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PM calls for grant-based climate finance, urges global support for vulnerable nations



ANTALYA (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday called for grant-based climate financing, including public-private partnerships, and a significant increase in resilience and adaptation funds to help climate-vulnerable countries cope with the growing impacts of climate change.

In his national statement at the Antalya Leaders Summit of the 31st UN Climate Change Conference (COP31), he stressed that vulnerable nations need timely assistance and financial support that did not add to their debt burden.

The prime minister said resilience and adaptation funds were essentially survival funds, particularly for struggling economies facing increasingly devastating climate disasters.

Highlighting Pakistan's experience with climate-induced disasters, the prime minister recalled the devastating floods of 2022, when one-third of the country was submerged, affecting 33 million people, claiming more than 1,700 lives and causing economic losses exceeding US$ 30 billion.

Referring to the August 2025 flash floods in Buner, he shared the heartbreaking story of a young man who was just two days away from his wedding when floodwaters swept through his village, turning a home prepared for celebration into a house of mourning.

He said the tragedy reflected the plight of millions across Pakistan and the developing world, who had contributed the least to climate change but were bearing its heaviest consequences.

Recalling his warning at the United Nations four years ago that what happened in Pakistan would not remain confined to the country, the prime minister said the warning had unfortunately become a reality.

"Climate change knows no borders. No nation can face it alone. Solidarity must mean action," he said.

The prime minister expressed gratitude to Türkiye, particularly President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, First Lady Emine Erdogan and the Turkish people, for their support to Pakistan during the devastating floods of 2010 and 2022.

He also thanked Türkiye for hosting COP31 and acknowledged Australia's valuable role as President of Negotiations.

Highlighting Pakistan's efforts towards clean energy, he said the country had added more than 20 gigawatts of distributed solar capacity in just two years, while clean sources now accounted for nearly 55 per cent of its energy mix.



ANTALYA: Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meeting with the President of the Republic of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of COP31.

CM Bugti assures investors of security, pledges one-window operation in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Thursday assured domestic and international investors of a secure investment environment, saying the provincial government was ready to partner with them in developing the province's vast mineral and energy resources.

Addressing the two-day Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF26), he said Balochistan was rich in natural resources, including minerals, oil and gas, and offered significant investment opportunities.

Highlighting the province's culture and hospitality, Bugti recalled that when Barrick left Balochistan more than a decade ago, its camp remained vacant without a security guard.

However, when the company returned after 10 years, not a single T-shirt had been stolen and not even a cup of tea was missing.

"This is Balochistan," he said, describing the hospitality and attitude of local people towards international partners and investors.

He said the government's policy was to facilitate investment through local communities by winning their trust and ensuring their participation in development initiatives.

He said commitment from both the provincial and federal governments was equally important in providing a secure environment for investors.

Bugti said the provincial government had established a separate security division for the Mineral Corridor to protect investors and mining projects across Balochistan.

Expressing confidence in the country's security institutions, he said the security forces and both provincial and federal governments had the commitment and capacity to protect investors.

However, he said the major challenge was not security but the gap between perceptions and ground realities.

"Perceptions always travel much faster than realities," he said, adding that Balochistan was different from the image often portrayed on television screens.

As the chief executive of the province, Bugti assured domestic and international partners that the people of Balochistan welcomed investors and wanted them to explore the

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ISLAMABAD: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti addressing participants during International Exhibition at the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF-26).

PM, Erdogan reaffirm commitment to strengthen Pak, Türkiye strategic partnership

ANTALYA (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a bilateral meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Türkiye on Thursday on the sidelines of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP31 Leaders Summit.

The two leaders reaffirmed the deep-rooted, historic and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Türkiye and expressed satisfaction at the positive trajectory of bilateral relations, said a Prime Minister's Office news release.

They held wide-ranging discussions on ways to further enhance cooperation, with particular focus on trade and investment, defence collaboration, energy cooperation and connectivity.

Both leaders stressed the importance of expediting the implementation of ongoing initiatives and exploring new opportunities to deepen economic engagement.

The prime minister and the president also exchanged views on the evolving regional situation and broader global developments.

Prime Minister Shehbaz highlighted the ongoing efforts by regional countries, particularly members of the Makkah Accord, to promote de-escalation and dialogue.

Mohsin Naqvi vows to strengthen NCCIA to combat cybercrime

LAHORE (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday said the government was working to provide additional resources to the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) to effectively combat cybercrime, online blackmailing, child exploitation and other illegal activities.

Addressing a press conference at the NCCIA Lahore office, he praised the agency's team for promptly arresting all suspects involved in blackmailing six young girls who had expressed suicidal thoughts during an open court hearing a few weeks ago. He said some suspects were arrested within hours, while others were apprehended within one or two days, providing much-needed relief to the victims.

The minister announced that the facility to lodge cybercrime complaints through NADRA's Pak ID platform would be launched soon. The initiative would ensure that every complaint was digitally recorded, enabling authorities to track its progress and monitor the action taken.



He said a meeting with the Prime Minister was scheduled for next week to

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Security forces kill three terrorists in Mastung

MASTUNG (UNA): Security forces have killed three terrorists on National Highway N-25 in Mastung District.

According to a spokesperson of Balochistan Police, terrorists belonging to Fitna Al-Hindustan attempted a cowardly attack at Kandawa Post on National Highway N-25 using an explosives-laden vehicle.

However, security forces repulsed the attack through timely and effective action. In the ensuing retaliatory operation, three terrorists were killed.

The explosion damaged nearby houses and a mosque. Two civilians were martyred, while several others sustained injuries. The injured individuals were shifted to medical centers for treatment.

Nooreen Niazi, Uzma Khan released from Kot Lakhpat Jail

LAHORE (INP): Nooreen Khan Niazi and Uzma Khan, sisters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, have been released from Kot Lakhpat Jail on Thursday.

Noreen, Aleema Khan, and Uzma Khan, were detained since Sept 21 under the Punjab Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, 1960 (MPO) on the Lahore deputy commissioner's (DC) orders. The two sisters had been detained at Kot Lakhpat Jail before their release, sources said. On October 29, Noreen Niazi was shifted to a hospital from jail after experiencing a health problem. According to her lawyer, Rana Mudassar Umar, Noreen Niazi complained of pain in her heart and was transferred from jail to Punjab Institute of Cardiology, where her initial medical tests were conducted. In September, the Lahore High Court had rejected a request for the immediate suspension of the detention notifications.



Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar inaugurating the International Exhibition at the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF-26), at Islamabad.

Dar invites global investors to tap Pakistan's mineral sector, vows full institutional support

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday reaffirming the government's full institutional commitment and a predictable environment, urged international investors, exploration companies and mining enterprises to explore opportunities in Pakistan's mining sector and develop long-term cooperation.

The deputy prime minister, in his inaugural address at the two-day Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum being held here, assured that the government, together with all relevant federal and provincial institutions, was fully committed to this national undertaking and was determined to match the confidence of its partners with institutional commitment, effective facilitation, and a predictable environment to help flourish responsible investment.

He told the gathering of federal ministers, provincial governors and chief ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, delegates from over 60 countries, including representatives of international financial institutions and development partners and leaders of the global mining industry that Pakistan provided the opportunity as a competitive and trusted destination for mineral exploration and investment.

He said that the government was advancing this vision through national

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Ahsan calls for fast-tracking Nokundi-Gwadar Corridor to boost mineral exports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday called for expediting the development of the Nokundi-Gwadar road corridor through coordinated efforts by the federal government, Balochistan government and mining companies to strengthen logistics connectivity and unlock Pakistan's mineral export potential. During a meeting with a senior delegation of Barrick Mining Corporation, the minister highlighted the strategic importance of connecting Balochistan's mineral-rich areas with seaports through an efficient road and rail network to facilitate mineral exports and attract further investment.

Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan aimed to increase its exports to $100 billion under the National Economic Transformation Plan 2035, adding that the mining and minerals sector would play a significant role in achieving the target.

Governor calls for education reforms inspired by Iqbal's philosophy

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has highlighted the enduring relevance of Allama Muhammad Iqbal's philosophy, urging educational institutions and policymakers to draw intellectual guidance from the visionary thinker's ideas to address contemporary challenges facing the Muslim world.

Speaking at a one-day seminar titled "Iqbal Shinasi" (Understanding Iqbal), organized by the Directorate General of Culture, Government of Balochistan, in collaboration with the Iranian Cultural Centre Quetta, the governor described Allama Iqbal as far more than a poet, calling him a profound philosopher and visionary intellectual who successfully blended Eastern mysticism with Western philosophy into a unique and influential school of thought.

The seminar was attended by Member of the National Assembly Akhtar Bibi, Director General of the Iranian Cultural Centre Abolhassan Amiri, Provincial Secretary for Culture and Tourism Hamidullah Khan Nasar, Principal Secretary Abdul Nasir Dotani, Director Culture Daud Tareen, scholars, researchers, and a large number of academics and intellectuals.

Addressing the gathering, Governor Jaffar Mandokhail said that understanding the challenges confronting the Islamic world and finding effective responses to them requires a deeper engagement with

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Police kill most-wanted terrorist commander in Bara Sheikhan

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police killed a most-wanted commander of Fitna al-Khawarij, identified as Saifullah, during an encounter in Bara Sheikhhan area, police said on Thursday.

According to a police press release, the slain militant was affiliated with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and wanted by police and the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in several serious cases.



QUETTA: Secretary Culture Hameedullah Nasar and DG Iranian Cultural Centre Abu-ul-Hassan Ameeri presenting shield to Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail during one-day seminar on "Iqbal Studies".

CJP reviews progress on establishment of Women Facilitation Centres across Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Yahya Afridi, in his capacity as Chairman of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP), on Thursday reviewed progress on the establishment of Women Facilitation Centres across the country, with the initial phase envisaging four centres, one in each province.

The meeting was held at the Supreme Court of Pakistan and attended by the Registrar of the Supreme Court, Secretary LJCP Capt. (Retd) Mushtaq Ahmad, representatives of the High Courts, architects, and officials of the National Engineering Services Pakistan (NESPAK).

The chief justice said judicial facilitation priorities for 2025-26 had focused on uninterrupted electricity supply to courts and bar associations, e-libraries with internet facilities, clean drinking water and women-centric facilities. He noted that these facilities had been provided to courts and bar associa-

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ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan chairing the meeting on establishing women's facilitation centers in all provinces at Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Terrorist attack on police station in DIK foiled

D I KHAN (INP): Police foiled a terrorist attack on Band Korai Police Station in Dera Ismail Khan, after assailants rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into the station's main gate, police said. The powerful blast destroyed the police station's gate and a section of its boundary wall. According to police, the attackers fled the scene following a strong retaliatory response from police personnel. All police officers present inside the station remained safe and unharmed. However, the explosion also destroyed a nearby mosque and damaged several surrounding houses.

Quetta authorities move to improve traffic flow, remove encroachments across city

QUETTA (APP): The Quetta administration has intensified efforts to improve traffic management, eliminate encroachments, and ensure smoother vehicular movement across the city following a high-level meeting chaired by Quetta Commissioner Zeeshan Lashari.

The meeting was attended by Metropolitan Corporation Administrator Bashir Ahmed Barech, Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini, Additional Deputy Commissioner General West Muhammad Hanif, RTA Secretary Quetta Sherdil Khan Baloch, and officials from the Traffic Police, Public-Private Partnership (PPP) unit, Engineering Bureau, and other relevant departments.

During the session, participants reviewed traffic-related challenges in various parts of the city, including illegal parking, roadside encroachments, and other obstacles affecting the smooth flow of traffic. Officials presented a detailed briefing on the measures already undertaken to ad-

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Diplomats, officials, business leaders gather as Malaysia HC, celebrates bilateral friendship

ISLAMABAD (APP): The High Commission of Malaysia in Pakistan, H.E. Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan hosted an Appreciation Hi-Tea, bringing together diplomats, Pakistani government officials, business leaders, think tank representatives and friends of Malaysia to celebrate longstanding friendship, strengthen partnerships and acknowledge continued cooperation between Malaysia and Pakistan.

The event was hosted by, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, H.E. Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, who welcomed guests and expressed gratitude for their continued support and contributions to the High Commission's diplomatic, economic and cultural engagements.

In his welcoming remarks, the High Commissioner said the gathering was more than an expression of appreciation, reflecting Malaysia's commitment to building a better world founded on peace, progress and prosperity.

He reiterated that dialogue, peaceful coexistence, negotiation and mutual understanding remain central pillars of Malaysia's foreign policy. He also extended heartfelt appreciation to the Government and people of Pakistan for their hospitality and support towards the High Commission and the Malaysian community. He particularly acknowledged the cooperation extended by Pakistan's Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Interior, alongside provincial authorities.

Highlighting recent diplomatic engagements, Dato' Azhar referred to the visit of ASEAN Heads of Mission to Sindh, which included meetings with the Governor and Chief Minister of Sindh, interactions with Karachi's business community and engagements with university students. He emphasised the importance of involving young people in discussions on economic development, regional security and peace. Speaking about Malaysia-Pakistan relations, he recalled the historic friendship between the two nations, noting Pakistan's early recognition of Malaysia's independence in August 1957 and the elevation of bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership in 2019.



RAWALPINDI: Pakistani players celebrates after dismissing Sri Lankan batter Sonal Dinusha on the 4th day of the first Test cricket match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.



ANTALYA: Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meeting with the President of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of the Republic of Sudan General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

Pakistan calls for global action at COP31 to shield millions from climate threats

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday called for stronger international climate financing, technology transfer and cooperation to tackle growing climate risks as the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) hosted a high level session on technology-driven disaster management at the Pakistan Pavilion during the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) in Antalya, Türkiye, bringing together senior government officials, climate experts and international development partners to highlight the country's shift from reactive disaster response to proactive, technology-enabled preparedness and anticipatory action, according to a press release received here.

Titled "Leveraging Innovative Technologies in Proactive Disaster Management", the session was led by NDMA Chairman Lt Gen Muhammad Hassan Khattak and attended by Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam, SDPI Executive Director and NDRMF Board Chairman Dr Abid Qayyum Suleri, SilverLining Director of Science and Science Policy Dr Corinne Hartin, and Catholic Relief Services Chief of Party Rado Ravonjiarivelo.

The discussions highlighted Pakistan's growing reliance on technology, data and early warning systems to anticipate disasters, assess vulnerabilities and minimise their impact on communities and critical infrastructure.

Pakistan, Finland agree to strengthen coop. in trade, technology, climate resilience

ANTALYA (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to transform its longstanding and friendly relations with Finland into a forward-looking partnership, focusing on trade and investment, education, skills development, technology, climate resilience and people-to-people contacts. The prime minister made these remarks during a meeting with Finnish President Alexander Stubb on the sidelines of the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) in Antalya, Türkiye. During the meeting, both leaders reviewed bilateral relations and discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in areas of mutual interest. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif highlighted the considerable potential for enhancing bilateral trade and welcomed the presence of Finnish companies, including Nokia, Wärtsilä, Metso and Vaisala, in Pakistan.

He encouraged greater business-to-business engagement, technology transfer and investment in telecommunications, advanced manufacturing, clean technologies and mining. The two leaders also exchanged views on climate change, disaster risk reduction and environmental cooperation.

CM Bugti assures..

Continued from page 1

province's economic opportunities.

Highlighting Balochistan's mineral and energy potential, he said the province possessed enormous natural resources, including minerals, oil and gas.

He said the Reko Diq project was a major example of the province's investment potential and expressed optimism about its development.

The chief minister also referred to promising developments in Sarona, where significant oil and gas reserves were expected to emerge in the coming months.

He said the potential reserves in the area could be greater than those of Sui, whose gas resources had supplied energy to Pakistan for more than 70 years.

Bugti further said the Balochistan government, with federal government support, was planning to establish a fertiliser city in Sui to utilise the area's low-BTU gas resources.

He invited investors to participate in the project, assuring them that the government would provide security, civic amenities and all other facilities required for investment.

The chief minister said security was the foremost requirement for investors and assured them of full protection through the provincial and federal governments, security forces and people of Balochistan.

He also announced that the provincial government would eliminate unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles for investors.

"There will be no red tape in Balochistan," he assured the participants.

Bugti said the provincial government had already introduced legislation for a one-window operation under the Mines and Minerals Act, aligned with the national regulatory framework.

He said the legislation had been passed by the provincial assembly with political consensus and the support of all political parties represented in the house.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111223893 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 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LOCAL GOVT LORALAI 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 3%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	PROVISION OF SOLAR STREET LIGHTS AT DIFFERENT VILLAGES AT DISTRICT LORALAI	90,000,000

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 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 63,000,000 PKR Amount in3 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 EE11(ii) (Solar Energy), EE11(iii) (Solar Energy system), EE11(iv) (General Operational Works only). The Bidder must have Completed 2 assignment of Solar Street Lights costing 70% and above Submit a Rs.100 stamp Power of Attorney (attested by 1st class magistrate) with TSE number and work title for written confirmation at time of bid submission authorizing a person (with Name & CNIC #) to submit the Bid. Submit a Rs.100 stamp affidavit (attested by 1st class magistrate) with TSE number and work title, confirming all bid information is accurate. Forged or false data will lead to blacklisting and forfeiture of the guarantee or deposit. Bidder must provide affidavit confirming no conflict of interest not blacklisted not debarred no major litigation no non-performance in last 5 years and no failure to sign contract in Pakistan or any international agency CDR and Green Challan and BPPRA white challan paid must be attached and submitted at office of undersigned in hard form BRA Professional Tax certificate is required **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 27 November, 2026till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System **Address:** Office of the Assistant Director Local Government Pathan Kot Road Loralai Phone no: 0824410886
Email: mkaleemsadlgrd@gmail.com

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LOCAL GOVT & RD LORALAI

DPRQ/PRQ No.2433/12-11-2026

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Dar invites..

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leadership, institutional facilitation, and policy reform to make Pakistan a predictable, competitive and facilitative destination for long-term investment.

The deputy prime minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, mineral development has been elevated to a strategic national economic priority, as his vision of a productive, export-oriented, and investment-driven economy emphasised unlocking Pakistan's untapped potential, strengthening industrial capacity, and mobilising domestic and international investment.

"Our ambition is clear: to develop Pakistan's mineral resources responsibly, strengthen our industrial base, diversify our exports, empower our provinces and communities, and establish Pakistan as a competitive and trusted partner in the global minerals economy," he added.

He remarked that while resources create potential and investment creates opportunity, it is institutions, partnerships, and people that turn potential into lasting prosperity.

Quetta..

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dress these issues.

Authorities informed the meeting that all motorcycle stands and illegal encroachments along Zarghoon Road, from Imdad Chowk to Akram Hospital, have been removed. Parking arrangements around major hospitals have also been reviewed as part of broader efforts to ease congestion in high-traffic areas. Officials noted that one of the primary causes of traffic jams around hospitals is the improper parking of vehicles and rickshaws belonging to patients and their attendants. Action has been taken against illegal parking practices, while special traffic police deployments have been made to maintain uninterrupted traffic flow and facilitate easier access for patients and visitors.

The meeting was further informed that commercial activities along Inscomb Road have been restricted and encroachments removed to ensure that the road remains fully functional for traffic movement.

In a significant policy initiative, the meeting decided to formulate a comprehensive strategy regarding construction activities and related developments on Spini Road, Sariab Road, Sabzal Road, Inscomb Road, and Shahwani Link Road. To achieve this objective, a joint team comprising officials from the Metropolitan Corporation, Quetta Development Package (QDP), Traffic Police, Engineering Bureau.

Mohsin Naqvi vows..

Continued from page 1

brief him on the NCCIA's resources and requirements. Highlighting the shortage of staff, he said the agency had only 61 personnel, ranging from drivers and constables to the Director Punjab, for a population of 140 million. Despite these limited resources, he added, the team was working round the clock.

Mohsin Naqvi disclosed that the NCCIA had uncovered a major gang involved in facilitating approximately 5,000 Pakistanis to pass examinations of international educational institutions through fraudulent means. He said action would be taken against the network as well as the 5,000 Pakistanis who had obtained undue benefits through the scheme. He termed it a major scam whose timely detection had prevented potential damage to Pakistan's interests.

He further said the National Centre for Missing and Child Abuse had arrested 15 individuals during the previous month for their alleged involvement in child exploitation and the distribution of pornographic content in Punjab, particularly Lahore. The suspects were reportedly connected with various international websites. He added that several other cases, including an FBI-related case, a call centre case and a child exploitation case, had also been resolved.

The Interior Minister said that providing the NCCIA with adequate resources would significantly strengthen efforts to control cybercrime and child exploitation in the country. He vowed that those involved in such illegal activities would not be allowed to escape the law.

Responding to a question about the political situation, he said all political parties, including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), were entitled to their legal rights, and any relief granted by courts would be available to them. He said various rumours had been circulating over the past couple of days about possible political developments, but there had been

CORRIGENDUM/AMENDMENT

This is to inform all concerned that pursuant to Tender Notice for "*Construction Of Link Roads From Different Streets At MC Killa Saifullah (BSDI Phase-III 2026-27)*", bearing *TSE No. 2627101217813*, published in the daily newspaper under PRQ No. 2217/02-11-2026, the bidding documents in respect of eligibility criteria have been amended/revised and the bid opening schedule has been extended.

The bid submission deadline is now extended up to **20th November, 2026**, at 11:00 am and the bid opening will be on the same day at **12:00 PM**. All other terms & conditions remain the same.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Local Government & Rural Development Killa Saifullah

PRQ No.2415/12-11-2026

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TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111223513 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 EXEC ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIV: DERA BUGTI 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 1,500 PKR**

S.No	Name of Work/s	Bid Security
1	FLOOD PROTECTION BUND AT SHAM KHAIRAN MOHAMMAD NAWAZ DISTRICT SOUTH DERA BUGTI.	3%

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 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 6,928,740 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 CE04(ii) (Irrigation & Flood Control Systems), CE04(v) (Irrigation Only). The bidder must deposit 1500 rupees through Green challan The bidder must deposit 3% bid security of estimated cost through Call Deposit or Bank Guarantee. The bidder must completed 01 similar nature assignment 60% of estimated cost in last three years. **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,500 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 11:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM Address: Irrigation Department Dera Bugti
Phone No:03368249672 Email: junaidpaki90@gmail.com

EXEC ENGINEER
IRRIGATION DIVISION
DERA BUGTI

DPRQ/PRQ No.2419/12-11-2026

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CJP reviews..

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tions across Pakistan, including Islamabad.

He identified the establishment of dedicated Women Facilitation Centres in all four provinces and Islamabad as a priority for 2026-27.

The proposed centres will serve as one-window facilities, providing women with guidance and support in a safe and accessible environment. They will include reception and guidance desks, waiting areas, hygienic washrooms, private consultation rooms, legal assistance, and spaces for mediation and alternative dispute resolution.

The facilities will also provide psychosocial support and referral services, accessible entrances and ramps for women with disabilities, and suitable spaces for interaction with children where required.

Governor..

Continued from page 1

Iqbal's ideas and philosophy. He also paid tribute to the contributions of Muslim saints and Sufi scholars, describing their services in spreading Islam and promoting spiritual and moral values as highly commendable.

Referring to a lesser-known aspect of Iqbal's legacy, the governor noted that Allama Iqbal had prepared an educational curriculum for Afghanistan at the request of King Nadir Shah.

In this context, he called upon the provincial education department to undertake a comprehensive review of the existing curriculum and align it with the principles of Iqbal's philosophy while adapting it to modern educational requirements. Jaffar Mandokhail said that Iqbal was a widely travelled and deeply learned individual who had extensively studied both Eastern and Western intellectual traditions. He noted that Iqbal visited several countries, including England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Afghanistan.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111223803 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 EXEC ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIV: DERA BUGTI 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 1,500 PKR**

S.No	Name of Work/s	Bid Security
1	FLOOD PROTECTION BUND LANJA DISTRICT SOUTH DERA BUGTI.	3%

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 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 20,790,297 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-5 and above (Upto 65 million)In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE04(ii) (Irrigation & Flood Control Systems), CE04(v) (Irrigation Only). The bidder must deposit 1500 rupees via Green Challan The bidder must deposit 3% of Bid Security of estimated cost via call deposit or Bank Guarantee The bidder must have completed 01 Similar nature assignment 60% of estimated cost in last three years **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,500 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 11:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM
Address: Irrigation Department Dera Bugti
Phone No:03368249672 Email: junaidpaki90@gmail.com

EXEC ENGINEER
IRRIGATION DIVISION
DERA BUGTI

DPRQ/PRQ No.2420/12-11-2026

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GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
Ministry of Defence
Survey of Pakistan
Surveyor General's Office, Rawalpindi
Tele: 051-9220203; Fax: 051-9290229

CORRIGENDUM

Reference Advertisement No. PID (I) 3905/26, dated 29.10.2026 published in the newspapers "Daily Express, Daily Jang, Daily Qudrat Quetta, Daily Independent Quetta, Daily Ahm Khabar Quetta, Daily Nazim News Quetta, and Daily Haal Quetta" regarding recruitment against 14x posts (12x Naib Qasids + 2x Sanitary Workers) in Survey of Pakistan against Balochistan Quota. This corrigendum shall be read as an integral part of the original advertisement.

2. Following necessary amendment (s) are made in the aforesaid advertisement:

Existing Detail in Advertisement	Amendment / Changes
Walk-in Interview at the Geo-Informatics Centre, Survey of Pakistan, Brewery Road, Quetta on 25th November, 2026 (Wednesday) (08:00 am to 04:00 pm).	Walk-in Interview at the following districts of Balochistan on the dates as mentioned against each.

Name of District	Venue of Walk-in Interview	Date & Time
Hub	DC Office Hub	22th – 25th November, 2026
Dalbandin	IT Hub DC Office	27th – 29th November, 2026
Turbat	Turbat Circuit House	1st – 4th December, 2026
Gwadar	Gwadar (Pak-China Voc Inst)	6th December, 2026

3. In case of any difficulty, please contact Mr. Muhammad Asad Rafique, Director (C.C), Geo-Informatics Centre, Survey of Pakistan, Quetta at telephone number 081-9213365.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS PUBLISHED SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

(MALIK TANVEER AHMED)
Director (Admin) (R.D)
for Surveyor General of Pakistan

PID(I)4398/26

Khosa orders technical review to ensure timely completion of Dera Allah Yar drainage scheme

Independent Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Minister for Communications and Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa has directed authorities to accelerate work on the Dera Allah Yar drainage project, warning that delays, negligence or compromises on construction standards would not be tolerated.

He issued the directives while presiding over a review meeting held to assess progress on the major infrastructure scheme, which is intended to provide a permanent solution to the city's persistent drainage and rainwater accumulation problems.

The minister described the project as the first major drainage initiative of its kind for Dera Allah Yar and said its timely completion was essential for improving civic facilities and easing the difficulties experienced by residents during the rainy season.

Parliamentary Secretary for S&GAD Abdul Majeed Badini, Communications and Works Secretary Babar Khan, Chief Engineer Naseerabad Zone Muhammad Bashir Nasir, Chief Engineer Federal Projects Dr. Sajjad Baloch, Technical Adviser Ehsanullah Dotani and other senior officials attended the meeting, while project consultants participated through a virtual link.

Officials provided a detailed briefing on the implementation status, technical matters and challenges encountered during construction.

Khosa instructed the relevant authorities to redesign or enhance drainage discharge points where necessary so that accumulated rainwater could be evacuated from populated areas more efficiently.

He also ordered the establishment of a dedicated technical team to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the project's design, construction quality and drainage network and submit recommendations for addressing deficiencies and improving its effectiveness. The minister said completion of the first two phases would mark a significant improvement in Dera Allah Yar's drainage infrastructure and help protect residents fromrecurring water-related problems during rainfall.

He directed the departments concerned to work in close coordination to resolve technical obstacles without delay, reiterating that construction quality and timely completion would remain essential requirements throughout the project.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Health Bakht Muhammad Kakar addressing the participants those who joined party.



QUETTA; A delegation led by Central Ameer Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam (S) Maulana Abdul Haq Sani meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

DC reviews progress on IT lab, e-commerce centre at University of Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): A review meeting regarding the establishment of a state-of-the-art Information Technology (IT) Lab and E-Commerce Centre at the University of Balochistan was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Mehrullah Badini, to assess progress on the project and discuss administrative and operational matters.

During the meeting, officials were informed that work on the modern IT Lab and E-Commerce Centre has entered its final phase. Upon completion, the Deputy Commissioner is expected to visit the facility, while a formal inauguration ceremony is also likely to take place in the near future.

The project is aimed at equipping young people with practical skills in emerging technologies, information technology, and e-commerce, enabling them to benefit from new employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in the digital economy.

Participants reviewed the project's implementation progress and discussed the remaining requirements necessary for its timely completion and operational launch.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Mehrullah Badini emphasized the importance of expediting the remaining work and ensuring that all administrative and logistical arrangements are completed without delay. He directed the relevant authorities to maintain momentum so that the facility can be made operational as soon as possible.

Khilji stresses university partnership for research-based textbooks

Independent Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Textbook Board Chairman Dr. Gulab Khan Khilji has called for closer cooperation between universities and educational institutions to develop high-quality textbooks grounded in research and better suited to the changing needs of students.

He made the remarks while chairing a meeting to review a joint research initiative between the Balochistan Textbook Board and Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University (SBKWU), stressing that academic expertise and research findings should have a greater role in shaping curricula and learning materials. Dr. Mehwish Malghani, Director of the university's Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), along with senior officials from both institutions, attended the meeting.

The chairman said the collaborative programme, which concluded on October 30, 2026, offered female student interns practical exposure to educational research, curriculum assessment and the process of developing textbooks.

He said the participating students carried out research on a range of educational subjects and prepared reports containing recommendations aimed at improving learning resources and bringing textbooks in line with contemporary educational requirements. Dr. Khilji acknowledged Dr. Malghani's contribution to the programme and underscored the importance of providing young researchers, particularly women, with opportunities to contribute to academic and educational development.



LORALAI: Engineer Abdul Malik Miankhail meeting with Commissioner Loralai Division Wali Muhammad Bareach

DC Khalid orders swift action on public complaints in Jaffarabad

Independent Report

JAFFARABAD: Deputy Commissioner Jaffarabad Khalid Khan has directed government departments to respond promptly to citizens' complaints, warning that negligence and avoidable delays in resolving public issues would not be tolerated. He issued the directives while presiding over an open court at Kashmir Kot, where residents from the area and surrounding localities brought their grievances directly before district administration officials. The public hearing was arranged on the instructions of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, under the supervision of Commissioner Naseerabad Division Salahuddin Noorzai.

Residents raised a range of issues during the session, following which the deputy commissioner issued directions to the departments concerned for appropriate action.

Khalid Khan stressed that complaints received through public hearings should lead to tangible measures rather than being confined to official paperwork. He instructed officials to maintain proper follow-up and ensure that the concerns brought forward by citizens were addressed within the relevant administrative framework.

He said open courts provided an important avenue for bringing government institutions closer to the people by allowing residents to present their problems directly and reducing the need for repeated visits to government offices. The deputy commissioner emphasized that responsive public service and timely resolution of legitimate grievances were fundamental obligations of the administration.

Turbat VC says: Research can help tackle social challenges

Independent Report

TURBAT: University of Turbat Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Gul Hassan has emphasized the importance of academic research in understanding social problems, developing workable responses and enhancing students' analytical and critical thinking abilities.

He expressed these views while congratulating final-semester students of the BS Sociology 2023–26 session after they successfully defended their research theses before an examination panel.

The students presented their studies on a range of contemporary social issues, outlining the methodologies adopted, theoretical perspectives used and conclusions reached through their research.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini presides over the meeting to review finalization of establishment of latest IT Lab and E-commerce Centre.

BITT announces award selection committee for International Civil Award

QUETTA (APP): Chairman of the Balochistan International Think Tank, Awais Jadoon, has announced the appointment of Jamal Shah Kakar as Chairman of the Award Selection Committee for the "The Real Democrat Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif International Civil Award" for a term of two years.

According to a statement issued by the think tank, the award initiative is being jointly organized by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Balochistan International Think Tank to recognize outstanding contributions made by individuals and institutions in various fields.

Under the proposed structure, the selection committee will consist of nine members, including three representatives from Balochistan and six from the federal level. The appointments to the committee will be made by Chairman Selection Committee Jamal Shah Kakar.

The committee will identify and recommend individuals and organizations from across Pakistan for recognition in 14 different categories based on their distinguished services and achievements.

Quetta admin seals illegal crushing plant, arrests 10

Independent Report

QUETTA: The district administration of Quetta has sealed an allegedly unauthorized stone-crushing plant in the Chashma area and arrested 10 individuals during an enforcement operation conducted. The action was carried out by Assistant Commissioner Sadar Muhammad Yousaf Hashmi on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini, according to district administration officials. Officials said the arrested persons were taken into custody and subsequently transferred to jail after completion of the required legal formalities.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Zeeshan Lashari presides over the meeting regarding eradication of encroachment and betterment of traffic system.

DC Palal orders

Action against delays, deficiencies in Usta Muhammad projects

Independent Report

USTA MUHAMMAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ramzan Palal has warned contractors and officials that failure to maintain construction standards or meet prescribed project timelines would result in action under the relevant rules, including possible reassignment of schemes after formal notices.

He issued the warning while chairing a meeting of the District Coordination Committee, which reviewed development projects under the Balochistan Special Development Initiative (BSDI), drainage works, law and order, municipal services and issues raised by the public.

The meeting examined a proposed drainage scheme along both sides of the Khanpur Distributary. Officials pointed out potential complications involving underground gas pipelines, existing watercourses and PTCL infrastructure, besides concerns regarding the adequacy of funds allocated for the work.

The participants also considered utilizing available resources for road improvement along Jinnah Road and the stretch connecting the Judicial Complex with Hajwani Bypass Road. However, no final decision was reported regarding the proposed reallocation of funds.

Palal expressed concern over the condition and performance of cameras installed under the Safe City project and called for improved coordination among the departments responsible for security, traffic regulation and enforcement. He also directed authorities to intensify measures against encroachments, drug trafficking and begging.

The deputy commissioner instructed the Irrigation Department to prepare and submit comprehensive information on unauthorized watercourses along the Kirthar Canal.

Balochistan expands welfare programs for persons with disabilities, poor patients and special children

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan government has launched a series of significant welfare initiatives aimed at improving the lives of persons with disabilities, underprivileged patients and special children, as part of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti's vision for inclusive social development, according to

Talking to APP on Thursday, Director General Social Welfare Mir Saifullah Khan Khetran said the Social Welfare Department is implementing a range of programmes designed to provide vulnerable segments of society with access to healthcare, education, financial assistance and economic empowerment opportunities.

He said the provincial government has made the welfare of disadvantaged and special individuals a key priority, focusing on helping them live with dignity and gain equal opportunities for personal and economic advancement.

Saifullah Khetran highlighted the department's flagship KUMAK Programme, which supports persons with disabilities through financial assistance as well as the provision of assistive devices, vocational training and interest-free loans.

According to him, the programme aims not only to provide financial relief but also to enable beneficiaries to become self-reliant and active contributors to society. By equipping individuals with practical skills and resources, the initiative seeks to create long-term economic stability and independence.

He added that the provincial government also continues to provide ongoing financial assistance to eligible persons with disabilities under established policies, ensuring sustained support and social protection.

The DG Social Welfare said another major initiative focuses on providing advanced medical treatment to low-income patients suffering from severe and life-threatening illnesses.

The programme covers treatment for conditions such as cancer, kidney diseases, bone marrow disorders and other complex medical conditions that are often beyond the financial reach of poor families.

Khetran revealed that approximately 1,700 underprivileged patients received treatment during the previous year at leading healthcare institutions, including Aga Khan Hospital, Al-Shifa International Hospital, and other reputable hospitals in Karachi. Beneficiaries were also provided with essential medicines free of charge.

He noted that the programme currently requires an annual expenditure of approximately Rs 800 million to Rs 900 million, while around Rs 100 million is being spent every month to support patients.

The provincial government has increased funding allocations for the initiative to ensure that a greater number of deserving patients can access medical treatment without financial hardship.

"Our objective is to ensure that no poor family is deprived of medical care for a loved one due to economic constraints," he said.

Khetran stressed that the department's role extends beyond financial support and healthcare assistance, with special education remaining a central component of its welfare agenda.

Through deaf schools and other specialised educational institutions, thousands of children with special needs are being provided with educational and training opportunities across the province.



Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Administrator Bashir Ahmed Barraich meets with world food programme members in Quetta.

Loralai IT hub nears launch as DC Shuja reviews training arrangements

Independent Report

LORALAI: Deputy Commissioner Loralai Capt. (Retd.) Muhammad Haseeb Shuja has said the upcoming Loralai IT Hub will broaden access to digital education and professional skills, enabling local youth to pursue emerging employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in the technology sector.

Shuja made the remarks during an inspection of the facility, where he reviewed the remaining development work, available infrastructure and preparations for its formal opening.

Officials briefed the deputy commissioner on improvements made to the facility, the installation of technical equipment, pending tasks and the training programmes planned for the center.

Expressing satisfaction over the progress, Shuja noted that most shortcomings identified during an earlier inspection had been addressed. He directed the authorities concerned to complete all outstanding work within two days.

He stressed that computer equipment, training facilities, cleanliness arrangements and other essential services must be fully functional before the IT hub begins operations.

During the visit, the deputy commissioner also inspected arrangements for the admission test for the facility's first training course.

He reviewed the examination setup and procedures and instructed the staff to ensure transparency throughout the selection process.

Shuja directed that admissions be conducted strictly on merit so that qualified and capable candidates could receive equal opportunities to benefit from the training programmes.

Pishin athletes' success reflects growing sporting potential: Lashari

Independent Report

PISHIN: Commissioner Pishin Division Qaim Lashari has assured young athletes of continued institutional support, stressing the need to provide talented youth with quality training, adequate facilities and greater opportunities to compete at provincial, national and international levels.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony organized by the DC Young Pishin Wushu Kung Fu International Academy, where he recognized the achievements of local athletes who secured silver medals at the 26th National Wushu Kung Fu Championship 2026 in Faisalabad, Punjab.

The commissioner presented medals and certificates of appreciation to the successful competitors and congratulated them on bringing distinction to Pishin.

DC Magsi orders stronger school monitoring to improve education standards

Independent Report

KILLA ABDULLAH: Deputy Commissioner Munawar Hussain Magsi has directed education authorities in Killa Abdullah to strengthen oversight of government schools, ensure regular attendance of teachers and students, and address deficiencies in basic facilities to improve the quality of education.

He issued the directives while presiding over a meeting of the District Education Group (DEG), where officials reviewed the performance of government schools, classroom activities, attendance records and challenges affecting educational institutions across the district.

District Police Officer Khalil Ahmed Bugti, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Engineer Najmuddin, District Education Officer Ahmed Khan and other education officials participated in the meeting. Magsi instructed the Education Department to intensify inspections and ensure that teaching activities continued regularly in schools. He called for practical measures to address issues affecting students and improve the overall learning environment. The deputy commissioner stressed that effective monitoring and accountability were necessary to ensure that available educational resources were being utilized properly and that teachers and students maintained regular attendance. He also emphasized closer coordination between the district administration and education authorities to identify shortcomings promptly.



QUETTA: Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly and Chairperson Women Parliamentary Caucus Ghazala Gola presides over the meeting.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Friday November 13, 2026

Antalya agenda

When COP31 opens in Antalya today, governments will have to show that years of climate negotiations have produced more than ambitious targets and promises of financial help. Geopolitical tensions, an energy crisis, and strained finances in rich countries have dampened hopes of a breakthrough. The absence of an official US delegation after Washington's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement has worsened matters. Meanwhile, the climate crisis is advancing faster than efforts to contain it. A new UN report warns that even if countries fulfil existing climate pledges, global temperatures could rise by 2.6°C this century. For Pakistan, already exposed to floods, extreme heat, and erratic rainfall, the question is what it can realistically secure from the talks. At COP29, developed countries committed to mobilising $300bn annually for developing nations by 2035. COP30 called for progress towards a broader goal of $1.3tr a year and for adaptation finance to be tripled by 2035. But promises of more money mean little if vulnerable states cannot access it. For Pakistan, the priority should be to secure easier access to climate funds, more grants rather than debt-creating loans, and clear deadlines for financial contributions. It should seek support for practical measures to protect homes from flooding, secure water supplies, and improve early warning systems. By joining forces with other vulnerable countries, Pakistan could strengthen calls for better glacier monitoring, flood protection, and affordable climate technology.

Its latest climate plan aims to cut projected emissions by 50pc by 2035, with 17 percentage points unconditional and the remaining 33 reliant on international support. This gives Pakistan grounds to seek investment in cleaner energy, transport, and agriculture. But it must also pursue reforms at home, while pressing for stronger global action to reduce emissions. Pakistan's preparations for COP31 offer an opportunity to put these priorities into practice. Its planned pavilion sessions in Antalya cover disaster preparedness, solar electrification, local adaptation, and climate investment projects. These discussions should lead to partnerships and investment proposals. Islamabad should identify priority projects and report publicly on commitments secured and money received. Provincial governments must be involved, as irrigation, land use, drainage, and emergency services are largely their responsibility. Local communities should help determine which projects receive priority funding. Pakistan must also address problems that international aid alone cannot solve, including construction on floodplains and poor enforcement of environmental rules. COP31 may produce modest advances rather than a sweeping agreement. But Pakistan can still make progress by presenting workable proposals and showing that the assistance it receives will benefit those most at risk.

A shifting cycle

Umair Javed

Pakistan's 2024 election results marked the end of a political cycle that began in the early 2000s. Less often noted is that this cycle expired at roughly the same moment as the global order which framed it. Signs of political and cultural realignment are now fully emergent, and their trajectory passes through events of the past 25 years — the 'war on terror' and its effects on Muslim societies, the financial crisis alongside growth in Asian economies, and increased migration to Western countries.

The Pakistani domestic cycle is best characterised as an unsuccessful attempt to achieve a political settlement, under the garb of federalised (and electoral) constitutional rule. Its participants were the traditional parties PML-N and PPP, and their core constituents, sections of liberal civil society and private news media, and some segments of the judiciary. Its opposition came from entities excluded from or antagonised by that brief lived system of patronage: the PTI, the upwardly mobile urban classes, and the military establishment and its aligned factions among the media. The latter coalition won out over the last 10 years. In winning, it stumbled upon its own internal contradictions, which are now playing out as the present crisis.

This cycle, however, was always nested inside something larger. Its vocabulary of rights, its civil society, and much of its international support came from a global dispensation; NGO work here was intellectually and financially sustained by Western aid largesse in the context of the war on terror. Once the external scaffolding weakened, the undoing at home proved swift.

That scaffolding is what we commonly dub the neoliberal world order. Characterised by deregulation in markets, and trade and financial liberalisation, these prescriptions were macroeconomic orthodoxy for nearly four decades. They represented the response of the capitalist class to the stagflation crisis of the 1970s in Western economies, dismantling the political power of labour by making offshoring easier, and restoring the power of capital through financialisation. The recipe would remain incomplete without access to new labour, product, and capital markets, which is why it came packaged as IMF-run 'structural adjustment' for countries in the Global South.

The Pakistani domestic cycle is best characterised as an unsuccessful attempt to achieve a political settlement.

What did these four decades of liberalisation deliver? Growth for some countries (East Asia, parts of Latin America), stagnation and deindustrialisation for most others, astronomical returns for owners of finance capital, and heightened inequality nearly everywhere. Since 2008, populations in the West have rightly soured on this misfiring orthodoxy, and that resentment has gradually made its way into how decision-makers think about their economies. Free markets are no longer considered orthodoxy (at least in rhetoric).

The unravelling of the old order extends beyond economics. Liberal democracy was presented as a core value, supposedly maintained by the US globally. Its use as a cynical foreign policy stick had already made many in the world wary. Elsewhere, the appeal of some authoritarian systems is growing. Sociologist Cihan Tugal points to Turkiye under Erdogan and the AKP, which has used state welfare, economic intervention, and centralised politics to contain opposition over two decades. Key political and establishment figures in countries like Pakistan now routinely view limits on democracy as necessary for economic progress.

Does this reordering then offer Pakistan an opening? Statist nationalists see the country's expanded role in regional geopolitical affairs as both a vindication of its military-led governing structure and a route to its destined status as a regional power. On the face of it, both shifts work in the country's favour. As a state with strong military capabilities, both nuclear and conventional, Pakistan can extract material concessions from regional powers looking for a security patron after the US winds down its position. And for a country long locked into IMF programmes, escaping some elements of neoliberal economic orthodoxy is a necessity.

The real question is: can it? Here the answer goes back to how the global is refracted into the local via the domestic arrangements that actually exist on the ground. Can the rentier/patronage economy be turned productive? Can those with outsized claims on the exchequer be reined in? The task rests with a state overwhelmed by a military-bureaucratic establishment that has turned its primary logic into one of extraction via authoritarian decree rather than service delivery. More importantly, this is a state of viceregal origin, incapable of the mass mobilisation and disciplining that engendered effective capacity in Korea or China. It is held together instead by the distribution of rents, internally to its cadres and kin, and externally to a narrow sliver of the population.

The traditional parties that might have steered this moment have proven completely unable to do so. Their mode of politics rested on narrow patronage relations with socially dominant segments in Punjab and Sindh, and in exchange for temporary respite they outsourced Fata, Balochistan, judicial independence, electoral competition, and even large parts of governance to the militarised logic of establishment control. Most of all, they have ignored the emergent reality of the upwardly mobile, digitally resourceful urban middle classes and inflation-weary masses, leaving the field wide open for multiple types of resentment.

Nuclear arc

Huma Yusuf

Last week, Iranian state media broadcast instructions on how citizens could stay safe in the event of a nuclear strike. The broadcast covered what people should do if caught in an atomic flash, tips on decontaminating clothes, and what families should keep ready in a 'nuclear emergency bag'. In the midst of a spiralling regional conflict, this dystopian broadcast is a chilling reminder of how much worse it could get — and so, of how urgently de-escalation is required, particularly as the US and Israel enter a period of political uncertainty following respective elections.

De-escalation efforts are underway, with Qatar reportedly pushing hard for a negotiated end to the conflict. These negotiations hinge on Iran agreeing to reopen its nuclear programme to inspections and accepting curbs on enrichment levels in exchange for US sanctions relief. Such a negotiated end would be very welcome, given how the spectre of nuclear conflict increasingly haunts the Middle East.

One factor that could influence the way this de-escalation proceeds is how the US Congress, freshly stuffed with Democrats, may tackle the US-Saudi civilian nuclear agreement reached this summer. The agreement for civilian nuclear cooperation paves the way for the US transferring technology to Saudi Arabia that would enable it to enrich uranium for nuclear energy production within the kingdom. This would be an exceptional agreement because, as Robert Einhorn points out in a brief for Brookings, Washington typically opposes the spread of fuel-cycle capabilities to new countries. When announced, the deal rang alarm bells for nuclear non-proliferation experts because it does not require Saudi Arabia to adhere to the IAEA's Additional Protocol, the legal mechanism which enables the IAEA to check for illicit weapons production. The kingdom refused to sign up to the AP on the basis that potential inspections around holy sites would be too sensitive. This, critics of the deal say, opens a loophole through which Saudi Arabia could divert enriched uranium for weapons production at undeclared sites — an uncomfortable scenario given that Riyadh has stated it would pursue weapons production if Iran acquired nuclear weapons. The US-Saudi civilian nuclear pact will impact Iran's strategy.

The Trump administration is willing to proceed with the deal for the following reasons: the civilian nuclear technology transfer will be governed by a Bilateral Safeguards Agreement, which will allow for inspection and monitoring of all declared sites. The US also envisions an exclusive arrangement with Saudi Arabia, meaning the latter would be locked into a 'black box' of US-supplied nuclear know-how, technology and equipment, enabling Washington to closely manage Saudi Arabia's nuclear capability and production. Finally, Washington has reasoned that if it doesn't reach an agreement with Riyadh, then Moscow or Beijing will instead, and those deals would inevitably have even fewer protections against nuclear weapons proliferation.

The agreement, currently pending with the Congress, would take effect in mid-December if not proactively blocked (an unlikely scenario given congressional priorities, a likely presidential veto of any block, and cross-party appetite to repair ties with Riyadh). But greater Democratic heft may temper the agreement, including renewed efforts to get Saudi Arabia to agree to the AP, limits on the transfer of sensitive enrichment technology, curbs on data sharing, and enhanced reporting on Riyadh's compliance with non-proliferation terms to Congress.

In all scenarios, the US-Saudi civilian nuclear pact, and the proliferation risks it is perceived to en-tail, will influe-nce Iran's app-roach to conflict resolution, pot-e-ntially stymying progress on curtailing Teh-r-an's nuclear am-bitions. The pro-spect — ho-we- ver distant — of a nuclear-armed Saudi Arabia in addition to Israel is unlikely to inspire Tehran to disarmament.

Smaller pie, firmer grip

Waqar Wadho

When railways and factories began transforming 19th-century Europe, the rulers of the Habsburg Empire understood their economic potential. Yet they resisted industrialisation.

Friedrich von Gentz, Metternich's adviser, explained why: "We do not desire at all that the great masses shall become well-off and independent." His reasoning ended with a revealing question: "How could we otherwise rule over them?"

The Habsburg rulers were not necessarily ignorant of the economic benefits of technological progress. They feared its political consequences. A more prosperous society might also become more independent, weakening their grip on power.

This historical episode helps explain a persistent puzzle in Pakistan: why do those in power repeatedly choose institutions (rules of the game) and policies that constrain economic progress, even when they too benefit from better alternatives? The answer may lie in the distinction between economic and political returns.

Elites do not necessarily choose arrangements that maximise national income, or even their own immediate economic gains. They also consider how a change might affect their ability to retain power and capture future returns — what we call the political replacement effect in economics.

Technological and institutional changes can expand economic opportunities while simultaneously creating new centres of political power. Incumbents may, therefore, resist changes that threaten their hold on power. The calculation is straightforward. A reform may make the economy larger and even increase the income of existing elites. But if it also raises the probability of their political displacement, or reduces the share of future gains they can command, their expected returns may decline. Under these conditions, elites may rationally prefer an inferior arrangement that preserves their political dominance.

In other words, a smaller pie under a secure scenario may be more attractive than a larger pie with uncertain future distribution.

An economically promising change can redistribute political power.

Pakistan's recent history offers three institutional and technological choices that are especially revealing.

First is local government. The Constitution requires provinces to devolve political, administrative and financial authority to elected local representatives. Yet successive governments have either delayed local elections or weakened the institutions they create. The largest province, Punjab, last held LG elections a decade ago. Other provinces have also adopted various approaches to limit devolution. KP, for example, recently increased the population threshold for village and neighbourhood councils to reduce the number of councils, potentially weakening representation. In Sindh, transfers to LGs declined from 15.7 per cent of provincial general revenue receipts to just 5.8pc in the 2025-26 budget.

What makes these choices economically questionable? Elected LGs with genuine fiscal and administrative authority can better respond to local needs, improve service delivery, and strengthen accountability. Why, then, resist them?

Because empowered LGs also create political competitors. A mayor controlling development funds and public services can build an independent political constituency. Legislators lose influence over resources that help sustain their electoral networks. Even if improved local governance generates greater prosperity, its political dividends may accrue to someone else.

The second example is fiscal federalism. The seventh NFC award raised provinces' share of the divisible pool to 57.5pc, with constitutional protection against subsequent reductions. But since then, the federal government has built a parallel fiscal system undermining the very principle of federalism. Petroleum levy collections, which are not shared with provinces, reached Rs1.567 trillion in 2025-26. Provinces were also asked to generate surpluses and, lately, to provide grants to the federal government.

The parallel system may be responding to genuine fiscal pressures, but it preserves fiscal discretion at the centre, despite the constitutional commitment to provincial autonomy. In essence, after the seventh NFC, the provincial share fell without anyone touching the award. The political economy consideration here is that meaningful fiscal autonomy changes the distribution of power. Provinces with independent revenue sources and predictable resources can pursue their own priorities and strengthen their political standing.

But the provinces are no different. While demanding autonomy from Islamabad, they resist transferring meaningful authority and resources to elected LGs. At each tier, those holding resources resist passing them down.

The third example concerns technology: rooftop solar.

Faced with high electricity tariffs, the public began investing in their own power generation. Solar offered consumers cheaper electricity, greater reliability, and reduced dependence on the national grid. Yet policy increasingly moved towards discouraging its adoption.

The government not only imposed a 10pc sales tax on solar panels but, in February, it replaced net metering with net billing for new connections, substantially lowering the compensation for surplus electricity supplied to the grid. A more economically sustainable response would have restructured costly contractual obligations, modernised the grid, and established fair charges for network use.

Why has such adjustment proved so difficult? One explanation is that decentralised electricity generation threatens more than power producers' revenues. It also weakens an established system through which economic resources, contracts, subsidies, and regulatory discretion are concentrated. These instruments carry financial and political value. Reforming them could improve overall economic performance while reducing the influence of those who currently control them.

These three cases are not identical, but they share a key feature: an economically promising change can redistribute political power, creating incentives for incumbents to resist or dilute it. This is what makes the political replacement argument more powerful than the familiar explanation that elites protect their economic rents. Sometimes they may sacrifice economic gains, including their own, to preserve the political position from which future gains can be secured.

The implication is that Pakistan's development problem cannot be resolved through better policy advice alone. The harder challenge is creating institutions that reduce the ability of those in power to obstruct changes that might eventually displace them. The stakes extend beyond the current examples. AI is creating new opportunities while challenging existing economic and political hierarchies. Whether or not Pakistan embraces those opportunities will depend largely on how it responds to a technology most capable of redistributing power.

Until the existing calculations change, the country may continue choosing a smaller pie for the sake of a firmer grip.

CM Maryam offers incentives to mineral investors, interest-free loans

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab Chief Minister, Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Thursday invited local and international investors to explore the province's mineral wealth, announcing a range of financial incentives, interest-free loans and one-window facilities to promote investment and value addition in the mining sector.

Addressing the two-day Minerals Investment Forum 2026, she said Punjab's revenue from the Mines and Minerals Department had increased from Rs10 billion to Rs 40 billion in two and a half years, reflecting the impact of improved governance and administrative measures.

She said Pakistan possessed immense mineral wealth beneath its surface, which could be transformed into shared prosperity through exploration, investment, modern technology and value addition.

Maryam Nawaz said Punjab was rich in emeralds, marble, granite, gold, gemstones, copper, pink salt and iron ore. Citing Chiniot's mineral potential, she said the district had an estimated 261.5 million tonnes of iron ore that could be processed into steel.

She said the pink salt was previously exported in raw form as crystals and small blocks, generating limited returns for the country. However, financial support for miners and investment in value-added products had significantly increased revenue.

Maryam said Punjab was the land of five rivers and that gold was "literally flowing" in all five, particularly in the areas of Mianwali and Attock.

She described Pakistan as a "pot of gold", saying its wealth lay both above and beneath the ground and needed to be explored and turned into tangible wealth.

The government was conducting surveys and studies to determine the available quantities while seeking international partners to develop the resource and share its economic benefits.

She said the provincial government was working to create an investor-friendly environment through one-window facilitation, eliminating unnecessary delays. Investors would be able to initiate projects without waiting for multiple approvals, licences and certificates, with the government providing facilitation alongside the process.

Maryam said the government was offering concessional land leases to reduce initial investment costs, along with financing of up to Rs five billion, with the provincial government bearing the interest cost. It would also provide solar vests to investors to help reduce energy-related expenses.

She said customs duty would be waived or reimbursed for eligible investors in designated industrial estates, including the proposed mineral processing zone in Quaidabad, Khushab. The mineral processing zone would offer land on nominal monthly lease rent for an initial period of 15 years, extendable under the scheme, she added.

For export-oriented industries, the government was offering zero-markup loans of up to Rs 100 million, loans at three per cent markup for investments ranging from Rs 100 million to Rs three billion, and five per cent markup for loans between Rs three billion and Rs five billion.

Maryam said Punjab had an extensive network of motorways, expressways, highways and district-level roads to facilitate the transportation of minerals and access to industrial sites. She said the provincial government had also digitised the mining sector.



Information Minister Punjab Azma Bukhari addressing the 'Dhee Rani Program' ceremony. Provincial Minister Sohail Shaukat Butt, Speaker National Assembly Ayaz Sadiq, and Special Assistant Ali Dar are also present.



Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over meeting to accelerate climate-resilient development initiatives at CM House in Karachi.

CM Murad says:
Sindh offers investment opportunities in 27 minerals, invites local, foreign investors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday invited domestic and international investors to explore the province's mineral resources, saying the provincial government had identified 27 minerals and was committed to promoting scientific exploration, responsible mining and value addition.

Addressing the two-day Minerals Investment Forum 2026, he said Sindh aimed to transform its mineral potential into a driver of energy security, industrialisation and economic growth through technological innovation, private-sector participation and inclusive development.

He described Thar coal as the province's major mineral asset, saying the area contained the world's sixth-largest coal deposits. He recalled that the Geological Survey of Pakistan discovered coal in Thar in 1991, while practical efforts to develop the resource gained momentum after 2008.

The chief minister said two blocks in Thar were currently generating electricity. Block-II was being operated under a public-private partnership, with the Sindh government holding a 51 per cent share, Engro Corporation and its partners 45 per cent, and local residents the remaining four per cent.

He said the inclusion of local communities in the project had contributed to its success, while cooperation with Chinese partners had helped transfer skills and technology to the local workforce.

Murad Ali Shah said Thar's development had also created new opportunities for women, including employment as drivers of large mining trucks and operators of reverse osmosis plants. He said women who had previously rarely travelled beyond their villages were now participating in economic activities.

He said the Thar experience demonstrated how government support, private investment, technology transfer and community participation could contribute to sustainable development and should be replicated in other parts of the country.

Highlighting Sindh's wider mineral potential, he listed granite, limestone, shale clay, iron ore, marble, celestite, bentonite, kaolin, dolomite, gypsum, lake salt, quartzite, sandstone, silica sand and trona among the resources identified across the province.

He said the Mines and Minerals Department had prepared preliminary feasibility studies for the identified minerals, adding that further work with investors was required to develop bankable projects.

The chief minister said Sindh had established a regulatory framework covering reconnaissance and exploration licences, mineral deposit retention licences and mining leases, which could be granted for 30 years and extended for another 30 years.

He said the province followed an open auction process for awarding mineral concessions, while Thar projects were generally offered through international competitive bidding.

Murad Ali Shah said Sindh had developed a strong public-private partnership framework and was further strengthening it to attract private investment. He said the province had earlier been ranked sixth in Asia in an assessment of public-private partnership frameworks that included sovereign countries and sub-national governments.

He also highlighted the province's connectivity, saying Sindh had nine airports, two seaports and a road network linking its different regions, including Tharparkar and areas bordering Balochistan.

The chief minister said the provincial government had adopted a policy of sustainable and responsible mining, including measures to protect and support communities affected by development projects. He cited the relocation of two villages in Thar.

Governor KP seeks foreign investment, joint ventures to develop KP's mineral sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday said the province's vast mineral resources offered immense opportunities for foreign investment and stressed the need for transparent utilization of these resources to strengthen the economy, create employment and promote sustainable development.

He expressed these views during a meeting with Chief Executive Officer of UK-based Critical Minerals Tomorrow, Lee Constable, at KP House, Islamabad. The meeting discussed prospects for foreign investment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's mineral sector, development of mineral resources and the establishment of potential joint ventures between the company and the provincial government.

The Governor said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was endowed with abundant mineral wealth that could attract significant international investment if managed in a transparent and effective manner. He said investment in the mineral sector would accelerate economic growth, improve living standards and create sustainable livelihood opportunities for people living in mineral-rich areas.

Welcoming the company's interest in investing in the province, Faisal Karim Kundi discussed various proposals for establishing a joint venture between the provincial government and the company. He said the proposed partnership should ensure mutual benefits for the provincial government, local communities and the Federal Government, adding that the Centre would also be taken on board to ensure effective coordination for future projects.

The Governor said curbing illegal mining had remained one of his top priorities since assuming office. He said illegal mining worth around Rs2 billion per month had reportedly taken place during the previous provincial government's tenure, adding that effective measures had been initiated to eliminate the practice.

He said the provincial mineral sector was being digitized to promote transparency, accountability and effective regulation, enabling improved monitoring and ensuring that the province received its rightful revenue from its mineral resources.

The Governor reiterated that the ultimate objective was to utilize the province's natural resources for public welfare, economic prosperity.



District administration supervises demolition of illegal structures in Karkhano market, Peshawar during mega anti-encroachment drive.

Advisor chairs meeting, reviews winter contingency plan 2026-27

PESHAWAR (APP): Adviser to Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Relief, Samar Haroon Bilour on Thursday chaired a meeting to review Winter Contingency Plan 2026–27 and overall emergency preparedness of the province.

During the meeting, Samar Bilour was given a detailed briefing on resources of relief department, operational capacity, existing stocks of relief supplies, district-wise requirements and additional resources and facilities needed to respond to potential emergencies during the winter season. Emphasizing the need for proactive planning and preparedness, Samar Haroon Bilour stated that addressing the challenges posed by climate change requires advance planning, effective resource management and close coordination among all relevant departments. She directed the concerned authorities to ensure timely completion of all preparations for potential winter emergencies.

She called for special attention to snowfall-prone areas, particularly Upper Chitral, Upper Kohistan, Upper Dir, Shangla, Mansehra and Swat. She directed the relevant authorities to make advance arrangements to deal with heavy snowfall, extreme cold, avalanches, landslides and heavy rainfall.

LHC dismisses co-accused Nimra's interim bail plea in rape case

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday dismissed the interim bail application of Nimra, a co-accused in the rape case involving a foreign national, due to non-prosecution.

A two-member bench, headed by Justice Shehram Sarwar Chaudhry, heard the bail petition. However, neither Nimra nor her counsel appeared before the court, prompting the bench to dismiss the application for non-prosecution.

The court had earlier sought an investigation report from the investigating officer regarding Nimra's alleged role in the case.

Earlier, a sessions court had also dismissed Nimra's interim bail application.

The rape case involving foreign national was registered at Defence C police station, with Nimra nominated as a co-accused.



Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon chairs meeting for large-scale crackdown on encroachments in Karachi.

Minister Salman stresses Ulema's role in promoting peace in province

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafique on Thursday emphasized that religious scholars play a vital role in promoting peace and maintaining law and order across the province.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadith Pakistan at the Home Department here, as part of a series of consultations with religious scholars being held on the directives of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. The meeting discussed inter-sectarian harmony (Ittehad-e-Bain-ul-Muslimeen) and the overall law and order situation in the province.

Khawaja Salman Rafique said the Punjab government was utilizing all available resources to maintain law and order in line with the vision of the chief minister. In view of the prevailing national situation, unity among all segments of society was more important than ever, he added.

He said the provincial government highly valued the contributions of religious scholars belonging to all schools of thought and recognized their important role in strengthening peace and harmony. The religious scholars appreciated the Punjab government's initiatives for laying the foundation of lasting peace and assured their full cooperation in promoting the Paigham-e-Pakistan.

IGP Sindh reviews progress on construction of 40 additional model police stations

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Javed Alam Odho on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the construction work, progress and completion targets of 40 additional model police stations being established across the province. According to a Sindh Police spokesperson on Thursday, the meeting discussed in detail the establishment of the 40 model police stations approved by the Sindh government, progress on construction projects, release and utilisation of funds, expenditures and issues faced during implementation.

AIGP State and Management Amjad Sheikh and other relevant officers gave a detailed briefing and presentation on the budget allocated for the model police stations during the current financial year, release of funds, expenditures and ongoing construction activities. The IGP directed all DIGPs to regularly visit the model police stations under construction in their respective districts and personally supervise the work to ensure timely completion. He stressed that construction should be completed as soon as possible within the stipulated timeframe, adding that unnecessary delays or negligence would not be tolerated. He directed that the buildings should be durable, of high quality and aesthetically designed to reflect the Sindh Police's modern, public-friendly and professional identity. He also emphasised that no compromise should be made on construction standards and that the responsibilities of concerned engineers and officers be clearly defined to ensure the quality of construction materials and infrastructure.

Young boy killed as school wall collapses in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD (APP): A fifth-grade student was killed when a school wall collapsed in the Tandlianwala area of Faisalabad, according to police sources quoted by TV channels.

Initial reports said that the student was present on the school premises when the wall suddenly collapsed, leaving him critically trapped under the debris.

Following the incident, a rescue team rushed to the scene and shifted the boy's body to a nearby hospital. Authorities have launched an investigation to determine the exact cause of the wall collapse.



LAHORE: Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique chairing an important meeting regarding the Chief Minister Punjab Special Program for Cardiac Surgery at the Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education Department.

Malik appreciates KP advisory council's positive measures to combat terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Law and Justice, Barrister Aqeel Malik, on Thursday appreciated the positive measures taken by the Advisory Council of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) to eliminate terrorism and address other challenges. Speaking to a private television channel, he said the measures being implemented under the current governance structure were producing positive results. He said that coordination and cooperation between the provincial authorities and the federal government had improved significantly, contributing to more effective governance and positive outcomes. He added that such coordination had been lacking during the tenure of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-led provincial government, undermined security efforts and putting the lives of the public at risk. Commenting on the proposal to create new provinces or administrative units, Malik said the matter had been discussed at various forums. However, he maintained that Parliament was the most appropriate forum to deliberate on the issue, as representatives from across the country could examine all relevant aspects.

Mayor Karachi holds E-Kachehri to address citizens' municipal issues

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that providing citizens with direct access to municipal authorities and ensuring the timely resolution of their complaints are among the administration's top priorities. In this regard, the Mayor held an E-Kachehri on Thursday, during which residents from different parts of the city contacted him by telephone and brought their problems and complaints to his attention.

KMC Municipal Commissioner Abrar Jaffar, KMC Financial Advisor Gulzar Abro, Managing Director Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation Ahmed Ali Siddiqui, Chief Operating Officer Asadullah Khan and other relevant officials were also present on the occasion.

During the E-Kachehri, citizens raised complaints regarding inadequate sanitation, deteriorating road conditions, water shortages, sewerage problems and other municipal issues. Taking immediate notice of the issues highlighted by residents, Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab issued.

Police-gutka seller nexus surfaces in 'audio leak'

KARACHI (INP): Allegations of a possible nexus between police personnel and gutka sellers have surfaced in Karachi's District City after an alleged audio recording involving an investigation officer from Chakiwara Police Station went viral, triggering concerns within the police department.

The leaked recording allegedly features a conversation between notorious gutka seller Sunny and Sub-Inspector Zahid Ali, the Station Investigation Officer (SIO) at Chakiwara, over a dispute involving alleged extortion and monthly payments.

In the purported audio, Sunny can allegedly be heard pleading with Zahid Ali for leniency, saying that his uncle had recently visited the officer and requesting some relief, adding that his business was limited to just four or five kilograms.

In response, the officer allegedly insists on an increase in payments and warns Sunny of serious consequences if he is caught. He is also heard referring to the possibility of difficulties in securing bail in drug-related cases.

During the conversation, Sunny claims that he has already paid Rs35,000 to someone. However, the officer allegedly responds that the amount would not be sufficient, adding that he had contacted him because he considered him a brother.



Workers of water and sanitation services Abbottabad under Tehsil municipal administration supervision clean Nullah at Karakoram Highway in Abbottabad.

NAB director urges students to become Iqbal's shaheens & fight corruption

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Director Javed Ahmed Khan has called upon students and young people to become Iqbal's Shaheens, uphold the highest standards of integrity and wage a determined jihad against corruption, emphasizing that a corruption-free Pakistan can only be built through honesty, self-accountability and strong moral character. Addressing students at a ceremony organized at AIOU in connection with the 149th birth anniversary of the Poet of the East, Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal, he said corruption was a major impediment to national development and its eradication required collective commitment, particularly from the younger generation.

He urged students to reject corruption in every form, neither indulge in dishonest practices themselves nor allow others to compromise integrity and actively contribute to building a transparent, responsible and corruption-free society. He emphasized that Allama Iqbal's concept of the Shaheen symbolizes courage, self-respect, high aspirations and moral strength, qualities that young people must embody to become responsible citizens and play an effective role in national progress.

Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Allama Iqbal Open University, Prof Dr Syed Muhammad Amir Shah said Iqbal's philosophy provides a powerful intellectual and ethical foundation for promoting self-accountability, honesty and character building among youth. He said Iqbal regarded young people as the nation's most valuable asset and entrusted them with the responsibility .

Commerce Minister calls for global mining Partnerships to unlock Pakistan's mineral wealth

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from Wood Mackenzie called on Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan at his office to discuss investment opportunities, international partnerships and preparations for the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum.

During the meeting, the minister highlighted Pakistan's vast and largely untapped mineral potential, particularly in copper, antimony, iron ore, gemstones and other critical minerals. He emphasized that developing the mining sector could significantly boost exports, attract foreign investment and create new opportunities for industrial growth, said a release issued here on Thursday.

Jam Kamal Khan stressed the importance of investor-friendly policies, competitive taxation, reduced import duties on specialized mining equipment and greater coordination between federal and provincial governments to facilitate international investors.

The Minister particularly emphasized connecting small-scale Pakistani miners and existing leaseholders with major international mining companies through joint ventures, technology transfer and financial partnerships.

Highlighting the Ministry of Commerce's role, he said tariff rationalization, trade agreements, improved market access and development of professional services could help Pakistan become a competitive destination for mineral investment.

The Minister also advocated a phased approach to value addition, emphasizing that commercially viable mining operations would pave the way for future investment in copper smelting, refining and downstream manufacturing.

He proposed stronger international collaboration across the mineral value chain, enabling countries to combine their strengths in exploration, processing, technology and trade.

The Wood Mackenzie delegation discussed international investment trends, fiscal competitiveness and opportunities for developing Pakistan's mining-services ecosystem.

The delegation also exchanged views with the Minister on preparations for the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum and Pakistan's potential to attract leading international mining investors.

The Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to transforming its mineral wealth into sustainable economic growth, enhanced exports, employment opportunities and long-term international investment partnerships.



Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi meeting with Mr. Lee Constable, Chief Executive Officer of UK-based company Critical Minerals, in Islamabad.



ANTALYA: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, meets Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Uzbekistan, Alisher Shukurov, on the sidelines of COP31, to discuss bilateral cooperation in agricultural research, seeds, horticulture and livestock.

Aurangzeb highlights 113% growth in sovereign Sukuk issuance, calls for wider investor base

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday said Pakistan's sovereign Sukuk issuance had registered a significant 113 percent year-on-year increase, reflecting the country's expanding Islamic capital market and efforts to diversify government financing instruments.

Addressing the ceremony marking the achievement of PKR 10 trillion in Sovereign Sukuk, alongside the issuance of Hybrid and short-term Sukuk, the minister said the issuance had grown from approximately Rs2 trillion in the previous year to the current milestone, while the five-year compound annual growth rate stood at around 22 percent compared to nearly Rs761 billion in 2020.

He said the achievement was not merely about the volume of issuance but also reflected sustained efforts to diversify the Sukuk market and introduce greater flexibility in sovereign financing instruments.

Highlighting key developments, Aurangzeb said the introduction of hybrid government Sukuk, combining different Shariah-compliant structures, would provide greater flexibility in utilizing government-owned assets.

He described the introduction of short-term Sukuk, including instruments with three- to six-month maturities, as another important development, addressing a longstanding gap in the market and helping establish a comprehensive Shariah-compliant yield curve across different maturities.

The minister, however, pointed out that foreign investment in Sukuk remained below expectations despite positive inflows through Special Convertible Rupee Accounts (SCRAs) into Treasury Bills and Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIBs).

He stressed the need to actively promote Sukuk among international investors and diversify foreign portfolio investment into Shariah-compliant financial instruments, urging banks, primary dealers, brokers and other stakeholders to work collectively towards this objective.

Aurangzeb also emphasized expanding retail participation through digital platforms, saying investment opportunities should not remain limited to institutional and large-scale investors.

He said digital channels could enable individuals to participate in Sukuk investments with amounts as small as Rs5, 000, making Islamic financial instruments more accessible to ordinary citizens and helping broaden the investor base.

Referring to the development of the corporate debt market, he said efforts were also underway to promote listed Sukuk. In this regard, the Ministry of Power had issued the first mandate to National Debt Company, which was in the process of launching its first-ever listed Sukuk.

He expressed hope that the successful issuance would establish a benchmark for other corporate entities to enter the market, adding that the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, State Bank of Pakistan, Pakistan Stock Exchange and Central Depository Company would need to collaborate in developing a comprehensive Sukuk market ecosystem.

The finance minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to developing a deep, diversified and liquid Islamic capital market through active cooperation among the government, private sector, regulators and financial institutions.

Rana shares Pakistan's strategy for climate resilient agri sector

ANTALYA (APP): Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday said the government was taking various measures to strengthen the resilience of Pakistan's agriculture sector against climate change, with a focus on developing climate-resilient seeds, improving disaster preparedness and mitigating the impact of extreme weather events.

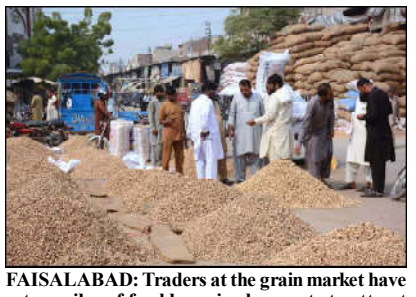
Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the Leaders' Summit of the 31st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the minister said agriculture was among the sectors most severely affected by climate change in Pakistan, posing a major challenge to food security and agricultural productivity.

He said Pakistan's contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions was only around 0.1 percent, yet the country remained highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

He stressed that international financial support was essential to help developing and climate-vulnerable countries address these challenges.

The minister said the government was focusing on developing and introducing climate-resilient seed varieties to enable farmers to cope with rising temperatures, heat stress and other climate-related challenges. He added that considerable progress had been made in developing improved seeds to minimise the adverse impact of changing climatic conditions on agricultural production.

Referring to recurring floods, including the devastating floods of 2022 and 2025, Rana Tanveer said the government was also strengthening disaster preparedness and early warning mechanisms to minimise losses to agriculture and communities. He appreciated the efforts of local governments, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) for establishing effective early warning systems and taking measures to improve the country's capacity.



FAISALABAD: Traders at the grain market have set up piles of freshly arrived peanuts to attract customers.

Pakistan's listed corporate profits surge 25% in 9 months: Khurram

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's listed corporate sector recorded a 25% year-on-year increase in profits during the first nine months of calendar year 2026, marking the strongest growth for this period in three years, Advisor to the Finance Minister Khurram Schehzad said on Thursday.

In a post on social media platform X, Schehzad said the improvement reflected stronger business performance and improving economic fundamentals across major industries. He said corporate profits grew 18% year-on-year in FY26 (July-June), demonstrating sustained earnings recovery, while profits increased 23% year-on-year in first quarter of FY27 (July-September).

He added that non-bank corporate earnings jumped 37% year-on-year in the latest quarter, reflecting momentum beyond the banking sector.

Schehzad said, the increase in corporate earnings was broad-based, with several key sectors reporting substantial growth.

In the energy sector, profits of exploration and production companies increased by 43%, while earnings of oil marketing companies surged 144%.

Among industrial sectors, engineering companies recorded 304% growth in profits, followed by automobiles at 19% and cement at 13%.

The technology sector posted 31% growth, while pharmaceutical and fertiliser companies recorded increases of 14% and 11%, respectively.

Schehzad attributed the improving corporate performance to greater macroeconomic stability.

PSGMEA Delegation visits NIC to explore collaboration opportunities

SIALKOT (APP): A delegation of the Pakistan Sports Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PSGMEA) visited the National Incubation Center (NIC) to explore opportunities for institutional collaboration and cooperation.

The delegation comprised Senior Vice Chairman (SVC) PSGMEA Sh. Khalid Mehmood, Vice Chairman (VC) PSGMEA Ahmed Imtiaz Khan, Muhammad Waseem, Rahar Bashir, Secretary General PSGMEA Mohsin Masood and Deputy Secretary Mawra Mumtaz.

During the visit, the delegation received insights into NIC's working, initiatives and operational framework, particularly its role in promoting entrepreneurship, innovation and business development.



LAHORE: Chairman of the Pakistan Tanners Association presenting a commemorative shield to the Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain.

Kayani convenes cashless Pakistan committee meeting on digital Payments

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Railways and Finance, Bilal Azhar Kayani, chaired a high-level follow-up meeting on "Cashless Pakistan" at the Finance Division, with a focus on digital payments.

The meeting followed the Prime Minister's meeting on Cashless Pakistan held last Friday, and brought together senior public and private sector stakeholders to review the decisions taken by the Cashless Committee under the Prime Minister's chairmanship.

The discussion focused on refining the framework for Raast QR MDR scheme and on ensuring that the high-level Dashboard captures not only the volumes but also the values of key digital payment indicators, along with the number of unique account users, said a release issued here on Friday.

The Committee deliberated on the direction and targets for expanding digital payments, in light of the significant progress made under the Prime Minister's Cashless initiative, including:

From November 16, all payments for Asaan Assignment Accounts across the country will be made through the Raast digital system; Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) have already been trained.

Active merchants accepting digital payments have grown from 0.5 million to 2.03 million, attributable to the measures taken under the Cashless Pakistan initiative.

Raast payment QR codes have been placed on all gas and electricity bills (over 45 million), enabling citizens to conveniently pay their bills digitally from home.

All NADRA centres have been equipped with Raast QR, enabling citizens to pay for services digitally.

The overall volume of digital payments in the country has doubled in just one year due to the measures taken by the PM's Cashless Committee.

Pak shrimp farming boom promises Rs11m annual profit Per hectare

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's emerging inland shrimp farming industry could generate annual net profits of up to Rs11 million per hectare, offering farmers, investors and businesses a lucrative opportunity to tap into the global shrimp market worth more than $32 billion, according to a new Pakistan Business Council (PBC) report that identifies saline lands in Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan as promising locations for commercial shrimp production.

Titled Pakistan's Aquaculture Sector: Opportunities, Challenges & Policy Recommendations for Improving Export Competitiveness, the report highlights shrimp farming as one of the country's most commercially attractive emerging agricultural ventures, with significantly higher returns than conventional carp farming.

According to the report, shrimp farming can generate gross annual revenues of Rs9 million to Rs28 million per hectare, compared with just Rs900, 000 to Rs1.6 million from traditional carp farming.

Export-grade shrimp fetches Rs900 to Rs1, 400 per kilogram at farm level, while carp sells for Rs250 to Rs350 per kilogram.

Despite its higher profitability, shrimp farming requires greater initial investment, estimated at Rs2.8 million to Rs7 million per hectare, against Rs500, 000 to Rs1.1 million for carp farming.

The report identifies Pacific white shrimp (Litopenaeus vannamei) as a particularly promising species because of its high commercial value, export demand and relatively short production cycle of 90 to 120 days.

Advanced biofloc farming systems can support two to three production cycles annually, with yields of eight to 20 metric tonnes per hectare over two cycles.

Pakistan could capitalise on the growing international demand for shrimp, particularly in the United States, China, the European Union, Japan and Gulf countries.

Farmed shrimp accounts for around 55 per cent of global shrimp production, with Pacific white shrimp representing approximately 70 per cent of farmed output.

The PBC report identifies saline groundwater and salt affected agricultural land in southern Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan as potential resources for developing commercial shrimp farms.

Promising locations include Bahawalpur, Rahim Yar Khan, Muzaffargarh and Dera Ghazi Khan in Punjab, alongside Thatta, Sujawal and Badin in Sindh.

Hyderabad and Jamshoro also offer potential.



ISLAMABAD: Vice Chairman of BBoIT Bilal Kakar and other officials in a group photo on the occasion of the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum.

Ali Pervaiz holds bilateral meetings with leading Intl mining, investment companies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik Thursday held a series of bilateral meetings with leading international mining and investment companies on the sidelines of the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum (PMIF), highlighting Pakistan's commitment to attracting foreign investment and expanding international partnerships in the minerals sector.

During the engagements, the Federal Minister held separate meetings with Mr. John Thornton, Chairman of Barrick Mining Corporation, accompanied by the company's senior leadership; Mr. Andrew Neilson, Chief Executive of Scottish mining and engineering company Weir; Mr. Ibrahim El Gazzar, Head of Metals and Minerals (MENA) at Singapore-headquartered Trafigura, along with his delegation; and Mr. Mustafa Aksoy, Chief Executive Officer of Türkiye's Çalik Holding. He also met with a delegation led by Mr Robert Friedland of Ivanhoe Mines.

During the meeting, Mr. Andrew Neilson expressed Weir's interest in expanding its engagement in Pakistan's mining sector, stating that the company was looking to participate in additional projects beyond its existing involvement in Reko Diq.

Mr. Ibrahim El Gazzar conveyed Trafigura's keen interest in Pakistan's Zinc-Barite project. He also expressed the company's interest in exploring opportunities in Pakistan's LPG, bonded storage and refinery sectors.

Pakistan's foreign reserves stand $ 26.84 billion, SBP reserves rise to $ 21.57 b

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan stood at US$ 26,838.7 million in the first week of November, while State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reserves further rose to US$ 21,572.5 million.

"During the week ended on 06-Nov-2026, SBP's FX reserves increased by US$ 11 million to US$ 21,572.5 million", the central bank Thursday reported in its weekly statement on the position of liquid foreign reserves. However, the foreign reserves held by commercial banks decreased by $ 37 million to $ 5,266.2 million, the breakup of forex reserves for the period under review showed. Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves in the previous week ended on October 30, 2026, stood $ 26,864.5 million. Among them the State Bank of Pakistan held foreign exchange reserves of $ 21,561.2 million while commercial banks held the other $ 5,303.3 million.

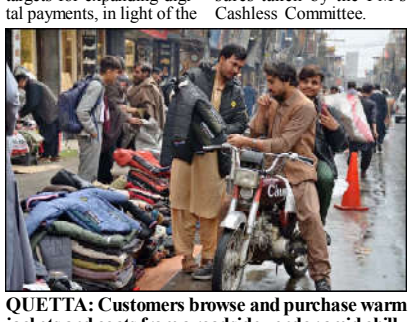
SIMAP, EXIM bank discuss trade credit insurance for surgical exporters

SIALKOT (APP): Chairman of the Surgical Instruments Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (SIMAP), Mian Murad Arshad, held a meeting with Faiz M. Salman and Waqas Saleem of the EXIM Bank to discuss measures to facilitate Sialkot's surgical instruments exporters.

During the meeting, discussions focused on providing trade credit insurance to exporters to protect them against the risk of non-payment by foreign buyers. The participants also discussed improving exporters' access to financing facilities through insured receivables, enabling them to secure export financing more easily while reducing payment-related risks. The meeting highlighted the importance of strengthening financial support mechanisms for Sialkot's surgical instruments industry to enhance export competitiveness and facilitate business growth.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships, Franbo Bravo, Sea Unity, Epic Bolivar and Stoja carrying Steel Coil, Canola, Chemicals and Coal, berthed at Multi-Purpose Terminal-2, Grain Terminal, Engro Vopak Terminal and Bulk Cargo Terminal-4 on Wednesday. Meanwhile two more ships, SLS Topaz and Al Amal scheduled to load/offload Container and Rice.



QUETTA: Customers browse and purchase warm jackets and coats from a roadside vendor amid chilly weather at Liaquat Bazaar.

Pakistan's space ambitions get a boost from China

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan's efforts to develop its space capabilities are set to enter a new phase, as one of its astronauts prepares to join a Chinese crewed space mission, gaining an opportunity to participate directly in human spaceflight. The Pakistani astronaut will take part in China's Shenzhou-24 mission as a payload specialist, becoming the first foreign astronaut to visit China's space station. The astronaut will conduct a short-term orbital flight and return to Earth aboard the Shenzhou-23 spacecraft, according to China's Manned Space Agency.

For Pakistan, the mission represents more than a symbolic achievement. It offers an opportunity to gain practical experience in human spaceflight, scientific payload operations and astronaut training, potentially contributing to the country's longer-term space ambitions.

"Human spaceflight is one of the most technologically demanding areas of scientific cooperation. For Pakistan, sending an astronaut to China's space station means gaining access to training, research and operational experience that would be difficult to develop independently," said Zhang Chaozhe, Director of the Pakistan Study Center at Sichuan University.

The mission also marks a new stage in China-Pakistan space cooperation, which has developed over more than three decades. In 1990, Pakistan's first experimental satellite, Badr-1, was launched aboard a Chinese rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center.

Trump names Stephen Miller as new White House chief of staff

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: US President chose one of his most uncompromising loyalists as White House chief of staff, placing the architect of his mass deportation campaign at the center of the administration as Democrats prepare to intensify scrutiny of his policies.

Trump has promoted Stephen Miller, the architect of his administration's aggressive immigration enforcement strategy and one of his most controversial advisers, to White House chief of staff, signaling a renewed commitment to hard-line policies despite mounting electoral setbacks for Republicans and growing opposition to the administration.

The appointment, announced Friday, came just days after Republicans suffered a major defeat in Texas, where Latino voters swung decisively toward Democrats amid widespread opposition to Trump's mass deportation campaign.

The contrast was particularly striking. Trump won Latino voters in Texas in 2024, but in the 2026 election, 65% backed Democrat Gina Hinojosa, who challenged Trump ally Gov. Greg Abbott, according to CNN Voter Polls.

Around two-thirds of Latino voters said the administration's immigration policies had gone too far, and those who held that view supported Democrats by nearly nine to one.

Despite the clear electoral consequences, Trump chose to elevate the official most closely associated with those policies, rather than signal a change in direction or pursue the cooperation with Democrats that he has publicly discussed.

Miller's promotion also comes as Democrats prepare to take control of Capitol Hill with substantial majorities and expanded congressional oversight powers, setting the stage for intensified confrontations with the White House.

Unlike outgoing chief of staff Susie Wiles, who largely operated as a gatekeeper protecting Trump's access and schedule, Miller is known for his combative approach.



Investigators work at the site of a car explosion, which killed a member of the Russian armed forces, in Saint Petersburg, Russia .

Car bomb kills Russian soldier near St Petersburg in targeted assassination

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: A member of the Russian military was killed after the car he was driving was blown up in Petersburg, investigators said on Thursday, in what appeared to be the latest in a series of targeted killings that Russia has blamed on Ukraine.

Video showed that military police had sealed off the area in the Pushkinsky District of the city as investigators and forensic scientists worked at the scene. A bomb-damaged dark blue SUV stood on a road littered with blast debris next to what like an empty ' passenger bus which appeared to have also suffered damage.

"Investigative authorities have opened a criminal case into the murder of a ` member of the armed forces," a statement from Russia's Investigative Committee said.Russia has blamed Ukraine for previous assassinations of senior military officials and people linked to Moscow's war effort.

Ukrainian sources have claimed responsibility in some cases, while denying others. There was immediate comment from Ukraine on Thursday.

Another serviceman was killed in a car explosion in the same district of Russia's second largest city on August 27. Other car bomb attacks have occurred in Moscow and Crimea, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014, in recent months.

Referring to Thursday's killing, online newspaper Fontanka, is known to have good contacts within law enforcement, reported that a 31-year-old male suspect, who has since fled Russia, planted the bomb on the underside of a colonel's after at least a month of surveillance.

UK anti-immigration activist pleads guilty to slashing migrant dinghy in the English Channel

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: A British anti-immigration activist who has led protests against migrants crossing the English Channel pleaded guilty Thursday to slashing a dinghy while a rescuer was still aboard. Daniel Thomas, 37, pleaded guilty in Portsmouth Crown Court to criminal damage.

Social media video of the Sept. 22 incident showed Thomas taking a knife to an inflatable boat, which had no migrants aboard but was occupied by a French rescue services member."This is what needs to happen to everyone in these boats," Thomas said. "This is England. Get off the boat, you have time to get off the boat. This is not France. Take them back." Successive U.K. governments have struggled to stop people — more than 41,000 last year — making the dangerous journey across one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. The issue has been depicted as a crisis by politicians including Nigel Farage of the hard-right party Reform UK, and has been used as a rallying point by anti-immigration activists. Prime Minister Andy Burnham's center-left government says stepped-up law enforcement cooperation between the United Kingdom and France has helped reduce the number of people.

South Africa's ANC opens talks after election rout

Monitoring Desk

CAPE TOWN: Reeling from its worst election showing ever, top officials from South Africa's African National Congress began a meeting Thursday to assess the damage and map out a coalition strategy after voters stripped its municipal dominance.

The ANC, Africa's oldest liberation movement, has long relied on the political capital of its anti-apartheid legacy. But in last week's local government elections, it secured only about 31 percent of the vote.

Though it remained the largest party nationally, support fell sharply across key urban centres, including Johannesburg and Pretoria, as voters punished President Cyril Ramaphosa's party over corruption scandals and its failure to deliver basic public services.The ANC national executive committee, the party's highest decision-making body, will adopt a framework to guide coalition negotiations and hear reports on initial talks with other parties.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards report tanker explosions for third day

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) reported on Thursday that there had been explosions on oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, marking the third consecutive day of reported incidents involving tankers in the strategic waterway. In a statement, the Iranian military organization said the two vessels had been travelling on an "unauthorized" route when they were hit by explosions overnight.



Injured passengers receive treatment at Hetauda Hospital after a passenger van veered off a mountain road in Bhimphedi, about 60 kilometers (37 miles) southwest of Kathmandu, Nepal.



Michéal Martin (C-L) speaks to the media at the ninth European Political Community (EPC) Summit in Dublin .

50 world leaders in Dublin for major European summit

Monitoring Desk

DUBLIN: Ukraine, AI and hybrid threats across Europe will dominate key EU meetings in Dublin on Thursday and Friday.

The talks on AI will be the first such discussion among EU leaders.

The Republic of Ireland is chairing the EU presidency until the end of the year and its main showpiece events, the European Political Community (EPC) and informal meeting of the European Council, are taking place this week.

The country has been preparing for the events for months, with gardaí (Irish police) carrying out the largest security and policing operation in the history of the state.The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) will support its Irish counterparts in policing the summit.Even though officers from abroad will not be involved in frontline policing, gardaí said they are being supported by the PSNI, police from Latvia and Portugal and other international law enforcement agencies.

Parts of Dublin city centre are closed off and there has been widespread traffic disruption in city in recent days.

The state has also been dealing with a number of bomb threats, which have been hoaxes, on schools and media organisations in recent days. On Thursday, about 50 international leaders will gather at the Convention Centre Dublin for a meeting of the EPC.

Prime Minister Andy Burnham is expected to attend as part of his efforts to form closer ties with Europe.Other attendees will include Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, heads of state across the EU as well as Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney. The EPC is an informal forum for European leaders to hold political and strategic discussions on issues of shared concern.It was set up in 2022 after Russian's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and meets twice a year.

Kim Jong Un inspects new naval base as North Korea boosts maritime power

Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspected a major naval base under construction on the country's east coast and ordered its timely completion, state-run media reported Thursday, as Pyongyang expands its fleet and develops new maritime weapons.

Kim visited the site Wednesday with senior officials including Pak Jong Chon, vice chairman of the ruling Workers' Party's Central Military Commission, the official Korean Central News Agency reported.

He called the base a "crucial core undertaking directly related to the security of our state and the defense of its maritime sovereignty" and said it must be completed to the standards and within the period set by the party leadership.Kim outlined plans for a "modern naval city," describing the base as a command center and hub of naval culture and combat capability. He ordered measures to strengthen project management and increase the construction workforce, KCNA said.

The report did not disclose a target completion date or the base's precise location.

South Korea's military has been closely monitoring and tracking developments related to the base, Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesman Jang Do-young told a briefing Thursday. He declined to provide further details, citing security considerations.

Kim's visit follows a series of steps to bolster North Korea's naval forces, including commissioning new destroyers, expanding shipbuilding facilities and testing underwater weapons.



Gaza's health ministry said surgeon Dr Rizk Abu Shaira was among those killed.

Nordic countries to work towards common defence deal

Monitoring Desk

OSLO: The Nordic countries of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland will work towards establishing a common defence deal order to boost NATO's overall ability to deter and defend, the 's defence ministers said on Thursday.

The nations have all been NATO members since Finland and Sweden joined the military alliance in 2023 and 2024, and have worked since then to improve their cooperation, for instance by conducting joint military and civilian preparedness exercises."This agreement will enable closer cooperation between us and enhance deterrence and defence in our region and beyond," 's Defence Minister Tore Sandvik ' told reporters alongside his Nordic counterparts in Oslo.

One particular challenge highlighted by the countries' military leaderships has been the need to harmonise ' laws and regulations, for instance when it comes to moving military personnel and equipment across borders.

"NATO forces have to be able to easily move between countries, supplies have to get to where they are needed, and the forces have to fight as one," said .

The move is the latest example of how the Nordic countries are stepping up their defence preparedness, spooked by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and uncertainty over the United States as NATO's ultimate security backstop.

"Sweden and Finland coming in gives us opportunities to strengthen also the Nordic element of NATO, to move troops around ... and do exercises and command systems," Danish Defence Minister Jeppe Bruus told Reuters.

All have steeply increased their defence budgets and are among the top defence spenders per capita in NATO.

Van crashes on mountain road in Nepal, killing 10 & injuring 5

Monitoring Desk

KATHMANDU: A passenger van veered off a mountain road in Nepal on Thursday, killing at least 10 people and injuring five, police said.

The van rolled about 700 meters (2,300 feet) off the road before stopping on a slope near the village of Bhimphedi, about 60 kilometers (37 miles) southwest of the capital, Kathmandu.

Police from a nearby station took survivors to hospitals for treatment.The cause of the wreck was not clear, but police were investigating.

Nepal is celebrating the Tihar festival this week and people are traveling to their homes to celebrate with families.

Bus crashes in Nepal are mostly due to poorly maintained roads and vehicles, and much of the Himalayan country is covered by mountains with narrow roads.

UK appoints 'climate security' envoy, a world first

Monitoring Desk

ANTALYA: British Prime Minister Andy Burnham announced on Thursday the appointment of a special envoy focused on "climate security", a world first, to better prepare for the growing impacts of global warming.

In a speech to the UN's COP31 climate summit in Antalya, Turkey, the Labour leader recalled that he spent his first three weeks as prime minister this past summer responding to the worst wildfires Britain ever experienced.

"I decided then it was important for me to be here to show British leadership in a world where climate issues have taken too much of a backseat," said Burnham, who was the only G7 leader attending the summit.Britain and the rest of western Europe experienced their hottest summer on record, with a succession of heatwaves and wildfires. The heat caused tens of thousands of excess deaths on the continent.

Indonesia's vice-president resigns amid signs ruling alliance is fraying

Monitoring Desk

INDONESIA: Indonesia's Vice-President Gibran Rakabuming Raka tendered his resignation to parliament on Thursday, triggering the process of finding his replacement amid growing turmoil for the government.

Gibran had been facing impeachment calls after a Supreme Court ruling that a high-school document used during his 2024 election campaign was invalid.

His departure comes amid a faltering political alliance between his father, ex-president Joko Widodo, and the incumbent President Prabowo Subianto.Standing alongside Gibran, Prabowo told reporters he had accepted his resignation with "a heavy heart". Upper house lawmakers will have 60 days to fill the vacancy from two candidates nominated by the president.

"[Gibran] has demonstrated a chivalrous attitude, a strong sense of responsibility, and the qualities of a statesman," Prabowo said, adding that the resignation was "for the benefit of the nation, the state, and the people of Indonesia".

"He certainly believes that he completed his education through a proper and structured process. However, we must understand that educational systems abroad differ from those in Indonesia," the president said.

Gibran has long faced controversy over whether his high school qualifications met legal requirements to run for office. Having studied in Singapore and Australia, he had used an Indonesian equivalence certificate to demonstrate his educational credentials.



President Prabowo (left) said he was sorry to lose Gibran Rakabuming Raka (right), who has been mired in a growing controversy over his high school credentials .

Israeli strike on Gaza hospital kills 6 Palestinians, health ministry says

Monitoring Desk

GAZA: Six people have been killed and about 20 injured in an Israeli air strike on Nasser hospital in the southern Gaza Strip, the Hamas-run health ministry says.

The hospital's director said two missiles hit a building containing surgical wards and intensive care units overnight, but that one of the missiles did not explode.

The health ministry said medical staff, patients and companions were killed, among them surgeon Dr Rizq Abu Shaira. It condemned the attack as a "flagrant violation of international laws and conventions".The Israeli military said it targeted a commander of Hamas's armed wing and other fighters who had used the hospital as a "headquarters" to plan attacks on its forces.

Hamas said that Israel was spreading "false narratives" in a "blatant attempt to cover up a new war crime".

Under international law, hospitals have a protected status, but they have been repeatedly targeted during the Gaza war.

Israel accuses Hamas, which retains security control of parts of Gaza not occupied by Israeli troops, of cynically exploiting civilian infrastructure.

Taiwan seeks meaningful role at APEC summit, highlighting AI strengths

Monitoring Desk

TAIWAN: President Lai Ching-te on Thursday called on Taiwan's representative to this year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit to convey the island country's commitment to regional economic cooperation and its role in the global technology supply chain.

Lai appointed Acer founder and honorary chairman Stan Shih to represent Taiwan at the APEC summit in Shenzhen, China, next week. Shih, 81, previously represented Taiwan at APEC in 2007.

Lai said that, amid challenges to the global economy posed by geopolitical tensions, energy issues and supply chain restructuring, Taiwan will continue to serve as a stable and trusted force in the Asia-Pacific region.At a news conference in Taipei, Lai said that APEC is the most important multilateral mechanism for economic and trade cooperation in the region, where all members engage and interact on an equal footing. "Taiwan is participating in this year's APEC meeting based on the same principle." He expected Shih to convey some key messages to APEC leaders, stressing that Taiwan, as an APEC member, had consistently participated actively in the forum and made contributions.

Clashes erupt in Barcelona after thousands join Spain general strike

Monitoring Desk

SPAIN: Clashes have broken out between groups of masked men and police in Barcelona after tens of thousands of people took part in Spain's first general strike for 14 years, called by the country's main unions over housing and the high cost of living.

Some 120,000 people joined a demonstration in the capital Madrid and more than 50,000 turned out in Barcelona, where footage showed masked men setting fire to rubbish bins and smashing shop windows as police fired tear gas.

Transport and other public services across Spain faced serious disruption.Spaniards are due to vote in parliamentary elections on 29 November. The head of the big UGT labour union, Pepe Álvarez, said the strike was a success with "massive" participation, while Unai Sordo of the CC OO union said.



Tyres were set on fire in the city of Gijon in northern Spain.

Ahsan sounds alarm over reversal in population growth trend

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday declared Pakistan's rapidly growing population a national emergency, calling for a coordinated national strategy to balance population growth with available resources to ensure sustainable development and economic prosperity.

"The renewed acceleration in population growth is alarming; we have taken our foot off the brake and put it on the accelerator. This trend must be reversed, " he said while addressing the first meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Population Council.

He said the population growth rate, which had gradually declined since 1980 to 2.4 per cent, had increased to 2.55 per cent in the 2023 census, showing a worrying reversal in the declining trend.

Ahsan Iqbal said population figures were not merely statistics but raised critical questions about Pakistan's future, its children and the sustainability of national resources.

He said sustainable development and economic prosperity could not be achieved without maintaining a balance between population growth and available resources.

If the economy grew by five per cent while the population increased by 2.5 per cent, he explained, the actual per capita growth would remain only 2.5 per cent. The minister said controlling population growth was essential to meeting the growing demands for education, healthcare, employment and basic facilities.

He also pointed out that linking 82 per cent of the distribution of national resources to population created a contradiction by potentially encouraging population growth.

He stressed the need to link the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award with development and sustainability indicators to encourage provinces to maintain balanced population growth.

Ahsan Iqbal said the population challenge was not limited to healthcare or family planning but was also closely linked to girls' education, women's economic empowerment and social awareness.

He called upon federal and provincial governments to treat the issue as a national emergency and adopt a joint strategy to address it.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal chairs the first meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Population Council (NPC), co-chaired by Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal.



Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Syed Imran Ahmad Shah, met a delegation of youth led by the Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) in Islamabad to discuss social protection, poverty alleviation and initiatives aimed at creating greater opportunities for the youth and underprivileged communities of Balochistan.

CJP consults bar representatives on e-filing pilot for family cases

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) and Chairperson of the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC) Justice Yahya Afridi on Thursday held a consultative meeting with representatives of provincial bar councils, the Islamabad Bar Council and the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan to discuss the proposed e-filing pilot for family cases and the establishment of Women Facilitation Centres.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Punjab, Sindh, Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan Bar Councils, along with office-bearers of the Supreme Court Bar Association.

The participants reviewed draft e-filing templates developed under the proposed National Unified E-Filing and Electronic Judicial Record System for pilot implementation in family cases at selected judicial stations.

The chief justice asked each provincial bar council and the Islamabad Bar Council to nominate two members of the Bar to review the templates and suggest improvements before the launch of the pilot project.

Emphasising the importance of consultation with the legal fraternity, the CJP said the e-filing system should be practical, effective and user-friendly, reflecting the professional experience of practising lawyers and the needs of litigants.

The bar representatives appreciated the proposed e-filing initiative and the establishment of Women Facilitation Centres, observing that these measures could improve access to justice, particularly for women, and make the family justice system more accessible and responsive.

The consultation reflected a shared commitment to involving the legal fraternity in judicial reforms, using technology to improve court services and strengthening access to justice for women and children.

Pakistan, Iraq reaffirm longstanding bilateral ties

ANTALYA (APP): Pakistan and Iraq on Thursday reaffirmed the longstanding brotherly relations between Pakistan and Iraq, rooted in shared faith, historical bonds and strong people-to-people contacts.

In a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President of the Republic of Iraq Nizar Mohammed Saeed Amidi, on sidelines of 31st COP31, the two leaders expressed satisfaction over the positive momentum in bilateral relations, and underscored the importance of sustained high-level exchanges and institutional engagement.

On the occasion, the prime minister also extended an invitation to President Amidi to visit Pakistan at a mutually convenient time.

He congratulated President Amidi and the brotherly people of Iraq on successful conduct of parliamentary elections and formation of the new Government. He reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast support for Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, national unity and stability. The two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral cooperation, with particular focus on trade, investment, manpower, reconstruction, agriculture, and defence.

The prime minister appreciated Iraq's facilitation for Pakistani Zaireen.

The two leaders also exchanged views on regional and international developments and reaffirmed their commitment for close coordination at multilateral fora.



ANTALYA: Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meeting with the President of Iraq Nazar Mohammed Saeed Amidi on the sidelines of COP31.

Governor Mandokhail urges scholars to promote tolerance, peace in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has emphasized the influential role of religious scholars in fostering peace, political stability and sustainable development, calling for greater efforts to promote tolerance, mutual respect and harmony among different faiths and communities.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Sami (JUI-S), headed by its central chief Maulana Abdul Haq Sani, at Governor House Quetta.

The delegation comprised Maulana Khuzaima, JUI-S Balochistan chief Mufti Abdul Wahid Bazai and Maulana Faizul Haq Haqqani.

The participants exchanged views on the prevailing political and social situation in the country, with particular focus on peace and stability in Balochistan, development initiatives and measures for social reform.

Governor Mandokhail said religious scholars possessed considerable influence within society and could play a constructive role in encouraging peaceful coexistence, acceptance of differing viewpoints and dialogue among communities.

He maintained that stability required collective efforts and responsible engagement by all segments of society. Referring to political developments, he observed that political space did not remain vacant for long, making it essential for leadership to respond to emerging challenges through constructive engagement and measures aimed at improving public welfare.

The governor said political activity should contribute to social reform, protect public interests and advance collective development instead of becoming a source of further division.

Mandokhail stressed that sustained cooperation between political leadership, religious scholars and civil society was necessary to strengthen social cohesion and create an environment conducive to lasting peace and development in Balochistan.



Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman meets with journalist delegation led by Zahir Nasir in Quetta.

IHC reserves verdict on pleas seeking suspension LG polls in capital

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday reserved its verdict on petitions seeking to halt local government elections in the federal capital and suspend the election schedule.

During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel argued that if the election schedule was not suspended, candidates would have spent millions of rupees on their campaigns.

Justice Umair Majid Malik remarked that if someone chose to spend millions of rupees, it was not the court's responsibility. He observed that it was alarming if candidates spent Rs10 million on an election but declared expenditure of only Rs 100,000.

Justice Umair Majid Malik heard a petition filed by Chaudhry Amjad Ali. The petitioner's counsel, Adil Aziz Qazi, submitted that new delimitation was carried out in 2024, following which the election schedule was announced. However, a new Local Government Ordinance was introduced in 2026.

The court asked whether the ordinance had become law. The counsel replied that it had been approved by the cabinet and forwarded to Parliament.

Two martyred cops laid to rest with full honours

SWABI (APP): The funeral prayers of Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Waleed Khan and Constable Zulfiqar, who embraced martyrdom in a firing attack by unidentified assailants the other night here, were offered at Police Lines Swabi with full state honours.

Regional Police Officer (RPO) Mardan Qasim Ali Khan, District Police Officer (DPO) Swabi Waqas Rafiq, SP Iftikhar Khan, SP Shafiur Rehman Khan, SDPOs, other police officers, social figures, family members of the martyrs and people from different walks of life attended the funeral.

A smartly turned-out police contingent presented a salute to the martyrs, while senior police officers laid floral wreaths on their coffins and paid tribute to their sacrifices.

According to police, the two personnel embraced martyrdom when unidentified assailants opened fire on a police party during routine patrolling within the jurisdiction of Mansoori Police Post last night. Another police official also sustained injuries in the attack.

DPM emphasises newly formed AJK & GB governments to take fresh, result-oriented initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister (DPM/ FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, on Thursday emphasised that the newly formed AJK & GB governments should take fresh, result-oriented initiatives to effectively resolve governance challenges and improve public service delivery

The deputy prime minister chaired a meeting here to review matters pertaining to Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) with the Government of Pakistan, a DPM's Office news release said.

Highlighting the historical significance of AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan and the enduring sacrifices of their people, the DPM/FM directed all concerned to ensure close co-ordination with the respective governments to expedite ongoing development projects and deliver tangible socio-economic relief to the people.

Nine killed, three injured as van plunges into river

GHIZER (APP): At least nine people were killed and three others injured after a passenger van plunged into the River Yasin near the Ghizer area of Gilgit-Baltistan, according to rescue sources cited by television channels. Initial reports suggested that the accident occurred while the van was crossing a bridge when it suddenly fell into the river. Following the incident, rescue teams rushed to the scene and launched an operation to retrieve.



QUETTA: MPA Zarak Khan Mandokhail meeting with Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Sardar Kohiyar Khan Domki.

AJK President calls for heroes' contributions to be taught in schools

MIRPUR (INP) Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Muhammad Najeeb Khan has stressed the need to include the contributions and sacrifices of national heroes, particularly Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan and Captain Hussain Khan Shaheed, in educational curricula to familiarise youth with the region's history and Kashmir freedom movement.

Addressing a seminar organised here by the Sudhan Educational Conference in Islamabad , he said historical awareness was essential for young people amid growing misinformation on social media.

He highlighted Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan's contributions to education and women's empowerment and recalled Captain Hussain Khan Shaheed's sacrifices during the struggle against the Dogra regime.

He said the establishment of the Azad Government on October 24, 1947, was the result of the sacrifices of their forefathers.

AJK Legislative Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Tariq Farooq and former presidents Sardar Masood Khan and Sardar Yaqoob Khan also highlighted the importance of preserving the region's history and passing the legacy of national heroes to future generations.

Rana stresses political consensus on issues with lasting implications

ISLAMABAD (APP): Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah, on Thursday stressed that the issue of creating new provinces required political consensus, saying that the decisions reached through political consensus among political forces would have lasting effects and serve the country's interests.

Talking to a private television channel, he said that Parliament was the most appropriate forum for building political consensus on the issue including creation of new provinces, as every political party had its own point of view on the matter.

Committee reviews revamping of healthcare institutions in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level committee constituted on the directions of the Prime Minister reviewed measures to revamp healthcare institutions in Islamabad, with a focus on strengthening primary healthcare, improving referral systems and enhancing public service delivery.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Federal Minister Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry and attended by Members of the National Assembly from Islamabad, Secretary of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, and District Health Officer Islamabad Dr Syeda Rashida Batool.

The committee discussed strategies to strengthen primary healthcare facilities and improve their linkages with secondary-care hospitals to ensure an effective referral mechanism and better access to healthcare services for residents of the federal capital. Participants also reviewed measures to improve the operational efficiency of healthcare institutions and enhance the quality and accessibility of medical services. Following the meeting, the committee visited Pakistan-China Friendship Hospital in Chak Shahzad to assess its operational status, available facilities and healthcare services being provided to the public.

US-supported project strengthens Mehrgarh heritage preservation in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: A US-funded initiative valued at more than $320,000 has been completed in Balochistan to conserve artifacts from the ancient Mehrgarh site and upgrade the Mehrgarh Museum in Quetta, marking a major development in efforts to safeguard the province's archaeological heritage.

US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker attended the completion ceremony along with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Parliamentary Secretary Nawabzada Mir Muhammad Zareen Khan Magsi, Fulbright alumni Dr. Asma Ibrahim and Dr. Kaleemullah Lashari, among other officials and heritage experts.

The project was implemented under the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) and represents the first initiative under the program to be completed in Balochistan, extending AFCP-supported heritage preservation efforts to all four provinces of Pakistan.

The initiative focused on the conservation of valuable Neolithic-era artifacts unearthed at Mehrgarh, while museum facilities were modernized to enhance the protection, display and management of archaeological collections.

A key component of the project was professional capacity building. Local archaeologists and heritage specialists received training in conservation methods aimed at ensuring the long-term preservation of archaeological materials and strengthening technical expertise within the province. The upgraded museum is also expected to provide improved access for students, researchers and visitors, while encouraging greater public engagement with Balochistan's ancient history and archaeological legacy.

Meetings with Imran linked to 28th amendment, formation of smaller provinces: Saad

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader and former federal minister Khawaja Saad Rafique has analysed Imran Khan's meetings in jail, the proposed 28th Constitutional Amendment, the creation of smaller provinces and the possibility of governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stressing the urgent need for a new Charter of Pakistan.

In a post on social media platform X, Khawaja Saad Rafique said Imran Khan's meetings in jail with his incarcerated wife, Bushra Bibi, and lawyers were welcome and positive. He said Imran Khan's solitary confinement should not only end, but if he wished, all stakeholders should move beyond past bitterness and create a conducive environment for peaceful politics for his party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Law minister appoints Zafar Baloch as coordinator

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Law Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan on Thursday appointed Zafar Zaman Khan Baloch as his Coordinator.

On the occasion, the provincial minister extended his best wishes to Zafar Zaman Khan and expressed confidence that he would discharge his new responsibilities with dedication, commitment and professionalism.

Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan said the appointment would help make the process of mutual consultation and coordination more effective. He emphasized that efficient coordination played a vital role in improving institutional performance and strengthening the public service delivery system.



GENEVA / SWITZERLAND: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh held important meetings on the sidelines of the 30th world investment conference.

Algeria marks 72nd anniversary of Liberation Revolution, vows stronger ties with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Embassy of Algeria in Islamabad on Wednesday celebrated the 72nd Anniversary of Algeria's National Day, marking the glorious Liberation Revolution of November 1, 1954.

Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, was the chief guest at the ceremony. Ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions, senior officials and dignitaries attended the event. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Algeria to Pakistan, Dr. Brahim Romani, thanked the guests for sharing the celebration and paid tribute to the Algerian people for their supreme heroism and sacrifices during 132 years of French colonialism from 1830 to 1962, in which more than five million martyrs laid down their lives.

"We turn this page for a real balanced cooperation and common fruitful future, but we never forget, never we cut this horrible page of our history, " he said.

Ambassador Romani recalled with pride that Pakistan was among the first nations to support Algeria's liberation struggle, since the Bandung Conference in 1955, and recognized its Provisional Government in 1958. Pakistan remained a loyal supporter at the United Nations until Algeria regained its independence. "Special Thanks, Pakistan! Bohot Shukria, " he said. He said the two brotherly countries share a long history of solidarity and cooperation and are working together through good coordination at regional and international organizations, enhancing commitment to defending international peace and security.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Communication and Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa presides over the meeting regarding Drainage Project of Dera Allah Yar. Parliamentary Secretary for S&GAD Abdul Majeed Badini is also present.

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