailer slams into coach in foggy crash

ISLAMABAD (APP): A coach driver was killed on the spot after a violent coach–trailer collision on the National Highway near Rahim Yar Khan on early Friday morning, leaving three others seriously injured as thick fog severely reduced visibility and triggered the fatal crash. According to details, rescue sources said the speeding trailer struck the coach when both vehicles entered a fog-covered stretch of the highway.



Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhary, holding a press conference in Islamabad.

Four drug dealers killed in encounter with CCD

LAHORE (APP): Four drug dealers were killed by the firing of their own accomplices during an alleged encounter with CCD Police in Muridke area, on Friday.

Police officials said that a CCD team, on a tip-off, raided to arrest the drug dealers when they opened fire on the team. In the exchange of fire, four drug dealers including a father, two sons and another were killed by the firing of their own accomplices while three suspects managed to escape.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Syed Imran Ahmad Shah Chairs meeting during briefing BISP Sindh Region's performance at Central Zonal DG Office.

WB announces $400mln for new project to improve urban services, resilience in Punjab

ISLAMABAD (APP): The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved $400 million in financing for a new project to provide safely managed water, sanitation and basic hygiene services, and help improve the institutional and financial performance of local urban administration in Punjab province.

The Punjab Inclusive Cities Program (PICP) would support the improvement and rehabilitation of water supply networks, sewerage systems, and wastewater treatment plants, provide stormwater drainage, and enhance the capacity of local governments to sustainably deliver services and increase revenues in 16 secondary cities in Punjab.

The program, according to a news release, would also support the improved performance of solid waste management systems in Punjab, including for sanitary disposal of waste.

"Reducing child stunting is essential for Pakistan's future. Through the Punjab Inclusive Cities Program, we are investing in safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services to break the cycle of malnutrition and disease that holds back so many children from reaching their full potential," said World Bank (WB) Country Director for Pakistan Bolormaa Amgaabazar said.

In collaboration with the Punjab Government, she said, the program represented a significant step forward in improving urban infrastructure and strengthening local institutions, thereby laying the foundation for healthier communities and a more prosperous Pakistan.

PICP aims to deliver improved water, sanitation, hygiene and drainage services to approximately 4.5 million people and improved solid waste management services to an additional 2 million people.

Minister visits CNF HQs, reviews aggressive anti drug plan around schools

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Education Rana Sikandar Hayat on Friday visited the headquarters of the Counter-Narcotics Force (CNF) Punjab and received a detailed briefing on the province-wide strategy to curb the spread of narcotics, enhance surveillance around educational institutions, and dismantle drug dealers and smuggling networks through modern mechanisms. According to a CNF spokesperson, Director General CNF Punjab Mazhar Iqbal briefed the minister on the force's operational model, identification of sensitive locations, establishment of red zones and technology-based surveillance systems. He said that a vigorous crackdown on street-level drug networks is underway across the province, with intelligence-based operations being carried out on a daily basis. The DG added that funds have been approved for establishing force units at the district level, which will significantly enhance operational capacity and accelerate inter-district actions. The minister praised the professional performance of CNF, stating that educational institutions serve as the first line of defense against narcotics, and the Punjab government fully recognises this responsibility.



ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary NH&CD, Ms. Farah Naz, visits the "Quranic Calligraphy and Paintings" solo exhibition of artist Yusuf Khan at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

E-Challan amount can be revised for convenience of people, Minister informs PA

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Assembly on Friday discussed e-Challan and other matters of public importance including livestock and fisheries issues in its session.

Earlier, the session commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran and Naat Sharif with Speaker in the Chair.

Questions and answers pertaining to Livestock and Fisheries Department came under the discussion.

The Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hasan Lanjar, while responding to a point of order raised by the Leader of the Opposition in the Sindh Assembly Ali Khurshidi, he said that a complete inquiry will be conducted into an unfortunate incident involving an elderly citizen in Sujawal, and strict action will be taken without any discrimination against whosoever is found responsible.

He stated that the Government of Sindh has a clear stance on public complaints and human rights issues. those responsible will be held accountable according to the law.

Responding in detail to the Opposition Leader's objections regarding the e-challan system, the Home Minister announced the formation of a comprehensive committee to resolve issues related to e-challans and to improve the system. He said that all stakeholders would be taken on board, and that the e-challan system is being introduced in phases in Hyderabad and other districts to modernize traffic management.

The Sindh Home Minister Zia-Ul-Hassan stated that the aim of issuing challans is not to increase fines, but to promote traffic awareness.

He announced that the committee will include, from MQM-Pakistan Ali Khurshidi, Taha Ahmed, Iftikhar Alam, and Muhammad Shabbir Qureshi and from the Pakistan Peoples Party Asif Khan, Sadia Javed, and Farooq Awan. He further said that he himself will chair the committee. The Home Secretary was instructed to issue the notification for the committee's formation today.

The Home Minister has convened the committee's first meeting on Monday.

Goods transporters' strike enters fifth day

KARACHI (INP): The wheel-jam strike, being observed by goods transporters against heavy traffic fines, entered into its fifth day on Friday.

In Karachi, a large number of vehicles transporting goods are present at the Hawksbay area, and the process of loading, unloading, and delivering goods has been halted. The goods transporters said that they will not end their strike till acceptance of their demands.

In Lahore, goods transporters continued their strike on the fifth day, and after four hours of negotiations between the Punjab government and goods transporters.

KP Minister for accelerating work on solarization-based water supply schemes under CPEC

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Public Health Engineering, Fazal Shakoor Khan on Friday issued firm directives to accelerate work on solarization-based water supply schemes under the CPEC grant, emphasizing their importance for public welfare and long-term sustainability.

Chairing a departmental review meeting, the minister instructed officials to expedite coordination with Chinese authorities to ensure timely procurement of required equipment and completion of all pending formalities.

He stressed that removing administrative delays is essential for maintaining project timelines and guaranteeing uninterrupted water supply, particularly during periods of energy shortage.

Fazal Shakoor Khan further urged officers of the Public Health Engineering Department to advance all public welfare projects with professional discipline, teamwork, and mutual cooperation.

He emphasized that high-quality execution must remain a priority, as water supply initiatives are directly linked to improving the lives of citizens across the province.



Pakistan Saraiki Party activists stage protest in Multan for creation of separate province.

IRSA releases 64,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 64,100 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 37,200 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam stood at 1489.46 feet which was 87.46 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 21,100 cusecs and 20,000 cusecs, respectively.

Senate panel seeks full disclosure of ETPB properties

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Less Developed Areas on Friday directed the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) to submit a complete record of all properties under its management, along with revenue details, before the next session.

The Sub-Committee, chaired by Senator Danesh Kumar, convened the same day, where the convener asked ETPB officials to brief the panel on the criteria and mechanisms through which the department generates its revenue.

He expressed concern that numerous ETPB properties had been leased out at disproportionately low monthly rental values, and instructed the Board to undertake a comprehensive reassessment and fair revaluation of these assets.

During the briefing, the ETPB representative informed the committee that surveys of various properties had been completed and rents reassessed accordingly.

Based on these surveys, rental values are expected to increase by up to 460%.

The officials added that certain aspects of the matter were linked to ongoing judicial proceedings; therefore, progress was being carried out gradually and strictly in line with legal requirements.

While reviewing the agenda, Convener Danesh Kumar expressed displeasure over the delayed submission of the working paper, noting that timely provision of documents would have enabled the committee to conduct a more detailed examination prior to the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Senator Nadeem Bhutto, Chairman Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB), the Additional Secretary, and other senior officers of the ETPB.

Highlighting the importance of the ETPB's mandate, Senator Danesh Kumar underscored that the restoration and maintenance of temples.

Govt prioritizes olive cultivation with focus on quality saplings, modern facilities: Rana Tanveer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Friday said that the government was prioritizing the supply of quality saplings, research, modern oil extraction facilities and overall improvement of the olive value chain to promote olive cultivation in the country.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 7th National Olive Festival, the minister said that government was taking measures for the upgrading olive packaging, branding and marketing to international standards, which was essential to enhance its exports.

The minister stated that Pakistan has vast potential for olive cultivation and that the crop is no longer an experiment but hays now matured into a fully emerging industry.

He said that Pakistan's climate is highly suitable for the cultivation of premium-quality olives, adding that olives were an effective solution to climate change and an ideal crop for water-scarce regions.

He noted that the olive sector is providing thousands of farmers with profitable and climate-resilient livelihoods, while also creating new business and employment opportunities in rural economies.

He highlighted that Pakistan has the potential to become a leading regional hub for olive cultivation and processing, adding that the consumption of olive oil and other olive products is increasing in the country, and a portion of Pakistan's olive oil is already being exported — including the award-winning Pakistani olive oil that secured a silver medal in the United States.

Rana Tanveer Hussain noted that olives constitute a major global agricultural industry, citing Spain's $11 billion and Italy's significant annual exports. In comparison, Pakistan's total agricultural exports stand at $9 billion, while the country spends $4 billion annually on importing palm oil.

He emphasized that by increasing domestic olive production, Pakistan can not only meet its own needs but also generate valuable foreign exchange through exports in the coming years.

He appreciated the support of the Italian government for the development of Pakistan's olive sector, noting that Italy is providing technical assistance and has also approved a €20 million project for Pakistan. He further announced that Pakistan is expected to become a member of the International Olive Council within the next two to three months, which will enhance global recognition of Pakistan's olive industry.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain at the inauguration of the 7th National Olive Festival, strengthening Pakistan–Italy cooperation.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Economic Affairs, Muhammad Humair Karim, and Country Director of Asian Development Bank, Emma Fan, Signing Agreements between Pakistan and ADB.

Pakistan signs MoU with Binance to explore blockchain-based innovation for sovereign assets

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Finance and Binance Investments Company Limited on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which aimed to leveraging emerging financial technologies to strengthen Pakistan's capital markets and enhance global investor access.

The MoU was signed by the Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb and Richard Teng, Chief Executive Officer of Binance. Changpeng Zhao, Adviser to the Pakistan Crypto Council was also presented on the occasion, said a press release.

The MoU establishes a framework for exploring potential collaboration on the tokenisation and blockchain-based distribution of Pakistan's real-world and sovereign assets, including government bonds, treasury bills, commodity reserves and other federally owned assets.

Subject to applicable laws, policies and regulatory approvals, the initiative may involve assets of up to $ 2 billion, with the objective of enhancing liquidity, transparency and international market accessibility.

Under the proposed arrangement, Binance and/or its affiliates may provide technical expertise, advisory support, training and capacity building to enable Pakistan to assess modern, compliant blockchain infrastructure. The collaboration aims to explore secure and transparent digital platforms that could facilitate broader participation by international investors, while fully respecting Pakistan's regulatory framework and sovereign control. Speaking on the occasion, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb described the MoU as a strong signal of Pakistan's reform trajectory. This is a very strong message not only for Pakistan, but for the entire world. What we have signed today reflects a long-term partnership. From where we started to moving towards operationalisation, this progress could not have happened without active guidance and leadership.

Pak-Uzbekistan agrees to fast-track PTA to reach US$ 2 billion trade target

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Uzbekistan agree to fast-track expanded Preferential Trade Agreement and establish Electronic Data Interchange to reach US$ 2 billion trade target.

During his official visit to Tashkent on 11 December 2025, Ihsaan Afzal, Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Commerce and Industry, held in-depth talks with Mr. Shohrukh Gulamov, Deputy Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan, said a release issued here on Friday. Both sides reaffirmed their firm commitment to elevate bilateral trade to US$ 2 billion within the next two years, in line with the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the President of Uzbekistan.

The meeting focused on the immediate expansion of the existing Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA).

Deputy Minister Gulamov confirmed that the two countries are actively finalising a significantly broadened product list and stated that a formal understanding on the expanded PTA is expected very soon.



Ihsaan Afzal emphasised the urgent need to standardise documentation, harmonise customs procedures and inspection protocols, and establish digital connectivity to reduce delays and enhance trade predictability.

Rupee gains 04 paisa against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Rupee on Friday appreciated by 04 paisa against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs280.32 compared to the previous day's closing at Rs280.36.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 281.5 and Rs 283.3, respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs 1.01 to close at Rs 329.08, from the previous day's close of Rs 328.07, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen went up by 01 paisa and close at Rs 1.80, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed an increase of Rs0.36 and closed at Rs 375.19 compared to the previous day's Rs 374.83.

Pakistan, Yemen reaffirm Commitment to strengthening bilateral trade relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan met with Ambassador of Yemen to Pakistan, Mohammed Motahar Alashabi, on Friday in Islamabad for a constructive discussion on enhancing Pakistan–Yemen trade and economic cooperation.

During the meeting, H.E. Alashabi highlighted the historically warm relations between the two countries and stressed Yemen's desire to expand commercial engagement with Pakistan, said a release issued here.

He noted that despite logistical and regional challenges in recent years, Yemen continues to value Pakistan as a trusted partner.

He shared that nearly 300 Yemeni students are currently studying in Pakistan, reflecting strong people-to-people ties and continued confidence in Pakistan's educational institutions.

He emphasized the need to revive and operationalize existing bilateral agreements and strengthen institutional mechanisms to facilitate trade.

Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to deepening economic cooperation with Yemen, noting that Pakistan places high priority on expanding trade with regional and nearby markets.

Jam Kamal highlighted the importance of creating efficient, low-cost logistics channels for small and medium enterprises and informed H.E. Alashabi that the Ministry is examining the introduction of ferry-based small shipping services to reduce freight costs and improve turnaround time for regional trade.

The Minister observed that Pakistan's growing entrepreneurial and SME sectors can greatly benefit from improved access to close-proximity markets such as Yemen, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Oman. He assured that Pakistan will follow up on institutional proposals and engage relevant platforms, to strengthen bilateral cooperation.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan meets H.E. Mohammed Motahar Alashabi to discuss strengthening Pakistan-Yemen trade relations, highlighting renewed commitment to economic cooperation, improved logistics, and enhanced institutional collaboration.

Weekly inflation falls slightly

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), recorded a slight decrease of 0.03 percent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on December 11, 2025, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review was recorded at 335.73 points, down from 335.84 points last week. On a year-on-year basis, the SPI increased by 3.90 percent.

The weekly SPI with base year 2015-16 = 100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group (up to Rs17,732) decreased by 0.26 percent, to 326.84 points from 327.70 points.

The SPI for consumption groups of Rs17,733–22,888; Rs22,889–29,517 and Rs29,518–44,175; decreased by 0.17 percent, 0.09 percent, 0.04 percent respectively, while it increased by 0.02 percent for and above Rs44,175.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 12 (23.53%) items increased, 10 (19.61%) items decreased, and 29 (56.86%) items remained stable.

Major commodities registering a week-on-week decrease included tomatoes (16.18%), sugar (4.91%), onions (4.08%), potatoes (1.71%), bananas (1.01%), pulse gram (0.36%), pulse masoor (0.10%), gur (0.08%) and LPG (0.08%).

Items showing an increase in prices included chicken (6.19%), wheat flour (2.88%), eggs (0.93%), cooking oil 5 litre (0.72%), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (0.70%), tea prepared (0.56%), powdered milk (0.39%), pulse moong (0.37%), washing soap (0.20%) and firewood (0.08%).



Pakistan Horticulture Development & Export Company (PHDEC), in collaboration with Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences (LUAWMS) Uthal organized an extensive awareness and capacity-building session on "Citrus and Dragon Fruit Growing and Production under the Agro-Climate Conditions of District Lasbela.

Pak, UK make significant progress in economic, development partnership

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and the United Kingdom have made significant progress in their economic and development partnership, thanks to efforts led by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb met UK Minister for Development, Baroness Judith Chapman, where both sides formally resumed a fresh round of development talks after an eight-year pause.

Officials noted that more than 200 British companies are currently operating in Pakistan, pushing bilateral trade volume beyond £5.5 billion. The two delegations discussed ways to deepen cooperation in trade, investment, climate action, and the social sector, agreeing that both economies can "move forward together" through stronger partnerships.

During the visit, Baroness Chapman and Education Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui jointly launched the next phase of the Pak-UK Education Gateway. The new phase introduces startup funds, expands online learning programs, and improves access to educational opportunities for students and researchers.

Both sides also explored investment in health, education, population welfare, and environmental sustainability. A new Green Compact Program was introduced under the broader framework of environmental protection, natural resource management, and green technologies.

Officials said the recent developments will help stabilize Pakistan's economy, boost foreign investment, and strengthen global confidence in the country.



ISLAMABAD: The Board of Investment (BOI), hosted a high-level 19-member delegation from the China Federation of Industrial Economics (CFIE) and the Belt & Road Industrial & Commercial Alliance (BRICA).

Gold price increases by Rs10,700 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of per tola 24-karat gold on Friday increased by Rs10,700 to Rs454,262 compared to its sale at Rs.443,562 the previous day, according to the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

The price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold rose by Rs9,174 to Rs389,456, while the rate of 10 grams of 22-karat gold increased by Rs8,410 to Rs357,014.

In the international market, gold prices went up by $107 to $4,319.

Meanwhile, per tola silver gained Rs232 to reach Rs6,684, and the price of 10 grams of silver rose by Rs199 to Rs5,730. International silver prices increased by $2.32 to $64.12.

SNGPL's gas saving drive yields results: 462 theft cases detected

SARGODHGA (APP): The special winter gas conservation and consumer facilitation campaign, launched by Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) Sargodha Region on December 3, 2025, has started delivering positive results within days of its launch. Under the campaign, consumers can register complaints directly and receive immediate feedback with 24/7 service availability. Citizens can lodge gas-related complaints on 048-3221248. An SNGPL spokesperson stated that special measures have been taken to promote judicious use of gas, prevent avoidable pressure drops, and ensure better supply to domestic consumers. Work on the TBS (Town Border Station) metering project is progressing rapidly.

Pakistan, ADB sign $257m agreements to strengthen Punjab's edu., health sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) here on Friday signed two major financing programmes worth US$257 million aimed at improving the education and health sectors in Punjab. The programmes include the Responsive, Ready, and Resilient Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Secondary Education in Punjab Programme amounting to USD 107 Million (including USD 7 Million grant of ADF) andii) Punjab Nursing and Health Workforce Reform Programamounting to USD 150 Million.

According to press release, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Muhammad Humair Karim appreciated the ADB's role as a trusted development partner and its continued support to Pakistan to complement its development initiatives.

The Secretary appreciated ADB's financial support to these critical programs on concessional terms, which would significantly contribute to long-term and sustainable social growth, address the vital educational needs and health services requirement of the Punjab Province.

Besides, he acknowledged the efforts of the government of Punjab and emphasized on timely and effective utilization of the financing.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships, X-press Kailash, Lapis Lazuli, New Ability, Chemroad Quest and Doric Valour scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, LSFO, Palm oil and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, FOTCO oil Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Meanwhile five more ships, Marianna-1, Horizon-1, AN-61, Gas Lily and Al-Wakrah carrying Container, LPG, Chemicals and LNG also arrived at outer anchorage during last 24 hours.

SAPM Haroon engages Turkish business delegation to boost bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan on Friday held a meeting with Turkish business delegation and discussed joint ventures, investment opportunities, and facilitation measures for Turkish investors in key industrial sectors.

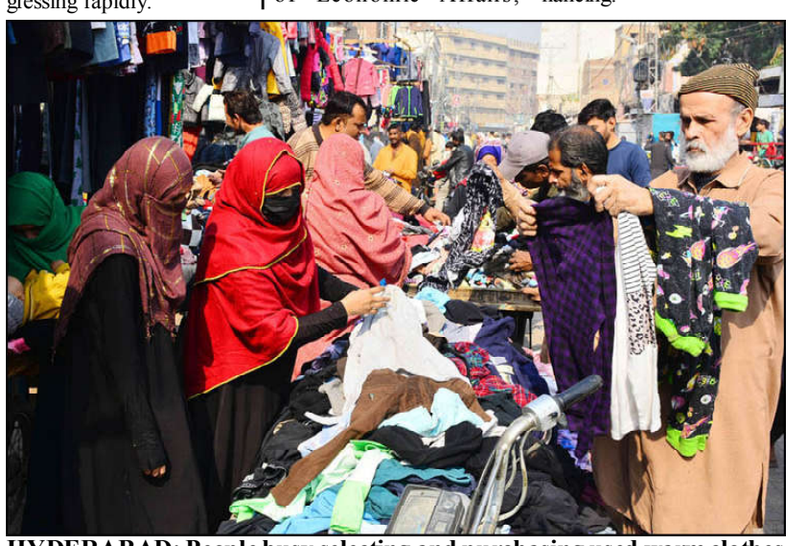
The meeting was attended by the CEOs of Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC), the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), Engineering Development Board (EDB), along with senior public and private-sector representatives, said a news release.

The agenda focused on Pakistan–Turkey joint ventures, investment opportunities, and facilitation measures for Turkish investors in key industrial sectors.

Haroon highlighted prime minister's vision of strengthening ties with brotherly nations, noting that the current Pakistan–Turkiye trade volume stands at $1 billion, with the potential to reach $5 billion.

The Turkish delegation expressed strong interest in expanding their business footprint in Pakistan, adding that leading Turkish textile brands, including LC Waikiki, are looking to enter the Pakistani market.

The delegation also requested support for opening Turkish banks in Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore to facilitate smoother bilateral trade and investment flows.



HYDERABAD: People busy selecting and purchasing used warm clothes from a vendor during the winter season.

SBP injects over Rs 10.48 trillion in the market

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Friday, injected Rs 10,484.85 billion through Reverse Repo Purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operations (OMO) to maintain liquidity in the market.

The central bank conducted the Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) for 7 and 14-day tenors on December 12, 2025, and injected Rs 10,270.15 billion against 23 bids while Rs 214.7 billion were inserted separately through Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based OMO.

The central bank received 19 bids for the 7-day Reverse Repo Purchase, cumulatively offering Rs 10,129.5 billion at the rate of return ranging between 11.01 to 11.07%. The SBP accepted all the bids with the entire amount at 11.01% rate of return.

Senate body approves Transfer of Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2025

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Railways on Friday unanimously approved the draft of the Transfer of Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2025 after detailed deliberations.

The body met under the chair of Senator Jam Saifullah Khan which was attended by Senator Dost Ali Jeesar, Senator Kami Ali Agha, Senator Rubina Khalid and Senator Shahadat Awan.

Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi briefed the committee on the objectives of the proposed legislation, saying that the amendments aim to attract investment by enabling track access for various stakeholders.

He said that the provision would play a pivotal role in facilitating major national projects, including the Reko Diq project.

The committee was informed that several provincial governments had expressed interest in investing in Pakistan Railways, and the proposed amendments would create an enabling framework for them to contribute to railway infrastructure development.

The Chairman directed the Ministry to ensure the Minister's inclusion in the Board to reinforce public oversight and strengthen institutional supervision.

The committee also recommended several measures to improve Pakistan Railways' performance.

It advised the Ministry to engage Chambers of Commerce to encourage investment and expand public-private partnerships.

Afghan FM says no one will be allowed to use Afghan soil for foreign attacks

Monitoring Desk

KABUL: Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi has said that Afghan soil must not be used against any other country, and anyone who violates this principle will face action.

Speaking at an event in Kabul, Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi endorsed a five-point resolution unanimously approved a day earlier by religious scholars.

Hundreds of scholars from all 34 provinces of Afghanistan had gathered at Kabul University, where they passed a resolution supporting the current system, defending regional integrity, preventing Afghan soil from being used against other countries, opposing Afghans' participation in military activities abroad, and emphasizing unity among Muslims.

In his speech, Muttaqi stressed that Afghan soil must not be used against any other country. He said that, based on the scholars' decree, Afghan leadership will not allow anyone to carry out military activities abroad from Afghan territory.

The foreign minister said the Islamic Emirate's leadership will not permit anyone to be involved in military activities in other countries, and that any Afghan who violates this directive may face action under the scholars' guidance.

Although Muttaqi did not name any country, it is widely believed that he was referring to neighboring Pakistan.

Tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan have persisted since border clashes in October this year. Pakistan insists that militants from the banned TTP based in Afghanistan conduct cross-border attacks.

Despite temporary calm achieved through negotiations in Doha and later Istanbul—mediated by Qatar and Turkiye—relations remain strained, and bilateral trade has halted due to border closures.

In its weekly briefing, Pakistan's Foreign Office responded to the Afghan scholars' resolution by stating that they would examine the statement but would still seek written guarantees from Afghan leadership.

Referring to recent tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Muttaqi said these events show Afghans are more united and coordinated than before. Based on the scholars' decree, he added, protecting the current system is not only the responsibility of security forces but a shared duty of all citizens.

According to the foreign minister, the resolution emphasises that Islamic countries should strive to maintain good relations. As before, scholars have again urged Muslims to maintain unity and embrace one another with tolerance.



Delegates from European countries attend an informal meeting of European Union ministers of European affairs, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Lviv, Ukraine.

Thai PM says no ceasefire yet in Cambodia conflict after phone call with Trump

Monitoring Desk

BANGKOK: Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul confirmed on Friday that there was no ceasefire yet with Cambodia and said he had spoken by telephone with U.S. President Donald Trump and told him Bangkok was not the aggressor in the conflict with its neighbour.

Anutin said Trump told him he wanted the two countries to return to a ceasefire first agreed in July. He added that the U.S. president had not indicated that trade tariffs would be used as part of his efforts to end the fighting.

Anutin's remarks came as heavy border clashes between the two countries continued for a fifth day.

"He (Trump) wanted a ceasefire. I told him to ask our friends - don't just say a ceasefire but to tell the world that Cambodia will cease fire, withdraw its troops, remove all mines it has planted, and show them that they must stop everything first," Anutin told reporters.

"Right now, there is no ceasefire yet, the fighting is still ongoing," he said.

Thailand and Cambodia have been exchanging rockets and artillery at multiple locations along their disputed 817-km (508-mile) frontier in some of the most intense clashes since a five-day battle in July, which Trump stopped with calls to both leaders to halt their worst conflict in recent history.

Trump is keen to intervene again to salvage the truce he brokered. He met Anutin and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet in Malaysia in October, where they signed an expanded ceasefire agreement.

Trump, who has repeatedly said he deserves the Nobel Peace Prize, lauded himself on Thursday as a global peacemaker and had on Thursday expressed confidence he would get the truce "back on track".

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER IR REGIONAL TAX OFFICE QUETTA

HIRING OF LEGAL ADVISORS/ CONSULTANTS FOR REGIONAL TAX OFFICE QUETTA

The FBR aims to strengthen its legal operations by hiring qualified Legal Advisors to assist its Directorates Law-IR /Commissioner-IR/Directors under the Inland Revenue Services. These advisors will support ensuring effective legal compliance, improved litigation outcomes and enhanced legal advisory services. The applications are invited from the advocates for appointments as individual consultants to assist the Office of the Chief Commissioner-IR, Quetta in handling legal matters of the department. The office requires two (2) Legal Advisors/Consultants for RTO, Quetta.

Terms and Conditions

i. The quotations / tenders should only be submitted electronically online, on or before **26.12.2025 at 11:30 am** through e-Tender portal of PPRA web site which will be opened on the same day electronically at 11:30 am. The contractors will be able to see comparative statement online.
ii. The interested candidates are requested to **submit their Bids/ proposals online through EPADS at** https://eprocure.gov.pk, **and Original Bids/ proposals must be submitted at Regional Tax Office, Spinny Road, Quetta before opening date i.e. on or before 11:30 Hours on 26.12.2025.** The tender will be opened publically on the same day at 11:30 Hours in the presence of Candidates representatives at Regional Tax Office, Quetta.
iii. Bidding will be conducted under the National Bidding Procedure specified in the Public Procurement Rules, 2004 (PPRA-2004) as per Rule 36-(a), under single stage, and envelopes procedure.
iv. Interview/call letters to eligible candidates shall be issued by the Selection Committee.
v. Incomplete applications and applications received after due date shall not be entertained.
vi. Original documents shall be produced at the time of interview.
vii. The competent Authority has the right to increase/decrease the number of Panel Advocates or cancel the hiring process at any time.
viii. The initial engagement shall be for a period of Six (06) months, extendable by the Chief Commissioner-IR based on performance and requirements.
ix. Academic Qualification: LLB or equivalent qualification from a recognized university/affiliated institute.
x. Professional Experience: At least 5 years of High Court (Post-Qualification), preferably in tax laws.
xi. Applicant must be an Enrolled Advocate eligible to appear before the High Courts.

How to Apply;

Interested candidates are required to apply and send their applications along with curriculum vitae, copy of CNIC, High Court enrolment card, academic credentials, experience certificates and list of reported/un-reported judgments to the office of ADC (HQs) / Member Selection Committee for Hiring of Legal Advisors as Individual Consultants, Chief Commissioner's Regional Tax office, Spinny Road Quetta. Last date for submission of application is 26-12-2025.

(Rehmatullah Khan Durrani)
Commissioner/Member Selection Committee
PID(Q)263/25



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian attend a meeting in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

US aims for international Gaza force deployment early next year, say US officials

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON/UNITED NATIONS: International troops could be deployed in the Gaza Strip as early as next month to form a U.N.-authorized stabilization force, two U.S. officials told Reuters, but it remains unclear how Palestinian militants Hamas will be disarmed.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the International Stabilization Force (ISF) would not fight Hamas. They said lots of countries had expressed interest in contributing and U.S. officials are currently working out the size of the ISF, composition, housing, training and rules of engagement.

An American two-star general is being considered to lead the ISF but no decisions have been made, the officials said.

Deployment of the force is a key part of the next phase of U.S. President Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan. Under the first phase, a fragile ceasefire in the two-year war began on October 10 and Hamas has released hostages and Israel has freed detained Palestinians.

"There is a lot of quiet planning that's going on behind the scenes right now for phase two of the peace deal," White House spokesperson Karoline Leavitt told reporters on Thursday. "We want to ensure an enduring and lasting peace."

Indonesia has said it is prepared to deploy up to 20,000 troops to take on health and construction-related tasks in Gaza.

"It is still in the planning and preparation stages," said Rico Sirait, spokesperson of Indonesian Defence Ministry. "We are now preparing the organizational structure of the forces to be deployed." Israel still controls 53% of Gaza, while nearly all the 2 million people in the enclave live in the remaining Hamas-held area. The plan - which needs to be finalized by the so-called Board of Peace - is for the ISF to deploy in the area held by Israel, the U.S. officials said. Then, according to the Trump peace plan, as the ISF establishes control and stability, Israeli troops will gradually withdraw "based on standards, milestones, and timeframes linked to demilitarization."

Protesters march in Guinea,Bissau to denounce coup

Monitoring Desk

BISSAU: Hundreds marched through Guinea-Bissau's capital on Friday, protesting last month's military coup and demanding the release of opposition leaders, as regional heads prepare to meet on Sunday to address the crisis.

Protesters clashed with security forces in Bissau, burning tires and calling for the release of Domingos Simoes Pereira, head of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), who was detained during the coup, according to relatives and security sources.

Army officers ousted President Umaro Sissoco Embalo on November 26, a day before the electoral commission was expected to announce results from legislative and presidential polls. The junta installed Major-General Horta Inta-a as interim leader the following day.

Leaders of the regional bloc ECOWAS will meet in Abuja, Nigeria, to discuss Guinea-Bissau and consider sanctions against the West African nation, Sierra Leone's foreign minister Timothy Musa Kabba said last week.

"We do not recognise the transitional government," civil society activist Vigario Luis Balanta said at a press conference on Friday, urging a general strike and a week of civil disobedience. The transitional military government could not be immediately reached for comment.

On Tuesday, the junta unveiled a 12-month transitional charter prohibiting Inta-a and his prime minister from participating in future elections, announcing the roadmap two weeks after they halted the constitution.

"We are the youth and we are the future of this country," said demonstrator Antonio Sami. "We will never, ever accept that our sovereignty be called into question."

The coup is the ninth



Migrants sit on the ground after a group of some 60 migrants was brought to Malta after their boat capsized close to the Mediterranean island, in Bugibba, Malta.

Israel gives legal status to 19 West Bank settlements

Monitoring Desk

JERUSALEM: Israel's cabinet has decided to give legal status to 19 settlements in the occupied West Bank, including two that were vacated 20 years ago under a pullout aimed at boosting the country's security and the economy, Israeli media reported.

The Palestinian Authority on Friday condemned the move, announced late on Thursday.

Some of the settlements are newly established, while others are older, Israeli media said.

The move to legalise the settlements in the West Bank—territory Palestinians seek for a future state—was proposed by far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz.

Most world powers deem Israel's settlements, on land it captured in a 1967 war, illegal. Numerous U.N. Security Council resolutions have called on Israel to halt all settlement activity.

Israel disputes this, saying it has historical and biblical ties to the land.

Construction of settlements—including some built without official Israeli authorization—has increased under Israel's far-right governing coalition, fragmenting the West Bank and cutting off Palestinian towns and cities from each other.

The 19 settlements include two that Israel withdrew from in 2005, evacuated under a disengagement plan overseen by former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon that focused mainly on Gaza. Under the plan, which was opposed by the settler movement at the time, all 21 Israeli settlements in Gaza were ordered to be evacuated. Most settlements in the West Bank were unaffected.

Swiss to reduce F-35 fighter jet order from US as costs rise

Monitoring Desk

ZURICH: Switzerland said on Friday it would reduce the number of Lockheed Martin (LMT.N), opens new tab F-35A Lightning II fighter jets it is buying from the United States so it can stick to the original budget plan after the cost of the order rose. Bern chose the F-35A as its next-generation fighter plane in 2021 for what it considered a fixed price of 6 billion Swiss francs ($7.54 billion) for 36 jets. The United States later said that sum was a misunderstanding.

Following a cabinet meeting, the government said it had instructed the defence ministry to procure the highest possible number of F-35As within the 6 billion franc budget for new jets that was narrowly approved by the public in a 2020 referendum.

"Due to foreseeable cost overruns, maintaining the originally planned number of 36 F-35As is not financially feasible," the government said in a statement.

Still, the government said that pending examination of whether further steps are needed to boost Switzerland's defence capabilities, the cabinet could make a decision that would potentially enable it to reach the original target of 36.

Exiled Hong Kong democracy activists say they're targeted by fake sexualised images

Monitoring Desk

SYDNEY: Two exiled democracy activists wanted by Hong Kong say police in Australia and Britain are investigating fake, sexualised images used to target them in a campaign of harassment.

Former Hong Kong lawmaker Ted Hui, who was granted asylum in Australia, said Australian authorities were investigating a sexualised poster depicting his wife and letters with false claims about him that were sent to Australian addresses earlier this year. Carmen Lau, who lives in Britain, says her local member of parliament, Joshua Reynolds, alerted her to fake, sexually explicit images of her that had been distributed to her neighbours. Hui and Lau are among 34 pro-democracy campaigners for whom the Hong Kong authorities last year offered a HK$1 million ($130,000) bounty, accusing them of violating the city's national security laws.

Hong Kong has cracked down on dissent in the financial hub under sweeping national security legislation imposed by Beijing after mass pro-democracy protests in 2019.

Turkmenistan president hints at reforms as Putin, Erdogan and others visit

Monitoring Desk

ASHGABAT: Turkmenistan's president hinted at possible political reforms on Friday ahead of a rare international meeting he is hosting with the attendance of counterparts from Russia, Turkey, Iran and elsewhere.

President Serdar Berdymukhamedov, whom critics say presides over an autocratic and opaque system, made the comments in state newspaper Turkmenistan Today in honour of the 30th anniversary of the former Soviet nation's declaration of neutrality.

"We are carrying out extensive work aimed at transforming our neutral country into a powerful, democratic, and rule-of-law state where citizens live happy lives," Berdymukhamedov said in the article, without giving further details.

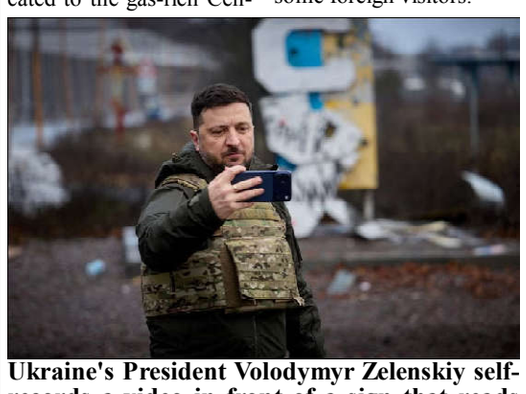
The article was published on the eve of a forum in the capital Ashgabat dedicated to the gas-rich Central Asian state's international neutrality. Among attendees were Russian President Vladimir Putin, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and Iran's Masoud Pezeshkian.

A mostly desert country of 7 million people with the world's fourth largest natural gas reserves, Turkmenistan declared itself officially neutral in 1995 under its first president, Saparmurat Niyazov, who spurned both Western and Russian influence.

Until his death in 2006, Niyazov maintained tight control over politics, a policy of isolationism from the outside world, and an economy heavily based on natural gas exports.

Since succeeding his father as president in 2022, Berdymukhamedov has signalled some opening.

Curbs on social media have been eased, and the government has vowed to open new air transport links and liberalise its visa regime by introducing e-visas for some foreign visitors.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy self-records a video in front of a sign that reads 'Kupiansk', amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in the frontline town of Kupiansk, Kharkiv region, Ukraine.

US ends temporary legal status for Ethiopians

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: The U.S. is ending temporary legal status for citizens of Ethiopia in the United States, according to a government notice on Friday, as the Trump administration continues its crackdown on legal and illegal immigration.

"After reviewing country conditions and consulting with appropriate U.S. Government agencies, the Secretary determined that Ethiopia no longer continues to meet the conditions for the designation for Temporary Protected Status," Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said in a notice posted in the Federal Register.

Temporary Protected Status is available to people whose home country has experienced a natural disaster, armed conflict or other extraordinary event. It provides eligible migrants with work authorization and temporary protection from deportation.

The program was created in 1991 and under Biden was extended to cover about 600,000 Venezuelans and 521,000 Haitians. Noem reversed the extensions in February, saying they were no longer justified.

In recent months, the administration has removed the protective status for migrants from numerous countries, including Haiti, Myanmar, South Sudan, Syria and Venezuela. In November, Trump announced the termination of protection for Somalis in Minnesota

Trump has made controlling immigration a central plank of his second White House term. Canceling TPS protections are a boost to the administration's campaign to deport millions of people. The cancellations have been challenged in court. The Supreme Court in October cleared the way for the administration to revoke TPS for hundreds of thousands of Venezuelan migrants in the United States, granting a request to put on hold a federal judge's ruling that Noem lacked the authority to terminate the status while litigation proceeds.



Kilmar Abrego, the migrant whose wrongful deportation to El Salvador made him a symbol of U.S. President Donald Trump's aggressive immigration policies, appears for a check-in at the ICE Baltimore field office, a day after his release from criminal custody in Pennsylvania, in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.

Venezuela's Nobel laureate Machado says she aims for peaceful transition after Maduro

Monitoring Desk

OSLO: Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Corina Machado said on Friday that Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro would leave power, whether there was a negotiated changeover or not, adding that she was focused on achieving a peaceful transition. The Venezuelan opposition leader arrived in Oslo early on Thursday, defying a decade-long travel ban imposed by authorities in her home country, after spending more than a year in hiding.

"Maduro will leave power, whether it is negotiated or not negotiated," Machado, speaking in Spanish, told a press conference in the Norwegian capital. "I am focused on an orderly and peaceful transition."

Venezuela's Ministry of Information did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Machado's remarks.

Her appearance in Norway comes as the U.S. executes a large-scale military build-up in the southern Caribbean and as U.S. President Donald Trump campaigns for Maduro's ouster. On Wednesday, Trump said the U.S. had seized a sanctioned oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela.

Machado was barred from running in the presidential election last year, despite having won the opposition's primary by a landslide.

CDWP approves 04 social sector development projects worth Rs10.551 billion

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) on Friday approved 04 projects worth Rs 10.551 billion and 04 major projects, worth Rs 256 billion, were recommended for further consideration by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC).

The CDWP met here under the chairmanship of the Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, which also cleared 08 important development projects covering essential areas of the national economy, said a press release.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Planning Awais Manzur Sumra, Vice Chancellor PIDE, the Chief Economist, members of the Planning Commission, Federal Secretaries, heads of Provincial Planning Departments, and senior representatives from relevant Ministries and Provincial Governments.

The agenda encompassed projects from key sectors including education, training, health, power, transport, communications, devolution, area development and water resources.

In the education and training sector, two revised projects were reviewed. The forum recommended the revised "Prime Minister's Pakistan Fund for Education" worth Rs14,000 million to ECNEC.

During deliberations, Ahsan Iqbal stressed that the project must revert to its original concept. He emphasized that the core objective is to provide scholarships and Qarz-e-Hasna to support top-talented needy students pursuing higher education in strategic fields such as IT, AI, science, development economics, water resources, and mining, which are critical for Pakistan's future development.

He said Prime Minister's initiatives for the education sector are aimed at creating opportunities for less privileged. The forum further directed the Ministry of Education that the modified PC-I be submitted to the Planning Commission, as per DCPC directions, before being forwarded to ECNEC.

The second revised project, "Construction of Graduate Block in NCA Lahore" worth Rs1,607.314 million, was also approved by the CDWP, which will enable country's premier art education institution to expand its programs. He said, developing creative industries as one of the drivers of country's exports is a goal of URAAN Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Ahsan Iqbal, convening the Central Development Working Party (CDWP).



ASHGABAT-Turkmenistan: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the President of Iran Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the International Forum on Peace and Trust.

PM, Iran President laud Pak, Iran strong bilateral support during external aggression

ASHGABAT (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a bilateral meeting with President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian here on Friday at the sidelines of the International Year of Peace and Trust.

During their warm and cordial meeting, both leaders appreciated the strong support that their countries had provided to each other when they had faced external aggression earlier this year, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

While noting the successful convening of the 22nd meeting of the Pak-Iran Joint Economic Commission earlier this year, the Prime Minister emphasized the need for both sides to continue working closely to strengthen bilateral cooperation with a view to enhancing the volume of bilateral trade, operationalizing border markets, strengthening border security, and reinvigorating transport connectivity through the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul rail network.

Both leaders also exchanged views on regional and global developments.

The prime minister stressed upon the need to urge the Afghan Taliban regime to take meaningful action to address Pakistan's serious security concerns as regards terrorism emanating from Afghan soil.

Both leaders also discussed ongoing peace efforts in Gaza.

President Pezeshkian thanked the prime minister for the most useful and timely exchange of views and stated that Iran also desired to further strengthen its ties with Pakistan.

The meeting reflected the close and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Iran, rooted in their shared history, culture, and faith. Both leaders agreed to continue regular high-level engagements and consultations to further consolidate bilateral relations.

PM Shehbaz conveyed his warm regards and good wishes for Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei.

Chairman Senate stresses need to harness Pakistan's blue economy potential

LAHORE (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Friday underscored the need to fully harness Pakistan's blue economy potential.

Addressing at concluding ceremony of 8th edition of Pakistan Navy's Maritime Security Workshop at Pakistan Navy War College, he emphasized on value of oceans which have become crucially important in twenty first century, said a statement issued by Directorate General Public Relations (Pak Navy).

He stressed on the importance of ensuring regional maritime security and lauded Pakistan Navy's efforts in safeguarding Pakistan's maritime frontiers. The Chairman also appreciated the efforts of Pakistan Navy in sensitizing the nation on the importance of oceans and its undeniable link with national security. While highlighting the potential of national maritime sector, he recounted the need to expand the existing capacity of country's shipping and fishing sectors in order to facilitate improved returns for economic and socio-economic uplift.

Earlier, the Chairman Senate was received by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf, upon his arrival at PN War College.

Commandant Pakistan Navy War College Rear Admiral Sohail Ahmad Azmie in his welcome address, provided an overview of workshop's activities.

The Maritime Security Workshop is an annual event organised by Pakistan Navy aimed to bring about improved understanding of the maritime security and geopolitical underpinnings in the wider Indian Ocean. Participants included parliamentarians, policy makers, bureaucrats, academics, entrepreneurs, Armed Forces officers and media representatives.



NAIROBI: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik, addressed the Seventh Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) held in Nairobi, Kenya.

Pakistan calls for urgent climate action at UNEA-7

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik has called for urgent and collective global action to address the accelerating impacts of climate change, particularly on vulnerable developing countries.

The minister was addressing the Seventh Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), held in Nairobi, Kenya, where delegates from all 193 UN member states, along with representatives of civil society, scientific institutions, development partners and the private sector, gathered under the theme "Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet."

UNEA-7 focused on negotiating global environmental policies, setting strategic priorities and strengthening international environmental law to accelerate sustainable development.

The discussions also centred on the need for enhanced global financing, international cooperation and science-based solutions to improve climate resilience, adaptation capacity and long-term environmental stability.

In his address, Dr Malik underscored the growing urgency of climate action, warning that environmental degradation would have irreversible consequences if left unaddressed.

"Climate action is no longer a choice; it is a necessity. Nature will continue on its course. If we commit injustice against nature, it is we who will ultimately pay the price," he said.

Highlighting Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change, the minister drew attention to the disproportionate impacts faced by climate-affected developing countries, including recurring floods, heatwaves and water stress.

He stressed the need for robust adaptation strategies, resilience-building measures and equitable access to climate finance to mitigate human, economic and ecological losses.

Customs Quetta seizes smuggled goods worth Rs. 500m in major anti-smuggling operation

QUETTA (APP): Customs Enforcement Quetta, in a major crackdown against smuggling, has seized a large cache of illicit goods valued at approximately Rs. 500 million during multiple raids conducted on godowns in and around Quetta city.

The recovered items include betel nuts, cigarettes, Chinese salt, Indian medicines, skimmed milk powder, spare parts, and misdeclared dates, all smuggled into the country in violation of customs laws, said a news release.

Acting on credible intelligence provided by the Collector of Customs Enforcement, Quetta, teams of the Collectorate — in coordination with other law enforcement agencies — carried out a series of targeted operations as part of the ongoing intensified enforcement campaign against illegal trade networks.

Pakistan calls for resolving outstanding disputes that fuel humanitarian crises

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Amid shrinking resources, intensifying conflicts and climate shocks, Pakistan has urged the international community to focus on preventing and resolving outstanding disputes, saying peace is not only a moral imperative — it is a humanitarian necessity.

"Unless conflicts are prevented and resolved, appeals will continue to grow and humanitarian response will continue to be overstretched," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, told the General Assembly.

Speaking in a debate on Humanitarian Assistance, he called for harnessing renewed solidarity and strengthened multilateralism to peace in order to address the alarming rise in global humanitarian needs, emphasizing that unresolved conflicts remain the primary driver of humanitarian need.

PM exchanges pleasantries with world leaders

ASHGABAT (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday exchanged pleasantries with the world leaders at the international forum in connection with the International Year of Peace and Trust 2025, the International Day of Neutrality, and the anniversary of Turkmenistan's permanent neutrality. On the sidelines of the event, the prime minister held informal interactions with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon and Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov.



QUETTA: A delegation of PML-N Party Leaders led by MPA Zarak Khan Mandokhail meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Whether majority or minority:

We have kept doors of Governor House open for everyone: Mandokhail

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that whether majority or minority, we have kept the doors of the Governor House open for everyone since day one.

In our province, for centuries, people of different ethnicities and religions have upheld remarkable values and traditions of coexistence and mutual respect. But what is even more important is that the Constitution of Pakistan guarantees equal citizenship to all citizens, regardless of their religion, caste, or belief. This fundamental right is the cornerstone of our democracy and a testament to our national commitment to inclusion and diversity.

The Governor expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held in connection with Christmas on Friday.

On the occasion, the Parliamentary Secretary Sanjay Kumar, Parliamentary Secretary Liaquat Lehri, former senator and federal minister, Mrs. Roshan Khurshid and representatives of all minority communities were present. Addressing the participants, Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail said that it is a matter of great pleasure for him to attend a ceremony organized in the spirit of Christmas. It is commendable that, due to our proud traditions, we take pride in sharing each other's happiness and sorrow.

Minister Health on Universal Health Coverage Day:

Provision of equal access to healthcare facilities to every citizen collective responsibility

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar has said that provision of equal access to healthcare facilities to every citizen of the province is not only the need of the hour but also a collective responsibility.

He said that the provincial government is making serious and decisive efforts to translate this responsibility into practical measures.

In a message on the occasion of Universal Health Coverage Day, the Provincial Minister said that under the clear directives and effective leadership of Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the government has introduced several fundamental and long-lasting reforms in the health sector, aimed at providing the public with better, reliable and quality medical care.

He said that the health sector had been neglected for decades, but today, for the first time in Balochistan, the process of strengthening the healthcare system along modern lines is becoming a reality. Bakht Muhammad Kakar stated that numerous measures are being taken to activate basic and district-level health centers across the province, upgrade laboratories and emergency units, and ensure the availability of medical staff in remote areas.

He added that new laws, strong monitoring systems, transparency, and the use of modern technology have significantly improved the performance of the public health sector.

He said that provincial programs related to maternal and child health, vaccination, nutrition, and emergency medical services are being expanded so that the vulnerable segments of Balochistan's population can receive the best public health facilities.



ROME: Group Photo of Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi with keynote speakers at the event 'Culture-Climate Nexus: The Missing Link', on margins of his participation at ICCROM.

No exemptions in law, Faiz Hameed case sets precedent; says Dr. Fazal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry termed the recent decision regarding former Lt General Faiz Hameed as historic and said it has made clear the law is equal for everyone.

Addressing a press conference here Friday, he said the decision has further strengthened the process of self-accountability within the Pakistan Armed Forces and restored public confidence in the institution.

The minister said Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir has proven that no one was above the law. He said Faiz Hameed used his office according to personal likes and dislikes. In the name of national interest, Faiz Hameed toppled and formed governments, he added.

"When you use a state office for political engineering, there will be consequences.

Shoaib pledges equal development across Balochistan

Nosherwani calls for collective effort to address regional disparities and create job opportunities

Independent Report

QUETTA: Provincial Finance and Minerals Minister Mir Shoaib Nosherwani said the government is committed to implementing balanced development projects across all districts despite limited resources, while working to eliminate long-standing regional disparities. He emphasized that for the progress and prosperity of Balochistan, all communities and the youth must play an active role. Speaking to a delegation from Kharan on Friday, Nosherwani stressed the need for cooperation beyond politics, urging municipal committees to prioritize public service over partisan interests. He instructed chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, and councilors to serve their constituencies responsibly, ensure municipal staff attendance, and focus on city cleanliness. He highlighted that key mega projects are part of the municipal master plan and called on all councilors to actively support its implementation. Nosherwani announced that work on the master plan would begin soon and clarified that all approved funds for Kharan are intended solely for regional development and public welfare, to be used for sustainable, collective projects that benefit citizens. The minister also instructed the municipal committee to prepare a unified special report addressing ward-level issues and operational matters, which will be submitted to the Department of Local Government and other relevant authorities.

Two miners killed in coal mine collapse in Harnai

Independent Report

HARNAI: A tragic accident at a coal mine in Shaharg, Harnai, claimed the lives of two miners, Serial and Shah Baig, after a landslide buried part of the mine. The mine, operated by contractor Haji Hameed, was working under local safety conditions.

Rescue sources confirmed that the miners were recovered through self-help efforts and transferred to Shaharg Civil Hospital. After completion of formalities, their bodies were handed over to grieving families.

Authorities have called for a thorough review of mining safety standards to prevent similar incidents, underscoring the dangers faced by miners in the region.

Local residents expressed grief and urged government authorities to enhance supervision of mining operations to ensure worker safety.

420,341 kids to be vaccinated in Quetta:

Comprehensive security plan formulated to ensure safety of polio teams & public

Independent Report

QUETTA: A meeting was held regarding preparation for the anti-polio vaccination campaign with Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Mehrullah Badini in the chair here on Friday.

It may be mentioned here that the anti-polio campaign is scheduled to starts from December 15, 2025.

The meeting was attended by the DHO Quetta, police officials, and other concerned polio officers.

During the briefing, it was informed that 420,341 children would be administered polio drops during the campaign.

For this purpose, 1,620 teams have been formed, while 1,430 security personnel would be on duty to ensure the safety and effective monitoring of the campaign.

A comprehensive security plan has also been formulated to ensure the safety of polio teams and the public.

Addressing the meeting, he Deputy Commissioner said that the eradication of polio is a shared responsibility of the government and society. He appealed to parents to ensure that their children receive polio drops so the future generation can be protected from permanent disability.

He further stated that the district administration would fully support polio workers and that no negligence will be tolerated during the campaign.

He instructed all teams to ensure timely, efficient and responsible performance. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Quetta also officially inaugurated the five-day anti-polio campaign across the district by administering polio drops to a child.

Bilawal, Maryam Nawaz exchange cordial messages on X

LAHORE (INP): The PPP Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz exchanged cordial messages on the social media platform X. The gesture began on Thursday when Maryam Nawaz posted a welcoming note for Bilawal, who had arrived in Punjab for a series of political engagements. "Punjab is your home, and you will always be received with respect," she wrote.

Mir Tahir Bizenjo says:

Political power hunger continues to undermine Pakistan's parties

Independent Report

QUETTA: National Party leader, former Senator, and political analyst Mir Tahir Bizenjo sharply criticized Pakistan's political history, highlighting the persistent power hunger among parties as a major cause of instability.

Speaking in a video statement, Bizenjo reflected on historical events, noting that in 1973, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto dismissed the National Awami Party's government in Balochistan, filed cases against its leaders, and imposed a ban on the party.

He recalled how leaders Khan Abdul Wali Khan and Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo later emerged from prison, while Bhutto was executed, demonstrating the cyclical nature of political upheaval.

He argued that successive governments have failed to learn from past mistakes, citing General Zia-ul-Haq's constitutional empowerment of the armed forces as an example. Bizenjo warned that unprincipled leadership, combined with an insatiable quest for power, continues to threaten political parties and national stability.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini presides over the meeting to review arrangements for anti-polio campaign.

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Independent Printers Quarry Road Quetta and Published from flat No. 315 Universal Complex M.A. Jinnah Road Quetta Ph. 2842938 Fax: 2842941, Cell No. 0331-8383955 E-mail:newsdailyind@gmail.com,dailyindisb@gmail.com