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Civil-Military coordination vital for peace, governance in Balochistan: CM Bugti

Govt stands shoulder-to-shoulder with security forces in war against terrorism and remains committed to ensuring peace and stability through joint efforts



QUETTA (APP): Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Thursday said that civil and military institutions are working in close coordination and under a unified strategy to establish lasting peace in Balochistan, improve the administrative system and ensure the effective provision of basic amenities to the public in the province.

He said that the provincial government stands shoulder-to-shoulder with security forces in the war against terrorism and remains committed to ensuring peace and stability through joint efforts.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting convened to review ongoing initiatives aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and quality of the province's governance system.

The Commander of the Quetta Corps attended the meeting, which was also joined by members of the provincial cabinet and secretaries from various provincial departments.

During the meeting, Chief Secretary of Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan gave a detailed briefing on the law and order situation, progress on development projects, and measures taken to improve the governance framework.

The Chief Minister emphasized that a robust and functional administrative structure is fundamental to effectively addressing security challenges and resolving public grievances, to this end, Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, and District Police Officers have been appointed across

Continued on page 2



TURBAT: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti participating in the open discussion with youth. Provincial Ministers and Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan is also present.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif launches the Mehfooz Dawa digital application for track and trace of medicines, in Islamabad.

PM inaugurates 'Mehfooz Dawa' app to help public identify substandard medicines

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday inaugurated the 'Mehfooz Dawa' mobile application, a digital initiative aimed at enabling citizens to verify the authenticity of medicines and protect themselves against counterfeit and substandard drugs.

The prime minister inaugurated the application by scanning the barcode printed on a medicine packet, which turned green on the mobile application, confirming that the medicine was genuine.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, the prime minister termed the initiative an important step towards improving healthcare facilities and ensuring the provision of safe medicines to the people.

Recalling a tragic incident during his tenure as chief minister of Punjab in 2010/2011, he said that reports had emerged about the deaths of around 100 patients undergoing treatment at the Punjab Institute of Cardiology following the use of a particular medicine.

He said that he had immediately collected samples of the suspected medicines and dispatched them to laboratories in London, Geneva and Paris for independent verification.

At the time, he added, the federal government had maintained that the Punjab government was responsible for the incident, arguing that there was nothing wrong with the medicines.

However, the results received from laboratories abroad revealed that the medicines in question were intended for the treatment of malaria rather than heart diseases, he said, adding that malaria medicines had consequently been administered to cardiac patients at the hospital.

The prime minister said that such painful incidents underscored the importance of strengthening regulatory oversight and introducing modern technological solutions to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

He said that the development of the Mehfooz Dawa application was a significant initiative to facilitate the public and help address shortcomings in the healthcare system.

The prime minister congratulated the entire team involved in developing the application and ap-

Continued on page 2

Pakistan-China space cooperation opens new era of technological partnership: Ahsan

BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday described the successful participation of Pakistani astronaut Zeeshan Ali in China's manned space mission as a historic milestone in Pakistan-China relations, opening a new chapter of cooperation in space exploration, scientific research and advanced technologies.

Addressing a press conference following the successful launch of the



Shenzhou-24 mission at Pakistan Embassy here, the minister said Pakistan had earned the distinction of becoming China's first international partner in a manned space mission and Zeeshan Ali the first international visitor to the Chinese space station.

He expressed gratitude to Chinese President Xi Jinping, the Chinese government, the China Manned Space Programme authorities and the Chinese people for extending this opportunity to Pakistan.

Calling the achievement a reflection of the deep-rooted friendship between the two countries, Iqbal said the traditional expression that Pakistan-China friendship was "higher than the Himalayas" had now acquired a new meaning, as the partnership had reached beyond the skies and into space. He recalled that bilateral cooperation had initially focused on physical infrastructure, energy projects and highways under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), followed by digital connectivity through fibre-optic networks.

Bilawal calls strengthening govt amid crises, urges political reset

MULTAN (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday called for strengthening the government and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif rather than weakening them, amid mounting national challenges, while urging all political stakeholders to join a democratic and political process to restore stability, public confidence and the functioning of state institutions.

Addressing a Meet the Press programme at Multan Press Club, he said Pakistan needed an immediate political reset to prepare for economic and regional challenges. The process, he stressed, must be democratic and inclusive, involving the government, its allies and the opposition, rather than being imposed through an apolitical arrangement.

Bilawal said the government should take confidence-building measures to bridge its trust deficit with the opposition, adding that all important national decisions must be made through Parliament. Decisions taken outside the elected forum would make it difficult for the system to overcome its challenges.

He said ordinary citizens were bearing the burden of inflation and rising electricity and fuel prices, while families were struggling to meet basic needs,

Continued on page 2



MULTAN: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari speaks to media persons during a "Meet the Press" program at the Multan Press Club.

Petrol price drops by Rs.1, diesel by Rs2 per litre

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has reduced the price of petrol by Re1 per litre and high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs2, according to an Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) notification issued on Thursday.

Following the revision, petrol will be available at Rs313 per litre, while diesel will cost Rs346 per litre.

According to Ogra, the revised prices will be effective from November 27.

Ogra has also begun publishing daily petroleum prices on its website to improve transparency and allow changes in international oil prices to be passed on to consumers more quickly.

Amid volatility in global oil rates on the back of renewed hostilities in the Middle East, the government decided to switch to a daily fuel price review mechanism.

IG FC says: Students of Balochistan valuable asset of Pakistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: Inspector General Frontier Corps (North) Balochistan, Major General Muhammad Atif Mujtaba, held an informal interaction with faculty members and students at BUITEMS University, Quetta.

The discussion covered challenges facing the education sector in Balochistan, opportunities for higher education and youth development, the role of students in national progress, and the province's security situation.

The IG FC expressed confidence in the potential of young people, saying that students of Balochistan were a valuable asset of Pakistan and could contribute to national development through quality education, positive thinking and national unity.

The university administration and students appreciated the efforts of FC Balochistan (North) for promoting peace and stability, educational development and youth encouragement in the province.



LAHORE: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi chairs a meeting to review proposed plans for establishing Women Facilitation Centres across Punjab at the Supreme Court of Pakistan's Lahore Branch Registry.

CJP reviews plans for Women Facilitation Centres in Punjab

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Yahya Afridi, chaired a meeting at the Lahore Branch Registry of the Supreme Court of Pakistan to review plans for establishing Women Facilitation Centres in Punjab.

The meeting discussed the establishment of Women Facilitation Centres and Family Courts, initially in Faisalabad and Mianwali.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court, Justice Aalia Neelum, and the Registrars of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Lahore High Court. The Punjab Communication & Works Department was represented by Raja Jahangir Anwar, Secretary, Ahmed Mudassir, Chief Architect, and Mazhar Mansoor, General Manager, SPU. Architect Raza Zahid, whose design was among the three winning entries in the national design competition, also attended.

The Chief Justice said that establishing Women Facilitation Centres across Pakistan is a priority for the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan in 2026–27. The centres are intended to give women a single point of access to court-related information, legal guidance and support services. Locating the centres alongside Family Courts will help women obtain assistance close to where their cases are heard and reduce the need to visit multiple offices.

The proposed centres will include reception and guidance desks, dedicated waiting areas, hygienic washrooms, private consultation rooms, a dedicated mediation room, and a day-care centre for children accompanying court users.

The centres will also provide access to legal advice and assistance, psychosocial support and referral services, and facilities for alternative dispute resolution. Accessible entrances, ramps and clear signage will assist women with disabilities.

Pakistan proud to be home to sacred religious sites: Attaullah

ISLAMABAD (INP): A delegation of Sikh Yatrees visiting Pakistan to participate in the celebrations marking the birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak called on Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar in Islamabad. The Information Minister said it is a matter of great happiness and pride for us that Pakistan is home to sacred religious sites. He said Pakistan is not only preserving these sacred sites but also considers it a privilege to welcome and serve Yatrees visiting the country. The Sikh Yatrees noted that Pakistan is home to several important religious sites associated with revered Sikh personalities. They appreciated the warm welcome and excellent hospitality extended to them in Pakistan and praised the scenic beauty of Islamabad. They particularly highlighted Nankana Sahib and Panja Sahib, describing them as highly sacred and historically significant places for the Sikh community.



QUETTA: Leaders of All Parties Asghar Khan Achakzai, Mir Kabeer Muhammadshahi, Naseer Shahwani and others addressing a Press Conference.

Khawaja Asif says:

Makkah pact nations to discuss Yemen in Islamabad meeting

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Makkah pact nations will discuss the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran-backed Houthi fighters in Yemen when officials from the mutual defence agreement meet in Islamabad on Thursday, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has told. Asif said the "continuous turmoil south of Saudi Arabia will obviously be one agenda point in the meeting and it is very important", confirming that defence and foreign ministers from the Gulf kingdom, Turkiye and Pakistan would attend.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye signed the pact in August, with the three Muslim nations pledging to come to each other's aid in the event of an attack.

Saudi Arabia has faced repeated barrages by the Houthis in Yemen, with the group targeting cities, oil facilities and shipping since fighting in Yemen's civil war intensified in July.

"Any threat to Saudi Arabia is a threat to Pakistan and Turkiye according to the pact, which is absolutely clear," Asif said on Wednesday, praising Riyadh's handling of the conflict with the Houthis, who hold swathes of territory in Yemen, including its capital Sanaa. He said the pact, which was formed during the expansion of the war in the Middle East following US-Israeli strikes on Iran in February, was still at a "nascent stage".



ISLAMABAD: H.E Mr. Stephane Rey, Ambassador of Switzerland called on Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

Fazlur Rehman warns

Nationwide shutdown if convoy impeded as JUI takes out protests in multiple cities, blocks roads

SARGODHA (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Thursday warned of a "nationwide shutdown" if the party's convoy was impeded en route to Sargodha, as news emerged of the party blocking roads and highways across the country in a protest call.

Addressing supporters near Thokar Niaz Baig on Multan Road in Lahore, Fazl said his party was peaceful and travelling in a disciplined manner, urging the government to remove roadblocks and allow party workers to proceed to Sargodha.

Warning the authorities, the JUI-F chief said that if his party was not allowed to travel to Sargodha, "the entire country will remain shut".

He further accused the administration of deliberately placing obstacles in the way of his convoy.

The JUI-F chief added that the party was neither involved in any unlawful activity nor planning to create disorder, but was exercising its "constitutional and democratic rights". Fazl claimed that the party's protest campaign had already brought the country to a standstill, from Kohistan to Chitral, Chaman to Makran, and Karachi. "They will get tired, but we will not."

The JUI-F chief said his party understood the value of human life, but alleged that the authorities had become accustomed to bloodshed.

"We are ready to sacrifice our blood," he declared.

Security forces kill 12 Indian-backed terrorists in Balochistan

President, PM laud security forces for successful operations against terrorists in Balochistan

RAWALPINDI (APP): Security forces killed 12 Indian-backed terrorists of Fitna al Hindustan in multiple intelligence-based operations in Balochistan province.

"In continuation of counter terrorism campaign, from 20 November onwards, security forces conducted multiple intelligence based operations in Nushki, Sevi, Panjgur and Kech District of Balochistan killing twelve Indian backed terrorists of Fitna Al Hindustan" said an ISPR press release.

On 20 November, terrorist hideout was targeted in Nushki district. After intense engagement eight terrorist belonging to Indian backed Fitna Al Hindustan were neutralised. Weapons and ammunition were recovered from killed terrorists.

On 21 November, in Sevi district terrorist movement was intercepted and two terrorists belonging to Indian backed Fitna Al Hindustan were killed.

In two other engagements on 22/ 23 November in Panjgur and Kech district, terrorist hideouts were busted and two terrorists belonging to Indian backed Fitna Al Hindustan were sent to hell.

Relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision "Azm e Istehkam" (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue at full

Continued on page 2

PM announces committee to review, implement JI's economic proposals

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday announced the formation of a committee to further review and implement proposals presented by Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) aimed at improving the economy and providing relief to the people. He assured that the government would consider the proposals seriously and ensure their implementation with good intent, sincerity and speed.

He was speaking during a meeting with a JI delegation led by Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman, which also included Liaqat Baloch and Inayatullah Khan. The prime minister thanked the delegation and said consultations with the party had been continuing since previous meetings. He said JI's efforts to secure additional relief for the common man were commendable, particularly in view of the unprecedented rise in oil and petrol prices caused by the Gulf conflict. The JI leadership, he noted, had remained in constant contact and kept putting forward proposals to provide further relief to the public.

Recalling the early days of the Iran-US war, the prime minister said that when oil prices surged sharply, the government immediately announced a subsidy. At that time, he said, it was not possible to devise a targeted subsidy mechanism in a short span, so the government decided to extend the subsidy across the country. The federal government alone spent Rs128 billion on the measure, and the provincial governments later joined the initiative, he added. He said that when global oil prices again rose to unbearable levels a few months ago, the government formulated a comprehensive subsidy programme providing relief for motorcycles, rickshaws and vehicles up to 800cc. So far, 20 million people have directly benefitted from the programme, while around 100 million people have benefitted directly or indirectly, he added. The prime minister said several rounds of talks had been held between the government's team and JI on the Ameer's proposals.

Security..

Continued from page 1

pace to wipe out menace of foreign sponsored and supported terrorism from the country.

Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday paid tribute to the security forces for carrying out successful intelligence-based operations against Indian-sponsored terrorists in various districts of Balochistan. The president, in a statement, appreciated the professional performance of the security forces for effectively targeting terrorist hideouts and eliminating the terrorists. "The continued successes of the security forces in the war against terrorism reflect their commitment and sacrifices for peace and stability in the country," the president said adding that "The complete elimination of Fitna al-Hindustan and terrorist elements operating with foreign support is essential for national security".

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday paid tribute to the security forces for carrying out successful anti-terror operations in Balochistan in which 12 Indian-backed terrorists were eliminated.

The prime minister, in a statement, said that the successes of security forces against Indian-backed terrorism were a source of pride.



LAHORE: Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh Hafiz Uddin Ahmad Bir Bikram, accompanied by members of the visiting parliamentary delegation, visits Minar-e-Pakistan at Greater Iqbal Park.

Civil-Military coordination vital..

Continued from page 1

all districts of the province strictly on the basis of merit, with the objective of enhancing transparency, accountability, and efficiency in administrative affairs.

He further noted that the current provincial government has enacted 16 laws to strengthen the law and order apparatus and improve security-related matters. Additionally, work has been accelerated on 'Safe City' projects across various regions of Balochistan, designed to bolster security and surveillance systems through the integration of modern technology.

Highlighting the progress made in the education sector, the Chief Minister said that over the past two years, 758,000 children have been reintegrated into the educational system, furthermore, by recruiting approximately 17,000 teaching staff, all previously closed schools across the province have been made functional.

He noted that practical measures are underway to promote education and provide educational opportunities to children.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti maintained that the provincial government is also improving the provision of healthcare services, steps are being taken to ensure the availability of medicines in government hospitals located in remote areas, aiming to provide citizens with access to basic medical facilities right at their doorsteps.

The Chief Minister reiterated the provincial government's commitment in collaboration with all relevant institutions to continue efforts toward improving law and order, governance, education, healthcare, and development.

He emphasized that an effective administrative system, peace and stability, and the delivery of public services are fundamental requirements for the province's sustainable development.

PM inaugurates..

Continued from page 1

preciated the contributions of Minister for National Health Services, Syed Mustafa Kamal, Minister for Information Technology, the ministry's secretary, the Digital Authority, SIFC, pharmaceutical industry representatives and all relevant departments.

Highlighting the inequalities in access to healthcare, he observed that members of the privileged class could afford treatment at leading hospitals, while millions of ordinary citizens struggled even to meet their basic food requirements, making medical treatment an additional financial burden. He assured of the government's commitment to provide health and education facilities to every citizen of Pakistan.

He expressed hope that, with the cooperation of pharmaceutical industry owners and other stakeholders, more initiatives would be introduced to provide maximum relief and convenience to the common people.

Drawing a comparison with the government's fuel subsidy mechanism, the prime minister said that just as the subsidy process had been made simple and accessible, the Mehfooz Dawa application would also enable citizens to verify medicines conveniently.

Bilawal calls..

Continued from page 1

including food, education and healthcare. Unemployment and uncertainty among educated youth had also reached alarming levels, requiring political leaders to acknowledge ground realities instead of misleading the people. The PPP chairman said the prevailing regional situation offered little prospect of immediate economic relief, making national unity and political stability even more important. He added that political discussions must focus on people's problems rather than remaining confined to parliamentary debates, seminars and television talk shows. Responding to questions about the government's performance, Bilawal said that, given the current challenges, the government and the prime minister should be strengthened, not weakened. He expressed a similar view about the Punjab chief minister, Maryam Nawaz, stressing the need for political cooperation at a time when the country was confronting serious difficulties.

He said the PPP had agreed to and implemented emergency measures despite their unpopularity because terrorism was a red line for the party.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111228433 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION DUKKI invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 1000 PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	Solarization & Laying Of Pipe Line For Water Supply Scheme Killi Malak Ali Muhammad Nasar	2,459,551

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 1,721,685 PKR Amount in2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Completed 2 Similar nature works(Which Includes Installation of Solar System & Laying OF Pipe) each with estimated cost of 70% or above of the project, Workorder with completion certificates which is online verifiable. Affidavit of correctness for applied (TSE No.) on Rs. 100/- stamp paper, duly attested by Oath Commissioner, confirming all submitted information is genuine; otherwise, the bidder shall be rejected All pages of both Technical and Financial Bids Submitted by bidder must be duly signed, stamped, and serially numbered from the first to the last page; otherwise, the bidder shall be declared nonresponsive Power of Attorney (for the said TSE only) on Rs. 100/- stamp paper, duly executed by the firm's owner in favour of the authorized representative and attested by the Oath Commissioner. A separate Technical Brochure shall be submitted for each TSE applied for, clearly indicating the respective TSE Number on the brochure The Turnover Certificate must be issued on or after the advertisement date of the respective TSE on the BPPRA portal or newspaper; earlier certificates shall be non-compliant BPPRA CHALLAN PAID Copy **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 10 December, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 10 December, 2026till 12:00 PM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM Address: XEN PHED Duki Loralai Raod near FC school Duki

Phone no: 0313821662 Email: engrhussain2007@gmail.com

DPRQ/PRQ No.2638/26-11-2026

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION DUKKI

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CORRIGENDUM

The corrigendum is hereby issued for the project having TSE-2627111226033 under PRQ No.2537/19-11-2026 Change in basic eligibility and evaluation criteria and all other terms and conditions remains same.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (ROADS) CWPP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT, PISHIN

PRQ No.2661/26-11-2026

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TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The District Council Duki invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2026 on Percentage Rates.

Bid Security 2% Tender Fee 1000/- for work at serial No.1 & 2000/- for work at serial No. 2 BSDI Phase-III

S #	Description of work	E/Cost
1	Solarization of Shola Public School Chamalang. **TSE-2627111228693**	9,950,000
2	Solarization of Chamalang Coals Mines Hospital. **TSE-2627111228713**	29,850,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **ELIGIBILITY:** All mandatory requirements are mentioned in Bidding documents for qualifying the eligibility criteria. **METHOD OF PROCUREMENT:** Single stage – One envelope bidding procedure for work at serial No.1 and Single Stage – Two Envelope Bidding Procedure for work at serial No. 2 **BID SECURITY:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at call, Bank Guarantee of 2% specified above in the name of undersigned from scheduled bank. **TENDER DOCUMENTS:** The bidding document can be obtained from the office of the under-signed **PKR 1,000** for work at serial No. 1 & **PKR 2,000** for work at serial No. 2 deposited in NBP Account No. 4170957074. **ISSUANCE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS:** From the date of publication of NIT to **11 December, 2026** during office hours on working days. **LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by **11 December, 2026** till **11:00 AM. TENDER OPINING:** All Tender will be opened on same date at office of the undersigned at **12:00 PM. ADRESS:** Office of the District Council Duki. **Phone No.** 0331-8390585

Email: azamqadari09@gmail.com

DAB/AB No.595/26-11-2026

CHIEF OFFICER District Council, Duki

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TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111228303 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION LORALAI invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 1000 PKR

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	WATER SUPPLY SCHEME IN KILLI CHAPLI LORALAI	3%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 5,500,000 PKR Amount in1 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm A non-refundable tender fee of Rs.1000/-, deposited in the relevant head of account, must be submitted in original at a time of bid opening; otherwise, the bid will be rejected The bidders are required to provide @ 3% bid security in favor of the undersigned. The original bid security must be submitted to the P.A at the time of bid opening; otherwise, the bid will not be entertained and shall be declared ineligible The bidder shall provide an Authority Letter/Power of Attorney on Rs.100/- Judicial Stamp Paper for this NIT, mentioning name of work and TSE No., with CNIC copy of the owner duly attested by a 1st Class Magistrate **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 09 December, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 09 December, 2026till 12:00 PM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM Address: EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION LORALAI Phone no: 0824400004

Email: xenpheloralai@tgmail.com

DPRQ/PRQ No.2658/26-11-2026

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION LORALAI

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TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111228573 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (BUILDINGS) PROVNINCIAL DISTRICT BARKHAN invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates **Tender Fee 2000 PKR and Bid Security 2%**

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF MULTI PURPOSE COMMUNITY HALL AT BARKHAN DISTRICT BARKHAN	9,689,066

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 6,782,346 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm The bidder shall submit a Power of Attorney Rs.100/- judicial stamp paper, mentioning the name of work and TSE No., duly attested by the oath commissioner. In case of the owner, a self authorization undertaking on stamp paper shall be provided The bidders are required to provide CDR, Green challan and BPPRA Deposit slip Audit Reports for the last 3 Years 2023-24, 2024-25 & 2025-26 List of all machinery available The bidder shall have successfully completed at least three (03) projects with a scope of work containing at least 80% similar work activities, of the estimated cost, in any Govt. sector in the last three (03) years **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 2,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 14 December, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 14 December, 2026till 09:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 10:00 AM Address: XEn Building CWPP&H Department near DC Office Barkhan

Phone no: 0829668503 Email: xenbuildingbarkhan@gmail.com

DPRQ/PRQ No.2655/26-11-2026

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (BUILDINGS) CWPP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT BARKHAN

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TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111228373 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION DUKKI invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 1000 PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	WSS AT KILLI HAJI UMAR KHAN NASAR DUKKI	5,666,665

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 3,966,665 PKR Amount in2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Completed 2 Similar nature works(Which Includes Drilling of Bore, Installation of Solar System & Laying OF Pipe) each with estimated cost of 70% or above of the project, Workorder with completion certificates which is online verifiable. Affidavit of correctness for applied (TSE No.) on Rs. 100/- stamp paper, duly attested by Oath Commissioner, confirming all submitted information is genuine; otherwise, the bidder shall be rejected All pages of both Technical and Financial Bids Submitted by bidder must be duly signed, stamped, and serially numbered from the first to the last page; otherwise, the bidder shall be declared nonresponsive Power of Attorney (for the said TSE only) on Rs. 100/- stamp paper, duly executed by the firm's owner in favour of the authorized representative and attested by the Oath Commissioner. A separate Technical Brochure shall be submitted for each TSE applied for, clearly indicating the respective TSE Number on the brochure The Turnover Certificate must be issued on or after the advertisement date of the respective TSE on the BPPRA portal or newspaper; earlier certificates shall be non-compliant **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 10 December, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 10 December, 2026till 12:00 PM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM **Address:** XEN PHED Duki Loralai Raod near FC school Duki Phone no: 0313821662

Email: engrhussain2007@gmail.com

DPRQ/PRQ No.2643/26-11-2026

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION DUKKI

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TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111228383 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION DUKKI invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 1000 PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	WSS AT KILLI BARKAT ULLAH & SAIF ULLAH At Dukki	5,666,665

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 3,966,665 PKR Amount in2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Completed 2 Similar nature works(Which Includes Drilling of Bore, Installation of Solar System & Laying OF Pipe) each with estimated cost of 70% or above of the project, Workorder with completion certificates which is online verifiable. Affidavit of correctness for applied (TSE No.) on Rs. 100/- stamp paper, duly attested by Oath Commissioner, confirming all submitted information is genuine; otherwise, the bidder shall be rejected All pages of both Technical and Financial Bids Submitted by bidder must be duly signed, stamped, and serially numbered from the first to the last page; otherwise, the bidder shall be declared nonresponsive Power of Attorney (for the said TSE only) on Rs. 100/- stamp paper, duly executed by the firm's owner in favour of the authorized representative and attested by the Oath Commissioner. A separate Technical Brochure shall be submitted for each TSE applied for, clearly indicating the respective TSE Number on the brochure The Turnover Certificate must be issued on or after the advertisement date of the respective TSE on the BPPRA portal or newspaper; earlier certificates shall be non-compliant BPPRA CHALLAN PAID COPY **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 10 December, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 10 December, 2026till 12:00 PM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM Address: XEN PHED Duki Loralai Raod near FC school Duki

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DPRQ/PRQ No.2644/26-11-2026

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TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111228363 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION DUKKI invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 1000 PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	CONST OF WSS AT KILLI ASAD ULLAH KAREZ THAL CHUTYALI	5,666,665

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 3,966,665 PKR Amount in2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Completed 2 Similar nature works(Which Includes Drilling of Bore, Installation of Solar System & Laying OF Pipe) each with estimated cost of 70% or above of the project, Workorder with completion certificates which is online verifiable. Affidavit of correctness for applied (TSE No.) on Rs. 100/- stamp paper, duly attested by Oath Commissioner, confirming all submitted information is genuine; otherwise, the bidder shall be rejected All pages of both Technical and Financial Bids Submitted by bidder must be duly signed, stamped, and serially numbered from the first to the last page; otherwise, the bidder shall be declared nonresponsive Power of Attorney (for the said TSE only) on Rs. 100/- stamp paper, duly executed by the firm's owner in favour of the authorized representative and attested by the Oath Commissioner. A separate Technical Brochure shall be submitted for each TSE applied for, clearly indicating the respective TSE Number on the brochure The Turnover Certificate must be issued on or after the advertisement date of the respective TSE on the BPPRA portal or newspaper; earlier certificates shall be non-compliant Bppra Challan paid copy **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 10 December, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 10 December, 2026till 12:00 PM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM Address: XEN PHED Duki Loralai Raod near FC school Duki

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DPRQ/PRQ No.2645/26-11-2026

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TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111228353 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION DUKKI invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 1000 PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	WATER SUPPLY SCHEME CHAMALANG COAL MINES PROJECT DUKI	12,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 8,400,000 PKR Amount in2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Completed 2 Similar nature works(Which Includes Drilling of Bore, Installation of Solar System & Laying OF Pipe) each with estimated cost of 70% or above of the project, Workorder with completion certificates which is online verifiable. Affidavit of correctness for applied (TSE No.) on Rs. 100/- stamp paper, duly attested by Oath Commissioner, confirming all submitted information is genuine; otherwise, the bidder shall be rejected All pages of both Technical and Financial Bids Submitted by bidder must be duly signed, stamped, and serially numbered from the first to the last page; otherwise, the bidder shall be declared nonresponsive Power of Attorney (for the said TSE only) on Rs. 100/- stamp paper, duly executed by the firm's owner in favour of the authorized representative and attested by the Oath Commissioner. A separate Technical Brochure shall be submitted for each TSE applied for, clearly indicating the respective TSE Number on the brochure The Turnover Certificate must be issued on or after the advertisement date of the respective TSE on the BPPRA portal or newspaper; earlier certificates shall be non-compliant **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 10 December, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 10 December, 2026till 12:00 PM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM **Address:** XEN PHED Duki Loralai Raod near FC school Duki

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DPRQ/PRQ No.2646/26-11-2026

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CM Bugti orders three-month limit for BPSC exams, doubles PCS attempts

Independent Report

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti has ordered the Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC) to complete the examination process and announce results within three months, saying qualified and hardworking youth should not suffer because of prolonged delays.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review reforms in the commission's examination system, the chief minister approved increasing the number of attempts allowed for Provincial Civil Service (PCS) examinations from three to six.

The meeting also endorsed the introduction of an AI-assisted computerized and paperless examination system, along with the establishment of examination centers in remote parts of the province.

Bugti said unnecessary regulatory barriers should not prevent capable young people from competing for government positions. He stressed that officers selected through PCS examinations play a vital role in the provincial administration, making a transparent and effective recruitment mechanism essential for identifying talented and competent candidates.

The chief minister instructed the authorities to examine the possibility of bringing PCS examinations in line with internationally recognized testing practices, including systems used in examinations such as TOEFL and GRE.

He said modern technology should gradually replace traditional handwritten examinations to improve transparency in testing, evaluation and the compilation of results.

To make competitive examinations more accessible, the meeting approved the establishment of BPSC examination centers in remote areas of Balochistan. The initiative is intended to reduce candidates' travel difficulties and provide them with greater opportunities to take examinations closer to their respective areas.

It was also decided that BUITEMS and other universities would make their examination halls available to the commission free of cost on weekends, helping the BPSC accelerate the examination process.

Bugti reiterated the provincial government's commitment to merit-based appointments, institutional improvement and transparent recruitment.

He said the reforms would help strengthen young people's confidence in state institutions and ensure a more level playing field for qualified candidates.

Earlier, BPSC Chairman Justice (Retd.) Kailash Nath Kohli briefed the meeting on the commission's performance, stating that thousands of cases that had remained unresolved for nearly three years had been cleared within a few months.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti presides over the meeting regarding reforms in Balochistan Public Service Commission.

Role of religious scholars, all segments vital to curb population growth: Speakers

QUETTA (APP): Director General of the Social Welfare Department Ghulam Mustafa, religious scholar Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman, Qari Abdul Rashid and others on Thursday said that birth spacing is essential for the health of both mother and child, to control the growing population, individuals from all walks of life including religious scholars and faith leaders must play their part. The speakers including Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman Khilji, Nasir Khan, PWD Director Dr. Uzma Sohail, Mufti Khalil, Dr. Ambreen Mengal, and Abdul Latif Muhammad Hasni said that married couples should be encouraged and made aware of family planning methods to ensure appropriate spacing between births, comprehensive planning is required to effectively address the challenges arising from rapid population growth. They stated this on Thursday while addressing a seminar for religious leaders organized by the Population Welfare Department and the UNFPA at a local hotel in Quetta. Attendees included Mir Wais Zia (Jam Shifa Hospital), Maulvi Muhammad Shoaib, Syed Nida Muhammad (Khatib of Quetta), Sarfaraz Sheikh Afzal Butt (Khatib of Pishin District), Mir Bahram Baloch, Mir Bahram Lehri, Wali Muhammad, Dr. Shazia Amjad, Dr. Rizwana Tareen, Dr. Maryam Shoaib, Bakht Nisar Kasi, Muhammad Haseeb Khan, Hafiz Abdul Rahman Kakar, Muhammad Arif, Ghulam Farooq, Khatib Muhammad Ashraf, Khatib Kamran Jamil, Mir Ahmed Sami Jan, Abdul Sattar Baloch, Muhammad Anwar, and other religious scholars. The speakers added that furthermore, for the country's development and prosperity, it is vital to provide equal opportunities to every individual and to channel the potential of the youth in a positive direction. They noted that Pakistan's population is currently growing at a very rapid pace, Pakistan ranks among the most populous nations in the world, with the recent census indicating that the population has now exceeded 240 million.

The speakers observed that, with the passage of time, traditional social norms have shifted, decisions that were once made by the elders of the household are now handled differently, it is now up to the husband and wife to decide on the spacing between the births of their children.

They emphasized that, regarding reproductive health, a woman should have the right to decide when to have children and how many children to bear, saying that spacing between births is essential for the well-being of both mother and child, as a woman in good health is more likely to give birth to a healthy child.

The speakers stated that the challenges posed by a growing population require the collective efforts of both the government and all segments of society, in this regard, religious scholars (Ulema) must step forward and play their part by fostering awareness among the public that spacing between births is vital for the health of both mother and child. To this end, the practice of family planning must be adopted.

They noted that the Population Welfare Department, the UNFPA, the Health Department, and other stakeholders are working together to raise awareness about family planning, while also providing young married couples with valuable guidance and the necessary supplies. They emphasized that religious scholars are held in high regard within society; therefore, they should contribute to promoting awareness about family planning, which would help in controlling Pakistan's growing population. They further mentioned that staff from the Population Welfare Department, the Health Department, and other partner organizations are providing women with useful information regarding family planning, ensuring, for instance, that a woman knows which nearby hospital to visit and which doctor to consult when the time for childbirth arrives.

Balochistan steps up climate action as water scarcity, land degradation worsen

Independent Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Adviser on Environment and Climate Change Naseem-ur-Rehman Khan Mulakhail has warned that declining rainfall, increasing water shortages and degradation of agricultural land are posing serious environmental challenges to the province, prompting the government to initiate emergency measures.

He said a comprehensive plan had been prepared under the Green Balochistan campaign to expand tree plantation, control pollution and promote environmental awareness and education across the province.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said Balochistan was particularly exposed to the effects of environmental and climate-related challenges and called for timely and effective measures to reduce future risks.

He identified expansion of forest cover, conservation of water resources and greater reliance on clean energy among the government's key environmental priorities.

Mulakhail said district-level environmental committees were being formed to identify local ecological problems and develop practical responses. The initiative would also involve citizens, civil society organizations and the media in efforts to protect the environment.

He stressed that environmental protection could not be achieved through government action alone and required the participation of all sections of society. The adviser said the provincial government was pursuing measures to build greater climate resilience in the face of mounting environmental pressures.

Meanwhile, the Balochistan government has called on the federal authorities to ensure the province receives an equitable share of climate financing so that it can implement effective measures to address environmental risks and strengthen its capacity to cope with the impacts of climate change.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Commodity Management and Chairman Balochistan Food Authority Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar listening the problems of the people.



QUETTA: MPA Zarak Khan Mandokhail meeting with acting Governor Balochistan Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

Seminar highlights role of women in peace and social development

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism (BCECVE) in collaboration with the Balochistan government organised a seminar at University Law College Quetta as part of the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign. The event focused on the theme, "Building a Violence-Free Society Through the Education and Capacity Building of the Dukhtaran-e-Balochistan. The seminar was attended by academics, students, civil society representatives, and experts, including Dr Dost Muhammad Barech, Chief Coordination Officer of BCECVE, Dr Ismatullah Khan, Principal of University Law College Quetta, Dr Salma Nawaz, and PhD scholar Saima Jamali. Addressing the participants, Dr Dost Muhammad Barech said the objective of the seminar was to empower women and young girls through education, awareness, and positive social engagement while promoting awareness against violent extremism and supporting the protection of women's rights. Speakers highlighted the importance of women's education, equal opportunities, and active participation in decision-making processes, stressing that these factors are essential for achieving sustainable development and building a peaceful and violence-free society.

Wali says: Female students must get equal access to AI, modern technology

Independent Report

LORALAI: Commissioner Loralai Division Wali Muhammad Barrech has stressed the need to equip teachers with digital skills and ensure equal opportunities for female students to pursue artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the concluding ceremony of a two-day training seminar held at BUITEMS Loralai under Phase II of the Balochistan AI Learning Initiative.

Teachers from government girls' schools attended the training, where they were introduced to basic artificial intelligence concepts, digital technologies and practical applications of AI in teaching and research.



GWADAR: Provincial Secretary Education Lal Jan Jaffar talking to students and asking about their studies.



QUETTA: DIG Police Imran Shaukat addresses a press conference regarding the arrest of two suspects allegedly involved in killing people in road accidents and snatching motorcycles in Quetta, while the arrested suspects stand behind him.

DC Kohlu orders swift correction of employees' service records

Independent Report

KOHLU: Deputy Commissioner Kohlu Abdul Hameed Zehri has directed concerned authorities to correct inaccuracies in government employees' service records without delay and resolve administrative grievances to ensure transparency and prevent unnecessary complications in official matters.

He issued the instructions while chairing a meeting held to examine complaints related to employees' personal data and government records.

The session reviewed discrepancies in dates of birth, service records and personal information, along with issues involving SEB records, transfers and other administrative matters.

Gwadar residents seek better healthcare, education and basic services

Independent Report

GWADAR: Additional Chief Secretary Development Balochistan Zahid Saleem has assured residents of Gwadar that their longstanding grievances would be taken up with the relevant departments, while major development and policy matters would be brought before Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

He made the assurance during a public consultation held at the Deputy Commissioner's Office with local elders, civil society representatives and journalists as part of a high-level provincial delegation's visit to the district.

The consultation focused on persistent issues involving healthcare, education, drinking water, irrigation, agriculture, border trade, security arrangements and municipal services.

Residents called for improved medical facilities at government hospitals, including MRI machines, dialysis units, ambulances and adequate numbers of doctors and other healthcare personnel.

The participants also drew attention to shortages of teachers, absenteeism and declining educational standards.

They called for the establishment of middle and high schools for girls to improve access to education in the district.

Water-related concerns also featured prominently during the consultation. Participants discussed the supply of water from Mirani Dam, ongoing water projects, the need to increase dam storage capacity and the payment of compensation to farmers affected by development and water-related projects.



Balochistan Labour and Manpower Secretary Saleh Muhammad Nasir presides over 58th meeting of Balochistan employees' social security institution governing body.

Illegal arms manufacturing centres dismantled in Qila Abdullah operation

QUETTA (APP): A major police operation conducted in Qila Abdullah from 21 to 25 November has resulted in a major crackdown on organised crime, illegal arms manufacturing, drug trafficking, and other criminal activities.

According to a news release issued by the Balochistan government, the operation targeted illegal weapons manufacturing facilities, criminal hideouts, and organised crime networks across the district.

Authorities recovered a large cache of weapons and ammunition, including an LMG, a sniper rifle, SMGs, G-3 rifles, Kalashnikovs, pistols, a shotgun, magazines, and hundreds of rounds of ammunition. Officials said legal action is underway against arrested suspects, while operations against criminal groups continue in different parts of the district. The provincial government reiterated its commitment to combating illegal arms production, narcotics trafficking, extortion, and other organised crimes, emphasizing that public safety, the rule of law, and lasting peace remain top priorities. The government described the operation as a decisive step towards dismantling criminal networks and ensuring a safer environment for the people of Qila Abdullah.

Lashari reviews Quetta's cleanliness drive, calls for improved waste management

QUETTA (APP): Commissioner Quetta Division Zeeshan Lashari chaired a meeting to review the city's overall sanitation situation and measures being taken by Safa Quetta to improve waste management services.

During the meeting, Safa Quetta CEO Dil Nawaz Shah briefed participants on the city's cleanliness operations, challenges, and ongoing initiatives. He informed the meeting that Safa Quetta has been responsible for waste collection and disposal in the city for the past three years and is currently removing more than 40,000 tonnes of waste every month.

The meeting was told that Quetta has 137 dumping sites, six transfer stations, and two landfill sites, including facilities at Eastern Bypass and Kuchlak, where waste disposal operations have recently commenced.

Officials also highlighted improvements in the door-to-door waste collection system, which serves more than 200,000 residential and 95,000 commercial consumers. Additional machinery, manpower, and resources are being provided to further strengthen sanitation services.

Commissioner Zeeshan Lashari directed authorities to utilise all available resources to improve cleanliness across the city, clear dumping sites promptly, and further expand the door-to-door waste collection network. He emphasized the need to make Quetta a model city in terms of sanitation and instructed officials to maintain complete records of sanitation vehicles, machinery, and workforce to ensure effective monitoring and performance evaluation.

He also appealed to citizens to cooperate with the administration by disposing of waste at designated collection points or in waste bags rather than throwing garbage on roads, streets, and in drainage channels, helping maintain a cleaner and healthier urban environment.



Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) members protest on main RCD Road in Hub against arrest of senior leaders, show solidarity with JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

Two suspects in TikToker Akram murder held within 48 hours: DIG

QUETTA (APP):Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, Quetta, Imran Shaukat on Thursday said that police arrested two suspected persons involved in killing of young man and recovered pistols, stolen motorcycle and snatched mobile phone of the victim from their possession.

He said that police utilizing professional expertise, modern technology, and round-the-clock hard work have solved the murder case of 17-year-old Muhammad Akram in less than 48 hours. He expressed these views while addressing a press conference here.

SSP Quetta Zia Mandokhail, SP City Abdul Ghafoor, and other police officers were also present on the occasion.

DIG Imran Shaukat noted that arrested both suspects were identified as Muhammad Basit and Muhammad Ajmal.

He said that the police team including SP City Abdul Ghafoor and DSP Maliha demonstrated exceptional diligence and professional skill in successfully resolving the case, the officers tracked down and apprehended the suspects through the use of modern technology, intelligence, and continuous surveillance.

Commending the performance of the police team, he remarked that this operation serves as proof that the Quetta Police remain constantly vigilant in ensuring the protection of the lives and property of the citizens.

He said that the purpose of this press conference is not merely to highlight police performance, but also to convey a message to the younger generation that resorting to the use of weapons, whether for street crimes or minor offenses leads to dire consequences.

JUI-F leaders condemn arrests, vow to continue democratic struggle

QUETTA (ANN): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Balochistan President Senator Maulana Abdul Wasey and Provincial General Secretary Agha Mahmood Shah have condemned the arrest of party leaders and workers in Punjab, saying such measures cannot deter the party from pursuing its political and democratic struggle.

In a joint statement, the two leaders criticized the arrests of National Assembly member Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, JUI-F Punjab chief Maulana Amjad Khan, Jamiat Talaba-e-Islam Central President Malik Awais and other party workers by Punjab police.

They said the use of state authority against elected representatives and political activists was unacceptable, arguing that political disagreements should be resolved through dialogue and constitutional mechanisms rather than arrests, threats or coercive measures. The JUI-F leaders maintained that attempts to suppress political dissent reflected intolerance and could further intensify political tensions and widen the divide between the government and the public. They called for the immediate release of all detained party leaders and workers, including Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, and demanded an end to what they described as political victimization and raids on the residences of party members. Maulana Abdul Wasey and Agha Mahmood Shah expressed solidarity with the party's leadership and workers, saying JUI-F would continue advocating constitutional and democratic rights through lawful and democratic forums.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Friay November 27, 2026

Settling disputes

With almost 2m court cases clogging the lower judiciary — most of them in Punjab — Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's nod to a proposed panchayat system to resolve local-level disputes is expected to be well received by many litigants. Several factors are responsible for a situation in which disputing parties often find themselves waiting for decades before their cases are settled. A shortage of judges, unclear rules, frequent court adjournments, and corruption at all tiers are just a few of the underlying causes. It is no wonder then that informal forums of 'justice', based more on centuries-old, often barbaric customs than on modern legal principles, persist in the country. Seen in this light, a panchayat system that prioritises community decision-making but with some state regulation, appears, at least theoretically, to be the right move. However, as with any initiative, it is important to closely study similar local justice schemes elsewhere before embarking on the proposed project.

For instance, India's village justice court system aimed at providing inexpensive and accessible justice to rural communities in the country, has had mixed results that should provide a useful clue for the government here. In fact, Pakistan is no stranger to alternative dispute resolution laws intended to reduce the burden on the courts. The Punjab Alternative Dispute Resolution Act, 2019 — recently repealed by the Punjab Alternative Dispute Resolution Ordinance, 2026 — is a case in point. The 'success' of the repealed law can justifiably be questioned. How will the proposed panchayat framework ensure better results? It is too early to be ambitious. Small steps towards the larger goal of an integrated justice system will allow the authorities to ensure accessible legal relief for Pakistan's rural communities — measures that are sensitive to local concerns without straying from constitutional norms. Above all, there can be no further dillydallying on reforms that strengthen the judicial system — judicial slots must be filled, procedures simplified, and corruption reined in.

Predatory medicine

Murad Moosa Khan

"Medicine carries a morality that is destroyed when the emphasis is placed on the bottom line. Unless humanism and professionalism remain, medicine will become just another commodity in life's marketplace."— Dr William W. Parmley

MEDICINE has traditionally been regarded as a profession founded on trust, compassion and an ethical commitment to heal. Patients entrust doctors with their bodies, their fears and, often, their lives. This relationship rests on an implicit promise: that medical decisions will be guided by the patient's best interests. But what happens when the business of medicine begins to take precedence over the practice of medicine?

In his book Predatory Medicine, US cardiologist Jack Vangrow draws attention to an uncomfortable reality: healthcare can become an extractive enterprise in which patients are exploited. He describes how both practitioners and institutions who should be protecting patients, instead exploit patients' limited medical knowledge and trust.

The commercialisation of medicine may not be inherently unethical. Private hospitals, clinics, labs and pharmaceutical firms have an important role in healthcare delivery. Medical innovation and research require investment, and healthcare professionals deserve fair remuneration. The problem arises when profit becomes the dominant consideration and the patient's wellbeing becomes secondary.

Healthcare is a rapidly expanding commercial market in a country where millions cannot afford basic treatment.

Predatory medicine describes many practices that lead to profit-making: unnecessary investigations, excessive prescriptions, avoidable surgical procedures, inappropriate hospital admissions, inflated bills and the promotion of expensive treatments when cheaper, equally effective alternatives exist.

The fundamental problem is the profound imbalance of knowledge and power between doctors and patients. Most patients cannot independently assess whether an investigation is necessary, whether a diagnosis is accurate or whether a proposed intervention offers meaningful benefit. They depend on their physician's integrity and competence. When that trust is exploited, the consequences can be both financial and physical.

Vangrow highlights the culture of professional complicity: doctors who recognise questionable practices but remain silent to protect their careers, professional relationships or financial interests. Predatory medicine, therefore, is not simply about a few unethical practitioners; it becomes embedded in the institutional culture.

Vangrow's observations are highly relevant for Pakistan, where private healthcare has become a hugely lucrative business, while a chronically underfunded public health system struggles to provide even basic services. The private medical sector continues to grow exponentially, with private hospitals, specialist clinics, diagnostic labs and pharmaceutical firms dominating healthcare delivery.

According to Pakistan's National Health Accounts 2021-22, total health expenditure stood at approximately Rs1.96 trillion, with the private sector accounting for 52.6 per cent. Much of this expenditure comes directly from household pockets.

The World Bank's latest available data show that out-of-pocket payments accounted for approximately 53pc of Pakistan's current health expenditure in 2023. These figures illustrate the extent to which healthcare costs are transferred from the state to individual households. They also reveal a stark contradiction: healthcare is a rapidly expanding commercial market in a country where millions cannot afford basic treatment.Public health expenditure remains around one per cent of GDP, leaving government hospitals chronically under-resourced, overcrowded and struggling with shortages of medicines, equipment and personnel.

While wealthier Pakistanis can access private healthcare, the poor have to suffer the indignity of treatment at government facilities, underscoring a deeply unequal healthcare system.

A particular aspect of predatory medicine is to medicalise ordinary social problems, resulting in unnecessary lab tests, polypharmacy and doctor shopping. This is compounded by potential conflicts of interest involving pharmaceutical firms, labs, medical equipment suppliers and healthcare providers.

Pakistan's regulatory institutions — Provincial Healthcare Commissions (PHCs), PMDC and DRAP — have important responsibilities of licensing, quality assurance, professional conduct and patient safety. However, enforcement remains poor. Regulation must be more effective and independent. PHCs need resources and authority to monitor private hospitals and diagnostic facilities. Transparent disclosure of treatment costs, standardised billing, independent clinical audits and accessible patient complaint mechanisms are required.

Addressing predatory medicine requires more than asking individual doctors to behave ethically. It requires changing the structures and incentives within which healthcare is practised. A functioning, adequately funded public health system is essential not only for providing services to those who cannot afford private treatment but also for preventing the private sector from becoming the only realistic option for millions.

Financial relationships between doctors, pharmaceutical firms, labs and hospitals should be disclosed and appropriately regulated. Clinical decisions must be based on evidence and patient need, not commercial incentives. Medical education must place greater emphasis on professional ethics, the social responsibilities of medicine and the doctor-patient relationship. Being a good doctor is not simply about diagnostic accuracy or technical competence; it is also about recognising vulnerability, avoiding unnecessary interventions and respecting patients' autonomy.

Healthcare is not like any other commodity and a patient seeking treatment is not an ordinary consumer making a purchase in a competitive marketplace. Illness creates vulnerability, distress, dependence and desperation. The relationship between a doctor and patient cannot be driven by market principles. In Pakistan, the ethical foundations of medical practice receive insufficient attention. We may have internationally accredited hospitals and specialists, yet still fail in our obligation to provide equitable and compassionate care.

The purpose of medicine is to heal, relieve suffering and protect human dignity. When profit displaces these obligations, medicine becomes predatory. We not only need more hospitals and better technology, but also a commitment to the ethics and social responsibility that should define the medical profession.

One light day

Asad-ul-Mulk

On Nov 18, 2026 (today), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) spacecraft, Voyager 1, the furthest travelled human-made object, launched in 1977 and since then travelling at a non-stop average speed of 61,200km per hour, will cover a distance of one light day.

In Cosmos, astronomer Carl Sagan writes, "The dimensions of the cosmos are so large that using familiar units of distance, such as meters or miles, chosen for their utility on earth, would make little sense. Instead, we measure distance with the speed of light [ie the distance light travels in one year]". Light travels at the superluminal speed of 1,079,252,848km/h, and thus is capable of orbiting the earth's equator 7.5 times in one second. A Boeing 747, travelling at non-stop cruising speed, which is around 900km/h, would take around 3,300 years to cover a distance of one light day, and reach where Voyager 1 will be today.

For the feat, you would have had to take off in a Boeing 747 in the Bronze Age, when Rameses II was ruling Egypt, and travel continuously at cruising speed to cover a distance of one light day by 2026. Your journey would have had to commence in a world before Christ, Cyrus, Caesar and Confucius.

While a light day seems very far, on the cosmic scale, it is mundanely trivial. Our nearest star, Proxima Centauri, is about 4.2 light-years away. A journey Voyager 1 — according to Nasa — is expected to cover in 75,000 years, despite its hypersonic speed.

Imagine what lies beyond the gaze of the naked eye.

To fathom the stupefying distances, Richard Dawkins in The Magic of Reality writes, "Go out into a big field with a football and plonk it down to represent the sun [which is 1.3 million times larger than the earth in volume]. Then walk 25 metres away and drop a peppercorn to represent the Earth's size and its distance from the sun. The moon, to the same scale, would be a pinhead, and it would be only 5 centimetres away from the peppercorn. But the nearest other star, Proxima Centauri, to the same scale, would be another (slightly smaller) football, located about six-and-a-half thousand kilometres away". That is about the same distance from London to Chicago.

We naively believe that when we gaze up into the night sky, we witness billions upon billions of stars — and perceive this as infinity. The actual number is close to 6,000, with the furthermost stars visible to the naked eye being posited no further than 15,000 light-years away. Imagine what lies beyond the gaze of the naked eye.

The Milky Way galaxy, with its 100 to 400 billion stars, is estimated by Nasa to be 100,000 light-years across. Our solar system, situated about 27,000 light years from the galactic centre of the Milky Way hosting the super-giant black hole, Sagittarius A*, and orbiting it at a rate of 828,000 km/h, takes approximately 230m years to complete one galactic year.

The last time our solar system was where it is now, dinosaurs had just begun to appear. In The Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs, Gregory S. Paul writes, "Only one galactic year ago the dinosaurs had just appeared on planet earth. When dinosaurs first appeared, our solar system was already well over 4 billion years old, and 95 per cent of the history of our planet had already passed".

Our nearest galaxy, the Andromeda galaxy with its one trillion stars, is around 2.5m light years away, what to say of the other two trillion galaxies which are spread across an observable universe with a diameter 93bn light-years across.

Stephen Hawking illuminates in A Brief History of Time how Edwin Hubble's discoveries in 1929 led to "the landmark ob--servation that wherever you look, distant galaxies are moving rapidly away from us. In other words, the universe is expanding". Acco-rdingly, the further galaxies are, the faster they recede, sometimes faster than the speed of light. Though nothing can travel faster than the speed of light, space can expand faster. The inference — even if we were miraculously able to travel at the speed of light, there would be parts of the universe which would be perpetually beyond our reach. We, homo sapiens, whom paleoanthropologists believe appeared 300,000 years ago, seldom view our own insignificance from this cosmic perspective. If we did, it would rob us of our prejudices, partialities and pre-conceptions.

In his essay Wonder and Skepticism, Carl Sagan writes, "The truth may be puzzling. It may take some work to grapple with. It may be counterintuitive. It may contradict deeply held prejudices. It may not be consonant with what we desperately want to be true. But our preferences do not determine what's true".

Voyager 1's feat of travelling one light day should be a moment of pride and humility for the whole of humanity.

Films and politics

Arifa Noor

I Happened to catch an Indian film on Netflix this week, Daayra. And for some reason, it stayed with me so much that I would rather write about it this week than any of the more important topics such as soobay, local governments, kruption and the various political statements on each of these issues.

The film caught my eye because it starred Kareena Kapoor in a non-glam role, which in itself should have sent off alarm bells. The last such film she did was also rather meh but then film watching is generally a case of hope over experience. Or simply just boredom when it comes to streaming platforms.

This too appeared to be an OTT release and revolved around police encounters; the second rea-son for my interest. After all, it's an issue that has garnered much attention these days in Pakistan.

The film revolves around a brutal gang rape and murder of a young woman and the police on the hunt for the accused. Once they are caught, the police team sent to catch them take a quick decision to kill them all in an encounter. And the encounter leads to what appears to be nationwide celebrations by ordinary people. The police officer who led the chase and the encounter beco-mes a celebrity who is asked for 'selfies' and why not, for his biceps are just as impressive and just as tightly clad as those of the spies in Dharundar.

Storytelling has become more cautious in the Indian film industry, especially where politics is concerned. But despite the celebratory mood, some human rights organisations file petitions compelling the police to send an internal team to investigate the incident. Enter Kapoor and her band of police-wallahs. The rest of the film provides two parallel accounts of the rape and its investigation by the police team and the one by the internal affairs team. And somehow this is where the film loses its focus — perhaps it was meant to play out like a debate between why encounters happen in societies such as ours and why they shouldn't.

But either for lack of focus or beliefs, the script leans in favour of encounters to ensure 'justice' in a creaky system that is a punishment in itself. For example, there are ample references to the Delhi case culprits and that the system failed in ensuring closure. One of the Delhi rape case culprits even makes an appearance in the film; the juvenile who has now been settled elsewhere with a different identity.

In another instance, the mother of the victim, when told of the arrests, contradicts the police officer who is trying to tell her that her suffering is over; for her it is about to begin with endless trips to the courts. The police officer and she are then united in their grief it seems — the grief of no quick and clear end.

But the film just doesn't play on the grief caused by lengthy court cases. It removes nuance altogether in its portrayal of the accused. They are working-class men who guzzle whisky in their downtime and then rape and murder women. This is their pastime and they have the routine down pat. Little effort is made to add any humanity to them — even the family of the main accused is quick to argue that he could barely talk and would get the benefit of reduced mental capacity. That a poor family is even aware of such concessions in the legal system is interesting.

In contrast, the police officers are honest, hardworking men and women who simply want to help the victim's family bring closure and rid the world of evil. There are no corrupt police officers here who carry out encounters at the behest of the powerful and/or end up targeting innocent people, out of sheer incompetence or for money. There are no politicians in this world who might be pushing this policy on the law enforcement personnel. It's simply the police with hearts of gold, who are playing vigilantes, the way Amitabh was an angry young man, fighting against the system.

There is little to counter all this. Just Kareena Kapoor and her vague belief in following procedure and trusting the system. The morality of the matter and the havoc it can wreak is left to the audience's imagination and understanding. There is no mention of corruption or policemen or politicians who might turn encounters into a policy or the death of innocent people. Nor are there any rich or privileged accused who could perhaps not be disposed of this easily.

There is little debate or grey areas here, despite the film's pretensions. And no nuance or issue to explore; something that hits home here in Pakistan with our recent debates over extrajudicial killings in Punjab and elsewhere. Or the death of Naqeebullah which led to the rise of the PTM. It makes one wonder if the filmmaker, Meghna Gulzar, set out to indict the system over how it treats rapists, or the poor understanding and writing led to a less nuanced approach.

Be that as it may, there is also the larger arc of the Indian film industry where storytelling has become more cautious, especially where political commentary is concerned. Meghna Gulzar's father, filmmaker Gulzar, lived at a time when he could make films such as Maachis, which was a beautiful and nuanced account of the insurgency in Indian Punjab. Twenty years later, it is a film that continues to haunt viewers for its depiction of those who got caught in an insurgency. And while one can debate the skills of one filmmaker compared to another, it is perhaps also about the space available in a society.

Karachi building collapse murder, not accident: Murad

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah termed the collapse of a newly constructed building in Karachi Administration Employees Cooperative Housing Society (KAECHS) a "murder", saying such large-scale illegal construction could not take place without the collusion of government officials.

The chief minister made these remarks during a visit to the site of the collapsed building, where officials of the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) and police briefed him on the incident.

Expressing anger over the illegal construction of the building, Murad Ali Shah questioned SBCA officials about how such structures were being erected in the area.

When officials informed him that several nearby buildings had been sealed, the chief minister asked why action had not been taken against them earlier.

The officials reportedly responded that builders had obtained stay orders from courts.

Sindh CM vows to further empower LG system

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Thursday said that the government has decided to form a committee to further empower the local government system.

He was addressing a press conference over the building collapse incident at Karachi Administration Society which was resulted in losses of life while 17 persons still missing.

Murad Ali Shah said that the Sindh government was running the local government system in very difficult time, "We didn't escape from the local government elections in the pretext of difficulties and hard circumstances". He said the government has decided to constitute a government committee to present proposals for further empowerment of the local government system. "A committee headed by Nasir Hussain Shah and Zia Lanjar being formed", he said.

This committee will hold meetings will all stakeholders, civil society, business community, labourers, farmers and journalists. "The Sindh government will consider the suggestions taken from the stakeholders," Murad Ali Shah said. The committee will start working by the next week and submit its recommendations to the provincial cabinet within three months, he said. "We will try to finalize a draft within three months".

"We have to further empower the local government system and will try to hold local bodies polls in scheduled time," chief minister said.

He said the next elections of local bodies will be held under the further empowered the local government law.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah addresses media at CM House in Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, along with Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf and Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Syed Imran Ahmad Shah, presents prizes to winners during the prize distribution ceremony of the 2nd International Qiraat Competition 2026 at the NDMA Auditorium.

Apni Chhat Apna Ghar programme gains global recognition: CM Punjab

MULTAN (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Thursday said the 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme had gained international recognition, with Azerbaijan, Muscat and others acknowledging it as a low-cost housing initiative.

Addressing a gathering of around 25,000 beneficiaries at Multan Cricket Stadium, she said the programme was not only the largest low-cost housing initiative in Punjab but had the potential to emerge as a global model for affordable housing.

She said nearly 135,000 houses had been completed during the past two and a half years, while another 150,000 were nearing completion. The initiative had transformed the lives of thousands of families who previously spent a substantial portion of their earnings on house rents.

The chief minister said she had come to South Punjab to share the fulfilment of commitments made to the people, adding that witnessing such a large number of families becoming homeowners was a moment of immense happiness.

"Congratulations to all those who spent their entire lives in rented houses and have now become owners of their own homes," she said.

Maryam Nawaz said PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had directed her to double the five-year housing target from 500,000 to one million houses.

She said families who previously struggled with increasing rents and frequent shifting were now paying even lower monthly instalments to own their houses. Their earnings could now be spent on their families and household needs rather than rent.

She added that the upcoming winter would see thousands of families enjoying sunshine in the courtyards of their own homes.

The chief minister said she had placed complete trust in the people despite suggestions that plots should be kept as security against possible loan defaults. She claimed that not a single beneficiary among the 250,000 families associated with the programme had defaulted on loan repayments.

Describing the initiative as a gift from a sister to daughters, mothers and fathers.

IG Punjab chairs session over recovery of missing women

LAHORE (INP): IG Police Punjab, Rao Abdul Karim has directed police department to step up efforts for recovery of the missing women.

The police chief was presiding over a session over the disappeared women in Punjab.

The session was briefed that the special teams headed by the DIG-Investigation working over the issue. Various special teams have been constituted, comprising of women police officers, special branch and investigation officials.

IG Police Punjab directed officials to get help from identity cards, B-form, passports, mobile sims and travel history in investigation.

He also directed the DPOs and SPs to monitor the progress on daily basis in missing women cases and urged for offering full attention to new cases of the current year along with the pending cases.

"Keep contact with police departments of other provinces, jail officials and the FIA," police chief directed.

Morocco's Qari wins first position in 2nd International Qirat Competition 2026

ISLAMABAD (APP): Morocco's Qari Ilyas Lamhaque secured first position, while Pakistan's Qari Abdul Quddus Al-Baz and Indonesia's Qari Daniyal Muhammad Habibullah clinched second and third positions, respectively, at the Second International Qirat Competition 2026, which concluded in Islamabad on Thursday.

The position holders were selected by a panel of judges from Iran and Egypt, headed by Chief Judge Qari Syed Sadaqat Ali.

The first, second and third position holders were awarded cash prizes of Rs5 million, Rs3 million and Rs2 million, respectively.

The three-day international competition, organised by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, was attended by distinguished Qaris from 32 countries, including Pakistan, who captivated the audience with their melodious recitation of the Holy Quran.

The successful holding of the international event highlighted the message of strengthening religious, cultural and fraternal ties between Pakistan and participating countries.

It also underscored the importance of promoting unity, harmony, mutual respect and a stronger connection with the Holy Quran among the Muslim Ummah.

Bangladesh Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmed arrives in Lahore

LAHORE (INP): Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament (Jatiya Sangsad) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, Bir Bikram, arrived in the provincial capital on Thursday along with a high-level parliamentary delegation.

The visit, running from November 24 to 28, marks the first-ever official visit to Pakistan by a Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament. Provincial Minister for Industries, Commerce and Investment Chaudhry Shafay Hussain received the visiting Speaker at Allama Iqbal International Airport.Welcoming the delegation, Chaudhry Shafay Hussain described the visit as a historic milestone in parliamentary relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh, noting that the two brotherly countries were bound by strong ties rooted in shared history and culture.



KARACHI: Minister of State and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Media Fahd Haroon receives British Deputy High Commissioner in Karachi Alison Blackburne during her visit to his residence, while UK Deputy Head of Mission Tom Burge is also present on the occasion.

Governor says

Iqbal's philosophy continues to inspire youth towards progress

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday said that Allama Muhammad Iqbal remained a guiding light for the nation whose philosophy of selfhood, dignity and determination continued to inspire the younger generation towards success and national progress.

Addressing an Allama Iqbal Conference organized by the Muslim Institute at the Governor House in connection with Iqbal Month, the Governor said it was a collective responsibility to convey Iqbal's thoughts and philosophy to the youth. The conference was attended by PPP Parliamentary Leader in KP Assembly Ahmad Karim Kundi, Chairman of the Muslim Institute Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali, Prof. Dr. Noor-ul-Amin Yousafzai, educationists, intellectuals and students. Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali, Ahmad Karim Kundi, Prof. Dr. Noor-ul-Amin Yousafzai and other speakers also highlighted various aspects of Allama Iqbal's philosophy. The Governor said Iqbal's message remained as relevant today as ever, adding that his concept of Khudi encouraged individuals to recognize their inner strength and develop strong moral character. He said education was the key to national development and prosperity, emphasizing that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had no shortage of talent but required greater opportunities for young people to excel.

DIKhan achieves 82% coverage in cervical cancer prevention drive

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): District Dera Ismail Khan has achieved 82 percent coverage by vaccinating 110,945 girls during the 12-day Cervical Cancer Prevention Campaign, marking a significant milestone in efforts to protect adolescent girls against cervical cancer.

District Health Officer (DHO) Dr Syed Muhammad Maseed appreciated the coordinated efforts of the district health authorities, Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) teams, World Health Organization, UNICEF, education department, government and private schools, community representatives and partner organisations for making the campaign successful.

He also acknowledged the support of Deputy Commissioner Hikmatullah Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners for their administrative leadership and field coordination.



PESHAWAR: Vice Chancellors of Public Sector Universities meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi.

Karachi building collapse:

LG Secretary, DC, SSP, SBCA officials removed

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday expressed his annoyance and displeasure over the collapse of a building in the Administrative Society near Baloch Colony and ordered strict action against officials found responsible for negligence.

He chaired a high-level meeting at CM House to review the incident, which was attended by provincial ministers Syed Nasir Hussain Shah and Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar, Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Haider Shah, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi and other senior officials.

Expressing his serious concern over the incident, the chief minister said he would not tolerate any incident resulting in loss of human lives or causing harm and suffering to people.

After receiving a briefing on the incident and consulting Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, the chief minister took several important decisions regarding the Local Government Department.

He ordered the immediate removal of Local Government Secretary Waseem Shamshad from his post and also directed his removal from the position of Director General of the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA). The chief minister also recommended to the federal government the immediate suspension of Waseem Shamshad and initiation of an inquiry against him.



Rescue operations continue as collapse of unauthorized six-storey building in Karachi leaves four dead and 13 injured.

Turkish judicial delegation visits LHC to fortify judicial cooperation

LAHORE (APP): A high-level judicial delegation from the Court of Cassation of the Republic of Türkiye, currently on a five-day official visit to Pakistan, visited the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday to strengthen institutional ties and promote judicial cooperation between the two countries.

LHC Chief Justice Aalia Neelum, accompanied by other judges of the court, received the distinguished guests and welcomed them with bouquets upon their arrival. The Turkish delegation comprised Adem Albayrak, Vice President of the Court of Cassation and President of the General Assembly of Civil Chambers; Ahmet Ömeroglu, Vice President of the Court of Cassation and President of the General Assembly of Criminal Chambers; Mahmut Coskun, President of the 6th Civil Chamber; Ali Ünsat, President of the 12th Criminal Chamber; and Elif Özalp Ergün, Deputy Secretary General and Judge of the Court of Cassation. Following the welcome ceremony, the delegation held a meeting with Chief Justice Aalia Neelum and other LHC judges, during which both sides exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

CNIC cancellation

PHC directs applicants to approach NADRA

PESHAWAR (APP): The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has directed applicants whose Pakistani national identity cards were cancelled on the basis of holding Afghan Citizen Cards to approach the relevant forum of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) for redressal.

During the hearing, Chief Justice SM Atiq Shah observed that some people had allegedly accepted Rs10,000 each to include Afghan nationals in their family trees. He added that thousands of cases involving fake marriage certificates and identity cards had also come before the court.

New provinces:

Punjab PA Speaker urges all political parties to sit together and settle matters

ISLAMABAD (INP): Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Ahmad Khan said his position on the division of provinces and a referendum was clear: the people hold the ultimate authority. However, he said it would be better if Parliament resolved the issue of provinces through mutual consultation, and urged all political parties to sit together and settle matters.

Speaking to reporters, Khan said the Constitution clearly lays out the procedure for holding a referendum. He said 60 countries around the world use referendums to decide important national matters, describing a referendum as an expression of the people's will. If the people themselves are deciding an issue, he added, Parliament's role recedes.

Khan said his position on provincial powers was also clear, adding that authority over matters concerning the provinces rested with the heads of political parties. He said the Pakistan Peoples Party speaks in the National Assembly about dividing provinces, while the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz walks out over the issue.

He said the prime minister had also made clear that provincial representatives should speak cautiously about a referendum. Khan added that the prime minister had issued guidance that the subject could be discussed positively.

Two arrested after acid attack injures sisters in Burewala

BUREWALA (INP): Two sisters sustained acid burns after two motorcycle-borne men allegedly threw acid on them in Christian Colony, police said on Thursday.

The injured women were shifted to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, Burewala, for treatment.

Police identified the suspects as Noman and Rauf and arrested both shortly after the incident. DSP Burewala Rana Muhammad Imraz Tipu confirmed their arrest.

According to police, the victims and suspects belong to the Christian community and had an existing enmity.



Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) protesters block road in solidarity with Maulana Fazlur Rehman and arrested leaders in Peshawar.

NA Sub-body calls for timely completion of K-IV project to ameliorate water supply situation

KARACHI (APP): A sub-committee of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Water Resources, reviewing progress on K-IV Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply project on Thursday, called for expediting the work to ensure timely completion of the project and provision of tap water to residents of Karachi.

The expected completion date of WAPDA works is June 2027 and Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation, through simultaneous alternate arrangements, will start pumping the additional water in its current supply network till completion of the augmentation project of Sindh government, likely in 2029, the Convenor of the Sub-Committee, MNA Muhammad Idress stated while talking to media along with other legislators after the meeting.

Stressing on provision of every gallon of the allotted water to the residents of the most populated city and economic engine of Pakistan, he said that the committee received briefings and sought further detailed records of the project to probe in matters relating to inordinate delays despite spending millions of rupees and ascertain the causes and the responsible officials. Final findings and recommendations of the Sub-committee will be submitted in a report to the standing committee for further proceeding, he added.

MNA Syed Aminul Haq, at the occasion, said that WAPDA has completed 73% of its assigned works and those appeared to achieve completion by June 2027; however further delay is visible at part of the KWSC.

He added that Sindh government officials have assured that people of Karachi will start receiving water from the K-IV project in 2027.

Earlier in the meeting, chaired by the Convenor of the Sub-committee Muhammad Idrees, the project's implementation status, reasons for delays, design issues, planning and accountability for the slow pace of work were discussed in detail.

Samar Bilour emphasises strengthening of civil defence's institutional capacity in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Adviser to the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Samar Haroon Bilour visited the Directorate of Civil Defence Peshawar along with Secretary Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Department Yousaf Rahim.

According to a spokesperson for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Department, Samar Haroon Bilour was presented a guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of Civil Defence Peshawar on her arrival.

Director Civil Defence Tariq Hussain briefed the visiting dignitaries on the department's organisational structure, legal mandate, activities and performance. They were also apprised of the longstanding administrative, financial and other issues faced by the department. Speaking on the occasion, Samar Haroon Bilour lauded the selfless services and dedication of Civil Defence volunteers, saying they were playing a vital role in protecting people during natural disasters and emergency situations. She said Civil Defence was an important public service institution playing a fundamental role in safeguarding the lives and property of citizens, adding that the department needed greater attention, institutional support and provision of necessary resources in view of its significance. She assured that every possible effort would be made during her tenure to address the issues faced by Civil Defence, improve its administrative and financial support and strengthen its operational capacity.

PM directs reforms to boost gemstone exports, develop complete value chain

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday directed authorities to accelerate reforms in Pakistan's gemstone sector, emphasizing the need to establish international-standard laboratories, introduce modern mining techniques and develop a complete value chain to boost exports.

Chairing a high-level review meeting here, the prime minister said Pakistan was blessed with vast reserves of precious gemstones but outdated mining practices and limited processing facilities were causing significant losses to the national economy.

"Pakistan has enormous potential in gemstone mining, value addition and exports," he said, adding that the government was taking comprehensive measures on priority to develop the sector.

The prime minister directed the establishment of international-standard laboratories for gemstone identification and certification to improve the quality, credibility and international competitiveness of Pakistani gemstones.

He also instructed the authorities to send Pakistani master trainers to Sri Lanka and Thailand for specialized training in gemstone processing. The Foreign Secretary was directed to ensure that Pakistani ambassadors in the relevant countries extended full support to facilitate the training programme.

During the meeting, it was told that Pakistan had an estimated 300 million carats of gemstone reserves, with more than 9,000 miners engaged in extracting over 30 varieties of precious stones. The sector is linked to more than 5,500 businesses across the country. However, the industry continues to face major challenges, including the export of raw gemstones, wastage of more than 50 percent during mining operations, a shortage of modern technical expertise and limited value-addition facilities.

To address these shortcomings, the government has prepared a comprehensive reform strategy aimed at transforming the sector from raw material extraction to finished gemstone products. A Rs 4.10 billion project is being implemented to establish facilitation centres in Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Islamabad. Other initiatives include the establishment of 80 banking facilitation desks.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on development gemstone industry in Pakistan.



Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairing a meeting of the Steering Committee on Wheat Import for the year 2026–27, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad.

Pak-Maldives direct flights by May 2027, new investment avenues, stronger trade ties

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan visited the third day of FoodAg Pakistan 2026 at the Karachi Expo Centre, where he held a high-level bilateral meeting with the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation of the Republic of Maldives, Mr. Mohamed Saeed, and engaged with international delegates, exhibitors and Pakistan's Trade and Investment Officers (TIOs) to explore new avenues for trade, investment and export promotion.

During his meeting with the Maldivian Minister, both sides discussed a broad framework of economic cooperation encompassing direct air connectivity, maritime links, bilateral trade, tourism, investment, healthcare and human resource development, said a release issued here on Thursday. The Maldivian delegation indicated that it was targeting "May 2027 for the launch of direct flights between Pakistan and the Maldives", subject to the completion of necessary arrangements. The Chief Executive of the Maldivian national airline also attended the meeting.

Welcoming the proposed initiative, Jam Kamal Khan observed that direct flights, complemented by commercially viable shipping services, could significantly strengthen business exchanges, tourism and trade between the two countries. He emphasised that sustainable connectivity was essential for developing reliable supply chains and expanding bilateral economic engagement.

Building upon the recent visit of the Maldivian President to Pakistan, the Federal Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to becoming a reliable, long-term economic partner of the Maldives.

He identified significant opportunities for Pakistani exports, particularly food and agricultural products, pharmaceuticals, textiles, leather, construction materials and other industrial goods, while emphasising the importance of meeting the quality standards and requirements of the Maldivian hospitality industry.

The discussions also explored investment opportunities in the Maldives' growing tourism sector, particularly halal tourism and Shariah-compliant resort development.

The Maldivian delegation invited Pakistani investors to explore opportunities under its tourism diversification strategy, highlighting more flexible investment arrangements for halal tourism within its island resort model.

Finance Minister, UNDP discuss climate finance cooperation under Türkiye's COP31 bridge initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday met a delegation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), led by Resident Representative Samuel Rizk, to discuss Pakistan's development priorities, climate finance opportunities and enhanced cooperation with development partners.

Senior Ministry of Finance officials also attended the meeting, according to a press release issued by finance ministry.

The UNDP delegation highlighted Pakistan's progress in developing a pipeline of potential investments aligned with national development and climate priorities. The portfolio brings together projects from the SDG Investment Pipeline, Climate Prosperity Plans and other climate adaptation initiatives.

It comprises a range of projects covering clean energy and infrastructure, climate resilience, water and food security, ecosystems, and circular economy initiatives. The UNDP noted that the portfolio could serve as a starting point for identifying investment opportunities and mobilising resources. The discussion focused on prioritising technically sound, investment-ready projects capable of delivering tangible results within a shorter timeframe.

On the occasion, the Finance Minister underscored the importance of aligning the initiative with national priorities and concrete development outcomes. He emphasised that the next phase should focus on a carefully selected portfolio of projects with clear implementation pathways and the potential to demonstrate timely progress.

The Minister highlighted the importance of close coordination and stakeholder consultation to ensure that the initiative remains aligned with national priorities, drawing on relevant institutional expertise and mandates.

He observed that climate finance requires a coordinated approach to project development, financing and implementation. He emphasised the need to build on existing project pipelines, engage relevant stakeholders and identify opportunities to accelerate projects already under consideration by multilateral development partners.

The Minister also stressed the importance of making effective use of available financing opportunities, including concessional resources, climate funds and private-sector investment, while recognising the time required to mobilise international finance. He called for a focused and manageable set of priority projects.

The UNDP outlined its proposed support in refining the portfolio, undertaking a diagnostic assessment, facilitating project preparation and engaging with global climate financing mechanisms. The discussion also covered blended finance and public-private partnerships, particularly in areas such as renewable energy, waste management, recycling and climate-smart agriculture.

The meeting also considered lessons from recent climate-induced disasters and the importance of strengthening long-term resilience through institutional preparedness, disaster risk reduction and enhanced institutional capacity. The Finance Minister welcomed UNDP's continued engagement and reaffirmed the Ministry of Finance's readiness to support a coordinated and results-oriented approach.

Maritime Minister proposes at least 5pc value addition target for seafood exporters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has proposed that seafood exporters allocate at least five per cent of their total exports to value-added products, noting that only three of 578 seafood exporters currently deal in such products.

The minister made the proposal while chairing a meeting to discuss measures for increasing seafood exports. He also constituted a committee to engage provincial fisheries departments and exporters and recommend ways to promote processed seafood products and enhance the sector's foreign exchange earnings.

The committee, headed by Fisheries Development Commissioner Dr Muhammad Hafeez-ur-Rehman of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, will coordinate with provincial authorities and exporters to identify opportunities and propose measures to expand value addition in the seafood industry.

The meeting, attended by provincial fisheries representatives through video link and senior officials of the ministries of maritime affairs and national food security, reviewed ways to diversify seafood exports beyond raw products.

Junaid Chaudhry urged exporters to start value-addition activities on a small scale in the beginning and gradually expand their operations.

He encouraged businesses to invest in processing, packaging and other activities that could help them access higher-value international markets.

He also proposed holding a workshop involving provincial fisheries departments, exporters and other stakeholders to identify barriers to value addition and formulate practical recommendations for boosting processed seafood exports.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan meets the Minister of Tourism and Aviation of the Republic of Maldives on the sidelines of FoodAg 2026 at the Expo Centre, discussing ways to strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Rs300 billion SME financing package to unlock industrial growth, create jobs: Javed

FAISALABAD (APP): Chairman All Pakistan Cotton Power Looms Association (APCPLA) Chaudhry Javed Sharif has welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement of a Rs300 billion concessional loan package for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), describing it as a significant breakthrough that could strengthen the national industrial base, accelerate economic activity and open up new employment opportunities for youth of the country.

In a statement here on Thursday, he said that small and medium-sized industries were backbone of national economy, playing a vital role in sustaining industrial production, generating employment and supporting business activities. Provision of affordable financing to SMEs on easy terms would enable them to overcome financial constraints, expand operations and enhance their contribution to economic growth, he added.

Chaudhry Javed Sharif said that allocation of Rs300 billion for SME sector was an encouraging step that reflected the government's recognition of the importance of small businesses, traders and industrialists in the country's economic development.

He observed that easier access to credit would provide small entrepreneurs and industrialists with opportunities to expand their businesses, invest in modern technology, improve production capacity and make their enterprises more competitive. It would also encourage new business ventures, stimulate investment and create additional employment opportunities, particularly for young people, he added.

The association chairman expressed hope that the government would ensure transparent, efficient and effective implementation of the financing package so that its benefits could reach genuinely deserving small business owners.

WCCIS, Askari Bank discuss collaboration opportunities

SIALKOT (APP): The leadership of the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sialkot (WCCIS) including its President Shabnam Asif and Senior Vice President (SVP) Nadia Qaiser held a meeting with representatives of Askari Bank on Thursday to explore potential areas of cooperation and discuss banking services for the business community.

The bank's delegation included Group Head – Islamic Banking, Commercial, SME and Trade Javed Iqbal, and Senior Vice President and Regional Head, Sialkot Ehtesham-ul-Haq.

During the meeting, the Askari Bank representatives shared insights into the bank's latest products and services, highlighting its banking solutions for businesses and entrepreneurs.

Both sides also exchanged views on potential avenues for collaboration between WCCIS and Askari Bank, with a focus on strengthening institutional ties and facilitating the business community.

Exports up 8.24% to Rs 3.19trl in 4 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Exports in rupee term increased by 8.24 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

Exports during July–October (2026-27) totaled Rs.3,193,157 million as against Rs.2,950,116 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 8.24%, according to PBS provisional data.

Meanwhile, exports from Pakistan during October, 2026 amounted to Rs.829,472 million as against Rs.829,456 million in September, 2026 and Rs.800,551 million during October, 2025 showing an increase of 0.002% over September, 2026 and of 3.61% over October, 2025.

Main commodities of exports during October, 2026 were knitwear (Rs.135,328 million), readymade garments (Rs.109,844 million), bed wear (Rs.78,395 million), cotton cloth (Rs.39,107 million), petroleum products, excluding top naphta (Rs.35,915 million), rice others (Rs.29,106 million), towels (Rs.27,588 million), cotton yarn (Rs.23,243 million), madeup articles, excluding towels and bedwear (Rs.22,453 million) and fish & fish preparations (Rs.18,653 million).

Gold prices surge by Rs 4,700 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The prices of gold witnessed a significant increase in the local market on Thursday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola rising by Rs 4,700 to settle at Rs 378,636, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold increased by Rs 4,030 to Rs 324,619, while 10 grams of 22-karat gold rose by Rs 3,695 to Rs 297,578.

In the international market, the price of gold increased by US$ 47 to $3,561 per ounce, the association reported.

Govt proposes limiting three-month fuel adjustment increase to 83 paisa per unit

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government has proposed limiting the increase in Fuel Cost Adjustment (FCA) to 83 paisa per unit for October-December 2026 to protect electricity consumers from an additional financial burden. The Power Division, in a statement issued on Thursday, said the proposed three-month mechanism aims to shield consumers from uncertainty arising from fluctuations in international fuel prices.

It said when the present Government assumed office in March 2024, the national average electricity tariff (inclusive of taxes) stood at Rs. 53.04 per unit, while the industrial tariff was Rs. 62.99 per unit. Through concerted efforts and key policy and reform initiatives, the Government successfully reduced the national average tariff by Rs. 8.76 per unit to Rs. 44.28 per unit by March 2026, prior to the onset of the Iran-US war and the ensuing energy crisis in the Middle East. The reduction in industrial tariffs was even more significant, declining by Rs. 18.49 per unit from Rs. 62.99 to Rs. 44.50 per unit over the same period.

However, the Iran-US war triggered a sharp increase in international fuel prices, particularly RLNG and coal, exerting upward pressure on monthly Fuel Cost Adjustments (FCAs).

The Power Division closely monitored the evolving situation and implemented a carefully planned and publicly announced load management strategy while optimizing the utilization of available fuel supplies to limit the impact of rising fuel costs on FCAs. Consequently, during April–September 2026, consumers were protected from a potential additional FCA increase of Rs. 6–7 per unit. The combined FCA and Quarterly Tariff Adjustment (QTA) increase during this period was restricted to an average of Rs. 2.38 per unit, inclusive of taxes.



HYDERABAD: Farmers thresh harvested rice using a mechanical thresher in a field on the outskirts of the city near Tando Jam, as clouds of chaff rise into the air.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BOI), Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, attended the closing ceremony of Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) 2026, organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), as the Chief Guest.

D-8 Secretary General calls for stronger cooperation to promote sustainable global halal economy

ISTANBUL (APP): Secretary-General of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) Ambassador Sohail Mahmood has called for stronger international cooperation, investment and trade partnerships to harness the potential of the global halal economy as a driver of sustainable economic growth.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the 12th World Halal Summit and Halal Expo 2026 at the Istanbul Expo Center, he highlighted the need to strengthen halal standards, develop sustainable value chains and mobilise investment to promote a more inclusive and competitive global halal economy, said a press release issued on Thursday.

The four-day event, being held from November 25 to 28 under the auspices of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is themed "Sustainable Halal Economy: Eliminating Waste, Empowering Growth". It has brought together government officials, international organisations, halal certification authorities, business leaders, academics and industry experts.

Over the years, the Summit and Expo have served as an important platform for exchanging knowledge and expertise, strengthening institutional and commercial partnerships, exploring emerging business and investment opportunities, and advancing international cooperation towards a more sustainable, inclusive and competitive global halal economy.

The opening ceremony featured addresses by high-level dignitaries, including H.E. Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye, as well as senior representatives of a large number of participating countries and international and regional organizations.

Pakistan's mobile phone imports surge 25.21% in October 2026

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's mobile phone imports increased by 25.21% in October this year to reach Rs. 50.22 billion, Thursday, citing the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Official data shows that mobile phones worth Rs. 39.725 billion were imported in the previous month.

Meanwhile, imports of the country's telecommunications sector recorded a monthly increase of 28.43%, according to official documents.

Telecommunications sector imports stood at Rs. 78.273 billion in October, compared with Rs. 60.934 billion in the preceding month.

Imports of mobile phone-related equipment and accessories also registered a significant increase of 70.88% in one month.

According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, mobile phone-related equipment and accessories worth more than Rs. 28 billion were imported in October.

Mobile Phone Imports During the First Four Months of FY2026

From July to October, Pakistan imported mobile phones worth Rs. 166.205 billion.

During the same four-month period.

Egyptian authorities arrest motorist over tanker crash that killed 31

Monitoring Desk

CAIRO: Egyptian authorities have arrested a man accused of causing a tanker crash and massive fire that killed 31 people on a busy Cairo highway. The public prosecutor's office said the motorist had confessed to driving at 110km/h (68mph) along a section of ring road, to the north of the old city centre, and clipping the tanker with the side of his car as he changed lanes.

Sources close to the investigation were earlier quoted by state media as saying a high-voltage cable had fallen in front of the fuel truck, causing the driver to lose control.Twenty-one others were injured in the crash in the Warraq neighbourhood on Wednesday evening, with hospitals treating patients for burns and smoke inhalation.

The public prosecutor's office said on Thursday that "upon questioning the suspect and confronting him with the findings of the investigation... he confessed to committing the act".

"He added that, while moving between traffic lanes and overtaking vehicles, the left side of his car collided with the right rear side of the tanker. This caused him to lose control of the steering wheel and his car veered to the far right of the road."

At the same time, one of the fuel tanker's tyres burst, causing it to veer into the highway's central reservation, hit the concrete barrier and overturn, spilling fuel and igniting a fire, the prosecutor's office said.

Egyptian authorities have not named the suspect accused of causing the fatal crash, but they said he had been travelling with his father at the time.The raised motorway - a major artery for traffic around the Egyptian capital - was reopened by emergency services hours after the crash occurred, with the burnt-out wrecks of cars shifted to the side by bulldozers and diggers.

A cabinet minister said on Thursday that 10 million Egyptian pounds (£139,000; $182,000) had been donated to the families of the victims, while the nation's sports minister said all state-run celebratory activities would be cancelled in the aftermath of the crash.Egypt has suffered several deadly fires in recent years. Road collisions are also common, attributed to poor maintenance and violations of traffic laws, and leading to thousands of road deaths a year.



Judges and lawyers at Berlin's Regional Court, where Ilona Wiener went on trial on charges of spying for Russia.



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, right, meets with Libya's eastern military commander Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar at the presidential palace in Ankara, Türkiye.

Haftar meets Erdogan: Can Turkiye reunify Libya as it courts rival sides?

Monitoring Desk

ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan hosted eastern Libyan military commander Khalifa Haftar in Ankara on Wednesday, days after the Tripoli-based prime minister from the rival administration held talks with the Turkish foreign minister in Istanbul.

Haftar's first trip to Ankara comes nearly seven years after Turkiye helped the internationally recognised Government of National Accord (GNA) repel a military offensive led by his self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA).

But following the 2020 United Nations-brokered ceasefire, Turkiye has pivoted towards a pragmatic approach, working to bring the rival administrations towards a unified government and military as it seeks to safeguard its maritime interests in the Mediterranean Sea.The meetings come ahead of an expected visit by Erdogan to Libya, his first in 15 years, as Ankara seeks to reconcile the country's rival administrations.

So what are Ankara's interests in forging closer ties with Haftar, and what are the challenges ahead as Ankara seeks to reunify Libya?Turkiye's 2019-20 military intervention in support of the Tripoli-based government turned the tide of the Libyan civil war, forcing Khalifa Haftar's forces to retreat from western Libya. But after the ceasefire later that year, Ankara began establishing contacts with the eastern authorities.

This rapprochement accelerated in 2025, after the United States launched efforts to reconcile Libya's rival governments. A concurrent UN track produced the 4+4 agreement this past August, a political roadmap for a unified government and nationwide presidential and parliamentary elections within two years.

Iran's supreme leader urges Guards-linked Basij volunteers to broaden social reach

Monitoring Desk

DUBAI: Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei called on Thursday on the Basij, nationwide volunteers affiliated with the Revolutionary Guards, to broaden their social reach work towards making "every Iranian, a Basiji".

Since the start of the war launched by United States and Israel in late February, Iranian authorities have relied on the Basij to help organise repeated pro-government rallies across the country, with state media portraying them as evidence of broad popular support for the Islamic Republic.

Khamenei has remained out of public view since succeeding his father, Ali Khamenei, who was killed in the opening strikes of the war. He has communicated through written statements, while Iranian officials have cited security concerns to explain ' his absence from public view.His latest message, issued to mark Basij Week, urged the organisation to draw on a wider pool of supporters, including people ' who share its ideology but are not formal members, to help address the country's problems, state media reported.

The Basij, formally known as the Organisation for the Mobilisation of the Oppressed, was established by Islamic Republic founder Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1979. It became a major source of manpower during the 1980-88 Iraq war and was incorporated into the Revolutionary Guards in 1981.

Its nationwide presence in universities, government institutions and neighbourhoods supports its role in promoting the Islamic Republic's ideology, enforcing social codes, mobilising supporters for rallies, suppressing protests and participating in disaster relief and state campaigns.

Khamenei's appeal comes as the Islamic Republic faces mounting economic difficulties and US sanctions, which Washington has sought to use increase pressure on the government and exploit public discontent.



Serbia's ex-president Vucic threatens hunger strike after arrest of tabloid boss Serbian presidency.

Thousands protest in Irbil as Baghdad moves to seize Kurdish oil and border control

Monitoring Desk

IRBIL: Thousands of demonstrators gathered Thursday in Irbil, the capital of Iraq's semiautonomous northern Kurdish region, protesting a move by the federal government to take control of oil operations and border crossings previously run by Kurdish authorities.

Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi announced the measures Tuesday, describing them as steps to address oil smuggling.

The decision marked a new escalation in a long-running power struggle between the central government and Kurdish authorities and spurred rival Kurdish parties to come together in opposition to Baghdad.Al-Zaidi — who took office earlier this year with the backing of U.S. President Donald Trump — has been trying to assert authority on several fronts, including sending security forces into an area long controlled by a powerful Iran-backed militia last week.Tuesday's decision brings official and unofficial border crossings in the Kurdish region under federal government management. It places approval for oil exports from the region under the authority of the federal oil ministry and transfers the management of oil fields in Diyala, Kirkuk, Salahuddin and Nineveh provinces to it.

Al-Zaidi also dismissed Kirkuk's operations commander and police chief and the head of the Border Ports Commission. He said the measures reflect Iraq's "independent national will."

Ukraine and Russia exchange remains of soldiers

Monitoring Desk

OLESHKY: Ukraine and Russia have again exchanged the remains of fallen soldiers, Belarusian state news agency BelTA reported on Thursday.

Ukraine received the remains of 250 soldiers, while Russia received 22 bodies, the agency said.

Belarus has played a role in humanitarian exchanges between the two sides, including prisoner swaps. It recently helped civilians return to Ukrainian-controlled territory from the Russian-occupied front-line town of Oleshky.Ukraine and Russia have exchanged the remains of soldiers on many occasions. They are also due to carry out their largest prisoner-of-war swap to date after reaching an agreement at US-mediated talks in Abu Dhabi earlier this month.



Demonstrators hold Kurdish flags in front of the historic citadel during a rally in support of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region amid tensions with Baghdad over control of border crossings and oil resources, in Irbil.

Rescued hostage recounts 17-hour Colombia supermarket siege

Monitoring Desk

COLOMBIA: The assailants who held 76 people hostage in a Colombia supermarket this week drank alcohol and strolled around with whisky bottles in their hands during the 17-hour siege, one of the rescued hostages recounted to AFP.

Security forces stormed an Exito supermarket in the port city of Cartagena before dawn on Wednesday, freeing all the captives unharmed and killing one of three assailants.

The gunmen had allegedly taken refuge in the store following a failed attempt to rob an armored vehicle.The kidnappers "had been drinking since very early" in the morning and were walking around with "bottles of whisky in their hands" while playing music, said Carlos Tapia, one of the rescued hostages.

The marketing specialist had left a gym and went to buy bread for breakfast on Tuesday morning, when three hooded men pointed a gun at him and told him to "get on the floor", Tapia recounted a day after the siege.

Tapia told AFP he then spent an hour on the ground, never imagining that the ordeal would stretch into the early hours of the following day.

Armed forces' footage from the raid showed troops in camouflage moving through the shopping center past shuttered storefronts, with rifles raised and officers working to separate hostages from the hostage-takers.

Colombia is facing its worst wave of violence in a decade.

"I saw people screaming, people crying," Tapia said, adding that he tried to stay calm.

The kidnappers then took him to an emergency exit, where they made him sit in a chair for another five hours.

13 Dead and 13 thought trapped in Indonesian mine after heavy rain

Monitoring Desk

INDONESIA: At least 13 people have died after a 300-foot-deep illegal gold mine flooded in Indonesia, as authorities race against time to rescue 13 more trapped miners.

On Monday, Nov. 23, the city of Bogor in the West Java province experienced torrential rain, which caused a river to overflow and flood the two shafts, trapping around 26 miners underground, according to the BBC and Reuters.The illegal gold miners were digging a 328-foot-deep open-pit mine when the floods hit.Authorities confirmed on Thursday, Nov. 26, that 13 people had died and their bodies had been recovered from the mine — but it is believed that 13 more are still missing, per the BBC.

So far, they have identified six victims, with ages ranging from 20 to 50 years old, Hendra Rochmawan, a spokesperson for the West Java police, told the New York Times, and he told the New York Times that it was not immediately clear how they died.

"I just want my son to be brought out. Whatever my child's fate may be, so be it," Boan told the outlet. His son, Iskandar, 30, is believed to be trapped inside the mine.

Eleven miners were able to escape when the mine flooded on Monday, the newspaper reported.

Authorities are continuing the search, and rescuers are using ropes to access the narrow mine shafts, while ambulances and trained medical professionals are above ground waiting to tend to any victims, per the BBC."We are coordinating with all search and rescue personnel involved in the operation to monitor water conditions and assess access to the mine shaft."

Kuwait says: Iranian drone attack injured 4 people

Monitoring Desk

KUWAIT: Talks between the U.S. and Iran remain stalled despite the two countries signing a memorandum of understanding in June, aimed at ending the war that began with joint American-Israeli strikes on the country in February. The opening strikes killed a host of top Iranian officials and commanders, among them Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The two sides have continued to exchange strikes, though have not returned to the intense fighting seen in the early stages of the conflict. The U.S. says it is enforcing a naval blockade of the country's Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman ports, while Iran claims control over the strategic Strait of Hormuz and continues to claim attacks on shipping transiting the waterway.

Meanwhile, intensified fighting between Saudi-backed Yemeni forces and Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen has seen the latter repeatedly attack Saudi military, oil infrastructure and transport facilities.See the most recent developments below.

UK net migration drops by nearly two-thirds to 77,000

Monitoring Desk

UNITED KINGDOM: UK net migration dropped to an estimated 77,000 in the year to June, the lowest level in nearly 30 years excluding the coronavirus pandemic.

The figure is down nearly two-thirds (62%) from 204,000 in the previous 12 months, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on Thursday. It is the lowest annual total – which calculates the difference between the number of people arriving and leaving the country – since 1997, when 48,000 was recorded.This is except amid the Covid-19 outbreak when travel restrictions saw the figure drop briefly as low as 35,000. Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood said: "This Government has restored control. We have brought net migration to 77,000, down 92% from its peak under the Conservatives. Where they failed, we have delivered for the British people." An estimated 738,000 people immigrated to the UK in the year to June while 661,000 emigrated, according to the data published on Thursday. The ONS said net migration had "fallen to levels not typically seen since the 1990s" and described the continued reduction as being driven by fewer people from outside the EU arriving in the UK to work or study.

Seven injured, four critically, after Bangkok oil refinery explosion

Monitoring Desk

BANGKOK: Seven people have been injured - four of them critically - after an explosion at an oil refinery in Bangkok, local government officials have said.

A fire broke out after the blast at the Phra Khanong facility run by energy giant Bangchak Corporation in the east of Thailand's capital at around 14:45 (07:45 GMT).



Colombian police said Wednesday that 76 people were held hostage during a 17-hour supermarket siege in Cartagena.

Bangladesh police fire tear gas at garment workers protesting over minimum wage

Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: Police in Bangladesh fired tear gas at garment workers who tried to block a major highway on Thursday to protest a minimum wage rise that they say falls well short of their demands.

Police said they fired tear gas shells and used sound grenades to disperse the workers in Gazipur, a garment manufacturing hub on the outskirts of the capital, Dhaka, and that protesters also set fire to a police motorcycle before calm was restored.

"The situation is now calm, but we remain on alert," said Mohammad Amjad Hossain, superintendent of Gazipur Industrial Police.The protest came a day after a government-appointed wage board raised the minimum monthly pay for garment workers by 36 per cent to 17,000 taka (£104), the smallest percentage increase since the sector's first minimum wage was set in 1986. Previous increases were 56 per cent in 2023, 51 per cent in 2018 and 77 per cent in 2013. The six-member board approved the new rate by four votes to two after nearly 12 hours of talks that ended around 2am (8pm GMT on Tuesday) on Wednesday, with the two dissenting members backing the 18,000 taka (£108) the workers wanted, workers' representative Babul Akhter said. The current minimum wage is 12,500 taka (£75).

Workers had first demanded 32,000 taka (£193) before lowering their demand to 18,000 taka during the negotiations, while factory owners first proposed 15,000 taka and later raised their offer to 17,000.

Under the new four-grade structure, monthly wages will range from 17,000 taka for Grade 4 workers to 21,500 taka for Grade 1 workers.

Alleged Russian spy goes on trial in Berlin

Monitoring Desk

BERLIN: A German-Ukrainian businesswoman accused of spying for Russia went on trial Thursday on espionage charges, 10 months after her high-profile arrest sparked a diplomatic clash between Berlin and Moscow.

The start of proceedings in Berlin was postponed after the defendant reported health problems that required medical attention, a court spokeswoman said.

She was eventually brought into the courtroom in a wheelchair wearing dark sunglasses, where she was named as Ilona Wiener.Her lawyers said she would not confirm her personal information and that she was still feeling ill, leading to a further delay.

Wiener, 57, is accused of using contacts with current and former German defence ministry officials to gather information about military aid for Ukraine.

Hamas official and wife among eight Palestinians killedin Israeli strikes on Gaza

Monitoring Desk

GAZA: A Hamas political official and his wife were among eight Palestinians killed in three Israeli air strikes across the Gaza Strip on Thursday.

Local sources told the BBC a residential apartment in Deir al-Balah was targeted at dawn, killing Khaled Abu Nada, who served as undersecretary at the ministry of education, and his wife, Abeer Mohammed Ismail Abu Nada. A Hamas Civil Defence spokesman said that rescue teams and medical personnel had transferred eight bodies to Al-Aqsa Hospital in central Gaza and Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.In a joint statement, Israel's prime minister and defence minister said the operation was "part of a series of targeted killings" against Hamas officials.

Thursday's strikes also reportedly killed three Palestinians on al-Nafaq Street, east of Gaza City. Their identities have not yet been established, eyewitnesses said.

In a separate strike on Shati refugee camp, west of Gaza City, three Palestinians working for Hamas's security services were killed. They were identified as Yasser al-Lahham, Iyad Ahmed and Ibrahim al-Mashal. In a post X, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed the death of Khaled Abu Nada and said about 80 Hamas officials have been killed in the last month. "No one in Hamas's leadership will succeed in evading us," he said, adding that the military would "continue to pursue our enemies and protect the security of Israeli civilians".

CORRIGENDUM

Reference NIT published in Daily newspapers dated 22-10-2026 (AB No. 452), B-PPRA TSE No. 2627101213943, for **Annual Rate of Contracting (Framework Agreement) FY 2026-27.**The bidding document has been revised under the B-PP Rules 2014 and is available on www.bppra.gob.pk. **Last date of submission 03-12-2026 10:30 AM. Opening of bids 03-12-2026 12:30 PM.**

Chief Officer
Municipal Corporation
Chaman

AB No.600/26-11-2026

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CM Bugti emphasizes the need to engage Baloch youth in meaningful dialogue

Independent Report

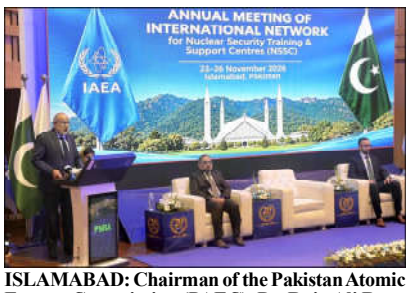
TURBAT: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti has emphasized the need to engage Baloch youth in meaningful dialogue, academic debate and constructive political activities rather than allowing them to be drawn toward violence and extremism through social media propaganda and narratives of deprivation. He encouraged young people to openly question the state, government and Balochistan's developmental challenges, saying his government was prepared to listen to their concerns and critical opinions. He expressed these views while addressing students and participating in an interactive question-and-answer session in Turbat.

Bugti said Baloch political history encompassed diverse ideological perspectives, including Nawab Khair Bakhsh Marri's advocacy of armed struggle, Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo's constitutional and political struggle, and the views of those supporting federal politics.

He emphasized the importance of understanding different political ideologies through academic discourse while critically examining the consequences of violence.

The chief minister called upon university teachers, law students, researchers and intellectuals to contribute to constructive discussions on Baloch political history and the province's future.

Expressing concern over what he described as attempts to influence young people through social media and exploit their grievances, Bugti said direct and meaningful dialogue was essential to understanding and addressing their concerns. He said the provincial government was providing higher education opportunities at comparatively lower tuition fees than other provinces. The chief minister announced that funding would be allocated in the next fiscal year's budget to meet the requirements of the University of Turbat.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar, addresses participants during the closing ceremony of the IAEA Annual Meeting of the International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres (NSSC Network).

Pak, Canada agree to expand bilateral coop. in key sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): High Commissioner of Canada to Pakistan Dr Tarik Ali Khan called on Federal Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar at his office on Thursday. The meeting discussed bilateral relations, trade, investment, law and justice, cultural cooperation, film production and human rights between Pakistan and Canada. Speaking on the occasion, the Federal Minister said that Pakistan was keen to further strengthen bilateral relations and advance cooperation in new areas of mutual interest. He underscored the need to further enhance cooperation between Pakistan and Canada in the fields of law and justice and human rights.

The meeting also reviewed ongoing trade negotiations between Pakistan and Canada. The Canadian High Commissioner noted positive progress in the negotiations, stating that approximately 65–70% of the matters had reached consensus, while the remaining issues required flexibility and further consultation from both sides.

The Federal Minister also highlighted the Ministry of Law and Justice's mediation and arbitration initiatives and discussed cooperation in the fields of law and justice, training programmes and exchange of experiences. Both sides discussed prospects for cultural cooperation, film production and joint ventures. The meeting also reviewed possibilities for cooperation in human rights, minority rights and women's rights. The Canadian High Commissioner appreciated the Federal Minister's constitutional and legal efforts in the fields of law and justice and human rights and expressed commitment.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State Barrister Aqeel Malik presses the button to formally launch the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Child Protection Policy, organized by the Ministry of Human Rights in collaboration with UNICEF Pakistan at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

Khichi emphasises role of literary gatherings in promoting literature, culture

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi Thursday emphasised the importance of literary gatherings in promoting literature and culture and providing encouragement to writers, poets and intellectuals.

Addressing the launching ceremony of the poetry collection "Fakhtaon Ne Shehar Chhor Diya" (The Doves Have Left the City) by renowned poet, writer, senior columnist and journalist Nayyir Sarhadi, the minister said it was a pleasure and honour for him to be part of a distinguished gathering of writers, poets and literary figures.

He congratulated Nayyir Sarhadi on the publication of his latest collection and stressed that such literary events played an important role in promoting the country's literary and cultural traditions and encouraging creative expression.

The ceremony was jointly organised by Qalam Qafila Pakistan and the Pakistan Academy of Letters at Sheikh Ayaz Conference Hall, Islamabad. Federal Minister for Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh attended as a special guest, while renowned poet and literary figure Professor Dr. Nasir Ali Syed presided over the event. Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh also congratulated the author and paid tribute to his literary contributions by reciting selected verses from the newly published collection.

Speaking on the occasion, Nayyir Sarhadi thanked Qalam Qafila Pakistan and the Pakistan Academy of Letters for organising the ceremony. He shared insights into his literary journey, the background of the book and its central themes, besides reciting selected poems and verses that received appreciation from the audience.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers, Advisors to CM and MPAs meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

Pak, Kenya discuss ways to strengthen cooperation in health sector

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and Kenya have discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the health sector, focusing on medical education, research, patient care and exploring opportunities for joint healthcare initiatives.

It was discussed in a high-level Kenyan delegation, led by the country's Minister of Health met Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal here on Thursday.

The meeting was also attended by the Chief Executive Officer of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) and the Director General of Health.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on strengthening institutional collaboration, sharing expertise and promoting cooperation in medical education, research and healthcare delivery.

The discussions also covered opportunities for future joint initiatives aimed at improving healthcare services and benefiting people in both countries.

ECP sets February 26 deadline for delimitation in 9 KP districts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has announced a schedule for delimitation of village and neighbourhood councils in nine districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with the process set to begin on December 1 and conclude with the notification of final council boundaries by February 26, 2027, as part of preparations for local government elections.

According to the schedule issued by the commission, all preliminary administrative arrangements, including the procurement of maps and training of delimitation committees and authorities, will be completed between December 1 and December 9.

The delimitation committees will prepare initial lists of village and neighbourhood councils from December 10 to January 9, 2027.

Objections to the proposed delimitations can be submitted before the designated delimitation authorities between January 11 and January 27.

JUI-F highway protests trigger heightened security across Balochistan

QUETTA (ANN): Security has been tightened across Balochistan following protests by Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) workers, who blocked several national highways in response to a protest call issued by party chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

The party leader had called for blockades of national highways across the country after he was reportedly denied permission to address a gathering in Sargodha.

In Balochistan, JUI-F workers responded to the call by holding demonstrations and obstructing traffic on various national highways stretching from Gwadar to Zhob.

Authorities have increased security arrangements in Quetta and other parts of the province to prevent any untoward incident. Security personnel have been deployed around government buildings, while checking and inspection of vehicles have also been intensified at different points in the provincial capital.

Sources said the administration had completed arrangements to manage the situation arising from the protests, amid reports of possible action against JUI-F office-bearers and lawmakers.

Shenzhou-24 mission 'living proof' of Pakistan-China ironclad friendship: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday described the historic Shenzhou-24 space mission carrying Pakistan's first astronaut to China's space station as living proof of the ironclad friendship between Pakistan and China, saying bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly nations had now truly reached the stars.

The prime minister, talking to Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, who called on him here, warmly congratulated the ambassador and the leadership and people of China on the successful launch of the Shenzhou-24 mission from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre on November 25, carrying Pakistan's first astronaut, Muhammad Zeeshan Ali, to the Tiangong Space Station.

He said that Pakistan was deeply grateful to China for providing the opportunity to become part of the landmark mission, through which a Pakistani had become the first foreign astronaut to visit China's space station.

He said that this was not merely the journey of an individual astronaut, but that of 240 million Pakistanis, embodying the dreams and aspirations of the country's youth and scientific community.

The prime minister expressed his appreciation to the relevant Chinese institutions for training both Pakistani astronauts and paid tribute to SUPARCO, academic institutions, scientists and the Armed Forces for their contributions to this historic achievement.

He said that today's achievement would inspire Pakistan's youth to aim for the Moon and beyond.

Prime Minister Shehbaz asked the ambassador to convey his warm greetings and best wishes to President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang.

He also paid rich tribute to the dynamic leadership and sagacious vision of President Xi Jinping, under which China has made remarkable strides in science, technology and space exploration and has opened its space programme to friendly countries for the benefit of humanity.



ISLAMABAD: IMAC Project Director Ms. Aisha Rasool and COMSTECH Coordinator General Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary exchange documents following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in the presence of Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar to promote Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), training and research.

President's spokesperson says:

Pak, Portugal strengthen bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Portugal have completed 77 years of diplomatic relations, marking an important milestone in the longstanding friendship between the two countries, founded on mutual trust, respect and shared interests, spokesperson to the President, Murtaza Solangi said in an event organized to mark the 77 years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Portugal.

The spokesperson stated that the enduring partnership between Pakistan and Portugal reflected their commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation and exploring new avenues of collaboration across various sectors.

He added that both countries have made significant strides to enhance collaboration in education, technology, trade, tourism and cultural exchange that continues to provide a strong foundation for further strengthening bilateral ties.

The spokesperson said that people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and Portugal were also playing an important role in bringing the two nations closer and reinforcing their longstanding friendship.

Murtaza Solangi said that Portugal's recognition of the State of Palestine and its support for a two-state solution reflected its commitment to a just and peaceful resolution of the Palestinian issue.

SC bars amendment to suit that alters fundamental basis of agreemen

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court has ruled that a party cannot be allowed to amend a suit to change the fundamental facts underlying an agreement, particularly after recording of evidence and completion of cross-examination, without independent documentary evidence supporting the proposed amendment.

The court observed that the constitutional right of access to justice also encompassed the disposal of cases within a reasonable time.

A two-member bench comprising Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan and Justice Shakeel Ahmad, while dismissing two petitions filed by Rabia Tufail, upheld the Lahore High Court's decision in the matter.

The court held that under Order VI Rule 17 of the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC), a court could allow amendments to pleadings at any stage of proceedings. However, such discretion must be exercised in accordance with the principles of fairness, justice and protection of the rights of the opposing party. It observed that a party could not be permitted to alter the fundamental basis of its case merely to overcome contradictions or weaknesses exposed during the recording of evidence.

According to the case record, the petitioner had filed a suit on December 7, 2015, seeking specific performance of a land sale agreement, in which the agreement date was mentioned as October 28, 2014.



QUETTA: Secretary Finance Jehangir Khan Kakar meeting with Provincial Minister for Finance Mir Shoaib Nosherwani.

SHO martyred, two injured in DI Khan firing

ISLAMABAD (APP): SHO of Sarwekai police station Kamran Mehsud was martyred and two others sustained injuries in a firing incident on Diyal Road in Dera Ismail Khan on Thursday, according to police sources quoted by local TV channels.

According to initial reports, the incident occurred within the jurisdiction of ShorKot police station, where unidentified assailants opened fire, resulting in the martyrdom of SHO and injuries to two others.

Upon receiving information, police and rescue teams rushed to the scene and shifted the martyred SHO and the injured to the District Headquarters Hospital for medico-legal formalities and medical treatment, police added.

Police have launched a search operation to trace and apprehend the attackers. Further investigation into the incident is underway.

PIA restores flight operations b/w Pakistan and UK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has restored flight operations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom after cancellations caused by its wet-lease partner a day earlier.

The airline said its teams assisted all affected passengers in London and Manchester.

Passengers whose flights were cancelled were accommodated on later flights according to their travel preferences.

PIA also offered full refunds without any penalty to passengers who chose to change or postpone their travel plans due to the disruption.

Under a contingency plan introduced last night, PIA shifted its UK operations to its own widebody Boeing 777 aircraft.

The airline said all scheduled flights to the UK and operations across its domestic and international network were running on time on Thursday.

DPM calls for unity among Muslim Ummah, urges youth to follow teachings of Holy Quran

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday called for unity, brotherhood and solidarity among Muslim countries, urging the youth to strengthen their connection with the Holy Quran and follow its teachings in their personal and collective lives.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the Second International Qirat Competition 2026, Dar said the Holy Quran was an eternal source of guidance for all humanity and offered comprehensive principles for promoting peace, justice, tolerance and mutual respect. He said the three-day international competition brought together Qaris from 32 countries, reflecting the shared spiritual bond of the Muslim Ummah and its deep-rooted love and reverence for the Holy Quran.

The deputy prime minister congratulated the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, its minister and the organising team for successfully holding the international event. He also appreciated the participating Qaris and the distinguished judges for their efforts in ensuring a fair assessment of the recitations.

DPM Dar particularly commended Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for his leadership and patronage in organising the competition, saying such initiatives played an important role in promoting Quranic education and strengthening fraternal relations among Muslim countries.

He said the teachings of the Holy Quran called upon Muslims to remain united and avoid divisions, adding that differences within society should be resolved through dialogue.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Jiang Zaidong.

Ayaz Sadiq calls for stronger legislation, effective enforcement to protect women's rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Thursday called for stronger legislative measures and effective implementation of existing laws to safeguard women's rights, ensure their protection and promote their leadership in political and public life.

Addressing as chief guest and delivering the keynote address at the launch of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), National Assembly of Pakistan's Gender KaravanWapa initiative, titled "Ghar Se Assembly Tak — Aurat Ki Qiyadat", at Parliament House, he urged parliamentarians to translate their commitments into tangible legislative action.

The initiative was launched as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence.

The event was convened under the leadership of WPC Secretary Dr. Shahida Rehmani, MNA, in collaboration with the European Union (EU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Women.

The ceremony featured the launch of the Parliamentary Expert Network (PEN), unveiling of the WPC Annual Report 2025–2026 and inauguration of the orange illumination of Parliament House as a symbol of solidarity with the campaign.

In his address, Ayaz Sadiq appreciated the contributions of Dr. Shahida Rehmani, WPC Treasurer Ms. Shahida Begum, members of the Caucus, parliamentarians, development partners and National Assembly Secretariat officials towards advancing women's empowerment.

Welcoming the establishment of PEN, he emphasised that specialised knowledge, research and evidence-based recommendations should guide parliamentary processes to strengthen legislation, introduce necessary amendments and ensure effective protection of women's rights, lives and dignity.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Education Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani and Advisor to CM for Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi exchanging views during a meeting.

PDMA Balochistan showcases climate resilience initiatives at UNFCCC COP31 in Türkiye

QUETTA (APP): The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan marked a significant presence at the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as Director General and Relief Commissioner Jahanzaib Khan Ghorezai represented the province at the global climate summit being held in Antalya, Türkiye.

Director General Jahanzeb Khan Ghorezai highlights disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation strategies at Pakistan Pavilion, said a news release.

Addressing an international audience at the Pakistan Pavilion, Jahanzaib Ghorezai delivered a presentation during a panel discussion titled "Building Climate-Resilient Frontlines: Institutionalizing Disaster Risk Reduction and Anticipatory Action in Balochistan."

The session brought together country delegates, development and humanitarian organizations, climate experts, researchers, and policymakers from across the world.

The presentation highlighted Balochistan's ongoing efforts to strengthen resilience against climate-related disasters through its integrated climate resilience and disaster preparedness programme, a comprehensive initiative designed to enhance preparedness, response capabilities, and community resilience in one of Pakistan's most climate-vulnerable regions. Speaking at the event, the PDMA delegation showcased several key components of the programme, including the modernization of emergency operations centres, which are aimed at improving coordination and response during emergencies and natural disasters.

A major focus of the presentation was the development of multi-hazard early warning systems and the promotion of anticipatory action mechanisms, enabling authorities and communities to take preventive measures before disasters strike.

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