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Key to success merit-based system: CM Bugti

Balochistan to host first digital expo showcasing AI, E-governance reforms

CM Bugti pledges merit, technology and digital reforms for better governance

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti has formally announced the dates for the first-ever Digital Balochistan Expo 2026 in the province's history. The four-day expo will be held from December 21 to 24 at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS), where the performance of all digitized provincial departments and the achievements made under the digital governance system will be showcased. The event will also introduce talented youth with expertise in the digital sector to national and international companies, providing them with opportunities to demonstrate their skills and explore new avenues for employment and business.

A simple but dignified ceremony was held at the Chief Minister's Secretariat on Wednesday to announce the dates of the Digital Balochistan Expo 2026. Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti formally unveiled the expo dates through a digital dashboard.

Addressing the ceremony, the Chief Minister said the day held special significance for him because when the present government assumed office, it fully realized that the world was rapidly entering the era of digitalization and artificial intelligence, while governance in Balochistan was still being carried out through conventional methods.

He said that along with its vast mineral resources, Balochistan's greatest asset was its talented youth, whose intellectual capabilities, creative thinking and skills needed to be further developed and aligned with global requirements. The Chief Minister said that with this vision, the Government of Balochistan was organizing the Digital Balochistan Expo for the first time, which would provide an effective platform for the province's youth to showcase their digital skills and move forward. Talented young people from any part of Balochistan would be able to participate in the expo, present their abilities and gain opportunities to establish themselves at the national and international levels.

He said the government could not remain an unlimited source of public sector employment.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti addressing the date launching ceremony regarding announcement of dates for the first-ever Digital Balochistan Expo 2026.



DERA GHAZI KHAN: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses a media talk at Khosa House.

No harm in seeking public opinion on establishment of new provinces: Tarar

Says political stability requires a focus on public service and practical measures rather than political point-scoring

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said that political stability required a focus on public service and practical measures rather than political point-scoring.

Talking to the media here, the minister said that there was no harm in seeking public opinion on the establishment of new provinces.

He said new provinces should be created if public opinion favoured the move; otherwise, the proposal should not be pursued.

He said that a debate was underway across the country to seek public opinion on the establishment of new provinces.

Responding to a question, Tarar said that the matter would be presented before Parliament when the appropriate time came.

Regarding social media, the minister stressed the need for better coordination with social media platforms, saying that engagement with them was ongoing. He said that social media platforms were also establishing their offices in Pakistan.

He added that the situation could improve significantly if these platforms aligned their rules and regulations with the country's laws.



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq welcoming Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh Hafiz Uddin Ahmad Bir Bikram on his arrival at Islamabad Airport.

Rewards up to Rs250 million announced for information on wanted terrorists in Balochistan

QUETTA, (VoM Report): The Government of Balochistan has issued a list of the province's most wanted terrorists and announced rewards worth millions of rupees for those who provide credible information about them as part of its efforts to establish peace and eliminate terrorism. According to the official advertisement, rewards ranging from Rs500,000 to Rs250 million have been announced for various terrorists. The list includes several wanted terrorists, including Bashir Zeb and Rehman Gul, and the Government of Balochistan will pay the announced rewards for credible information leading to them. According to the advertisement, a reward of Rs250 million has been announced for information about Rehman Gul, while Rs250 million has also been fixed for providing credible information about Bashir Zeb. Similarly, substantial rewards have been announced for other wanted individuals according to their status. Balochistan Adviser for Home Babar Yousafzai said that the Government of Balochistan is fully committed to eliminating terrorism and protecting the lives and property of the people. The publication of the list of the most wanted terrorists and the announcement of rewards on their heads are part of the government's ongoing measures against terrorism. Babar Yousafzai said public cooperation is of vital importance in the fight against terrorism.

Social media platforms must cooperate against terrorism, online crimes: Naqvi

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday said the government had four red lines for online content. i.e. terrorism, hate speech, incitement to violence and the sexual exploitation of children.

He was speaking at an international seminar, titled: 'Social Media Platforms and the Post-truth Era', organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here. He said Pakistan has paid for terrorism with lives and that platforms act on 47 per cent of the requests made by the counter-terrorism department. He said free speech should not be curtailed and that dissent, including against the government, must remain possible, but that it cannot shield those who cross these lines. Naqvi said the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) has limited manpower, citing 61 personnel, including drivers and clerks, covering Punjab's population of about 140 million. He said the Social Media Protection Regulatory Authority was set up to address this. Under the proposals he outlined, platforms, over-the-top services and major content creators would register with the authority, each platform would name an empowered representative for Pakistan.

Pakistan steps into human space exploration era with first astronaut mission

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Pakistan's first astronaut mission has entered its final stages, with Muhammad Zeeshan Ali set to make history by travelling to China's Space Station (CSS), Tiangong, under an initiative facilitated by the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA), marking a major milestone in the country's entry into human space exploration. The mission, led by CMSA in partnership with Pakistan's SUPARCO, will see the Pakistani astronaut serve as a Payload Expert, with primary responsibility for conducting the country's scientific programme aboard the space station.

During the mission, he will undertake scientific experiments in the microgravity environment, developed by Pakistani researchers in key areas including materials science, fluid physics, life and biological sciences, and biotechnology.

PM vows to leverage Pakistan's IT export potential as primary engine for economic growth

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, on Wednesday, reaffirmed the government's commitment to leveraging Pakistan's IT export potential as a primary engine for economic growth and youth employment.

He stressed that attracting domestic and foreign investment into the IT and IT-enabled services (ITeS) sectors remains a top priority, directing authorities to ensure technology zones function strictly as hubs for innovation and export growth.

Chairing a review meeting regarding Information Technology and Telecom Sector, the prime minister directed a third-party audit of all operational IT parks under the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) by forming a committee, besides asked for a comprehensive review of STZA laws to prevent potential misuse of corporate establishment provisions. The meeting was attended by federal ministers Rana Tanveer Hussain, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Dr Musadik Masood Malik, Ahad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Attaullah Tarar, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, and Mustafa Kamal; Advisor to the PM Muhammad Al, Minister of State Bilal Azhar Kayani, provincial chief secretaries and senior officials.

During the briefing, officials informed the meeting that Alibaba is developing a comprehensive 'Super App' for the Government of Pakistan under the Strategic Transformative Framework, which will consolidate all public-facing government services onto a single digital platform. Reviewing sector-wide performance, the ministry reported that Pakistan's IT exports stood at US$ 4.6 billion through June 2026, with an additional US$ 1.24 billion recorded during the July–September 2026 quarter.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding Information Technology and Telecom Sector.





MESSAGES ON PAKISTAN'S HISTORIC PARTICIPATION IN SHENZHOU-24 SPACE MISSION



ASIF ALI ZARDARI

President of the
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

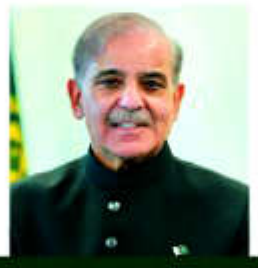
I felicitate the nation on Pakistan's historic participation in China's Shenzhou-24 mission to the Tiangong Space Station. It is a landmark achievement in our country's scientific journey and a moment of immense national pride.

I believe this mission reflects Pakistan's growing commitment to science, research and technological advancement. I appreciate SUPARCO, Pakistani scientists and engineers, and China's cooperation in making this historic opportunity possible. I am confident that this mission will strengthen Pakistan-China scientific cooperation and open new horizons for Pakistan's space programme.

I am hopeful that the scientific experiments to be undertaken during the mission will contribute to advancing research and knowledge in areas of scientific interest. Pakistan's participation in human spaceflight is not only about reaching space but also about harnessing its opportunities for research, learning and innovation to address challenges on Earth.

Recalling Allama Iqbal's vision, **"Sitaron se aagay jahan aur bhi hain"**, I believe this milestone should inspire Pakistan's young generation to pursue knowledge, innovation and scientific discovery with confidence and ambition. I wish the astronauts a successful mission and safe return.

PAKISTAN ZINDABAD!



M. SHEHBAZ SHARIF

Prime Minister of the
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

I extend my heartfelt felicitations to the entire nation on the participation of Pakistani astronaut Zeeshan Ali aboard China's Shenzhou-24 mission to the Tiangong Space Station.

Today, Pakistan has embarked on a journey beyond the stars. This is not merely the journey of one astronaut; it is the journey of 240 million Pakistanis, our youth, our scientists and our dreams. Muhammad Zeeshan Ali and Khurram Dawood have both completed their training in China through extraordinary hard work, discipline and dedication.

Pakistan has become the first country after China to send an astronaut to the Tiangong Space Station. This is a living testament to the ironclad friendship between Pakistan and China. I am grateful to our brotherly country, China, especially President Xi Jinping, for making Pakistan a part of this historic mission. Pakistan and China are not only united in their commitment to peace and shared development on Earth, but are now also partners in the journey into space. This reflects the depth and closeness of our enduring friendship.

I also pay tribute to SUPARCO, the universities and the scientists whose scientific experiments are being carried out aboard this mission into space. Through the collective efforts of the Armed Forces of Pakistan, national institutions, scientists and our youth, Pakistan is moving towards new heights in space research and advanced scientific fields.

If a Pakistani can reach a space station today, a Pakistani will reach the Moon tomorrow. I urge our youth: never stop dreaming, keep working hard and continue believing in Pakistan. Our destination lies beyond the stars.

Our national poet, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, urged the youth decades ago to venture beyond the stars and explore the hidden secrets of the universe. I thank Allah Almighty that this dream is becoming a reality today. My government considers science, technology and space research among its foremost priorities. This mission is a major step towards a new Pakistan, where our youth will not merely compete with the world but will lead it.

PAKISTAN ZINDABAD!



FIELD MARSHAL
SYED ASIM MUNIR
NISHAN-E-IMTIAZ (MILITARY)
HILAL-E-JUR'AT

Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces

The departure of Pakistan's first astronaut aboard the Shenzhou-24 spacecraft on a historic mission to China's space station is a moment of immense pride and joy for the entire nation. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Pakistani astronaut, SUPARCO, and all the technical teams from Pakistan and China on this historic achievement. This extraordinary accomplishment reflects national determination, professional excellence and scientific advancement, marking an important milestone in our national history.

The participation of a Pakistani astronaut in this historic mission reflects Pakistan's scientific and technological capabilities, the strategic partnership between Pakistan and China and the unwavering trust between the two countries. The representation of Pakistan's national flag in space is a matter of great honour and pride for the entire nation.

Alhamdulillah, Pakistan is steadily achieving new milestones in various fields of science and technology. Its growing expertise in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Information Technology, and Cybersecurity, Biotechnology, research in medical sciences, engineering and industrial development are all evidence of our technological prowess. Similarly, progress in communication satellites, defence and aerospace technologies, alternative energy resources and environmental technologies is laying the foundation for a bright and self-reliant future for Pakistan.

Pakistan's greatest strength lies in its talented youth, academics, scientists, engineers and professionally skilled institutions. Harnessing their potential for advanced research, innovation, and technological advancement is essential for national development and achieving self reliance. This space mission conveys a powerful message to future generations that through sustained determination, professional excellence, and national unity, Pakistan can reach new heights in every field. This new chapter of Pakistan-China cooperation will create further opportunities in space exploration, advanced scientific knowledge and international technological collaboration.

The friendship between Pakistan and China is higher than the heights of the Himalayas, deeper than the depths of the oceans, sweeter than the sweetness of honey and as boundless as the vastness of the universe. It transcends geographical boundaries. This everlasting friendship is a shining example of mutual trust, brotherhood, and shared determination and will continue to serve as a guiding light for generations to come.

I am confident that through its capabilities, national resolve and institutional harmony, Pakistan will secure an increasingly prominent position in the global landscape of science and technology.

PAKISTAN HAMESHA ZINDABAD!

Beyond the First Pakistani Astronaut: Space Cooperation and the Next Phase of CPEC 2.0



PROF AHSAN IQBAL
Federal Minister for Planning Development, and Special Initiatives

The participation of a Pakistani astronaut in China's Shenzhou-24 mission to the Tiangong Space Station marks a significant moment in the 75-year relationship between Pakistan and China. Yet, its importance extends beyond the distinction of becoming the first foreign national to visit the station. It points to a broader shift in bilateral cooperation: from infrastructure, connectivity and technology transfer towards scientific participation and the development of advanced capabilities.

The strategic question is whether Pakistan can turn this opening into a durable role in space research and technology. That will require more than access to Chinese facilities. It will depend on the ability of Pakistani institutions to contribute experiments, develop technologies and translate research into applications. This is also where space cooperation intersects with CPEC 2.0, whose emphasis on innovation and industrial development creates a wider context for moving the partnership towards knowledge-based growth.

Shenzhou-24 Mission and Pakistan-China Scientific Cooperation

Under an agreement between Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) and the China Manned Space Agency, two Pakistani astronaut candidates had been selected for training in China. One is participating in Shenzhou-24 as a payload specialist, with the second serving as backup. The mission makes a Pakistani the first foreign astronaut to enter China's space station.

Its scientific significance lies in the experiments that will accompany the astronaut. Pakistani universities and research institutions submitted more than 300 proposals, of which four experiments were selected. Preparing these payloads requires research design, testing and coordination with Chinese technical teams. It gives Pakistani scientists experience in the standards and procedures of crewed space research, while creating opportunities to build longer-term institutional partnerships. The mission does not, by itself, establish a human spaceflight capability in Pakistan. Its greater value is as a platform for sustained scientific participation. Continued access to experiments, research exchanges and future missions could help Pakistani institutions develop expertise that cannot be acquired through observation alone. For China, the collaboration also broadens the international dimension of its space program and builds scientific links with a long-standing partner.

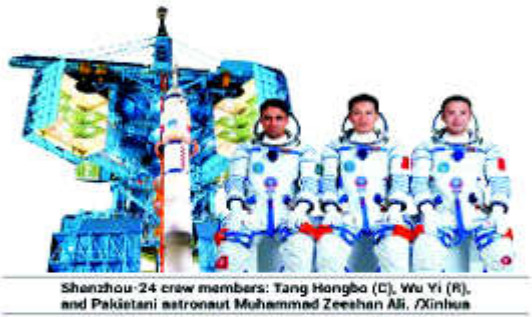
Satellite Development, Lunar Exploration and Technology Transfer

The astronaut mission is one part of a wider relationship that increasingly includes satellite technology and lunar research. Pakistan's PRSC-S1, launched in 2025, and PRSC-EO3, launched in 2026, have expanded its remote-sensing capabilities. EO-3 also carries an experimental AI-based processing unit, reflecting the growing importance of onboard data analysis in satellite systems.

University collaboration has opened another route into international missions. ICUBE-Q, developed by Pakistan's Institute of Space Technology and Shanghai Jiao Tong University, travelled aboard China's Chang'e-6 mission in 2024 and conducted lunar observations. The planned Pakistani lunar rover for Chang'e-8, expected in 2028, would take this involvement further. Developed indigenously by SUPARCO, the approximately 35-kilogram rover is intended to operate near the lunar south pole.

These projects matter because they represent different stages of technological engagement. Satellite launches expand access to space-based services; university-led missions create experience in collaborative research; and, the rover offers an opportunity to contribute locally developed hardware to a major international program. The strategic priority now is to extend Pakistani participation into system design, scientific instruments, software, robotics and manufacturing.

This is where technology transfer must become capability-building. The objective should not simply be to acquire equipment or benefit from another country's infrastructure, but to develop the engineering skills, research partnerships and industrial expertise needed to adapt and eventually produce technologies. China's established space sector can provide a valuable partner in that process, while Pakistani universities and companies can contribute specialized research and applications.



Shenzhou-24 crew members: Tang Hongbo (C), Wu Yi (R), and Pakistani astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali. /Xinhua

Space Technology and the Economic Priorities of CPEC 2.0

The economic value of space programs is increasingly realized through their applications on Earth. Satellite data can support crop monitoring, irrigation planning, flood assessment, environmental observation and disaster response.

Telecommunications can improve connectivity, while maritime monitoring can contribute to coastal planning and fisheries management. For Pakistan, these are not peripheral benefits. They relate directly to food security, climate resilience, infrastructure planning and public services.

But data alone does not create economic value. The larger opportunity lies in building the capacity to process information and turn it into usable products. Universities can develop analytical methods. Pakistani technology firms can provide geospatial services and remote sensing applications; and, public agencies can incorporate these tools into planning and decision-making. Collaboration with Chinese companies could help connect research with commercial markets, support specialized engineering and create opportunities for technology startups.

This offers a practical innovation dimension to CPEC 2.0. The first phase strengthened physical connectivity through energy, transport and infrastructure. The next phase can build on that foundation by linking research institutions, technology companies and industrial users. Space cooperation is not an established CPEC project in itself, but its applications align with the broader priorities of innovation, industrial development and high-value economic activity.

The strategic opportunity is to connect the stages of an innovation economy: research generates knowledge, firms develop it into services and products and public and private users create demand. If Pakistan-China cooperation can strengthen these links, space technology can contribute not only to scientific prestige, but also to productivity, skilled employment and the growth of domestic technology businesses.

Long-Term Prospects for Pakistan-China Space Cooperation

The next phase should aim to make cooperation continuous rather than dependent on individual missions. Five complementary areas can help guide that effort: joint research involving SUPARCO, Chinese institutions and universities; human-capital development through specialist training, fellowships and academic exchanges; technology development in satellite systems, AI, robotics and scientific instruments; commercial partnerships in geospatial services and satellite applications; and knowledge-sharing through joint publications and regular institutional exchanges. These priorities are mutually reinforcing. Research creates the basis for new technologies. Skilled people enable institutions and companies to develop them and commercial applications give innovation an economic purpose. A Pakistan-China Space Science and Innovation Forum could bring scientists, policymakers, universities and businesses together to identify research priorities and partnership opportunities. It would be a possible platform for strengthening existing cooperation, not a substitute for the institutions and projects already under way.

Both countries also have an interest in the peaceful and responsible use of outer space. Scientific collaboration can widen international participation and contribute to shared knowledge, while giving developing countries greater opportunities to engage in exploration and research. The long-term measure of success will be the extent to which Pakistan's role expands from participating in missions to contributing technologies, research and services. China brings an established space infrastructure and extensive technical experience; Pakistan's opportunity is to use this partnership to strengthen its own scientific institutions and domestic capabilities. The Shenzhou-24 mission is a historic milestone, but its deeper significance will be determined by what Pakistan can build from it: a sustained place in international research and a stronger innovation base at home.

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Agriculture holds potential to swiftly steer economy towards growth: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tuesday, terming agriculture as the backbone of the national economy, said it has the potential to steer Pakistan's economy on the path of development in a short span of time. The prime minister chaired the first meeting of the National Agriculture and Food Security Council (NAFSC).

The prime minister observed that the livestock sector also possessed vast potential to increase national exports and the government was taking steps to increase Pakistan's halal meat exports. He said that the federal government would provide all kinds of cooperation to the provinces for agricultural development, adding that providing farmers with low-cost fertilizer, quality seeds, modern machinery and equipment and technical capabilities for the better use of water was a top priority. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Ministers Rana Tanvir Hussain, Dr. Musadik Malik, Jam Kamal Khan, Ahad Khan Cheema, Ahsan Iqbal, Attaullah Tarar, Khalid Hussain Magsi, Mian Moeen Wattoo, Advisors Rana Sanaullah and Haroon Akhtar, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Sindh Agriculture Minister Makhdoom Mehboob-uz-Zaman and relevant senior officials, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister expressed his satisfaction at the availability of wheat to meet domestic requirements and warned that no leniency would be shown to those hoarding wheat.

He further stressed that ensuring a fair price for farmers' crops, especially small and medium-scale farmers, is a priority, adding that it was necessary to determine the correct price of wheat before sowing so that farmers received appropriate compensation for their hard work.

"We want farmers to get the right price for wheat and consumers to avail of affordable wheat. The decision regarding the price of wheat will be made in consultation with the provinces, " the press release quoted him as saying.

During the meeting, the prime minister lauded Chief Minister of Punjab for taking commendable steps such as farmers' development, aquaculture, shrimp farming, and providing direct subsidies to farmers through the Kisan Card.

He also appreciated the chief minister Sindh for his hard work for the development of farmers and providing them with facilities.

During the meeting, the chief minister Punjab and the Sindh Minister for Food highlighted the steps taken by their respective provincial governments for the development of farmers in their respective provinces.

During the meeting, briefings were also given on the steps taken for agricultural development in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan.



Maysam Tunsi, sister of Mahdi Tunsi, a Palestinian student at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem who was detained by Israeli forces, participates in his hearing held at the Jerusalem Central Court, in Jerusalem

Aurangzeb highlights economic reforms, investment opportunities at Jefferies Roundtable

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday highlighted Pakistan's economic reforms, financing opportunities and efforts to strengthen investor confidence during a roundtable hosted by Jefferies International.

Secretary Finance, Imdadullah Bosal, and Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Jameel Ahmad also participated in a roundtable with institutional investors, held on the sidelines of the World Bank Group–IMF Annual Meetings 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand, according to press release issued by finance ministry. The minister highlighted Pakistan's improving fiscal and external balances, stronger foreign exchange reserves, rating upgrades and renewed access to international capital markets. He emphasized consolidating macroeconomic stability and moving towards sustainable, export-led growth, supported by continued reforms in taxation, energy, state-owned enterprises and public finance.

Discussions covered progress under the IMF programme, debt management and potential financing instruments, including Sukuk, further Panda bond issuance and tokenization. Aurangzeb outlined privatization opportunities and stressed expanding business-to-business trade and investment.

He also addressed tax-base broadening, agricultural income tax implementation, digital enforcement and federal–provincial coordination on fiscal targets.

Responding to investor questions, the delegation discussed regional geopolitical risks, energy security and LNG obligations, alongside economic engagement with the United States and Saudi Arabia. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to maintaining reform momentum and strengthening investor confidence.

Meanwhile, the minister, met with Mashreq Bank's senior management to discuss its expanding presence in Pakistan and highlighted macroeconomic gains and renewed market access, reaffirming support for Mashreq's expansion and sustainable growth. He reviewed digital banking growth and opportunities to advance financial inclusion through technology.

Pakistan-China Business Forum delegation signals readiness for Joint Ventures

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia has called for enhanced China-Pakistan industrial cooperation through joint ventures, technology transfer and investment in manufacturing,

He emphasizing that industrialization is vital to Pakistan's sustainable economic growth, export development and job creation.

He expressed these views while addressing a 13-member delegation of the Pakistan-China Business Forum (PCBF), led by Lt. General ® Abdul Qayyum, Chief Patron, and Sheikh Ejaz Asghar, Co-Chairman, said a press release.

He stressed that consistent follow-up, effective business matchmaking and a clear understanding of mutual commercial interests were essential to translating bilateral engagements into tangible economic outcomes.

He proposed compiling a comprehensive directory of Chinese companies and their products, establishing a product and technology display centre at ICCI, and setting up a dedicated facilitation desk for Chinese businesses in Islamabad.

He emphasized that Islamabad's strategic location and proximity to government institutions made it an attractive destination for investment. The ICCI President also proposed organizing a major Pakistan-China Expo in Islamabad in March 2027.

DPM reviews wheat import progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday reviewed wheat import progress and expressed satisfaction that sufficient supplies had been arranged as per the demand of the provinces.

Chairing the 7th Meeting of the Steering Committee on Wheat Imports for Food Year 2026–27, the deputy prime minister said first shipment was scheduled to reach Karachi before end of this month.

The DPM/FM emphasized that the imported stocks along with PASSCO supplies already allocated to provinces should be utilised for price stability to create ease for the consumers.

The meeting was attended by the Ministers for National Food Security and Research, Commerce.



Visitors explore the Turkic World tents during the fifth day of the Ethnosport Culture Festival in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti addressing the groundbreaking ceremony of the state-of-the-art Mir Sarfraz Bugti Sports Complex in PB-39 Nawan Killi

Pakistan, EU explore cooperation in electric vehicle skills development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor to the Prime Minister for Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan on Tuesday met a delegation of the European Union (EU) and discussed avenues for cooperation in electric vehicle (EV) skills development, technical training and capacity building to support Pakistan's transition towards sustainable mobility.

During the meeting, Haroon emphasized that promoting electric vehicles and developing the skilled workforce required by the emerging sector were important components of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's vision for a modern, competitive and sustainable industrial economy, said a news release.

"Pakistan has set a target of increasing the share of electric vehicles to 30 percent by 2030. Achieving this transition requires more than introducing new vehicles; it demands a skilled workforce, technical expertise and the development of a supporting industrial ecosystem, " the advisor said.

He noted that several companies had entered Pakistan's electric vehicle market, creating a growing need for trained technicians, engineers and other professionals equipped with modern EV-related skills.

He stressed that timely investment in skills development would help prepare Pakistani youth for emerging employment opportunities while strengthening the country's capacity to adopt and manufacture new technologies.

"Pakistan missed important opportunities during earlier phases of the global automobile revolution, but we will not afford to miss the electric vehicle revolution. Our objective is to build local capabilities, develop technical expertise and ensure that this transition creates jobs and industrial opportunities for Pakistan, " Haroon remarked.

The advisor said that the government's forthcoming Auto Policy, expected to be rolled out in the coming weeks, would place particular emphasis on electric vehicles and the development of the automotive sector.

He said that work was also underway on a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Policy, which would support the broader transition towards cleaner energy technologies and strengthen the enabling environment for emerging industries. Highlighting the economic and environmental significance of electric mobility, he said that the transition could contribute to reducing the country's oil import bill, improving energy sustainability and creating opportunities for local value addition.

He underlined the importance of ensuring that Pakistan's EV transition was accompanied by the development of technical skills, local supply chains and industrial capacity.

Haroon directed the Engineering Development Board (EDB) to engage with the EU delegation and explore practical areas of cooperation in EV skills development, technical training and capacity building.

He said Pakistan was keen to benefit from European expertise and experience in developing the workforce and technical capabilities required by the evolving automotive industry. Secretary of Industries and Production Ihsan Ali Mangi emphasized the importance of aligning skills development initiatives with the emerging requirements of the automotive industry.

He observed that effective coordination between government institutions, industry and international partners could help identify skills gaps, strengthen technical training and ensure that the workforce was prepared for new technologies.

He said that collaboration with the European Union could provide opportunities to exchange technical knowledge.



The mural of Argentinian footballer Diego Maradona in the Spanish Quarter of Naples, Italy, has reopened after 13 months of renovation work. Many people attended the reopening, visiting the artwork that commemorates Maradona.

Regional telecom leaders unveil roadmap for digital inclusion

ISLAMABAD (APP): Regional telecom leaders on Tuesday unveiled a roadmap to promote digital inclusion across the Asia-Pacific region, focusing on high-speed internet, satellite networks, affordable smartphones and emerging technologies.

The three-day Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) Symposium on Digital Transformation and Universal Service Fund (USF) opened in Islamabad.

The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT) and USF Pakistan co-hosted it, in collaboration with the APT Secretariat.

The symposium brings together ministers, telecom regulators, industry executives and delegates from across the Asia-Pacific region to discuss ways to improve digital connectivity and modernise universal service policies.

Discussions focus on expanding high-speed fibre networks, using satellite technology, making smartphones more affordable, and developing local artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure in rural areas.

SECP guidebook strengthens safeguards against misuse of financial services

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a guidebook on Targeted Financial Sanctions (TFS) for its regulated entities to strengthen safeguards against terrorist financing and other illicit activities and protect the integrity of Pakistan's financial system.

The guidebook explains, in practical terms, the steps regulated entities should take to meet their obligations under applicable TFS requirements, said a news release here on Tuesday.

These include screening customers, prospective customers and beneficial owners against relevant sanctions lists and notifications; assessing potential matches; freezing the funds and assets of designated persons and entities without delay; and reporting to the relevant authorities within the required time.

It also highlights the need for clear internal procedures, regular screening, proper record-keeping, staff awareness and effective compliance controls.

PSX loses over 347 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bearish trend on Tuesday, losing 347.97 points, a negative change of 0.21 percent, to close at 164, 776.44 points against 165, 124.41 points recorded in the previous trading session.

The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 383.746 million shares, compared to 362.954 million shares traded in the previous session, while the traded value decreased to Rs13.104 billion from Rs14.507 billion.

Market capitalisation declined to Rs18.325 trillion from Rs18.359 trillion recorded a day earlier.

Out of 500 companies that traded in the ready market, 223 posted gains, 226 suffered losses, while 51 remained unchanged, reflecting a bearish trend in the market.

LSE Financial ® led the volume chart with 32.283 million shares, followed by Waves Home App with 21.848 million shares and WorldCall Telecom with 19.528 million shares.

Among the top gainers, Khairpur Sugar Mills Limited advanced by Rs66.97 to close at Rs886.99, while Fateh Industries Limited surged by Rs34.89 to settle at Rs383.83. On the losing side, Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited.

Pak, Ethiopia discuss expediting pharmaceutical market access, strengthening bilateral trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Tuesday called for expediting regulatory approvals for Pakistani pharmaceutical companies seeking access to the Ethiopian market, as Pakistan and Ethiopia discussed measure to expand bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation.

The discussions took place during a meeting between the minister and Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Oumer Hussein Oba, who called on him at his office here, said a news release.

Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Industries Rana Ihsaan Afzal, Federal Secretary for Commerce Jawad Paul and senior Ministry officials also attended the meeting.

The minister highlighted Pakistan's growing pharmaceutical industry and its potential to expand exports to African markets.

He stressed that timely regulatory approvals and transparent procedures were essential to building confidence among Pakistani exporters and strengthening commercial ties with Ethiopia.

He emphasised the need for close close coordination among regulatory authorities, diplomatic missions and trade officials to address pending issues and facilitate market access. Jam Kamal also called for stronger business-to-business engagement, remove trade barriers and identify practical opportunities to increase bilateral trade.

The Ethiopian ambassador informed the minister that he had taken up the pending pharmaceutical registration issues with the relevant Ethiopian health authorities and received positive assurances regarding their early resolution.

Secretary Commerce Jawad Paul stressed the importance of expediting the proposed visit of the Ethiopian technical team to Pakistan for the necessary inspection and evaluation of pharmaceutical companies.



Bulgarian President Iliana Yotova (L) and her deputy Kiril Valchev (R) receive their certificates of election from Central Election Commission (CEC) Chairman Georgi Horozov during a ceremony at the Parliament building in Sofia

Shaza Fatima says: Pakistan's satellite internet framework nearing completion

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Tuesday said that Pakistan is in the final stages of preparing a Fixed Satellite Service (FSS) framework for satellite internet services,

Addressing the APT Symposium on Digital Transformation and the Universal Service Fund (USF), she said the framework would be finalised soon after consultations with relevant institutions.

The government would provide a favourable and business-friendly environment for companies investing in the satellite internet sector, she added.

The minister said Pakistan had made significant progress in expanding digital connectivity, improving internet infrastructure and narrowing the gender gap in mobile internet usage.

She said the gender gap in mobile internet usage had declined from 38 per cent to 8 per cent. Citing the GSMA, she said Pakistan had recorded the world's fastest progress in reducing the gap over the past two years.

Shaza Fatima said three new submarine internet cables had landed in Pakistan over the past two and a half years. Work was also underway on alternative routes and new cable connections to improve international internet connectivity.

Through the Universal Service Fund, more than 17, 000 kilometres of optical fibre had been laid across the country, she added.

The number of fibre broadband home passes had increased from fewer than three million in 2024 to more than five million, the minister said.

She added that the proportion of mobile towers connected to fibre had risen from less than 15pc to over 19pc. The government aimed to increase this rate to at least 60pc.

The minister said Pakistan had introduced fifth-generation (5G) technology through the auction of 480 megahertz of spectrum in March 2026.



In Washington, D.C., the official 2026 Christmas tree for the White House was brought to North Drive. Melania Trump, wife of US President Donald Trump, greeted the Christmas tree upon its arrival at the White House.

Chinese delegation visits IPC Ministry to explore investment opportunities

ISLAMABAD (APP): To further promote trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and China and explore new investment opportunities, a high-level Chinese delegation—under the auspices of the Pak-China Business Forum—visited the Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) on Tuesday.

The meeting was chaired by Federal Secretary for Inter Provincial Coordination, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, and was attended by heads, general managers and managing directors of Chinese enterprises associated with the sectors of energy, international trade, industrial services, construction and development, rock wool technology and automobiles, said a press release.

From the Pak-China Business Forum, Chief Patron Lt. Gen. ® Qayyum, Patron Brig. ® Sultan Mehmood Satti, Patron Sheikh Ijaz Asghar and other representatives also attended the meeting.

On the occasion, the Chief Patron of the Forum said that the Pak-China Business Forum was established about ten years ago to promote investment opportunities and strengthen business linkages between the two countries. At present, it has 22 offices operating in China.

PM Shehbaz vows to protect public from cybercrimes

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to expedite the restructuring process of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) to transform it into an effective and modern institution and align the system for the prevention and investigation of cybercrimes with modern needs.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting regarding the restructuring of the NCCIA, said that protecting the public from cybercrimes was among the government's priorities.

He directed the deployment of experts from the information technology and artificial intelligence sectors in the NCCIA and all its subordinate offices, and the hiring of the best and merit-based human resources in the agency.

The prime minister said that the restructuring of the institution should focus on the use of AI and modern technology, while utilising all available resources to resolve pending cybercrime cases.

To review the reform proposals presented by the NCCIA, Prime Minister Shehbaz ordered the formation of a committee comprising federal ministers Mohsin Naqvi, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Muhammad Aurangzeb, and Shaza Fatima Khawaja, which would submit its recommendations to him by the end of the current week.

During the meeting, recommendations regarding the restructuring of the NCCIA were presented, and its performance, administrative structure, and future course of action were also reviewed. In a briefing, the participants of the meeting were told that there was a proposal to convert the NCCIA into a national-level Pakistan Cyber Police, for which the best human resources would be recruited on merit.

It was informed that a specialised system for national security concerning cybercrimes had become operational, and all possible measures were being taken under the existing system to resolve cybercrime cases.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Azam Nazeer Tarar, Dr. Musadik Masood Malik, Ahad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, and Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani, and senior officers of the relevant departments.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi presenting a souvenir to former President of the Swiss Confederation and a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Commission on Drug Policy Ruth Dreifuss



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti addressing the inaugural ceremony of NTC Data Center.

Pakistan, Türkiye agree to boost exchange of judicial expertise, institutional cooperation

ISLAMABAD, (APP): A seven-member Turkish judicial delegation, led by President of the Court of Cassation Ömer Kerkez, visited the Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan and discussed ways to strengthen judicial cooperation between the two countries. The delegation met Chief Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, other judges, Registrar and Secretary to the Chief Justice. During the meeting, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan highlighted the historic and fraternal ties between Pakistan and Türkiye and stressed the need for greater exchange of legal and judicial expertise, professional engagement and institutional cooperation. Ömer Kerkez acknowledged the longstanding friendship and shared values between the two countries, saying increased interaction between their judicial institutions would promote mutual understanding and enable them to benefit from each other's experiences.

No leniency for anti-state elements:

No one can break Balochistan; Pakistan will remain strong forever: CM Bugti

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti has said that no one can break Balochistan, Pakistan will remain strong forever, and Balochistan is an inseparable part of Pakistan. Terrorism, whether carried out in the name of religion or nationalism, is unacceptable under any circumstances. No leniency will be shown to those who take up arms against the state or advocate terrorism, whether they are men or women. The Constitution of Pakistan grants citizens the right to peaceful protest; however, it also teaches unconditional loyalty to the state and adherence to constitutional responsibilities. Under no ideology or narrative can the killing of innocent civilians, violence, or taking up arms against the state be justified. The solution to Balochistan's issues lies not in violence but in education, development, better governance, economic opportunities, and public service. He expressed these views while addressing the participants of the 28th National Security Workshop . On the occasion, Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan gave a detailed briefing on the ongoing development projects and the overall situation in the province.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that improving the standard of living of ordinary people of Balochistan, who endure extreme heat and harsh winters, making the governance system more effective, and resolving public issues through practical measures are among the government's top priorities.

Survivors of violence deserve justice

Balochistan govt launches province-wide campaign against gender-based violence

Dr Rubaba Buledi says violence against women in any form is unacceptable; dignity and privacy of affected women must be protected

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Provincial Adviser for Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has said that eliminating violence against women and girls is essential for building a safe, just and dignified society. She said all segments of society, government institutions, civil society and relevant organizations must demonstrate collective responsibility to prevent gender-based violence and ensure the protection of women and girls, access to justice and respect for their fundamental rights.

She expressed these views while addressing a ceremony organized by the Women Development Department in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the EVAW Alliance to mark the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence 2026 campaign.

This year's campaign carries the central message of uniting to end violence against women and girls, ensuring justice for survivors, protecting them and bringing those involved in acts of violence before the law.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi said violence against women is not the issue of an individual or a family alone but a major social challenge, which requires effective legislation, implementation of laws, institutional cooperation and greater public awareness for its elimination.

She said women affected by violence should be provided with an environment of protection, confidence and justice instead of fear, pressure and social stigma, adding that it is the responsibility of both the state and society.

She said the dignity and privacy of affected women must be protected while ensuring the provision of legal assistance, psychological counseling and necessary facilities.

She added that those involved in such incidents must be held accountable and punished in accordance with the law so that intolerance and violent tendencies in society can be discouraged.

The Provincial Adviser said the 16-day global campaign is not merely an awareness activity but an opportunity to renew the collective commitment towards the protection of women and girls.

She said the campaign must raise awareness in society that violence against women in any form is unacceptable and that survivors should be provided with a supportive environment to seek justice without fear instead of remaining silent.



QUETTA: Provincial Adviser for Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi attends a ceremony to mark the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence 2026 campaign.

Financial constraints should not become barrier to justice: CJP

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi and former Swiss President Ruth Dreifuss discussed criminal justice reforms, prison overcrowding and measures to improve access to justice, particularly for vulnerable groups.

Ms. Dreifuss, former President of the Swiss Confederation and a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Commission on Drug Policy, called on the Chief Justice at the Supreme Court along with Chairperson of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) Rabiya Javeri Agha and other members of the delegation. The discussions focused on protecting the rights of women, children and persons with drug dependence, besides addressing barriers to accessing justice and challenges arising from overcrowding in prisons. Ms. Dreifuss expressed particular interest in the National Prison Reform Action Plan, jointly developed by the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee and the NCHR, especially its measures aimed at reducing pre-trial incarceration and promoting alternatives to imprisonment.

The delegation also proposed specialised capacity-building programmes for district judiciary officers through the Federal Judicial Academy to strengthen their ability to address challenges within the criminal justice system. The proposal was welcomed by the Chief Justice.

Highlighting the difficulties faced by women prisoners, particularly those unable to afford legal representation, the delegation discussed ways to ensure their access to legal assistance.

In this regard, the Chief Justice informed the delegation about the recently launched free legal aid programme of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with a delegation of Azerbaijan led by Mr. Ulvi Mehdiyev, Chairman of the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovation.

Husband has no automatic right over wife's property: SC

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The Supreme Court has upheld a woman's ownership of her house after ruling that a property transfer shown as a gift to her husband was neither voluntary nor legally established, as he had made reconciliation conditional on transferring the house in his name.

A two-member bench comprising Justice Shahid Waheed and Justice Naeem Akhter Afghan dismissed the husband's appeal and ordered him to pay Rs500,000 in costs to his former wife within 30 days.

In its judgment, authored by Justice Shahid Waheed, the court held that a valid gift under Islamic law required three essential elements: declaration by the donor, acceptance by the recipient and delivery of possession. Mere registration of a gift deed could not substitute for proof of these requirements. The case concerned a six-marla plot in Lahore purchased in the wife's name in 1983, on which a house was subsequently constructed through a loan obtained in her name. In 1994, a registered gift deed transferred the property to her husband, followed by a mutation in his favour.

The wife challenged the transfer, maintaining that her signatures and thumb impressions had been obtained on blank stamp papers under the pretext of executing a power of attorney for repayment of the housing loan. The husband, however, told the court that he had made reconciliation conditional upon his wife transferring the house to him.

The Supreme Court observed that his own pleadings established that the transfer was not a voluntary and gratuitous gift but was made in exchange for his agreement to reconcile. It also noted that the gift deed contained no evidence of the husband's acceptance, while he failed to establish when, where or before whom he had accepted it.

The court held that registration of a gift deed and a subsequent revenue mutation did not automatically confer ownership, adding that the beneficiary bore the burden of proving the validity of the transaction.

Dera Bugti to get Rs 257 mln for two road projects

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The Balochistan government will spend Rs256.76 million during the current fiscal year on two federally funded road projects in Dera Bugti to improve regional connectivity and transportation infrastructure under the Dera Bugti Development Package.

According to an official document available with Wealth Pakistan, the funds have been allocated under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) as part of the Aghaz-e-Haqooq-e-Balochistan Package (AHBP).

Of the total allocation, Rs156 million has been earmarked for the construction of a black-topped road from Lehri to Sangsila under Phase-I, while Rs100.757 million will be spent on a 57-kilometre black-topped road connecting Sui with Uch Field.

The Lehri-Sangsila road project carries a total estimated cost of Rs841 million, against which Rs535 million has so far been released or spent. The latest allocation will provide further financial support for its implementation.

Similarly, the Sui-Uch Field road project has an estimated cost of Rs797.710 million, with cumulative releases or expenditure of Rs546.953 million. The fresh allocation will support the continuation of construction work on the 57-kilometre route.

The Dera Bugti Development Package comprises five development schemes with a combined estimated cost of Rs3.519 billion, covering road construction, improvement of existing infrastructure and village electrification.

Two of the five schemes have recorded releases or expenditure equal to their respective approved costs.

These include a Rs335.690 million black-topped road connecting Dera Bugti with Pitokh, Habib Rahi and Vedara Killi Mured, and a Rs952.353 million scheme for electrification of villages in the district.

China, Pakistan deepen marine science ties with new Qingdao initiative

BEIJING, (APP): The first seminar on Marine Geology, Resources and Environment in Offshore Pakistan was held in Qingdao, bringing together more than 40 experts and scholars from Chinese institutions and eight Pakistani visiting scholars and students to discuss key scientific issues and chart a path for deeper cooperation.

The event was organized by the Qingdao Institute of Marine Geology under the China Geological Survey. Discussions centered on oil and gas resources and gas hydrates in offshore Pakistan and adjacent areas, tectonic evolution, and coastal resources, environment and geological hazards, with 19 academic presentations covering offshore oil and gas exploration, gas hydrate accumulation models and numerical simulation, regional tectonic evolution and mineralization, coastal resource and environmental hazard risk assessment, and satellite remote sensing for marine environmental monitoring.

During the seminar, participants released the "Qingdao Initiative on China-Pakistan Marine Geoscience Cooperation," calling for deeper joint research in marine geoscience, accelerated development of marine science and technology innovation platforms, strengthened training of young researchers.

Online harassment, targeted campaigns against public figures requires serious attention: Shaza

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Speakers at an international seminar on Tuesday called for stronger accountability of social media platforms and balanced, risk-based regulation to counter disinformation, extremist content and other online threats without undermining freedom of expression, innovation and the digital economy.

They were speaking during the second session, titled "Global Platforms and Local Laws: How to Ensure Digital with social media platforms and specialised regulatory institutions to address online threats, harassment and security-related complaints. She said gender-related issues, particularly online harassment and targeted campaigns against public figures, also required serious attention and proper contextualisation to ensure effective responses from social media platforms. The minister pointed out that differences between local laws and social media platforms' Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), could play an important role in providing expertise and improving coordination with social media platforms. Emphasising the need for proportionate regulatory measures, she said banning or shutting down digital platforms should remain a last resort, with awareness, engagement and other corrective measures considered first.



QUETTA: World Bank's Country Director in Pakistan Bolormaa called on Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan.



QUETTA: Head of FDI Pakistan Uzma Yaqoob addressing a ceremony to mark the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence 2026 campaign.

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