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Effective governance essential for peace, sustainable development: CM Bugti

Says civil and military institutions are working in close coordination and under a unified strategy to establish lasting peace in Balochistan

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

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

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

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

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

The Chief Minister emphasized that a robust and functional administrative structure is fundamental to effectively addressing security challenges and resolving public grievances, to this end, Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, and District Police Officers have been appointed across all districts of the province strictly on the basis of merit, with the objective of enhancing transparency, accountability, and efficiency in administrative affairs. He further noted that the current provincial government has enacted 16 laws to strengthen the law and order apparatus and improve security-related matters. Additionally, work has been accelerated on 'Safe City' projects across various regions of Balochistan, designed to bolster security and surveillance systems through the integration of modern technology.

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



GWADAR: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti giving appointment letters to female secondary school teachers.



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

PM vows stronger drug safety with launch of 'Mehfooz Dawa' app

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

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

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

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

He said that he had immediately collected samples of the suspected medicines and dispatched them to laboratories in London, Geneva and Paris for independent verification. At the time, he added, the federal government had maintained that the Punjab government was responsible for the incident, arguing that there was nothing wrong with the medicines.

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

The prime minister said that such painful incidents underscored the importance of strengthening regulatory oversight and introducing modern technological solutions to prevent similar tragedies in the future. He said that the development of the Mehfooz Dawa application was a significant initiative to facilitate the public and help address shortcomings in the healthcare system.

The prime minister appreciated the contributions of Minister for National Health Services, Syed Mustafa Kamal, Minister for Information Technology, the ministry's secretary, the Digital Authority, SIFC, pharmaceutical industry representatives and all relevant departments. Highlighting the inequalities in access to healthcare, he observed that members of the privileged class could afford treatment at leading hospitals, while millions of ordinary citizens struggled even to meet their basic food requirements, making medical treatment an additional financial burden.

He assured of the government's commitment to provide health and education facilities to every citizen of Pakistan.

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

All important national decisions must be made through Parliament: Bilawal

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

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

Bilawal said the government should take confidence-building measures to bridge its trust deficit with the opposition, adding that all important national decisions must be made through Parliament. Decisions taken outside the elected forum would make it difficult for the system to overcome its challenges. He said ordinary citizens were bearing the burden of inflation and rising electricity and fuel prices, while families were struggling to meet basic needs, including food, education and healthcare.

Unemployment and uncertainty among educated youth had also reached alarming levels, requiring political leaders to acknowledge ground realities instead of misleading the people.

The PPP chairman said the prevailing regional situation offered little prospect of immediate economic relief, making national unity and political stability even more important.

Pakistan played "very constructive role" between Washington and Tehran: Defence Minister

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

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

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



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



QUETTA: DG BISP Dr Jalal Faiz called on Acting Balochistan Governor Captain (R) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

JUI-F not involved in any unlawful activity: Maulana

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He maintained that JUI-F's political history was rooted in peaceful struggle.

Pakistan becomes first int'l partner in China's manned space mission: Ahsan

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

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

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

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

"This is not the finish line. It is the beginning of a new partnership," he remarked, emphasising that space technology had become essential for countries seeking sustainable development and economic competitiveness.

The minister highlighted Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change, noting that the country was among the world's 10 most climate-vulnerable nations and had experienced devastating climate-related disasters, particularly in 2022 and 2025. He said satellite technology could significantly strengthen Pakistan's disaster preparedness, early-warning systems, emergency response and relief operations.

CJP Afridi reviews plans for Women Facilitation Centres

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

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

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

The Chief Justice said that establishing Women Facilitation Centres across Pakistan is a priority for the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan in 2026–27. The centres are intended to give women a single point of access to court-related information, legal guidance and support services. Locating the centres alongside Family Courts will help women obtain assistance close to where their cases are heard and reduce the need to visit multiple offices. The proposed centres will include reception and guidance desks, dedicated waiting areas, hygienic washrooms, private consultation rooms, a dedicated mediation room, and a day-care centre for children accompanying court users. The centres will also provide access to legal advice and assistance, psychosocial support and referral services, and facilities for alternative dispute resolution. Accessible entrances, ramps and clear signage will assist women with disabilities.

Where required, provision will also be made for suitable spaces for child visitation in family matters. The meeting noted that an All-Pakistan design competition had been conducted under the auspices of the Institute of Architects Pakistan (IAP). The three winning designs were shared with all High Courts to guide implementation. The discussion on Faisalabad and Mianwali focused on adapting the designs to local site requirements while preserving the privacy, accessibility and range of services envisaged for the centres.

Students of Balochistan precious asset of Pakistan: IG FC

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Inspector General Frontier Corps (North) Balochistan, Major General Muhammad Atif Mujtaba, held an informal interaction with faculty members and students at BUITEMS University, Quetta. The discussion covered challenges facing the education sector in Balochistan, opportunities for higher education and youth development, the role of students in national progress, and the province's security situation.The IG FC expressed confidence in the potential of young people, saying that students of Balochistan were a valuable asset of Pakistan and could contribute to national development through quality education, positive thinking and national unity. The university administration and students appreciated the efforts of FC Balochistan (North) for promoting peace and stability, educational development and youth encouragement in the province.



ISLAMABAD: DG PDMA Naveed Sheikh in a group photo with the participants of a workshop.

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Culture of gender bias

At all ages, throughout their personal and their professional lives, women have to combat rigid gendered stereotypes that seek to confine them in boxes of what society deems a woman to be. One stereotype that remains consistent calls for both young girls and women to be placable and subservient. Anyone who defies this norm is treated as a rowdy outcast, determined to disrupt the 'natural order of the universe.'

In workplaces, this stereotype is often coupled with blatant ageism, when women who refuse to act maternally towards their counterparts are labelled "unstable", allegedly "causing... problems for others." This quote verbatim belongs to the Vice Chancellor of the Federal Urdu University (FUUAST), Dr Zabta Khan Shinwari, whose remarks have recently been declared as workplace harassment by Pakistan's Federal Ombudsperson for Protection against Harassment.

The accuser, a lecturer at the same university, claimed that Dr Shinwari repeatedly cited "hormonal issues" for women over 35 as cause for their assertive behaviour. For this, the Vice-Chancellor has incurred a minor penalty of censure, alongside the University Syndicate being directed to monitor his behaviour.

According to a study conducted by a leading global organisation, Women of Influence+, nearly 80 per cent of women across the world have encountered age-related discrimination in their careers. Similarly, a top UC Berkeley professor found out that male professors encounter consistent evaluations over time, while female professors experience a quick decline after their 30s, and are usually termed as "unfriendly" or not "warm".

It is almost as if workplaces expect women to liven up a place, instead of exerting confidence, competence and skill. Such remarks, that too from an administrative body, reflect the culture of an institute, guiding several thousand students to act the same. Universities must work to dispel such stereotypes, instead of being active participants in the degradation of women.

Social media depicts truth, but not how you think

IMRAN JAN

In the age of broadcast media — yes, we now have to talk about them as a thing of the past — the emphasis was what we used to call ratings. In a nutshell, it was about money but a different method of earning money than the method of views as we see in the age of social media. There used to be gatekeepers of information, which were these faceless villains whose job it was to act as a giant filter, allowing only certain kinds of news and views (not the YouTube views but the opinion one) to pass through to the newsroom.

Once the general masses everywhere moved to social media, the news broadcasts and the opinion makers also moved there. Now they earn money through views instead of what was called ratings. And that migration also prompted the gatekeepers to move over there. Once there, they realised that they couldn't really suppress views expressed by people but they could suppress how many people it would reach by playing with the algorithm. So, before the gatekeepers prevented news from being broadcast. Now, they catch and drown it after it has been broadcast by suppressing its reach to the mass audience.

Many nations have used what I called the retail algorithm control method, where they manipulate the algorithm in order to suppress the video reach of certain journalists and opinion makers who make troubling noises that the regime in charge anywhere doesn't like.

America, however, has what I call the wholesale algorithm control. Algorithms are the new slaves of America. Voices critical toward Israel are just either outright not allowed to be broadcast on popular platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, X, and now even TikTok or they are massively suppressed. TikTok was truly the only platform I knew that allowed voices critical of Israel to go viral but not anymore. At least for most people.

The villains of humanity have algorithms in their arsenal, but we mind using human beings can still use the good old police work to decipher the truth and paint a simple picture of an otherwise overwhelmingly complex plot orchestrated by money-hungry and democracy hating charlatans. Just pay attention to who praises whom and who bashes whom.

Two great examples are those of Elon Musk and Zohran Mamdani. Before TikTok was forced to sell to compromise its algorithm to Israel's liking, Elon Musk was taken on board because he owns X. Bringing Musk on board where he had to allow pro-Israel voices while at the same time suppress pro-Palestinian ones would not have been difficult because we are now seeing that Musk has always been a racist man who deeply cares only when a non-white person kills a white person.

Not the other way around, where the statistics are much higher. The entire idea of Israel is based on hatred and racism because it is a fake country inhabited by blue eyed white skinned Ashkenazi Jews from Poland, Russia and elsewhere who justify grabbing Palestinian land.

After all, the Palestinians look brown and are not very educated.

So, bringing Musk on board would have required just a text from Netanyahu. And Musk bowed like any other American politician. Ever since, Musk has lost a massive support and love from the people but weird accounts would always appear on your feed, even though you never followed them, tweeting in his favour and talking great things about him. When you look closely, they're pro-Zionist accounts.

As for Mamdani, more tweets about 9/11 have happened in this last week than during the anniversary of 9/11 last month. All of those tweets are from similar accounts about reminding America that 9/11 was done by Muslims and that Mamdani is a Muslim.

The creation of that perception was the driving force behind Israel allowing or maybe orchestrating the 9/11 attacks to happen. It benefits their bad Palestinians argument.

BJP's Bihar playbook: religion, repression & polarisation

DURDANA NAJAM

The 2025 Bihar elections have emerged as more than a state-level contest; they are a reflection of the evolving political doctrine of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) — one that blends religion, repression and the careful construction of external threats to consolidate power. Bihar, historically a site of social movements and caste politics, has now become the testing ground for a new experiment in political control and ideological uniformity.

In recent months, the BJP's campaign rhetoric in Bihar has undergone a notable shift. Development, once the centrepiece of Modi-era politics, has been quietly replaced by the language of identity and grievance. The emphasis has moved from vikas (development) to virasat (heritage), and from governance to faith. The party has perfected the art of merging religious symbolism with political strategy, invoking the imagery of Hindu pride, cultural revivalism and national security to appeal to voters.

The shift is deliberate. Bihar, with its entrenched caste divisions and fragile economy, provides fertile ground for emotive politics. The party's messaging paints Hindus as victims of historical neglect and Muslims as perpetual beneficiaries of so-called appeasement. By turning majority anxiety into political mobilisation, the BJP has managed to overshadow discussions on unemployment, rural distress and the state's ailing public services.

At the same time, the suppression of dissent has become an inseparable feature of the BJP's electoral approach. Opposition leaders find themselves entangled in corruption cases and procedural investigations that conveniently intensify during campaign seasons. The media, increasingly constrained by economic and political pressure, amplifies the government's narrative while marginalising alternative voices. The state machinery has been systematically aligned to reinforce the ruling party's dominance, blurring the boundaries between state and party.

Equally significant is the deployment of the anti-Pakistan narrative within the Bihar campaign. Once confined to national security debates, it now permeates local politics. In speeches and rallies, references to Pakistan are invoked not to address foreign policy but to sustain a heightened emotional climate among voters. By projecting external hostility, the BJP effectively deflects attention from domestic failures. The narrative equates dissent with disloyalty, recasts opposition parties as conspirators, and frames electoral choice as a moral test of patriotism.

This use of Pakistan as an ideological construct serves a dual purpose. It reinforces Hindu nationalist sentiment while creating a convenient "other" against which the BJP can position itself as the sole guardian of India's unity and security. In Bihar, a state where Muslim communities have long been an integral part of its cultural fabric, this narrative deepens divisions that were once mitigated by shared histories of struggle and coexistence.

The BJP's campaign strategy reflects a broader redefinition of democracy in India. Elections are no longer about governance or policy outcomes but about moral binaries, nationalism versus betrayal, faith versus threat, unity versus subversion.

The result is a form of democratic theatre in which voters are compelled to choose sides not between competing visions of governance, but between competing claims of loyalty to the nation.

This reorientation has been accompanied by the weakening of key democratic institutions. The Election Commission operates under visible pressure, civil society faces constant scrutiny, and the judiciary often avoids confrontation with the executive. When institutions bend to political will, elections lose their capacity to hold governments accountable and instead become instruments to legitimise their power.

For opposition parties in Bihar, the challenge is formidable. Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Congress and smaller regional groups have struggled to build a cohesive counter-narrative that can cut through the noise of religious polarisation. Their focus on governance and social justice finds limited traction in an environment dominated by emotive appeals to identity. The BJP's control over political discourse ensures that alternative visions are either ignored or ridiculed.

Yet, the real cost of this transformation is borne by ordinary citizens. Bihar remains one of India's poorest states, with limited industrialisation, high unemployment and a persistent exodus of young workers to other regions. These structural problems require sustained policy focus, but the political conversation remains consumed by cultural symbolism and imagined threats. By substituting performance with perception, the BJP has turned political communication into a substitute for governance itself.

For Pakistan and other external observers, Bihar's election offers an insight into the BJP's long-term ideological project. The repetition of anti-Pakistan rhetoric in domestic campaigns suggests that foreign policy is no longer an arena of diplomacy alone but a tool for shaping domestic political identity. It illustrates how external hostility is being domesticated into electoral capital — a means of constructing unity through fear.

The 2025 Bihar elections thus represent more than a state contest; they are a referendum on the future of India's democratic pluralism.

The BJP's strategy combines three reinforcing elements: the instrumentalisation of religion; the repression of dissent; and the manufacture of perpetual external threat. Together, they create a self-sustaining cycle of emotional politics that sidelines the language of rights, equality and governance.

The BJP's Bihar playbook demonstrates that in contemporary India, political success depends less on policy performance and more on the capacity to transform fear into faith and faith into votes.

Perfectionism and suicide

MUHAMMAD WAJAHAT SULTAN

Suicide was once a forbidden element of society to discuss and deliberate openly. In the 21st century, suicide has become a normal word in day-to-day discussion. After 1990, we opened societies with the generational shift of perception about worth, value and achievements. Out of this global shift in attaching worth and value to humans with their perfect image, the recent generations of young people are more demanding of themselves, of others, and are perceiving that others demand more from them.

The wave of modernisation after 1990, with the End of History and the emergence of the Neoliberal model in society and politics, instilled this idea into every single person that they are like commodities whose complete worth lies in constantly achieving and becoming a permanent part of a rat race where one can never reach the top — because after every cross of different levels of achievement, there is someone who is more competent, capable, rich and perfect than you.

The modern world and our economic model are based on fundamental principles like revering competition, promoting hyper-ambition and discouraging cooperation. The most critical aspect of the global order is to instil an idea of perfectionism. Perfectionism is constantly burdening people, which is the root cause of anxiety, stress and depression.

A new study published by Thomas Curran and Andrew Hill in the journal Psychological Bulletin establishes that perfectionism is on the rise. There are three types of perfectionism, which are unrealistically setting high standards for the self, others and society. These three types of perfectionism are self-oriented, other-oriented and socially-prescribed.

Self-oriented perfectionism means we set very high expectations of performance, achievement and measuring the worth of the self. Other-oriented perfectionism implies that we set exaggerated expectations of support and confidence from others. The third type is more relevant to the modern world, in which we constantly believe that we have to advance our skills and wealth because society is observing us and we have to prove that we are worthy and capable.

Once we believe in socially ascribed perfectionism, the idea of anxiety and stress begins — because we expect that our single failure or multiple successes will characterise our deficiencies or approval in society. It is where shame, failure and fear take place in our lives. Our self-examination becomes dependent on the hyper-perception of others.

Perfectionism introduces shame. Why do most people fall into depression after a failure, a missed opportunity, a bad memory or a terrible setback? In the majority of cases — unknowingly — it is because of shame, not guilt. We feel shame when we fail. We feel shame when we experience a breakup, lose a career path or miss an opportunity. Shame is deeply rooted in our psychology not biologically, but culturally through perfectionism.

This competition and perfectionism alienate many from others like peers and family. They constantly chase to prove their worth before society through wealth, accomplishment and perfectionism. Cooperation also compromises because cooperation is replaced with competition.

All these scenarios lead to a hyper-responsibility of attaining different levels of perfectionism. At some point, it becomes tightening on our psyches, leading to hard steps to release all pain and suffering through a single step which is hard to imagine even. We need to decrease hyper-individuation and create collective values and detoxification from associating worth with possessions only. Humanistic values like compassion, empathy, self-regulation and civic sense must also be appreciated just like approving a high-paying job or possession of luxuries.

Shegara — IEA & the collapsed peace talks in Istanbul

INAM UL HAQUE

During the last two weeks, given the October skirmish between Pakistan and Afghanistan, we discussed IEA's covert and demonstrated hostility towards Pakistan, which remains unjustifiable from sociological (Pashtunwali), Islamic fraternity and/or good neighbourly standpoints. That this acrimony is in sheer violation of the basic tenet of Pashtunwali, that is shegara (or khegara) — doing good and returning good with good. That militarily Pakistan can fight a '1.5 Front' Indo-Afghan aggression, a scenario best avoided. That Afghanistan and CARs are not of any 'outsized and overwhelming' geo-strategic and economic relevance, except energy; for which other inexpensive alternatives also exit.

After outlining the Doha Agreement, as reported, and the prospects of parleys in Istanbul, I surmised that continued IEA obduracy, gender apartheid and human rights abuses are gravitating the main national, international and regional stakeholders towards a possible regime change. The Afghan-based terrorism is hardening attitudes, because behind the smokescreen of Haqqani-hosted TTP; the IEA is also and perhaps more complicit. The incendiary statement by Afghan interior ministry spokesperson Abdul Mateen Qani, made during an interview with Ariana News, speaks for it and will not be helpful.

The actual reasons for the collapse of the Istanbul talks after crucial and intense negotiations are yet to be known; however, as per my construct, the composition of the negotiating team speaks a lot about the lack of clarity, confusion and internal fault-lines within the IEA, in addition to the ongoing Afghan-based anti-Pakistan terrorism. Some pointers are in order.

First, the IEA changed its interlocutors and those fielded during the Istanbul Round ostensibly enjoyed little confidence in Qandahar and had limited mandate. Inter-state relations, among 'normal states' are regulated by the foreign ministries the world over, until specifics are discussed. In case of Pakistan (a normal state) and Afghanistan (a motely crowd of tribal militants), the talks in Doha were shifted by the IEA from Muttaqi's interim foreign ministry to Afghan defence ministry under Mulla Yaqub, the son of venerated Mulla Umer.

Because FM Muttaqi, given his anti-Pakistan diatribes during his Indian yatra, was 'ostensibly' persona non grata. And then again in Istanbul, Rahmatullah Najib, a Sulemankhel Pashtun from Paktia, is leading the Afghan side as deputy interior minister. The deflection from foreign to defence to interior ministry is telling and betrays confusion and fault-lines within the IEA.

Second, TTP is hosted in the Loya Paktia under Haqqani suzerainty, and they are in subservient 'hamsaya' status in the three provinces of Khowst, Paktia and Paktika that comprise the Loya Paktia. Haqqani Network (HQN) was not forcibly incorporated into the IEA like Gulbuddin Hekmatyar et al, and they are 'alliance partners' within the IEA, maintaining their independent and individual position within the Emirate. Haqqanis differ with puritanical Qandahar on some policy issues like female right to education and employment, social liberties, relations with Pakistan, etc.

HQN, as bedrock of resistance against the USSR and then the NATO-US Combine, kept the jihad alive in 2009, when IEA's Qandahari leadership, in exile, had seriously considered laying down arms. That offer was rejected by Doanld Rumsfeld, the then US Secretary Defense.

HQN, as openly known, maintains its second line of defence in Pakistan's North Waziristan District, where most of its leadership has filial ties and properties, including their largest seminary near Miramshah. Hence in the 'potential' jockeying for power inside Afghanistan, HQN - the IEA's military strategist - is compelled to maintain TTP as its mlatar (proxy) force, a force-in-being for internecine fighting, that Afghanistan is accustomed to.

Zadran Haqqanis, understandably, were extensively wired into the Pakistani vortex, and are perceived as such by suspecting Ahmadzai/ Muhammadzai Qandahar. So, the HQN protégé, Rahmatullah Najib was sent to Istanbul to sort out problem with Pakistan, their erstwhile benefactor, but with restricted mandate. The talks seem to have failed primarily because of IEA's inability to provide guarantee to Pakistan about zero anti-Pakistan terrorism from Afghan soil.

Third, given the over 70 per cent Afghan signature in the recent 'TTP' attacks and the fact that most slain terrorists belonged to provinces like Wardak, Zabul, Qandahar, etc, outside HQN's Loya Paktia, point to the direct involvement of IEA in the spike in violence against Pakistan. So, in changed percepts about the IEA's inability and unwillingness to rein in terrorism, the scale is now more tilted towards 'unwillingness'. TTP is just a smokescreen.

Fourth, IEA finds terrorism useful as an instrument of policy to: a) keep Islamabad under pressure; b) solicit Indian support including logistics, finances, training and interlocution; c) keep its internal militant cadre busy and occupied; and d) deplete the TTP rank and file by continuous infiltrations, consequent killing by the Pakistani military, etc. Not all entities within the TTP, the motley grouping of over 13 constituents with different aims and objectives, are on the same page with HQN.

Therefore, Qandahar's manipulation of TTP cannot be ignored, as it serves Qandahar's interests by keeping HQN under pressure, paint them in bad light with their former handlers in Pakistan, and deplete their military/ mlatar strength through operational losses. However, the present tashkeels (militants' grouping) against Pakistan are still 'ostensibly' under the TTP banner. This is what I call the 'Haqqani Complexity'. This complexity begets resolution for sustained peace in Afghankhwa (Afghanistan, erstwhile FATA, KPK, Balochistan). TTP et al is a bone stuck in HQN's neck, and Qandahar skillfully manipulates their predicament.

Following on from the above, IEA cannot and will not give guarantees as sought by Pakistan; and the wily IEA will continue to persist in error in the foreseeable future. Private conversations with Afghan interlocutors are still full of effusive pleasantries, desire for brotherly ties evocation of clichés; but on the ground, their jihad continues. The world be damned. So, sadly a peaceful Afghanistan is only a pliant Afghanistan and vice versa.

Qandahar needs to realise that Pakistan is more important than its anti-Pakistan proxies, or its adventurous and bored youth. Mentoring a 12-year-old boy, when his venerated father dies, helping him ascend to become defence minister in the service of his country and people, is shegara, plain and simple, and it begets shegara... no strings attached.

Putin calls for widespread AI implementation in Russia, proposes updating national strategy

AI is moving beyond the digital world into the physical world; its capabilities will continue to grow

MOSCOW, (Agencies): Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday called for the widespread implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) in his country and proposed updating Russia's national strategy for AI development.

"We will strive to ensure that the adoption of AI in Russia becomes increasingly widespread, encompassing all sectors of the economy and all aspects of people's lives," Putin said at the plenary session of the "Journey into the World of Artificial Intelligence" conference in Moscow.

Putin said that even having the latest generation of AI no longer guarantees technological superiority or "sustainable, long-term development." He added that achieving leadership in the sector requires more than creating cutting-edge solutions.

Putin proposed updating Russia's national AI strategy, which runs through 2036, and approving a national action plan for AI development. He said AI has reached a "qualitatively new level of autonomy."

He said AI is moving beyond the digital world into the physical world and argued that its capabilities will continue to grow. He said changes already underway in many industries "may become revolutionary in the future."

"We must, without a doubt, be prepared for this. For Russia — as we navigate significant demographic challenges and a labor shortage — such technologies offer a real opportunity to overcome these constraints and strengthen our potential," Putin said.

Putin said the cost of the most advanced foundational AI models is continually rising. He described shortages of electricity, power grid capacity and sophisticated components as a "bottleneck" in the technological race.

"Overcoming these barriers will require further colossal investments," Putin said, adding that Russia is betting on sovereign foundational AI models and will continue to develop them.



Garment workers, blocking the Dhaka-Tangail Highway for higher minimum wages, disperse after police personnel fire a tear gas shell in Gazipur, Bangladesh



A view of destruction following the Israeli attack on near the Yellow Line in the Tuffah neighborhood of Gaza City, Gaza, Palestine

Trump voices support for Iraqi premier's efforts to 'assert state authority'

WASHINGTON, (Agencies): US President Donald Trump expressed support for Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi's efforts to assert state authority across the country.

In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump said Washington backs al-Zaidi's efforts "to assert state authority throughout Iraq, stop the smuggling of Iraqi oil, end corruption, and bring all weapons under the exclusive control of the state."

"We support Prime Minister al-Zaidi's efforts to build a united, prosperous, and strong Iraq that makes its own political decisions," Trump added.

31 killed in Cairo tanker inferno; driver arrested after confession

CAIRO, (Agencies): Egyptian authorities have arrested a man accused of causing a tanker crash and massive fire that killed 31 people on a busy Cairo highway. The public prosecutor's office said the motorist had confessed to driving at 110km/h (68mph) along a section of ring road, to the north of the old city centre, and clipping the tanker with the side of his car as he changed lanes. Sources close to the investigation were earlier quoted by state media as saying a high-voltage cable had fallen in front of the fuel truck, causing the driver to lose control.Twenty-one others were injured in the crash in the Warraq neighbourhood on Wednesday evening, with hospitals treating patients for burns and smoke inhalation. The public prosecutor's office said on Thursday that "upon questioning the suspect and confronting him with the findings of the investigation... he confessed to committing the act". "He added that, while moving between traffic lanes and overtaking vehicles, the left side of his car collided with the right rear side of the tanker. This caused him to lose control of the steering wheel and his car veered to the far right of the road."

At the same time, one of the fuel tanker's tyres burst, causing it to veer into the highway's central reservation, hit the concrete barrier and overturn, spilling fuel and igniting a fire, the prosecutor's office said. Egyptian authorities have not named the suspect accused of causing the fatal crash, but they said he had been travelling with his father at the time.

El Nino, conflicts expected to worsen hunger in 16 hotspots, UN warns

GENEVA, (Agencies): The El Nino climate phenomenon and ongoing conflicts are expected to worsen acute food insecurity in 16 hotspots worldwide over the next six months, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) warned. The agencies identified 16 hotspots where hunger is projected to deteriorate significantly between December 2026 and May 2027, up from 13 in their June assessment.

Southern Africa, the Central American Dry Corridor and northeastern Uganda are among the newly added areas, while Chad was included due to the spillover effects of the conflict in neighboring Sudan. Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, parts of Nigeria and Yemen remain the five areas of greatest concern, with conflict and armed violence identified as major drivers of food insecurity in 12 of the 16 hotspots.

The agencies warned of a risk of famine in 13 areas of Sudan's North Darfur and South Kordofan regions through January 2027.

In Southern Africa, drought and hotter conditions linked to El Nino threaten agricultural production.

Up to 3 million people in Zimbabwe, 2.6 million in Malawi and 1.8 million in Mozambique are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity in the coming months.

Humanitarian funding for food security and nutrition in the five hotspots of greatest concern fell 62% between 2022 and 2025, from $5.1 billion to $2 billion, the agencies said.

FAO and WFP called for urgent humanitarian assistance and safe access to affected populations, saying their joint anticipatory action plan aims to protect 9 million people in 22 countries from the potential effects of El Nino.



Pedro Sanchez, leader of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) and incumbent Prime Minister, joins Alberto Nunez Feijoo, leader of the main opposition right-wing People's Party (PP), Santiago Abascal, leader of the far-right Vox Party, and Ada Colau, leader of the left-wing and communist Broad Front coalition, in a televised debate organized by the Television Academy and broadcast jointly ahead of Spain's early general elections scheduled, in Madrid, Spain

At least 14 killed in RSF attacks on East Darfur, West Kordofan

KHARTOUM, (Agencies): At least 14 people were killed in attacks by Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan's East Darfur and West Kordofan states, a Sudanese rights group said. The death toll was 12 in East Darfur and two in West Kordofan.

"For three consecutive days, the villages of Sharm, Muhajiriya, Kasib, Sali'a, Kala'it, and other villages in Yassin locality, East Darfur State, have been subjected to systematic attacks carried out" by the RSF, the Sudan Human Rights Observatory said in a statement on US social media platform X.

In a statement earlier in the day, the rights group said the RSF carried out "retaliatory" campaigns against residents of villages in West Kordofan state over nearly five days.

Those attacks included the killing of civilians, assaults, intimidation and looting, and triggered waves of displacement, the statement said. "The killing of two young men in the villages of Al-Sa'ata Al-Zarqa and Al-Sa'ata Um Al-Khabar has been documented."

The group urged all humanitarian organizations to immediately establish an emergency relief mechanism for displaced families, open safe corridors for their passage, and "support the local initiatives attempting to fill the gap left by the failure of organizations, despite their limited and scarce resources."

The RSF did not immediately comment on either statement.

Fighting between the Sudanese army and the RSF broke out in April 2023 over the integration of the paramilitary force into the military. The conflict has killed tens of thousands of people and displaced millions, leading to one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.



Paul Mackenzie (L), a Kenyan cult leader accused of ordering followers who were members of the Good News International Church to starve themselves to death in Shakahola Forest, and his wife, Rhoda Mumbua Maweu (C), listen to their lawyer, Lawrence Obonyo, after arriving for a court ruling at the Mombasa High Court, Mombasa, Kenya

Netherlands 'will not be dictated to' by US over chip exports to China, trade minister says

BRUSSELS, (Agencies): Dutch Foreign Trade Minister Sjoerd Sjoerdsma has said the Netherlands "will not be dictated to" as it opposes a US bill that could restrict Dutch chipmaking equipment maker ASML's business in China. Sjoerdsma called the issue a matter of national interest and said the restrictions proposed under the MATCH Act went "far, far too far".

TENDER NOTICE

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

Tender Fee 1000 PKR and Bid Security 2%

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

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 3,966,665 PKR Amount in2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Completed 2 Similar nature works(Which Includes Drilling of Bore, Installation of Solar System & Laying OF Pipe) each with estimated cost of 70% or above of the project, Workorder with completion certificates which is online verifiable. Affidavit of correctness for applied (TSE No.) on Rs. 100/- stamp paper, duly attested by Oath Commissioner, confirming all submitted information is genuine; otherwise, the bidder shall be rejected All pages of both Technical and Financial Bids Submitted by bidder must be duly signed, stamped, and serially numbered from the first to the last page; otherwise, the bidder shall be declared nonresponsive Power of Attorney (for the said TSE only) on Rs. 100/- stamp paper, duly executed by the firm's owner in favour of the authorized representative and attested by the Oath Commissioner. A separate Technical Brochure shall be submitted for each TSE applied for, clearly indicating the respective TSE Number on the brochure The Turnover Certificate must be issued on or after the advertisement date of the respective TSE on the BPPRA portal or newspaper; earlier certificates shall be non-compliant **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 10 December, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 10 December, 2026till 12:00 PM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM **Address:** XEN PHED Duki Loralai Raod near FC school Duki Phone no: 0313821662 Email: engrhussain2007@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION DUKKI

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

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European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen (L) and European Council President Antonio Costa (R) hold a joint press conference in Brussels, Belgium, following their participation in the European Union leaders' summit

EU 'light years away from solution,' Italian premier says, refusing to sign budget deal

ROME, (Agencies): The Italian prime minister said her country would not sign the next EU budget deal under the current conditions, warning that member states remain far from a solution amid disagreements over the bloc's financial framework, local media reported Thursday. "I will not sign under these conditions. We are light years away from a solution," Giorgia Meloni told reporters as leaders gathered in Brussels on Thursday to discuss the bloc's long-term budget.

Rome's objections center on a proposed arrangement that would increase Italy's contributions to the EU budget while reducing the funding it receives, creating an estimated gap of around €3 billion over the seven-year period, according to Italian daily Corriere della Sera. The Italian government considers the proposed terms unacceptable, arguing that the country would be required to contribute more under several EU revenue categories while receiving less funding, particularly under cohesion policy and agriculture. Italy is also concerned about increased contributions under at least four of the five categories of the EU's so-called own resources, including those related to electronic waste and the bloc's Emissions Trading System.

Meloni called for a rebalancing of the criteria used to distribute EU funds, arguing that the current proposals disproportionately affect Italy. "There is an issue concerning own resources that affects Italy more than it affects other countries, and there is also an issue with the criteria used for the allocation of funds, which end up penalizing us. All this needs to be rebalanced," she said. "Italy is not ready. It will sign an agreement only when and if dignified conditions reflecting national interests are guaranteed," she further stressed.



ADEN, YEMEN: People receive medical treatment at Al-Firdaws Camp, where displaced families from the Haraz region have sought shelter amid intensified fighting between government forces and Iran-backed Houthi rebels in civilian residential areas

Iran says oil tanker explodes after hitting naval mine in Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN, (Agencies): Iran said that an oil tanker exploded after striking a naval mine in the Strait of Hormuz, while another tanker was forced to turn back. In a statement carried by Iran's Fars news agency, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy said two oil tankers attempted to "secretly pass through an unauthorized route north of Ghavam Island."

One of the tankers exploded after colliding with a naval mine, while the other was forced to turn back, the statement said.

The IRGC Navy did not identify the tankers or provide details about their crews, possible casualties or the extent of the damage.

TENDER NOTICE

The office of the Assistant Director Local Government Kalat invites sealed percentage tender on composite schedule of rate 2026/Market Rate (NSR) Government of Balochistan (amended up to date) from interested contractors / firms for the following works under PSDP Work and the Time Limit 30 June 2027

S. No.	Name of Scheme	Amount
1	RENOVATION/ REHABILITATION OF MAATA MANDIR KALAT **TSE-2627111227513**	10,000,000

Procurement shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules -2014. **Eligibility of Bidders'** Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the bidding documents and BPPRA NIT. **Bidding Procedure: Single Stage, Two Envelop Biding Procedure. Bid Security:** The Bids must accompany bid security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be downloaded from www.bppra.gob.pk (free of cost) and the same can be obtained from the office of the undersigned upon payment of prescribed tender fee of Rs. 2000 PKR, deposited Bearing Account Title **ADLG KALAT** on Account **C08760 Last Date of Bid Submission:** The Technical Bid must be submitted latest by **14 December, 2026** till 11:00 AM. **Tender Opening:** All tenders will be opened on the same day at the office of the undersigned at 12:00 PM. **Address:** Office of The ADLG KALAT **Bid Validity:** 90 Ninety Days

Assistant Director Local Govt: RD Kalat

DPRQ/PRQ No.2690/27-11-2026

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Holy Quran eternal source of guidance for all humanity, says DPM Dar

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

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

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

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

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

, mutual understanding and guidance from Quranic principles. Referring to the challenges confronting the world, including conflicts, wars and intolerance, DPM Dar said there was an urgent need to promote the Quranic message of brotherhood, compassion, justice and peaceful coexistence. Addressing the younger generation, he urged them to maintain a strong relationship with the Holy Quran, acquire expertise in modern sciences and technologies, and draw guidance from Islamic values and moral principles.

He said the combination of knowledge, integrity and a spirit of service could enable young people to make meaningful contributions to national development and the progress of the Muslim Ummah. The deputy prime minister also highlighted Pakistan's diplomatic efforts to promote peace and stability, particularly in the Middle East, saying the country's initiatives were guided by the broader vision of fostering unity, dialogue and cooperation among Muslim nations.

He observed that the Muslim world possessed considerable human and material resources, which, if utilised collectively through unity and cooperation, could help it overcome challenges and strengthen its position internationally.



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



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

Administration prepares to tackle protest situation across Balochistan

QUETTA (ANN): Security has been tightened across Balochistan following protests by Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) workers, who blocked several national highways in response to a protest call issued by party chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman. The party leader had called for blockades of national highways across the country after he was reportedly denied permission to address a gathering in Sargodha.

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

Authorities have increased security arrangements in Quetta and other parts of the province to prevent any untoward incident. Security personnel have been deployed around government buildings

Pakistan to work hand in hand with China for peaceful exploration, utilization of outer space: PM

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

The prime minister, talking to Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, who called on him here, warmly congratulated the ambassador and the leadership and people of China on the successful launch of the Shenzhou-24 mission from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre on November 25, carrying Pakistan's first astronaut, Muhammad Zeeshan Ali, to the Tiangong Space Station. He said that Pakistan was deeply grateful to China for providing the opportunity to become part of the landmark mission, through which a Pakistani had become the first foreign astronaut to visit China's space station.

He said that this was not merely the journey of an individual astronaut, but that of 240 million Pakistanis, embodying the dreams and aspirations of the country's youth and scientific community. The prime minister expressed his appreciation to the relevant Chinese institutions for training both Pakistani astronauts.

CM Bugti promises greater investment in higher education and youth empowerment in Balochistan

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

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

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

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

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

's Artificial Intelligence Department. He also announced the provision of 50 scooters for students, with the distribution mechanism to be determined by the vice chancellor.

Bugti announced fully funded educational tours to Murree and Abbottabad for University of Turbat students, with the provincial government covering all arrangements and expenses. Appreciating the performance of Turbat's Green Bus Service, he announced plans to introduce additional green buses next year and launch a Pink Bus Service to provide safe and dignified transportation for women.

During the interactive session, a female law student highlighted difficulties in securing an internship and requested financial assistance. The chief minister provided financial support on the spot and assured another student of assistance in securing an internship.

Bugti said today's students would assume leadership and administrative responsibilities in the future.



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

Balochistan govt unveils comprehensive green plan to tackle environmental crisis

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Qila Abdullah operation targets illegal arms factories, drug traffickers

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

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

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

The government described the operation as a decisive step towards dismantling criminal networks and ensuring a safer environment for the people of Qila Abdullah.

Religious scholars stress birth spacing for healthier mothers, children in Balochistan

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

Quetta Police solve teen murder case within 48 hours, arrest two suspects

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

Lashari for full utilization of resources to improve Quetta's cleanliness

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

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

The meeting was told that Quetta has 137 dumping sites, six transfer stations, and two landfill sites, including facilities at Eastern Bypass and Kuchlak, where waste disposal operations have recently commenced. Officials also highlighted improvements in the door-to-door waste collection system, which serves more than 200,000 residential and 95,000 commercial consumers. Additional machinery, manpower, and resources are being provided to further strengthen sanitation services.

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

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