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Issues stern warning against politicizing terrorism CM Bugti vows to curb terrorism activities for maintaining durable peace in Balochistan

Criticizes attempts to spread misleading narratives targeting the youth of Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Wednesday said that incumbent provincial government is committed to curb terrorism activities for maintaining durable peace in the province.

Balochistan CM paid tribute to the sacrifices of security forces and innocent civilians who had foiled nefarious designs of anti-peace elements in various places of provincial capital on January 31.

He said this while addressing at the flour of Balochistan Assembly which was chaired by

Speaker Captain Retd Abdul Khalil Achakzai.

The CM said that measures are being taken to provide opportunities to the youth and continuing the development process saying that the solution to the challenges facing the province lies not in violence or gun politics but in the constitution, political dialogue and collective wisdom.

He said that confusion was created in a systematic manner regarding Balochistan and an attempt was made to distance the people and youth of the state and Balochistan from each other, a narrative was created that has no connection.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with the affected families of the terrorist attack on Imam Bargah Khadija-ul-Kubra.

NJPMC orders fast-track disposal of over-3-year UTP cases, adopts AI guidelines

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan on Wednesday chaired the 57th meeting of the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC) at the Supreme Court, attended by chief justices of all high courts and the Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan.

Reviewing implementation of decisions taken in its 56th meeting, the committee reiterated its resolve to strengthen institutional capacity, improve access to justice, and ensure effective and timely disposal of cases.

The committee was informed that the federal government is developing a structured redressal mechanism to address complaints regarding the non-implementation of

of arrested persons before a magistrate within 24 hours. The framework is expected to be finalised within two weeks.

The NJPMC stressed strict compliance with legal requirements and directed the Attorney General of Pakistan to provide periodic updates on progress and implementation.

Applauding the Islamabad High Court for expeditious disposal of high-impact tax cases, the committee expressed satisfaction over overall compliance by high courts with earlier directions. It was decided that each high court would constitute designated benches to hear cases under the Recognition and Enforcement (Arbitration)

The security officials said India is behind all sponsored terrorism inside Pakistan. They noted that the recent attack on Imam Bargah in Tarlai was carried out by terrorist trained in Afghanistan.

In a meeting with media representatives, security officials said that eliminating Fitna-al-Khawarij and Fitna-al-Hindustan requires complete national cohesion. They added that success in the fight against terrorism depends on the full implementation of the National Action Plan.

The resolution, presented by Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, reaffirmed the House's commitment that the sacrifices of the martyrs

Security officials call for national unity against terrorism

ISLAMABAD (INP): Security officials have emphasized that the fight against terrorism in Pakistan is not solely the responsibility of the armed forces, police, or Frontier Corps, but needs unity of the entire nation.

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DPM Dar discusses regional tensions with Turkey, Iran FMs amid US-Iran strain

ISLAMABAD (INP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held separate telephone conversations with the foreign ministers of Turkey and Iran on Wednesday, as tensions simmer over Iran's nuclear programme.

In a call with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, the two leaders discussed regional and international developments and matters of mutual interest. They agreed to maintain close coordination on shared priorities.

Dar also spoke with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, emphasising the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in the region. Both officials pledged to continue close engagement and

coordination between their countries.

The calls came a day after US President Donald Trump told Israel's Channel 12 that the United States would have to do "something very tough" if a deal is not reached with Iran.

"Either we reach a deal or we'll have to do something very tough," the president quoted Trump as saying.

Trump has said he is considering sending a second aircraft carrier to the Middle East, Axios and Channel 12 reported, amid tensions between Washington and Tehran over Iran's nuclear programme and its recent crackdown on pro-

Continued on page 2

Ahsan says: Media literacy should be integrated into curriculum

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal has emphasized that information and media literacy should be integrated into the curriculum to promote responsible social media use among youth.

Addressing the National Curriculum Summit in Islamabad, he said that the enemies of Pakistan are using social media to spread anarchy and disruption in the country.

He stressed that the younger generation must be educated to make responsible and informed choices. The Minister also noted the growing influence of artificial intelligence across all sectors.

Four terrorists killed, four policemen including SHO martyred in DIK operation

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): At least four terrorists were killed, while four police personnel, including a Station House Officer (SHO), embraced martyrdom and two others, including a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), sustained injuries during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Panyala area of Dera Ismail Khan, police said on Wednesday.

According to a spokesperson for Dera police, the operation was launched on reports about the presence of terrorists in the area. The operation was led by SP Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), SP Paharpur, DSPs of Paharpur and Panyala, along with respective SHOs and heavy contingents of police.

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PM visits Imambargah, announces compensation for bereaved families

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Wednesday, expressed his deep grief and condolences with the bereaved families of shuhada who lost their lives in a terrorist attack in Tarlai Imambargah last week.

The prime minister offered Fateha and prayed for the high ranks of those who lost their lives in the incident and for the early recovery of injured.

The prime minister said that there could be no compensation for the precious lives lost in the terrorist incident and announced a sum of Rs 10 million for Shaheed Oun Abbas who resisted the suicide attacker, Rs 5 million for each martyred, Rs 3 million for each severely injured and Rs 1 million for others with minor injuries.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Ambassador of Iran, Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam at a reception held to commemorate the 47th Anniversary of the Victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and Iran's National Day.

NEPRA imposes fixed charges on all electricity consumers

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has announced the imposition of fixed charges on all electricity consumers in Pakistan, including both protected and non-protected categories.

Previously, fixed charges were applicable only to non-protected consumers using more than 300 units per month. This includes an increase of Rs 75 for 600 units, a reduction of Rs 125 for up to 700 units, and a decrease of Rs 325 for those consuming more than 700 units.

Under the new structure, protected consumers using up to 100 units per month will now pay Rs 200 as a fixed charge, while those consuming up to 200 units will be charged Rs 300.

For non-protected consumers, fixed charges have been set at Rs 275 per month for usage up to 100 units, Rs 300 for up to 200 units, and Rs 350 for up to 300 units.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, in a meeting with John Mark Pommersheim, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, United States Department of State, and Ms. Natalie A. Baker, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires to Pakistan, at the Finance Division.

BA unanimously flays terror attacks, vows unity against militancy

QUETTA (ANN): The Balochistan Assembly on Tuesday passed a unanimous resolution condemning the terrorist attacks on January 31, 2026, and reaffirmed its commitment to defeating militancy and ensuring peace in the province. The resolution, presented by Provincial Minister Mir Saleem Khosa, acknowledged the bravery of security forces who successfully thwarted the attacks despite the loss of innocent lives.

Lawmakers, including Asim Kurd Gello, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, and Noor Muhammad Dummar, condemned the cowardly assaults on civilians and reiterated their support for security forces.



Pak-Turkiye scientific cooperation delivers tangible results and sets stage for expanded collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level delegation from the Republic of Turkiye held extensive talks with Federal Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST), Shahid Iqbal Baloch, and senior officials to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in science, technology, innovation and applied research, with a focus on translating partnerships into concrete national and industrial outcomes.

The Turkiye side was led by Deputy Minister of Industry and Technology Muhammet Kasim Gonullu, along with Ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye to Pakistan Ifran Neziroglu.

The meeting, convened under the framework of scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries, reviewed ongoing initiatives and highlighted Pakistan's progress in converting international collaboration into measurable scientific, industrial and socio-economic gains.

Both sides noted that

the expanding cooperation aligns with the vision of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Federal Minister for Science and Technology Khalid Hussain Magsi to promote innovation-driven growth, industrial modernization and a knowledge-based economy.

The officials underscored that science diplomacy has emerged as a key pillar of the broader Pak-Turkiye strategic partnership.

The discussions reviewed progress across several priority sectors, including halal certification frameworks aimed at enhancing Pakistan's global trade competitiveness, cooperation in legal and scientific metrology to strengthen national quality infrastructure, standardization, and joint research programmes connecting leading institutions of both countries.

Federal Secretary, Shahid Iqbal Baloch said MoST is systematically expanding international scientific partnerships that deliver practical results and directly support Pakistan's development priorities.

The particular emphasis

was placed on the Pakistan Science Foundation and TUBITAK partnership, which was described as a flagship example of successful international research cooperation.

Since the signing of a memorandum of understanding in 2013, four joint research calls have generated 270 collaborative proposals, with 33 high-quality projects funded in areas such as energy, biotechnology, biomedical sciences, advanced materials, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, electric vehicles, food technologies and oceanography.

These initiatives were noted for building research capacity, developing skilled human resources and facilitating knowledge transfer between the two nations.

Federal Secretary, Shahid Iqbal Baloch said

MoST is systematically expanding international scientific partnerships that deliver practical results and directly support Pakistan's development priorities.

from 29 deliveries, hitting six boundaries.

Shimron Hetmyer also chipped in with a brisk 23 off 12 balls, laced with two fours and two sixes.

For England, Jamie Overton and Adil Rashid led the bowling attack with two wickets apiece, while Jofra Archer and Sam Curran claimed one each.

In reply, chasing a daunting 197-run target, England were bowled out for 166 in 19 overs.

Phil Salt got the Three Lions off to a rapid start with 30 off 14 balls, including four boundaries and two sixes, before falling to Romario Shepherd.

Jacob Bellith fought back with a composed 34

off 23 deliveries, hitting four fours and a six, but was dismissed by Guadakesh Motie.

Captain Jos Buttler scored 21 off 14 balls, while Sam Curran remained unbeaten on 43 off 30 deliveries, striking three fours and two sixes, but ran out of partners as wickets continued to tumble at the other end.

Guadakesh Motie spearheaded the West Indies bowling attack with figures of 3-33 in four overs.

Roston Chase claimed two wickets, while Akeal Hosein, Romario Shepherd and Shamari Joseph picked up one wicket each to seal a comprehensive victory for the Caribbean side.

NJPMC orders..

Continued from page 1

Agreements and Foreign Arbitral Awards) Act, 2011.

The committee also acknowledged the Federal Board of Revenue's efforts to discourage frivolous litigation, including screening of meritless appeals, and appreciated the development of High Court-wise Litigation Management System dashboards.

The committee commended high courts and the district judiciary for disposing of a substantial number of cases within prescribed timelines between September 1, 2025, and January 15, 2026.

During this period, high courts reported a combined pendency of the reporting period.

Four terrorists..

Continued from page 1

ing the exchange of fire.

In the gun battle, SHO Panya Faheem Mumtaz Khan, Constable Tauqeer, Constable Irfan and Constable Ghulam Rabbani embraced martyrdom. DSP

Paharpur Haifz Muhammad Adnan and ASI

Tariq Khan sustained injuries and were shifted to District Headquarters Hospital for treatment.

Upon receiving information about the incident,

1,274,780 cases and disposed of 754,006 cases.

The Lahore High Court disposed of 622,831 cases, followed by Peshawar High Court (66,303), Sindh High Court (42,370), Islamabad High Court (12,226) and Balochistan High Court (10,276).

The NJPMC recommended acknowledging best-performing judicial officers through certificates and other incentives. It also appreciated progress in clearing old succession cases, particularly those pending since 2019.

Reviewing the performance of model criminal and civil courts, the committee noted that 13,141 civil and 46,441 criminal cases were decided during the reporting period.

NA passes..

Continued from page 1

tional Assembly, he said, "Political differences are natural in a democracy. We may disagree on policies and ideologies, but targeting a national institution in this manner is inappropriate."

He said that the Pakistani Army represented the entire federation and all provinces and highlighted their sacrifices in the fight against terrorism, particularly over the past several years as thousands of officers and soldiers had embraced martyrdom in the line of duty.

He explained that 3,141 officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army had embraced martyrdom from 2021 to February 2026 in the ongoing war against terrorism.

The minister strongly rejected claims that the Army represents any single province or region, terming it a "federal force" with personnel from across the country, including Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and minority communities.

"The composition of the Pakistan Army reflects the entire federation. It is a truly national institution," he said.

Khwaja Asif said the record should clearly reflect that the Pakistan Army is a national institution with participation from all federating units and religious minorities.

He urged political leaders to refrain from statements that could hurt national sentiments, particularly amid ongoing security challenges.

"Differences of opinion are everyone's right, but national emotions and institutions should not be targeted," he said.

Naseem fetches Rs86.5m, becomes PSL11 auction's most expensive player

LAHORE (INP): Pacer Naseem Shah emerged as the most expensive player in the inaugural Pakistan Super League auction, with Rawalpindi securing him for Rs86.5 million ahead of the PSL 11 at Lahore's Expo Centre Wednesday.

The auction marked the first in the history of the marquee league, replacing draft — a players' selection process — which remained intact for the first 10 editions since its inception in 2016.

PSL 11th edition will see two new teams — Sialkot Stallions and Hyderabad Houston Kingsmen — added to the roster to make it an eight-team tournament. Among other changes, the PSL has also moved on from the

draft system to adopt an auction model.

Consequently, a total of 879 local and foreign cricketers registered for the historic auction, who have been slotted into five different categories — Platinum, Diamond, Gold, Silver and Emerging — by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

All eight teams were to form their squads by picking players of their choosing from the aforementioned categories, with a maximum purse amount set at \$1.6 million.

However, contrary to the draft system, the auction model does not have a pick order, meaning the franchises could openly engage in a bidding war for a player.



PESHAWAR: Commander 102 Brigade, Mubashir Ahmed Abbasi (Tangha-e-Basarat), presenting the trophy to the winning Banni team during the 3rd Chief of Army Staff National Inter-Club Hockey Championship 2026 at Qayum Sports Complex.

Vice Chairman BBOT says: Shrimp Farming Project will play vital role in the economic development of the region

Independent Report

QUETTA: A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman of the Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade (BBOT), Mr. Bilal Khan Kakar, to review the progress of the Shrimp Farming Project currently underway in Damb, Lasbela.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Fisheries Department, Government of Balochistan, members of the project team, local civilian representatives, and the Assistant Commis-

sioner of Winder, Mr. Saif Mughal. During the meeting, a detailed review of the project's overall progress was conducted, challenges being faced were discussed, and emphasis was placed on further strengthening inter-departmental coordination. While addressing the participants, Vice Chairman Mr. Bilal Khan Kakar emphasized that the shrimp farming project is not only an important initiative for promoting investment in Balochistan but will also create new employment opportunities for the local population.

President calls for..

Continued from page 1

tion, lawful trade and development.

He said Pakistan valued balanced relations globally and remained ready to play a constructive role in promoting restraint, dialogue and regional peace.

"The composition of the Pakistan Army reflects the entire federation. It is a truly national institution," he said.

Khwaja Asif said the record should clearly reflect that the Pakistan Army is a national institution with participation from all federating units and religious minorities.

He urged political leaders to refrain from statements that could hurt national sentiments, particularly amid ongoing security challenges.

"Differences of opinion are everyone's right, but national emotions and institutions should not be targeted," he said.

inue to shape our region."

He noted that the Farsi language and its great literary tradition had profoundly influenced Pakistan's intellectual life.

For hundreds of years, he said Farsi served as the official language of large parts of the regions that now form Pakistan. "Its influence remains deeply embedded in our national consciousness. Pakistan's national anthem itself reflects the deep imprint of the Persian language on our collective identity."

He said long before the time of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, our great Haft Zaban poet, Sachal Sarmast, the renowned 18th-century poet of Sindh, was composing profound poetry in Farsi, reflecting a shared spiritual and philosophical space.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Barkhan invites the sealed tenders based on Composite Schedule of Rates 2023, Government of Balochistan, amended up-to-date from interested Contractors/Firm, for the following works:	
S.# Name of Works.	
1 Construction of Tube Wells for Basti Serati Barkhan, Basti Kandali Barkhan, Basti Dubba Barkhan, Basti Budhi Kharecha, Basti Choli Barkhan, Basti Kurwa Barkhan, Basti Takra Barkhan and Basti Budani Barkhan under BDSI Phase-II TSE-252602970973	
2 Construction of Tube Wells for Basti Shalot Nahar Kot, Basti Baghaw Barkhan, Basti Doskra Barkhan, Basti Rankan Barkhan, Ghs Luma Zareen Barkhan, Basti Jogyani Barkhan, Basti Gambrik Barkhan, Basti Vitakari Barkhan, Basti Mirriwan Barkhan under BDSI Phase-II TSE-252602971013	
3 DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL BORES AND CIVIL WORK FOR WSS SHAMYANI BARKHAN AND WSS BASTI ZADEEN RAKHNI DISTRICT BARKHAN (UNDER BDSI PHASE-II) TSE-252602971053	
4 SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR SYSTEM AND PROVIDING OF HDPE PIPES FOR WSS SHAMYANI BARKHAN AND WSS BASTI ZADEEN RAKHNI DISTRICT BARKHAN (UNDER BDSI PHASE-II) TSE-252602971073	
The Procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules, 2014 amended up to date. BASIC ELIGIBILITY: The Firm/ Contractors must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council who also has deposited case for renewal (2025-26) in relevant Category. Firms (Single Entity) having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in the Category C 6 or above and the relevant Specialized code. The firm must register in Balochistan Revenue Authority and presence in active tax payer list (ATL). Valid Registration with Income Tax & Presence in Active Tax Payer List in FBR (ATL) Turnover at least of last three years. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Call Deposit or Bank Guarantee of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 27 February, 2026 till 09:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 10:00 AM on EPBS System Address: Balochistan Environmental Protection Agency Sammungl Road Quetta. Phone no: 0819201840 Fax no: 0819201180 Email: ddcop2022@gmail.com	
E/Cost	
19,956,456/-	
22,451,013/-	
9,168,068/-	
6,617,998/-	

The Procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules, 2014 amended up to date. **BASIC ELIGIBILITY:** The Firm/ Contractors must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council who also has deposited case for renewal (2025-26) in relevant Category. Firms (Single Entity) having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in the Category C 6 or above and the relevant Specialized code. The firm must register in Balochistan Revenue Authority and presence in active tax payer list (ATL). Valid Registration with Income Tax & Presence in Active Tax Payer List in FBR (ATL) Turnover at least of last three years. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Call Deposit or Bank Guarantee of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Other Mandatory conditions and Detail Criteria mentioned in the Bidding Documents. **METHOD OF PROCUREMENT:** Single Stage Two Envelope Procedure. **ISSUANCE:** The firms/contractors can also download the bidding documents from the BPPRA website at www.bppra.org.pk. The tender processing fee of Rs. 1,500/- for each tender must be deposited in the government treasury under the head of account CO-2725 through the Green Challan Form at the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) detail mentioned in bidding documents. **Deadline of Submission:** The bidding Documents duly filled and attached with supporting documents must be delivered in sealed envelopes by hand or through registered mail at the address mentioned below on or before 27/2/2026 at 10:00 AM. **Tender Opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 11:00 AM. Address: Office of the Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Barkhan Telephone No.0829-6682424 Fax No.0829-6682424 Bid Validity Period: Ninety (90) Days. sardarsdc@gmail.com

Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering, Division Barkhan

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Directorate General of Sports Balochistan invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following sports items / Provision of Sports / Gym / Swing Items for Various Development Schemes Revenue Cost of PSDP-2025-26 (Frame Work Agreement) Construction of Shaheed-e-Marwar Sports Complex District Kohlu. (PSDP No. 5484 Z 2019.1254 Kohlu) Amount of Rs.2,064 Million. (ii) Construction of Football Stadium in Suk Bandar (PSDP No. 5488 Z 2021.2191 Gwadar) Amount of Rs.11,250 Million. (iii) Construction of Squash Court Library and Small Park at Bela. (PSDP No. 5499 Z 2021.1576 Bela) Amount of Rs.10.0 Million (iv) Construction of Abdul Rahman Dasti Sports Ground University of Turbat Kech. (PSDP No. 5508 Z 2023.5028 Kech) Amount of Rs.10.0 Million (v) Construction of Youth Hostel 2 Female and 2 Male at Ziarat and Gwadar (PSDP No. 5513 Z 2019.1945 Provincial) Amount of Rs.1.0 Million (vi) Construction of Squash Court Library and Small Park at Winder. (PSDP No. 5525 Z 2021.1575 Hub) Amount of Rs.10.0 Million (vii) Construction of Badminton Court and GYM at Aziz Bhatti Road Quetta Cantt. (PSDP No. 5532 Z 2024.2661 Quetta) Amount of Rs.10.0 Million (viii) Construction of Futsal Ground for Shaheed Ayub Buledi Degree College at Bulela. District Kech. (PSDP No. 5534 Z 2024.2669 Kech) Amount of Rs.10.0 Million (ix) Construction of Shaheed Ayub Buledi Cricket Ground at Kessak. District Kech. (PSDP No. 5553 Z 2024.2670 Kech) Amount of Rs.15.0 Million (x) Construction of Futsal Stadium At Area of Panjgoor PB-30 Nigar Sports Club Shaheed Maheeb Sports Club Shaheed Afzal Club Esa Shaheen Sports Club Duzan (PSDP No. 5565 Z 2024.2639 Panjgoor) Amount of Rs.15.780 Million (xi) Construction of Gymnasium for female University of Loralai District Loralai (PSDP No. 5575 Z 2025.0958 Loralai) Amount of Rs.15.0

Balochistan CM kicks off ambitious 2026 green campaign across Province

Tree care crucial for sustainable greenery: Imran Gichki

Independent Report

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mr Sarfraz Bugti, has inaugurated the province-wide Tree Plantation Campaign 2026, initiating the drive by planting the first sapling at the Chief Minister Secretariat in Quetta. The campaign marks the beginning of an extensive spring afforestation initiative across Balochistan.

The launch ceremony saw participation from provincial ministers, members of the Balochistan Assembly, and Secretary Forests, Imran Gichki. The initiative is designed to enhance the province's greenery, strengthen environmental health, and promote

ecological sustainability, while also raising public awareness about the importance of tree plantation and conservation.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti urged both citizens and government officials to engage actively in the campaign, highlighting the role of collective effort in creating a green and more sustainable future for Balochistan.

Meanwhile, Secretary Forests and Wildlife Balochistan, Imran Gichki, has highlighted that while tree planting is important, ensuring their proper care, protection, and growth is even more critical for achieving lasting environmental sustainability.

"Planting trees is just

the first step. Nurturing saplings, providing adequate water, safeguarding them from damage, and supporting their healthy development is a shared responsibility. A thriving green environment secures a better future for generations to come," he said.

Following directives from Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Provincial Minister for Forests Sardar Masood Luni, the secretary issued instructions to departmental officers to not only execute a comprehensive tree plantation campaign across the province but also to implement stringent post-plantation care measures.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti inaugurating tree plantation campaign 2026 in province by planting a tree at CM's Secretariat Quetta.

RAKHNI: Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Kehtrani listening to the problems of the people during open katchery in Rakhni.

Al-Hamid Islamic University organized tea party in honor of newly elected body of BUJ

QUETTA (APP): A tea party was organized by Al-Hamid Islamic University (AHIU) on Wednesday in honor of the newly elected cabinet of the Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ), in which BUJ President Manzoor Ahmed Rind and other newly elected cabinet members participated.

The promotion of journalism and educational cooperation was also discussed during the tea party.

On this occasion, Al-Hamid Islamic University President Prof Dr Shakeel Ahmed Roshan congratulated the newly elected cabinet. He said that journalism in Balochistan is raising its voice for truth and public interest despite difficult circumstances.

He said that the new

cabinet is expected to further strengthen journalistic values, impartiality and responsible reporting.

Dr Shakeel said that the role of journalists has become very important in the current security and social situation and many journalists have sacrificed their lives in the performance of their professional duties, which will always be remembered.

He added that Al-Hamid Islamic University is playing a role in the functioning of educational institutions in Dasht and Kolpur, in addition to Quetta. Speaking at the ceremony, BUJ President Manzoor Ahmed Rind thanked the university administration and said that professional training and awareness of modern technology have become indispensable to deal with the challenges being faced by journalism.

He said that the BUJ would take practical steps for the welfare, protection and enhancement of professional skills of journalists.

He added that cooperation between educational institutions and journalistic organizations would not only provide better opportunities to the youth but could also promote responsible and informed journalism.

On this occasion, on the proposal of BUJ President Manzoor Ahmed, Al-Hamid Islamic University also announced to organize training sessions on modern digital journalism for the journalist community and youth.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Kehtrani listening to the problems of the people during open katchery in Rakhni.

Chaman admin sets official Ramadan prices, vows strict action against overpricing

Independent Report

CHAMAN: Deputy Commissioner Chaman, Habib Ahmed Bangulzai, has finalized official rates for essential commodities ahead of Ramadan, underscoring the administration's commitment to protecting citizens from inflation and ensuring market stability during the holy month.

The District Price Control Committee meeting brought together representatives from the Central Traders and Shopkeepers Association, Hairdressers Union, Tailors Association, Tandoor Association, Butchers Union, Market Association, and Milk Sellers Association. Following detailed consultations on food and other essential items, the committee and traders reached a consensus on revised prices.

Tandoor owners raised concerns regarding the weight of bread (roti), which DC Bangulzai addressed, promising cooperative efforts to resolve the

issue amicably. Both the administration and the trader community pledged close coordination to provide maximum relief to the public and maintain consistent pricing throughout Ramadan.

Speaking at the meeting, DC Bangulzai warned that strict action would be taken against any shopkeepers violating the official price list, compromising on quality, neglecting hygiene, or failing to adhere to government-mandated SOPs.

The session was also attended by District Police Officer Abdullah Imran Cheema, Assistant Commissioner Azizullah Kakar, Naib Tehsildar Ahmed, and political figure Asif Khan Achakzai.

These proactive measures reflect the district administration's determination to ensure orderly markets, safeguard public interests, and maintain discipline during the sacred month of Ramadan.



QUETTA: MirAdnan Lehrani and others meeting with Director General Public Relations Balochistan Askar Khan.

DC Ziarat makes surprise inspection of Matric exam center

Independent Report

ZIARAT: Deputy Commissioner Ziarat, Abdul Quddus Achakzai, conducted an unannounced visit to the examination center at Government Degree College Ziarat amid the ongoing annual matriculation exams, reviewing arrangements to ensure full transparency, discipline, and student welfare.

He was accompanied by District Education Officer Latifullah Gharsin and Tehsildar Ziarat Noor Ahmed Panzai. During the inspection, DC Achakzai checked candidates' exam slips and assessed the availability of essential facilities, including clean drinking water, security measures, and general amenities.

Meeting with the examination center in-charge and staff, he stressed the need to maintain a completely fair, peaceful, and cheat-free environment. He warned that any negligence or malpractice would be met with strict legal action.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the Education Department to provide all necessary facilities to ensure a comfortable and stress-free experience for students. Officers were directed to monitor the centers daily, address complaints immediately, and guarantee proper heating and adequate furniture for examinees.



SIBI: Commissioner Sibi Division Asadullah Faiz chairs Divisional EPI Task Force.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti inaugurating tree plantation campaign 2026 in province by planting a tree at CM's Secretariat Quetta.

Sibi Commissioner urges unified action to eliminate polio, warns of strict oversight

Independent Report

SIBI, February 11, 2026:

Commissioner Sibi Division, Asadullah Faiz, has emphasized that coordinated and robust measures are crucial for the complete eradication of polio, noting that only two countries worldwide continue to report poliovirus cases.

Farid made these remarks while chairing a meeting of the Divisional Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Task Force. The session was attended by Deputy Commissioner Sibi Major ® Ilyas Kabzai, Divisional Director Health Dr. Abdul Khalig, AC WHO Dr. Ehsanullah, NPO WHO Dr. Rahat, and other officials, while deputy commissioners

from other districts and heads of EPI and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) joined via video link.

During the meeting, the Commissioner received a detailed briefing on the division's EPI performance from October to December 2025. The overview included vaccination coverage, dropout rates, key performance indicators, surveillance and supervision mechanisms, NEIR data, and the engagement of partner organizations. Attendance of vaccinators and issues regarding unregistered personnel in the NEIR system were also reviewed.

Commanding the work of the EOC, Faiz described the establishment of a divisional-level EPI forum as a significant step forward, noting that this was its inaugural meeting. He directed deputy commissioners to allocate BSDI funds to improve sewerage systems and cover open drains, stressing that enhanced sanitation would support better outcomes in environmental polio surveillance.

District Health Officers were instructed to integrate maternal and child health awareness into the training of police teams, ensuring that parents are well-informed during immunization campaigns. Faiz warned that any discrepancies in vaccination data would result in immediate action against responsible vaccinators or officials.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Hai Ali Madad Jattak expressing his views during Balochistan Assembly session.

Basant festival in Quetta from February 13-15

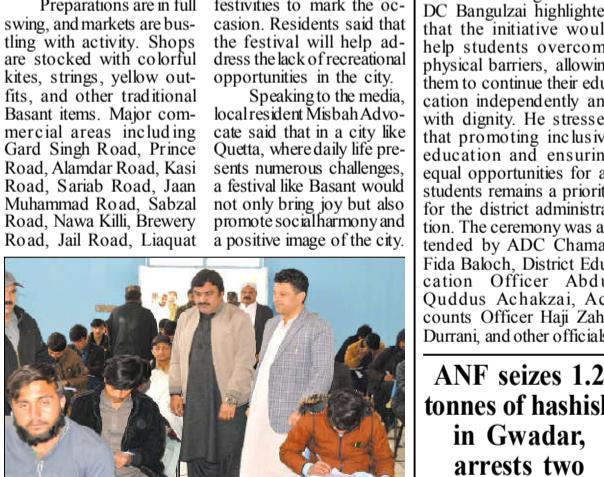
QUETTA (APP): After the vibrant celebrations of Basant in Lahore, the festival is now set to reach Quetta, as the Balochistan capital prepares to host a three-day Basant festival from February 13 to 15 (Friday to Sunday). The official announcement has sparked excitement among residents, with a wave of enthusiasm sweeping across the city.

Preparations are in full swing, and markets are bustling with activity. Shops are stocked with colorful kites, strings, yellow outfits, and other traditional Basant items. Major commercial areas including Gard Singh Road, Prince Road, Alamdar Road, Kasi Road, Sariab Road, Jaan Muhammad Road, Sabzal Road, Nawa Kili, Brewery Road, Jail Road, Liaquat

Bazaar, and surrounding neighborhoods are witnessing heavy footfall as citizens shop for newly designed kites and festival accessories.

The skies over Quetta are expected to soon be filled with vibrant kites, while various neighborhoods are organizing cultural programs, music performances, and traditional festivities to mark the occasion. Residents said that the festival will help address the lack of recreational opportunities in the city.

Speaking to the media, local resident Misbah Advocate said that a city like Quetta, where daily life presents numerous challenges, a festival like Basant would not only bring joy but also promote social harmony and a positive image of the city.



ZIARAT: Deputy Commissioner Abdul Quddus Achakzai inspecting the Matric Exam at Govt Degree College Ziarat.

Sibi district sets benchmark for transparent BSDI Phase-II dev. tenders

Independent Report

SIBI: The Sibi district administration has reinforced its dedication to accountable governance by conducting fully transparent and merit-based tenders for development projects under BSDI Phase-II.

Tender proceedings were held in the presence of government officials, security personnel, and registered contractors from the Public Health Engineering, Local Government, and C&W (B&R) departments. Technical proposals were evaluated before financial bids were reviewed, ensuring that contracts were awarded strictly to the lowest eligible and registered government contractors. This process underscored the administration's commitment to fairness, efficiency, and optimal use of public resources.

Authorities stressed that no favoritism, external influence, or unauthorized interference will be tolerated in the awarding of development projects. Officials reaffirmed their dedication to completing public welfare initiatives on merit, maintaining transparency throughout all stages of project allocation.

The spokesperson said the network, allegedly operated by a notorious Baloch identified as Ishaq Baloch, was involved in moving drugs from Panjgur to Gwadar and Pasni via Turbat, before smuggling them by sea to Gulf countries, Yemen and Tanzania using high-speed fishing boats.

Quetta Commissioner says Balochistan's mineral industry poised to drive economic growth

Independent Report

QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division, Shahzab Khan Kakar, has highlighted the critical role of the minerals sector in shaping Balochistan's economic future, stressing that the province will fully leverage its resources to foster sustainable growth in this industry.

Kakar made these remarks while chairing a meeting focused on land allocation for the creation of a Chamber of Mines in Quetta. The session was attended by Deputy Commissioner Quetta Shabir Khan, Additional Commissioner Quetta Agha Samiullah, Assistant Commissioner (Political) Syed Kaleemullah, and officials

from relevant departments. Officials presented detailed proposals for identifying and allocating a suitable plot of land for the Chamber, indicating that at least 25,000 square feet would be needed in a location within the city that is easily accessible to industry stakeholders. Departments were tasked with locating potential sites to accelerate the land allocation process and ensure the timely establishment of the facility.

Commissioner Shabir Khan described the minerals sector as the backbone of the provincial economy, emphasizing that its development would generate substantial employment opportunities.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti talking to women performing security duties in Balochistan Assembly.

DC Ziarat orders rigorous exam oversight

Independent Report

MAIMONA, DDO (Female) Farzana Arbab, DDO Naequeebullah Kakar, and ADO Sanjavi Muhammad Zaman Dumar, who briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the current educational landscape across the district.

During the session, DC Achakzai instructed field officers to conduct daily inspections of examination centers hosting 9th and 10th annual matriculation exams, stressing strict vigilance to prevent cheating and maintain full transparency.

Naseerabad extends doctors' and medical staff tenures to maintain healthcare continuity

Independent Report

NASEERABAD: Deputy Commissioner Naseerabad Division, Saladin Noorza, has announced a one-year extension for doctors and other medical personnel across the division to guarantee uninterrupted delivery of healthcare services to residents.

The decision was finalized during a meeting of the Divisional Health Committee, chaired by Commissioner Noorza in alignment with the vision of Chief Minister Balochistan and directives from the Chief Secretary. The session was attended by Divisional Director



CHAMAN: Deputy Commissioner Chaman Habib Ahmed Bangulzai distributing wheel chairs to special students.

GDA launches spring tree plantation drive in Gwadar

QUETTA (APP): The Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) has officially launched its spring tree plantation campaign, reaffirming its commitment to transforming Gwadar into an environmentally friendly and green city.

The initiative was inaugurated by Director General Moin ur Rehman Khan with a tree-planting ceremony on Syed Hashmi Road, where he planted a sapling to mark the beginning of the drive, said a news release.

The event was attended by Chief Engineer Haji Syed Muhammad, Director Environment Rasool Baksh Baloch, Assistant Director Environment Javed Sameen, Environment Officer Hamal Dashti, and other officials and staff members.

Speaking at the ceremony, Khan emphasized that the GDA is prioritizing measures to make Gwadar eco-friendly, lush, and aesthetically appealing.

He announced that thousands of trees will be planted across the city under a comprehensive plan designed to improve environmental conditions and enhance Gwadar's beauty.

"The development of Gwadar as a modern and progressive city must go hand in hand with environmental sustainability," Khan stated, highlighting the importance of urban greenery in combating climate challenges and improving residents' quality of life.

High level meeting reviews Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's overall security situation

PESHAWAR (INP): A high-level meeting was held at Corps Headquarters Peshawar to review the overall security situation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The meeting was attended by the Federal Minister for Interior, the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the National Security Adviser, the Corps Commander Peshawar, as well as senior civil and military officials.

According to sources, the political and military leadership agreed to move in one unified direction in the fight against terrorism.

Chief Minister Sohail Afridi's meeting with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and other stakeholders was cordial. The chief minister and cabinet members also had lunch at the Corps Headquarters.

During the meeting on law and order, tributes

were paid to civilians and security personnel who were martyred in incidents of terrorism.

It was decided in the meeting that PSL (Pakistan Super League) matches scheduled for this year will be held in Peshawar.

The meeting decided that the provincial government's administrative system will be immediately implemented as a model in the Malakand Division under the supervision of the provincial police and other provincial institutions. Subsequently, this successful model will be implemented in phases in the affected districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly Khyber, Orakzai, and Kurram. It was decided to form a special sub-committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister to ensure effective monitoring of all development projects

launched in these districts and to review any military operations. The committee will hold review meetings on a monthly basis.

This special sub-committee, headed by the Chief Minister, will include elected public representatives, the Corps Commander Peshawar, the Chief Secretary, the Inspector General of Police, provincial officials, as well as representatives of federal institutions.

The meeting decided that, in addition to monitoring governance and development projects in these districts, the special sub-committee will create opportunities for alternative employment to ensure sustainable income for the local population. It will also make effective arrangements to address the issues of temporarily displaced persons.

During the meeting on law and order, tributes



Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif opens Khelta Punjab Pink Games 2026 at Punjab Stadium in Lahore.

Murad applauds success of Feb polio drive, overall admin coverage stood at 100 per cent

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has expressed satisfaction over the high coverage achieved during the first National Immunisation Days (NIDs) of 2026, noting that overall administrative coverage stood at 100 per cent, while house-to-house coverage remained strong at 99 per cent across the province.

The Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) presented a detailed report on the provincial anti-polio campaign conducted from February 2 to 8, 2026, at the Chief Minister's House on Wednesday.

Despite these encouraging figures, the report identified approximately 237,216 "still-missed" chil-

dren (2.6 per cent), primarily in the Karachi and Hyderabad divisions. In response, the Chief Minister issued fresh directives to ensure that no child is left vulnerable to the virus.

Eradicating polio requires a joint effort by parents, society, the media, and the government. If we all work together, we can save our children from paralysis and secure a healthier future for Pakistan," the chief minister said. He added that elimination of polio was our national duty, and the Sindh government is taking all necessary measures to achieve this goal."

The CM said, "The data clearly show that polio is under control, but the virus is still present, and complacency can reverse

these gains." He added that it was a cause of shame for us that there were only two countries in the world where this disease could be found - Afghanistan and Pakistan. Vaccination is the only way to get rid of it.

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Pakistan, Cambodia vow to deepen cooperation at 2nd JTC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Cambodia, at the Second Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting here on Wednesday, reviewed progress since their inaugural session held in Phnom Penh and agreed to deepen cooperation across trade, investment and multiple priority sectors while exploring a preferential trade framework and enhanced business-to-business engagement.

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan co-chaired the second meeting of the committee with Minister of Commerce of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Cham Nimul.

The meeting formally adopted its agenda, reviewed the outcomes of the senior officials' meeting, and concluded with the signing of the Joint Statement and the witnessing of an Agreement between the Trade Promotion Organizations (TPOs) of the two countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Jam Kamal Khan emphasized that the JTC serves as a structured and effective platform to review progress, address challenges, and identify new avenues for cooperation.

He noted encouraging growth in bilateral trade while highlighting significant untapped potential in market access, investment, and sectoral collaboration. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to advancing discussions toward a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) to enhance market access and diversify trade baskets.

The meeting reviewed progress since the first JTC held in Phnom Penh on January 21, 2025, where both sides had agreed to institutionalize trade dialogue and explore a PTA framework.

Building on that foundation, the Second JTC focused on enhancing cooperation in priority sectors. Pakistan highlighted export potential in rice, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and agricultural products, while Cambodia identified opportunities in cassava, cashew nuts, footwear, and rubber products. Both sides agreed to facilitate direct engagement between their business communities to translate these

complementarities into concrete trade flows.

On investment, Pakistan's Board of Investment presented opportunities in energy, IT, tourism, and infrastructure, positioning Pakistan as a gateway to Central Asia. Cambodia outlined the advantages under its new Investment Law and Special Economic Zones (SEZs), proposing Cambodia as a strategic production base for Pakistani enterprises seeking access to ASEAN and RCEP markets.

The two sides agreed on advancing cooperation across multiple sectors, including agriculture through the establishment of a technical working group; aviation through nomination of focal persons toward an Air Services Agreement; double taxation avoidance through exchange of focal points; health cooperation through proposed MoUs; standards and conformity assessment; non-bank financial sector collaboration; ICT cooperation in digital transformation, AI and cyber security; and labor and vocational training exchanges.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, holding a meeting with delegation of Gobi Partners led by Thomas Tsao, Chairman, at the Finance Division.

SBP Governor says: Pakistan's economy to grow as 4.75pc in current fiscal year

KARACHI (INP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor expects the country's economy to grow as much as 4.75pc in the current fiscal year, signaling a broader recovery than the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecast.

In written comments to Reuters, the governor emphasized that the economic rebound is more widespread and durable than export figures alone suggest.

The SBP raised its FY26 growth projection to 3.75-4.75% up 0.5 percentage points from its previous range, despite a contraction in exports during the first half of the year and a widening trade deficit.

He said differences in projections are common, often reflecting timing issues, including the IMF's consideration of flood-related impacts in its latest assessment. "All indicators, along with Q1 FY26 data, point to a broad-based recovery across all three sectors of the economy," he added, noting that agricultural has remained resilient and even exceeded targets despite last year's floods.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs 0.20 to close at Rs 333.23 from the previous day's close of Rs 333.02, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen went up by 01 paisa and closed at Rs 1.82, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed an increase of Rs 10.11 and closed at Rs 382.42 compared to the previous day's Rs 382.31. The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal came down by 01 paisa each to close at Rs 76.13 and Rs 74.56, respectively.

The event was organized to pay tribute to leading businessmen who received the prestigious Top Exporter Award from the prime minister.

The ceremony recognized prominent exporters for their exceptional contributions to strengthening Pakistan's export sector and promoting the country's economy at the global level.

Pakistan, KSA discuss for expanding trade, investment, regional market cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan held a comprehensive meeting with Ibrahim Al-Mubarak, Assistant Minister of Investment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to review and advance bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, and joint engagement in regional markets.

The meeting reflected strong convergence of views on adopting an investment-led and partnership-based approach to economic cooperation. Both sides emphasized the importance of enhancing competitiveness, scaling up production, and strengthening value chains to unlock

Pakistan's export potential and meet growing regional demand sustainably, said a release issued here on Wednesday.

A key focus of the discussion was the joint exploration of regional markets, particularly Central Asia, Africa, and ASEAN, identified as high-growth regions offering significant opportunities for collaboration.

The two sides agreed that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, by leveraging their respective strengths, can position themselves as complementary partners—combining Pakistan's production capabilities with Saudi Arabia's capital strength, market access, and regional connectivity.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, holding a meeting with delegation of Gobi Partners led by Thomas Tsao, Chairman, at the Finance Division.

FinMin highlights venture capital support, innovation priorities in meeting with Gobi Partners

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday underscored the government's commitment to strengthening Pakistan's venture capital and innovation landscape as part of a broader strategy to promote private sector-led growth, deepen financial markets and support technology-driven economic diversification.

The minister held a meeting with a delegation of Gobi Partners led by Chairman Thomas Tsao, long with Managing Partner

Naeem Ikram and Investment Associate Abraiz Abdullah, said a news release.

Welcoming the delegation, the minister appreciated Gobi Partners' interest in Pakistan's venture capital ecosystem and acknowledged the firm's presence across Asia.

He underscored the government's commitment to strengthening Pakistan's venture capital and innovation landscape as part of a broader strategy to promote private sector-led growth, deepen financial markets and support technology-driven economic diversification.

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He emphasized that access to risk capital is critical for the scaling startup entrepreneurial landscape, fostering innovation, and generating sustainable employment opportunities.

The delegation briefed the minister on Gobi's regional footprint and its investments in Pakistan through Techxila Fund I, launched in 2020, which has supported startups across fintech, e-commerce, and digital infrastructure.

FPCCI president urges extension of tax exemptions for FATA/PATA industry

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Atif Ikram Sheikh, has stated that the issues facing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), particularly the merged tribal districts, are critical and require immediate intervention alongside the implementation of "Good Governance."

He made these remarks while presiding over a high-level meeting at the FPCCI President's Secretariat in Islamabad. The meeting was attended by a high-profile delegation of parliamentarians and industrialists, including Haji Gulam Ali, former Governor KP, Senator Hidayatullah and Chamber, Noor Alam Badshah President, Lower Dir Chamber, Iftikhar Khan Chief Executive, Taj Group.

During the session, traders and industrialists from the tribal regions briefed the President on the severe economic crisis, business closures, and the challenges posed by various taxes and the Regional Tax Office (RTO) Peshawar.

Net metering reform shields 1.3% vulnerable consumers from added costs, Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Prime Minister's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal on Wednesday said the revised solar net metering policy is aimed at preventing additional costs from being passed on to the remaining 1.3% of consumers, particularly low-income households.

He also noted that solar investors would continue to benefit from a reasonable three-year payback period for solar investors.

While speaking to a local media channel, Prime Minister's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal explained that the revised solar net metering policy was designed to balance supply and demand, a principle followed by energy regulators globally.

He emphasized that the policy ensures long-term stability of the power system while promoting renewable energy growth.

Farmers in Punjab turn to broccoli cultivation as demand rises

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Sensing a lucrative opportunity, progressive farmers in Punjab are increasingly turning to broccoli cultivation, as the demand for the vegetable rises among upper-income consumers.

Although broccoli remains a niche crop compared to traditional vegetables such as cauliflower and cabbage, it is now widely available at major supermarkets, specialized vegetable outlets, and online platforms.

Currently, broccoli is being cultivated on the outskirts of major cities, particularly Lahore, as well as in Sheikhupura, Kasur, Sahiwal, and Pakpattan districts.

"This is a profitable crop. There is a strong demand for broccoli in Lahore, Islamabad, and Karachi," said Pir Mahmood Chishti, a broccoli grower from village Tibba Sherkot in Pakpattan district.

Talking to Wealth Pakistan, Chishti noted that despite attractive prices, growers face uncertainty due to an underdeveloped marketing network for the exotic vegetable.

"The retail price of broccoli ranges between Rs 400 and Rs 700 per 500 grams, which is significantly higher than cauliflower or cabbage," he said.

However, he added that imported seed remains the highest cost in broccoli cultivation. Marketing also poses a major challenge for growers. Because broccoli is unfamiliar to the general public, its market is limited, Chishti explained.



HYDERABAD: A farmer manually spreads fertilizer in a field at Tando Jam area.

China, Pakistan to advance livestock tech transfer and joint R&D

BEIJING (APP): Recently, substantive cooperation outcomes have been achieved between Jinan Animal Husbandry Industry Craftsman College and Pakistani counterparts after a visit to Pakistan from January 19 to 24, held in conjunction with the 2026 China-Pakistan Agriculture Investment Conference. The collaboration injects new impetus into bilateral livestock industry development, aligning with the advancement of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) 2.0.

During the visit, two key cooperation documents were signed to solidify consensus, the College revealed. It inked a Framework Agreement on Industrial and Technological Cooperation and Talent Training with Pakistan's China-Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PCCCI), to jointly establish the China-Pakistan Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Industry Technology Cooperation Center, which will undertake technological R&D, standard-setting and customized talent training.

A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed with GO DAIRY Private Limited, focusing on the transfer of sheep in vitro fertilization and dairy cow breeding technologies, alongside tailored solutions and on-site expert guidance to address the enterprise's breeding bottlenecks, CEN reported.

During the session, the ready market recorded a trading volume of 734.671 million shares with a traded value of Rs 35.393 billion, against 1,062.309 million shares valuing Rs 37.883 billion in the previous session. Market capitalization increased to Rs 20.710 trillion from Rs 20.634 trillion a day earlier.

PSX stays bullish, gains 896 points to close at 183,049 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Wednesday witnessed bullish trend, gaining 896.25 points, a positive change of 0.49 percent, to close at 183,049.81 points compared to 182,153.55 points on the previous trading day, according to PSX data.

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10 killed in Canada mass shooting that targeted school, residence

TORONTO (AFP/APP): A shooter killed ten people and injured dozens more at a secondary school and residence in a remote part of western Canada on Tuesday, before the suspect took their own life.

The killings occurred in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia, a picturesque mountain valley town in the foothills of the Rockies.

A total of 27 people were wounded, including two with serious injuries and 25 who suffered non-life-threatening injuries, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said in a statement.

Canadian media have reported that the shooter was female, but the RCMP declined to provide any details on the suspect's identity in a press conference on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Mark Carney said he was "dev-

astated" by the "horrific acts of violence" and announced he was suspending plans to travel to the Munich Security Conference on Wednesday, where he had been set to hold talks with allies on transatlantic defence readiness.

Police said an alert was issued about an active shooter at Tumbler Ridge Secondary School on Tuesday afternoon.

As police searched the school, they found six people shot dead. A seventh person with a gunshot wound died en route to hospital. Separately, police found two more bodies at the school. "It's set in what was happening," Quist said.

He said he stayed in lockdown for more than two hours until police stormed in, ordering everyone to put their hands up before escorting them out of the school.

to be a self-inflicted injury," police said.

In a statement, the municipality of Tumbler Ridge said: "There are no words sufficient for the heartbreak our community is experiencing tonight."

Tumbler Ridge student Darian Quist told the public broadcaster CBC that he was in his mechanics class when there was an announcement that the school was in lockdown.

He said that initially he "didn't think anything was going on," but started receiving "disturbing" photos about the carnage at the school. "It's set in what was happening," Quist said.

He said he stayed in lockdown for more than two hours until police stormed in, ordering everyone to put their hands up before escorting them out of the school.



Iranian President Masoud Paezeshkian has insisted that his nation is 'not seeking nuclear weapons' during a speech commemorating the 47th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Tehran.

UNICEF says more than 200 mln children need humanitarian aid in 2026

HAMILTON (AA/APP):

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said more than 200 million children in over 130 countries will require humanitarian assistance in 2026 — one of the most severe global crises facing children. Speaking at the first regular session of the UNICEF executive board, the agency's chief, Catherine Russell, said the scale and complexity of challenges confronting children worldwide are intensifying as conflicts, climate shocks, economic instability and inequality continue to deepen.

"The humanitarian situation facing children today is among the most severe we have ever seen," Russell said, adding that "more than 200 million children across over 130 countries need humanitarian assistance in 2026." Russell said the global environment for children has become increasingly difficult, with pressures mounting on families and communities as needs grow and resources shrink. "To say that we are meeting at a moment of significant transition, for the world, for the multilateral

system, and for UNICEF is quite an understatement," she said. "In the last year, we have seen challenges to the future of the multilateral system, to the value and effectiveness of international aid, and ultimately to the world's collective responsibility to care for those most in need, especially children." Warning that decades of progress in child survival are now at risk of being reversed, she noted that "2025 could be the first year this century where child deaths will have increased, reversing generations of progress."

Trump now says 10 aircraft shot down during Pak-India conflict

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has now raised the tally of aircraft shot down during the May 2025 conflict between Pakistan and India to 10.

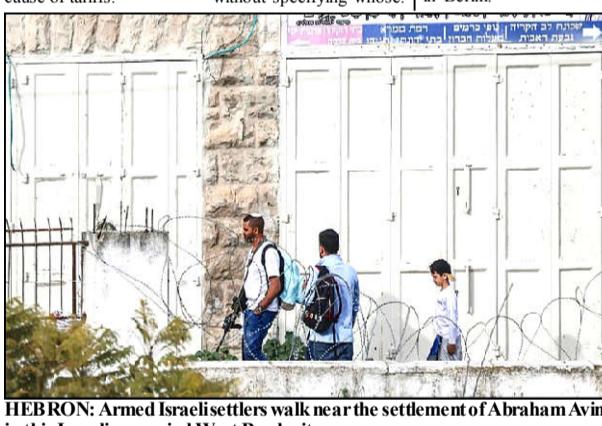
The latest remarks by the US president came during an interview with Fox Business, which was aired on Wednesday.

The host was praising Trump's "reciprocity policy" in trade and using tariffs for that when the US president chimed in: "And that's being very nice and gentle. Look, I settled eight wars. Out of the eight wars, at least six were settled because of tariffs."

Trump then explained: "In other words, I said, 'if you don't settle this war, I'm gonna charge you tariffs because I don't wanna see people getting killed.' And they said, 'no, what does this have to do with it?' I said, 'you're gonna be charged.'"

"Like India and Pakistan would've been a nuclear war in my opinion. They were really going at it. Ten planes were shot down. They were going at it," he added.

Over the past 10 months, the US president has stated numerous times that aircraft were shot down during the conflict — albeit without specifying whose.



HEBRON: Armed Israeli settlers walk near the settlement of Abraham Avino in this Israeli-occupied West Bank city.

Ramaphosa, Putin discuss return of South African fighters from Ukraine

Monitoring Desk

JOHANNESBURG / NAIROBI: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa held talks on Tuesday with Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on returning South Africans lured into fighting for Russian forces in Ukraine, his office said.

"In this regard, teams from both sides will continue their engagements towards the finalisation of this process," it said.

Ukraine's foreign minister said in November that more than 1,400 citizens from 36 African countries had been identified among the Russian ranks.

Ramaphosa and President Putin pledged their support to the process of returning South Africans fighting alongside Russian forces in Ukraine," the president's office said in a statement.

"In this regard, teams from both sides will continue their engagements towards the finalisation of this process," it said.

Ukraine's foreign minister said in November that more than 1,400 citizens from 36 African countries had been identified among the Russian ranks.

Spanish PM vows justice, defends rail safety after deadly accidents

MADRID (AFP/APP):

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez vowed Wednesday that justice would be done following two train accidents that claimed 47 lives last month, and insisted the country's rail system "is safe".

The back-to-back disasters in January shocked the country and raised doubts about the safety of train travel in Spain, which boasts the world's second-largest high-speed network after China.

"The entire state is doing—and will continue to do—everything possible to support the injured and the victims' families, clarify the causes of the accident, and, if necessary, ensure justice is done," Sanchez told parliament.

Spain's rail system "is not perfect, but is safe," the Socialist premier added, vowing to take all necessary measures to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

On short video platform TikTok, the 26-year-old Delaware resident's depictions of her busy days receive tens of thousands of views or more.

Twice a week, "I wake up at 3:30 am, I head to work by four at Dunkin' Donuts," she recounts.

She told AFP that she does not regret giving up her full-time job to juggle multiple gigs.

More American women holding multiple jobs as high costs sting

WASHINGTON (AFP/APP):

Cindy Domicio is a waitress, a saleswoman and a cleaner—sometimes all in the same day. Like her, nearly nine million US workers hold multiple jobs, squeezed by high costs of living.

On short video platform TikTok, the 26-year-old Delaware resident's depictions of her busy days receive tens of thousands of views or more.

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Iran says it will not negotiate over its missile capabilities

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iran's missile capabilities are its red line and are not a subject to be negotiated, an adviser to Iran's supreme leader said on Wednesday, as Tehran and Washington eye a new round of talks to avert conflict.

Iran has said it is prepared to discuss curbs on its nuclear programme in return for the lifting of sanctions, but has repeatedly ruled out linking the issue to other questions, including missiles.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to use a meeting with Trump in Washington on Wednesday to push for any US-Iran deal to include limitations on Tehran's missiles.

On Sunday, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tehran's missile programme had never been part of the talks' agenda.

Russia thinks it can outsmart the US during Ukraine peace talks, a European intelligence chief says

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: Russian officials have no desire to halt Russia's almost 4-year-old invasion of neighboring Ukraine and think they can "outsmart" the United States during talks with Washington about how to end the war, a senior European intelligence official told The Associated Press.

Kaupo Rosin, the head of Estonia's foreign intelligence service, said Moscow is playing for time in the talks with Washington and "there is absolutely no discussion about how to really cooperate with the US in a meaningful way."

Rosin, who spoke at an online briefing with reporters ahead of the publication of Estonia's annual security report on Tuesday, said the findings were based on intelligence his country gathered from "Russian internal discussions." He did not elaborate on how the information to civilian Israeli authorities," a German foreign ministry spokesman said in Berlin.

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Allies rebuke Israel over West Bank 'capture'

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Antonio Guterres warned that this decision was eroding the prospect for a two-state solution.

He reiterated that all Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and their associated regime and infrastructure, have no legal validity and constitute a flagrant violation of international law, including relevant UN resolutions.

Such actions, including Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory, are not only destabilising but also unlawful as recalled by the International Court of Justice, a statement issued by the UN chief said.

France also condemned the Israeli security cabinet's decisions aimed at expanding Israel's control over the West Bank, calling the move "contrary to international law and represent[ing] a dangerous challenge to the Oslo Accords and the Hebron Protocol".

The Israeli security cabinet had voted on Monday to allow Jewish settlers to buy West Bank land directly, and to extend greater control over areas where the Palestinian Authority exercises power.

"As the president has clearly stated, he does not support Israel annexing the West Bank," a Trump administration official said.

"A stable West Bank keeps Israel secure and is in line with this administration's goal to achieve peace," the official said, when asked about the Israeli actions.

UN Secretary-General

"The entire state is doing—and will continue to do—everything possible to support the injured and the victims' families, clarify the causes of the accident, and, if necessary, ensure justice is done," Sanchez told parliament.

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chairing a meeting with a high-level international investors delegation comprising representatives of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), British International Investment (BII), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Baltoro Capital at the Finance Division.

Balochistan govt to launch health insurance policy for public sector employees

Reviews health insurance progress policy for govt employees, rehabilitation of Civil & BMCH

QUETTA (APP):

Balochistan Chief Minister (CM) Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the progress of the proposed health insurance policy for government employees, and the measures related to the rehabilitation of Civil and Bolan Medical Complex Hospital (BMCH) Quetta.

The meeting was attended by Provincial Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan and other concerned officials.

The CM was briefed on the implementation of the proposed health insurance policy for the treatment of government em-

ployees.

Addressing the meeting, the CM said that the health insurance policy is a great gift from the Balochistan government to its government employees.

He mentioned that the government employees who are engaged in the flow of government affairs and those who are on the roads would be provided with the best healthcare facilities.

The CM directed that all necessary steps should be finalized for the regular launch of the health insurance policy for government employees on March 7, 2026. "Under the policy, every government employee will be provided with treatment facilities up

to Rs 1 million in the best hospitals of the country", he said.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti stated that all necessary matters should be expedited for the revival of Civil Hospital Quetta and Bolan Medical Complex.

He said that this policy would provide timely treatment facilities to government employees, adding that all the employees from grades one to 15 and above are very close to our hearts. He maintained that the policy would reduce the pressure on the health system as a whole and also praised the Health Department and the Finance Department for formulating the best policy.

Zardari flays terrorist attack on police in D I Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday strongly condemned terrorist attack on Police personnel in Dera Ismail Khan and paid tribute to SHO Faheem Mumtaz and other police personnel who embraced martyrdom in the attack.

In a message, the president prayed for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks in Jannah and for strength and patience for the bereaved families to bear the loss.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Federal Education & Professional Training (MoFE&PT), Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, stressed that Education reform must go beyond textbook revision and focus on nurturing critical thinking, ethical grounding, creativity, and responsible citizenship.

He made these remarks while addressing a two-day national summit opened on Wednesday under the theme "New National Curriculum of Pakistan." The first day of the two-day Summit witnessed participation from distinguished members of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies, Vice Chancellors of universities, representatives of provincial and area education departments, development partners, cur-

riculum experts, and education leaders from across the country.

Addressing the participants, Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, highlighted the urgent need to transform Pakistan's curriculum in light of contemporary challenges.

The Minister emphasized implementation fidelity, coordination with provinces, and the importance of preparing learners for emerging global realities while remaining rooted in Pakistan's cultural and ideological foundations.

Earlier, the proceedings of the Summit were commenced with the National Anthem and recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by a welcome address by Mr. Nadeem Mahbub, Secretary, MoFE&PT.

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Akamatsu Shuichi and Kazuko Ishigaki, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UN-Habitat exchange sign documents during a signing ceremony.

Over 38,000 Pakistanis deported from Gulf countries during 2025, NA informed

ISLAMABAD (INP): More than 38,000 Pakistanis were deported from Gulf countries during 2025, the National Assembly was informed in a detailed report highlighting overseas violations and legal breaches. According to the figures presented, a total of 38,000-plus Pakistanis were sent back to the country for various offences, bringing the issue into the spotlight. Saudi Arabia topped the list, deporting 27,692 Pakistani nationals. The United Arab Emirates followed with 6,794 deportations, while Oman sent back 2,537 individuals. Bahrain deported 786 Pakistanis, Qatar 644, and Kuwait 163 during the same period.

The report revealed that 780 Pakistanis were deported specifically for begging. Of these, 767 were ex-

pelled from Saudi Arabia, 10 from the UAE, two from Qatar and one from Oman. Authorities described professional beggars as a growing concern damaging the country's image abroad.

In addition, 1,025 Pakistanis were deported over involvement in drug-related offences, while 109 individuals were expelled on charges of theft. Officials told lawmakers that strict action is being taken to curb illegal migration and unlawful activities overseas. They stressed that such incidents not only land individuals in hot water but also cast a shadow on the country's reputation. The matter sparked concern among members of the assembly, who called for stronger screening mechanisms before departure and better awareness campaigns to prevent citizens.

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Pakistan urges South Sudan parties to recommit to 2018 peace accord to end escalating violence

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Amid political deadlock among signatories to the 2018 South Sudan peace agreement and a dangerous escalation of armed confrontations, Pakistan has called on all stakeholders to recommit to the agreement in good faith and to address differences through inclusive dialogues.

"It is time for renewal of national consensus," Ambassador Asim Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, told the UN Security Council.

He said that this policy would provide timely treatment facilities to government employees, adding that all the employees from grades one to 15 and above are very close to our hearts. He maintained that the policy would reduce the pressure on the health system as a whole and also praised the Health Department and the Finance Department for formulating the best policy.

which on Tuesday debated the deteriorating situation in South Sudan, an African country that gained independence from the Republic of Sudan in 2011.

At this critical juncture, he stressed the need to prevent another descent into violence, warning:

"The cost of failure would be borne first and foremost by the South Sudanese people, and would also have profound regional consequences."

"It is time for more deeper engagement, not distancing or abandonment," the Pakistani envoy added.

Discussions emphasized the importance of protecting and expanding private sector exposure, re-

Aurangzeb meets int'l investors delegation to advance private sector-led growth, reform agenda

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday met with a high-level international investors delegation to strengthen private sector-led growth, mobilize investment, and deepen collaboration in support of Pakistan's reform agenda.

The delegation comprised representatives from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), British International Investment (BII), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Baltoro Capital.

He underscored the government's efforts to reduce the investment deficit and create a more stable and predictable economic environment.

The minister acknowledged IFC, ADB and BII as long-standing development partners and welcomed their enhanced engagement, particularly in private sector financing and local currency initiatives.

Discussions emphasized the importance of protecting and expanding private sector exposure, re-

ducing sovereign risk, and increasing private sector participation through innovative local currency financing mechanisms.

Aurangzeb highlighted that Pakistan has made significant progress in restoring macroeconomic stability over the past 18 months. He noted improvements in currency stability and foreign exchange reserves, which are projected to cover approximately three months of imports by year-end.

He noted the strong performance of the services sector, with exports expected to continue their upward trend.

Discussions also covered energy sector reforms, tax policy improvements, and efforts to enhance tax administration efficiency.

The minister reiterated the government's commitment to broadening the tax base, improving collection mechanisms, and aligning tax policy with growth objectives.

On the financial front, he informed the delegation that the government is making all its repayments smoothly while exploring access to international debt markets through approved programs, including the inaugural Panda Bond and Global Medium-Term Note (GMTN) framework.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti chairing a review meeting on progress regarding proposed insurance policy for treatment of government employees, measures related to rehabilitation of Civil & Bolan Medical Complex Hospitals.

Muqam says: Laptops under PM program distributed on merit among students across Pakistan

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, and President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Muqam, Adviser to the Board of Governors of the FJA, and Additional Secretary Finance Division Fazil Abbasi attended the meeting on special invitation.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb of the Supreme Court, Adviser to the Board of Governors of the FJA, and Additional Secretary Finance Division Fazil Abbasi attended the meeting on special invitation.

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