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Promise of clean energy transition must be delivered through collective commitment, action: PM Shehbaz

"Let us resolve to power our economies without impoverishing our people and light up our homes without darkening our planet"

ANTALYA, (APP): Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to a sustainable energy future, setting ambitious targets for clean energy transition and calling for enhanced international financing and affordable technology to help developing countries meet their climate commitments.

Addressing a high-level session titled "Clean Energy Transition by 2035: Powering the Future" on the sidelines of the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) here, the prime minister outlined Pakistan's ambitious roadmap for transitioning towards clean energy and called for enhanced international financing and affordable technology to achieve climate goals.

Prime Minister Shehbaz amid highlighting the country's progress, said clean energy sources now accounted for nearly 55 per cent of Pakistan's energy mix. He informed the gathering that, before travelling to Antalya, he had inaugurated a key section of Pakistan's seventh nuclear power plant, a state-of-the-art project that would add 1,200 megawatts of clean electricity to the national grid.

Outlining his vision for a cleaner transport sector, the prime minister said the recently launched auto policy envisaged making 30 per cent of new vehicles electric by 2030, supported by incentives, including lower tariffs.

He added that all future government buses and motorcycles would be electric, noting that, for the first time, more than one in every 10 motorcycles sold in Pakistan this year was electric.

The prime minister said the transition towards clean energy was gaining momentum, but stressed that sustained financing was essential to achieve the desired targets.

He pointed out that Pakistan required approximately $138 billion by 2035 for low-carbon power generation, in addition to another $50 billion to replace coal-based power with solar energy.



ANTALYA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing the Leaders' Summit of COP31.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti addressing the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026

Quality education, technology essential for Balochistan's economic future: Governor

QUETTA (VoM Report): Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail on Wednesday said that the province's public sector universities have witnessed a remarkable improvement in performance, overcoming years of financial and academic challenges through sustained reforms, oversight and institutional support. Addressing the 22nd Convocation of the University of Balochistan, the governor said that the overall performance of all public universities in the province had doubled as a result of continuous efforts, effective monitoring and collaborative governance. "Universities that were once grappling with severe financial and academic crises are now moving towards educational stability and have reached a surplus financial position. This is an achievement of which we can all be proud," he said.

Jaffar Mandokhail highlighted the progress of the University of Balochistan, describing it as the province's premier institution of higher learning. He noted that the university's ranking and scoring had increased from 44 per cent to 82 per cent within a relatively short period, reflecting significant improvements in administration, academics and research. The convocation ceremony honoured academic excellence, with 24 PhD scholars, 29 MPhil graduates and 58 top-performing BS students receiving gold medals and degrees. The event was attended by Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, MNA Nawabzada Jamal Raisani, Parliamentary Secretary Mir Liaquat Lehri, Members of the Provincial Assembly and other dignitaries. Speaking on the broader higher education landscape in Balochistan, the governor said that graduates remain the university's greatest asset. He praised former and current students for serving as leaders, scholars, researchers and professionals contributing to the development and prosperity of both Balochistan and Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan presents a degree to a position-holding student during the COTHM Annual Convocation 2026 at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

BHC orders swift finalization of local bodies' pay rules in Balochistan

QUETTA, (VoM Report): The Balochistan High Court (BHC) has given the provincial government six months to complete the process of framing remuneration rules for elected local government representatives and place the proposal before the competent authority or provincial cabinet for approval.

A two-member bench comprising Justice Iqbal Ahmed Kasi and Justice Mian Muhammad Rauf Atta issued the directions while disposing of a constitutional petition filed by the elected chairman of Municipal Committee Mastung. Justice Atta authored the judgment.The court instructed the Local Government Department to address reservations raised by the Law and Finance Departments and complete the requisite legal, administrative and financial formalities for finalizing the proposed rules.

The petition had sought payment of remuneration to elected local government chairmen from July 12, 2023, besides determination of the service status of chairmen and vice chairmen under Section 35 of the Balochistan Local Government Act, 2010.

During proceedings, the provincial government informed the court that the proposed remuneration package could involve an annual financial burden of around Rs1.8 billion. It maintained that implementation would require formally framed rules, appropriate budgetary allocations and approval from the competent financial authorities. The bench held that elected local representatives could be paid only in accordance with remuneration prescribed through legally valid rules. It made clear that their election to office did not, by itself, create an automatic entitlement to a particular salary, retrospective financial benefits or civil service grades in the absence of the required legal framework.

While discussing Article 140-A of the Constitution, the court observed that local governments constitute an important component of the democratic system and require appropriate institutional and financial support to effectively discharge their responsibilities. The bench directed the concerned departments to formulate a legally sustainable and financially feasible proposal, keeping in view the duties and responsibilities assigned to elected local government representatives.

Pezeshkian appreciates Pakistan's diplomatic support to Iran

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian, Wednesday, reaffirmed the close and longstanding ties between Pakistan and Iran and underscored the need to further strengthen bilateral relations across all areas of mutual cooperation. Both leaders also exchanged views on the evolving regional situation.

The prime minister met with the Iranian president on the sidelines of the Leaders' Summit of UNFCCC COP31 Session currently taking place in Antalya, Turkiye, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Minister for Information & Broadcasting Ataullah Tarar and Senator Sherry Rehman along with senior officials from both sides were also present.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed deep concern over the prolonged conflict and emphasized the need for dialogue, restraint, de-escalation, and sustained diplomatic engagement to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region.

He also underscored the importance of building on the understandings reached under the Islamabad MoU of June 2026 and reaffirmed Pakistan's readiness to continue playing a sincere and constructive role in support of regional peace and stability.

CM Bugti's vision drives Saudi partnership for employment of Balochistan's skilled youth

QUETTA (APP): Efforts to promote technical education and vocational training in Balochistan achieved a significant breakthrough as senior officials from the Balochistan Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (B-TEVTA) and the Balochistan Board of Investment held a high-level meeting with a visiting Saudi business delegation to explore investment and employment opportunities.

The meeting was attended by B-TEVTA Managing Director Abdul Kabir Zarkoon, Vice Chairman of the Balochistan Board of Investment Bilal Khan Kakar, and LEDA Managing Director Liaquat Kashani. The Saudi delegation, comprising ten business leaders, was led by Prince Mansour bin Mohammed Al Saud, Chairman of the Saudi-Pakistan Joint Business Council, said a news release.

During the meeting, participants discussed ways to introduce Balochistan's skilled and technically trained workforce to international markets, particularly Saudi Arabia. Detailed deliberations focused on enhancing cooperation in vocational training, workforce development, and employment generation for young people from the province. Officials briefed the Saudi delegation on investment opportunities across various sectors in Balochistan and highlighted B-TEVTA's training programmes.

10 policemen martyred, 18 terrorists killed in KP's Kohat gold mining operation

KOHAT (APP): At least 10 police personnel, including a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) and a Sub-Inspector, were martyred when terrorists opened fire on a police party in the Gumbat area of Kohat on Tuesday.

According to a statement issued by the office of the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Peshawar, Kohat Police had launched a major operation against an illegal gold mining network allegedly operating in collusion with militants and criminal elements.

During the operation, militants attacked the police contingent in the Dar Bokach area falling within the jurisdiction of Gumbat Police Station.

Police and Rescue 1122 Kohat spokesperson said that 10 policemen including a DSP and sub inspector were martyred and several otters injured.

Police officials confirmed that 10 personnel had embraced martyrdom, including DSP Gumbat Haider Zaman and Sub-Inspector Mukhtiar. The spokesperson said heavy contingents of police arrived to assist local police during encounter. Firing by the attackers was reportedly continuing with reports of injuries of several policemen and attackers.

Following the attack, an emergency was declared at the District Headquarters Teaching Hospital Kohat to provide immediate medical assistance to the victims.

Rescue 1122 Kohat spokesperson Jawad Afridi said the incident occurred in the remote Dar Bokach area of Gumbat tehsil, where police were conducting an operation against illegal gold mining. He said rescue teams had been dispatched to shift the bodies to hospital.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi condemned the attack and sought report from IGP. K-P Governor Faisal Karim Kundi strongly condemned the attack, expressing grief over the martyrdom of police personnel. The governor described the attack as a highly condemnable and cowardly act

Balochistan to become premier investment destination of Pakistan: CM Bugti

ISLAMABAD, (VoM Report): Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti has said that the government, with the cooperation of the people of the province, is committed to providing a secure environment for investors to promote investment in Balochistan.

He said Balochistan is not only rich in natural resources but its people also have a remarkable tradition of hospitality, tolerance, and honoring their commitments.

He said that when Barrick Company returned to the Reko Diq project, not even a T-shirt or a teacup was missing from its camp, which had remained vacant for more than a decade. He said this was a clear example of the character and culture of the people of Balochistan. The government, he said, would provide complete security, a one-window operation, and all necessary facilities to investors throughout the province, including the Minerals Corridor, while there would be no room for red tape. He expressed these views while addressing the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 here on Thursday. The Chief Minister said that before answering questions regarding Reko Diq, he wanted to tell the world a beautiful story about the people of Balochistan and their culture. He said that when Barrick Company withdrew from the Reko Diq project a few years ago, its camp remained vacant for more than a decade, and there was not even a security guard stationed there. However, when the company returned after ten years, not even a single T-shirt had been stolen from the camp, nor was a teacup missing.

He said, "This is Balochistan, and this is the true reflection of the traditions, culture, and hospitality of its people."

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that whenever investment and security are discussed, the people come first. The people of Balochistan welcome national and international partners and want investors to come to the province and benefit from the available opportunities.



ISLAMABAD: Honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan and Honorable Judges of the Supreme Court, in a group photo with Mr. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail on the eve of his laying down the robes of judicial office, at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Mutual respect, constructive engagement vital for administration of justice: CJP

Supreme Court pays tribute to Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail at full court reference

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Wednesday held a Full Court Reference in honour of Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail on the occasion of his retirement from judicial service, acknowledging his distinguished career and contributions to the administration of justice.

The reference was attended by the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Supreme Court judges, Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan, Vice Chairman Pakistan Bar Council Pir Mohammad Masood Chishti, President Supreme Court Bar Association Syed Amjad Shah, senior law officers and members of the legal fraternity.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Justice paid tribute to Justice Mandokhail's professional journey from the Bar in Balochistan to the Supreme Court, highlighting his contributions to constitutional jurisprudence, judicial administration and institutional development.

He particularly acknowledged Justice Mandokhail's efforts to strengthen the district judiciary and judicial infrastructure during his tenure as Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court. He also appreciated his advice, counsel and support, saying his presence had contributed to collegiality and harmony within the court.

Emphasising the importance of cooperation between the Bench and Bar, the Chief Justice said mutual respect and constructive engagement were essential for the administration of justice. He reaffirmed his commitment to maintaining harmony between the two institutions and said comprehensive standard operating procedures had been introduced to ensure transparency, consistency and accountability in judicial administration.

He also highlighted the provision of free legal aid at different levels, reiterating that no person should be denied legal representation due to financial constraints.

In his farewell address, Justice Mandokhail said judicial independence was a constitutional safeguard for the people rather than a privilege of judges. He stressed that the judicial oath required impartiality, integrity and adherence to the Constitution and law, without fear, favour or external influence.



Prominent Turkish actresses Meryem Uzerli and Tuba Buyukustun, gather attends 31st UN Climate Change Conference (COP31), in Antalya

THE VOICE OF MILLIONS

Friday November 13, 2026

Reality of Gaza ceasefire

Let's make something clear from the outset: the so-called Trump Gaza plan, announced on Sept. 29, 2025, which led to the Oct. 10 ceasefire, created widespread hope that international diplomacy had finally prevailed to halt the violence.

Today, however, the reality on the ground tells a different story. Despite the overwhelming global support the plan received to end the violence, the evidence suggests that Israel utilized the agreement to navigate its military challenges in Gaza while preserving much of its control over the besieged territory.

The plan did not return Gaza to the days before the genocide. The intermittent Israeli violence of the past has become daily killing, while the pre-genocide siege has tightened into a suffocating blockade imposed on a population barely surviving amid the ruins of its cities and refugee camps.

Since the ceasefire began on Oct. 10, 2025, Israeli forces have killed at least 1,471 Palestinians and wounded another 5,189, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. These figures exclude those who have died from disease, lack of adequate medical care, and other consequences of the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe. In almost any other conflict, such numbers would be described as evidence of a continuing war. Yet in Gaza, they are recorded under the reassuring language of a ceasefire. Even more heartbreaking is that the victims include at least 327 killed and 547 wounded children.

Not a single hospital in Gaza is fully functional, according to a joint statement issued by more than 100 humanitarian and human rights groups. The morgues continue receiving new fatalities, alongside hundreds of bodies recovered from the rubble. An estimated 10,000 Palestinians remain buried beneath destroyed buildings. What kind of ceasefire forces Gaza's Health Ministry to maintain separate records for those killed during the genocide and those killed since the supposed cessation of hostilities? What kind of ceasefire allows bombing to resume without warning, vehicles carrying civilians to be struck, homes to collapse upon their inhabitants, and families to continue burying their children?

Even the humanitarian provisions of the agreement have remained largely unfulfilled. The plan envisaged aid deliveries on a scale of approximately 600 trucks daily. Yet a UN assessment found that UN-coordinated humanitarian shipments averaged fewer than 100 trucks per day during the agreement's first 172 days. Where is the heavy machinery needed to remove the rubble, recover the dead, and begin rebuilding what Israel has destroyed?

Speaking of rubble, Gaza now contains approximately 61 million tons of it—around 20 times the debris generated by all wars worldwide over the preceding 18 years, according to figures cited by humanitarian organizations. Even the ruins are closing in on Palestinians. Last month, 21 people, including 12 children, were killed when a damaged building collapsed in Gaza City.

Meanwhile, the space available for Palestinian life continues to shrink. Since the ceasefire began, Israeli military control has expanded from approximately 53 to 63% of Gaza (some estimates put the number at 70%), according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Despite the overwhelming international backing the plan received, its supposed guarantors have utterly failed to halt Israel's ongoing oppression or enforce compliance with the agreement's central provisions. Instead, much of the political discussion has focused on disarming Palestinian resistance, as though resistance itself were the original cause of colonialism, military occupation, siege, apartheid, and genocide.

While championed by the Trump administration and its allies as a definitive solution for peace, in practice, Israel used the ceasefire to regroup and achieve objectives it had previously struggled to reach. Under this arrangement, Palestinians are expected to refrain from armed actions, even as Israeli military operations, territorial expansion, and restrictions on essential supplies continue.

Without meaningful resistance to Israel's policies—whether by Palestinians or through sustained international political and legal pressure—the danger is that Israel will escalate its push for the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from Gaza. This is why Gaza must remain at the center of international attention. Public mobilization, political pressure, legal accountability, and solidarity cannot be suspended simply because an agreement has been labeled a "ceasefire."

The international community must challenge the premise that the genocide has ended merely because the language used to describe Israel's actions has changed. A ceasefire without enforcement, accountability, or an end to occupation cannot become a substitute for Palestinian freedom.

Political & security conundrum

Saleem Qamar Butt

Over the past five years (2021–2026), Pakistan has witnessed a sharp resurgence in militant violence, civil unrest, and governance breakdowns. While security challenges span all four provinces and autonomous territories, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and Balochistan remain the primary epicentres of violence.

Let's glance at the security landscape over the last five years. The operational withdrawal of US/NATO forces from Afghanistan in mid-2021 triggered a major shift in regional dynamics, rejuvenating militant groups like Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), which resulted in a surge in militant violence (2021–2026). Security reports from organisations like the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS) and CRSS show a steady year-on-year increase in violent attacks. Militant attacks across the country rose by over 30% annually in recent years, with 2025 recorded as one of the deadliest peaks in a decade, reporting over 3,300 militant incidents and over 1,020 law enforcement fatalities.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) consistently accounts for 50% to 60% of total terrorist incidents nationwide, driven largely by TTP operations and cross-border attacks. Districts like North/South Waziristan, Lakki Marwat, Bannu, Kohat, Kurram, D.I. Khan, and Swat face persistent extortion, targeted killings, and ambushes on police and security checkpoints. While KPK faces high-volume asymmetrical attacks, Balochistan suffers from a deep-rooted ethno-nationalist insurgency (foreign-supported BLA, BLF) targeting critical infrastructure, state officials, non-Baloch workers, and foreign investments (e.g., CPEC projects). Despite tactical improvements in certain urban centres, lethal high-profile ambushes and enforced disappearance grievances remain severe.

In other parts of Pakistan, i.e., Sindh, Punjab, AJK, and GB, the situation is not rosy either. In Sindh, high crime rates, banditry (katcha area dacoits along the Indus), and targeted violence in Karachi persist. In Punjab, though relatively stable against terrorism, political instability, localised crime, and sectarian tension remain periodic challenges. As for AJK and GB, both regions have witnessed unprecedented socio-economic protests, anti-taxation demonstrations, and governance friction over rights and subsidies.

Now let's see why there is a push for Governor's Rule in KPK versus other regions. Despite severe security and governance crises across Balochistan and other provinces, political discourse at the federal level frequently circles back to imposing Governor's Rule or emergency measures specifically in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The factors behind this asymmetry include: first, political polarisation and opposition control. KPK is currently governed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), the primary national opposition party, placing the provincial leadership in direct political opposition to the Coalition Federal Government in Islamabad. In contrast, Balochistan, Sindh, and Punjab are governed either by parties in the ruling federal coalition or by supportive alignments, significantly reducing political motivation for federal intervention in those regions. Second is direct institutional confrontation. Tensions between Islamabad and Peshawar frequently spill over into institutional standoffs. Issues regarding law enforcement funding, police autonomy, federal security operations, and public rhetoric by provincial leadership against federal policies create persistent political friction, which federal actors leverage when raising constitutional tools like Governor's Rule. The third reason is Balochistan's political consensus versus KPK's opposition stance. In Balochistan, despite severe security threats from separatist groups and ongoing human rights concerns, the provincial government operates in close alignment with federal security institutions and political coalitions. Because provincial and federal goals align on paper, political deadlock is minimised, rendering Governor's Rule politically unnecessary for federal authorities despite the gravity of the law-and-order situation on the ground.

And last but not least, the success of the popular PTI provincial government in seeking justice for incarcerated PTI founder and ousted former Prime Minister Imran Khan is perceived as an existential threat by the incumbent ruling elite.

Resolving the friction between the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) provincial government led by the PTI and the federal government requires moving away from zero-sum political brinkmanship towards structured, institution-based engagement. Because the standoff involves constitutional rights, national security, and financial distribution, a sustainable "way out" lies in a multi-pronged institutional framework. Political battles often spill into public standoffs when constitutional channels are bypassed. Re-engaging formal bodies is essential, such as the Council of Common Interests (CCI), the National Finance Commission (NFC), and mechanisms for net hydel profits; establishing a fully functional Joint Counter-Terrorism Apex Committee; institutionalising security coordination rather than politicising law and order; and de-escalating political agitation and threats of direct rule, as attempting to override a clear provincial electoral mandate deepens political instability. The KPK leadership must also distinguish between legitimate political protest and state governance. When direct communications break down, neutral or cross-party political facilitators play a critical role; senior politicians, parliamentary committees, and non-aligned political figures can help negotiate ground rules for peaceful political activity, prisoner access, and parliamentary decorum. And lastly, political reconciliation hinges on the release of PTI leadership, which should come about by letting the judiciary act independently and allowing state-to-province administrative relations to function without being held hostage by individual legal proceedings.

The law-and-order situation in Pakistan over the past five years reflects a complex mix of external security shocks and internal governance vulnerabilities. However, the federal emphasis on constitutional mechanisms like Governor's Rule in KPK—while overlooking comparable or distinct crises in Balochistan and other provinces—demonstrates that security concerns are heavily intertwined with partisan power dynamics in Islamabad. A cohesive national policy requires prioritising security and governance universally over selective political manoeuvring.

The writer is a retired senior army officer with experience in international relations and military diplomacy.

From poverty to prosperity

Nadir Gul Barech

In a village near Sahiwal, some years ago, I met a woman who had taken one of our interest-free loans, 30,000 or 40,000 rupees, and opened a small roadside hotel. By the time I met her, it had four branches. She is the exception, and I know it; most of our loans buy a goat or a sewing machine, and our evaluation of the loan programme found household income roughly doubling, to about 48,000 rupees a month. Her story says in one sentence what the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) exists to do. What it leaves out is the part I now think about most: the loan explains how she got out of poverty, and nothing in it explains how she has stayed out. That is the question PPAF is putting to the International Conference on Inclusive and Resilient Economic Empowerment and Growth in Islamabad on 13 and 14 October, under the banner From Poverty to Prosperity.

The Pakistan Economic Survey, published in June, carried the first poverty estimate since 2018-19: the share of Pakistanis below the national poverty line rose from 21.9 per cent to 28.9 per cent, and to 36.2 per cent in the countryside. A poverty rate, though, is a still photograph of a moving crowd. Many of the 28.9 per cent had climbed out and come back. A household begins to earn, and then an illness comes into the house, or a flood, or a drought, and the gain becomes a zero-sum game: what the household built goes to the hospital or to the water. What PPAF has learnt in a quarter of a century is that a household has to be helped to earn and then helped to keep what it earns, and that these are different kinds of work.

The best evidence on the second kind comes from the National Poverty Graduation Programme (NPGP), which PPAF designed and the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety ran, co-financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Graduation is the programme's word for a household's exit from poverty, and three economists, in a study for the International Growth Centre (IGC), followed 6,886 households in five districts of Punjab and Sindh for four years. They scored each household on the poverty scorecard (PSC), the 0-to-100 score that the National Socio-Economic Registry assigns to every family from what it owns, how many it feeds, how many rooms it sleeps in, and how far its members have been to school. The scorecard threshold is 16.17, and at the 2025 follow-up, 84 per cent of the households were above it. The economists also asked, at the same follow-up, how many had reached 23, which they take as the mark of sustainable graduation. The answer was 57.7 per cent: two households in three in Punjab, one in three in Sindh, where about three households in ten had lost the very asset the programme gave them to the floods of 2022. Getting a household earning works; keeping it earning is the part of the work still unfinished.

The Ministry sets a harder test still, under which a household counts as graduated only when it scores above 32, the ceiling for support from the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), and holds that score for three consecutive years. By the Ministry's count, just over 26,000 households have, in its words, crossed the poverty line under NPGP so far. The test is the right one, and the count says how far there is to go.

Getting a household earning is the part we know how to do. Three things work: to sit with the household, make a plan for its livelihood, and put the asset in its hands; to give a son or daughter of the house a trade; and the interest-free loan, which we have made 3.69 million times, 57 per cent of them to women, who repay more reliably than men. A goat or a sewing machine earns only where there is a market to sell into, so the step above the loan is the small rural firm. In Sindh and Balochistan, where PPAF works with the International Trade Centre on such enterprises with European Union money, the outcome survey found sales up 28 per cent and profits up 38 per cent, a woman-led goat farm in Tando Allahyar and a solar-powered onion dryer in Khuzdar among them. More than half of those enterprises are now registered with the Federal Board of Revenue or the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan; graduation, done properly, creates taxpayers. Each of the three gets a household out of poverty, and none of them, alone, keeps it out.

The writer is the Chief Executive Officer of the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund.

Pakistan's universities should form character by design

Dr Asghar Zaidi

Previously, I wrote in these columns that character is stamped on us, like the mark on a coin, by what we do again and again. Universities do much of that stamping, although they do it more by default than by design. They receive young Pakistanis at around eighteen, when habits are still soft and the brain is still maturing, and send them out as doctors, teachers, engineers, civil servants and business executives. So how should such character formation begin?

It begins with clarity about who we want to be. On a university campus, it must begin with those who lead, teach and serve, because students learn who to be by watching exemplars among their teachers. The habits students pick up from their teachers last a lifetime.

A decade of research at the Oxford Character Project frames character formation in three words, BE, KNOW and DO: who to be, what to know and what to do. Our universities usually start with DO: rules, codes and disciplinary committees. Yet experiments show "don't be a cheater" reduces cheating; "don't cheat" does not. The Oxford research points to BE as the starting point. Our own tradition has long done the same, joining taleem, instruction, with tarbiyat, the character formation of the person. The lesson is that a university that informs minds without forming persons has done only half its work.

Pakistan's 280+ universities and Degree Awarding Institutions, with nearly two million students, have given the country remarkable people, yet they form character more by default than by design. The 2017 tragedy at Abdul Wali Khan University in Mardan remains a painful reminder that a campus can provide education and still fail at character formation.

Those who teach need it too: a 2023 Nature analysis placed Pakistan among large research-producing nations with the highest rates of retracted papers. Most are withdrawn because of misconduct, such as plagiarism or fabricated data: failings of character, not of intellect.

The Higher Education Commission has answered with courses, most recently Understanding of Holy Quran (Fehm-e-Quran) I and II, one credit hour each, compulsory for Muslim students since Fall 2025. These are welcome, but character is not delivered like content, one credit hour at a time. We can learn from Oxford's research, which names seven strategies that form character: habituation, practising virtue in small acts until it becomes second nature; reflection, looking back honestly on our experiences; exemplars, learning from people whose lives we admire; a shared language of virtue; moral reminders at the moment of decision; systems that make good conduct the easier path; and friendships in which we help each other grow. All seven begin with one decision: who we mean to be.

Abroad, America's Wake Forest University has used these seven strategies since 2017, helping more than 75 faculty build character into their courses.

At home, Lahore's Superior University has made "Leading with Character" its guiding philosophy, from top management to students.

The lesson: a university becomes what its people decide to become.

Who we mean to be deserves to be written down as a personal mission statement. Once written, a mission statement works as a personal constitution.

Like a nation's constitution, it sets the principles against which every decision is tested and serves as a compass when the road is unclear. Research on moral reminders shows how it helps: because we want to think well of ourselves, being reminded of our commitments makes wrongdoing much harder to justify, even in our own minds.

But any constitution is only as good as the way it is honoured.

A good personal mission statement must cover every role we play. A student is also a son or daughter; and a rector, a vice chancellor or professor is also a parent, a colleague and a mentor. The accounts officer who releases a scholarship on time teaches fairness as surely as any lecture. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) taught that each of us is a shepherd, responsible for our flock. Each of us, then, leads someone, and none of us is exempt from the character that leadership demands.

Because our roles compete for the same hours, a personal constitution must also set priorities: which role leads when two collide, and what we will not sacrifice for success. Hazrat Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) recalled that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), leader of a whole community, served his family at home and went out to pray when the time came.

BE is only the first step.

KNOW asks us to understand ourselves under pressure, the people we serve, and where a judgement matters more than rules.

DO turns both into small daily acts: one act of courage, a commitment kept when it is inconvenient, a friend with permission to tell us the truth.

The Quran puts the test plainly: "Why do you say what you do not do?" (Surah al Saff 61:2).

Toxicity, deceit, exploitation and egoism are all around us, and it is tempting to withdraw and leave change to others.

Yet "Allah does not change the condition of a people until they change what is within themselves" (Surah al Ra'd 13:11). Imagine campuses designed for character, where vice-chancellors, professors, staff and students have each written down who they mean to be and what guides them, and then live it every day.

Such universities would send Pakistan not only graduates with degrees, but citizens with a decision-making framework. Our campuses will form character either way. Let us form it by design, one personal constitution at a time: written, understood and lived.

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Strait of Hormuz traffic plunges once again amid new wave of Houthi attacks

LONDON, (Agencies): Crude oil and petroleum exports from the Middle East sharply dropped over the past week as Iranian-backed Yemeni Houthi militias intensified their attacks on commercial vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz, disrupting regional shipping lanes.

Maritime transit in the region suffered drastically since the US and Israel's pre-emptive joint strikes on Iran on Feb. 28, followed by Tehran's effective closure of the vital waterway and a subsequent American naval blockade.

Attacks on commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz reached a new peak this year over the past week. At least 14 incidents of attacks, attempted strikes, and obstructions were recorded in and around the Strait of Hormuz on Oct. 5-12, while six ships were attacked on Monday alone, according to the UK Maritime Trade Operations and global maritime security sources.

Commercial vessel traffic via the strategic chokepoint fell to its lowest since July 22, affecting outward energy flows.

Oil, petroleum, and liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports from the Middle East plummeted in the wake of the war, and while there have been signs of partial recovery, intensifying security risks sparked concerns.

Houthis increased their attacks on Saudi Arabia, threatening transit through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.

Vessel transits through Bab el-Mandeb, Hormuz hit new low

Middle Eastern crude oil, petroleum, and liquid chemical exports — including shipments from the Gulf of Oman and the Red Sea — fell from 21.1 million barrels per day on Oct. 8 to 6.7 million barrels on Oct. 11, 10.4 million barrels on Monday, and 8.3 million barrels on Tuesday, according to Kpler.

The weekly average of 17 million barrels remained below the pre-war volume of around 23.3 million barrels per day.

Only six commercial ships were able to transit the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, while previously 32 ships passed through on Oct. 8, 24 on Oct. 9, 11 on Oct. 10, and 12 on Oct. 11.

Meanwhile, vessel transit through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait also dropped, with 35 vessels passing through on Oct. 8, 39 on Oct. 10, 46 on Oct. 11, and 32 on Monday.

The attempts by the Houthis to establish a naval blockade on Saudi Arabia to seize control of the Bab el-Mandeb corridor added a new volatile dimension to the wider conflict.

Large-scale supply disruptions across both the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait could pressure global energy supplies and market stability even further, analysts say.



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Antalya, Türkiye, on the sidelines of the 31st UN Climate Change Conference (COP31) Leaders Summit.



DUBLIN, IRELAND: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressing the opening of European Political Community summit.

Lebanese President, Iranian FM stress diplomatic solutions to regional conflicts

TEHRAN, (Agencies): Lebanese President Joseph Aoun received a phone call Wednesday from Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to discuss the situation in the region amid recent developments, the Lebanese presidency said.

In a statement, the presidency said both sides agreed on the need to support diplomatic solutions as the best means of ending conflicts in the region.

The call comes as regional tensions remain high, with Israel continuing attacks on Lebanon despite a US-sponsored framework agreement providing for its gradual withdrawal from Lebanese territory, while Iran and the US remain at odds over navigation through the strategic Strait of Hormuz amid heightened maritime tensions.

Australian premier, Jordan's king discuss strengthening defense, trade

CANBERRA, (Agencies): Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Jordanian King Abdullah II discussed strengthening defense, trade, and climate cooperation during a meeting in the capital Canberra on Wednesday, according to a joint statement. The leaders welcomed closer defense ties, including training, technology, defense industry cooperation, joint operations and counterterrorism efforts, and condemned terrorism and violent extremism. They also discussed the situation in the Middle East, expressing concern over tensions and calling for de-escalation through diplomacy. Australia condemned Iranian attacks on Jordan and expressed solidarity with the country. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a two-state solution in the Middle East, rejected attempts to annex the West Bank and the displacement of Palestinians, and called for full implementation of the Gaza Peace Plan and unhindered humanitarian aid delivery. They also reaffirmed support for Syria's unity and sovereignty and Lebanon's efforts to strengthen state authority, as well as condemned Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia. In opening remarks at Parliament House, Albanese said "it's never been more important for countries to work together in the interests of international security," highlighting cooperation on defense and security, humanitarian efforts, resources, and energy. Abdullah also pointed to military and intelligence affairs as areas for enhanced bilateral cooperation.

IMF chief warns growth alone can't bring US debt under control

BANGKOK, (Agencies): Economic growth alone will not bring US public debt under control, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said Wednesday, urging additional measures to cut fiscal deficits.

Speaking at the IMF-World Bank annual meetings in Bangkok, Georgieva said stronger growth could help improve public finances but would not deliver the necessary adjustment quickly enough.

She said US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent recognized that federal deficits and debt had become too high and needed to return to a more sustainable path.

US authorities, however, were relying heavily on strong economic growth to reduce those imbalances, she added. Bessent has argued that sustained growth above 3%, combined with spending restraint, could lower the debt-to-gross domestic product ratio. The administration has pointed to artificial intelligence investment, manufacturing expansion and tax cuts as drivers of economic activity. Georgieva's warning underscored the IMF's broader demand for governments to strengthen public finances as repeated shocks erode their capacities to respond to new crises. In opening remarks published by the IMF, she said the global economy remained resilient despite frequent shocks and uncertainty, but that resilience was approaching its limits as energy and fiscal buffers were depleted. Inflation also remained persistently high in many economies. She urged policymakers to increase revenues, rationalize spending and improve public financial management, while ensuring that assistance amid rising energy and food prices protected vulnerable people. Georgieva said the global outlook was being pulled in opposite directions by an energy supply shock stemming from the Middle East war and stronger demand associated with artificial intelligence.



Pope Leo XIV met with Peruvian officials, civil society representatives, and members of diplomatic missions at the Gran Teatro Nacional in Lima, the capital of Peru.

German economy loses momentum as energy costs, shipping disruptions weigh

BERLIN, (Agencies): Germany's economy temporarily lost momentum in the third quarter but remains on a recovery path, with high energy costs and shipping disruptions weighing on activity, the Economy and Energy Ministry said Wednesday. In its October economic report, the ministry said growth likely slowed following a recovery in the first half as global stockpiling of energy-intensive goods eased and low water levels restricted inland shipping. Domestic demand is unlikely to provide much support in the near term as higher energy prices erode purchasing power, uncertainty persists and financing costs rise.

Production in the goods-producing sector increased 2% in August from July, adjusted for prices, calendar and seasonal effects. Construction output jumped 9.3%, partly reflecting the completion of a major energy infrastructure project, while industrial output rose 0.6%. However, industrial production averaged 1.4% below its second-quarter level in July and August, with energy-intensive industries particularly weak. Manufacturing orders fell 10.6% in August from the previous month, largely reflecting fluctuations in large contracts, including defense procurement. Excluding large orders, the decline was just 0.1%.



The 31st Conference of Parties (COP31) Leaders Summit of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was held under the chairmanship of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. During the program, Anadolu Atesi (Anatolian Fire) performed folk dances from seven regions of Türkiye

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111221913 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 MASTUNG 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 1500 PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	UPGRADATION OF DIFFERENT AREAS KANAK, KIRDGAB, PRINGABAD,DASHT KHAD KOCHA PSDP NO.4317 (Z2026.1413) (Supply & Installation of Solar System 30 HP WSS Kanak Area 1)	5,100,143

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 3,570,100 PKR Amount in2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm **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 1,500 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 26 November, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 26 November, 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: Office of The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Department Division Mastung

Phone no: 0843895449Fax no: 0843895449

Email: Xenpheoffice0654@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION MASTUNG

DPRQ/PRQ No.2425/12-11-2026

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

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111222423 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Assistant Director Nushki Local Govt Department invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 2000 PKR and Bid Security 3%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	Killi Qazi abad concrete proctection wall 800RFT height= 5ft and 25x st,lights Renovation of 6xwashrooms fixing of RCC Slabs and fiber shad for GGHS Bazar (BEMIS code06627) Construction of parking /staging area near kuchaki chah BSDI PHAASE-III	30,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 21,000,000 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-5 and above (Upto 65 million)In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is EE11(ii) (Solar Energy). **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 25 November, 2026till 10:00 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:00 AM on EPPS System Address: Assistant Director local Govt office Nushki Phone no: 0825872319Fax no: 0825872453

Email: bismillahumari295@gmail.com

Assistant Director Local Govt / RD Department Nushki

DPRQ/PRQ No.2407/11-11-2026

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French president Macron acknowledges young people's concerns amid high school protests

PARIS, (Agencies): French President Emmanuel Macron has acknowledged the "legitimate anxieties" of young people amid nationwide high school protests, while condemning violence during demonstrations, government spokesperson Maud Bregeon said Wednesday.

Bregeon said Macron believed young people's concerns had been "politically exploited and transformed into urban violence."

The president denounced what he called "unacceptable scenes" of violence during the demonstrations, particularly on Tuesday, she said.

Macron has asked the government to provide "clear and concrete answers" in the coming weeks, including measures to protect teachers and an assessment of school buildings.

The government has assigned 2,000 of the 3,000 substitute teachers it had pledged to deploy, Bregeon said.

Education Minister Edouard Geffray said earlier Wednesday that more than one-third of the 3,000 substitute teachers had already been deployed to work with students.

The movement's demands include greater education spending and opposition to the Parcoursup university admissions platform.

Macron urged demonstrators to remain calm and respect people and property.

More than 6,800 people, overwhelmingly minors, have been detained since the movement began, according to Le Parisien.



THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS: Activists march to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to submit formal requests and evidence seeking arrest warrants for US President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio over their alleged involvement in the Gaza conflict

France records 4% rise in women killed by partners or ex-partners in 2025

PARIS, (Agencies): The number of women killed by their current or former partners in France rose 4% in 2025, reaching 111 victims, according to figures released Wednesday by the Interior Ministry.

Police and gendarmerie recorded 136 violent deaths involving current or former partners last year, compared with 138 in 2024, a decrease of 1%, the ministry said in its annual study. Of the victims, 25 were men, down 19% from the previous year. On average, one person died every three days in a case involving a current or former partner, according to the report. Authorities also recorded 445 attempted homicides involving current or former partners in 2025, accounting for 10% of the 4,365 attempted homicides recorded nationwide.

The share was up from 9% in 2024, the study said. The northern department of Nord recorded the highest number of victims, with eight, followed by Bouches-du-Rhone with seven. Alpes-Maritimes and Herault each recorded five victims, while Aisne, Gironde and Marne each reported four.

In France's overseas territories, Reunion recorded three victims, while French Guiana and New Caledonia each recorded two, according to the ministry.



In Cologne, Germany, people dressed in colorful traditional costumes gathered to celebrate the start of carnival season.

Transparent, efficient, responsible utilization of public resources constitutional responsibility of Parliament: Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Wednesday strongly advocated the revival of student unions and the establishment of a robust and empowered local government system, describing them as essential for nurturing future leadership and strengthening democracy.

He observed that the nurseries of leadership at the grassroots level had become dormant and needed to be revived to address the leadership vacuum in the country.

Sharing his own political journey, he said he started his career at the local level and rose to become Prime Minister of Pakistan, serving in various constitutional capacities.

He emphasized that strong local governments at district and tehsil levels were vital for good governance, transparency, accountability and effective utilization of public funds.

He expressed these views while addressing a workshop titled "Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight of Public Expenditure Management", organized by UNICEF.

Chairman Senate emphasized that transparent, efficient and responsible utilization of public resources was a constitutional responsibility of Parliament and essential for maintaining public trust.

He said Parliament's role must extend beyond budget approval to ensuring that national resources were properly utilized and their benefits reached the people.

He stressed that budgetary allocations alone could not guarantee development outcomes unless funds were released timely, institutions fulfilled their responsibilities and public expenditure translated into tangible improvements in people's lives. He underscored that every rupee spent from the public exchequer must deliver measurable results in terms of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Highlighting Pakistan's development challenges and limited financial resources, he stressed the need for effective parliamentary oversight of key sectors, including education, health, nutrition, sanitation and social protection.

He said parliamentary committees must ensure that resources reached deserving segments of society and were utilized for their intended purposes.

Referring to Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16), he noted that accountable, transparent and effective institutions were fundamental to sustainable development.



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



QUETTA: MNA Akhtar Bibi and international boxing champion Abida Batool called on Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

President Zardari felicitates Polish President on National Independence Day

ISLAMABAD, (APP):President Asif Ali Zardari extended warm felicitations and best wishes to President of the Republic of Poland, Karol Nawrocki, and the people of Poland on the occasion of their National Independence Day.

"In a letter addressed to President Karol Nawrocki, President Zardari conveyed greetings on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan, and in his personal capacity," the President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release.

The president noted that Pakistan and Poland enjoyed longstanding and cordial relations, founded on mutual respect, goodwill and a shared commitment to peace and international cooperation.

He expressed confidence that bilateral relations would continue to strengthen through enhanced engagement and expanded cooperation in areas of mutual interest, for the mutual benefit of the two peoples.

Diplomacy should be prioritised to prevent conflicts: Law Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Wednesday stressed that adherence to international law, treaties and established global norms was essential for lasting peace in South Asia, urging Pakistan and India to resolve their disputes through dialogue and mechanisms provided by the United Nations rather than the use of force.

Delivering the keynote address at the Margalla Dialogue, the minister said the shared history, geography and sensitivities of the two countries made it imperative to pursue peaceful solutions through international agreements and multilateral institutions.

Referring to the recent escalation, Senator Tarar said Pakistan had offered to facilitate an independent investigation into the incident by any country or agency in the world.

However, instead of pursuing the offer and available diplomatic and legal mechanisms, the path of military aggression was chosen, he added.

He said disregard for the rule of law and established international mechanisms ultimately affected people on both sides, stressing that domestic and international rule of law remained the foundation for fair and sustainable dispute resolution.

Describing the Indus Waters Treaty as a unique and successful international agreement, the minister said it had remained in force for more than six decades despite wars and tensions between Pakistan and India.

IG vows to combat crime; strengthen peace, stability in entire Balochistan

TURBAT (APP): Inspector General (IG) of Police Balochistan, Muhammad Tahir, paid an important visit to Turbat to review the overall law and order situation, security measures, and ongoing efforts aimed at crime prevention and public safety.

He was accompanied by DIG Makran Range Shad Ibn Masih, DIG Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Aitazaz Ahmad Goraya, DPO Kech Zohaib Mohsin, and other senior police officials.

Upon his arrival, the IG was presented with a guard of honour by a smartly turned-out police contingent. During the visit, DIG Makran Range Shad Ibn Masih and DPO Kech Zohaib Mohsin provided detailed briefings on the prevailing security situation, police performance, public protection initiatives, and measures being undertaken to maintain peace and order across the district.

The briefing also covered key security challenges facing the region, crime prevention strategies, anti-narcotics operations, patrolling mechanisms, community safety initiatives, and efforts to promote modern policing practices. Officials discussed various measures being implemented to strengthen law enforcement capabilities and improve service delivery to the public.

A significant part of the visit focused on honouring the sacrifices of police martyrs. IG Muhammad Tahir held a special meeting with the families of fallen police personnel and paid tribute to their dedication and sacrifices in the line of duty. He stated that police martyrs had rendered invaluable services for the establishment of peace and the protection of lives and property, adding that their sacrifices would never be forgotten.

The IG reaffirmed the department's commitment to the welfare of the martyrs' families, assuring them that all possible measures would continue to be taken to address their concerns and provide necessary support and facilities.

Reviewing the law and order situation in Kech, the IG emphasised that protecting the lives and property of citizens, upholding the rule of law, and ensuring a peaceful environment remain the foremost priorities of Balochistan Police. He said all available resources were being utilised to combat crime and strengthen peace and stability across the province. He directed police officers and personnel to further enhance operations against criminal elements and strengthen engagement with local communities to promote citizen-friendly policing. According to the IG, improved public cooperation and trust are essential components of effective law enforcement and sustainable peace.

During his visit to Turbat, the IG also inspected City Police Station Kech, where he reviewed various sections of the station, examined records and administrative affairs, and assessed the facilities being provided to the public. Expressing satisfaction with the station's overall performance, he instructed officials to continue improving public service standards. In recognition of professionalism and outstanding performance, the IG distributed commendation certificates to police personnel.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq chairs a National Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) review meeting to assess progress, address implementation gaps and strengthen coordination among national immunization partners to improve vaccination coverage in high-risk and underserved communities

Pakistan, Kuwait vows to translate excellent diplomatic relations into stronger economic partnership

ANTALYA (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and his Kuwaiti counterpart, Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, on Wednesday reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen bilateral relations, with particular focus on trade, investment and business cooperation.

The two leaders held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) in Antalya, Turkiye, where they discussed ways to expand cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including trade, investment, energy, development cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

During the meeting, the prime ministers underscored the longstanding fraternal ties between Pakistan and Kuwait and expressed their resolve to translate the excellent political and diplomatic relations into stronger economic and business partnerships.

They also exchanged views on regional and international developments, particularly challenges relating to peace and security, the adverse consequences of climate change and the need for enhanced international cooperation to promote sustainable development.

Welcoming the recent ratification of the defence cooperation agreement by both countries, the two leaders expressed hope that the development would provide further impetus to bilateral cooperation.

They agreed to work together to advance mutual prosperity, promote regional stability and strengthen sustainable development, reaffirming their shared commitment to taking Pakistan-Kuwait relations to new heights.

The meeting reflected the shared desire of the two brotherly countries to deepen their longstanding partnership and expand mutually beneficial cooperation across diverse sectors.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja addressing the Margalla Dialogue

Stronger coordination essential to advancing efforts towards polio-free Pakistan: Ayesha

ISLAMABAD, (APP): A National Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) review meeting was held here to assess progress, address implementation gaps and strengthen coordination among national immunization partners to improve vaccination coverage in high-risk and underserved communities.

The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq, with National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) National Coordinator Muhammad Anwar ul Haq as co-chair.

The meeting was attended by members of the NEOC National Core Group, Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI), National ISD Task Team and representatives of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), UNICEF, World Health Organization (WHO), Gavi and the Gates Foundation. During the meeting, Ayesha Raza Farooq directed that vaccinators supported under the ISD initiative use the National Electronic Immunization Registry (NEIR) to record vaccination activities and ensure systematic identification and follow-up of zero-dose and under-immunized children.

Discussions also focused on aligning partner investments with national immunization priorities, improving coordination between the Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) and Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), and using the ISD Dashboard for evidence-based planning, monitoring and accountability.

The Prime Minister's Focal Person appreciated the efforts of the National ISD Task Team. She emphasized that stronger coordination and accountable partnerships were essential to closing immunity gaps, protecting children and advancing efforts towards a polio-free Pakistan.

PM personally overseeing implementation of Digital Nation Pakistan vision: Shaza

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Wednesday said artificial intelligence (AI) would become a $4.8 trillion global economy by 2033, stressing the need for Pakistan to prepare its workforce with emerging digital skills.

Addressing the Margalla Dialogue, she said AI would not necessarily eliminate jobs but would change their nature, making new skills essential for employment. People equipped with AI-related skills would enjoy a significant productivity advantage over those without them.

The minister said a person using AI could be up to 100 times more productive than another individual with similar skills who did not use the technology.

Highlighting Pakistan's progress in digital infrastructure, she said internet speeds had increased by 60 per cent over the past two and a half years.

Internet data capacity had also increased by two terabits per second, while the country's total live internet capacity currently stood at around seven terabits, she added.

She said Pakistan had added three international submarine cables, while a spectrum auction of 480 megahertz had increased the country's spectrum capacity from 274 to more than 750 megahertz. She added that nearly 1.8 million people had subscribed to 5G services, while fibre-optic coverage had expanded from fewer than three million to more than six million household connections.

Shaza Fatima said Pakistan had made significant progress in expanding its digital infrastructure over the past two years.

She said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was personally overseeing the implementation of the Digital Nation Pakistan vision. The minister said the country's leadership was committed to addressing the challenges posed by artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. She expressed confidence that Pakistan's sovereign cyber defence capabilities would become among the best in the world.



CHAMAN: Aida Judith Gill formally assumes charge as the Assistant Commissioner of Chaman and has commenced her new responsibilities by taking up official and administrative duties.

Govt making concerted efforts to promote Karachi's development: Senator Afnan

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Muslim (N) Senator Dr Afnan Ullah Khanon Wednesday said that achieving the target of a PKR 1 trillion economy is not possible without improving Karachi. He said the city possesses immense economic potential and some of the country's finest human resources. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is committed to improving Karachi's infrastructure, while the PML-N government was making concerted efforts to promote the city's development.

He expressed these views during a meeting with industrialists and business community representatives at the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI). KATI President Sheikh Umer Rehan, Deputy Patron-in-Chief Zubair Chhaya, Senior Vice President Farrukh Qandhari, Vice President Nasir Sheikh, Sardar Ismail Gabol, Khawaja Tariq Nazir, Daniyal Munaf Kherani, Sardar Rehan, and a large number of industrialists and KATI members were also present.

He said the business community could play a bridging role and contribute to Karachi's improvement and economic growth. Federal government attention was essential to resolving the city's longstanding problems



QUETTA: Chairman BBISE Dr Gulab Khan Khilji in a group photo with the participants of internship programme

Russia, Pak to advance cooperation in energy, trade, industry sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Russian,Energy Minister, Sergey Tsivilev has chaired a meeting of the Russian side of the Russia–Pakistan Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) to review preparations for the 11th session of the Commission, scheduled to be held in Moscow on November 25, 2026. The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral economic and technical cooperation, accelerating joint projects and finalizing agreements across key sectors, including energy, trade, transport, industry, healthcare, agriculture, education and disaster management,said a released issued here on Wednesday.

The IGC is co-chaired by Russian Energy Minister Sergey Tsivilev and Pakistan's Federal Minister for Power Awais Leghari. "We expect the upcoming session to consolidate the results achieved, identify new areas for growth and provide additional momentum to the development of joint projects," Tsivilev said.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Russian federal executive authorities and companies. According to the Russian side, more than 10 bilateral cooperation agreements covering various sectors are at the final stage of preparation for signing.

Energy cooperation, featured prominently in the discussions, with both sides exploring opportunities to improve energy efficiency, deploy energy storage systems, supply Russian energy resources, construct new hydropower plants and modernize existing facilities. Cooperation in protecting energy infrastructure against cyber threats was also discussed.

In the transport sector, the two countries identified the development of maritime shipping and expanded cooperation within the International North–South Transport Corridor as promising areas for bilateral engagement.

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