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PM calls for shift from raw mineral exports to domestic processing

Urges foreign investors to establish mineral processing and manufacturing facilities in Pakistan rather than limiting their investments to extraction activities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday called for a shift in Pakistan's mineral sector from exporting raw resources to developing domestic processing and manufacturing industries, saying the country's mineral wealth must translate into greater economic opportunities at home.

Addressing the Pakistan Mineral Investment Forum 2026, the prime minister reiterated his commitment to ending the practice of shipping unprocessed minerals abroad, and said that Pakistan must move towards value addition by strengthening its downstream industries.

"The chapter of shipping Pakistan's precious minerals out of the country in a raw form must be closed forever," he said, renewing his commitment to ensuring that the country's mineral resources are fully utilised within Pakistan.

He expressed confidence that the day was not far when the export of raw minerals would come to a complete halt and Pakistan's valuable mineral resources would instead serve as a foundation for domestic industrial development.

The prime minister urged foreign investors to establish mineral processing and manufacturing facilities in Pakistan rather than limiting their investments to extraction activities.

He emphasised that projects, including Reko Diq and other developments along the Tethyan Copper Belt, should contribute to establishing refineries, cement plants, and cable and conductor manu-

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with Governor KP and Chief Ministers of Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan on the eve of concluding ceremony of Pakistan Mineral Investment Forum 2026. Chief of Defence Forces, Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir is also present.

Balochistan seeks wider World Bank partnership for development: CM Bugti

WB, Balochistan discuss expanded development partnership and economic growth agenda

ISLAMABAD (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and World Bank Country Director for Pakistan Bolormaa Amgaabazar held a meeting in Islamabad to discuss expanding development cooperation, promoting economic stability, and strengthening partnerships in key sectors across the province.

The meeting focused on opportunities for enhanced collaboration in education, healthcare, water supply, and infrastructure development, while also reviewing prospects for joint support of ongoing and future development projects in Balochistan.

Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan was also present during the discussions.

During the meeting, World Bank Country Director Bolormaa Amgaabazar expressed interest in deepening development cooperation and exploring greater collaboration across various sectors in the province. Both sides exchanged views on strategies aimed at accelerating socio-economic progress and improving public service delivery.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti underscored the provincial government's commitment to achieving sustainable development, strengthening economic stability, and ensuring the provision of essential services to citizens.

He stressed that the development of Balochistan is not only critical for the province itself but also holds significant importance for Pakistan's broader economic growth and prosperity.

"The development of Balochistan is integral to the economic progress and well-being of the entire country," Bugti said, highlighting the province's strategic role in Pakistan's long-term development framework.

The Chief Minister noted that the provincial administration is pursuing

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar chairs a meeting of the Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC).

CDF Asim says: Pakistan aims to become competitive destination for long-term mineral investment

Calls for transforming Pakistan's mineral wealth into source of national development, economic prosperity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, on Friday said that unlocking Pakistan's mineral wealth was a collective national objective.

Addressing participants of the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum (PMIF) 2026 here, he said that the objective was not merely to export raw materials but to develop the entire value chain, from refining to manufacturing.

"We seek to foster long-term partnerships that generate sustainable economic value for Pakistan and its partners," he said.

Field Marshal Asim Munir said that the aim was to make Pakistan a competitive destination for long-term mineral investment. Every possible measure was being taken and

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ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, addressing participants of the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum (PMIF) 2026.



ISLAMABAD: World Bank Country Director for Pakistan Bolormaa Amgaabazar meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti. Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan is also present.

Security forces kill 74 terrorists in K-P, Balochistan operations: ISPR

Says 43 terrorists killed in KP and 31 in Balochistan, weapons and explosives recovered

RAWALPINDI (INP): Security forces killed 74 terrorists during intelligence-based operations in Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Friday.

In a statement, the military's media wing said, "Over the last 48 hours, during the conduct of this series of intelligence-based operations, own troops effectively engaged multiple khawarij locations," the ISPR said.

It added that following intense and fierce exchanges of fire, 35 terrorists belonging to Fitna-al-Khawarij were killed in Mir Ali and eight terrorists were killed in Orakzai. The statement said that the operations K-P were part of efforts to "eliminate terrorist threats and dismantle the khawarij networks" and had been expanded to Mir Ali and Orakzai.

The statement said the operations had dealt "a significant blow to the khawarij networks operating in these areas". The military's media wing further said that a huge cache of weapons, ammunition and explosives had been recovered during sanitisation

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CCLC approves Foreign Exchange Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2026

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC), chaired by Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, on Friday approved several legislative proposals, including the Foreign Exchange Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2026 and a legal and administrative package concerning plant protection functions.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the relevant ministries and departments.

The committee approved a proposal regarding leave prior to retirement (LPR) in the Armed Forces, including payment in lieu of the unavailed portion of such leave.

It also approved replacing references to the Federal Government with the names of relevant competent authorities in various laws administered by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP).

The Foreign Exchange Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2026 was approved after reviewing proposed amendments to the legal framework governing penalties and financial fines for violations relating to foreign exchange. The committee, however, deferred the draft Press Council of Pakistan Act 2026 for further consultation.



President Asif Ali Zardari pays respects at the grave of Sardar Hakim Ali Zardari in Nawabshah.

IHC suspends notification for LG elections in capital

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday suspended the October 21 notification announcing local government elections in the federal capital and granted a stay on the election schedule, while seeking replies from the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and other respondents by November 26.

Justice Umair Majid Malik issued the interim order on a miscellaneous application seeking suspension of the election schedule, filed by citizen Amjad Ali. According to the written order, the petitioner's counsel submitted that the Islamabad Local Government Ordinance 2026 had lapsed, resulting in the revival of the original Local Government Act 2015.

He argued that the Election Commission had suddenly decided to hold local government elections on October 21 and issued the election schedule on the same day. The counsel contended that no decision had been made regarding the delimitation of 125 union councils.

BA rejects resolution seeking abolition of Sardari system

QUETTA (ANN): The Balochistan Assembly on Friday rejected a resolution calling for the abolition of the tribal chieftaincy system in the province, with the motion defeated by six votes to five after lawmakers expressed differing views over the role and legacy of tribal leaders.

The resolution was moved by Jamaat-e-Islami MPA Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch and sought implementation of the 1976 legislation abolishing the Sardari system. It also called for steps to safeguard citizens against exploitation, forced labor and the exercise of unlawful tribal authority. During the debate, Provincial Minister Zahoor Buledi spoke in favor of the resolution, arguing that exploitative tribal practices had denied people equal rights and hindered access to justice.

MPA Ali Madad Jattak also supported the motion, saying a growing number of educated young people were rejecting practices they considered oppressive and unjust.

The proposal faced opposition from MPA Sheikh Zarak Khan Mandokhail, who argued that tribal chiefs and nawabs should not be collectively held responsible for abuses, pointing out that a number of tribal figures had made positive contributions to the development of Balochistan.

Opposition Leader Mir Younus Aziz Zehri said tribal leaders were subject to the law like every other citizen, but maintained that the services and contributions of respected tribal figures should also be acknowledged. MPAs Zabid Ali Reki and Farah Azeem Shah similarly opposed exploitation and injustice, while cautioning against generalizing about all tribal leaders. The resolution was subsequently put to a vote and rejected by a narrow margin of one vote.

Separately, MPA Shehnaz Umrani tabled a joint resolution on behalf of women lawmakers seeking the launch of air services between Quetta and Sukkur.

IHC admits appeals against PTI founder, Bushra Bibi's convictions in £190 mln case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has admitted appeals filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, challenging their convictions in the £190 million case. The court has scheduled the hearing of the appeals for November 18.

A two-member bench comprising IHC Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar and Justice Muhammad Asif will hear the appeals. The court has sought arguments from the parties in connection with the appeals challenging the convictions. Meanwhile, in compliance with the court's directions, a meeting between Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi and their lawyers had also been arranged. According to the two-page order issued by IHC Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar and Justice Muhammad Asif, lawyers Salman Safdar and Latif Khosa must restrict their discussions with Imran Khan to legal matters.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

NRL reports copper-gold mineralisation across eight discoveries in Chagai

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Resources Limited (NRL) has identified copper and gold mineralisation across at least eight porphyry discoveries in Balochistan's Chagai district, with nearly 25, 000 metres of drilling delivering encouraging results as the company advances towards its first mineral resource estimate.

One drill hole returned 295 metres of continuous mineralisation grading 0.43% copper and 0.13 grams per tonne of gold, including a 132-metre interval grading 0.83% copper, Chairman Muhammad Ali Tabba said while addressing the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026.

The discoveries span 5.6 square kilometres in Darigwan, adjoining NRL's earlier discovery at the Tang Kaur copper-gold porphyry system. Tabba said further investigations at exploration licence EL214 were expected to establish substantial resources, subject to completion of exploration and formal resource estimation.

A joint venture between Fatima Fertilisers, Liberty Mills, and Lucky

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Dialogue, public participation vital to Balochistan's development: Governor

QUETTA (ANN): Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stressed the importance of political dialogue, mutual confidence, democratic principles and protection of citizens' rights for achieving lasting peace and sustainable development in the province.

He was speaking to delegations representing different districts during meetings at the Governor House in Quetta, where he underscored the need for greater consultation and engagement between political leadership and the public.

Mandokhail said politics should ultimately serve the interests of the people by protecting their rights and contributing to collective progress. He said political maturity and effective leadership could be demonstrated through regular interaction with citizens, meaningful dialogue and respect for democratic norms.

The governor called for greater tolerance, mutual respect and understanding in society, saying constructive engagement could help reduce mistrust, hostility and misunderstandings. He urged political lead-

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QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Saleem Ahmad Khosa, Mir Zahoor Ahmad Buledi, Sardar Kohiyar Khan Domki, Haji Ali Madad Jattak, Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, Parliamentary Secretaries Abdul Samad Gorgage, Shahnaz Umrani and MPAs, Zarak Khan Mandokhail, Farah Azeem Shah, Mir Younas Aziz Zehri, Haji Mir Zabid Ali Reki, Mir Asadullah Baloch, Dr. Muhammad Nawaz Kibzai, Shahida Rauf, Kalsoom Niaz, Maulana Hadayat-ur-Rehman Baloch expressing their views on resolution during Balochistan Assembly session.

First Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka ends in a draw

RAWALPINDI (APP): The first match of the two-Test series between Pakistan and Sri Lanka ended without a result at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Friday.

Pakistan scored 284 runs for the loss of 8 wickets in their second innings on the fifth and final day. Saud Shakeel once again fell victim to the nervous nineties in the second innings and was clean bowled for 97. On Friday, on the final day of the Test match, Pakistan resumed their incomplete second innings at 57 for 1, with Azan Awais on 22 and Mohammad Taha on 24 at the crease. However, both batters returned to the pavilion without adding to their overnight scores. Azan Awais was dismissed by Lahiru Kumara, while Mohammad Taha was caught by wicketkeeper Kusal Mendis off Asitha Fernando.

After the early fall of two wickets, captain Babar Azam and Saud Shakeel batted cautiously to take the team's score to 107 runs. Babar was dismissed for 34, caught by Lahiru Udara off Milan Rathnayake. Salman Ali Agha also could not stay at the crease for long and was dismissed for 13, caught by Pasindu Sooriyabandara off Milan Rathnayake.

Saud Shakeel and Ghazi Ghouri added 92 runs for the sixth wicket to take the team's total to 217. Ghazi Ghouri was dismissed for 35, caught by Kusal Mendis off Milan Rathnayake. Arafat Minhas scored 16 runs and was caught by Sonal Dinusha off Dhananjaya de Silva.

Saud Shakeel, after playing a fine innings of 97 runs, was bowled by Lahiru Kumara. He once again fell victim to the nervous nineties and missed his century by just three runs. In the first innings too, he was dismissed for 93 runs. Razaullah remained unbeaten on 6 runs.

For Sri Lanka, Milan Rathnayake took three wickets. Asitha Fernando and Dilshan Madushanka took two wickets each, while Dhananjaya de Silva took one wicket. Pakistani fast bowler Saqib Khan, who took 7 wickets on his Test debut, was named Player of the Match.

Sri Lankan cricket team all-rounder Dhananjaya de Silva has said that due to bad weather, more than 100 overs were lost in the first Test match against Pakistan, due to which the match could not prove decisive, however, the team's overall performance remained satisfactory.

Speaking at a press conference at the Rawalpindi Stadium, Silva said that the team conceded 400 runs while bowling first, however, after that the bowlers made a good comeback, while the batters also showed their full abilities.

He said that there were opportunities for the bowlers to perform well on the Rawalpindi wicket as well. To a question, Silva said that Saqib Khan is a good fast bowler, he had bowled well in the practice match as well, and taking seven wickets in the debut match is proof of his ability. On a question regarding stepping down from the captaincy of the Sri Lankan team, he said that the decision to leave the captaincy was taken at the right time.



RAWALPINDI: Pakistani batter Arafat Minhas plays a shot during the Last day of the first test cricket match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.



QUETTA: PPP Provincial Deputy Information Secretary Saba Khan Kakar meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Security forces kill 74 terrorists..

Continued from page 1

operations. The recovered material included "home-made explosives and improvised explosive devices", which the ISPR said had thwarted the terrorists' plans to use the material in terrorist activities.

"Sanitization operations continue to eliminate holed-up khawarij from these areas," the statement said. In a separate statement, the military's media wing said, "In continuation of the counter-terrorism campaign, from November 3 onwards, security forces are conducting comprehensive intelligence-based area sanitisation operations in Kurram area of District Quetta against Indian backed Fitna Al Khawarij & Fitna Al Hindustan in Balochistan." Multiple terrorist hideouts were effectively engaged, and after multiple engagements, 31 terrorists were killed during the intelligence-based operations. It added that "weapons, ammunition and explosives" had also been recovered from the hideouts following the engagements.

The ISPR said the operation was part of the ongoing counter-terrorism campaign against foreign-sponsored terrorism in the country. "Relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision 'Azm e Istehkam' (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace," the statement said.

The statement stated that the campaign would continue "to wipe out menace of foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism from the country". The military's media wing reiterated that security forces and law enforcement agencies would maintain the pace of operations under the "Azm-e-Istehkam" vision.

President Asif Ali Zardari praised security forces for the successful intelligence-based operations in K-P, saying their continued successes in the fight against terrorism reflected national resolve and professional capabilities.

In a statement, the president said operations against foreign-sponsored terrorist elements seeking to undermine Pakistan's security should continue. He said the recovery of weapons, ammunition and explosives from the terrorists' possession demonstrated the effectiveness of the security forces' operations.

Zardari said the complete elimination of foreign-sponsored terrorist networks belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij and Fitna al-Hindustan was a national security imperative.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also praised security forces and paid tribute to the officers and personnel involved in the operation. He also commended the security forces for effectively destroying multiple terrorist hideouts and recovering a large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives during the operation, praising their professionalism and courage.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also praised security forces, commending their professional capabilities and exceptional courage in foiling terrorist designs. Naqvi paid tribute to the security forces for killing a large number of terrorists, saying their personnel had demonstrated courage and professionalism in the operations.

"I salute the security forces for sending a large number of terrorists to hell," he said. He added that the security forces personnel were a source of pride for the nation, describing them as its "proud asset".

PM calls for shift..

Continued from page 1

facturing industries. He called upon the investors to "mine, process and manufacture in Pakistan" before exporting to the rest of the world.

He described the approach as the government's vision for a fair and mutually beneficial partnership with international investors.

PM Shehbaz Sharif highlighted the development of Reko Diq as one of the world's largest untapped copper and gold deposits, where production is expected to commence in 2028.

The project, which remained stalled for nearly two decades, is now moving towards operational implementation, he added.

The prime minister said transforming mineral resources into finished and semi-finished products would create greater economic opportunities, strengthen local industries and ensure that Pakistan receives maximum benefits from its natural wealth.

He also stressed the importance of technology transfer, vocational training, local suppliers and skilled workforce development to ensure that mining investments contribute to sustainable economic progress.

Balochistan seeks..

Continued from page 1

a results-oriented development strategy based on transparency, effective monitoring, and efficient utilisation of public resources.

According to him, these measures are intended to ensure that the benefits of development initiatives reach communities directly and contribute to tangible improvements in people's lives.

Sarfraz Bugti further emphasised the need to make cooperation with international development partners more effective and productive, stating that Balochistan welcomes meaningful partnerships with global institutions to advance projects in education, healthcare, water resources, and basic infrastructure.

He also reiterated the government's commitment to creating a conducive environment for investment and development activities in the province.

The provincial administration, he said, is implementing policies and initiatives designed to stimulate economic activity, generate employment opportunities, and raise living standards for the people of Balochistan.

Revenue Division
Federal Board of Revenue
Government of Pakistan
FBR PAKISTAN

(Admn/HR Wing)
Join Public Service-Balochistan Quota

CORRIGENDUM

In partial modification of the Federal Board of Revenue (Hqrs), Islamabad's earlier advertisement PID(I) No. 3984-26, published in newspapers daily (Jang & Dawn) on 30.10.2026 (Friday) for the recruitment of vacant posts allocated to Balochistan Quota, it is hereby notified for the information of all concerned candidates that the Walk-in Interviews have been rescheduled due to administrative reasons.

a. The revised schedule and venues are as follows:

Sr. No.	Venue	Date
1	Hub (Deputy Commissioner Office)	22-25 November, 2026

b. Candidates belonging to the following districts are informed to appear for the Walk-in Interviews at the aforementioned venue on the respective dates indicated below:

Sr. No.	District	Date
1	Khuzdar	22 November, 2026
2	Wadh, Hub	23 November, 2026
3	Lasbela	24 November, 2026
4	Awaran	25 November, 2026

c. All other terms, conditions, and instructions mentioned in the original advertisement shall remain same.

d. No separate call letters will be issued and no TA/DA will be admissible for appearing in the test/interview.

Rehan Khalid
Second Secretary (Mgt./HR-IR-V)
Federal Board of Revenue (Hqrs),
Constitution Avenue, G-5, **Islamabad**
Phone: 051-9204915

URAAN PAKISTAN

PID(I)4420/26

FBR HELPLINE
helpline@fbr.gov.pk 051 111 772 772 www.fbr.gov.pk

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Dera Bugti invites Sealed tenders/Bids from the firms/contractors for the following works 2026-27. Tender Fee 1500/- and Bid security 2 % for each work. Time limit three months.

S #	NAME OF WORK	Qty	APP. COST(M)	TSE No
1	CONSTRUCTION OF INTAKE STRUCTURE WSS SUI TOWN (SOURCE GOPAT)	1 Job	21,518,082/-	TSE-2627111224293

The Procurement will be finalized as per B-PPRA Rules and regulations, the firm must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant category and relevant discipline who have renewal for the year 2026-27 and registered with tax authorities i.e. BRA, NTN & Sales Tax Department active filers where applicable who are on ATL of FBR three-year similar experience and turnover of last three years. The tender fee must be deposited in head of account **C02721 – 02726** through Green challan in any National Bank of Pakistan.
Pursuant to sub clause 43.1 of the general condition of the contract the work shall be completed on or before the date stated.\
The bidder shall submit a Rs, 100/-stamp affidavit (Attested by first class Magistrate) with TSE Number and title of work certifying that all documents provided are true and correct. Any misleading information shallliable to disqualification.
BPPRA Generated E-Challan(in case not provided the firm should be considered non-Eligible)
Undertaking on Rs100 judicial stamp paper that the firm has never been involved in litigation with any Government / Semi Government Organization (In Favor of XEN PHE Division Dera Bugti also mention Work Name & TSE Number
Bidder Must Sign and Stamped All Submitted Documents.
Audit Report Previous Last Three Years.
Bidder Must be provided Completion Certificate 3 Nos
Authorized representative company will be allowed having specific authorization letter for the scheme mentioned above (the Authorization letter/ deed must be provided on Non-Judicial stamp paper valuing Rs. 100 duly attested by first class Magistrate.
METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single Stage, One envelope procedure.
BIDDING DOCUMENTS / TENDER DOCUMENTS: Can be downloaded from B-PPRA Website or on Production of Tender Fee and Tender documents cost Rs: 1500/- for each work.
(I) ISSUANCE: The tender form will be issued to bidders after publication of notice in newspapers from the presentation of requisite documents i.e tender fee (Non-refundable). Bid security / earnest money mentioned above, original valid Engineering Council Certificate in relevant / required category, registration with BRA income tax certificate (NTN) etc. **SUBMISSION**: Last date for submission of bids **30-11-2026 at 12:00 PM. OPENING**: The sealed bids will be opened on **30-11-2026 at 01:00 PM (iv)Place of issuance, submission inquiries and opening will be: ADDRESS:** Office of the XEN PHE Division Dera Bugti. Telephone No. 0835 – 410533/0835 – 410433 E-Mail: DB4023@bpprа.gob.pk
Other terms and conditions are attached with tender documents.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Public Health Engineering
Division Dera Bugti

DPRQ/PRQ No. 2447/13-11-2026

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Pakistan aims to..

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would continue to be taken to ensure the security of the entire mining ecosystem, he said.

The COAS said that mines and miners, investments, industries, projects and all associated people would be protected.

He said that mineral development must necessarily benefit local communities, adding that people living in mineral-rich areas should see tangible improvements in their lives.

He said that the people of Pakistan were hardworking, courageous and determined, possessing tremendous potential to turn dreams into reality.

"Our resources provide opportunities, while our people are the source of strength and determination to achieve results," Field Marshal Asim Munir said.

He said we must move from potential to production, from promises to action, and from raw exports to value-added growth.

He said the country's natural resources presented significant opportunities, while the hard work, skills and determination of its people would be central to converting that potential into tangible results.

The top military commander stressed the need for Pakistan to move from potential to production, promises to practical action, and raw mineral exports to value-added economic growth. He said developing the minerals sector as a driver of economic stability, industrial expansion and public prosperity had become an important national priority.

Dialogue..

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ers, community representatives and responsible citizens to contribute to building public confidence and promoting social cohesion across the province.

Referring to Balochistan's rich cultural composition, Mandokhail said the province's diverse communities, languages and faiths should be viewed as a source of strength and unity rather than division.

He noted that people across Balochistan shared numerous cultural values and traditions, providing a strong basis for cooperation and collective efforts for the province's advancement.

The governor also highlighted Balochistan's considerable economic potential, citing its natural resources, mineral reserves and strategically important geographic position.

He said realizing this potential required effective planning, stronger institutional coordination and joint efforts aimed at converting available resources into economic opportunities and better living standards for the people.

NRL reports..

Continued from page 1

Cement Ltd, NRL holds five exploration licences in Balochistan, comprising two copper-gold projects, one lead-zinc project and two antimony projects, with exploration work ongoing.

NRL plans to initiate environmental, hydrogeological, metallurgical, and geotechnical studies in 2027, with the aim of completing a bankable feasibility study by the end of the decade.

Tabba reaffirmed NRL's previously announced $100 million commitment to mineral exploration in Pakistan and invited domestic and international investors and service providers to discuss emerging opportunities.

While preliminary resource estimates have been prepared by a separate consultant, the company is withholding their public release pending compliance with international reporting requirements. NRL is progressing towards its maiden mineral resource estimate in accordance with international standards.

The company has also initiated the development of a predictive artificial intelligence model with Lahore University of Management Sciences to help accelerate exploration, building on geological modeling and data gathered through its drilling programme.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111223663 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER URBAN PLANNING & DEV: DEPARTMENT QUETTA DIVISION QUETTA invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates
Tender Fee 2000 PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	CONST OF BT ROAD , SIDE DRAIN / SEWERAGE LINE AND TUFF TILE NEAR ZAIRAT QAMBRANI ROAD QUETTA PSDP # 5597 (Z2026.4100)	20,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 14,000,000 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm PEC Category Code is C-6 and above (Upto 25 million) and Specialized Code is CE09(I) (Sewerage Works),CE01-(i) (Road and Pavements Drainage & Retaining Structure), The firm must have completed at least 2 similar works of constt: of Roads & Side Drain each 50% of the estimated cost, in the last three years in any Govt sector The firm must have completed at least one similar works of Sewerage Line and Tuff Tile each 50% of the estimated cost, in the last three years in any Govt sector All bidders shall submit the contract agreements of the similar nature works mentioned above. The bidder shall submit a Power of Attorney on Rs. 100/- stamp paper, mentioning the name of work and TSE No. In case of the owner, a self-authorization on stamp paper, duly attested by a 1st Class Magistrate, Oath Commissioner, or Notary Public The bidder shall submit Rs. 100/- affidavit, duly attested by 1st Class Magistrate, Oath Commissioner, or Notary Public, no conflict of interest, blacklisting, major litigation, non-performance, or failure to sign any contract during the last five years The bidders are required to provide CDR or B/Gurantee and Green challan and BPPRA Deposit slip in original **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 2,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 30 November, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 30 November, 2026till 09:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 09:30 AM Address: Executive Engineer UPDD Quetta Division New Zarghoon Road Phone no: 0819211904Fax no: 0819211904
Email: ghaffar.nasar9@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
URBAN PLANNING & DEV:
DEPARTMENT QUETTA

DPRQ/PRQ No.2439/13-11-2026

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TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111224603 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEERI PROVINCIAL B&R DISTRICT DUKKI invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates
Tender Fee 2000 PKR and Bid Security 5%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	Construction of Black Top Road from Killi Manzai to Nakar Duki	170,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 4 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 119,000,000 PKR Amount in4 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-4 and above (Upto 200 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is C6 (11) , CE02(I) (Bridge Structures), CE04(i) (Dams/Water Retaining Structures) , CE09(i) (Sewerage Works). Last three Years (3) At the time of Opening in office of the Undersign **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 5 % 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.bpprа.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bpprа.gob.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 30 November, 2026till 10:00 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:00 AM on EPPS System Address: EXCUTIVE ENGINEERING DUKI
Phone no: 0332783400 Email: pirkanbaloch@gmail.com

Executive Engineer-Roads
CWPP&H Department,
District Duki

DPRQ/PRQ No.2471/13-11-2026

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

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111223693 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER URBAN PLANNING & DEV: DEPARTMENT QUETTA DIVISION QUETTA invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates
Tender Fee 2000 PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	SOLAR BORE AT KILLI PAKEZAI SAIDA AIRPORT ROAD QUETTA	15,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 10,500,000 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million)In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE09(ii) (Water Supply), EE11(i) (Solar), EE11(ii) (Solar Energy), EE11(iii) (Solar Energy system), EE11(vi) (General Electrical Works Only). The firm must have completed at least three similar works Solar WSS each 60% of the estimated cost, in the last three years in any Govt sector All bidders shall submit the contract agreements of the similar nature works mentioned above. The bidder shall submit a Power of Attorney on Rs. 100/- stamp paper, mentioning the name of work and TSE No. In case of the owner, a self-authorization on stamp paper, duly attested by a 1st Class Magistrate, Oath Commissioner, or Notary Public The bidder shall submit Rs. 100/- affidavit, duly attested by 1st Class Magistrate, Oath Commissioner, or Notary Public, no conflict of interest, blacklisting, major litigation, non-performance, or failure to sign any contract during the last five years The bidders are required to provide CDR or B/Gurantee and Green challan and BPPRA Deposit slip in original **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 2,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 30 November, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 30 November, 2026till 09:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 09:30 AM Address: Executive Engineer UPDD Quetta Division New Zarghoon Road Phone no: 0819211904Fax no: 0819211904
Email: ghaffar.nasar9@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
URBAN PLANNING & DEV:
DEPARTMENT QUETTA

DPRQ/PRQ No.2440/13-11-2026

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CM Bugti says:

Counterterrorism operations to persist until terrorism is defeated

Independent Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has reaffirmed the government's resolve to continue counterterrorism operations until militant violence is brought to an end, saying protection of citizens, national security and sustainable peace remain key priorities.

Commenting on recent intelligence-based operations, Bugti commended security forces for targeting suspected militant hideouts and recovering weapons, ammunition and explosives. He also praised the professionalism and dedication of security personnel involved in the operations.

The chief minister stressed the need for close coordination among law-enforcement agencies and other state institutions to effectively confront terrorist threats. He alleged that India-backed militant groups were seeking to create instability in Pakistan, adding that security forces would continue efforts to thwart such activities.

Bugti said the operations were being carried out under Azm-e-Istehkam, the national counterterrorism initiative endorsed by the Federal Apex Committee under the National Action Plan.

He maintained that the government would not permit militant organizations to disrupt peace, challenge the writ of the state or endanger citizens in Balochistan or elsewhere in the country.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister's Aide on Information and Political Affairs Shahid Rind welcomed the intelligence-based operations conducted in Kurram district since November 3.

Rind said security personnel had successfully acted against suspected militant hideouts and recovered weapons, ammunition and explosives during the operations. He also alleged Indian involvement in militant activities in Pakistan and said the government and security institutions remained committed to restoring peace.

Describing Azm-e-Istehkam as a significant element of the country's counterterrorism framework, he said continued coordination among relevant institutions was essential for confronting security challenges.

Separately, Chief Minister's Aide on Home Affairs Babar Yousafzai praised the operations launched on November 3, describing them as evidence of the operational preparedness and professionalism of security forces.

He said security personnel had taken effective action against militant hideouts and recovered arms and explosives, terming the results an important development in efforts to safeguard national security.

Yousafzai said action against groups seeking to undermine state authority or endanger public safety would continue in accordance with the law.

He too accused India of supporting militant elements allegedly working to destabilize Pakistan and reiterated the government's determination to counter such threats.

The aide said protection of national security, sovereignty and long-term peace remained among the government's foremost objectives. He emphasized that cooperation between state institutions and citizens was vital to confronting terrorism effectively.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Sardar Dawood Kharal meeting with Balocistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Quetta intensifies anti-encroachment drive; fruit market project launched

QUETTA (APP): Administrator Metropolitan Corporation Quetta, Bashir Ahmed Barech, conducted a visit to Joint Road on Friday to review the ongoing anti-encroachment campaign and assess progress in clearing public spaces of illegal occupations.

During the visit, Bashir Barech expressed satisfaction over the successful removal of encroachments from Joint Road and commended the efforts of the municipal staff involved in the operation. He said the clearance of roads and footpaths was essential to ensuring smooth public movement and improving the city's urban environment.

The administrator issued strict directives warning that no individual would be allowed to re-establish encroachments or engage in illegal parking activities on Joint Road. He emphasised that indiscriminate legal action would be taken against violators, adding that maintaining open and accessible roads and sidewalks for residents remained a top priority of the municipal administration.

Speaking on future development initiatives, Barech announced plans for the establishment of a dedicated fruit market in Quetta, in line with the vision of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti. He said the proposed project aims to stimulate economic activity, support small businesses, and create improved livelihood opportunities for low-income and working-class residents.

According to the administrator, several potential locations for the fruit market have already been examined, while preliminary practical work on the project has also commenced. He noted that the market would provide poor and deserving individuals, small traders, and labourers with dignified opportunities to conduct business and earn a sustainable income.

Bashir Barech said the initiative is expected to contribute to the growth of commercial activity across the city while helping to organise fruit trade operations in a more structured manner.

Commissioner orders fair canal water distribution to tail-end farmers

Independent Report

NASEERABAD: Commissioner Naseerabad Division Salahuddin Noorzai has directed irrigation officials to ensure an equitable supply of canal water to farmers at the tail ends of the irrigation network during the Rabi season, particularly to safeguard wheat and other seasonal crops.

He issued the instructions while chairing a meeting with Chief Engineer Canals Qurban Ali Jatoi to assess water availability, canal maintenance and distribution issues affecting agricultural areas.

Superintending Engineer Irrigation Circle Mudassir Zafar Khoso, SSP Naseerabad Asad Nasir, Executive Engineer Pat Feeder Canal Shams-ul-Mulk Badini and Executive Engineer Kachhi Canal Ilahi Bakhsh Gajani also attended the meeting.

Noorzai said Naseerabad Division was among Balochistan's major agricultural areas and stressed that timely and adequate irrigation supplies were essential for sustaining crop production and protecting farmers' livelihoods.

He directed the irrigation authorities to expedite desilting of canals, reinforce vulnerable embankments and take firm action against illegal diversion and theft of irrigation water.

Officials briefed the commissioner on the existing water position, maintenance activities and operational difficulties affecting the Pat Feeder and Kachhi canal systems.

They acknowledged challenges in maintaining adequate supplies during the ongoing Rabi season and assured the meeting that available resources would be utilized to improve water distribution.

Noorzai emphasized stronger coordination between the relevant departments to address supply constraints and remove bottlenecks in the irrigation system.

He directed officials to give particular attention to tail-end areas so that farmers there received their rightful share of canal water and agricultural activity was not disrupted by unequal distribution.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Hadia Nawaz and MNA Jamal Shah Kakar talking with Provincial Minister Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa.

NADRA mobile service launched in Gwadar to facilitate persons with disabilities

GWADAR (ANN): A dedicated NADRA Mobile Registration Van (MRV) service has been introduced in Gwadar to facilitate persons with disabilities in obtaining identity documents and accessing essential government services.

The initiative was launched following a request by Gwadar MPA Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch, who drew attention to the difficulties encountered by persons with disabilities in travelling to NADRA registration centers. Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti welcomed the initiative and stressed the need to ensure that persons with disabilities can obtain identity documents and access public services without facing unnecessary barriers. According to an official statement, the facility is the first initiative of its kind in Balochistan and is intended to take registration services closer to people with mobility difficulties.

The mobile facility is expected to ease the burden of travelling to registration centers and enable eligible residents to obtain identity documents needed to access various government facilities and services. The provincial government said equal, accessible and dignified treatment of persons with disabilities remained an important priority, emphasizing the need to remove practical obstacles.

Rs10m prizes awarded to talented female students

Independent Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani has said the provincial government is committed to encouraging talented female students and providing them with greater opportunities to display their abilities.

She expressed these views while distributing Rs10 million in cash prizes on behalf of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti among female students who participated in presentations of the national anthem and tableaux during the Independence Day celebrations at the Balochistan Assembly on August 14, 2026.



DUKI: SSP Duki Younas Raza presides over the meeting regarding traffic problems on the city.

DC orders strict quality checks, timely completion of Barshore projects

BARSHORE (ANN): Deputy Commissioner Barshore Flight Lieutenant (Retd.) Khalid Shams has directed relevant departments and contractors to maintain high construction standards, ensure transparency and complete development schemes within the stipulated timelines, saying negligence and avoidable delays would not be tolerated.

He issued the instructions during an inspection of the site earmarked for the proposed Deputy Commissioner Complex as well as development projects in the police, education and healthcare sectors.

District Police Officer Abdul Sattar Dashti, Assistant Commissioner Barshore Syed Razi Harira and officials of the concerned departments accompanied the deputy commissioner during the inspection.

Engineers briefed Shams on the proposed complex's master plan and access road, in addition to the progress of construction and other works being undertaken at police facilities, educational institutions and healthcare centers.

The deputy commissioner directed officials and contractors to adhere strictly to approved technical specifications and construction requirements. He also called for closer monitoring of the schemes to ensure that work progressed according to schedule without compromising quality.

Shams stressed that development projects must deliver their intended benefits to the public and instructed the relevant authorities to address shortcomings promptly.

He appreciated the efforts of Provincial Parliamentary Secretary Asfandyar Khan Kakar in promoting infrastructure development, improving public services and strengthening law and order in the district.

The deputy commissioner said development initiatives were being implemented in accordance with the priorities set by Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, particularly those aimed at improving public service delivery.

He expressed confidence that the proposed Deputy Commissioner Complex and other ongoing schemes would enhance administrative capacity and improve residents' access to education, healthcare and essential government services.

AC orders prompt resolution of ex-servicemen's grievances

QUETTA (ANN): Assistant Commissioner (Sadar) Quetta Muhammad Yousaf Hashmi has directed concerned departments to give priority to resolving the grievances of retired military personnel and their families, stressing the need for timely assistance and closer institutional coordination.

He issued the instructions while presiding over a meeting of the District Armed Services Board convened on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini.

Officials and representatives from the Armed Services Board, police, NADRA, Health Department and Quetta Metropolitan Corporation attended the meeting along with retired servicemen.

During the session, participants highlighted a range of issues concerning basic facilities, administrative matters and welfare services available to former military personnel and their families. Hashmi instructed representatives of the relevant departments to take immediate measures to address the complaints brought before the forum and ensure that applicants were not subjected to avoidable delays in obtaining assistance. He stressed that effective coordination between government institutions was essential for resolving outstanding issues and ensuring efficient delivery of services to ex-servicemen. The assistant commissioner directed the departments concerned to maintain close liaison and follow up on pending matters so that legitimate grievances could be settled without unnecessary procedural hurdles. The meeting concluded with a commitment to strengthen interdepartmental cooperation and facilitate retired military personnel and their families in accessing welfare and public services.

Cold spell strengthens as rain, thunderstorms forecast in parts of Balochistan

QUETTA (ANN): Cold weather has intensified across northern parts of Balochistan, with the Pakistan Meteorological Department forecasting mainly dry conditions in the province while warning of isolated rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds in Quetta, Khuzdar, Lasbela and adjoining areas.

According to the Met Office, temperatures have fallen noticeably in several northern districts, with Ziarat recording the lowest minimum temperature of 5°C and Kalat registering 6°C.

Zhob and Chaman each recorded a minimum temperature of 9°C, while Quetta experienced a low of 11°C.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Sardar Kohiyar Khan Domki, MPA Malik Naeem Bazai and Zarak Khan Mandokhail during a meeting.

QESCO recruitment interviews scheduled from Nov 16

Independent Report

TURBAT: Interviews for candidates shortlisted for advertised vacancies in the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) will be conducted at the Circuit House Turbat from November 16 to 20, 2026, Deputy Commissioner Kech Yasir Iqbal Dashti said on Thursday. He said the interview schedule was finalized during a meeting with QESCO Turbat XEN Grid Gahram Gichki, under which male candidates would appear for interviews from November 16 to 19, while interviews for female candidates would be held on November 20.

QMC administrator orders firm action against encroachments on Joint road

QUETTA (ANN): Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Administrator Bashir Ahmed Barrech has directed authorities to take strict legal action against anyone attempting to restore encroachments or engage in illegal parking along Joint Road. He issued the warning during an inspection of the area to assess progress on the ongoing anti-encroachment operation. Barrech expressed satisfaction over the removal of roadside obstructions and commended municipal personnel for their efforts.

The administrator instructed the concerned staff to maintain regular surveillance of the cleared areas and prevent encroachments from reappearing. He said keeping roads and footpaths unobstructed was essential for ensuring smooth traffic movement and facilitating pedestrians.

Barrech emphasized that the Metropolitan Corporation would continue efforts to maintain public spaces and improve traffic flow by removing unauthorized structures and parking arrangements. During the visit, he also announced that initial work had commenced on a proposed fruit market in Quetta. He said the project was intended to provide organized commercial space for small traders and workers while supporting economic activity and employment opportunities.

According to the administrator, several sites had been assessed for the proposed market and the project was being pursued in accordance with Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti's development priorities.

CM Bugti's aunt passes away, provincial leaders offer condolences

QUETTA (ANN): The aunt of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, wife of Mir Ali Muhammad Bugti and mother of Mir Tariq Hussain Bugti, has passed away at a private hospital in Multan.

Her funeral prayers will be offered at 9 a.m. on Saturday, November 14, at Pro Bhagi, Bekar graveyard.

Senior Provincial Minister and Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentary Leader Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Provincial Adviser on Sports and Youth Affairs Meena Majeed Baloch, along with provincial ministers, advisers, parliamentary secretaries and members of the Balochistan Assembly, expressed deep grief over the bereavement.

In his condolence message, Umrani conveyed sympathies to Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Mir Tariq Hussain Bugti and other members of the bereaved family. He prayed for eternal peace for the deceased and strength and patience for the family to bear the loss.

Meena Majeed Baloch also expressed sorrow over the death and extended her condolences to the grieving family.

Other provincial leaders likewise conveyed their sympathies, praying for the departed soul and for patience and fortitude for the bereaved relatives during this difficult period.



QUETTA: Assistant Commissioner Saddar Muhammad Yousaf Hashmi presides over the meeting of District Armed Services Board.

BISP stresses transparent and timely payments to deserving women

USTA MUHAMMAD (ANN): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Director Abdul Rahim Baloch has stressed the need for transparent and timely disbursement of financial assistance to deserving women from low-income households, saying eligible beneficiaries should not encounter unnecessary hurdles in receiving payments.

He expressed these views during a meeting with Assistant Commissioner Usta Muhammad Maria Shamoon, where the officials reviewed payment procedures, beneficiary facilitation and mechanisms for resolving complaints under the social protection programme.

Baloch said BISP was designed to provide financial support to economically vulnerable women and emphasized that assistance should reach eligible recipients in a fair and transparent manner. He called for improved coordination between BISP officials and the district administration to facilitate beneficiaries, provide them with accurate guidance regarding payment procedures and address complaints without delay.

The BISP director also stressed the importance of ensuring that deserving women were not subjected to avoidable difficulties or irregularities while accessing their financial assistance.



Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Administrator Bashir Ahmed Barraich to visit Joint Road.



SOHBATPUR: Deputy Commissioner Fareeda Tareen ina group photo with teachers on the eve of Allama Iqbal Day.

GDA strengthens Gwadar's street lighting network with solar installations

GWADAR (ANN): The Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) has expanded street lighting along major roads, important routes and key public locations in the port city, with several installations being shifted to solar power to improve energy efficiency and reliability.

The initiative is aimed at enhancing urban infrastructure, improving public safety and supporting tourism facilities in Gwadar in line with the development priorities of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, according to the authority.

The GDA said the expanded lighting network had improved visibility after dark, making movement safer and more convenient for residents as well as visitors. Special attention has been given to Marine Drive, where the newly installed and upgraded lights have enhanced the appearance of the coastal route at night, adding to its attraction as a recreational and tourism destination. The authority said the transition towards solar-powered lighting would also help address several challenges associated with conventional electricity supplies, including power outages, prolonged load-shedding and increasing electricity costs.

Solar conversion is additionally expected to reduce disruptions caused by cable theft and improve the reliability of street lighting in different parts of the city.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Saturday November 14, 2026

Beyond viewership

Pakistan has an enormous appetite for online content. According to the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, it leads the world in daily YouTube viewership, with 96m users watching 560m videos a day. TikTok and WhatsApp command similarly vast audiences. And yet millions of Pakistanis struggle with slow connections, patchy mobile coverage, and unreliable service. A video may load eventually, but a student attending a virtual class or a small business processing a payment cannot afford interruptions. The government should, therefore, measure digital progress by whether people can depend on the internet to learn, work, and earn, rather than by the number of accounts opened or videos watched. In smaller towns and rural areas, adequate coverage remains elusive, deepening inequalities between citizens who can access opportunities online and those who cannot. Even in major cities, users complain of poor service. The expansion of 5G to selected cities is welcome, but it means little to those struggling with basic connectivity. Investment in fibre networks, wider coverage, and network maintenance must be matched with affordable packages and meaningful regulatory oversight. Operators should be held to measurable service standards, while arbitrary curbs that disrupt communications and business must end.

Infrastructure alone, however, will not create a digitally capable society. Pakistan's extraordinary social media consumption tells us little about how confidently its citizens can navigate the online world. Many users remain vulnerable to scams, identity theft, and the misuse of personal information. Others lack the skills to apply digital tools to education and employment. Digital literacy must become a priority, beginning in schools and extending through colleges, vocational institutes, and training centres. Lessons must go beyond operating smartphones to cover online safety, fact-checking, privacy, digital payments, and responsible AI use. Special efforts are needed to reach women, older citizens, and rural populations. Public institutions could work with telecom companies, educators, and civil society to offer practical instruction in local languages. Such programmes would help turn passive consumption into useful participation in the digital economy. Pakistan has no shortage of people willing to go online. What it lacks is a reliable network and a broad base of skills to make that access worthwhile.

FCC on workplace harassment

Sara Malkani

The commentary that followed the recent Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) judgement dismissing the harassment claim of an NBP employee gives the impression that the court has rolled back the scope of the workplace harassment law so that it now covers only incidents of an ove-r-tly sexual nature, excluding conduct that amounts to gender-based discrimination. This is incorrect.

The correct position of the law now is this: allegations of workplace harassment prior to 2022 (which is when the Protection Against Harassment of Women in the Workplace Act was amended) must involve conduct of an overtly sexual nature to fall within the scope of the law. Actions that take place after the 2022 amendment are covered by the law not only if they are overtly sexual in nature, but also if they are rooted in gender-based discrimination. Let's see why.

First, let's look at the definition of 'harassment'. Prior to January 2022, it was defined to cover "any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favours or other verbal or written communication or physical conduct of a sexual nature or sexually demeaning attitudes, causing interference with work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment, or the attempt to punish the complainant for refusal to comply to such a request or is made a condition for employment".

This definition was amended in January 2022 by adding the following: "discrimination on basis of gender, which may or may not be sexual in nature, but which may embody a discriminatory and prejudicial mindset or notion, resulting in discriminatory behaviour on basis of gender against the complainant" (Section 2[h][ii] of the Act).

The court interpreted the original definition restrictively, following the reasoning of the first Nadia Naz judgement.

The amendment was made after the 2021 Supreme Court decision in Nadia Naz vs President of Pakistan. This case, which analysed and applied the original, pre-2022 definition of harassment, concluded that the law only covers harassment of an overtly sexual nature.

The 2022 amendment, passed a few months after the judgement, rectified the limitation in the original definition as interpreted by the Supreme Court in the Nadia Naz judgement of 2021.

The amended definition explicitly includes gender-based discrimination within the meaning of harassment.

The amended definition would not apply retrospectively. The expanded definition, which broadens the scope of the actionable wrong, would only cover actions that take place after the amendment.

But in 2023 the Supreme Court, reviewing the Nadia Naz judgement, held that the original definition was broad enough to include gender-based discrimination. Harassment as originally defined should be interpreted to include conduct that is not overtly sexual in nature but amounts to gender-based discrimination. The Supreme Court declared that the bench's interpretation of the original definition was too restrictive.

The interpretation in the Nadia Naz judgement on review would be brilliant were it not for the 2022 amendment. By interpreting the original definition to have essentially the same meaning and effect as the 2022 insertion, the Supreme Court implies that the 2022 amendment was redundant. This contradicts a basic principle of statutory interpretation, which requires that each statutory provision should be interpreted to give it a distinct meaning.

It may well be that the 2022 amendment was not needed because the original definition should be interpreted as broadly and purposively as the Supreme Court did in the Nadia Naz judgement on review. But when the legislature amended the definition in 2022 to explicitly cover gender-based discrimination, it also implied that the earlier definition was restrictive, which is why the amendment was needed.

By explicitly expanding the de--finition, it endorsed the view that the original definition did not cover gender-based discrimination.

The FCC in its recent judgement did the same. The FCC interpreted the original definition restrictively, following the reasoning of the first Nadia Naz judgement. It did not refer to the 2022 amendment, and it did not need to because the incidents involved in the case predated the amendment. The amended definition would not apply to these facts. It would have been more edifying if the FCC had clearly explained this, but lucid, well-written judgements are unfortunately uncommon.

Let's say, as many have argued, that the FCC should have interpreted the original definition more broadly to include gender-based discrimination. What implication would that have for the current definition of harassment? Such an interpretation would entail that the second part of the definition is redundant because the first part covers conduct embodying gender-based discrimination. Such reasoning would again contradict the principle of statutory interpretation, which says that the legislature does not waste its words.

The FCC decision is deeply flawed, but for another reason. The FCC has not applied its own interpretation properly. The harassment at issue in this case was overtly sexual in nature. The evidence put forward at the earlier stages of the case, before the Islamabad High Court and the ombudsperson, shows that the complainant faced harassment that was unambiguously sexual. It is disturbing that the FCC did not consider this conduct to fall within the scope of the original definition.

Flawed as it is, the FCC has not overruled the 2022 amendment to the law. The expanded definition (Section 2(h)(ii)) still stands, but it will only apply to incidents that took place or are alleged to have taken place after the date of the amendment.

Prior incidents will be covered by the original definition, which will be interpreted restrictively.

This clarification is important because after the FCC ruling and the outrage against it, many potential claimants believe that the pervasive gender-based discrimination they currently face at the workplace is not covered by the law. People sitting on workplace harassment committees have told me that their mandate is now restricted to only incidents that are overtly sexual in nature. We must remind them that it is not.

Lucky draw

Muna Khan

Every Ramazan, the scene repeats itself. The sun sets, the fast is broken, the studio lights come up. Hundreds of people in their brightest clothes wave placards and wait to be chosen. On one side of the stage, a row of motorbikes gleams. On the other, cars sit under sponsors' banners. The host strides out, the crowd roars, and the games begin. Answer a riddle. Recite a tongue twister. Squash a mango into your face, etc. If you are lucky, and loud enough, you go home with a motorbike.

In 2013, you might have gone home with a baby. That Ramazan, the show's host Aamir Liaquat Hussain handed abandoned infants to screened, childless couples live on TV, between the phones and the land deeds. He insisted it was best for the children. Perhaps it was, but the ratings showed what the show was really for.

We have been watching this for more than a decade. The late Hussain launched the format of Ramazan shows in 2012, and Dawn reported in 2017 that networks earned up to Rs500,000 a minute in ad breaks. Asked why poor winners got luxury cars they couldn't afford to run, he said they "will be able to sell them".

I thought of those shows when a wedding in Sialkot turned deadly. The groom was Ansar Mehmood, a TikToker known to his over 800,000 followers as Mr Patlu. Police claim the organisers had advertised the event on social media with prize draws for motorcycles, cars, and other valuables. A large crowd gathered at a cricket ground and then an announcement over the loudspeaker asked everyone to enter the ground at once.

Perhaps it is time to ask what we have been watching all along.

Two people were killed. Many were injured. Six people have been arrested, and, at the time of writing, the TikToker had secured bail.

It would be easy to treat this as a freak accident, or to blame one careless influencer and move on. But the Sialkot wedding is not an aberration. It is the logical next step of a culture we built on television and have now handed to the internet.

The game shows taught us that prizes draw crowds, and crowds draw ratings. Social media has learned the same lesson, and stripped away whatever restraint television had. A TV studio has a set capacity, security staff, producers, and, in theory, a regulator watching. A TikTok giveaway has none of these. An influencer with a phone can summon thousands of people to a field with a single video, promise them a motorbike, and bear no responsibility for what happens when they arrive.

Giveaways are a standard tool of the attention economy. Brands use them, influencers use them, and the logic is simple: offer something for free and the followers come. Most of the time, the cost is a few likes and a lost afternoon. But that Saturday, the cost was casualties. The more uncomfortable question, though, is not about the influencer. It is about the crowd.

Why would so many people go to a stranger's wedding on the chance of winning a prize? Because, for many of them, a motorbike is not a toy. It is a commute. It is a job on a delivery app. It is the difference between a son getting to college and staying home. In a country where wages have barely kept pace with prices, a lucky draw is not a game. It is a lottery ticket out.

That is what Hussain understood when he gave away cars he knew winners would sell. The prize was never really the car. It was the money, the escape, the small chance of a better month. Our game shows made entertainment out of that hope. Now our influencers have made a business model out of it.

None of this ex--cuses the organisers. Running an ev---ent for thousands of people without proper permits, planning or crowd control is neglig-e-nce. But arrests will not touch the deeper incentive. As long as hope is cheap and attention is profitable, someone will keep dangling the motorbike.

So what would change it? Clearer rules on public giveaways would help, and so would treating large influencer events like any other public gathering, with permits and safety checks. Platforms could take some responsibility for promotions that draw crowds into unsafe spaces.

But the harder change is the one no regulator can make. We have spent years cheering as people humiliate themselves for prizes on our screens. We have laughed at the scramble. We have made it a Ramazan tradition.

Perhaps it is time to ask what we have been watching all along. Not a game, but a country telling us how badly it needs a lucky draw.

Postscript: As readers pointed out, the Women on Wheels programme began in Punjab in 2016, a fact my last column inadvertently omitted to mention.

When home is hell

E.N. Bandial

On an ordinary March afternoon this year, the children of a household in Lahore's Choong district gathered for their uncle's small promise of treats. Among them was four-year-old Azan, who was led out for a stroll by his uncle. It all ended eight hours later in the isolated outskirts of Quaid-i-Azam Industrial Estate — with Azan dead.

The minor's body, when recovered, showed a two-inch exposed spinal cord attaching the head and mutilated remains. Azan had reportedly been tortured and eventually killed with an eight-inch-long knife by his own father, allegedly in a calculated bid to implicate a third party. Azan is just one of several children who are killed every month by people known to them.

Moving back, in October, a 13-year-old in Mianwali was shot dead by her cousin for not wearing a hijab. In September, a three-year-old in Islamabad was kidnapped, raped, and murdered by her brother-in-law. In August, an 18-month-old in Karachi died after being raped by her 17-year-old cousin, while in July, a six-year-old boy was beaten up, raped, and strangled with a wire by his neighbour, and a four-year-old girl in Gujranwala was set on fire by her mother on suspicion of being 'possessed'.

In May, a father in Vehari repeatedly raped his three daughters aged 14, 11, and nine for six consecutive months; while three children aged six, four, and three were killed and found hanging from the fans in their home in Multan. A month earlier, in April, a mother in Lahore brutally slit the throats of her three children, luring them through a sadistic 'game' of hide-and-seek.

Occurring within the safe confines of the home, these tragedies shocked and enraged us more than others, but our protest ended in quiet resignation, as it did in 2022 when an eight-year-old was tortured and poisoned by her grandparents for failing at household chores, and in 2015 when a 12-year-old was beaten to death by her father for not making properly round rotis.

Homes repeatedly turn into hell for children as our criminal justice system is unequipped to intercept and prevent attacks within the home. Statutes such as the ICT and Sindh Child Protection Acts create institutional bodies that address minors' welfare, but they lack the authority to adopt anticipatory, prompt, and intrusive measures to ensure child safety. Our laws are reactive rather than anticipatory. Even the landmark Zainab Alert, Response, and Recovery Act, 2020, creates a protection mechanism for missing children that is enforceable only after the abduction is reported. As a result, attacks on children in public are not easily prevented.

Our criminal justice system is unequipped to intercept and prevent attacks within the home.

Recently, a five-year-old in Haripur was raped and left to die after being lured out of her home to see her father; an eight-year-old in Lahore was sexually harassed in a grocery store by the owner, and an eight-year-old in Sargodha was raped and murdered in a grocery store. Even when these victims were seen being accompanied or coaxed by a group of men or being eyed by strangers, the palpable threat of attack was ignored by those present at the scene. It was also in the presence of bystanders in Multan that 15-year-old Wasim was tortured and then run over by his employer recently. Whether it was their indifference or ignorance, they abandoned the weakest, most vulnerable members of society — our children. Being voiceless, defenceless and weak, children are considered dispensable. It is, therefore, easy to ignore injustices against them.

We tolerate inadequate child protection laws and mechanisms, ignore the proliferation of pornographic content, disregard paedophilic customs such as trading minor boys, and permit appalling lectures advocating marriage with girls as young as four. Our complicity and apathy have normalised child abuse and allowed it to persist, putting Pakistan third on the global map for child abuse.

Around 2,000 cases of child abuse were reported in just the first six months of the current year. Sahil reported over 3,600 in 2025. In 2024, 21 children were being abused daily. Reducing such horrifying figures demands enforceable protection under the law. Justice Jawad Hasan in 2023 (Zafar Khizer vs the Federation of Pakistan)initiated a shift in discourse from viewing children as ordinary citizens to viewing them as vulnerable citizens categorised as 'child citizens' and entitled to a higher degree of protection and concern under the law.

Justice Usman G. Rashid last month said that the child citizen is entitled to fundamental rights in their independent capacity that cannot be displaced by any parental authority. While the concept of the child citizen as an independent rights holder is evolving through jurisprudence, it is insufficient without effective implementation and accountability.

Mandatory reporting regimes should be introduced for designated professionals such as healthcare providers, instructors, and adults in child-related roles or positions of trust, as under Australian law and England's Crime and Policing Act, 2026. Additional measures for prevention through reporting suspected child abuse and conducting child-sensitive investigations and follow-ups in such cases must be made compulsory in line with the spirit of Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

These obligations must be rooted not merely in law, but in a shared sense of humanity and a collective duty to protect the vulnerable because, as lawyer and human rights activist Asma Jahangir said, a society that fails to protect its children has, in fact, failed humanity's most basic test.

Iqbal's philosophy of selfhood, hard work key to Pakistan's progress: Information Secretary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Ashfaq Ahmad Khalil on Friday urged the youth to understand the philosophy and message of Allama Muhammad Iqbal and embrace self-confidence, selfhood, hard work and action to contribute to the country's progress and prosperity.

He said the responsibility for Pakistan's future rested on the shoulders of its youth, who had played an important role in the creation of the country and now had a key role in taking it forward.

He was addressing a ceremony organised by the Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications (DEMP) in connection with Iqbal Day, which featured a painting exhibition and documentaries highlighting the poet/philosopher's life and vision.

Ashfaq Ahmad Khalil said Allama Iqbal had conveyed a message nearly a century ago that later became one of the intellectual foundations of the Pakistan Movement.

The younger generation understood the significance of that message and needed to translate it into practical action, he added.

Noting that nearly 60 per cent of Pakistan's population comprised young people, he said their potential and active participation were essential for national development.

Appreciating DEMP's efforts, the information secretary said the documentary produced to promote Iqbal's philosophy had effectively incorporated selected verses from his poetry, with particular emphasis on the concept of Khudi (selfhood).

He also praised the footage and the documentary prepared by a university student, saying it presented Iqbal's message in a manner relevant to the younger generation.

Speaking about the growing influence of digital and social media, he said technology offered both opportunities and challenges, stressing the need for its responsible and constructive use.

He observed that young people were increasingly using digital platforms and artificial intelligence, adding that these technologies should be employed responsibly to benefit society.

Ashfaq Ahmad Khalil said, on the directions of Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, a dedicated digital media wing had been established in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to disseminate accurate and fact-based information.

He said the ministry was also using digital platforms to highlight initiatives taken for young people and promote information in the national interest.

Referring to the Pakistan-India conflict, he said India had attempted to circulate a false narrative through digital platforms, but Pakistan's fact-based communication had gained international recognition.

He added that English-language transmissions of Pakistan Television had been launched to reach international audiences, while major international media organisations were referring to PTV reports as a source of information.

The secretary said officers of the Information Group needed to strengthen their understanding of social and digital media to meet the changing demands of the profession.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Information and Broadcasting, Ashfaq Ahmad Khalil cuts the ribbon to inaugurate a painting exhibition organized by the Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications (DEMP) in connection with Iqbal Day at the Information Services Academy (ISA).

Pakistani youth close to my heart as Saudi youth: IIUI acting Rector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting Rector and President of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Prof. Dr. Ahmed Saad Alahmed, has said the youth of Pakistan are as close to his heart as the youth of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, calling Pakistan his home away from home. In a special message to the youth on Friday, he urged upon Pakistani youth to take interest in learning modern knowledge and excel in all professional fields.

The IIUI President said unity, faith and discipline hold the key to the Ummah's rise among the comity of nations. He urged the youth to embrace these principles and build a future worthy of their ideals.

Prof. Dr. Ahmed Saad Alahmed said the university is not merely an institution of education. He described it as a fortress of the Ummah's values, norms and vision.

He said IIUI gives students a platform to excel in a wide range of disciplines, including basic sciences, engineering, computing, artificial intelligence, Shariah and law, Islamic studies and the Arabic language.

Peshawar police ban private jirgas across city

PESHAWAR (INP): Peshawar police have imposed a complete ban on private jirgas across the city, warning of strict action against those organising such gatherings at hotels and wedding halls.

Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Mian Saeed announced that private jirgas would not be tolerated in the city and warned that strict legal action would be taken against organisers.

He said hotels and wedding halls found hosting private jirgas would also face action, adding that the premises concerned would be sealed if such gatherings were held there.

Punjab launches digital platform to monitor medical training across institutions

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government has introduced a digital platform, HPE-PRIME, or Health Professions Education – Progress, Research, Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation, to monitor and evaluate the education, training and professional competencies of medical and healthcare trainees across the province.

Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique inaugurated the PRIME Portal at the University of Health Sciences (UHS) during a ceremony on Friday. The portal will integrate education and training in medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy and allied health sciences into a digital monitoring system. It will replace manual logbooks with electronic records of training activities and enable digital monitoring of trainees' practical skills, clinical experience, research progress and supervisors' performance.

Addressing the ceremony, Khawaja Salman Rafique said improving the healthcare sector was a top priority of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. He stressed that modern hospitals and healthcare facilities must be supported by a well-trained medical workforce to ensure quality treatment for patients.

Three killed in firing incident in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD (APP): Three persons were killed in a firing incident on Jhumra Road in Faisalabad, according to police sources quoted by TV channels on Friday.

Initial reports said the incident occurred when the victims were returning after attending a court hearing. Unidentified armed men opened fire on them, killing all three on the spot.

Following the incident, a police team rushed to the scene and shifted the bodies to a nearby hospital. Police have launched a search operation to trace and apprehend those involved in the firing.



Members of Mili Labour federation hold protest demonstration for basic rights in Karachi.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique addressing the participants during inaugural ceremony of Prime Portal at University of Health Sciences.

Sindh govt decides to gradually shift official vehicles to electric

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government has decided to gradually transition vehicles used by government departments to electric vehicles (EVs) as part of its efforts to reduce public expenditure, save fuel and promote environmentally friendly transportation.

The decision was taken during a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Austerity, chaired by Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon in Karachi on Friday.

Speaking at the meeting, Sharjeel Memon said the conservation of public resources remained among the provincial government's top priorities. He added that measures were being introduced to reduce government expenditure while ensuring environmental protection.

He said the Sindh government wanted electric vehicles to become the preferred choice in the future, with the entire government transport system gradually shifting towards environmentally friendly technology.

According to the decision, electric vehicles will be given preference when purchasing new vehicles for government departments. The meeting also approved the purchase of new vehicles for the Home Department, Anti-Corruption Establishment, and Universities and Boards Department.

Sharjeel Memon said promoting electric vehicles across government departments would help reduce expenditure and ease the financial burden of fuel costs on the provincial exchequer.

"The future belongs to electric vehicles, and the government wants public institutions to reduce their dependence on fuel," he said, adding that the phased transition would also lower the day-to-day operational expenses of government departments.

Sindh Minister for Local Government Nasir Hussain Shah said emissions from conventional vehicles were adversely affecting the urban environment and air quality.

He added that efforts were also underway to promote electric vehicles in local government institutions as an alternative to conventional fuel-powered vehicles.

KP to ensure transparent distribution of Zakat, Ushr funds strictly on merit

PESHAWAR (APP): Adviser to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Auqaf, Hajj, Religious and Minority Affairs and Zakat and Ushr Maulana Tayyab Qureshi on Friday said the government would ensure transparent distribution of Zakat and Ushr funds strictly on merit, without any political discrimination.

He said the Auqaf Department was also taking steps to improve transparency and financial discipline, adding that illegally occupied Auqaf properties would be retrieved from encroachers.

Addressing the Friday congregation at the historic Mahabat Khan Mosque, he said a zero-tolerance policy would be adopted against corruption in the department and no illegal occupation of Auqaf land would be tolerated.

The adviser stressed that Zakat and Ushr assistance would reach deserving people through a transparent mechanism, without discrimination on the basis of political affiliations. He strongly condemned the attack on police personnel in Kohat, saying terrorism and peace could not coexist and Islam had no room for terrorism or extremism. He said lasting peace was essential for promoting economic and business activities, adding that the government would continue taking effective measures to maintain law and order and protect the lives and property of citizens.

Qureshi also called for unity, tolerance and mutual respect in society, urging people to express differences of opinion through civilised dialogue rather than turning them into hostility.



LARKANA: Residents of Railway Station area protest against railway administration's action on encroachments in Larkana

PSF, Bahria University explore avenues for research collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), led by its Chairman, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Akmal, visited Bahria University to explore opportunities for strengthening research collaboration and promoting cooperation in science, technology and innovation.

The delegation included Dr. Mirza Habib Ali, Member Science, PSF; Ms. Zaiban Farooq, PSO (International Linkages); and Ms. Sumera Sami, SSO (Research Support). Rector Bahria University, Vice Admiral Engr. Abid Hameed, HI(M), warmly welcomed the delegation and briefed its members on the university's academic programmes and ongoing research initiatives. During the meeting, Dr. Mirza Habib Ali highlighted the role and mandate of the Pakistan Science Foundation, outlining its initiatives to promote scientific research, facilitate national and international research collaboration, and strengthen linkages among academia, research institutions and industry.

CM Inspection Team visits Faisal Masood Teaching Hospital

SARGODHA (APP): The Chief Minister's (CM) Inspection Team, headed by Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Shoaib Mirza, visited Faisal Masood Teaching Hospital, Sargodha, on Friday to review the provision of healthcare facilities and ongoing improvement measures. Deputy Commissioner Sargodha Hussain Ahmed Raza Chaudhry, Assistant Commissioner Ahmed Sher Gondal and Coordinator to the CM Inspection Team Mian Subhan also accompanied him during the visit.

The team reviewed medical facilities, patient care services, cleanliness arrangements and administrative matters at the hospital. It also examined steps being taken to improve healthcare services and address the difficulties faced by patients. Briefing the visiting team, Medical Superintendent Dr Sihial Khawaja said that the number of beds in the surgical emergency department had been increased from 24 to 45 to facilitate patients. He informed the team that the painting of the hospital's interior walls had been completed, while EPDM sheets had been installed on ramps to ensure the smooth movement of patients.

Peshawar traffic police personnel receive first aid training

PESHAWAR (APP): City Traffic Police Peshawar has arranged a two-day first aid training programme for its officers and personnel to equip them with emergency response skills and enable them to provide immediate medical assistance to accident victims and other injured people.

The training was organised on November 11 on the instructions of Chief Capital Police Officer Dr Mian Saeed and under the supervision of Chief Traffic Officer Dr Zahidullah.

SSP Traffic Headquarters Peshawar Roziya Altaf coordinated the session with Rescue 1122 personnel. Speaking on the occasion, Roziya Altaf said the training aimed to equip traffic police personnel with basic first aid skills so they could provide immediate assistance to injured people before the arrival of rescue teams or their transfer to hospitals. Rescue 1122 personnel demonstrated practical techniques for administering first aid, handling injured people and responding promptly to emergency situations. The SSP also distributed first aid kits among different traffic police vans and arranged practical guidance for personnel on their proper use. Chief Traffic Officer Dr Zahidullah said the responsibilities of traffic police extended beyond maintaining smooth traffic flow.

Samar visits PDMA KP headquarters

PESHAWAR (APP): Adviser to the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations, Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Samar Haroon Bilour on Friday visited the provincial headquarters of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to a spokesperson for the KP Information Department, the Adviser was briefed by relevant officials at the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) on the modern monitoring system, real-time data, digital dashboards and emergency response mechanisms.

The briefing highlighted that PDMA was actively working across all districts of the province to manage natural disasters and ensure prompt responses to emergency situations. Officials informed her that the authority's toll-free helpline 1700 remained operational round the clock to provide public information, guidance and address complaints. They said that 185 safe camp sites had been identified across the province to ensure public safety during emergencies, while essential relief supplies had been stocked at the Humanitarian Response Facility established at Jalozai to meet emergency requirements.

Samar Haroon Bilour was also given a detailed briefing on the digital compensation system, financial assistance to disaster-affected people, relief operations and rehabilitation projects.

The officials further informed her that modern technology and early warning systems had been introduced to ensure timely identification of natural disasters and an effective response. Speaking on the occasion, Samar Haroon Bilour said that Pakistan's Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) Framework was the first of its kind in South Asia. She said that the Prime Minister of Pakistan had presented the GBViE Framework as a national document at COP29. The framework strengthened gender-sensitive preparedness for natural disasters and emergency situations while ensuring better protection for women.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Social Welfare Sohail Shoukat Butt addressing the joint couple marriage ceremony under Dhee Rani Program.

Malik Ahmad stresses importance of education and reading culture

LAHORE (APP): Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan on Friday attended the Educational Arena Expo, Book and Stationery Fair 2026 at Expo Centre Lahore as chief guest and formally inaugurated the exhibition.

During his visit, the speaker toured various stalls displaying books, stationery and educational materials.

He took keen interest in the exhibits and appreciated the organizers for providing a platform to promote reading, learning and intellectual activities.

He said growing public interest in books and educational activities was an encouraging development. Talking to the media Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said education, healthcare and sanitation reforms were prominent features of the Punjab government's good governance agenda.

He appreciated the initiatives taken by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif in these sectors, saying the measures aimed to improve public service delivery and the quality of life.

Referring to the Suthra Punjab Programme, he said access to a clean environment was a fundamental right of citizens and the initiative should be viewed as more than a sanitation campaign. He stressed the need to extend effective sanitation services to rural areas as well.

The speaker highlighted the importance of bringing out-of-school children back into the education system and protecting them from child labour.

He said financial assistance, including stipends, could encourage families to send their children to schools.

He also referred to the establishment of Maryam Nawaz Health Clinics, observing that improved access to healthcare facilities in rural areas was an important step towards addressing public needs.

Emphasizing the fair and equitable distribution of public resources, Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said development initiatives should benefit people without political discrimination.



District administration supervises anti-encroachment operation in Karachi's sanitary market.

Suthra Punjab agency intensifies citywide cleanliness drive to curb pollution and dengue

RAWALPINDI (APP): Workers of the Suthra Punjab Agency Rawalpindi carried out special cleanliness activities at major mosques and surrounding areas on Friday on the directions of Managing Director Rana Sajid Safdar, including sweeping, road washing and sprinkling of lime to provide citizens with a clean environment and help control environmental pollution and dengue.

Special attention was given to the cleaning of mosque premises, ablution areas, entrances and surrounding locations ahead of Friday prayers. Lime was also sprinkled to improve sanitation and help eliminate germs.

The agency's communication team conducted an awareness campaign at various mosques after Friday prayers, educating worshippers and citizens about maintaining cleanliness, disposing of waste at designated points and keeping their surroundings clean.

The team urged citizens to cooperate with the administration, avoid throwing or burning garbage in open spaces and maintain cleanliness around their homes, shops, mosques and business centres. It emphasised that maintaining a clean environment was a shared responsibility of both the authorities and the public.

Meanwhile, the anti-littering squad issued warnings to individuals found littering or burning waste at commercial centres, markets, roads and public places across the city.

Turkish minister highlights cooperation opportunities with Pakistan in mining sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Türkiye Ahmet Berat Çonkar on Friday said Türkiye and Pakistan had considerable opportunities to strengthen cooperation in mining technology, local mineral processing, vocational training and industrial development.

Addressing the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF26), he said Türkiye's experience showed that a successful mining industry required a predictable investment environment, strong institutions, modern infrastructure and a clear vision to transform natural resources into lasting economic value.

He said Türkiye was working to strengthen its regulatory framework, streamline administrative procedures and enhance investment security through transparent licensing procedures and effective coordination among public institutions.

He said reliable energy supplies, transportation networks and logistics infrastructure were also essential for reducing operational costs and making mining projects commercially viable.

Highlighting the importance of geological knowledge and institutional capacity, he said exploration was the foundation of the mining industry, while reliable geological information helped reduce investment risks and exploration costs.

He said Türkiye's General Directorate of Mineral Research and Exploration (MTA) played a critical role in geological research and mining exploration. The country had also established TÜVEK, its National Geoscience, Data and Core Sampling Information Centre, to improve access to geological information and support informed investment decisions.

Çonkar said Türkiye focused on developing the entire mining value chain rather than concentrating solely on mineral extraction.

He said that of approximately 90 minerals traded commercially worldwide, 77 existed in Türkiye, while the country currently produced nearly 60 of them.

He said Türkiye aimed to create greater economic value through domestic processing, refining, the production of intermediate and finished products, and the development of mining technologies and equipment.

He said this required cooperation between governments and the private sector, technology transfer.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairing a meeting to review the restructuring of the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC), at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



GENEVA, SWITZERLAND: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, held a productive meeting with Soren Toft, Chief Executive Officer of Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), at the company's office in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss potential investment opportunities and avenues for expanding MSC's engagement with Pakistan.

Barrick chairman terms Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 'important' for global future

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Barrick Mining Corporation John L. Thornton on Friday termed the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF26) 'important' not only for Pakistan and the region but also for the world, saying the forum could play a significant role in shaping a more prosperous and peaceful future.

Addressing the two-day Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026, he said, "This forum is, of course, important to Pakistan. It's important to the region, but it's important to the world today, and even more in the future."

"We all know we need a more prosperous and peaceful world, and I believe this forum is ground zero for that undertaking.

The chairman said Khewra was home to the world's second-largest salt mine and was the source of Himalayan salt lamps enjoyed around the world.

He said Pakistan had a rich history of global trade, pioneering technology and partnerships with the international community through its mineral wealth.

"This is a tradition that goes back to the dawn of civilization," he added.

Thornton said the tradition continued today through Reko Diq, describing it as more than a mining project.

He said it was a partnership between Pakistan, Barrick, local communities and international investors to unlock one of the world's major mineral resources.

"If successful, it can be a model for how responsible resource development attracts investment, creates opportunity and connects a country more deeply to the global economy," he added.

The chairman said it was important to highlight this perspective because he was a student of history and viewed their role as part of a broader historical journey.

"Our role is to partner with you, with Pakistan, and help bring the benefits of your great global traditions and your mineral exports to the world."

Transaction advances Mobilink Bank's "Growth with Purpose" strategy

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank, one of the largest microfinance Banks in Pakistan, has signed a Sale Purchase Agreement (SPA) to acquire 82.51% shareholding in Apna Microfinance Bank Limited (Apna Bank), subject to applicable legal and regulatory approvals. The proposed acquisition is an extension of Mobilink Bank's "Growth with Purpose" strategy, reflecting our commitment to responsible growth, financial inclusion, and a stronger, more resilient banking ecosystem. The transaction reinforces Mobilink Bank's position as a trusted leader in the banking sector. The transaction is aimed at safeguarding the interests of Apna Bank's depositors, preserving stakeholders' confidence, and creating a stronger institutional foundation for sustainable growth. It also underscores Mobilink Bank's commitment to contributing meaningfully to the stability, resilience, and continued evolution Pakistan's financial sector. The agreement was formally signed by Haaris M. Chaudhary, President & CEO, Mobilink Bank, and Muhammad Akram Shahid, Chairman, Apna Bank, in the presence of senior leadership from both institutions and JazzWorld, underscoring the strategic significance of the transaction.



PSX gains over 500 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Friday, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index gaining 500.11 points, a positive change of 0.28 percent, to close at 177, 873.88 points against 177, 373.76 points recorded in the previous trading session.

The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 1, 042.810 million shares, compared to 1, 070.480 million shares traded in the previous session. The traded value of the ready market stood at Rs31.001 billion, slightly down from Rs31.636 billion a day earlier.

Meanwhile, total market capitalisation increased to Rs19.336 trillion from Rs19.224 trillion recorded in the previous session.

Out of 497 companies that traded in the ready market, 284 posted gains, 184 suffered losses, while 29 remained unchanged, reflecting the dominant bullish trend across the market.

Rupee gains 01 paisa against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rupee on Friday appreciated by 01 paisa against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 276.60, compared to the previous day's closing of Rs276.61.

According the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the dollar's open-market buying and selling rates were Rs 277.25 and Rs 279.55, respectively.

The Euro declined by Rs 0.96 to close at Rs 305.81, down from Rs 306.77 the previous day, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen decreased by 01 paisa and closed at Rs 1.72, while the British Pound came down by Rs 1.15 to Rs 365.94 from Rs 367.09 the previous day.

The exchange rates of the Emirate Dirham and the Saudi Riyal remained unchanged to close at Rs 75.31 and Rs73.70, respectively.

Baker nomination expected to deepen Pakistan-US economic cooperation: Shaikh Imtiaz

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: President of the US-Pakistan Business Development Forum and Chairman of the Pakistan-USA Business Council at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Shaikh Imtiaz Hussain, has welcomed the reported nomination of Natalie Baker as the US ambassador to Pakistan, expressing optimism that her appointment could give fresh momentum to bilateral trade, investment and economic ties.

In a statement, Hussain congratulated Baker on behalf of Pakistan's business community and termed her reported nomination by US President Donald Trump a positive development for economic diplomacy between the two countries.

He highlighted Baker's diplomatic experience and her previous interaction with Pakistani government officials, business representatives and institutions during her tenure as chargé d'affaires at the US Embassy in Islamabad.

Hussain said Pakistan and the United States had considerable scope to expand cooperation in information technology, critical minerals, energy, agriculture and infrastructure, areas he said could generate new avenues for investment and joint ventures.

BOI minister holds meeting with MSC CEO, global shipping giant expresses interest for investment

Geneva (APP): Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, held a productive meeting with Mr. Soren Toft, Chief Executive Officer of Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), at the company's office in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss potential investment opportunities and avenues for expanding MSC's engagement with Pakistan.

During the meeting, the Federal Minister highlighted Pakistan's strategic geographical location, its access to major regional markets and the potential of its seaports, including Karachi Port, Port Qasim and Gwadar, as gateways for international trade and maritime connectivity, said a release issued here on Friday.

Mr. Soren Toft expressed keen interest in exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan and discussed the potential for expanding the company's business engagement with the country. The Federal Minister welcomed MSC's interest, noting that the company's global scale, expertise and extensive maritime network could create significant opportunities for Pakistan's shipping, logistics and trade sectors.

The Minister invited an MSC delegation to visit Pakistan to explore potential areas of cooperation and investment firsthand. The invitation was welcomed by MSC, which agreed to arrange a delegation visit, paving the way for further engagement and detailed discussions on potential projects and business opportunities.

The Federal Minister observed that engagement with a global shipping and logistics leader of MSC's stature could be highly significant for Pakistan's efforts to strengthen maritime infrastructure, improve trade connectivity and attract international investment.

Potential areas of cooperation include port-related infrastructure, container handling, shipping and logistics services, warehousing, transshipment and integrated supply-chain solutions.

Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, is one of the world's largest shipping and logistics companies. Founded in 1970, MSC operates a global network of approximately 1, 000 vessels, serving over 520 ports across more than 155 countries, and accounts for around 21–22 percent of global container shipping capacity. Under the leadership of CEO Mr. Soren Toft, the company has established a major presence in international shipping, logistics and global trade.

The Federal Minister emphasized that Pakistan offers substantial opportunities for international maritime and logistics companies seeking to expand their regional footprint.

He reiterated the Government's commitment to facilitating foreign investors, strengthening investor confidence and translating international interest into concrete investment partnerships.

The meeting marks an encouraging step towards enhanced engagement between Pakistan and one of the world's leading shipping companies, with the proposed MSC delegation visit expected to provide an opportunity to advance discussions on potential investment and cooperation.



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DPM emphasises protecting farmers, ensuring fair sugar price for consumers as govt. priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister (DPM/ FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday emphasised that protecting farmers and ensuring a fair sugar price for consumers remain the top priority of the government, and directed all concerned to closely monitor retail prices and enforce a vigilant regulatory oversight to ensure maximum public relief.

The deputy prime minister, chaired a meeting of the Steering Committee on the Export of Surplus Sugar here, a DPM's Office news release said.

The Committee examined modalities to balance exports with domestic consumption so that domestic market availability and prices remain stable.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Commerce; SAPM Tariq Bajwa; Secretaries of Commerce and National Food Security & Research; and senior representatives from concerned ministries and departments.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Friday chaired a meeting to review the restructuring of the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC).

SBP injects over Rs 1 trillion to maintain liquidity in the market

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected Rs 1,049.85 billion through Reverse Repo Purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operations (OMO) on Friday for maintaining liquidity in the market.

The central bank conducted the Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) for 7 and 14-day tenors on November 13, 2026, and injected Rs 854.65 billion against 15 quotes while other Rs 195.2 billion were injected through Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based OMO. The central bank, for the Reverse Repo Purchase of 14-day tenor, received 18 bids cumulatively offering Rs 1, 089 billion at the rate of return ranging between 12.02% to 12.08%. The SBP accepted Rs 722 billion against 9 quotes at 12.06% rate of return. The total amount offered at 12.06% was Rs 750 billion, out of which SBP accepted Rs 613 billion on a pro rata basis.

Gold prices decline by Rs4, 900 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The prices of gold witnessed a significant decline in the local market on Friday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola falling by Rs4, 900 to settle at Rs411, 636, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold decreased by Rs4, 201 to Rs352, 911, while 10 grams of 22-karat gold declined by Rs3, 851 to Rs323, 513.

In the international market, the price of gold decreased by $49 to $3, 891 per ounce, the association reported.

Meanwhile, the price of silver per tola fell by Rs111 to Rs5, 467, while the price of 10 grams of silver declined by Rs95 to Rs4, 687.

PM assures Ivanhoe Mines of full facilitation for mineral sector investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday assured Ivanhoe Mines of full government facilitation for investment in Pakistan's mineral sector, particularly in the exploration and development of copper, gold and other critical mineral resources.

During a meeting with Founder and Executive Co-Chairman of Ivanhoe Mines, Robert Friedland, the prime minister said Pakistan was rich in mineral resources and was committed to working with international partners to harness its vast mineral potential, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

He welcomed Ivanhoe Mines' interest in investing in Pakistan and its cooperation with local partners, saying the government's priority was to provide a conducive environment for investment in the mineral sector.

The prime minister said the recognition of Pakistan as a preferred destination for mineral investment reflected growing confidence among international investors in the country's mineral potential and investment climate.



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari visiting various stalls at the PNWA Annual Grand Festival 2026. Begum Chief of the Naval Staff, Fouzia Naveed, is also present.

Finance minister meets Transsion holdings, discusses investment, exports, industrial cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, met with Mr. George Zhu, Founder and Chairman of Transsion Holdings, a multibillion dollar conglomerate in China, along with his delegation, to discuss the company's ongoing operations in Pakistan, future investment plans and opportunities to strengthen local manufacturing and Pakistan's export potential.

The Finance Minister welcomed Transsion Holdings' continued investment and expansion interest in Pakistan and its contribution to the country's manufacturing sector. The company shared an overview of its operations in Pakistan, including its presence in the smartphone, electric bike and energy storage segments, and outlined its plans for further investment and business expansion, said a release issued here on Friday.. The discussions focused on strengthening local manufacturing, promoting deeper localisation and developing a broader industrial ecosystem through the establishment of supporting industries and local supply chains.

Morocco seeks stronger mining cooperation with Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Morocco on Friday expressed its willingness to strengthen mining cooperation with Pakistan, highlighting opportunities for partnerships, investment and the exchange of expertise in the mineral sector.

Secretary General of Morocco's Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development Mohamed Ouhmed, addressing the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF26), said the forum provided an opportunity for both countries to exchange experiences and explore new avenues for cooperation and partnerships.

He said Morocco had a long mining history and significant mineral potential, with a wide range of mineral resources.

Highlighting Morocco's experience in the mining sector, he said the country was one of the world's leading phosphate producers and had developed a strong industry that met international standards.

The industry covered the entire value chain and had developed strong local expertise, he said, adding that Morocco had established partnerships with several countries in Africa, the Americas and Asia, including Pakistan.

Beyond phosphate, Morocco also had considerable geological potential and held an important position in the global production of several minerals, he said.

Citing World Mining Data 2026.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Commerce and Industries Chaudhary Shafay Hussain presides over the meeting of Board Members of Punjab Small Industries Corporation.

Trump's trade war puts Canadian auto jobs at risk as Stellantis faces lawsuit

Monitoring Desk

TORONTO: Donald Trump's aggressive trade policies are putting increasing pressure on Canadian industry, as Stellantis abandons its manufacturing commitments in Ontario in favor of US production, prompting Canada to threaten legal action over the loss of promised investment.

Canada has threatened to sue automaker Stellantis after the company abandoned plans to manufacture Jeep vehicles at its Brampton, Ontario, plant and moved production to the United States, exposing the mounting consequences of President Donald Trump's protectionist trade war for Canadian workers and the country's automotive industry. Industry Minister Mélanie Joly said Thursday that the federal government had issued Stellantis a formal notice of default, giving the company 30 days to address alleged violations of its funding agreement or face legal action.

"We sent a notice of default and, basically, they have 30 days — or else, of course, we will sue them," Joly told reporters in Toronto. The dispute underscores how Trump's aggressive tariff policies and pressure on foreign automakers are reshaping North American manufacturing, encouraging companies to shift production to the United States while leaving Canadian workers facing uncertainty over their jobs and the future of major industrial facilities.

Joly accused Stellantis of breaking its contractual commitments to the Canadian government and Brampton workers by announcing plans to sell the idled assembly plant to Canadian armored vehicle manufacturer Roshel.

She said the automaker was now "on the hook" for hundreds of millions of dollars over its decision, significantly more than the $24 million in federal subsidies that Stellantis Canada CEO Trevor Longley reportedly said the company was prepared to return.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has also sharply criticized the company's decision, describing the situation at the Brampton facility as "unacceptable" and a "betrayal" of its workers.

Stellantis had previously scrapped plans to manufacture its Jeep Compass at the Ontario plant and shifted future production to a factory in Illinois.



Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz, from left, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and French President Emmanuel Macron chat during the EU Summit in Dublin.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, fourth right, speaks to U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff, second left, and Jared Kushner, U.S. President Donald Trump's son-in-law, behing Witkoff at the Senate Palace of the Kremlin, Moscow.

Iran tells UN nuclear agency that monitoring cannot proceed while it is under threat

Monitoring Desk

VIENNA: Iran told the U.N. nuclear watchdog this month that discussions on nuclear monitoring cannot proceed while it is under threat from military attacks. According to a confidential report by the International Atomic Energy Agency, circulated to member states on Friday and seen by The Associated Press, Iran insisted discussions on resuming inspections in the country cannot resume amid "a series of persistent, explicit, and public threats by the President of the United States of America … to commit further acts of armed aggression" against Iran "particularly targeting its nuclear facilities." Iran said the situation won't resolve "until the root causes of the present situation are addressed and the essential requirements for normal safeguards implementation are restored," the report added.Iran hasn't given IAEA inspectors access to nuclear sites that were affected by Israeli and U.S. strikes during the 12-day war in June 2025. The IAEA also has been unable to verify the status of Iran's stockpile of near weapons-grade uranium since the June bombing.

Iran nevertheless reaffirmed its "firm commitment to resume full implementation of its safeguards obligations as soon as the relevant legal and actual conditions permit it." The U.N. nuclear watchdog said the lack of information about Iran's atomic sites and nuclear material is "a matter of proliferation concern" that "needs to be rectified with the utmost urgency."

France slams Israel's 'demagogic' ban on left-wing leader Melenchon

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: Paris has condemned Israel's "demagogic decision" to bar French opposition figure Jean-Luc Melenchon from entering the country.

Late on Thursday, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot slammed Israel's earlier announcement that Melenchon, leader of the left-wing France Unbowed party [La France Insoumise], was not welcome.

Israel barred the party's parliamentary group chair Mathilde Panot, alongside Melenchon, due to the "extreme anti-Israel stance" of the party and "outrageous statements" made by its leaders."This demagogic decision, coming from a government that has repeatedly violated international law, plays into the hands of those who, like La France Insoumise, make a living out of exploiting the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," Barrot, who belongs to the centrist ruling coalition, wrote on social media.

"France will continue tirelessly to work toward a two-state solution and peaceful coexistence between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples," the minister added.

Israel accused Melenchon and Panot of making "blood libel" statements against Israel.

At the weekend, Melenchon had said that if he was victorious in the upcoming presidential election in April 2027, he would order French ships to escort flotillas taking aid to Gaza.

The Israeli military has previously raided such fleets and detained activists. "Israel will respond firmly to those who seek to harm it and will not allow individuals who act against Israel and incite against its citizens to enter the country," a statement from the Israeli Foreign Ministry said.

Speaking to French radio, Melenchon said that he had been "banned from entering a territory I did not ask to enter".



Burkinabe soldiers stand guard amid an ongoing security crisis as armed groups in Sahel Province.

UN hails progress in Ebola response, cites insecurity as biggest challenge

Monitoring Desk

GENEVA: UN health officials on Friday hailed progress in the Ebola response six months after the outbreak first prompted global concerns, but that the disease continues to spread to more remote and dangerous parts of Congo.With the number of confirmed cases now surpassing 11,000, the outbreak is the second-worst for Ebola on record and has spread to parts of east, central and west .

Flagged by health authorities ' in mid-May, the outbreak is driven by the rare Bundibugyo species of the virus, for ' which there are no approved treatments or vaccines."We do see encouraging signs," said Chikwe Ihekweazu, head of the World Health Organization's Health Emergencies Programme, citing falling cases in former hotspots like Bunia in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

"But what we have seen now is the emergence of cases in more rural and more difficult-to-reach areas … The biggest challenge the response faces right now is the rising insecurity," he said, citing WHO showing 80 attacks on health sites and workers so far.

French medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières has been more downbeat on the Ebola response, that supplies are missing and the virus is still spreading out of control.

Julien Harneis, the UN's special Ebola coordinator.

EU leaders mull billions for next Ukraine aid package

Monitoring Desk

FRANCE: European Union leaders were at odds on Friday regarding additional financial aid for war-torn Ukraine worth billions of euros, ahead of consultations at a summit in Dublin.

The European Commission is hopeful that EU leaders can agree by the end of the year to provide Kiev with a further €45 billion ($49.7 billion) for 2027.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz has linked any agreement on new aid for Ukraine to the EU's next multiannual budget, on which an agreement is also to be reached by the end of the year.Some countries, including the Czech Republic and Slovakia, have pushed back against linking the two issues.

Merest Aggression to Draw Devastating Response, IRGC Chief Warns

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Major General Ahmad Vahidi warned that even the slightest aggression against Iran would be met with devastating and painful blows.

Speaking on Friday at the funeral ceremony for 110 unidentified martyrs of the Sacred Defense, Major General Vahidi said the enemy should learn from the repeated defeats it has suffered, otherwise "greater lessons are on the way."

The IRGC commander stressed that "the slightest aggression will be answered with devastating and painful strikes."

The warning comes as senior Iranian military commanders have reiterated that any renewed US-Israeli aggression would trigger a much more powerful response.

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Ali Abdollahi recently warned that previous retaliatory strikes were only the beginning.

Iran, Turkey Pledge to Boost Bilateral Ties

Monitoring Desk

ISTANBUL: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan called for stronger bilateral cooperation, particularly in economic and trade fields, and closer coordination to promote regional peace and stability. The two presidents met on the sidelines of the 2026 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) in Turkey on Thursday, discussing ways to expand relations and exchanging views on key regional and international developments.



Miners have poured into Mali since Guinea deployed security forces to stamp out illegal artisanal gold mining in its northeast early this month.

Israeli Forces Intensify Raids Across West Bank

Monitoring Desk

GAZA: Israeli occupation forces have carried out a series of raids across the occupied West Bank, storming residential neighborhoods, searching homes and detaining Palestinians in several areas, including Jenin, Nablus and Salfit, according to the Palestinian news agency Wafa.

The coordinated pattern of incursions has seen occupation forces enter residential neighborhoods and villages, conduct intrusive searches and subject Palestinian residents to arrests and field interrogations.

In the Jenin governorate, Israeli forces arrested four Palestinians during raids on their homes in Silat al-Harithiya and Deir Abu Dhaif, Wafa reported.

In Nablus, occupation forces expanded their incursions into several residential neighborhoods, including the northern mountain area, Popular Housing, Austrian Housing and the Old Askar camp.

Security sources told Wafa that Israeli soldiers broke into Palestinian homes and ransacked their contents during the operation.

The military incursions also extended to the eastern towns of Beit Furik and Beit Dajan, where Israeli forces searched residential properties.

Meanwhile, in the village of Marda, north of Salfit, Israeli forces raided numerous homes and detained several young Palestinians, subjecting them to field interrogations, according to Wafa.

In another incursion, occupation forces stormed al-Ubeidiya, east of Bethlehem, firing sound bombs and deploying troops in the Abu Sarhan area.

The latest operations underscore the continuing use of military raids, home invasions and arbitrary detentions as instruments of Israeli occupation across Palestinian territory.

UNRWA funding cuts deepen hardship for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon

Monitoring Desk

BEIRUT: Doumoua al-Baitan sat on the roof of a building in Beirut's Palestinian refugee camp of Bourj el-Barajneh as the sun set. Like many Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, al-Baitan was born and raised in this camp. For decades, Palestinians in Lebanon have been supported by the UN branch focused on Palestinian refugees, UNRWA. But funding cuts have impeded UNRWA's ability to provide crucial aid, particularly since the Trump administration's decision in February 2025 to maintain a US funding freeze imposed the previous year.

Between the funding cuts and funding shortfalls, UNRWA has had to close down or reduce hours of schools, healthcare centres, and clinics in Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps.Palestinians told Al Jazeera that in addition to there being less work to go around and less medical support, children are being crammed into overcrowded classrooms, and the use and sale of illegal drugs has become more prevalent.

"My kids cannot retain what they are taught in class," al-Baitan said, citing overcrowding. The divorced mother of four said she has started paying $200 per month – the same price as her monthly rent – for two of her children to attend after-school lessons.Since 1950, UNRWA has supported Palestinian refugees across the Middle East.

FBI says US has seized $1.2 billion worth of cryptocurrency stolen from Binance

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: The FBI said Thursday that it had seized more than $1.2 billion of cryptocurrency reported stolen last month from Binance, the world's largest crypto exchange. The theft of about $6.3 billion from Binance is regarded as the biggest crypto heist in history, and the FBI has previously attributed it to a North Korean hacking group known as TraderTraitor. The U.S. government and private sector have so far combined to freeze more than $2.7 billion of the stolen funds, and the Justice Department said Thursday that it has now obtained court authorization to seize or restrain more than $1.2 billion of that total.

Cape Verde president eyes new term as party builds on legislative win

Monitoring Desk

PRAIA: Cape Verde President José Maria Neves is expected to win a second term on Sunday, an outcome that would cement full control of government the island nation's oldest political party after its victory in legislative elections earlier this .

Situated more than 600 km (373 miles) west of mainland Africa, the former Portuguese colony is home to around only 500,000 people, although it made headlines this year when its men's soccer team embarked on a fairytale run to the World Cup knockout stage.Neves' main challenger is Joana Rosa, a former justice minister and Cape Verde's first woman presidential candidate. Analysts put Neves as the clear favourite to win another five years in office, after a race that highlighted issues like employment and ' stemming outward migration.

UN watchdog 'increasingly concerned' over Iran nuclear site

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: The UN's nuclear watchdog has said it is "increasingly concerned" about a nuclear facility in Iran which it has not been allowed to inspect.

Iran informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of plans to set up the uranium enrichment plant in the city of Isfahan a day before Israel began attacking its nuclear sites last June. The US joined the strikes later that month.

In a report seen by news agencies, the IAEA said it does not know the exact location or whether it contains nuclear material.Since the start of the latest war, Iran has restricted IAEA inspectors' access to its nuclear sites, preventing the agency from verifying its enriched uranium stockpile.

Under a 2015 nuclear deal, Iran agreed to limit its enriched uranium stockpile to 300kg and enrichment to 3.67% purity. It subsequently exceeded both. Before the June 2025 strikes, it had accumulated an estimated 441kg enriched to 60%, close to weapons grade. The nuclear complex at Isfahan suffered extensive damage in US and Israeli strikes, particularly the parts above the ground.

Respiratory illnesses rise in Gaza with worst to come as winter floods arrive, WHO says

Monitoring Desk

GENEVA: The World Health Organization warned on Friday of surging respiratory illnesses in Gaza, with worse expected after heavy rains flooded of thousands of tents housing displaced Palestinians.

"The numbers already show the pressure. respiratory infections are 33,000 cases higher than at the same time last year," Dr Reinhilde Van De Weerdt, WHO Representative in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, told reporters in Geneva from Jerusalem.Poor living conditions and severe overcrowding are driving up infections as Gaza's population is squeezed into an ever-smaller area, WHO said. The crunch has worsened as the Israeli military expands its control by advancing the "yellow line" — a demarcation established under October's US-brokered ceasefire.

"That means ` people are living in more crowded conditions, where of course the spread between humans of a virus is much more prone to spread," Van De ` Weerdt explained.

The Israeli military and COGAT.



A displaced Palestinian child walks in a partially flooded tent camp during a rainy day in Gaza.

Europe pushes for seat at Ukraine peace talks but lacks unified voice

Monitoring Desk

DUBLIN: European nations are seeking an envoy to represent them in talks on ending the Russia-Ukraine war, concerned that a U.S.-backed process will leave them sidelined and Kyiv vulnerable as Moscow and Washington decide the fate of a conflict that has roiled the continent. Whether Europe should be represented by one person or a team — and who should take on the role — is being debated Friday as leaders from the 27-nation European Union meet at a summit in Dublin. Senior EU officials and politicians have been suggested, but there is no consensus yet.

What the job might entail is also unclear and contested. But there is broad agreement by governments from the U.K. to Ukraine on the need for Europe to join the ongoing negotiations involving Moscow, Kyiv and Washington."This needs to be resolved," Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin said as he arrived at the summit.

"I would hope that today's discussions bring clarity around this," he said. "It needs to be, in my view, finally decided upon within the next week or two." Ukraine is eager for support from its European allies. It's reluctant to leave the talks solely in the hands of a U.S. administration that has often seemed to lean toward Moscow's views. Russia does not want European countries involved in direct negotiations, complaining they are financing and supplying Ukraine's military effort. European leaders also distrust U.S. President Donald Trump to negotiate on their behalf after a series of tense standoffs over trade.



Law enforcement officers inspect the site where a car was damaged by an explosion in Moscow.

Shehbaz directs effective measures to ensure local benefits from Reko Diq, mineral projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the relevant authorities to ensure that local communities, particularly the people of Balochistan, directly benefit from mineral development projects through employment, skills development and improved economic opportunities.

Chairing a meeting with a delegation of Barrick Mining Corporation, led by its Chairman John Thornton, the prime minister emphasized that effectively utilizing Balochistan's natural resources and mineral wealth was essential for the province's development and public prosperity, a Prime Minister's Office news release said. He said the government's priorities included creating employment and skills development opportunities for local youth, ensuring their participation in the benefits of mineral projects and promoting the development of communities surrounding project sites. Welcoming Barrick Mining Corporation's participation in the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum, the prime minister described the Reko Diq project as a major milestone for investment in the country's mineral sector and a project of strategic importance to Pakistan's economic future.

He said the successful implementation of Reko Diq would establish a benchmark for future investment in the country's mining sector and help create new opportunities for international investors.

The prime minister said Pakistan was committed to utilizing its extensive mineral resources and developing an enabling environment for investment through improved trade and investment policies, infrastructure development and modern technology.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the policy, regulatory and infrastructure frameworks required to promote investment in Pakistan's mineral sector. The prime minister also expressed the government's desire to benefit from Barrick's expertise and experience beyond the Reko Diq project to support the broader development of the country's mining industry. The visiting delegation appreciated the government's initiative to organize the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum, describing it as an important step towards advancing mineral development in the country.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by Chairman of Barrick Mining Corporation John Thornton meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.



Peoples Party Women's Wing Central President Faryal Talpur hosts dinner for senior journalists and anchorpersons at Bilawal House in Lahore.

Japan announces US$ 4.3m grant to support Pakistan's polio program

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Government of Japan has announced a new grant of US$ 4.3 million to procure essential oral polio vaccines as part of its continued support to Pakistan's polio eradication efforts.

The Pakistan Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) will use these funds to procure more than 28 million vaccine doses to support polio campaigns in 2027.

Pakistan is one of only two countries in the world where wild poliovirus transmission has not yet been interrupted.

The country has made significant progress in reducing polio transmission, with cases declining from 74 in 2024 to 31 in 2025, and 8 cases reported so far in 2026. Six of the eight cases in 2026 have been reported from south Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where insecurity and access constraints continue to pose significant challenges to reaching every child.

The continued detection of poliovirus underscores the need for sustained efforts to interrupt transmission everywhere and protect every child.

In an urgent effort to eradicate the incurable disease, the Government of Pakistan, with support from partners, has developed the National Emergency Action Plan 2026–27 under the Roadmap to Zero, setting out a focused approach to interrupting poliovirus transmission by the end of 2027.

Each national immunization drive targets over 45 million children under five, supported by more than 400,000 frontline health workers who play a vital role in reaching communities and delivering vaccines.

"The Government of Japan's contribution comes at a critical time as Pakistan intensifies its efforts to interrupt poliovirus transmission and end this preventable disease," said Ayesha Raza Farooq, the Prime Minister's Focal Person on Polio Eradication. "Every dose of vaccine supported through Japan's contribution brings us closer to a polio-free Pakistan. We are grateful to the Government and people of Japan for their continued commitment and partnership in Pakistan's efforts to eradicate polio and protect every child."

Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Akamatsu Shuichi, reaffirmed Japan's continued commitment to supporting Pakistan's health priorities.

"Since 1996, Japan has consistently supported Pakistan's polio eradication efforts, working closely with UNICEF and other partners. Today's new grant, which has been increased from last year, demonstrates Japan's continued support for our shared goal of achieving a polio-free Pakistan," he said. "Japan fully supports Pakistan's determination to achieve the goal of interrupting poliovirus transmission by the end of 2027."

The newly signed grant will provide critical funding to the PEI for the procurement and delivery of polio vaccines, supporting ongoing progress to interrupt the spread of poliovirus and sustain the gains achieved in recent years.

"Let us continue working together until the day when no child suffers from polio," said Yusuke Shinozaki, Chief Representative, JICA Pakistan Office. "We sincerely commend the strong commitment of the Government of Pakistan, the dedication of frontline health workers who continue to serve communities under challenging circumstances, and the tireless efforts of UNICEF and all other partners to deliver life-saving vaccines to every child."

President calls for prevention, early diagnosis of diabetes to be made national priority

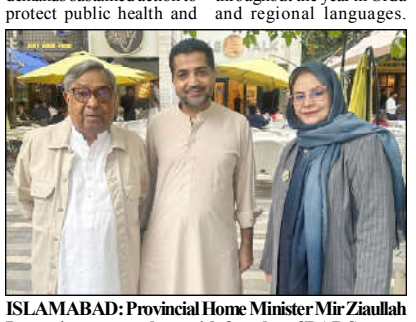
ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has called on all Pakistanis to make prevention, healthy living and early diagnosis a national priority on World Diabetes Day.

In his message on the international day observed on 14 November, the president said this year's theme, "Early Action on Diabetes", underlines that timely action can save lives and prevent serious complications.

Citing the latest International Diabetes Federation estimates, the president noted that 34.5 million adults in Pakistan were living with diabetes in 2024, with more than one-quarter of them undiagnosed. He said the scale of the burden demands sustained action to protect public health and well-being.

The president said many cases of type 2 diabetes can be prevented or delayed through a balanced diet, regular physical activity, a healthy weight and avoiding tobacco. He urged citizens to reduce sugary drinks and limit foods high in sugar and unhealthy fats, and to make walking, exercise and sport part of daily life. He added that families and schools have a special responsibility to encourage healthy habits from childhood.

The president urged the federal and provincial governments, healthcare professionals, educational institutions, media and civil society to organise coordinated awareness campaigns throughout the year in Urdu and regional languages.



ISLAMABAD: Provincial Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango in a group photo with founder of BAP Senator Syed Ahmed Hashmi and MPA Ruqiya Hashmi.

Ahsan seeks permanent mechanism to address TTS faculty pay disparities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday called for a permanent, transparent and sustainable mechanism to address salary disparities among faculty members under the Tenure Track System (TTS), ensuring fair compensation and retention of highly qualified academic talent in the country.

Chairing a meeting on the TTS salary structure, the minister stressed the need for a clear and objective formula to ensure appropriate differentiation in the pay structures of Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors.

He called for an independent mechanism for future salary adjustments to prevent recurring disparities and avoid repeated deliberations at the government level.

Expressing concern over the departure of talented Pakistani professors to other countries for better opportunities, Ahsan Iqbal said the country's investment in educating and training its academic talent must be protected through fair remuneration and a sustainable compensation structure.

He directed the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to support the proposed salary adjustment framework with accurate data and clearly defined financial implications, including existing disparities, inflation-based adjustments and a forward-looking mechanism linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The minister cautioned the HEC against presenting incomplete or inaccurate information, warning that the Commission would be held accountable if it was found to have misled the forum.

The meeting discussed measures to resolve existing TTS salary disparities and establish a predictable and transparent framework for future salary revisions.

Islamabad to become first fully cashless city by Dec 31

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government has decided to make Islamabad the country's first fully cashless city, with 31st December set as the deadline.

Chairing a meeting in Islamabad, Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry said consultation and suggestions of all stakeholders are important for the successful implementation of the Cashless Islamabad initiative.

The Minister of State said no cash payments will be accepted at any department of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) or the Capital Development Authority (CDA) after 30th November.

He said the government aims to bring all merchants in Islamabad into the cashless payment system by 31st December. He said around twenty-six thousand merchants in Islamabad have already been connected to the digital payment system.

Talal Chaudhry said digital payment facilities will be provided at every level, from street vendors to major business centres.

Kamal reviews performance of health helpline

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Health Services Syed Mustafa Kamal has reviewed the latest developments, system upgrades and overall performance of the 1166 Health Helpline, emphasizing the need to make the public service more efficient, transparent and responsive.

The minister was given a detailed briefing on the latest progress of the helpline dashboard, newly introduced features and improvements made to the system. The briefing also covered mechanisms for registering public complaints, monitoring their progress, ensuring timely resolution and improving the overall functionality of the helpline. Syed Mustafa Kamal directed the concerned authorities to further strengthen the 1166 helpline system and make it more active, transparent, efficient and citizen-friendly. He stressed that effective use of the system should ensure timely responses to public complaints and facilitate the prompt resolution of citizens' healthcare-related issues.

UNSC updates Yemen sanctions regime to address Houthi threats; Pakistan slams attacks on Saudia

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Amid Houthi military threats to Red Sea shipping, the UN Security Council voted unanimously to adopt a resolution renewing targeted sanctions and asset freezes on designated Yemeni entities, with Pakistan demanding end to the Yemeni group's attacks on Saudi Arabia.

The 15-member Council also extended the Yemen Sanctions Committee's expert panel mandate and demanded an immediate halt to all Houthi attacks.

Drafted by the United Kingdom, the resolution — 2837 (2026) — also includes strengthened arms embargo measures aimed at curbing Houthi access to dual-use components and precursor chemicals.

Noting the strengthened measures in the resolution, Pakistan's UN Ambassador Syed Haider Shah, in explanation of his positive vote, said, "Holding accountable individuals and entities that threaten Yemen's peace, security and stability remains essential to creating conditions for a durable peace."

He reaffirmed Pakistan's condemnation "in the strongest terms" the continued Houthi terrorist attacks against Saudi Arabia, and expressed "full and unwavering solidarity" with the government and "brotherly" Saudi people.

"Our support for the Kingdom's sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and stability is resolute," the Pakistani envoy said, supporting Saudi Arabia's right to defend its territory and protect its citizens and residents.

"We demand an immediate and unconditional cessation of these reprehensible Houthi attacks," he added.

Effective implementation of the sanctions regime also requires respect for the Council's institutional framework, Ambassador Haider Shah said, adding that the Panel's work in accordance with its mandate will strengthen the credibility and effectiveness of its output and contribute to better outcomes.



QUETTA: MPA Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch expressing his views on the resolution during Balochistan Assembly session.



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari inaugurating the PNWA Annual Grand Festival 2026 by cutting the ribbon. Begum Chief of the Naval Staff, Fouzia Naveed, is also present.

First Lady inaugurates PNWA annual grand festival 2026

ISLAMABAD (APP): First Lady Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari on Friday inaugurated the Pakistan Navy Women Association (PNWA) Annual Grand Festival 2026.

Begum Chief of the Naval Staff, Fouzia Naveed, received the First Lady and briefed her on the activities and welfare initiatives of PNWA.

The first lady visited various stalls displaying handicrafts and household items prepared by women associated with the initiative. She appreciated their craftsmanship, dedication and hard work, acknowledging their efforts in developing skills and contributing to the welfare of their families.

During the visit, the first lady was informed that PNWA also operates a vocational institute to equip women with practical skills. She was briefed that proceeds from the sale of products made by these women are channelled back to PNWA to support the welfare of the women involved.

Pakistan, Uzbekistan FMs vow to further strengthen bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar received a telephone call from Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Bakhtiyor Saidov, late Thursday night.

During the telephonic conversation, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation and enhancing coordination at multilateral forums.

They also discussed upcoming multilateral engagements, including the ECO Council of Ministers meeting scheduled to be held in Islamabad.

SC reports 47% decline in pending cases

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court has reported a significant reduction in its pending caseload, with cases declining from 60, 304 in November 2024 to 31, 927 in September 2026, as part of an 86-point reform action plan aimed at making the justice system more accessible, efficient and transparent. According to the reform progress report, 64 of the 86 actions have been completed, 11 are on track, while 11 require further attention.

During the reporting period, 22, 213 cases were transferred to the Federal Constitutional Court following the constitutional amendment. Separately, the Supreme Court disposed of 6, 998 more cases than were instituted between November 2024 and September 2026. The annual disposal of cases also increased from 16, 620 in 2023-24 to 25, 989 in 2024-25, registering an improvement of approximately 56 per cent. The reform programme has prioritised long-pending cases involving personal liberty, family rights, taxation and service disputes.

Gilani emphasizes fair wages, youth empowerment, Intl collaboration for skills dev.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Friday emphasised that fair wages, decent working conditions, and investment in youth development are essential to sustainable economic growth and social progress.

He expressed these views during a meeting at Parliament House with a delegation from the Global Fair Pay Foundation and London Tea Exchange, led by Professor Sheikh Aliur Rahman.

Welcoming the delegation, the Chairman of the Senate appreciated the Foundation's efforts to promote workers' rights and fair remuneration globally, particularly its initiative aimed at lifting three million tea workers out of extreme poverty by 2030. He also acknowledged the contributions of . Asif Bajwa, Charter Ambassador for Pakistan, and Mr. Farhan Farhani, Co-Chair of the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group, towards strengthening Pakistan–UK parliamentary engagement.

Highlighting Pakistan's demographic potential, Chairman Senate observed that nearly 60 percent of the country's population comprises young people, describing them as its greatest national asset. "Our youth must be equipped not merely to seek opportunities, but to compete, innovate and succeed in the global economy.

Overseas Pakistanis valuable national asset: Syedaal Nasar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Nasir Friday said overseas Pakistanis are a valuable national asset who, through their hard work, capabilities and professional services abroad, not only project a positive image of Pakistan but also play a significant role in strengthening and developing the national economy.

He said the welfare of overseas Pakistanis, the resolution of their problems and the provision of better facilities remained among the government's key priorities.

He expressed these views during a meeting with Malik Noor Awan, President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Japan. The meeting discussed issues faced by the Pakistani community in Japan, employment opportunities, bilateral trade and investment, and new avenues of cooperation between the two countries. The Deputy Chairman Senate appreciated Malik Noor Awan's services for the Pakistani community in Japan and acknowledged his efforts for their welfare, progress and the resolution of their issues.

He said overseas Pakistanis were also strengthening the national economy through remittances, and expressed optimism that these would increase significantly in the coming years.

PML-N Balochistan dissolves all district, subordinate organisations

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Balochistan General Secretary and Member of the National Assembly, Jamal Shah Kakar, has announced the dissolution of all district and subordinate party organisations across Balochistan as part of a comprehensive restructuring process aimed at strengthening the party's organisational framework throughout the province.

Speaking at a ceremony held at the Quetta Press Club on Friday, Jamal Shah Kakar declared that senior and experienced party leaders would be appointed as organisers in every district to oversee the formation of new party structures.

He stressed that the party would not tolerate factionalism or internal divisions, warning that anyone found involved in creating rifts within the party would face immediate disciplinary action, including expulsion.

The event was attended by Provincial Minister for the Commodity Department Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar, PML-N Women Wing General Secretary and Member of the National Assembly Akhtar Bibi, Member of the Provincial Assembly Hadiya Nawaz, Vice President Fatima Khan, Prime Minister's Coordinator for Youth Affairs Haider Khan Achakzai, along with several other senior party leaders.

Welcoming newly joined women members into the party, Jamal Shah Kakar praised the contribution of women to both society and politics. He said women play critical roles as mothers, wives, daughters and sisters, and noted that female workers within PML-N have made significant contributions towards making the party more active and effective.

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