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President, PM reaffirm commitment to economic stability and development

LAHORE (Agencies): President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday visited the residence of Prime Minister(PM)Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Model Town,where the prime minister warmly received him.

During the meeting,the two leaders held detailed discussions on the overall political, economic and security situation in the country. The PM briefed the president on his recent visit to Türkiye and participation in the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31). The meeting also discussed cooperation between coalition partners,continuation of the consultation process and progress on public welfare initiatives.

Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to working together for economic stability and accelerating the pace of development in the country.

National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq,former prime minister Raja Pervez Ashraf,Senator Saleem Mandviwalla,Federal Minister for Law Azam Nazeer Tarar,Adviser to the Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah and Member of the National Assembly Mian Hamza Shehbaz Sharif were also present at the meeting. The prime minister also briefed the president on his recent visit to Turkiye and his participation in the 31st Conference of the Parties.

The two leaders discussed cooperation between coalition partners, continuity of consultations and progress on public welfare initiatives. They reaffirmed their commitment to working together to strengthen economic stability and accelerate the country's development process. National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, former prime minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, Prime Minister's Adviser Rana Sanaullah and MNA Hamza Shehbaz were also present at the meeting. The proposal for a referendum has found support within sections of the PML-N, with Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan recently raising the constitutional question of whether elected representatives could override the people's verdict.



LAHORE: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at his Model Town residence.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairing an inter-ministerial meeting to review preparations for the upcoming Pakistan-Turkmenistan Joint Intergovernmental Commission (JIC) session, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Major among 4 army soldiers martyred, 24 terrorists killed in Balochistan, KP IBOs

RAWALPINDI: A Pakistan Army major among four personnel were martyred and 24 terrorists belonging to "Fitna al-Hindustan" and "Fitna al-Khawarij" (FAH) were killed in separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Saturday.

In Balochistan, the armed forces, since November 13, have been conducting multiple IBOs around Kolpur, Kardagap and Nushki, including area domination and patrolling of the Quetta-Taftan National Highway (N-40) to keep it secure for local traffic and sustain operations.

According to the military's media wing, "On night 13/14 November, in the area of Kolpur, the security forces successfully neutralised eight Indian-sponsored terrorists, including a suicide bomber and recovered a large cache of weapons and ammunition."

The India-backed terrorists targeted military vehicles on patrol using armed quadcopters on November 14, resulting in the martyrdom of Major Omer Minhas Nasir, a resident of Chakwal District, and Havildar Muhammad Adnan Khan, a resident of Kotli Sattian.

"This cowardly act has not shaken the resolve of the security forces. The tempo of operations will be maintained and IBOs will continue with the same vigour to secure the local population and eliminate

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(From left to right) Pakistan Army's Major Omer Minhas Nasir, Havildar Muhammad Adnan Khan, Naik Aftab Ali and Havildar Asmat Ali.

28th constitutional amendment draft yet to reach my office: Ayaz

LAHORE (INP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said the draft of the 28th Constitutional Amendment had not yet reached his office, and that his constitutional role would begin only after the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs sent him the draft.

Speaking in detail to the media in Lahore, he discussed various political matters, the constitutional amendment and the government's performance. In response to a question about the draft, Sadiq said he would not form a prior opinion on whether the amendment was good or bad until its draft was formally presented and he knew its contents.

Speaking about the responsibilities of government figures and ministers, the National Assembly speaker said everyone in the government was fulfilling their respective constitutional and administrative responsibilities. Each minister was running their ministry and had a role of their own, he said. His role in the process was of a specific nature, and he would perform his duties in accordance with the rules and procedures only after receiving the draft from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Asked about Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Sadiq said Naqvi worked hard and actively on any government assignment given to him. "I don't ask whether an amendment is coming or not; we will know when it comes. I will not call the amendment good or bad. My job is to facilitate, and my work will begin when the government says the 28th Amendment is coming," he said.

On Federal Minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain's remarks and political allegations, Sadiq said such accusations were routinely made in politics. Continuing his point, he said no one objected if a doctor's son became a doctor, yet politicians were always taunted over dynastic politics.

Commenting on statements by Mohsin Naqvi and other political leaders, as well as the idea of a "system reset," the National Assembly speaker said everyone in politics had their own way of thinking and perspective.

President firmly supports Palestinian statehood

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has extended warm felicitations to President of the State of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas and the people of Palestine on the occasion of the 38th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the State of Palestine, reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to self-determination.

In a letter addressed to President Mahmoud Abbas, the President said Pakistan and Palestine enjoy close fraternal relations rooted in shared history.



QUETTA: Provincial General Secretary PML-N Jamal Shah Kakar addressing the Provincial Convention of PML-N organized Maryam Liaqat.

Balochistan CM vows no safe haven for terrorists, hails security forces' counterterrorism success

QUETTA (APP): Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti has reaffirmed the provincial government's resolve to eliminate terrorism, declaring that no safe haven will remain for militants seeking to undermine peace and stability in the province.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the chief minister said the state would utilise its full strength and an effective counterterrorism strategy to eradicate the menace of terrorism and ensure lasting security across Balochistan.

Sarfraz Bugti described the killing of eight militants belonging to "Fitna al-Hindustan" during a security forces operation in the Kolpur area as a significant achievement in the ongoing fight against terrorism. He said the success demonstrated the determination of security institutions to confront threats to public safety and national security.

The chief minister stressed that any attempt to spread unrest, intimidate citizens, or disrupt normal life on national highways in Balochistan would be firmly thwarted. He noted that ongoing intelligence-based operations in Kolpur, Kardgap, Noshki and other areas, along with enhanced security measures on the Quetta-Taftan National Highway, reflect the state's commitment to protecting citizens and ensuring uninterrupted movement of people and goods.

Paying tribute to security personnel who lost their lives in recent terrorist attacks, Bugti expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of Major Omar Minhas Nasir and Havaldar Muhammad Adnan Khan. He said the two soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice in defence of the country and the protection of its citizens.

"Their sacrifices will remain a shining chapter in our national history, and the entire nation will remember these brave sons with respect and gratitude," he said, while extending condolences to the bereaved families and praying for their strength and patience.

The chief minister also highlighted the changing nature of terrorist tactics, noting that militant groups are increasingly employing modern technologies, including drones and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), in pursuit of their objectives. However,

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NORTH DERA BUGTI: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti offering Fateha on the sad demise of his aunt and mother of Mir Tariq Hussain Bugti.

Pakistan, 16 other countries slam Israeli airstrike on Gaza hospital, warn against undermining ceasefire

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Foreign Ministers of Pakistan, Egypt, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Jordan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Palestine, Algeria, Mauritania, Sudan, Libya, Djibouti, Somalia, Lebanon and Oman condemned in the strongest terms the Israeli airstrike on the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, which caused casualties among patients and medical personnel, in violation of international humanitarian law, which affords special protection to medical facilities and healthcare workers.

In a statement, they also condemned continued Israeli attacks on Palestinian civilians, including strikes on tents and other sites sheltering displaced persons. These attacks undermine the ceasefire and efforts to restore security and stability in Gaza and are inconsistent with President Trump's Comprehensive Plan.

The ministers expressed grave concern that continued Israeli restrictions on humanitarian aid, shelter materials including tents, caravans and mobile homes, as well as medical supplies are deepening Gaza's humanitarian catastrophe as winter approaches. Inadequate shelter and deteriorating water, sanitation and healthcare services put civilian lives at grave risk, particularly those of children and infants, who could once again die from exposure to freezing temperatures.

The ministers called on Israel to heed appeals from the international community and the Board of Peace, for increased aid and to fulfil immediately and in full its obligations under the Sharm El-Sheikh Agreement, President Trump's Comprehensive Plan and United Nations Security Council Resolution 2803 (2025). Israel must uphold the ceasefire, protect civilians and medical facilities, and ensure the safe, sus-

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Pakistan, Kuwait agree to expand economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and Kuwait have agreed to further expand economic cooperation and strengthen bilateral partnership.

The understanding was reached during a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah.

The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and discussed matters of mutual interest, including trade, investment, energy projects and people-to-people contacts.

Police foil terrorist attack on Bannu checkpoint, kill four militants

PESHAWAR (APP): Police foiled a terrorist attack on Kanger Bridge checkpoint in Bannu during the night, killing four militants in an effective retaliatory action. According to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police Director of Public Relations, terrorists launched the attack at the checkpoint at night, but police personnel responded promptly and repulsed the assault.

Police recovered four Kalashnikovs, hand grenades and a large quantity of ammunition from the possession of the slain militants. Following reports of the attack, Quick Response Force, Rapid Response Force and additional police personnel rushed to the site.

Pakistan, Uzbekistan reaffirm commitment to expanding defence cooperation

Lt General Bahromovich lauds professionalism, operational prowess, combat capabilities of Pak Air Force

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), HJ, during his official visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan, held high-level meetings with Lieutenant General Botir Qudrathodjayev Bahromovich, Defence Minister, and Major General Burkhanov Akhmad Jamolovich, Deputy Defence Minister and Commander of Air Defence and Air Force of Uzbekistan.

During the meeting with the Defence Minister of Uzbekistan, the discussions focused on regional security, existing defence ties and prospects for institutional collaboration, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). The Uzbek Defence Minister lauded the professionalism, operational prowess and combat capabilities of the Pakistan Air Force. In the subsequent meeting with Deputy Defence Minister and Commander of Air Defence & Air Force of Uzbekistan, the discussion focused on enhancing bilateral defence cooperation through joint military exercises, structured professional exchanges and capacity building. The Air Chief highlighted the deep-rooted brotherly ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing operational readiness.



PAF Chief Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu meets Uzbekistan Defence Minister Lieutenant General Botir Qudrathodjayev Bahromovich during his official visit.

Governor calls for collective action against terrorism

Independent Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stressed the need for coordinated efforts by the government, security institutions and the public to counter terrorism and prevent hostile activities in the province.

Condemning the recent militant attacks in the Kurdgap and Kolpur areas, the governor said terrorism was not simply an act of violence but an ideology designed to spread fear and intimidate communities.

He expressed profound grief over the martyrdom of Major Umar Nasir Minhas and Havildar Muhammad Adnan Khan, paying tribute to the two soldiers for sacrificing their lives in the line of duty while protecting the country and its citizens.

Mandokhail called upon law-enforcement agencies to adopt effective and practical measures to curb terrorism and other subversive activities. He maintained that security operations could achieve lasting results only when they were complemented by meaningful cooperation from the public.

The governor said the sacrifices rendered by security personnel would not be allowed to go in vain, emphasizing that combating terrorism was a shared responsibility requiring unity and collective resolve.

He conveyed his condolences to the families of the martyred personnel and assured them of the nation's support and solidarity in their hour of grief.



NAROWAL: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Professor Ahsan Iqbal addressing a ceremony of the District Bar Association in Narowal.

Detention of dysfunctional KP CM Afridi, other MPs challenged in FCC

ISLAMABAD (INP): National Assembly Opposition Leader Mehmood Khan Achakzai and Senate Opposition Leader Raja Nasir Abbas on Saturday jointly filed a petition before the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC), seeking the immediate release of the dysfunctional Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister Sohail Afridi and eight other parliamentarians.

The PTI-backed chief minister and other lawmakers had been taken into preventive custody hours before the federal government imposed governor's rule and emergency in KP on October 11.

In their petition, the opposition leaders argued that keeping elected representatives in custody amounts to rendering the public mandate ineffective.

"Targeting them on the basis of political affiliation violates Articles 4, 14, 17 and 25 of the Constitution," read the petition.

The plea also demands that the government disclose their "legal status and place of detention".

It argues that extraordinary powers under Articles 232, 234 and 245 do not override fundamental rights. The imposition of governor's rule, it says, does not end fundamental rights, and government actions remain subject to judicial review by the FCC.

According to the petition, incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan had tasked Achakzai and Nasir Abbas with holding talks with the government. It adds that state machinery cannot be used to suppress political dissent or to neutralise elected representatives.

Pakistan narrowly miss Asia Cup title

Green-shirts go down fighting against India in thrilling Under-19 final

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Mohit Ulva (49 not out) and Manal Chauhan (47) did magical batting in the death overs as India defeated Pakistan by just one wicket in the final to win Under-19 Asia Cup crown at the Al Amerat Cricket Ground in Oman.

Set to chase 338 India needed eight off the last over from leg-spinner Ahmad Hussain and three off the final ball. Mohit hit a superb four to bring in a sensational win for India.

Earlier Usman Khan (107) and Abdul Qadir (80) propelled Pakistan to 337-9 in the allotted 50 overs.

At one stage India were reeling at 252-8 and it seemed that they would not be able to chase the target.

However Manal and Mohit did a stunning job to help India reclaim the title.

Mohit hammered three sixes and five fours in his 26-ball 49 not out.

Manal chipped in with a sensational 32-ball 47, hitting three sixes and three fours.

Set to chase a stiff target of 338, India made a patient start, with openers Lakshya Raichandani and Aaryavir Sehwag putting together a 95-run partnership. Left-arm spinner Niqab Shafiq provided the much-needed breakthrough when he dismissed Aaryavir, who was caught in the deep by Usman Khan.

Aaryavir, son of former India great Virender Sehwag, struck nine fours in his 58 off 61 balls.

VK Vineeth then joined skipper Raichandani, and the pair added 51 runs for the second wicket before Rizwanullah dismissed Vineeth. Attempting a pull shot, Vineeth failed to time the ball and was caught by Usman Khan at close range. He scored 24 off 21 balls, including three fours.

India were 126-2 in the 27th over, with the required run rate continuing to climb.

Arjun Rajput then came but could not go deep after hitting 18-ball 16 with twosixes before removed by Rizwanullah, held behind the stumps. And India were 172-3 in 31 overws.

Pakistan continued to put pressure on India when Hasnain Abbas Dar got rid of Yashbardhan Chauhan (9) to leave India reeling at 186-4. Lakshya and stumper Anvay Dravid shared 31 runs before Ali Raza had the danger man Lakshya to pave way for Pakistan's win.

Lakshya, who completed his fifty off 72 balls, smashed five fours in his 80 which came off 101 balls.

And off the next ball Dravid got run out for a 12-ball 19 to leave India reeling.



ISLAMABAD: Players in group photo during the "J-30 PPL Pakistan World Junior Tennis Championships 2026" at Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) Tennis Complex.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi inaugurating a Mobile Drug Testing Laboratory at the Governor House.

Kundi inaugurates mobile drug testing laboratory

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday inaugurated a Mobile Drug Testing Laboratory at the Governor House, saying the initiative would help ensure the quality of medicines and strengthen the healthcare system across the province.

Advisor to Governor on Health, Lieutenant General (Retd) Nigar Johar, and senior officials of the Health Department were present on the occasion.

The Governor was given a detailed briefing on the functioning and capabilities of the Mobile Drug Testing Laboratory.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said that initially five Mobile Drug Testing Laboratories had been introduced, enabling authorities to test medicines at any location across the province.

He said strict legislation was being introduced to ensure the quality and safety of medicines, adding that there was significant room for improvement in the Health Department.

The Governor said the government's priority was to strengthen the healthcare system and ensure the provision of quality medical facilities to the people.Advisor to Governor on Health, Lieutenant General (Retd) Nigar Johar, and senior officials of the Health Department were present on the occasion.

State minister inaugurates state-of-the-art IT lab at Wah women's college

WAH CANTT (APP): Minister of State for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik, along with former MPA and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Rawalpindi district president Haji Malik Umar Farooq on Saturday, inaugurated a state-of-the-art information technology (IT) laboratory at Government Graduate College for Women, Wah Cantt, established under a special initiative of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Barrister Aqeel Malik underscored the importance of expanding access to modern technology, promoting digital education and equipping young women with the skills required to compete in an increasingly technology-driven world.

He said access to modern technological facilities and digital learning had become essential for educational advancement and economic empowerment, adding that the establishment of the IT laboratory marked an important step towards equipping female students with contemporary technical skills and preparing them for emerging challenges.

He said initiatives aimed at strengthening digital education would help bridge the technological divide and create better academic and professional opportunities for young women.

The initiative is expected to provide students with access to modern IT facilities and enhance their practical learning experience, enabling them to develop skills relevant to higher education and the evolving job market. Please rephrase into journalistic tune with catchy headline and in four paragraphs.



HYDERABAD: A Doctor examining to eye patient during annual Free Eye Relief Camp at police ground organized by host lions club.

Tarar hails successful end of Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Saturday termed the conclusion of the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 a significant step towards unlocking the country's mineral potential and promoting domestic value addition.

In a post on social media platform X, the minister said Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, alongside Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, had concluded the forum, which brought together participants from more than 60 countries.

He said the forum witnessed major investment announcements and 13 agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs).

The launch of the National Minerals Data Centre and the Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP) GeoPortal also marked an important milestone towards harnessing the country's mineral resources and encouraging investment in the sector.

Expressing optimism about the country's future, the minister said, "The future is bright, InshaAllah."

Pakistan Army organizes diabetes awareness event in Leepa Valley

RAWALPINDI (INP): A special awareness event, organised by the Pakistan Army, was held in Leepa Valley to mark World Diabetes Day.

The event was attended by people from all walks of life, university students and faculty members.

The speakers highlighted the importance of a balanced diet, regular exercise and a healthy lifestyle in preventing diabetes.

The participants highly appreciated the Pakistan Army's efforts to organise public health awareness activities and promote a culture of health and well-being.

APHC says:

India has stripped Kashmiris of all fundamental rights

SRINAGAR (INP): In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has strongly condemned the ongoing cordon and search operations in Kulgam, Kishtwar and other areas of the territory, as well as the arbitrary arrest of hundreds of youth, describing these actions a flagrant violation of the fundamental rights of Kashmiris.

According to Kashmir Media Service, APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas, in a statement issued in Srinagar, said the persistent violations of Kashmiris' fundamental human and political rights and India's continued occupation of the territory had exposed its claims of being the world's largest democracy.

He said India had deployed more than one million troops across the occupied territory to maintain its illegal hold, turning it into the world's largest open-air prison.

The spokesman said the BJP-led Indian government, driven by the Hindutva ideology, had deprived Kashmiris of all their fundamental rights, including freedom of expression. Those who dared to raise their voice against Indian repression were thrown behind bars under draconian laws such as the Public Safety Act (PSA) and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), he added.

Minhasmaintained that India's position in Jammu and Kashmir was that of an occupying power, as the Kashmiri people had never accepted its occupation from the outset.

He also denounced the atrocities perpetrated by Indian forces and investigative agencies against unarmed Kashmiris during search operations and raids on residential houses, urging the international community to take notice of the continuing Indian state terrorism in the occupied territory.



Members and supporters of Kissan Rabita committee hold protest at Lahore Press Club for demand acceptance.

NAB seeks business records of Asad, examines Rs 24.4m property deal involving Amjad

PESHAWAR (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has sought details of business partnerships involving former National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser and his family members as part of an ongoing inquiry, while it is also examining a Rs 24.4 million property transaction linked to another investigation against former provincial minister Dr Amjad Ali.

Adviser to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government on Information, Samar Haroon Bilour said NAB issued notices to several individuals on November 13 in connection with two separate inquiries involving the PTI leaders.

She said the bureau had sought business records of Asad Qaiser and his family members to examine their business partnerships.

In the inquiry involving Dr Amjad Ali, NAB issued notices to nine individuals and summoned five others as witnesses in connection with the purchase of a property in Islamabad.

The investigation also covers payments of Rs 24.4 million made for the property, she added.

Eight-day water shortage hits Chitral town areas after pipeline damage

PESHAWAR (APP): Residents of several neighbourhoods in Chitral town have been facing an acute shortage of clean drinking water for the past eight consecutive days following damage to a six-inch water supply pipeline during construction work in Singoor.

Local elders Shahzada Siraj Ulmulk and Gul Rehman Chitrali told the media that the water supply line serving Gankorini, Balach and Singoor was damaged by an excavator allegedly operated by a person carrying out house construction in the area.

They said the incident had disrupted the water supply to a large number of households, leaving residents struggling to meet their daily drinking water needs. Despite the passage of more than a week, the Water Supply Unit and the local administration have reportedly failed to carry out a proper repair of the damaged pipeline, further aggravating the difficulties faced by the affected communities.

Expressing serious concern over the authorities' response, Shahzada Siraj said that residents had repeatedly approached the concerned officials for restoration of the water supply but their complaints had so far yielded no tangible results.

He also shared photographs of what he described as an inadequate repair attempt, showing a tree branch inserted into the damaged pipeline instead of undertaking a proper technical repair. The temporary arrangement, he said, had failed to restore the water supply, while the inserted branch had also started deteriorating, raising further concerns about the handling of the issue.

The prolonged disruption has caused considerable hardship for families, who are compelled to make alternative arrangements to obtain drinking water for their daily needs.

The affected residents questioned the inability of the concerned authorities to repair a six-inch pipeline despite the availability of more than a week and urged the district administration to take immediate notice of the situation.

Naqvi praises KP police, CTD for foiling Bannu checkpost attack

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday praised the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police and Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) for foiling an attack by Khawarij militants on a police checkpost in Bannu and killing four terrorists.

The Interior Minister commended the professional capabilities, commitment and determination of the police and CTD personnel for successfully thwarting the attack and eliminating four terrorists.

In his statement, Mohsin Naqvi said that the personnel of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police and CTD demonstrated courage and determination while foiling the attack by the Khawarij militants.

He said the police and CTD personnel confronted the attackers with courage and prevented them from carrying out their planned assault on the police checkpost.

BRT Peshawar to start service on Ring Road from Nov 16

PESHAWAR (APP): TransPeshawar will launch its new BRT route DR-17 on Monday, 16 November, connecting Chamkani with the Mall of Hayatabad via Southern Ring Road.

According to a press release issued here on Saturday, the new route will extend public transport access to communities along Ring Road and provide a convenient travel option for residents, students and workers. The addition of DR-17 will bring the total number of Zu Peshawar routes to 20, including 11 off-corridor feeder routes. The route comprises 27 stops: Chamkani, Sardar Garhi, Chughal Pura, Pir Zakori Bridge, Cattle Mandi, Jameel Chowk, Shaheen Muslim Town, Hazar Khwani.

Major among 4 army soldiers..

Continued from page 1

the menace of terrorism. Clearance operations in these areas will continue until the threat is completely neutralised," said the ISPR.

The military's media wing said that the "Fitna al-Hindustan", backed by India and other hostile intelligence agencies, is actively trying to use drones and other technical means, including IEDs, to target innocent civilians and security forces, so as to undermine the efforts of the government and security forces to maintain peace and normalcy in the area.

"India continues to give FAH full financial support and supply it with the latest gadgetry. However, the security forces are fully aware to this evolving threat and will deny the terrorists any space, whatever means they employ," it added

The relentless counter-terrorism campaign under the vision of "Azm-e-Istehkam", as approved by the federal Apex Committee on the National Action Plan, will continue at full pace.

The ISPR said that the security forces and law enforcement agencies remain determined to eliminate foreign-sponsored terrorism from the country. The sacrifices of our martyrs further strengthen this resolve, it added.

In KP, two soldiers were martyred, and at least 16 India-backed terrorists were killed in a series of IBOs, the ISPR said.

In a separate statement, the military's media wing said that multiple Fitna al-Khawarij locations were engaged in Mir Ali, Datta Khel and surrounding areas in North Waziristan district as part of the ongoing IBOs.

"Following fierce fire exchanges, in the last 12 hours, 12 Khawarij, including two Afghan nationals belonging to Indian-sponsored Fitna al-Khawarij, were sent to hell in Ali Khel," according to the ISPR.

Balochistan CM..

Continued from page 1

he maintained that the use of advanced technology would not weaken the state's resolve. "As terrorist methods evolve, state institutions are also enhancing their capabilities and refining their strategies to effectively counter emerging threats," he said.

Bugti emphasised that sustainable peace, economic growth, investment promotion and the protection of citizens' daily lives are interconnected goals. He said efforts to derail development through acts of terrorism would be defeated and that militants would not be allowed to re-establish footholds in any part of the province.

Referring to the national counterterrorism framework, the chief minister said that the "Azm-e-Istehkam" vision, approved by the Federal Apex Committee under the National Action Plan, reflects the state's collective strategy for the complete eradication of terrorism.

He expressed confidence that the sacrifices and continued efforts of the security forces and law enforcement agencies would lead to lasting peace and stability in the country.

Reiterating the provincial government's commitment, Bugti said the Balochistan government would continue to work closely with all relevant institutions to maintain peace, safeguard the public and support ongoing counterterrorism efforts throughout the province.

Pakistan, 16..

Continued from page 1

tained and unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid in sufficient quantities, including shelter and early recovery supplies and equipment to restore essential infrastructure. It must also allow United Nations agencies and humanitarian organisations to carry out their mandates without obstruction.

These first-phase commitments were due to take effect upon signature. Israel must implement them without further delay or additional conditions, including political and security conditions, that impede humanitarian access. Urgent humanitarian assistance must proceed independently of progress on subsequent phases.

ICT admin launches drive to cover over 142 open manholes across city

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad district administration has completed a citywide survey to identify uncovered manholes and started installing covers on more than 142 open manholes to prevent accidents and ensure safe movement for residents.

The campaign has been launched to secure open manholes across the federal capital and protect citizens from accidents caused by uncovered drainage openings.

According to the district administration, the survey to identify manholes without covers has been completed across the city. Work is now underway to install covers on more than 142 open manholes identified during the survey.

The administration said the purpose of covering open manholes was to prevent accidents and ensure safe movement for citizens in different parts of Islamabad.

It said the protection of residents, particularly children and pedestrians, was the main objective of the campaign.

The district administration added that standard and durable covers were being installed to ensure that manholes remained properly secured and did not pose a risk to people using roads and streets.

The administration has also appealed to citizens to cooperate with the campaign by identifying open or unsafe manholes in their respective areas.

It said public participation would help the authorities identify uncovered manholes and complete the process of making them safe across the federal capital.

Citizens have been asked to report open or unsafe manholes to the Islamabad district administration through its helpline.



LAHORE: An Environment Protection Department (EPA) truck equipped with a heavy-duty Anti-Smog Gun sprays water mist into the air to suppress hazardous dust and particulate matter.

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Aga Khan Road, F-5/1

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to FPSC Advertisement published in print media PID No. PID (I) 4217/26, dated 06.11.2026 regarding recruitment against ministerial posts of Balochistan Quota, the age limits for the posts of Stenotypist (BS-14) and Data Entry Operator (BS-14) may be read as 18-25 years.

2. All other terms and conditions of the advertisement shall remain unchanged.

Adnan Akram
Director (HR) 051-9212332

PID (I) 4443/26

Balochistan targets investment growth through strategic business partnerships ahead of BITE 2026

Balochistan poised to emerge as investment destination: Chairman BBoIT Bilal Kakar

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan government is pursuing an ambitious agenda to transform the province into a hub for national and international investment by promoting trade and business activities, Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade (BBoIT) Vice Chairman Bilal Khan Kakar said on Saturday.

He was speaking at ceremonies held to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between the Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade and several leading business and trade organisations in connection with the upcoming Balochistan Investment and Trade Expo (BITE) 2026.

The agreements were signed with the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Quetta Chamber of Small Industries, Women Chamber of Commerce, and the Pak-Iran Joint Chamber of Commerce, reflecting a collaborative effort to strengthen investment promotion and business development across the province.

The event was attended by BBoIT Chief Executive Officer Abdul Manan, Senior Vice President of the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mirza Khan Khilji, former chamber president Haji Ayub Mariani, Patron-in-Chief of the Quetta Chamber of Small Industries Haji Wali Muhammad, former FPCCI president Haji Daru Khan Achakzai, Farzana Karim Baloch of the Women Chamber of Commerce, and other prominent members of the business community.

Bilal Kakar said that the Balochistan Investment and Trade Expo (BITE) 2026, scheduled to be held in Quetta on November 18 and 19, would serve as a major platform for highlighting the province's investment and trade potential. He noted that several chambers of commerce had been brought on board as partners to ensure the active participation of the business community and to foster closer interaction among local industrialists, traders and investors.

"The vision of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti is to promote investment and commercial activity in Balochistan and position the province as a destination for national and international investors," Kakar said, adding that the provincial government and the investment board were undertaking a range of initiatives to achieve this objective.

He emphasised that Balochistan offers significant investment opportunities across a range of sectors, including minerals, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, energy, tourism, and other emerging industries. According to Kakar, the investment board is working closely with the private sector, trade associations and relevant institutions to convert these opportunities into tangible investment projects.

The vice chairman said the agreements signed with various chambers were aimed at enhancing mutual cooperation, strengthening business linkages, expanding trade activities and creating greater market access for products originating from Balochistan at both national and international levels.



QUETTA: Nasir Khan, Latif Muhammadhassni and Dr. Shazia addressing during seminar organized by Population Welfare Department and UNFPA regarding home based family planning.

Malakhail vows firm action against environmental violations

Independent Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Adviser on Environment and Climate Change Naseem-ur-Rehman Khan Mullakhail has announced strict enforcement of environmental protection laws across the province, warning that legal action will be taken against those found responsible for pollution and violations of environmental regulations.

Speaking to several delegations at his office, Mullakhail said growing environmental degradation posed a serious threat to both current and future generations and required coordinated and sustained action.

He said the provincial government was giving priority to environmental conservation and would undertake a province-wide tree plantation drive to help reduce pollution and mitigate the effects of climate change.

The adviser called for greater public participation in environmental initiatives, particularly encouraging young people to play an active role in plantation and conservation activities.

Mullakhail also said industrial units and factories would be required to introduce environmentally safer technologies and prevent the release of hazardous emissions and industrial waste into the environment.

He made it clear that individuals and organizations responsible for contaminating air, water or land would face action under the relevant environmental laws, adding that negligence in protecting the environment would not be tolerated.

The adviser also stressed the need for effective implementation of the ban on single-use plastic items and shopping bags, urging citizens to reduce unnecessary reliance on plastic products.

He said preservation of a clean and healthy environment could not be achieved by government institutions alone and required collective responsibility from the public.

During his meetings with the delegations, representatives raised various issues concerning their respective areas. Mullakhail assured them that their concerns would be examined and efforts made to address them at the earliest.

Modern dairy farming can strengthen Pakistan's economy: Mohiuddin

QUETTA (ANN): Chaudhry Raza Mohiuddin, Chief Executive of Mohiuddin Dairy Farm House and a businessman, has called for greater government support to modernize dairy farming, saying the sector has significant potential to raise milk production, improve farmers' earnings and contribute to national economic growth.

Talking to journalists, he proposed affordable financing facilities, technical training and access to essential resources for small-scale dairy farmers to help them adopt contemporary farming methods.

Mohiuddin said Pakistan possessed substantial potential for expanding its dairy sector, but achieving higher productivity would require greater use of modern technology, improved livestock breeds, scientific feeding methods and better farm management practices.

He noted that escalating prices of animal feed, veterinary medicines, healthcare and other essential inputs were placing considerable pressure on small dairy operators and limiting their ability to expand their businesses.

The businessman urged the government to formulate a comprehensive policy focused on strengthening the sector through technical assistance, improved breeding programmes and greater access to modern equipment.

Sibi citizens seek crackdown on alleged fuel adulteration, short measures

SIBI (ANN): Residents of Sibi have called on the authorities to take immediate notice of alleged irregularities at Iranian mini petrol pumps, including short measurement and the suspected sale of substandard or adulterated petrol and diesel. According to local consumers, some mini fuel stations in the city and adjoining areas are allegedly providing quantities below those paid for by customers. They also raised concerns over the quality of petroleum products being supplied at certain outlets. The residents said consumers were already facing the financial impact of changing fuel prices and that any discrepancy in measurements or fuel quality.



Unemployed laborers endure scorching heat while awaiting work at Bacha Khan Chowk in Quetta.



QUETTA: Regional Head Federal Ombudsman Ghulam Sarwar Barohi meeting with Chief Executive Officer QESCO Engineer Mirza Aizaz Baig at QESCO Headquarters.

Khosa orders strict oversight of development projects

QUETTA (ANN): Balochistan Minister for Communications and Works Mir Saleem Khosa has directed the department's officials to maintain high standards in development schemes, stressing that quality, transparency and timely completion of projects must not be compromised.

He said effective monitoring and accountability were essential to ensure that public funds were utilized properly and development initiatives delivered the intended benefits to communities.

The minister said the Communications and Works Department had a central role in the province's socioeconomic progress, particularly through the development of reliable road networks and other essential infrastructure.

According to him, improved connectivity could facilitate transportation, strengthen trade, enhance access to educational and healthcare facilities and create greater economic opportunities for people in different parts of Balochistan.

Khosa stressed that development schemes should be designed in accordance with the actual requirements of local communities, with particular attention given to remote and underdeveloped districts.

He instructed concerned officials to conduct regular inspections of ongoing construction projects, ensure adherence to technical standards and take measures to prevent avoidable delays.

The minister warned that negligence in the execution of assigned responsibilities would not be overlooked and that those failing to perform their duties would be held accountable.

He said better road links between remote areas and urban centres would make it easier for farmers to transport their produce to markets while also encouraging commercial and business activity.

Khosa further emphasized the need for public representatives to remain responsive to citizens' complaints and ensure that development projects address genuine community needs.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to improving infrastructure, he said available resources would be utilized efficiently to expand basic facilities and contribute to better living standards across the province.

Malik Sikandar says:

JUI-F will not yield to political pressure

QUETTA (ANN): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Central Joint Secretary and former Balochistan Assembly Speaker Malik Sikandar Khan Advocate has said political pressure and what he described as victimization of party leaders and workers would not deter the JUI-F from pursuing its political position.

Addressing party leaders, Malik Sikandar alleged that the government was attempting to exert pressure on JUI-F through administrative measures, including reopening cases dating back several years and issuing fresh notices to party members.

He termed the alleged actions politically motivated and criticized what he described as efforts to intimidate political opponents through official proceedings.

The former speaker said the JUI-F was closely following developments on the political front and would respond to any challenges through constitutional, democratic and political channels.

He announced that organizational visits to various districts of Balochistan would commence on November 17 on the directives of the party's central leadership.

During the district visits, party leaders are expected to meet workers, assess organizational arrangements and hold consultations on the prevailing political situation.

Dry weather expected across most parts of Balochistan

QUETTA (ANN): The Pakistan Meteorological Department has predicted predominantly dry weather across Balochistan during the next 24 hours, with cold conditions accompanied by strong winds likely to persist in the province's northern districts.

According to the Met Office, Quetta and Kalat recorded maximum temperatures of 20 degrees Celsius, while Ziarat experienced a high of 19 degrees Celsius.

Warmer conditions prevailed in the coastal belt, with Gwadar and Jiwani both recording maximum temperatures of 31 degrees Celsius.



QUETTA: Provincial President Pashtoonkhawa National Awami Party Nasarullah Zeeray addressing party workers regarding 19th November Shutter down strike.

Balochistan political leaders support journalists' campaign over layoffs

QUETTA (ANN): Leaders of several political parties in Balochistan have voiced support for journalists protesting alleged forced layoffs, closure of television bureau offices and legal cases registered against media workers under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA).

The parliamentary leaders also assured representatives of the journalist community that they would attend a roundtable conference scheduled for November 17 at the Quetta Press Club, followed by a two-day protest camp.

A joint delegation of the Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) and Quetta Press Club met parliamentary leaders at the Balochistan Assembly as part of an awareness campaign regarding the challenges confronting journalists and the media industry in the province.

The delegation was headed by BUJ President Manzoor Ahmed Rind and Quetta Press Club President Irfan Saeed. PFUJ Senior Vice President Noor Elahi Bugti, BUJ General Secretary Shah Hussain Tareen, Saleem Shahid, Jalaluddin Noorzai and Finance Secretary Ismat Aman Sumalani were also present.

During separate meetings, the journalists' representatives held discussions with National Party chief and former chief minister Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, BNP-Awami chief Mir Asadullah Baloch, Deputy Speaker Ghazala Gola, Jamaat-e-Islami Balochistan chief Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch, PML-N parliamentary leader and Provincial Minister Mir Saleem Khosa, and PPP leader and Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar.

The delegation briefed the political leaders on growing employment insecurity in the media sector, alleged forced dismissals and the closure of television bureau offices in Balochistan. It said such developments were adversely affecting both media operations and the livelihoods of journalists.

The journalists also raised concerns over cases registered against media workers under PECA and sought political support for safeguarding press freedom, employment security and professional rights.

The delegation presented the charter of demands prepared by the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) and BUJ and invited the parliamentary leaders to participate in the November 17 roundtable, where issues concerning media closures, job security and the wider challenges facing journalists will be discussed.

Kumak Prog. assistance reaches persons with disabilities in Lasbela

Independent Report

UTHAL: The Balochistan government has initiated the disbursement of financial assistance to persons with disabilities in Lasbela district under the Kumak Programme, with 20 eligible beneficiaries receiving their first payments in the initial phase.

According to the Social Welfare Department, the programme provides Rs8,000 to eligible adults with disabilities and Rs6,000 to children to help meet their essential needs and reduce financial hardships.

Officials said around 180 applications had been received from different parts of Lasbela. Following the initial assessment, 20 eligible applicants were selected for assistance in the first phase, while other qualifying applicants are expected to be accommodated in subsequent phases.

Arrangements are also being made to provide motorized tricycles to 11 persons with disabilities. The mobility support is intended to make daily movement easier and reduce beneficiaries' dependence on others.

Social Welfare Officer Lasbela Abdul Samad Roonjho, along with Muhammad Ismail, Aqeel Qamar, Social Welfare Officer Bela Khalid Pervez.

Dummar calls for swift completion of road projects in Ziarat

Independent Report

ZIARAT: Balochistan Provincial Minister for CMD and Chairman of the Balochistan Food Authority Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dummar has directed authorities to expedite the construction, repair and rehabilitation of roads in Ziarat district to improve connectivity and ease transportation difficulties for residents.

The minister said the provincial government was according priority to development initiatives designed to strengthen road infrastructure and improve access to essential facilities in the district.

He said work on a number of road schemes was currently in progress under the Ziarat Development Project and stressed the need for their timely completion.

Dummar maintained that an improved road network would make daily travel easier for local communities and establish stronger links between different areas of the district.

He added that better connectivity would also contribute to economic activity and support broader social development by facilitating the movement of people and goods.

The minister reaffirmed his commitment to improving basic infrastructure in Ziarat and said development schemes should be implemented in a manner that directly responds to the needs of local residents and provides visible benefits to the community.



USTA MUHAMMAD: Director BISP Abdul Raheem Baloch meeting with Assistant Commissioner Maria Shamoon.

Secretary reviews judicial development projects in high-level meeting

QUETTA (APP): A high-level review meeting chaired by Secretary Communications and Works Babar Khan was held to assess the progress of ongoing development projects being executed under various judicial schemes across Balochistan.

During the session, Executive Engineers presented detailed briefings on the status of their respective projects, outlining progress achieved so far, ongoing construction activities, and the pace of work on different schemes.

Officials also reviewed the current status of various judicial infrastructure projects and discussed measures to ensure their timely completion. The meeting focused on addressing implementation challenges and enhancing coordination among field officers to accelerate project execution.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Communications and Works Babar Khan emphasized the importance of judicial development schemes, describing them as essential projects that serve both public needs and institutional requirements.

He directed officers to expedite the completion of ongoing works while maintaining the highest standards of construction quality.

"The achievement of project targets must be ensured without compromising on quality," he said, stressing that efficiency and adherence to established standards should remain key priorities throughout the execution phase.

The Secretary further instructed concerned officers to increase the pace of work on projects of significant importance and maintain continuous monitoring of development activities. He called for the immediate resolution of issues hindering progress and urged officials to adopt effective measures to improve work performance and complete all schemes within the prescribed timelines.

Highlighting the need for greater coordination, Babar Khan directed all relevant officers to work in close collaboration and implement a unified strategy to ensure the successful and timely completion of judicial infrastructure projects. The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to accelerating development activities and delivering quality judicial facilities within the stipulated timeframe, reinforcing the government's efforts to strengthen judicial infrastructure and improve public service delivery across the province.



Overflowing Sewerage on Samungli road highlights negligence of authorities in Quetta.

Strict action against illegal BISP deductions, warns Maria Shamoon

Independent Report

USTA MUHAMMAD: Assistant Commissioner Usta Muhammad Maria Shamoon has directed officials to ensure that women receiving assistance under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) are paid their full entitlement without unauthorized deductions or additional charges.

The directions were issued during her inspection of various BISP payment centres on the special instructions of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ramzan Palal. She reviewed arrangements for beneficiaries and examined the transparency of the payment process.

During the visits, Shamoon met women receiving financial assistance and asked them about the amount being disbursed to them. She specifically checked whether eligible beneficiaries were receiving the full amount of Rs14,200 and sought details about delays, prolonged waiting times and other difficulties encountered at the payment centres. The assistant commissioner instructed payment agents and concerned staff to ensure that beneficiaries received the complete amount to which they were entitled and were not subjected to unauthorized fees. She warned that complaints involving illegal deductions, additional charges or other irregularities would be dealt with strictly. Officials or agents found involved in such practices would face legal and departmental action, she said. Shamoon also ordered the concerned staff to address beneficiaries' complaints without delay and remove unnecessary hurdles from the disbursement process.

She said the district administration would maintain regular oversight of BISP payment centres to safeguard beneficiaries.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent
Sunday November 15, 2026

Rabid Modi

In Prime Minister Narendra Modi's India, minorities are cast as either infiltrators or in-house enemies. In Kolkata, hundreds of Christians marched against the organised attacks on their faith on Thursday. India Hate Lab has recorded 60 incidents of vandalism and assaults on pastors and prayer congregations on the pretext of illegal conversions since the BJP took power in West Bengal. Last month, a set pattern of vilification and persecution played out in central Delhi: 700 Muslim homes in three colonies were demolished, and 717 families forcibly moved to the outskirts. Saved by advocacy, the prime target — another mosque listed as a heritage structure — stands in the middle of the rubble. Mr Modi's silence throughout his reign of fear shows his endorsement of hate. In fact, BJP-linked vigilantes who deliver hostile speeches and perpetrate hate crimes are rewarded with a higher station by the party.

For over a decade, Indian society at large has shown little discomfort with this base approach. Israeli-style policing and surveillance and a willingness to remove Muslims and their identity have gained momentum in the country because of the lack of internal checks and the silence of the majority. This attitude reeks of bigotry towards minorities and the lower castes. The world, too, has looked the other way. While lately, a youth wave, alongside a far more determined opposition, has attempted to stir India's conscience, years of communalism and ghettoisation, amplified by a servile media, are difficult to erase. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination advised India to address hate speech, discrimination, and hate crimes, refrain from hounding Rohingya, Bengali Muslims, and migrants, and respect freedoms. However, it will take some time before greater political consciousness prevails, and minorities and other vulnerable sections are mobilised enough to reclaim their space, history, and rights. India is a lesson for the rest of the world to choose leaders wisely.

Exchange rate's woeful tale

Ishrat Husain

The preoccupation of exchange rate fundamentalists in Pakistan with a single, partial indicator — Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) — is astonishing. As Nadeem ul Haque argued in an illuminating article, fixing or deliberately boosting exchange rates effectively ended with Bretton Woods' collapse in the 1970s. Research has since confirmed that the exchange rate is a market price — the price of one currency in terms of another, determined by underlying economic conditions — and not a policy tool.

Hence, the exchange rate is an endogenous variable reflecting domestic inflation, productivity, external balances, capital flows, reserve adequacy, fiscal credibility, interest-rate differentials, and market expectations. As Haque notes, "The rupee does not weaken because someone decides to weaken it. It weakens because underlying conditions make the existing price unsustainable."

REER has a legitimate but limited purpose. It measures changes in the nominal exchange rate adjusted for relative price movements against trading partners. But an index reading of 100, based on a selected base year, doesn't establish an optimal exchange rate. Nor does a deviation from 100 automatically signal overvaluation or undervaluation. REER says little about balance-of-payments sustainability, foreign exchange availability from non-trade sources or exporters' ability to compete through quality, technology, productivity, and delivery. There are questions to address before treating REER as an authoritative guide to exchange rate policy.

First, does the base year 2010 represent an equilibrium exchange rate? Pakistan recorded a current account deficit of $3.95 billion, around two per cent of GDP, that year, compared with a near-balanced account in 2026. Second, have trade weights and trading partner composition remained representative over 16 years, especially after the China FTA? Third, have movements in individual partners' currencies been adequately reflected in an index referencing the US dollar? Fourth, the choice of price deflator (CPI, PPI, unit labour costs or GDP deflator) can produce very different results. These points need serious thought before prescriptions are based on a single index.

REER doesn't capture many of the external account components. Workers' remittances have grown faster than merchandise exports. They're a major source of foreign exchange, financing imports of raw material, equipment and fuel, enabling domestic industry to use productive capacity that would otherwise be underemployed. They help build reserves, boost external stability, and reduce reliance on borrowing. FDI, portfolio investment, and external debt disbursements provide more foreign exchange liquidity. Assessments limited to REER overlook these determinants of external sustainability.

Questions must be addressed before treating REER as an authoritative guide to exchange rate policy.

Three empirical tests help establish whether the exchange rate is artificially managed or broadly market-determined. The first is the differential between official interbank and open-market rates. It peaked at Rs10-15 per dollar in FY2023. As reserves accumulated and market conditions normalised, the gap narrowed to its customary Rs0.50-2 range, indicating a more unified foreign exchange market. The second test is whether administrative restrictions on imports and profit and dividend repatriation are being used to suppress foreign exchange demand.

Such curbs were imposed in FY2023 when SBP reserves fell to $3bn or so. Imports declined to $53bn and profit and dividend repatriation to just $331 million against normal levels of about $70bn and $2bn. Last fiscal, imports recovered to $71bn. Profit and dividend remittances reached $2.3bn. Arrears were cleared and current obligations met. This restoration hardly supports the view that the exchange rate is being sustained through administrative demand suppression.

The third, perhaps most compelling, test is whether SBP has depleted its reserves to defend a parity. In FY2023, reserves fell to about $3bn recovering to around $21bn despite annual external debt-servicing dues of about $25bn. This accumulation occurred while the rate was around Rs280 per dollar and REER above 100. It's difficult to reconcile this outcome with the claim that an artificial exchange rate is being maintained when SBP is mopping up surplus dollar liquidity after interbank clearance.

Historical comparisons reinforce this view. Bet-ween 2015 and 2018, the rupee was maintained aro--und Rs104 per dollar, but SBP reserves dec-li-ned from $18bn to $9bn. In contrast, in 2000-2007 when reserves increased from barely $1bn to $13bn, the exchange rate remained stable around Rs60 and exports more than doubled from $9bn to $19bn. Still, critics said the rate was artificially defended, overlooking the net foreign exchange inflows being sterilised to prevent excessive appreciation and protect exporters' competitiveness.

Market expectations are another important aspect. In Pakistan, they are often driven by a bandwagon effect instead of rational assessments of fundamentals. When reserves fall below comfortable levels, depreciation expectations can become self-fulfilling. Exporters withhold dollar proceeds within the permitted 90-day surrender period, anticipating a better rate; importers advance foreign exchange requirements to avoid future depreciation. Supply contracts and demand rises putting pressure on the rupee. The anticipated depreciation then materialises. Would a 10pc depreciation advocated by REER fundamentalists improve competitiveness? Foreign buyers may demand price discounts of at least 5pc from exporters, treating additional rupee earnings as a windfall. About 40pc of exports use imported inputs including fuel, LNG, and textile raw materials. Their costs rise, leaving exporters with a net gain of perhaps only 2-3pc.

The impact goes beyond exporters. Costlier imports fuel inflation, hurting poorer households whose main asset is their labour and whose wages, particularly in an informal economy with extensive underemployment, do not adjust proportionately.

The central bank may raise interest rates, increasing domestic borrowing costs. Imported machinery becomes costlier, forcing investors to put off or abandon projects, hurting both investment and growth. As the rupee cost of servicing external debt increases, partly offset by higher import-duty collections, government may have to borrow more, crowding out private-sector credit. Foreign investors earn lower dollar returns, discouraging fresh investment. The lesson is that exchange-rate stability can't be engineered through administrative intervention or depreciation alone. It must rest on credible fiscal management, a broader tax base, sound trade and tariff policies, remunerative energy pricing, higher productivity and prudent monetary management. Together, these policies reduce the need for disruptive exchange-rate adjustments. Pakistan must not treat REER as a magic number and depreciation as a remedy. The aim should not be an arbitrary index reading but sustainable external competitiveness, stronger reserves, higher exports and investment, and protection of purchasing power. The exchange rate is a reflection of economic fundamentals, not a substitute for them. Correcting symptoms while neglecting underlying weaknesses will only perpetuate the rupee's woeful tale.

Midterm surprise

Aizaz Ahmad Ch.

That the Republican Party would lose the midterm elections for the US Congress was never in doubt. It was its overwhelming defeat that surprised everyone. Demo-crats have attained a clear majority in the 100-member US Senate (54 Demo-crats, 44 Republicans) and a massive lead in the 435-member House of Represen-tatives (253 Democrats, 157 Republicans). What explains this major shift? One plausible answer is the Iran war and its effects on gas prices, inflation, and the higher cost of living. Importantly, America's younger population never owned this war. It has been widely seen as Israel's war that America was fighting. Vice President J.D. Vance has rightly concluded that "the reason we lost [in the elections] is the war". Even Donald Trump acknowledged that the war with Iran was a factor, though he defended its objectives.

While the Iran war and its side effects may have been the main reason for the Republicans' defeat, several other factors also weighed in. In his election campaigns, Trump had opposed distant wars, yet he entered into one with Iran at the behest of Israel. American voters saw this as a clear repudiation of the 'America First' approach that Trump had touted in his speeches. It was hard for Americans to accept America's subordination to Israeli interests. This, in turn, raised questions about US legislators' links with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, whose activities are aligned closely with the agenda of a foreign government (Israel), Israel's genocide in Gaza, and US complicity by continuing to provide weapons and assistance to Israel. All this did not sit well with young Americans.

How will it impact America's foreign policy? Two aspects merit attention. First, Trump is unlikely to resume the war with Iran or follow through on his threats to use the mother of all bombs against Iran.

The reason is clear. His Republican Party will not want a return to a war that is so unpopular with Americans. A return to war could jeopardise the party's future stakes, including the race for the White House. In fact, America would like to see an honourable exit from the war. The answer lies in diplomacy and a return to the Islamabad MoU, which meets both the key US demand that Iran should not produce nuclear weapons and the Iranian demand that economic sanctions be lifted and Iran's frozen assets released. This provides an honourable off-ramp to both sides to end a war that serves no one but Israel.

As for the Strait of Hormuz, everyone wants it to reopen fully because disrupted supplies of oil, gas, petroleum products, and fertilisers have been hurting the world economy. To that end, America should end its naval blockade, and Iran should agree not to interrupt shipping in the strait. All these points have been amply covered in the Islamabad MoU. The parties to the Makkah Agreement — Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Turkiye — have a special role.

They must increase their diplomatic efforts, as should Qatar and Oman. Even China and Russia may need to step in to help find a diplomatic solution. China, in particular, has an interest in ensuring fuel supplies and the smooth functioning of markets. The window of opportunity may be limited, as the caretaker Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, might plan some manoeuvre, a false flag operation, or some drastic action like using a tactical nuclear weapon to force Iran to respond and then rope the US into the war with Iran.

Republicans will not want to return to a war unpopular with Americans.

The second aspect of US foreign policy relevant to us is whether it will affect Pakistan-US ties. The latter have always been transactional and viewed through America's own geopolitical interests. As of now, post-Ma-rka-i-Haq Pakistan continues to enjoy respect as a stabilising force in the region. Further, gi--ven that Afgha-nis-tan is once again becoming a safe haven for the wor-ld's terrorist organisations, Pakistan's geopolitical importance as the only state fighting terrorism in all its forms, including proxy terrorism by India from Afghanistan, will remain valid. Pakistan has flourishing bilateral trade with the US, along with cooperation in multiple areas, including agriculture and IT. Relations between Pakistan and the US are, thus, likely to continue at their own pace.

Although many in the ranks of the De--mocrats tend to have pro-Israel, pro-India, anti-Iran, and anti-China sentiments — si--m---ilar to the Republicans — American foreign policy will remain a major subject of discussion in the Democrats-dominated Con---gress in the months ahead. Trans-at-la-n-tic allian-ces, relations with Canada, adventures like Venezuela, opposition to climate change, tariff wars, Islamophobia, subservience to Israeli interests, and Trump's refusal to regulate AI technologies could all be up for review when the re-composed Congress starts its work next January.

Enabling terrorism

Dr Raashid Wali

Insurgencies militarise society and spawn a conflict economy that empowers splinter insurgent groups with their own set of interests and objectives. These militant groups thrive in a governance vacuum as well as the ideological confusion in post-conflict societies. The TTP is amongst the classic examples of insurgency-begotten militancy and terrorism. Afghanistan is a quintessential case study of an insurgency-wracked nation that has given rise to other insurgencies and waves of terrorism.

Afghanistan's 10-year anti-Soviet insurgency achieved success but spawned another decade of internecine conflict that gave space to terrorist entities and subsequent international intervention against Al Qaeda terrorists operating from that country. Pakistan's action against terrorist entities elicited an irate response from these violent groups in the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (now merged districts of KP), leading to a series of military operations from 2004 to 2017, driving the terrorists towards Afghanistan.

After the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, the Taliban regime occupied Kabul and reneged on all its pledges made in the Doha Agreement and introduced a brutal, oppressive regime where there was no place for minorities, women, and non-Taliban Afghans. Soon after assuming power, the Taliban regime gave free rein to terrorist entities like the TTP and freed hardened criminals and terrorists from jails.

After the US withdrawal, Pakistan extended an olive branch to the Taliban regime, offering humanitarian aid, trade facilities, and economic integration. But despite continual positive engagement, the Taliban did not abide by their counterterrorism commitments. Terrorist entities like TTP were given free rein to operate against Pakistan from secure sanctuaries in Afghanistan. When Pakistan started tightening its noose against these terrorists, their leadership was reportedly taken to Kabul's Green Zone and hid amongst the civilian population.

Insurgencies in Afghanistan have created an ecosystem of terror. At present, a blend of over 20 terrorist entities is operating under the benign gaze of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. The Taliban are extremely adept at denialism and selling their anti-IS-K credentials. The reality is different, however, as terrorist entities like IS-K with a transnational agenda are operating under an entente cordiale between them and the Taliban regime. For many foreign powers, the Doha Agreement has been reduced to just two points — women's rights and education — relegating inclusivity to the backburner due to the international community's predilection for appeasing the Taliban.

Pakistan is paying a huge price for this indulgence of the Taliban. After the US withdrawal, terrorist attacks in Pakistan surged manifold. Thousands have been killed and injured in terrorist attacks since. The two-faced Taliban have perfected the art of denying complicity in terrorism to curry favour with foreign donors. They are being facilitated in this endeavour by hostile foreign intelligence agencies that wish to keep the region destabilised for their geopolitical interests.

The Taliban regime is thriving on an illicit economy where narco-trafficking, smuggling and extortion are being sponsored under official patronage, with the Taliban warlords having stakes in each criminal enterprise.

The weapons left by Nato and US forces are being sold to terrorist entities. American and Nato forces, after the 2021 withdrawal, left behind weapons and equipment worth $7.12 billion, out of which large quantities were handed over or sold to terrorist entities like the TTP by the Taliban. Terrorist groups including the TTP and BLA have used these weapons against Pakistan under the patronage of the Taliban re---gi--me.

According to the April 2025 report of the US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, the TTP accessed former Afghan army weapons, either transferred by Taliban authorities or acquired through the black market. Similar confirmation has been made by the UN Security Council Monitoring Team. By 2025, Pakistan's security forces had recovered 293 US-made weapons and other gear from eliminated terrorists. Even a 2025 Washington Post investigation traced serial numbers of at least 63 weapons seized in Pakistan from terrorists to weapons supplied by the US to Afghan forces before 2021.

Governor announces suspension of gold mining activities across KP after Kohat incident

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi announced the suspension of all gold mining activities and related leases across the province following a deadly security incident in Kohat, while ordering a comprehensive investigation into alleged illegal mining and its links with terrorism.

Addressing a press conference here alongside Adviser to the Governor on Minerals Dr Sarfaraz Ali, Chief Secretary Dr Muhammad Fakhre Alam Irfan and Inspector General of Police Zulfiqar Hamid, the Governor said that all gold mining activities in the province would remain suspended with immediate effect.

He warned that no individual or company would be allowed to continue gold mining after the announcement and that machinery of those violating the ban would be confiscated.

Faisal Karim Kundi said a special task force, being established in the name of martyred DSP Haider Zaman, would comprise personnel from various relevant departments and institutions. The force would formulate a permanent regulatory mechanism for mining activities within three weeks.

He also announced the formation of a judicial commission, headed by a retired former judge of the Peshawar High Court, to investigate illegal mining and identify those providing patronage to the unlawful activity.

The Governor said the commission would examine all aspects of illegal mining, adding that no one would be subjected to political victimisation, but anyone found involved in illegal activities would face accountability without discrimination.

Referring to the tragic Kohat incident, Kundi said 10 security personnel had embraced martyrdom following an attack by Fitna al-Khawarij after an operation against illegal gold mining.

He paid tribute to the security personnel who sacrificed their lives in defence of the country and said that 18 terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij were also killed during the operation.

"The series of sacrifices must come to an end now, and this situation will no longer be tolerated."



LAHORE: Governor of Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with Faryal Talpur President PPP Women Wing, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Nayyar Bukhari, and Hassan Murtaza during visit to the PPP Central Punjab Secretariat.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi addressing a Press Conference on Kohat incident.

Punjab Governor says:
Public trust is essential for the creation of new provinces

Independent Report

LAHORE: Governor of Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, stated that public trust is essential for the creation of new provinces. The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is fully prepared for the local government elections.

The devolution of power to the grassroots level will ensure that the public's issues are resolved locally. PPP workers are our true asset.

He expressed these views during meeting with senior party leaders.including Faryal Talpur President PPP Women Wing, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Nayyar Bukhari, and Hassan Murtaza as well as other office-bearers and party workers during his visit to the PPP Central Punjab Secretariat.

Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan remarked that PPP Women Wing Faryal Talpur's visit to Lahore will inspire party workers to carry the party's message to every street and neighborhood with renewed zeal and enthusiasm. He noted that the visit of the party leadership to Lahore serves to breathe new life into the workers. The Governor added that the PPP is becoming popular and stronger among the public in Lahore.

He affirmed that the party's workers and office-bearers are thoroughly prepared for the local government elections.

Furthermore, the Governor emphasized that holding local government elections is crucial for resolving their problems at their door steps.

Speaking to the media on this occasion, Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan stated that new provinces can only be created when the local residents themselves desire their formation.

He noted that a resolution for the creation of a province has already been passed twice by the Punjab Assembly; he suggested that this should be tested by proceeding with the creation of such a province. The Governor emphasized that once a province is established, it cannot subsequently be abolished. He further remarked that the creation of new provinces requires both mutual consultation and the consent of the public.

Central Muslim League sends legal notice to Punjab CM

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Markazi Muslim League has sent a legal notice to Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz over what it describes as allegedly baseless, fabricated and defamatory accusations against the party. The notice was issued on the instructions of party president Khalid Masood Sandhu by lawyers Muhammad Amir Habib, Rana Muhammad Abdul Hafeez and Sheikh Muhammad Naeem Mazhar, Advocate High Court, of Pak Law Firm.

It demands an unconditional apology and deletion of social media posts within seven days.

The notice states that Maryam Safdar, resident of Jati Umra, Raiwind Road, and currently residing at 7 Club, Shahrah-e-Quaid-e-Azam, Lahore, called Pakistan Markazi Muslim League a terrorist, illegal and banned organization on her personal Twitter (X) account and during public addresses carried by electronic media.

It says the remarks were repeatedly broadcast on television channels and published in print media, and describes them as baseless and false attempts to damage the reputation of a legally registered political party.

The notice says Pakistan Markazi Muslim League is registered with the Election Commission and has participated in the democratic process under the country's Constitution and laws since 2022. It says the party established welfare camps for poor people, widows and others in need during floods and other natural disasters, and runs several projects in education, health and the provision of clean drinking water.

The party contested the 2024 general election with the chair as its electoral symbol and, the notice says, recently emerged as the second-largest political party in the November 8, 2026 by-election in NA-77 Gujranwala.

The notice states that every citizen has the right to freedom of expression under the Constitution, but that this right is subject to limits set by law and does not permit anyone to accuse a recognized political party of serious offences such as terrorism without legal evidence. It says such irresponsible statements are creating public misunderstandings, violating party workers' democratic rights and damaging the leadership's reputation, and may constitute actionable defamation.

CM approves Rs.23.85b 'Khushhal Dehat Program' for development of villages

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister(CM) Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved the allocation of Rs.23.85 billion for the first phase of the 'Khushhal Dehat Program', under which 475 villages across the province will be developed, with each village receiving Rs.50 million for development projects.

The program envisages paved streets and a proper sewerage system in every village to improve rural infrastructure and living conditions.

A Khushhal Dehat Committee will oversee the completion of development projects in each village.

The committee will be headed by the respective Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) (Social Services) and comprise five government and four private members.

The Chairman of the Union Council and the relevant Sub-Engineer will also be included in the committee.

The CM directed the authorities concerned to release the first installment of the grant to the Khushhal Dehat Committees by November to ensure timely commencement of development work.

She also sought a development plan for another 2,000 villages under the second phase of the program.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif said providing paved streets and an organized sewerage system in every village of Punjab was her commitment.

"Whether urban or rural, development will now be ensured across every part of Punjab. Everyone will be included in the journey of development and political affiliations will not be allowed to become a hurdle," she said.

Sindh Governor administers oath to Justice Iqbal as Acting SHC CJ

KARACHI (APP): Governor of Sindh Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi on Saturday administered the oath of office to Justice Muhammad Iqbal Kalhoro as Acting Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court (SHC).

The oath was administered in a simple yet dignified ceremony at the Governor House.

A large number of judges and members of the legal fraternity attended the ceremony.



KARACHI: Governor of Sindh Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi administering the oath of office to Justice Muhammad Iqbal Kalhoro as Acting Chief Justice of Sindh High Court (SHC) at Governor House.

Adviser urges youth to promote positive image of KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Adviser to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government on Auqaf, Religious and Minority Affairs, Maulana Tayyab Qureshi has said that the youth of the province possess immense talent and potential which must be utilized effectively for development of province and promotion of its positive image.

He was addressing a ceremony of Pakhtunkhwa Youth Assembly as chief guest here on Saturday. He also administered oath newly elected members and congratulated them.

He emphasized that adopting modern technology was essential for progress urging young people to play an active role in promoting peace, tolerance, brotherhood and national unity.

Maulana Tayyab Qureshi said the provincial government was taking various initiatives to enhance the educational and technical skills of students belonging to religious seminaries and minority communities. These initiatives include educational scholarships, laptop schemes, digital skills development programs and other capacity-building measures to ensure equal opportunities and equip students with modern-day skills.

He appreciated the efforts of KP Youth Assembly saying it provided an effective platform for young people to demonstrate their abilities and participate in constructive activities. He assured the assembly of his full cooperation and pledged to help convey the voices and concerns of young people to the relevant forums.

KARACHI: Governor of Sindh Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi administering the oath of office to Justice Muhammad Iqbal Kalhoro as Acting Chief Justice of Sindh High Court (SHC) at Governor House.

Chinese delegation visits HSA to explore research collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Chinese representatives associated with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on Saturday visited the Health Services Academy (HSA) to explore opportunities for joint collaboration, academic exchange and research partnerships in the healthcare sector.

During the visit, the delegation discussed potential areas of mutual cooperation, with a particular focus on strengthening institutional linkages, promoting collaborative research and sharing scientific knowledge between Pakistan and China. The engagement provided an opportunity to explore new avenues for bilateral cooperation in public health, healthcare research and capacity building under the framework .



MUREE: Former Vice Chancellor Rawalpindi Medical University (RMU), Prof. Dr.Muhammad Umar, distributing certificates to the participants of the World Diabetes Day 2026 event under the global theme "Early Action on Diabetes" organized by The Diabetes Centre (TDC).

Zeeshan Malik reviews restoration, beautification plan for Lakshmi Chowk

LAHORE (APP): On the directions of Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif,the provincial government on Saturday decided to restore and beautify historic buildings, monuments and archaeological sites around Lakshmi Chowk while preserving their original architectural features.

In this regard,an important meeting was held at Town Hall under the chairmanship of Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab Zeeshan Malik, followed by a visit to Lakshmi Chowk to review the proposed restoration and beautification work. Deputy Commissioner(DC) Lahore Muhammad Ali Ejaz, Director General(DG) Lahore Development Authority (LDA) Tahir Farooq, Special Secretary Local Government Syed Moosa Raza, Chief Officer Metropolitan Corporation Lahore Kaleem Yousaf and other officials attended the meeting and accompanied the adviser during the visit.

The meeting reviewed the proposed facade uplift of historic buildings on both sides of the road, restoration of archaeological structures and beautification of the Orange Line Metro Train bridge.

Zeeshan Malik directed the authorities concerned to ensure that the original architectural features of historic buildings were preserved during restoration work.

He also directed them to maintain uniformity in facade uplift and ensure high standards of beautification.

Petition seeks hospital transfer for Dr Yasmin

LAHORE (INP): A petition has been filed in the special anti-terrorism court seeking the transfer of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Dr Yasmin Rashid from Kot Lakhpat Jail to a hospital. Her lawyer, Rana Mudasir, submitted the petition.

The petition states that Dr Yasmin Rashid has been in custody in various cases since May 10, 2023, and suffers from cancer and asthma. It says her health has deteriorated severely because of smog and alleges that her basic rights are being denied in jail.

According to the petition, doctors have recommended hydrotherapy and physiotherapy, but she has been unable to receive proper treatment in jail. Her latest MRI report reportedly showed serious problems with her spine, and doctors have also advised surgery.

The petition says her surgery cannot be carried out while she remains in jail and that prison authorities have not transferred her to a hospital despite a court order. The petitioner has asked for her immediate transfer from Kot Lakhpat Jail to a hospital and access to appropriate medical facilities.

Three assistant commissioners transferred in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI (INP): Announcing important administrative changes in district administration Rawalpindi, three assistant commissioners (ACs) have been transferred.

In this connection, the government of Punjab issued a notification on Saturday.

Assistant commissioner Rawalpindi city, assistant commissioner Rawalpindi Sadar and assistant commissioner Kahuta have been changed, and new officers have been appointed in their place instead whose names have not been disclosed as yet.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health and Emergency Services Khawaja Salman Rafique addressing the passing out parade at Rescue Headquarters. Advisor to CM Punjab Ali Mustafa Dar, Parliamentary Secretaries Ziaullah Shah and Secretary Emergency Services Dr. Rizwan Naseer are also present.

Bangladeshi delegation laud Punjab's heritage preservation efforts

LAHORE (APP): A 34-member high-level delegation of Bangladeshi civil officers, currently participating in a training programme at the National School of Public Policy (NSPP) Lahore, has lauded the Punjab government's efforts for the preservation of religious heritage, restoration of historical sites, renovation of shrines, and promotion of Sufi traditions.

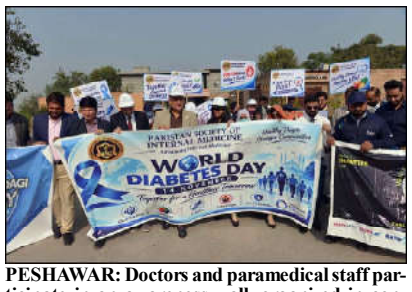
The delegation expressed these views during its visit to the historic Badshahi Mosque here on Saturday. The members also visited the mausoleum of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, offered Fateha, and offered Asr prayers at the mosque.

The visiting officers toured the Sacred Relics Gallery and Iqbal Hall at the Badshahi Mosque, where they were given a detailed briefing on the preservation of religious and historical heritage, documentation of antiquities, and the establishment of modern heritage and picture galleries at various shrines and historical sites across Punjab.

The delegation was also shown documentaries highlighting the galleries established at different shrines, the preservation of historical artefacts and sacred relics, and the spiritual and social contributions of Sufi saints. Taking keen interest in the displayed artefacts, the members recorded their impressions in the visitors' comments register.

The delegation particularly appreciated the efforts of the Auqaf Department, under the leadership of Secretary and Chief Administrator Auqaf Punjab Dr Ehsan Bhutta, for the preservation, restoration, and renovation of shrines, mosques, and other religious and historical sites across the province.

They remarked that religious and historical heritage was an invaluable asset reflecting the civilizational, spiritual, and cultural identity of a nation.



PESHAWAR: Doctors and paramedical staff participate in an awareness walk organized in connection with World Diabetes Day at Lady Reading Hospital (LRH).

Nine suspects arrested in D.I. Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (INP): Cantt Police arrested nine suspects during a crackdown against illegal arms possession, aerial firing, drug trafficking and illegal residence, recovering five pistols, 27 rounds of ammunition and 155 grams of ice (crystal methamphetamine).

According to a police spokesman, the operation was conducted on the directives of District Police Officer Ziauddin Ahmad, under the supervision of SP City Division Muhammad Noman and the leadership of DSP City Muhammad Adnan, with SHO Cantt Cadet Zafar Abbas heading the police team.



Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab attends advertising exhibition by All Pakistan Newspapers Society at Frere Hall.

Minister Rana Iqbal says:
Punjab govt committed to making province hub of modern technology, digital governance

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Law Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan on Saturday said the Punjab government was committed to transforming the province into a leading hub of modern technology, digital governance and information technology (IT) development. He was addressing a seminar organized by UNV and HOPETEK to showcase their latest technological solutions, innovative products and advancements in the IT sector.

The seminar provided participants with an opportunity to explore modern technologies,emerging trends, innovative products and new business opportunities in the IT industry.

The provincial minister appreciated the efforts of BMC Chief Executive Officer(CEO),Usman Asghar and termed the organization of such events in Lahore's IT market a commendable initiative. He said bringing business leaders, dealers and IT professionals together on a common platform reflected a strong commitment to collaboration, partnership and keeping pace with modern technological requirements. Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan said that under the leadership of Chief Minister(CM) Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the Punjab government was focusing on expanding digital services, modernizing public sector systems, equipping young people with advanced technological skills and creating a business-friendly environment. He said the growth of the IT industry was not merely an achievement for individual businesses or organizations but also an important contributor to the country's overall economic development. The minister observed that the sector offered immense potential for generating employment opportunities for young people.

Pakistan, Ethiopia agree to advance trade Cooperation, discuss pharmaceutical sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and Ethiopia's Minister of Trade and Regional Integration, Yasmin Wohabrebbi, held a high-level virtual meeting on Friday to discuss strengthening bilateral trade, Ethiopia's World Trade Organization (WTO) accession and the early resolution of outstanding market-access and pharmaceutical regulatory issues.

Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening economic relations with Ethiopia, describing the country as an important gateway to East African markets, said a release issued here on Saturday.

Recalling his earlier visit to Ethiopia with a Pakistani business delegation, he appreciated the country's economic progress and highlighted opportunities for greater cooperation in manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, textiles and investment.

The Minister emphasized the need to translate diplomatic goodwill into tangible commercial outcomes. He highlighted Pakistan's efforts to facilitate direct air connectivity with Ethiopia and called for the early resolution of outstanding issues concerning WTO market-access negotiations and pharmaceutical registrations. Ethiopian Trade Minister Yasmin Wohabrebbi appreciated Pakistan's constructive engagement and briefed the meeting on progress towards Ethiopia's WTO accession. She informed that 11 out of 17 bilateral market-access agreements had been concluded and sought Pakistan's cooperation in facilitating the remaining accession process while addressing its legitimate trade interests through continued consultations. Secretary Commerce Jawad Paul emphasized the importance of sustained technical-level coordination between relevant institutions to address pending pharmaceutical registration matters, facilitate market access and ensure practical progress on agreed trade priorities. He also underscored the need for regular follow-up to remove regulatory bottlenecks and encourage greater private-sector engagement. Both ministers discussed strengthening institutional cooperation, including convening the Joint Economic Committee, and developing a practical roadmap to expand bilateral trade and investment. They expressed their intention to pursue outstanding matters ahead of their proposed bilateral engagement in February 2027. Concluding the meeting, Jam Kamal Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to a stronger economic partnership with Ethiopia, stressing that timely decisions.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and his Ethiopian counterpart, H.E. Yasmin Wohabrebbi, hold high-level virtual talks to advance bilateral trade, address market access challenges and strengthen economic cooperation.

SIFC's one-window facility a major step towards promoting investment: ICCI President

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Muhammad Zikria Akbar Zia, accompanied by Senior Vice President Mohammad Ashfaq Hussain Chatha and a delegation of prominent business leaders, visited the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) Business Facilitation Centre (BFC) in Islamabad.

The visit aimed to explore how the centre supports investors, promotes new ventures, and works to improve the country's overall business climate,said a release issued here on Saturday. During the visit, the head of the centre, Salman Malik, and his team briefed the ICCI delegation on their operations, showcasing how all key business-related government departments have been brought together under one roof. Zikria Akbar Zia praised the establishment of the one-window facility as a timely and crucial step towards supporting the business community and attracting capital. He noted that streamlined facilitation, better institutional coordination, and stronger public-private partnerships are vital to unlocking Pakistan's economic potential and driving sustainable growth.

Railways revenue exceeds Rs100 bln for first time in history: Abbasi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Saturday said Pakistan Railways had achieved a historic milestone by generating more than Rs100 billion in revenue for the first time in its history.

He expressed these views during a meeting with Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry at the Ministry of Railways, where matters of mutual interest, national affairs and parliamentary issues were discussed.

During the meeting, Tariq Fazal Chaudhry expressed satisfaction over the ongoing reform initiatives in Pakistan Railways and appreciated the steps being taken towards digitalisation, adoption of modern technology and improvement of the operational system.

He said the measures aimed at increasing railway revenue, reducing financial losses and providing better travel facilities to passengers were encouraging and commendable.

Briefing his counterpart on the department's performance, Hanif Abbasi said Pakistan Railways had crossed the Rs100 billion revenue mark for the first time in its history.

He further said that, under the vision of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan Railways was committed to achieving its revenue target of Rs160 billion during the current fiscal year.

The minister reiterated that transforming Pakistan Railways into a financially sustainable, modern and profitable organisation remained the government's top priority.



QUETTA: Vice Chairman BBoIT Bilal Khan Kakar and President QCCI Ahmed Gul Kakar and others witnessing the signing MoU regarding Board of Investment and Trade BITE.

BISP begins disbursement of Rs14,500 quarterly aid to women in Attock

ATTOCK (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has launched the disbursement of quarterly financial assistance to deserving women in Attock, with each eligible beneficiary set to receive Rs14,500 during the current quarter.

According to an announcement issued by Deputy Director BISP Attock Muhammad Aashim on Saturday, payments are being distributed through the 1LINK Payment Interoperability System to ensure transparency, convenience and efficiency. Eligible beneficiaries can collect their payments through designated banking channels and authorised retailers and agents, including JazzCash, Easypaisa, HBL Connect, Bank of Punjab, Bank Alfalah and HBL Microfinance Bank.

The BISP administration has advised beneficiaries to count the full amount carefully at the time of collection and immediately report any unauthorised deductions or illegal demands through the programme's helpline at 0800-26477. It warned that any deductions from the financial assistance would not be tolerated.

Beneficiaries can also register complaints at their nearest BISP tehsil office.

Gold prices decline by Rs700 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The prices of gold witnessed a decline in the local market on Saturday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola falling by Rs700 to settle at Rs410,936, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold decreased by Rs600 to Rs352,311, while 10 grams of 22-karat gold declined by Rs550 to Rs322,963.

In the international market, the price of gold decreased by $7 to $3,884 per ounce, the association reported. Meanwhile, the price of silver per tola fell by Rs124 to Rs5,343.



MULTAN: Labourers prepare traditional jaggery (gur) by boiling sugarcane juice and cooling the thick syrup at a local production unit on the outskirts of the city, as demand for the traditional winter delicacy rises across the region.

Super Seeder technology gains momentum in wheat cultivation campaign

FAISALABAD (APP): The farmers across Faisalabad division are being encouraged to adopt Super Seeder technology for wheat cultivation campaign 2026-27 as the Agriculture Department stepped up efforts to reduce production costs, conserve resources and boost per-acre yield through timely, efficient and drill-based sowing.

Director Agriculture (Extension) Chaudhry Khalid Mahmood said that Super Seeder machines provided to farmers on subsidized rates by the Agriculture Department were playing a significant role in facilitating timely wheat cultivation after the harvesting of paddy. The machines chop paddy residue into fine pieces and incorporate it into the soil, eliminating the need to remove or burn crop residue before preparing fields for the next crop, he added. He explained that incorporating the chopped residue into soil helped improve soil fertility and created favorable conditions for crop growth while promoting more efficient utilization of agricultural resources. The director advised farmers to observe essential technical precautions while operating Super Seeders to achieve optimal results. He stressed the importance of proper machine calibration before use, maintaining the prescribed operating speed and ensuring appropriate seed depth for uniform germination and crop establishment.

Aleem Khanzada says:

Offshore Oil, Gas Exploration; significant development for Pakistan's energy security

HYDERABAD (APP): Member of the National Assembly (MNA), Prof. Engr. Abdul Aleem Khanzada, has welcomed the resumption of offshore oil and gas exploration activities in Pakistan—the first such initiative in nearly two decades—describing it as a crucial advancement for the country's energy security.

He noted that the commencement of a seismic survey in the Eastern Offshore Indus Sea Block, conducted under the framework of Pakistan-Turkiye energy cooperation, marks a significant step toward unlocking new potential within Pakistan's energy sector.

The joint efforts of the Turkish offshore petroleum company and Pakistani energy entities could pave the way for expanding the nation's energy resources and attracting foreign investment.

Prof. Engr. Abdul Aleem Khanzada emphasized that, given its growing energy demands, Pakistan must reduce its reliance on imported oil and gas by prioritizing the exploration of domestic resources and promoting the adoption of modern technology within the energy sector.

He urged the Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), and other relevant national and state institutions to carry out their responsibilities in this vital national project with the utmost professionalism, seriousness, mutual cooperation, and a spirit of national duty.

This will ensure that the survey and subsequent technical phases are completed in a timely and effective manner, allowing Pakistan to showcase its capabilities on the global stage and bring honor to the nation.

Abdul Aleem Khanzada further remarked that the friendship and collaboration between Pakistan and Turkiye are yielding positive results across various sectors, and this partnership in the energy domain holds the potential to further strengthen the ties between the two nations.

He also emphasized that environmental protection, the safety of marine life, technical standards.



Customers in Sukkur reluctant to buy vegetables amid skyrocketing prices.

Pakistan customs, Indus enforcement, recovers acetate tow, tobacco worth Rs. 680m

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Collectorate of Customs Enforcement, Indus, has recovered a huge consignment of acetate tow and tobacco, with an estimated total value of Rs. 680 million, from a clandestine dumping site at Missile Colony, Kalabagh, in a landmark anti-smuggling operation. The recovery was made during the night of 12 November 2026 and marks the largest enforcement operation in the short history of the Collectorate,said a release issued here on Saturday. Acting on credible information, enforcement teams of Kalabagh and Chashma, in close coordination with Punjab Police and under the supervision of Mr. Jawad, Deputy Collector (In-charge), conducted a swift, intelligence-based raid at the identified location, situated approximately 1–2 km from the Digital Enforcement Station (DES), Kalabagh. During the operation, the teams recovered 45 bundles of acetate tow weighing approximately 9,200–10,000 kg, along with 50–60 parcels of tobacco weighing approximately 1,400 kg.

The total estimated value of the recovered goods stands at Rs. 680 million. The entire consignment has been safely shifted to Mianwali, while further legal proceedings are being initiated in accordance with the law.

Pak exhibitors seek new opportunities at CIIE

SHANGHAI (INP): Pakistani entrepreneurs at the China International Import Expo (CIIE) were looking to expand business in the Chinese market and connect with consumers and business partners.

Several Pakistani exhibitors told China Economic Net (CEN) they expected good sales and new business partnerships, while highlighting the importance of product visibility and booth placement.

"We have been in China for the last 14 years, and this is our sixth time participating in the expo. We are expecting good results this year," said Abdul Basit Khan, CEO of FB Enterprise.



Increased demand for gas heater repairs in Quetta's Suraj Ganj Bazar amid winter season.

Railways recovers 364 acres of encroached land in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways retrieved 363.907 acres of encroached land in Karachi Division over four financial years from 2022-23 to 2025-26, including 305.803 acres of agricultural, 29.844 acres of residential and 28.319 acres of commercial land, through anti-encroachment operations, while another 951.28 acres of railway property remain under private occupation, according to official documents.

The documents of the Ministry of Railways, available with Wealth Pakistan, show that the department recorded its highest annual recovery in FY2024-25, when it reclaimed 293.6 acres, including 285.31 acres of agricultural, 7.458 acres of commercial and 0.832 acres of residential land.

In FY2023-24, the department recovered 38.93 acres, followed by 23.148 acres in FY2025-26 and 8.229 acres in FY2022-23.

The documents further reveal that Pakistan Railways removed encroachments from 8.992 acres in Karachi Division between July and October 2026, comprising 6.49 acres of agricultural, 1.986 acres of commercial and 0.516 acres of residential land. The recovered property during the four months was valued at approximately Rs 305.68 million on the basis of Deputy Commissioner valuation rates.

September accounted for the largest share of the recovery by value, with 1.52 acres of commercial and 1.99 acres of agricultural land retrieved, estimated at Rs 217.59 million.

In October, the department recovered 0.366 acres of commercial, 0.176 acres of residential and 4.5 acres of agricultural land, valued at approximately Rs84.96 million.

The July operation resulted in the recovery of 0.1 acres of commercial and 0.2 acres of residential land, while 0.14 acres of residential property were retrieved in August.

Despite these recoveries, private individuals continue to occupy 951.28 acres of Pakistan Railways land in Karachi Division, highlighting the scale of the challenge facing the department.

Residential encroachments account for the largest share, covering 794.5 acres, followed by commercial occupation of 123.28 acres. Another 33.5 acres are occupied by other structures, including mosques and graveyards.

The category-wise breakdown records no agricultural land under encroachment.

A section-wise assessment identifies Kiamari-Kotri as the most affected railway corridor, with 409.28 acres under encroachment, followed by Kotri-Tando Adam with 246 acres and Hyderabad-Badin with 108.9 acres.

No compromise on negligence in display of price lists: Commissioner

LAHORE (APP): Commissioner Lahore Division Muhammad Jehanzaib Awan has directed deputy commissioners of all four districts to expedite the disposal of pending revenue cases, stressing that unnecessary delays would not be tolerated. Chairing a divisional review meeting attended by all four deputy commissioners,here on Saturday,the commissioner reviewed progress on cleanliness under the Suthra Punjab program,revenue cases,district performance indicators and public service delivery targets. The deputy commissioners briefed the meeting on the 'Apna Khet Apna Rozgar' initiative,district performance indicators and implementation of public service delivery measures. The meeting was informed that 400 out of 473 cases had been decided in the Commissioner's Court under the Revenue Court Management System. In Lahore district, 2,446 out of 3,216 cases had also been decided under the system. The commissioner said timely decisions in revenue cases provided significant relief to citizens and directed all districts to clear pending cases at the earliest. He appreciated the progress made by revenue courts in disposing of cases and reiterated that unnecessary delays would not be tolerated.



ISLAMABAD: A laborer uses an axe to chop down thick branches from pruned trees into smaller woodpiles, preparing them to be collected for burning purposes along a roadside.

Livestock director reviews herd transformation project

FAISALABAD (APP): Director Livestock Dr Sajid Iqbal has directed livestock officials in Chiniot to ensure transparent and up-to-date record-keeping of semen distribution and utilization alongside 100 percent data entry in the SPMS system, to strengthen implementation of Punjab Chief Minister's Herd Transformation Project and improve veterinary services for farmers.

During his visit to Chiniot district, the director inspected Civil Veterinary Hospital, its operation theatre, the offices of Additional Director Livestock and Deputy Director Livestock, and reviewed the overall performance and service delivery of the department.

He also chaired separate meetings with Artificial Insemination Technicians (AITs) of Chiniot and Bhowana tehsils in Chiniot and those of Lalian tehsil in Lalian to assess progress on the provincial government's Herd Transformation Project.

During meetings, he examined records relating to the distribution and utilization of normal Friesian, sexed and Brahman semen doses and directed the technicians to maintain complete and updated records of the doses received, utilized and available in stock.

He stressed that all relevant activities must be entered into the SPMS system without exception to ensure effective monitoring and transparency.

The director also visited the Mobile Veterinary Dispensary Chiniot and reviewed the mobile veterinary facilities being provided to livestock farmers.

White House says:
Trump, Xi and Putin plan an unprecedented joint meeting on the sidelines of APEC

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: The leaders of the United States, China and Russia plan to meet Thursday on the sidelines of next week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in China's tech hub of Shenzhen — an unprecedented gathering of the heads of the world's biggest nuclear powers.

While the leaders gathering for joint talks will mark a singular moment, analysts say expectations are low that the talks will lead to major breakthroughs and say they will be heavier in symbolism than substance.

Plans for the three-way summit with Donald Trump, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin were confirmed Friday by the White House. It comes at a complicated moment in relations between the three countries.Trump has warmly embraced Xi after coming to a truce in their short-lived trade war last year and in spite of differences over the U.S. war with Iran and other tensions between the world's foremost economic powers.

Similarly, Trump has sought to build his relationship with Putin, even as the Russian leader has persisted in his nearly 5-year-old war with Ukraine and as Moscow has deepened its military, intelligence and diplomatic partnership with Iran.

The U.S. president has insisted that such a meeting would provide an opportunity for the three leaders to discuss the U.S. war with Iran and his goal of reaching a three-way agreement on their nuclear arms stockpiles.

Trump does plan on discussing the Iran war with Xi and Putin, but will steer away from discussing Ukraine, according to a senior U.S. official who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity.

The last nuclear arms pact between Russia and the United States expired in February, removing caps on the two largest atomic arsenals for the first time in more than a half-century. When that treaty — known as New START — expired, Trump rejected a call by Russia to extend the two-country deal for another year and called for "a new, improved and modernized" deal that includes China.

The trilateral meeting is intended to serve as the "beginning of hopefully a conversation" on nuclear disarmament "that can be productive going forward," said the U.S. official, who added that no agreements are expected to be announced.

But Beijing's arsenal of more than 600 warheads.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky, center, with U.S. envoys Jared Kushner (L) and businessman Steve Witkoff (R), in Dublin.



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met in September with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Turkey, Qatar sign mutual defence agreement

Monitoring Desk

ISTANBUL: Turkey and Qatar announced on Friday that they signed a mutual defence agreement, which they said was aimed at adopting a "unified position" in the face of an external attack.

The announcement came after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in Istanbul.

Erdogan had said the agreement would further strengthen ties between the regional allies, according to his office.Qatar's ruler travelled to Istanbul after attending the United Nations COP31 climate summit in southern Turkey.

"The two parties hailed the signing of the mutual defence agreement between Qatar and Turkey," according to a joint statement carried by Qatar's state news agency.

The agreement was "aimed at bolstering collective defence and achieving regional security and stability, as well as adopting a unified position in the face of any external armed attack targeting either or both parties", the statement said. "The two parties agreed to hold consultations on threats to their security... and to strengthen cooperation through joint military exercises, collaboration in the field of defence industries, and the exchange of personnel training." Erdogan's office had earlier announced the agreement, without going into the details of its contents. "A mutual defence agreement signed by Turkey and Qatar today will add a new dimension to the brotherly ties between the two countries," Erdogan said during the meeting, according to the statement from his office.

Erdogan also said Turkey and Qatar would expand cooperation in the defence industry.In August, Turkey, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a regional defence pact under which the three countries would come to each other's aid if one of them came under attack. Ratified by the Turkish parliament last week, the pact links NATO member Turkey, which has the alliance's second-largest military, with Pakistan, the Muslim world's only nuclear-armed state, and Saudi Arabia, the Gulf's leading power.

Turkey has said the agreement is not aimed at any other country and remains open to other states, including Egypt.

Anger as 17 killed in Turkey steel factory blast

Monitoring Desk

TURKEY: An explosion ripped through a steel plant in western Turkey on Monday, killing 17 people, with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowing to find out who was responsible.

The blast occurred around midday (0900 GMT) at the HABAS steel factory about 60 kilometres (37 miles) north of the port city of Izmir, officials said.

"Sixteen people lost their lives in the explosion, while 13 others are receiving medical treatment, two of whom are in critical condition," Erdogan said.

"The circumstances surrounding this tragic incident ... how and why it happened, whether there was any negligence and who bears responsibility, will be established."

Health Minister Kemal Memisoglu later updated the figure to 17 after one of those in critical condition succumbed to his injuries. Footage from the site showed a huge cloud of thick smoke pouring into the sky as flames appeared to engulf a tall structure within the HABAS Demir Celik plant in Aliaga.

Izmir governor Suleyman Elban said the explosion occurred during "a boiler replacement operation" when an overhead crane collapsed into a large industrial furnace used during the liquid steel casting process.

Eyewitness Deniz Ulker told AFP it felt like an "earthquake".

"There was a massive explosion... Then I looked across at the factory, and there was thick smoke coming from the chimney and giant flames," she said.

"The roof of the factory was literally flowing like water as it burned. Those flames... were flowing down. It was like doomsday."HABAS is a privately owned conglomerate and one of Turkey's top steel producers. Workers' groups say it has a chequered safety record.

Turkey's pro-Kurdish DEM party said those responsible must be brought to justice.

"The workers' massacre in Aliaga is unacceptable!" it said in a statement.



Thailand's Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow speaks with Malaysia's Foreign Minister Mohamad bin Haji Hasan during the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting, in Manila.

Cuba preparing for possible US military attack, president says

Monitoring Desk

CUBA: Cuba is preparing for a possible US military attack, President Miguel Díaz-Canel said on Friday following remarks by US President Donald Trump that were widely interpreted as a threat.

"We are determined to repel any attempt at foreign military aggression against our country," Díaz-Canel said.

He stressed, however, that Cuba was a peaceful country and posed no threat to US national security.

Asked by radio host Hugh Hewitt on Thursday whether he would consider military intervention to "free" Cuba, Trump replied: "I want to get Cuba done before I leave."

"We're watching it very closely. It's doing very poorly. It's essentially a failed place, nation, whatever you want to call it," Trump said.

Trump's term in office ends in January 2029.Díaz-Canel criticized repeated statements by US politicians about possible military action against Cuba, without mentioning Trump by name.

The Cuban leader made the remarks during a National Defence Day event in Boyeros, south of Havana, attended by senior military officers, Communist Party members and local officials.

Cuba has held regular military exercises and defence coordination meetings since a US military operation in Venezuela in January, during which authoritarian president Nicolás Maduro was captured and taken to the United States.

Soldiers have also been providing civilians with basic military training as part of Cuba's "War of All the People" defence strategy.

Iranian Navy says 'violating' oil tanker hits mine in Hormuz Strait

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iran's Navy said on Saturday that a "violating" oil tanker struck a sea mine and caught fire early in the morning in the eastern Strait of Hormuz, Iran's official news agency (IRNA) reported.

Iran's Navy accused the tanker of disregarding prior warnings and operating in the unsafe and prohibited zone with its tracking and identification systems turned off. The statement did not name the vessel or specify its origin.

According to the Iranian military, at least 12 oil tankers and one gas tanker have been hit by explosions over the past week. The claims could not be independently verified.

In late February, Israel and the United States attacked Iran. In response, Iran's forces heavily restricted shipping.

UN says 25 seafarers killed in, around Hormuz since US-Israel war on Iran

Monitoring Desk

UNITED NATION: At least 25 seafarers have been killed in and around the Strait of Hormuz since the US-Israeli war on Iran broke out in February, according to the United Nations.

Khaled Khiari, assistant secretary-general for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, gave the figures, which cover the period up to November 11, during a UN Security Council briefing on Friday.

"This situation cannot be allowed to become the new normal," said Khiari, urging the "full restoration of maritime navigation in the region".

He pointed out that security incidents in and around Hormuz have been rising, with October recording the highest tally since the start of the conflict.

The UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO) tracked 136 security incidents involving vessels in Hormuz and the wider Middle East between March 1 and November 11. It said 35 of those incidents came in October and 10 in November.

"Every day brings new reports of maritime incidents," said Khiari. "These incidents are unacceptable," he added.

Siege fuels disease fears in Yemen's Taiz

Monitoring Desk

TAIZ: The woman held the body of a young baby girl wrapped in a white shroud.

"Our children are dying because of the siege. We have no open road, no medics and no medicines," the woman said. Wearing the traditional clothing of women from Jabal Sabir, the mountain that overlooks the city of Taiz and is one of its most famous symbols, she appeared in a short video widely circulated on social media on November 10.In her arms was the body of an infant from her family, identified as Gaza Ali Abdulmughni al-Shaqab, who had fallen ill and died after her family was unable to get her emergency.



French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron greet students waiting to welcome them upon arrival at the airport on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

French-speaking nations hold a summit in Cambodia as a conflict in Africa threatens a rift

Monitoring Desk

PHNOM PENH: Emmanuel Macron is set to attend a biennial meeting of French-speaking territories beginning on Saturday in Cambodia, where the French president contending with public unrest at home will face international political challenges as a conflict in Africa hangs over the proceedings.

Macron and first lady Brigitte Macron were greeted on the tarmac in Phnom Penh by traditional Apsara dancers performing classical blessings. The French leader, who said on X that he seeks to develop new markets in Cambodia for French businesses, later met Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet.

The Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, or OIF, is holding the three-day meeting through Monday in the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh. Macron is expected to engage in bilateral discussions and join the summit meeting of the loose confederation of 90 member states and governments comprising 53 full members, five associate members and 32 observers — all French-speaking places.Cambodia will take over the summit's chairmanship from Macron, who served as chair in 2024 when France was the host nation.Before departing for Malaysia on Monday, Macron is to visit the famed Angkor World Heritage Site near the city of Siem Reap, where he and King Norodom Sihamoni will mark the completion of a French-supported restoration of the West Mebon temple.

Macron's trip comes at a time of widespread domestic protests, with more than 600,000 people taking to the streets earlier this month to demand higher wages and support the country's student protest movement. The protests have seen thousands of arrests, hundreds of injuries and schools set on fire.The summit's sticky diplomacy will be on display on Monday when Macron and other leaders will decide who will serve for the next four years as secretary-general — the group's leader and chief executive.

With shifting Iran rhetoric following US elections, Trump leaves Mideast in limbo about path ahead

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump has had a lot to say about his thinking on the way ahead in the Iran war since Republicans were trounced in last week's midterm elections.

In exchanges with reporters, broadcast interviews and social media posts since Election Day, he's somehow managed to back away from carrying out additional strikes while also backing away from the prospect of additional talks with the Islamic Republic's negotiators on ending the 8-month-old conflict. The president acknowledged on the day after the midterms that the war and the global economic tumult it's caused were partly to blame for Republicans' electoral losses, while maintaining it was the right thing to do.Then, at the start of this week, he huddled with Qatar's prime minister at the White House and afterward told reporters that he believed it was highly unlikely he'd need to order new major strikes on Iran, declaring that the war "militarily is effectively over."

But by Thursday, he was again raising questions about whether he needed to rush to find an endgame. He declared that the U.S. no longer needs a deal with Tehran and brusquely directed Vice President JD Vance — who served as his chief negotiator in earlier peace talks with Iran — to shift his attention to the administration's domestic anti-fraud campaign.

All the while, Trump warned Iran that the U.S. military is "locked and loaded" and keeping an eye on Pickaxe Mountain.



Myanmar is accused of breaching the United Nations Genocide Convention by brutalising its marginalised Muslim Rohingya minority.

Arrested generals and a threatened VP: President's son fuels Ugandan succession fever

Monitoring Desk

UGANDA: In Uganda's military, even senior generals are finding that their rank offers little protection from the wrath of the country's powerful army chief.

Over the past 15 months, at least a dozen generals and senior officers have been arrested under Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba, who is also the son of President Yoweri Museveni, in a crackdown that has unsettled the military's top ranks.

The arrests come amid growing political tensions over who will succeed Museveni, who has ruled Uganda for four decades.

Gen Kainerugaba, 52, is widely seen as a potential successor, although his ambitions appear to be facing resistance within the ruling party. This week, he threatened Vice-President Jessica Alupo with dismissal and possible arrest, while suggesting he should take her position.

The ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) has, however, rejected reports that its senior leadership had rejected a proposal to back Gen Kainerugaba as the next president, describing the claims as "completely false". This has all fuelled speculation that the arrests are part of an effort to sideline military officers opposed to the general's presidential ambitions.

Others see the arrests as evidence of an anti-corruption drive in which senior commanders are held to account.

At the centre of the tension are two powerful powerful institutions: the military, where Gen Kainerugaba wields considerable influence, and the NRM, where questions about his political ambitions appear to be dividing senior figures.

How SAF successes in Sudan's Kordofan could turn tide against the RSF

Monitoring Desk

KHARTOUM: The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) gained control over several strategically important villages and localities in west Kordofan this week, shifting the war against the rival paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in its favour.

On Friday, the Sudanese army took control of al-Khuwai, according to local media. This is one of the main towns in West Kordofan and a strategically important site in the army's ongoing campaign against the RSF in the resource-rich state, which began several weeks ago.

So far, the offensive by the SAF and allied Darfur forces has succeeded in breaking the RSF siege on al-Obeid, the capital of North Kordofan, and surrounding areas.It has also opened up new routes for the army.

Australian PM jokes about genitalia in hot mic mishap

Monitoring Desk

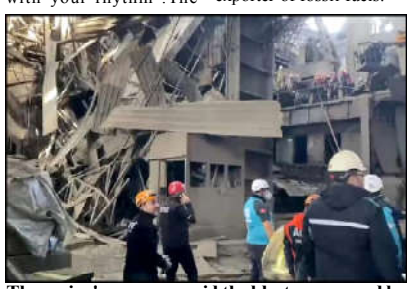
ANTALYA: Australian leader Anthony Albanese and his climate minister joked about their genitalia in a crude exchange captured on a hot mic.

In the footage, first broadcast by Australia's Channel Seven on Friday, Albanese and top climate envoy Chris Bowen chat on the sidelines of the COP31 climate summit in Antalya, Turkey. Albanese advises Bowen not to keep his phone next to his heart because "it can interfere with your rhythm".The climate minister then replies that he's more worried about keeping the phone in his pocket, to which Albanese asks: "Because of your dick?"

"Arguably more important than the heart," Bowen replies, chuckling.

A spokesperson for Albanese told AFP: "They were having a joke in between meetings".

Australia is presiding over negotiations at the COP31, but has been accused of hypocrisy given its status as a major exporter of fossil fuels.



The region's governor said the blast was caused by an overhead crane collapsing into a large industrial furnace.

New provinces not anyone's wish but Pakistan's need: Kamal

KARACHI (INP): Federal Health Minister Mustafa Kamal on Friday said that the creation of new, smaller provinces wasn't anyone's wish but "Pakistan's need," adding that the creation of new provinces had "become indispensable to save and run the state."

The remarks came a day after Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said that Parliament and the provincial assemblies could not be "bypassed or negated" on the question of making new provinces through a referendum to determine the public will.

Chaudhry made the remarks in the wake of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's renewed call for a referendum on the creation of new provinces, saying the people should have the final say on the matter, while making it clear that no such initiative would move forward without the consent of all allied parties in the ruling coalition.

Speaking at the inauguration of a regional office of the Allied Health Professionals Council in Karachi, Kamal noted that Punjab was a bigger province than 180 countries of the world, Sindh was bigger than 175 countries, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) bigger than 162 and Balochistan bigger than 185.

"In a divisible pool, 57.5% of the money gets parked with the provinces," the minister added, saying that this year, Rs8.84 trillion had been received by the four provinces "but the money is not reaching down to the village level."

The biggest problem, Kamal said, was that the provinces had not devolved downwards.

The minister further argued that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) "cannot pull Pakistan out of this economic quagmire, Karachi can," stating that the city was "Pakistan's revenue engine" but that not even 10% of its potential had yet been tapped. "When a family grows, a new room has to be built; that does not break up the home," Kamal stated. Earlier this month, Kamal had reiterated his support for the creation of new provinces, saying Pakistan couldn't be governed under the existing administrative model and that the creation of new administrative units had become inevitable.

The minister had stated that he had reached the conclusion, after years of struggle, that raising complaints about Karachi had become futile as nobody seemed to care.

"The people of Karachi earn and contribute, yet they still have to beg the federal government for their rights," he said, adding that the federal bureaucracy in Islamabad was displeased with the presence of Karachiites.

"I honestly believe the existing government system cannot work. The longer we delay the creation of new administrative units, the greater the damage will be," he said, adding that the issue was now being taken seriously, which was why opponents had adopted a harsher tone. The remarks followed those by Kamal in August, calling for the creation of new administrative units in the country while saying the existing system had become paralysed and needed to be improved. The minister had stated that Pakistan had a population of 260 million but only four provinces and argued that the creation of new administrative units.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkmenistan, Dr. Faryal Leghari, calling on the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Peace, public prosperity, development in KP top agenda of PML-N: Amir Muqam

SWABI (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President Engineer Amir Muqam here Saturday said that the sole agenda of his party in the province is to establish peace, ensure public prosperity and accelerate development.

He maintained that the time has come for accountability of elements involved in alleged financial irregularities during the previous 13 years of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) rule.

Addressing a large public gathering at Aman Chowk here, he said the people of Swabi had demonstrated remarkable affection and confidence by turning out in large numbers despite the short notice, which was a matter of pride for him.

He said the massive public participation was a clear expression of people's reaction against the previous 13-year PTI government.

Amir Muqam said the government's priority in KP was to restore peace, promote public welfare and ensure provincial development. He added that provincial resources would now be spent on the people, while public welfare and development projects would be translated into practical initiatives.

Paying tribute to the police and law enforcement agencies, he particularly remembered the sacrifices of police personnel martyred in Swabi and Kohat. He also appreciated the leadership of Swabi DPO and KP Inspector General of Police for their efforts and initiatives to maintain peace.

The federal minister alleged that the PTI government had disappointed the people over the utilisation of public resources and execution of development projects during its 13-year rule, causing huge losses to the national exchequer. He said the time had come to ensure accountability and that those responsible would have to answer for alleged financial irregularities during the period.

President commends security forces for eliminating Khawarij

PM reiterates resolve to eliminate externally sponsored terrorism

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari, on Saturday, commended the security forces for eliminating 16 Khawarij during a successful security operation in North Waziristan. The president said the nation saluted its brave sons and that the sacrifices of Havaldar Asmat Ali and Naik Aftab Ali, who embraced martyrdom in North Waziristan, would always be remembered.

He reiterated that successful operations under 'Azm-e-Istehkam' against terrorists, backed by foreign sponsorship, will continue with full force till the elimination of last terrorist, the President's Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release. The Indian-sponsored network of 'Fitna al-Hindustan' terrorists was handed an exemplary defeat in North Waziristan, he added.

The president also offered condolences and expressed solidarity with the bereaved families of the brave security personnel who embraced martyrdom.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday paid tribute to the security forces for successfully conducting intelligence-based operations against the Indian-sponsored terrorists outfit 'Fitna al-Hindustan' in Kolpur, Kardagap and Nushki areas of Balochistan. As a result of these effective operations, eight terrorists, including a suicide bomber, were killed while a huge cache of arms and ammunition was also recovered. The prime minister paid glowing tribute to the brave sons of the soil, Major Omar Minhas Nasir and Havildar Muhammad Adnan Khan, who embraced martyrdom.



QUETTA: Vice Chairman BBoIT Bilal Khan Kakar and President QCCI Ahmed Gul Kakar and others witnessing the signing MoU regarding Board of Investment and Trade BITE.



BAHAWALPUR: Chairman of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee and Khatib of Baadshahi Masjid, Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad addressing the Paigham-e-Pakistan Peace Conference.

Asad Qaiser says

NAB action against him is political vendetta

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former speaker and senior PTI leader Asad Qaiser said the NAB action against him was political vendetta and that he would pursue all legal and judicial avenues to defend himself. He strongly condemned the disclosure in a notice of his family members' names and personal information, including those of his minor children.

In a statement on X, he wrote that he had learned through media reports that NAB had opened an inquiry against him. He said he wanted to make clear that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has a zero-tolerance policy toward corruption. He added that he had spent 30 years of his life with PTI, had lived with integrity and firmly rejected all corruption allegations against him.

However, he strongly condemned the way the alleged notice was leaked and the disclosure in it of his family members' names and personal information, particularly those of his minor children.

He said the move could negatively affect the children's education, mental health and future.

Thousands join funeral prayers for Bugti's Aunt in Dera Bugti

Independent Report

DERA BUGTI: Thousands of people from different walks of life attended the funeral prayers of the aunt of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti in North Dera Bugti on Saturday. The deceased was the mother of former provincial assembly member Mir Tariq Bugti. Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti attended the funeral alongside tribal elders, government officials, political and social figures and a large number of local residents.

Pakistan urges UN action to secure Gulf waterways & shield vulnerable economies

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Warning of severe economic fallout for vulnerable nations, Pakistan has called on the UN Security Council to end all military provocations in the Gulf and safeguard commercial navigation through the region's vital waterways.

"Disruption of commercial shipping and attacks on merchant vessels both in Bab-Al-Mandab and the Strait of Hormuz have underscored that crises at sea have grave implications for the continent and countries," Ambassador Syed Haider Shah, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the 15-member Council.

Bahrain convened the Council meeting to discuss escalating tensions in the Gulf region and growing threats to maritime security.

The Pakistani envoy warned that volatility in these waterways has driven up energy prices and heightened the risk of global food insecurity, disproportionately hurting developing economies. He stressed that commercial shipping must be protected and humanitarian supplies allowed to reach those in need.

"The Council must unite to demand an end to all military provocations and unlawful attacks, protect civilians and commercial shipping, and advance peaceful solutions," the Pakistani envoy stressed.

In this regard, Ambassador Haider Shah called for addressing the root causes and drivers of conflict and instability in the region to promote lasting peace and security. "Ways must be found for building a regional framework of common security, peaceful co-existence and mutual prosperity and development."

The Pakistani envoy advocated dialogue and diplomacy for the way forward, noting Islamabad's own diplomatic endeavours reflect the country's conviction that lasting stability requires respect for sovereignty, civilian protection and negotiated solutions. "All attacks must stop; communication channels should remain open; and regional initiatives and the (UN) Secretary-General's good offices must receive sustained international support," Ambassador Haider Shah said. Pakistan, he added, remains committed to continuing its own resolute efforts.



Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman addresses Khadija-tul-Kubra Exhibition in Lahore.

Pakistan urges global partners to finance household solar revolution

ISLAMABAD/ANTALYA (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change Dr Musadik Malik has called for a shift in international climate financing towards direct support for households adopting renewable energy, saying Pakistan's rooftop solar expansion demonstrates how ordinary people are driving the energy transition in response to economic pressures.

Addressing a ministerial panel titled "From Pledge to Plans: Electrifying the Transition" at the Global Renewables Hub during the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) in Antalya, Türkiye, the minister urged international partners to facilitate access to battery storage technologies and support decentralised renewable energy systems.

He said Pakistan's solar transition was increasingly being driven by households making independent investments in rooftop solar installations, often without financial assistance from the government or international institutions.

Illustrating the scale of this transformation, Dr Malik recounted the story of a villager, Karamat Ali, who sold 12 buffaloes and cows to purchase rooftop solar panels.

He described livestock as a poor family's financial security, providing milk, income and savings for emergencies and important household needs, including children's marriages.

The villager, he said, decided to invest in solar energy because he considered it a more reliable and economically viable option than depending on grid electricity and unpredictable fuel prices. The minister said the example reflected a broader trend, with hundreds of thousands of households making similar choices to secure affordable electricity and sustain their livelihoods. He described the development as a people-driven energy revolution that was challenging the conventional centralised electricity distribution model.

According to Dr Malik, Pakistan had saved around $12 billion in LNG and gas imports through the growing adoption of

DPM/FM Dar to chair 30th ECO-CFMs in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar will chair the 30th meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Council of Ministers to be held in Islamabad on 15-16 November.

The meeting will be attended by the foreign ministers and heads of delegations of ECO Member States, along with representatives of the ECO Secretariat and its subsidiary bodies, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

The Ministerial Meeting will be preceded by the Meeting of Senior Officials (SOM) of ECO Member States, which will review the activities and programmes of the Organization, assess the work of its subsidiary bodies, and finalize the agenda and draft outcome documents for consideration by the ministers during COM.

"As Chair of the ECO for 2026-2027, Pakistan will seek to advance the Organization's objectives under the theme 'Reviving Regionalism for a Resilient ECO'.

DPM/FM reviews preparations for Pak, Turkmenistan JIC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, on Saturday, chaired an inter-ministerial meeting to review preparations for the upcoming session of the Pakistan–Turkmenistan Joint Intergovernmental Commission (JIC).

The DPM/FM would co-chair JIC with the Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan.

The meeting reviewed the proposed agenda, bilateral agreements and administrative arrangements, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Secretary, Secretary, Economic Affairs Division, Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkmenistan and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other concerned ministries.

The DPM/FM underscored the importance of the JIC in strengthening bilateral cooperation and directed the concerned ministries to ensure close coordination and thorough preparations for substantive outcomes. "Discussions focused on advancing cooperation in trade, energy, regional connectivity, information technology, agriculture, textiles, healthcare, education, tourism and culture," it was further added.

Pakistan to participate in SCO Civilisational Dialogue in New Delhi

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Government of Pakistan has decided to take part in the SCO Civilisational Dialogue to be held in New Delhi from 20 to 22 November 2026. Whereas the government has nominated Dr Musadik Masood Malik, Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, to represent Pakistan at the SCO Civilisational Dialogue. The event will bring together representatives from SCO member states to exchange views on issues related to civilisational dialogue and cultural understanding.



HUNZA: Following the first snowfall of the winter season in the earthquake affected Chipursan Valley of Hunza, local families in the valley are living in tents and continuing their daily lives despite the harsh and freezing weather conditions.

Paigham-e-Pakistan conference pays tribute to PM,Field Marshal for role in peace and security

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Speakers at a Paigham-e-Pakistan Peace Conference on Saturday paid tribute to Prime Ministe r(PM) Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defense Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for their role in promoting peace and safeguarding national security.

The conference focused on the protection of the Two Holy Mosques (Haramain Sharifain), religious harmony, respect for humanity, the role of mosques and religious seminaries, youth engagement and promotion of the Paigham-e-Pakistan narrative.

The event also highlighted Pakistan's role in promoting global peace, what the speakers described as the country's success in the "Battle for Truth", proposed mutual defense cooperation among Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye for the protection of the Two Holy Mosques and efforts to strengthen national unity, interfaith harmony and counter extremist ideologies.

The conference was chaired by Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad ,Chairman of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, Imam and Khateeb of Badshahi Mosque, Lahore and Ambassador of Peace.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bahawalpur, Syed Hassan Raza, Additional Deputy Commissioner (DC) (Municipal Services) Dr. Ayesha Khan, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Saddar Hamza Ehtesham and Assistant Commissioner(AC) Bahawalpur City Iqra Mubeen were also present.

Addressing the participants, Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad said Pakistan was a stronghold of the Muslim world and the entire nation stood shoulder

Honouring Pakistan Police: ISPR releases soulful tribute anthem "Hum Shuhada Hum Ghazi Hain"

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a moving gesture of solidarity and national gratitude, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) has officially released a special commemorative anthem, "Hum Shuhada Hum Ghazi Hain," dedicated to the courage, resilience, and supreme sacrifices of the men and women of the Pakistan Police.

Positioned as a tribute to the "Guardians Who Protect the Peace of Pakistan," the release honours both the shuhada (martyrs) who laid down their lives in the line of duty and the ghazis (veterans and survivors) who continue to stand watch over the country's security.

Behind every peaceful street, quiet night, and safe home across Pakistan stands a uniform—often unseen, frequently unthanked, and far too often sacrificed. From the bustling avenues of Karachi to the valleys of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and from the remote check posts of Balochistan to the heartland of Punjab, the Pakistan Police have consistently served as the nation's first line of defence against terrorism, violent crime, and disorder.

The anthem pays poignant homage to the human cost of this vigilance: the officers who never returned home, the empty chairs left at family dinner tables, and the children growing up proud of parents who gave their all for the flag.



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