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PM urges KP govt to fulfill its responsibilities for law & order, health, education sectors

Stresses the need to further intensify the provincial government's efforts to establish peace and security and strengthen its institutions to combat terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday assured the federal government's support for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's uplift, urged the provincial government to fulfill its responsibilities to establish law and order in the province, besides providing education and health facilities to its people. The prime minister, in a meeting with Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sohail Afridi here, emphasized cooperation between the federal and provincial government for the development and prosperity of the KP's people, calling it essential for provincial law and order too.

The prime minister stressed the need to further intensify the provincial government's efforts to establish peace and security and strengthen its institutions to combat terrorism. He said that the federal and provincial governments would continue joint efforts to eliminate terrorism, urging the provincial government to fulfill its responsibilities for establishing law and order in the province as well as for public welfare. The prime minister said that as the KP government was empowered to ensure the uplift of the education and health

sectors, it should take the required measures.

Calling the KP province an important unit of the federation, he said the federal government had always been striving for the betterment of the KP's people and would continue similar within its jurisdiction.

Emphasizing close relations and effective coordination between the federation and the provinces as key to national progress and public service, Prime Minister Shehbaz also assured cooperation within the federal framework for development projects in KP, improvement of basic infrastructure, education,



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sohail Afridi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

CM Bugti pushes emergency health overhaul, orders new Trauma Centres to go live without delay

Independent Report

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti has reiterated that serving the public remains the foremost responsibility of the provincial government, declaring that the immediate activation of newly constructed trauma centres is a decisive step toward saving lives through timely and effective medical intervention.

The Chief Minister made these remarks while presiding over a high-level review meeting on the progress of trauma centres at the Chief Minister's Secretariat on Sunday. The meeting was attended by Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Health Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Panzai, Secretary Finance Lal Jan Jaffar, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Imran Zarkoon, Secretary Communications and Works Babar Khan, Managing Director Trauma Centre Arbab Kamran Kasi, along with other relevant officials.

During the briefing, the Secretary Health informed the Chief Minister about the newly established trauma centre on Spinri Road, Quetta, highlighting its increased capacity, modern emergency treatment facilities, and expanded clinical network. Details regarding the required human resources and financial allocations necessary for the centre's effective operation were also shared.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti issued clear instructions that the new trauma centre must be made fully operational at the earliest. He emphasized that recruitment of staff should be conducted strictly on merit to ensure transparency, professionalism, and efficient delivery of healthcare services.

While addressing the meeting, the Chief Minister stressed that fully functional trauma centres play a vital role in providing immediate medical care, particularly during emergencies. He noted that the activation of the new facility would enable patients to receive faster and improved treatment, significantly reducing preventable loss of life.

The Chief Minister further directed that the trauma centre at Sheikh Zayed Hospital be completed on a priority basis, underlining that strengthening trauma and emergency care facilities is essential for improving the overall healthcare response across Balochistan and ensuring swift medical assistance for citizens in critical situations.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti presides over a high-level review meeting on progress of Trauma Centres at the Chief Minister's Secretariat.

Senate passes resolution unanimously to flay recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan

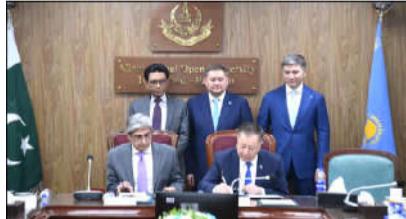
MPs call for political approach to address Balochistan law & order

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Monday unanimously passed a resolution condemning the recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan and expressed deep condolences to the bereaved families, while wishing a speedy recovery to the injured.

The resolution was moved by Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar in the House.

The House paid tribute to the courage and sacrifices of the security forces and law-enforcement agencies who continue to lay down their lives in the line

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KARACHI: Pakistan-Kazakhstan educational ties reach new heights as Federal Minister Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui leads high-level engagement and eight MoUs are signed between leading universities, and dedicated educational center.

Balochistan cut off from the Digital World as internet ban spark widespread anger

Independent Report
QUETTA: Daily life across Quetta and other parts of Balochistan has been thrown into disarray following the suspension of internet services, leaving residents without access to essential communication tools and triggering growing public concern.

The shutdown has disrupted routine activities across multiple sectors, severely affecting newspapers, businesses, students, and official institutions, while also cutting off contact with Pakistanis living abroad. Citizens say the absence of internet connectivity has paralyzed professional, educational, and commercial operations at a time when digital access is considered a basic necessity.

The internet suspen-

sion was ordered by the Balochistan government through the Home Department in the aftermath of recent tragic incidents in Quetta and other areas of the province. The restrictions have been enforced uniformly across Baloch-majority and Pashtun-majority regions. Residents argue that depriving people of modern communication facilities in the current era feels like a regression of several decades, fostering frustration and a sense of isolation among the public.

Alongside the internet ban, the government has imposed Section 144, enforcing restrictions on tinted-glass vehicles and prohibiting double riding on motorcycles. In response, police

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Quetta police draw red line: Looters of govt assets to be tried as terror accomplices

Independent Report

QUETTA:

Quetta Police have issued a strong caution to individuals who allegedly exploited the turmoil during recent terror attacks to unlawfully take possession of government property, warning that strict legal action will follow against violators.

Police officials stated that while the people of Quetta are widely recognized for their courage, hospitality, and peaceful nature, the recent incidents exposed the actions of certain elements who misused the chaotic situation. During security operations against terrorists, some individuals reportedly removed government-owned motorcycles, vehicles, and rickshaws that were under official custody.

Authorities announced that a targeted operation will be initiated shortly to recover all stolen government property. Any person found holding such items after the deadline will be treated as an aider or abettor of terrorism and prosecuted under anti-terrorism laws.

The Quetta Police reiterated their commitment to serving the public and maintaining order under all circumstances.

ATC issues non-bailable arrest warrants for Aleema

RAWALPINDI (APP):

The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Rawalpindi has rejected the exemption from appearance request of Aleema Khanum (sister of former PTI Chairman) in the case registered at Sadigab Police Station regarding the PTI protest on 26 November.

The court has once again issued non-bailable arrest warrants for her due to her repeated failure to appear before the court.

The court directed SP Rawal Division to arrest the accused and produce her before the court Tuesday.

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QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakesel Qadir Khan addressing the Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners Conference.

Field Marshal reaffirms Pak commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with Libya

RAWALPINDI (APP):

Commander-in-Chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, Field Marshal Khalifa Abu al-Qasim Haftar, along with Lieutenant General Saddam Khalifa Haftar, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, here on Monday at the General Headquarters (GHQ).

Armed Forces of Pakistan and Libya.

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir welcomed the distinguished guests and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with Libya.

He emphasized Pakistan's support for peace, stability, and institutional development in Libya.

The meeting was held in a cordial and constructive atmosphere, reflecting the longstanding friendly relations between Pakistan and Libya.

Earlier, on arrival at Noor Khan Airbase, Field Marshal Khalifa Abu-al-Qasim Haftar was received by Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ.

The dignitary also paid homage to Shuhada and laid wreath at martyrs memorial at GHQ.



Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir meets with Field Marshal Khalifa Abu-Al-Qasim Haftar, Commander-in-Chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi.

Balochistan unrest driven by smuggling losses, not rights movement: Khawaja

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Business Minister Khawaja Asif on Monday said that the ongoing unrest in Balochistan was no longer political in nature and was being driven instead by organized criminal networks seeking to recover financial losses following government action against smuggling.

The discussion followed the adoption of a motion moved by Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Fazal Chaudhary to debate the country's prevailing security situation.

Citing oil smuggling as a key example, the defence minister said fuel imported from Iran under permits at prices between Rs40 and Rs60 per litre was illegally profiting.

"This is essentially a



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti in a meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Tarar reviews progress on Central Monitoring Project and NCF establishment

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar chaired a review meeting on projects being undertaken by the Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications (DEMP).

The minister was briefed on the progress of the Central Monitoring Project and the establishment of the National Centre of Films (NCF).

Officials informed the meeting that the Central Monitoring Project, launched in January 2023,

is scheduled for completion by June 2026, with its scope being expanded and technology upgraded.

Tarar emphasized the timely completion of the project, noting that the Central Monitoring Unit is aligned with modern requirements and will assist in compiling narrative-related reports and formulating effective strategies.

He added that the initiative would also benefit the private sector by providing facilities to analyze

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President, PM call for fair implementation of IWT

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands.

On the occasion of World Wetlands Day, being observed on Monday (Nibdat), the President said Pakistan is signatory to the Ramsar Convention 1971 which promotes the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and their resources for present and future generations.

The President said Sindh bears a disproportionate burden due to wetland degradation, historical water stress and sea-level rise.

He said protecting these ecosystems is not only an environmental responsibility but also a matter of public welfare and

national resilience.

Asif Zardari said Pakistan remains concerned over unilateral actions by India affecting the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960, a legally binding agreement that has governed equitable water sharing in the Indus Basin for decades.

He said the suspension of treaty mechanisms, including the sharing of hydrological data, undermines trust and predictability when climate pressures require greater cooperation.

The President said water must never be used as a tool of coercion, and the weaponization of water as an instrument of war against Pakistan must be rejected, as the disruption of river flows threatens millions of lives, livelihoods, and food systems in a country reliant on the Indus Basin.

In his message, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

said Pakistan strongly rejects any attempt to use water as a weapon of war, deeming it a serious violation of international law.

He said Pakistan, while adhering to international laws, believes in the full and fair implementation of the Indus Water Treaty 1960.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan will continue to raise its voice globally for the fair, legal and peaceful use of water resources between countries.

Shehbaz Sharif emphasized that our water resources, including lakes and glaciers, inland water bodies and coastal and mangrove biodiversity, are crucial for environmental conservation, climate change mitigation and water management. He said the conservation of water resources is not just an environmental duty to combat climate change.



Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with Alexandra Berg von Linde, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to Pakistan, and Per Albert Ilaas, Ambassador of Norway, at CM House in Karachi.

Senate passes..

Continued from page 1

and that the unity of the State and the will of the people will prevail over all forces of violence, extremism and terrorism.

The Senate urged the government to ensure a transparent, swift, and conclusive investigation into the incidents and bring the perpetrators, facilitators, and local and international sponsors of terrorism to justice in accordance with law.

The House called upon the Federal and Provincial Governments to further strengthen intelligence coordination, border security, and counter-terrorism mechanisms, with special focus on Balochistan.

22 more..

Continued from page 1

lawmakers in the Upper House of Parliament on Monday stressed the need for a comprehensive political approach to address the law and order situation in Balochistan.

They were of the view that a new National Action Plan (NAP) should be devised to bring peace and tranquility to the province.

Speaking in the Senate, former caretaker prime minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that mere reliance on force alone would not bring lasting peace to the province.

He stressed the need for political dialogue, development, representation and confidence-building measures to ensure durable peace in Balochistan.

Balochistan..

Continued from page 1

and special Eagle Squad units have set up checkpoints at key locations throughout the city. Local citizens allege that these measures have resulted in unnecessary inconvenience, claiming that ordinary people are being stopped and questioned, while suspicious elements often go unchecked.

Residents have voiced serious concerns that the ongoing restrictions are disrupting everyday life, trade, education, and communication across the province. They have urged the authorities to adopt a more balanced approach that ensures security objectives are met without placing undue strain on the public or undermining essential civilian needs.



Libyan Arab Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Khalifa Abu-Al-Qasim Haftar reviews guard of honor at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi.

FCCP upholds order to pay Rs3.85mln insurance claim, dismisses appeal

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan has dismissed an appeal filed by M/s Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited against the payment of an insurance claim, upholding the judgments of the Islamabad High Court and the Federal Insurance Ombudsman that directed the company to pay Rs3.85 million to the nominee of a deceased policyholder.

A two-member bench comprising Justice Ali Baqar Nafaji and Justice Muhammad Karim Khan Agha announced the verdict after hearing FCPLA No. 275 of 2025. The court ruled that there was no legal or constitutional defect

in the Islamabad High Court's decision warranting interference.

According to the court record, the late Muhammad Waqas Anjum had obtained a takaful plan from M/s Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited on March 5, 2019, under which a death cover of Rs3.85 million was provided. However, he passed away on May 8, 2019, only a few days after the issuance of the policy.

He had nominated his sister, Arisha Kanwal, as the beneficiary, who subsequently filed the claim.

The takaful company rejected the claim on various grounds, including objections to the nominee's familial relationship.

Balochistan unrest driven..

Continued from page 1

sold in Karachi for over Rs200 per litre.

He said smuggling networks had been earning nearly Rs4 billion per day from oil smuggling alone, income streams that had been significantly disrupted by recent government measures.

"Once this illegal income was blocked, they claimed their livelihoods were destroyed and launched agitation," he said, adding that the group's original claims differed sharply from its current objectives. Khawaja Asif said criminal elements were now using the name of a so-called movement to provide armed protection to smuggling and illegal trade rather than pursuing any genuine political or foreign agendas.

He said assertions that Balochistan had been ignored since Pakistan's independence were factually incorrect, noting that successive governments had made substantial investments in education, health and infrastructure.

"At the time of Parti-



Sindh Traditional Wrestling Match held in Naurode organized by the Sports and Youth Affairs Department Government of Sindh.

CORRIGENDUM

This office was called notice inviting tender for various development schemes under BSID published in Daily newspapers vide PRQ No.3372/21-01-2026 on 22nd January 2026, in which the place of submission and opening was fixed on 09th February 2026 at 114 wing Headquarter Naseerabad at Dera Murad Jamali. Now the said tender will be submitted and opened at office of the Deputy Commissioner Usta Muhammad. All other conditions date and time will remain same as mentioned in bidding documents.

Executive Engineer (Road) CW/RD&H Department District Usta Mohammad

PRQ No.3576/02-02-2026

www.dprgob.pk, @dpr_gob, @dprgob, @dprgobalochistan

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

TSE # 252602963621 The Balochistan Public Service Commission, invites sealed bids from the eligible firms / bidders dealing in the Procurement of miscellaneous Stationery items as detailed here under:- Tender Fee 1000/- and bid Security 2%

Name of Work E/Cost

Procurement of miscellaneous Stationery items Rs. 2 Million

Procurement: It shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules, 2014 as amended upto date.

Bidders: Registered with FBR for Income Tax (NTN) & Sales Tax (GST) and must be FBR's Active Tax Payers List. Financial Capability of Firm for supplying of Stationery related items must be of Rs.5 Million per annum for the last 3 years. Submit a self-declaration for not being under legal action for corrupt or fraudulent practices (blacklisted) by any Government Department/Organization.

Experience: At least 3 similar assignments of supplying Stationery to the government departments in the last 4 years.

Method of Procurement: Single Stage – Two Envelope Procedure

Security: The bids must be accompanied by 2% Bid Security in the form of a Cash Deposit, addressed to the Secretary, Balochistan Public Service Commission Quetta. **Tender Documents:** The Bidding Documents can be obtained from the office of the Assistant Director (Accounts), Balochistan Public Service Commission, Samungil Road, Quetta, Cantt on producing a Bank slip with deposit of Rs 1,000/- (Rupees One Thousand Only) (Non-refundable) in any Branch of National Bank of Pakistan, Balochistan, through green Challan in A/C No. C03870. Tender Notice & the Bidding Document can also be downloaded from www.bprpa.org.pk.

Last Date of Bid Submission: The Tenders must be submitted on 12th, February, 2026 10:00 AM in the office of the undersigned.

Time: The Tender will be opened on 12th, February, 2026 11:00 AM in the Office of Director (Acctt.) in the presence of bidder or their authorized representative.

Tel #081-9202201 & 081-9202201

SECRETARY

Balochistan Public Service Commission

PRQ No.3567/02-02-2026

www.dprgob.pk, @dpr_gob, @dprgob, @dprgobalochistan

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

TSE # 252601962353 The Executive Engineer PHE Division Hamai invites sealed percentage rates tenders based on composite schedule of rates, 2023 Government of Balochistan under Balochistan Special Development Initiative Phase-II 2025-26 from interested contractors/firms registered with Income Tax, Sales tax and Balochistan Revenue Authority for the works mentioned below:-

S. No. Description Estimate Cost Earnest Money Tender Fee Time Limit

1 SOLARIZED WSS AT MOHALLA AKHTARABAD HARNAI TSE-252601962343

I D/D of Bore 1.022M 9.831 M 2% Rs.1500/- 3 Months

II S/I of Solar System. 3.029M

III Civil Work 4.830M

IV S/O HDPE Pipe 0.951M

90mm 2000 Rft 63mm 1000 Rft

2 GRAVITY FLOW WATER SUPPLY SCHEME SHIN KACH HARNAI TSE-252601962353

I Constt. of Sump Well 1.425M 9.895 M 2% Rs.1500/- -do-

II Civil Work 4.730M

III S/O HDPE Pipe 110 mm 3800 3.739M

90 mm 3000 63 mm 2200

3 SOLARIZED WSS AT TUKA BALAM MALAK ADAM KHAN HARNAI TSE-252601962363

I Collecting Chamber 1.268M 5.941 M 2% Rs.1500/- -do-

II Supply & Installation of Solar system 2.141M

III Civil Work 1.157M

IV S/O HDPE Pipe 75 mm 1500 1.374M

63 mm 5000

4 CONSTRUCTION OF R.O PLANT FOR RAILWAY STATION HARNAI DISTRICT HARNAL TSE-252601962373

I Supply/ Installation of R.O Plant 2.350M

II Constt of Pre-Fabricated room 1.090M

III S/I of Solar System 0.990M

IV Water Quality Test Charges 0.025M 4.455 M 2% Rs.1500/- -do-

5 SOLARIZED WSS AT TALIB LEASE, SHEIKH AQEEL, TUKA X, ZEHRI COAL AND FCPS HARNAI TSE-252601962383

I D/D of Tube well 6Nos 5.797M

II S/I of Solar System 6 Nos 9.036M

III Civil work 3.350M

IV S/O HDPE Pipe 75 mm 1500 1.642M

63 mm 5000

6 SOLARIZED WSS IS PAYING OF PIPE LINE DRINKING PURPOSE AR PMDC, LEASE AREA 40 LEASE AREA, AT HAZARA DAM LEASE AREA SHAHRAGH DISTRICT HARNAI TSE-252601962433

I D/D of Bore 1.860M

II S/I of Solar System 2.449M

III Civil work 4.074M

IV S/O HDPE Pipe 50mm 1800 Rft 3.514M

63mm 1000 Rft 50mm 6500

19.825 M

7 CONSTRUCTION OF R.O PLANT AT SHAHRAGH NEAR PMDC DISTRICT HARNAI TSE-252601962443

I Supply/ Installation of R.O Plant 2.350M

II Constt of Pre-Fabricated room 1.090M

III S/I of Solar System 0.960M

IV Water Quality Test Charges 0.025M 4.455 M 2% Rs.1500/- -do-

Bidding/Tender Document:- Issuance:- Tender forms/documents will be issued from the date of advertisement published in news papers upto 02-02-2026 at 12.00 PM on presentation of requisite documents i.e. Tender Fee (non-refundable). Bid security/earnest money. Valid Engineering Council Certificate in relevant/required category must have registration (CED-6) and (upto 25 Million) above in relevant category and Specification code is CED-9 (ii) (Water Supply). Work Order of similar Nature (water Supply works) equal to 85% total bid cost amount of bid completed with completion certificate in last 03 Financial years and the work order should be online verifiable. Firm must have GST Authorized Representatives of company will only be allowed, having a specific Authorization letter for the Schemes mentioned above. Authorization letter/ deed must be provided on Non-Judicial Stamp Paper Rs.100, attested by first class Magistrate. All pages of financial as well technical bids must be signed, stamp & marked from 1st to last page. Affidavit of correctness of information provided is mandatory. Procedure of Procurement:- Single Stage two Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security:- The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the undersigned from scheduled bank. Tender Documents:- The Bidding Documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned from the date of the tender. Submission:- Last date for submission of documents from advertisement published in newspapers upto 16-02-2026 at 11:00 AM Opening:- The tenders will be opened 16-02-2026 at 12.00 PM Place of issuance:- Submission, inquiries and opening will be - Address:- Deputy Commissioner District Harnai. Telephone No. 0833520035 Email address: azmirhan.sdc@gmail.com Terms & Conditions:- Under following conditions bid will be rejected. Conditional and telephonic bids/lenders. Bids not accompanied by bid security of required amount and form. Bids received after specified date and time. Black listed firm/contractors. Bid validity period (90 days). Responsive bidder is required to submit following documents with bid. List of similar assignment with cost under taken over the past 5 years. Affidavit that firm has never been black listed. Note:- If may be noted that no pay order will be accepted/entertained and firms

Subsidised relief

The generous relief package recently announced by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for an industry burdened with high energy prices, elevated financing costs and an excessive tax burden was a necessary intervention. The move should help to ease cost pressures on producers, bolster domestic productivity and shore up export competitiveness.

With competition intensifying globally — particularly after India's free trade deal with the EU, which threatens Pakistan's preferential advantage — the government had no option but to move swiftly to improve exporters' 'competitiveness' to maintain the market share. The package, welcomed by the business community, consists of a cut of Rs4.04 per unit in electricity prices, reduction in wheeling charges to under Rs9 per unit and a decrease in the cost of export refinance to 4.5pc from 7.5pc.

The total size of the relief, however, is unclear as are the steps the government intends to take to offset the resulting revenue loss. It is also not clear if the shortfall will be passed on to other consumers, or if the government will subsidise industry from the budget. This intervention comes on the heels of the State Bank's decision to slash the cash reserve requirement for banks — a move aimed at injecting additional liquidity into the system to push private sector credit for supporting growth. Together, these steps signal a desire to pivot from stabilisation to growth.

The relief is nonetheless undermined by conflicting signals from the state itself. Even as industry welcomed the package, foreign investors complained that the FBR had issued demand notices for payment of the super tax following the court ruling upholding its legality. This underscores the fact that subsidies cannot substitute for long-delayed structural reforms to improve the investment climate and export competitiveness. Subsidised energy and credit, and symbolic gestures like blue passports for leading exporters, may help save the current exports. But it will not address the deeper weaknesses: low productivity, regulatory unpredictability, high taxation, weak contract enforcement and a narrow product and market base. Past experience shows that subsidies — a way of compensating businesses for the economy's inefficiencies — have never boosted productivity or exports.

That said, the government must proceed with restraint as it reorients its economic policy towards growth. A premature or poorly coordinated growth stimulus could jeopardise the country's hard-won, still fragile macroeconomic stability. The economy's transition to growth hinges on its ability to expand exports and attract non-debt-creating foreign private investment. These goals cannot be achieved through ad hoc policies and subsidies. Pakistan's growth challenge lies in comprehensively implementing deep-seated policy and governance reforms aimed at sustainably alleviating the business environment rather than subsidising producers and exporters when under pressure.

Maleeha Lodhi

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's speech at Davos was one of the clearest enunciations of the strategic adjustment countries, especially middle powers, need to make when faced with a bullying superpower in a fractured world. Without naming the US, he stressed the need for middle powers to resist economic coercion by powerful countries by acting together because if they didn't, they will 'not be on the table but on the menu'.

While Carney spoke pointedly about the imperative to adapt, countries have already been adjusting to new geostrategic realities and power shifts in a transforming world. Adjustments are of different kinds, from diversifying trade partners to shifts in geopolitical alignments. Some trends have been accelerated by President Donald Trump's policies, but they were already in evidence in an increasingly multipolar world characterised by structural changes, new power balances and shift in economic power from the West to the

rest.

Consider how the EU and others have been boosting trade with China and how Beijing has been diversifying its markets. In 2020, China overtook the US to become the EU's biggest trading partner. The EU is also China's largest trading partner, and not as often thought the US. With Washington pursuing a contain-China strategy and tariff war, Beijing has been diversifying its export destinations away from America, a policy it stepped up after Trump's return to power. This has paid dividends. It accounts for China's record trade surplus of \$1 trillion today with a boom in exports to Southeast Asia and Europe while Chinese exports to the US have declined. The 'strategic' trade and energy partnership between Canada and China is another illustration of countries pursuing trade diversion.

As is the recent EU-India free trade agreement, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's visit to China last week marks an effort to upgrade business ties between the two countries. Meanwhile, South-South trade has increased significantly and now ac-

counts for about a quarter of global trade. It has more than doubled between 2007 and 2023 and is projected to rise even further. This indicates the Global South is seeking to chart its own course by leveraging a multipolar environment. How much of the rise in South-South trade is attributable to US tariff policies? It is estimated around 40-45 per cent of the growth since 2018 is due to the disruption caused by US tariffs. Global South countries are trading more with each other and have an increasing number of free trade arrangements between them. They are also investing more among themselves. Their trade with China has increased exponentially and now surpasses that with the US.

On the geopolitical front, Global South nations, with many middle powers among them, have sought greater global influence and a bigger voice through organisations such as the 11-member BRICS, which is a vehicle for political and diplomatic coordination in different areas. They also seek to make their collective influence felt in international affairs through regional

organisations such as the GCC and SCO. Meanwhile, middle powers from the Global South have been pursuing policies of multi-alignment while also playing off the China-US rivalry to enhance their leverage. This has made countries such as Turkey, more influential international actors. A different kind of adjustment is being forced on Europe by Trump's downgrading of the continent, as reflected in his national security strategy, repeated insults of European leaders, disdain of NATO and of course his threat to seize Greenland. The transatlantic alliance is in shambles and the breakdown of trust unprecedented. Although European leaders first tried to flatter and ingratiate Trump, that did not work. The US president only saw it as weakness and pressed his demands on them more forcefully without ceasing his harsh criticism of Europe.

From currying favour with Trump, European countries were obliged to change course. Now a pushback is taking shape reflecting the recognition that Europe can no longer count on the US as an ally and security guarantor.

Against the backdrop of eroding faith in the US defence umbrella and America's blind support of Israel, the Saudi-Pakistan strategic defence deal reflects Riyadh's effort to diversify its security partnerships.

The greater prominence of middle powers is another key aspect of changing geopolitics. Structural changes and the dispersal of power in the international system has created an enabling environment for middle powers to wield more influence. Moreover, the US-China competition has offered opportunities and leeway to countries to increase their leverage by playing off that rivalry and pursue an 'independent' course. As Alec Russell wrote in a Financial Times op-ed some time back, 'The age of the West' is over. The new menu is over. And the new menu, while heavily influenced by two lead chefs, is still being written" — a reference to middle powers asserting their right to have a seat at the table. In fact, it is now the two superpowers' turn to adjust to this reality by paying more attention to middle powers and to woo them.

Conflicts of the future**Umair Javed**

Several people (myself included) have written about the harmful impact of LLM (large language model) chatbots on basic learning processes in educational institutions. Learning is not merely accepting content, it is thinking with and through content. This is why those who claim that schooling (or processual education at any stage) can be easily replaced with an LLM subscription and internet access are selling a dangerous fiction.

Over a longer period, I am more optimistic that institutionalised learning will stay relevant, perhaps even without excessive reliance on technology. Already we see schools across several high-achieving educational contexts experimenting with tech-free classes and reporting improved student learning performance. Schools and universities themselves will continue to act as key sites of human socialisation, which should remain relevant in a world increasingly fragmented, insular and diffused.

What is far less clear, and where the possibility

of rupture and crisis is more plausible, is the labour market itself. For just over half a decade, I've been teaching a class on markets and the roles they play across different societies in history.

The premise of this class is to familiarise students with how our current reality, where needs and wants are mostly satisfied through market-based exchange (money swapped in exchange for commodities) is a historically contingent outcome. The other purpose is to show how this contingency itself is subject to considerable variation — many societies differ in the extent to which they allow markets to shape the lives, livelihoods, and afterlives of their citizens.

As one would expect, the issue of AI has dominated quite a few of my in-class conversations these past few years. Students are often curious about the global future that mass adoption of AI will herald. Many are concerned with their own personal futures, with regards to skills, employment, and career trajectories. There is a vague, though pervasive, concern that the future is uncertain and that received wisdom

on what's needed to live a materially successful life simply won't be applicable in the years ahead.

These concerns are valid. Young people the world over remain disillusioned with the abrogation of political and social rights, mass violence, and mounting economic inequality. Increased uncertainty about their fate in a rapidly changing labour market exacerbates their disillusionment even further.

One set of mainstream views on AI's impact on the labour market tends to view it as something that will enhance labour productivity to a very high degree, i.e., make humans do certain tasks much more efficiently. This view draws on an understanding of employment as 'task bundles'. Technology can thus help with some tasks and not with others. Human capability in specific jobs can then be enhanced because of increased task efficiency. The prediction follows that productivity gains from this enhanced efficiency will lead to greater and/or more sustained growth. Yes, some jobs will be made redundant but just like cash-tell-

ers were readjusted into the economy after the invention of the ATM, every one will (eventually) land on their feet.

There are a couple of issues with this mainstream view, even if we take the dramatic productivity enhancement value of AI as given (which though promised isn't very visible as yet). Most obvious of these is what happens during the 'adjustment period' when a subset of workers is displaced and made redundant. These losses may be concentrated in some sectors, or even in some geographic locations. Countries dependent on business process outsourcing or IT exports, for example, may face a bigger crisis than those trading in other types of goods and services.

Another issue is that the jump from productivity enhancement to broad-based economic growth is a bit of a mystery. What is the pathway to this growth? As Malcolm Harris asks, what happens if you're able to code faster, or do document filing more efficiently? Companies save on time and resources, and probably on labour

costs, which increases their profit margins but does that necessarily increase output? Will economies produce more stuff or provide more services just because it's faster to do it?

The former niche Marxian view that the world economy already suffers from a problem of overcapacity is now something many mainstream economists openly admit. So again, a worthy question to pose is if LLMs improve productivity and remove labour-based bottlenecks, how does that necessarily deliver growth?

And this brings us to the main issue with the current system in which AI is being touted as the centrepiece of the future.

In the most technofuturist scenario, often peddled by Silicon Valley entrepreneurs and their acolytes, humans will largely be made redundant by a combination of AI and robotics across all industries. This combination means that there is no human labour contribution to total output and thus no share for human labour in total income. Everything will flow back into the hands of those who own capital (ie, AI and robots). This configuration of income flowing on the basis of ownership is how most of the world is currently organised.

Think about what this scenario means for societal functioning as a whole. If the only income available to be spent is in the hands of those who control technology (ie, productive resources), what happens to the basic needs of those who simply used to sell their labour power? In the absence of any profit to be made selling to incomeless humans, will these populations be left to waste?

I don't think such a future will arrive, though it is telling that it's the one most frequently pushed by the tech world. If the supposed productivity gains are ever realised, there will be fierce political conflict over the distribution of those returns. But it is quite clear, and somewhat ironic, that the supposed technology revolution unleashed by capitalism will also require us to rethink the centrality that markets and private ownership of resources play in our lives.

Headline-making tweet**Sulema Jahangir**

The recent judgement of Additional District and Sessions Judge Majoka sentencing lawyers Imaan Mazari-Hazir and her spouse Hadi Chattha to a total of 17 years in prison on multiple charges in a case pertaining to social media posts, has made national and international headlines. If the court's intention was to indicate condemnation for a post it perceived as inflammatory towards government institutions, the sentence has clearly had the opposite effect.

Condemnation of a biased and vindictive justice system has flowed thick and fast from opinion-makers, lawyers and others within Pakistan and abroad. The post and posters may not have generated such a following if ignored. Rather the sentence has laid bare a judicial system that has shown no hesitation in punishing anyone who dissents, even if through replying to a tweet.

Admittedly, our justice system is at a low point with the passage of the 26th and 27th Amendments, but even so, a sentence of 17 years' imprisonment for social media posts makes a mockery of justice. Pakistan's judiciary has seldom inspired confidence in ordinary litigants, but people have still approached courts in the hope that some rationality will follow. This judgement overturns any expectation of rationality, proportionality or reasonableness. While the current administration has engrossed itself in administrative matters and managing IMF loans, it has dug a deep grave for hard-fought democratic rights.

The PML-N government is known for passing punitive laws when in power. In the

past, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and other PML-N leaders have expressed regret for passing such laws including the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Amendment Act (Peca), 2016, and the NAB Ordinance when those same laws were used to victimise its own leaders and workers. Sadly, no lessons were learnt and 2025 was possibly the deadliest year for eroding what little democratic rights remained.

In January 2025, Peca 2025 was passed introducing widely defined offences and regulatory bodies that expanded government control over online content. In June, the Anti-Terrorism (Balochistan Amendment) Act, 2025, was enacted which granted law enforcement agencies in Balochistan the power to detain individuals for up to three months without being formally charged.

Meanwhile, as was predicted, the newly formed Constitutional Bench started back-tracking. In May 2025, the Constitutional Bench, via a five-to-two majority decision declared military trials of civilians unconstitutional, reversing the Supreme Court's October 2023 decision. In a weak and poorly reasoned judgement, the court declared that while civilians can be tried in military courts, the government should legislate to provide a right of appeal to the high courts within 45 days. No such legislation has followed. However, all 105 civilians were tried in military courts for the May 9 riots, and all the

accused convicted. As is common with military trials there were no judgements that were handed down but the results were made known through ISPR statements. In November, the 27th Amendment was passed which most lawyers felt dealt a final blow to the independence of the judiciary.

So far, this year has not been better. The laws under Peca were used to silence several journalists who were working on stories related to corruption of public funds to others found to be either damaging the "ideology of Pakistan" or "containing aspersion against members of the armed forces, judiciary, parliament or provincial assembly". However, the recent sentence of 17 years awarded to the couple without any regard to due process has only confirmed the public's perception of the court of our judiciary.

Imaan Mazari-Hazir has been targeted by the state not just for her advocacy for missing persons and those accused of blasphemy but also for her anti-establishment views. The clamping down on her through dubious FIRs that resurfaced at convenient times sends a chilling message to bar associations, lawyers and human rights defenders. It is sad that post the lawyers movement of 2007, the hard-fought victories towards judicial independence have been so willingly barged away by the current government. While one can hope that the sentence against Mazari and Chattha will be quashed on appeal, the damage to judicial independence will not only terrorise those who dissent now but will also return to haunt those who may be compelled to dissent in the future.

Policed visibility**Laraib Niaz**

The unsettling opening scene of Aik Aur Pakkeezah, the latest socially pertinent television show by Kash Foundation, unfolds in a shabby, dimly lit hotel room. Two men force their way inside despite the pleas of a terrified couple. The men harass the couple, force them to strip and film them on camera. What follows in the first few episodes is not just the aftermath of a crime, but a harrowing portrait of how the idea of honour operates in our society.

The couple is ostracised but it is the woman who bears the true weight of the incident. She is beaten and threatened by her own family and reminded that her very existence is now a threat. Her brothers repeatedly shame their father for allowing the girl to live. The message is clear; now that her video has circulated, her right to freedom and life itself is inhibited. Inspired by the real-life and harrowing Usman Mirza case, the show highlights just in its first few episodes that the so-called honour in our society is predominantly a burden for women to carry.

The show echoes real life cases in Pakistan where mercy towards victims is deemed dishonourable. When Qandeel Baloch was killed by her brother, he proudly professed righteousness. When 18-year-old Zeenat Rafiq was burnt alive for marrying a man of her choice, her mother emphasised how she had brought 'shame to the family'. There are countless less-publicised cases in which women have been murdered or imprisoned within their homes because of suspicion or

rumour of perceived misconduct.

This is because 'izzat' occupies a central place in the regulation of female conduct in our society. 'Izzat' governs family standing, marriage prospects, social mobility, and the implementation of masculine authority.

My own research in schools in Pakistan showed how early this regulation begins. Girls are taught, explicitly and implicitly, that they need to monitor their behaviour, how they speak, what they wear and even their body language as it reflects on their fathers and brothers. Shame, honour and chastity here are pivotal codes for the regulation of patriarchal authority.

This helps explain why a photograph or video carries such destructive power in this country. It is seen as tangible evidence of shame and dishonour. There are well-documented cases where the circulation of women's images without any accompanying sexual element has triggered defamation, boycott and deadly violence. Just last year, a 16-year-old girl in Rawalpindi was allegedly shot dead by her father as she refused to delete her TikTok account. Another 14-year-old girl was killed by male relatives after posting supposedly 'dishonourable' videos online.

In such instances, an image seemingly invites judgement for not just the woman, but also for the men associated with her.

One wonders whether the honour of men is so fragile that it gets tainted by mere photographs of women associated with them.

Anthropological research across South Asia has long shown that

women's sexuality functions as a symbolic marker of boundary for families and communities. In Pakistan, tightly knit family systems where individual actions cannot be seen in isolation further amplify these boundaries. A woman's perceived transgression whether it is true or forced or even entirely fabricated, is understood as evidence that male authority was weak. This logic is not unique to Pakistan. In India, research on honour-based violence documents similar patterns, particularly with interfaith and intercaste couples. Just recently, an interfaith couple was beaten to death and stuffed in gunny bags. Indian scholarship has shown that digital visibility has intensified honour, faith and caste-related surveillance, with social media becoming a new trigger for punishment. Across contexts, technology has served to exacerbate honour codes.

This is why Aik Aur Pakkeezah is important. It forces us to ask uncomfortable questions such as why is a woman's safety considered negotiable once her image circulates or there is even a slight stain on her character? And why does society reserve its harshest moral judgement for victims rather than perpetrators of violence?

By placing these questions at the centre of popular culture, the foundation has taken a brave and necessary step.

A step to hold a mirror to society and help unsettle it. Perhaps that is where change starts, watching the ripple of destruction caused by 'honour' and interrogating what we have allowed it to become.

CM Maryam inaugurates PTC headquarters, EV Command & Control Centre

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Monday inaugurated the Punjab Transport Company (PTC) headquarters and the Electric Vehicle (EV) Command and Control Centre, aimed at providing clean, safe, and modern public transport to the people.

During the visit, the chief minister inspected a state-of-the-art automatic washing plant for electric buses, where buses were washed and dried through a fully automated process. She was informed that the facility recycled water for reuse. She also reviewed the latest electric bus charging station, where Yutong's 160-kilowatt charging system was capable of fully charging an electric bus within 105 minutes.

The chief minister visited the EV Command and Control Centre and sought a clear timeline for the induction of 1,500 new buses. She directed that the electric bus charging system be shifted to solar energy at the earliest and instructed officials to identify new routes for the operation of

green electric buses. She also ordered improved arrangements in view of rising passenger numbers and directed that additional buses be deployed on routes where commuters faced long waiting times.

She further directed that carbon credits under the Green Bus Project be claimed. Appreciating the performance of the staff, the chief minister said that the dedication displayed by electric bus crews, particularly in assisting special persons, was commendable.

She noted that the launch of green buses had broken ridership records across Punjab.

CM Maryam Nawaz said that the government aimed to launch metro bus service projects in Faisalabad and Gujranwala at the earliest. She said that electric buses were providing a comfortable travel facility to the public, adding that the Punjab government was giving top priority to the convenience and safety of citizens, especially women and children.

She said that smart travel systems were offered

in faster and easier commuting, while electric buses were playing a key role in reducing air pollution and smog. "Providing clean, safe and modern public transport to the people of Punjab is our foremost priority," she added.

Earlier, PTC Chief Executive Officer Kausar Khan gave a detailed briefing, saying that over 15.5 million passengers had travelled on electric buses across Punjab so far. He said that more than 3.8 million women and over 1.5 million students had benefited from free travel, while around 750,000 senior citizens and 300,000 special persons had also availed free transport facilities.

The briefing further revealed that the Punjab Transport Company had launched the "Empower Her" initiative to promote women's economic independence. Under the programme, special tuck shops had been established at e-bus stations for widowed and divorced women, providing them with safe, dignified, and self-reliant business opportunities.



Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah launches province-wide anti-polio campaign in Karachi.

Kundi meets BISP Chairperson, OGDCL MD to review welfare, energy programmes in KP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi held a meeting with Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid here on Monday to discuss matters related to financial assistance for poor and deserving segments of the population in the province.

During the meeting, the BISP Chairperson briefed the Governor on various ongoing programmes being implemented in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under BISP.

The discussion also focused on proposals to further enhance transparency in the mechanism of financial assistance and stipends provided under the programme.

The provision of financial aid to flood-affected families was a key point of discussion.

Governor Faisal Kundi emphasized

FIA gets two-day time to complete challan in PTI foreign funding case

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad's Banking Court on Monday granted the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) two days to complete the challan in the foreign funding case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan.

Banking Court Judge Abdul Ghafoor Kakar was hearing the case. As the hearing commenced, Special Prosecutor Waseed Malik appeared before it to represent the prosecution.

During the proceedings, the judge questioned why the challan had not yet been finalized. Waseeq Malik informed the court that letters had been sent to foreign countries to obtain their input regarding the case.

Judge Abdul Ghafoor Kakar remarked that the case has been pending since 2022 and criticized the prosecution for the delay and lack of urgency.

The court indicated that it would issue a show-cause notice to the investigating officer and summon the FIA Director General in the next hearing. However, the prosecution requested additional time of one week to ten days to complete the challan and asked that the notices be withheld for now.

The court directed the prosecution to show progress within two days and adjourned the hearing until February 4, 2026.



HYDERABAD: A view of Allah Wali Masjid illuminated with colorful lights in connection with Shab-e-Barat.

KP assembly debates women empowerment, lapsing of funds, NFC performance

PROVINCIAL Law Minister Aftab Alam agreed that women empowerment could not be restricted to traditional skills alone and said the government was working on introducing modern skill development programs.

On his recommendation, the Speaker referred the matter to the standing committee to formulate workable proposals and review the effectiveness of existing handicraft centers.

PML-N MPA Amina Sardar raised objections over the prolonged contractual appointment of a Social Welfare Officer in Abbottabad, arguing that the law allowed such appointments only for a limited period.

She also alleged irregularities related to food supplies at Dar-ul-Aman and questioned the authority

behind the continued appointment.

Responding to the concerns, the law minister said the department was facing an acute staff shortage, with several posts lying vacant, which necessitated the continuation of contractual arrangements.

The Speaker subsequently referred the issue to the standing committee for further investigation.

PML-N member Shazia Jadoon questioned the lapse of more than Rs30 million from the Social Welfare Department's budget during the current fiscal year, saying the unutilized funds could have been used for public welfare projects.

The law minister explained that multiple schemes were delayed due to pending court cases, making it impossible to reallocate the funds.



MULTAN: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Syed Imran Ahmed Shah talking to media at Nishtar Hospital.

WB President lauds Punjab govt's heritage preservation efforts

RAWALPINDI (APP):

World Bank Group President Ajay Pal Singh Banga, accompanied by Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, visited the historic Taxila Museum on Monday.

Provincial Minister for Local Government and Community Development Punjab Zeehsan Rafiq warmly received the distinguished guests on behalf of the Punjab government.

During the visit, the delegation was given a detailed tour of the museum, which serves as Pakistan's premier center for ancient artifacts and historical relics.

The World Bank President and his team expressed strong appreciation for the efforts of the Government of Punjab, particularly the Directorate General of Archaeology Punjab

in preserving, restoring, and presenting the country's historical and cultural heritage along modern lines. They described these initiatives as exemplifying the highest academic standards and exceptional professional care.

The World Bank President commended the heritage-friendly vision of the Taxila Heritage City Master Plan, stating that the project will play a pivotal role in preserving historical heritage, boosting tourism, and strengthening the local economy.

Director General Archaeology Punjab, Zaheer Abbas Malik provided a step-by-step briefing on the project's implementation, emphasizing adherence to international conservation principles, community involvement, and inter-departmental collaboration.

LHC orders release of 25 illegally confined brick kiln workers

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday ordered the release of 25 brick kiln workers, including women and children, who had been kept in illegal confinement.

Justice Tanveer Ahmed Sheikh heard a petition filed by Muhammad Hassan, during which the police produced the brick kiln workers, along with their children, after recovering them from illegal confinement.

During the hearing, the

petitioner's counsel informed the court that brick kiln owners Rana Dildar and Rana Akram, operating in Rawalpindi, had unlawfully confined the workers and were not paying them wages in accordance with the approved rates under the relevant laws.

Counsel for the brick kiln owners denied the allegations, maintaining that the workers had received advance payments and were working voluntarily under an agreement.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture and UNESCO Director-General Dr. Khaled El-Enany held a high-level meeting, agreeing to expand cooperation in heritage preservation and cultural promotion.

PTI challenges detention of workers under MPO-3 in SHC

KARACHI (INP): The arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) has been challenged in the Sindh High Court.

The petition was filed by PTI Sindh General Secretary Mansoor Ali and others, naming the Chief Secretary Sindh, Secretary Home, Inspector General of Sindh Police, and other officials as respondents. The court accepted the request for an urgent hearing.

Counsel for the brick kiln workers denied the allegations, maintaining that the workers had received advance payments and were working voluntarily under an agreement.

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Aurangzeb reaffirms stability, stronger FX as Wafi Energy signals \$100m investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday reaffirmed the government's commitment to sustaining macroeconomic stability, strengthening foreign exchange buffers, and enhancing investor confidence.

He reiterated this during a meeting with a delegation of Wafi Energy Pakistan Ltd, which signaled a potential investment of up to USD 100 million in Pakistan over the next two to three years, a news release said.

The delegation, led by Javaid Akhtar, Chief Finance Officer Asyad Group (Board Member), included Zubair Shaikh, Chief Executive Officer, and Zarrar Mahmud, Chief Finance Officer of Wafi Energy Pakistan Ltd.

The interaction provided an opportunity to review the company's current operations, future investment outlook, and matters relevant to the oil marketing and energy sector.

During the meeting, the Finance Minister emphasized that sustained macroeconomic stability remained the cornerstone of

the government's economic strategy and was essential for maintaining investor confidence.

He noted that improvements in foreign exchange availability were a direct outcome of broader macroeconomic discipline and reforms, and that strengthening external buffers will enable smoother facilitation of legitimate business transactions, including dividend repatriation and cross-border payments.

The Finance Minister observed that improving macroeconomic indicators were already translating into greater confidence among both domestic and foreign investors, and underscored that such developments represent fundamental elements of a healthy investment climate.

He highlighted that local investor participation played an important role in further encouraging foreign investment inflows.

The discussion also covered the role of public-private partnership models and structured finance as effective mechanisms for delivering large-scale infrastructure projects.

Aurangzeb noted that

successful experiences at the provincial level demonstrate the potential of such models and emphasized the need to further encourage structured finance solutions and stronger engagement with the banking sector to support infrastructure development.

The delegation informed the minister that Wafi Energy Pakistan Ltd has benefited from improved operating conditions amid greater macroeconomic stability and shared its intention to expand its retail and storage footprint over the coming years as part of a broader growth strategy.

The delegation reiterated its confidence in Pakistan's economic outlook and highlighted growing interest among international and regional stakeholders in expanding engagement with Pakistan.

The delegation briefed the Finance Minister on Wafi Energy Pakistan's current operations in the country and shared that the company operates an extensive nationwide retail network, supported by ongoing investments in modernization and efficiency.



DUBAI: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and HRD, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, meeting with H.E. Rabab Abdullah Al-Osaimi, Director-General of Kuwait's Public Authority for Manpower, on the sidelines of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue 2026.

Pakistan, Uzbekistan reaffirms commitment to deepening strategic economic Partnership

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 10th Session of the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Inter-governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade, Economic, and Scientific-Technical Cooperation was held under the co-chairmanship, Haroon Akhtar Khan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Industries and Production, and Laziz Kudratov, Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Islamabad.

The engagement enabled a comprehensive review of bilateral relations and established a forward-looking roadmap to strengthen joint efforts in major economic and social sectors, said a release issued here on Monday.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the steady progress achieved since the previous IGC session in 2025 and reaffirmed their resolve to expand bilateral trade, investment, and economic engagement.

The Parties underscored the importance of the Preferential Trade Agreement, welcomed progress under Phase II concessions, and agreed to expedite institutional mechanisms to achieve the agreed target of \$2 billion in bilateral trade.

Emphasis was placed on trade facilitation, improved logistics, customs

digitalization, transit trade cooperation, development of regional trade corridors, and enhanced business-to-business engagement, supported by improved visa facilitation for business communities.

Both sides further agreed to establish the inaugural Joint Working Group on labor relations, tasked with addressing labor mobility, skills development, workplace safety, and practical considerations linked to employment visas.

In transport and communications sector, the Commission welcomed interest in launching direct air services, reviewed progress on regional railway and connectivity projects, and agreed to advance alternative transport corridors to improve regional trade and transit connectivity.

Cooperation in agriculture and food security featured prominently, with both sides welcoming progress on phytosanitary protocols facilitating the export of fruits from Uzbekistan to Pakistan.

The Parties agreed to expand collaboration through additional protocols, joint working groups, and technical cooperation in plant protection, livestock development, and agricultural research, with a

shared focus on food security and sustainable agricultural growth.

In higher education, science, and technology, the Commission welcomed progress on academic and research partnerships between leading institutions of both the countries. Both sides agreed to promote joint research, faculty and student exchanges, vocational and technical training, innovation, and capacity building, supported by newly signed agreements in scientific, technical, and innovation fields. These initiatives aim to strengthen long-term knowledge cooperation and human capital development.

Environmental and climate cooperation was recognized as a shared priority, with both sides agreeing to collaborate on climate resilience, protection of glacial ecosystems, sustainable water management, environmental governance, gender-inclusive climate action, and community-based adaptation approaches.

In the pharmaceutical sector, the Parties agreed to strengthen regulatory cooperation, promote joint ventures and investment, facilitate exchanges of pharmaceutical manufacturers, and enhance capacity building to ensure quality and safety of medical products.

KP Governor urges incentives to retain investment in province

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday stressed the need for the provincial government to offer effective incentives to the business community so that traders from KP prefer investing within their own province rather than moving to Punjab.

He said a comprehensive review of industrial and commercial policies has become the need of the hour to promote economic activities in the province.

The Governor expressed these views while addressing the inauguration ceremony of Peshawar-based HBK Hyper Market in Islamabad. On his arrival, he was warmly received by prominent business figures including Chairman HBK Group Imdad Khan Afridi, Director Dr Mohibullah Afridi, Director Aamir Khan Afridi, Chairman Revive Pakistan Imran Ali, and others.

Governor Kundi said that investment by

businesses in Islamabad is a positive and welcome development, reflecting a bright and progressive image of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. However, he regretted that compared to Rashakai Industrial Zone, investors in Punjab are being offered more incentives, which is compelling KP investors to shift their businesses to other provinces.

He emphasized that the provincial government must seriously revisit its industrial and commercial policies so that institutions like HBK and other investors give priority to investing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Governor also urged the business community to formulate their strategies while keeping in view the purchasing power of the public and the prevailing challenging economic conditions.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa appreciated HBK's assurance of cooperation in promoting sports and projecting a positive image of the province.



MULTAN: A vendor displays subsidized wheat flour bags along with a price list at a roadside stall under the Punjab government's relief initiative.

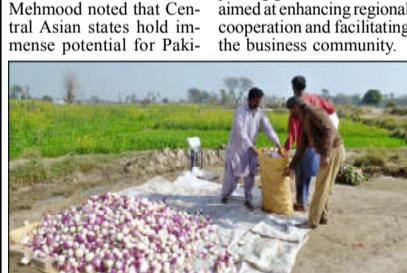
Kazakh, Uzbek Presidents' visits to open new trade avenues: President ICCI

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Sardar Tahir Mehmood, has emphasized the need to further strengthen Pakistan's economic, trade and connectivity relations with regional countries, particularly Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, terming the upcoming visits of their Presidents to Islamabad as highly significant and timely.

He stressed that improved connectivity projects, including railway and transit corridors, would play a pivotal role in linking Pakistan with Central Asia, enabling cost-effective trade routes and boosting regional commerce.

The ICCI President highlighted that Islamabad, as the federal capital and business hub, is well-positioned to serve as a bridge between Pakistan's private sector and regional markets.

He expressed optimism that business forums and B2B interactions planned during these visits would help Pakistani entrepreneurs explore joint ventures and long-term partnerships. On their part, Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub and Vice President Irfan Chaudry reaffirmed ICCI's commitment to supporting government efforts aimed at enhancing regional cooperation and facilitating the business community.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Muhammad Khan Lehti, Maulana Abdul Baqi, Sardar Javed Lehti and others inaugurating Al-Sakib Hyper Market.

Pakistan's olive oil industry eyes China for next phase of growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's fast-emerging olive oil industry is intensifying efforts to attract Chinese partners, with local entrepreneurs pitching large-scale joint ventures that could generate thousands of jobs and open a new export channel to one of the world's largest food markets.

Shaukat Rasool, founder of the internationally award-winning brand Loralai Olives, told Wealth Pakistan that his company is in advanced discussions to sign memoranda of understanding with Chinese firms, as Islamabad and Beijing deepen cooperation in high-value agribusiness.

The recent Pak-China Agri Investment Conference was a great opportunity, he said. "We are proposing three corporate olive estates spread over 3,000 acres, with a total investment of about \$20 million."

He said the proposed projects would create more than 3,000 direct jobs and within six to seven years generate olive oil worth \$18-20 million annually, positioning Pakistan as a

competitive new supplier in the global market.

Rasool said Chinese companies are natural partners for Pakistan's olive ambitions, citing China's heavy reliance on imports and its growing health-conscious middle class. China imports more than \$300 million worth of olive oil each year, he noted.

"Olive oil is medicine for a healthy life," he said.

"China is the most populous country in the world,

people are increasingly conscious about health and weight, and Pakistan is well-suited to meet their demand for olive oil."

He said Pakistan offers Chinese investors clear commercial advantages, including lower land costs and logistics infrastructure developed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). "It is an ideal and win-win opportunity for Chinese companies to invest here," Rasool said.

Loralai Olives is already closely linked with China through its supply chain. Rasool said that all of the company's packaging and bottling materials are sourced from China.

Six ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a chemicals carrier 'Chem Barcelona' expected to sail on Monday. Cargo volume of 49,120 tonnes, comprising 49,120 tonnes imports cargo and export cargo was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, exports to

Italy during December 2025 increased by 12.36 percent from US \$ 88,621 million to US \$ 99,576 million.

Month-on-month exports to Italy also rose by

21.02 percent during November 2025 as compared

to the import of US \$ 30,239 million in November 2025, SBP data said.

Overall Pakistan's exports to all countries witnessed a decrease of 4.97 percent in six months, from US \$ 16,319 billion to US \$ 15,507 billion, the SBP data said.

Trade surplus during the months under review was recorded at US \$ 352,814 million against \$ 285,585 million last year, showing 23.54 percent growth.

The overall exports to Italy were recorded at US \$ 612,888 million during July-December (2025-26) year against exports of US \$ 570,082 million during the same months last year, showing an increase of 7.50 percent, SBP data revealed.

Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, imports from

Italy also increased by 163.44 percent during December 2025 as compared to the import of US

\$ 32,387 million last year to US \$ 79,664 million.

On a month-on-month basis, the imports from Italy also increased by 145.97 percent from US \$ 32,387 million in November 2025, SBP data said.

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Junaid Anwar says: Blue economy resilience rooted in wetland ecosystems

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry reaffirmed the vital importance of wetlands in safeguarding the Arabian Sea, conserving marine life, and bolstering blue economy.

In his message marking World Wetlands Day, themed "Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage," the minister emphasized that wetlands including mangroves, estuaries, tidal flats, and coastal lagoons, serve as frontline defenses against climate change impacts like flooding, coastal erosion, and sea-level rise.

He highlighted coastal wetlands, particularly the Indus Delta mangroves, as essential breeding and nursery grounds for fish and marine species, directly supporting fisheries and food

PSX gains 883 points to close at 185,057 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Monday witnessed a bullish trend, gaining 883.35 points, a positive change of 0.48 percent, to close at 185,057.83 points compared to 184,174.49 points on the previous trading day, according to PSX data.

During the session, the ready market recorded a trading volume of 740,092 million shares with a traded value of Rs 42,204 billion, against 805,139 million shares valuing Rs 50,834 billion in the previous session. Market capitalization increased to Rs 20,969 trillion from Rs 20,827 trillion a day earlier.

Out of 487 active companies in the ready market, 214 advanced, 222 declined, while 51 remained unchanged. First National Equities topped the volume chart with 191,182 million shares, followed by Hascol Petroleum with 51,506 million shares and K-Electric with 38,314 million shares. The top gainers included Sazgar Engineering Works Limited, which rose by Rs 196.45 to close at Rs 2,342.93.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood said development finance institutions play a key role in economic growth across D-8 states. He noted that cooperation should focus on results, with clear links between agreed frameworks and project delivery.

SIALKOT: A customer purchases a leather jacket from a roadside vendor.

D-8, ADFIMI agree to joint action on development finance, SME support

ISLAMABAD (APP): The D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation and the Association of National Development Finance Institutions in Member Countries of the Islamic Development Bank (ADFIMI) have agreed to work together on development finance, training, small business support, and Halal economy initiatives.

The understanding aims to link policy goals with on-ground projects across D-8 member states, said a press release issued here on Monday.

The agreement during a meeting between D-8 Secretary General

and Ambassador Sohail Mahmood and an ADFIMI delegation led by its Secretary-General İlhami Özürk.

Both sides discussed ways to build cooperation that supports economic activity, improves access to finance, and strengthens institutions in member countries.

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Trump says Putin agrees to pause Kyiv strikes amid harsh cold

WASHINGTON (AFP/APP): US President Donald Trump said Thursday that Russia's Vladimir Putin agreed to a personal request to halt attacks on Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities, after Moscow's strikes left millions without heating during an "extreme" cold snap. Trump's claim comes as Russian strikes on Ukraine's power infrastructure have disrupted light, heating and water supplies, with temperatures plummeting and leaving the war-battered country facing a fresh humanitarian crisis.

The Kremlin did not immediately confirm any truce, while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky thanked Trump and said he was counting on Washington to secure the pause in attacks. "Because

of the cold, extreme cold... I personally asked President Putin not to fire on Kyiv and the cities and towns for a week during this," Trump told a cabinet meeting at the White House. "They've never experienced cold like that. And I personally asked President Putin not to fire into Kyiv and the various towns for a week. And he agreed to do that, and I have to tell you, it was very nice," he added.

Ukraine's state weather agency on Thursday forecast a drastic dip in temperatures to as low as minus 30C in coming days as authorities race to restore services.

Trump, who met Putin in Alaska last year amid great fanfare but without achieving any breakthrough, said he trusted the

Russian leader to honor the agreement.

"People said, 'don't waste the call. You're not going to get that.' And he did it," said Trump, without specifying when the conversation took place, or when the purported truce would start. Zelensky, who met Trump in Davos last week despite patchy relations since their Oval Office bust-up nearly a year ago, thanked the US president for his "important statement." "We hope the United States can make this happen," the Ukrainian leader said.

The pause had initially been discussed last weekend during three-way talks in Abu Dhabi between Russia, Ukraine and the United States, Zelensky said.

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Supporters of Uganda's incumbent president and National Resistance Movement presidential candidate Yoweri Museveni chant and hold electoral posters as they head to the rally grounds ahead of the party's closing campaign rally ahead of the 2026 Ugandan general elections, in Kampala.

Kevin Warsh, a former Fed 'hawk' now in tune with Trump

WASHINGTON (AFP/APP): Kevin Warsh, a former US Federal Reserve official named by President Donald Trump on Friday as the next chief, was long an inflation hawk but has aligned his views with those of Trump officials seeking aggressive interest rate cuts. Trump made the announcement after the Fed held its benchmark rate steady this week under Chairman Jerome Powell, whom the president again slammed as a "moron".

The month of personal attacks have fuelled widespread fears among investors that the Fed's policy independence is under threat, potentially posing an inflation risk to the world's biggest economy.

Warsh has edged out three other contenders for the Fed job: Fed Governor Christopher Waller, Rick Rieder of the investment

beleaguered BlackRock, and Trump's top economic adviser Kevin Hassett.

A Fed governor between 2006 and 2011, Warsh was previously a mergers and acquisitions banker at Morgan Stanley. He later joined former president George W. Bush's administration, serving as a White House economic policy adviser from 2002 to 2006 before being nominated to the Fed's Board of Governors.

During his first term, Trump had considered Warsh for the Fed chair position, but eventually chose Powell instead.

But Powell's fall from grace was capped this month when US prosecutors issued subpoenas against him threatening a criminal indictment, an unprecedented move widely seen as an escalation of Trump's campaign against the central bank.

He had previously posted on X that he was cutting ties with the embassy, accusing it of helping to hide Wine, who has been on the run since elections this month.

Uganda army chief apologises over previous X post accusing US of helping opposition

NAIROBI (AFP/APP): Uganda's army chief broke ties with the United States on Friday, accusing its embassy of helping missing opposition leader Bobi Wine, then reversed his stance an hour later.

"I want to apologise to our great friends the United States for my earlier tweets that I have now deleted," army chief Muhozo Kainerugaba, who is also the son of the president, wrote on X.

"I was being fed with wrong information. I have spoken with the US Ambassador to our country and everything is okay," he added.

He had previously posted on X that he was cutting ties with the embassy, accusing it of helping to hide Wine, who has been on the run since elections this month.

Panama court annuls Hong Kong firm's canal port concession

PANAMA CITY (AFP/APP): Panama's Supreme Court annulled on Thursday the concession allowing Hong Kong-based CK Hutchison to operate ports at the Panama Canal, a ruling that undermines Chinese sway over the waterway.

As Beijing and Washington vie for global influence, container ports have become a prized currency—especially those situated in geopolitically strategic locations such as the Panama Canal.

Just days into US President Donald Trump's second term, he threatened to take back the canal—built by the United States and handed to Panama in 1999—claiming Beijing was effectively "operating" it.

Minnesota Somalis organize house call care amid ICE raid fears

ST PAUL (AFP/APP): Two Somali-American co-workers have created a network to provide medical house calls to community members afraid to go outside in the face of the massive immigration operation underway in Minnesota.

The paranoia and fear fomented by the sweeping immigration crackdown in the Midwestern state has led many migrants—both those with legal status and those without—to shelter at home, campaigners say.

Members of migrant communities have avoided medical treatment, been unable to purchase essentials, lost jobs and even taken their children out of school to avoid venturing outside where they are more vulnerable to immigration checks.

Hafsa, a mental health student, was spurred to act after an acquaintance delayed seeking medical help

for their child, meaning the youth's condition deteriorated by the time they sought help.

"I got a call from a mom that's a immigrant and she was afraid to go to the hospital, and her child is now in the Intensive Care Unit," said the Somali-born American who, like all of the St. Paul-based volunteers, gave only their first name for fear of retaliation.

Somalis have been at the forefront of Donald Trump's aggressive anti-immigrant campaign, with the US president branding the community "garbage," questioning its intelligence and calling for deportations to intensify.

Immigration officers have been seen at hospitals and clinics, waiting for patients and questioning them about their legal status, according to a recent article in the American Journal of Managed Care.



Rohingya refugee children surround a street vendor at the Kutupalong refugee camp in Ukhia.



Russia has launched 841 strikes at 34 settlements in the Zaporizhzhia region. Above, a crater and damaged cars near an apartment building after a Russian attack in Zaporizhzhia.

Egypt, EU hold talks on regional developments, De-escalation Efforts

CAIRO (QNA/APP): Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Badr Abdellaty discussed regional developments, efforts to de-escalate tensions, and ways to enhance the implementation of the requirements of the second phase of the plan put forward by US President Donald Trump, as well as continued support for the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza as a temporary transitional body tasked with managing the daily affairs of residents in the Gaza Strip. The Egyptian foreign minister underscored the need for the swift deployment of an international stabilization force to monitor the ceasefire, facilitate the flow of humanitarian aid, and oversee the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. He noted that such measures would pave the way for early recovery and reconstruction based on the needs and priorities of the Palestinian people in Gaza. Regarding developments in Sudan, Abdellaty briefed the EU official on Egypt's ongoing efforts within the framework of the Quartet, emphasizing the urgency of reaching a humanitarian truce as a step toward a comprehensive ceasefire and the launch of an inclusive

In a statement issued on Friday, the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that Abdellaty stressed the importance of coordinated regional and interna-

tional efforts to ensure the implementation of the requirements of the second phase of the plan put forward by US President Donald Trump, as well as continued support for the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza as a temporary transitional body tasked with managing the daily affairs of residents in the Gaza Strip. The Egyptian foreign minister underscored the need for the swift deployment of an international stabilization force to monitor the ceasefire, facilitate the flow of humanitar-

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Pakistan, Kazakhstan deepen educational ties with signing of eight MoUs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Kazakhstan on Monday reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation in education, research and human resource development during a high-level engagement held in Islamabad.

The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MoFET) hosted a 25-member high-level delegation from the Republic of Kazakhstan, led by Minister of Science and Higher Education Mr. Sayasat Nurbek.

The delegation comprised senior officials from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, leadership of prominent Kazakh universities, and representatives of academic and research institutions. Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui

welcomed the delegation and underscored Pakistan's commitment to deepening educational collaboration with Kazakhstan.

A bilateral meeting, chaired by Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, was attended by officials from MoFET, the Higher Education Commission (HEC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), representatives of Pakistani higher education institutions (HEIs), and other relevant stakeholders. The meeting reviewed the existing framework of cooperation and explored new avenues for collaboration in higher education, science and technology, medical education, research, innovation and academic exchange.

The two countries emphasized strengthening institution-to-institution linkages and enhancing people-to-people connec-

tivity through education.

As a key outcome of the visit, eight Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between Pakistani and Kazakh higher education institutions. The agreements involve Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), International Islamic University Islamabad (IIU), Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIK), National University of Modern Languages (NUML), King Edward Medical University (KEMU) and the University of Health Sciences (UHS).

The MoUs aim to promote joint research collaboration, faculty and student exchanges, collaborative academic programmes and capacity-building initiatives.



ISLAMABAD: The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Yahya Afzali, presenting a souvenir to Ms. Syeda Tanzeela Sabahat, Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, on the completion of her one-year deputation as Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

APP's digital outreach key to counter misinformation, promote country's soft image: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Monday emphasized the role of Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) in strategic narrative-building said the expansion of state news agency's digital outreach would prove helpful in countering misinformation and promote country's soft image.

Chairing a meeting here during his visit to the APP's headquarter, the Information Minister

stressed utilizing multiple social media platforms, particularly for dissemination of news content in regional languages, to ensure close engagement with local communities at grassroots level.

The Information Minister directed extensive digital promotion of the content produced by APP's Balochi/Brahvi, Sindhi, Pashto, Sindhi and Saraiki services and said it would increase public trust by making narratives more relatable and inclusive.

Pakistan launches first anti polio campaign of 2026

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has officially launched its first National Polio Eradication Campaign of 2026, marking a renewed nationwide effort to eliminate the virus. The campaign was inaugurated in Islamabad with strong backing from both local leadership and international partners.

The inauguration ceremony was held at the Rawal Town Dispensary in Islamabad, where Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication, Ayesha Raza Farooq, formally

launched the campaign. She, along with the Canadian high commissioner, administered polio drops to children, symbolizing the start of the nationwide drive.

Addressing the ceremony, Ayesha Raza Farooq said Pakistan is fighting the "last battle" against polio and emphasized that just two drops of vaccine can save a child's life.

She stressed that boosting the morale of frontline polio teams is essential to achieving complete eradication.



KARACHI: Commander Coast, Vice Admiral Faisal Amin in a group photo during opening brief of Exercise SEA GUARD 2026.

Maritime Security exercise Sea Guard 2026 commences

KARACHI (APP): Maritime Security exercise Sea Guard-2026 aimed at synergizing the efforts of all stakeholders to ensure safety and security within the maritime zones of Pakistan and beyond commenced here Monday.

Commander Coast, Vice Admiral Faisal Amin graced the occasion as Chief Guest, said a news release issued by Directorate General of Public Relations (Pakistan Navy).

The third of its series, Exercise SEA GUARD 2026 is scheduled from 2-9 Feb 26.

The exercise is a national level effort by Pakistan Navy to bring together representatives of diverse maritime sector ranging from shipping, fishing, law enforcement and private

CJP bids farewell to Secretary Law & Justice Commission

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chief Justice of Pakistan and Chairman, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, on Monday bade farewell to the outgoing Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, Syeda Tanzeela Sabahat, on the completion of her one-year deputation period.

During the meeting, the chief justice appreciated her dedication and professional commitment and acknowledged her contributions towards strengthening the institutional functioning of the commission.

He noted her role in improving administrative efficiency and advancing key judicial reform initiatives.

The chief justice extended best wishes to Syeda Tanzeela Sabahat for her future professional assignments and expressed confidence that she would continue to serve with distinction.

The registrar of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the incumbent secretary, and officers of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan were also present on the occasion.

As a token of appreciation, the chief justice presented the outgoing secretary with a souvenir.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah Khan, on Monday informed the Senate that the perpetrators of recent terrorist incidents in Balochistan were enemies of Pakistan and were acting on the directives of anti-Pakistan elements.

Responding to points

raised by Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Raja Nasir Abbas, he said that around 177 terrorists had been eliminated, while 17 personnel of law-enforcement agencies and 33 civilians

had embraced martyrdom in terrorist attacks in Balochistan. Such elements could not be portrayed as



CAMBODIA: Flowers are being presented to Honorable Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, arrived in Phnom Penh official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Pakistan vigorously working on economic reform agenda'

Acknowledges WB's valuable support in advancing Pakistan's economic development

ISLAMABAD (INP):

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said Pakistan is vigorously working on economic reform agenda with multi-pronged comprehensive structural home grown program aimed at sustainable economic stability.

He was talking to World Bank Group President Ajay Banga who called on him in Islamabad on Monday.

The Prime Minister appreciated the support of the World Bank Group in resilient infrastructure, agribusiness, digital development, energy, human capital, fiscal reforms, and increasing productive private investment for job creation and growth.

The Prime Minister and the World Bank Group President reiterated the need to fast-track implementation and ensure strong oversight to deliver impact at speed and scale on CPF-aligned priorities.

These measures would duly assist the prime minister's initiative to address and resolve implementation bottlenecks in development projects.

The premier also ap-

preciated Mr. Banga's lead-

ership in transforming the

World Bank Group into

more impactful develop-

ment partner.

He stated that the

government was vigorously

working on economic re-

form agenda with multi-

pronged comprehensive

structural home grown pro-

gram aimed at sustainable

economic stability.

These measures would duly assist Prime Minister's initiative to address and resolve implementation bottlenecks in development projects.

The Prime Minister expressed the government's commitment to structural reforms that would unlock job-rich growth and further strengthen investors' confidence.

Ajay Banga com- mended Government of

Pakistan's ongoing reform

efforts and reaffirmed his

commitment to deepening

cooperation through a One

World Bank Group ap-

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