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Pakistan, KSA, Turkiye, Iran 'agree to continue dialogue' for regional security

CDF Munir meets Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian alongside senior officials during his visit to Tehran

TEHRAN, (Monitoring Desk): Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir joined senior officials from Iran, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye in Tehran on Monday, where the four countries agreed to continue dialogue to strengthen regional cooperation.

The first four-way meeting, requested by Pakistan, focused on regional cooperation, the US-Israeli war against Iran and its consequences, Iranian state media reported. The meeting was hosted by Major General Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, and was also attended by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, Press TV reported. The joint statement said Saudi Defence Minister Khalid bin Salman, Field Marshal Munir and Turkish intelligence chief Ibrahim Kalin participated in the meeting. The participants agreed to continue dialogue to strengthen cooperation among the four countries, including on regional peace and security. Earlier in the day, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) confirmed that Field Marshal Munir was visiting Tehran. The delegations also met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, who said Tehran supported any agreement that strengthened unity among Muslim countries and promoted constructive cooperation in West Asia. Pezeshkian urged regional countries to focus on shared interests and areas of cooperation, saying differences should not hinder common goals. He also called for greater economic cooperation to help regional countries meet one another's needs and withstand external pressure. The talks come after nearly eight months of war following US-Israeli attacks on Iran in late February



TEHRAN: Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman Al-Saud, Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, and Turkiye's intelligence chief Ibrahim Kalin during their meeting with Iran's president, foreign minister, and National Security Council head



Pakistan committed to protect friendly countries, including Saudi Arabia: Defence Minister

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Defence Minister, Khawaja Asif, on Monday praised the recent peace talks in Iran, reaffirming Pakistan's continued efforts to promote regional peace and stability. Speaking to a private TV channel, the minister described Pakistan's relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) as brotherly and cordial. He emphasized that Pakistan remained committed to protect its friendly countries, including Saudi Arabia.

Kashmiris to observe Black Day against India's illegal occupation

ISLAMABAD, (APP):Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and across the world will observe Black Day tomorrow, October 27, to convey to the world that India has militarily occupied their homeland illegally and against their will and aspirations since 1947.

The day will be marked by complete shutdown and protest in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

It was on October 27, 1947, when Indian troops in total violation of the spirit of the Partition Plan of the Subcontinent invaded Jammu and Kashmir and illegally occupied it against the aspirations and wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

CM Bugti expresses sorrow on demise of former Army Chief General (R) Abdul Waheed Kakar

QUETTA, (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Monday expressed deep sorrow over the demise of former Chief of Army Staff General (R) Abdul Waheed Kakar.

CM Bugti orders reforms to expand scholarships for deserving students

Balochistan Education Endowment Fund reviews performance, plans to reduce administrative expenses

QUETTA, (VoM Report): A meeting to review the performance of the Balochistan Education Endowment Fund, chaired by Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, was held here at the Chief Minister's Secretariat on Monday. Important matters related to reducing unnecessary administrative expenses, restructuring the institution, and effectively utilizing available resources were reviewed, and necessary decisions were taken. During the briefing, the meeting was informed that savings generated by reducing the institution's administrative expenses would be used to provide scholarships to more students, enabling a greater number of deserving and talented students to receive support in pursuing higher education.

On this occasion, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the Balochistan Education Endowment Fund is an important institution whose primary objective is to provide better educational opportunities to students and support young people who are unable to pursue higher education due to financial difficulties.

He said that the institution's performance would be further improved through restructuring and that available resources would be utilized more effectively alongside a reduction in administrative expenses.

The Chief Minister said that providing scholarships to the children of martyrs, minorities, and the transgender community is an important initiative that reflects a commitment to equal access to education



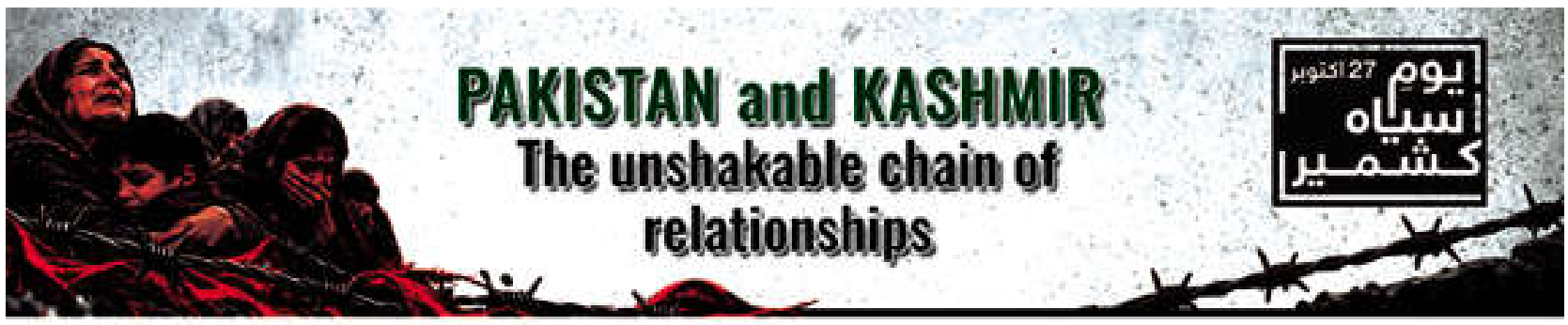
QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhel chairs the fifth meeting of Mir Chakar Khan Rind University Sibi at the Governor House

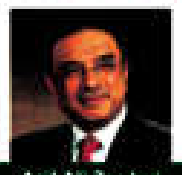
Governor for effective governance in Balochistan's public-sector universities

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail said that everyone is a witness to the fact that, at every meeting of the university senate, he has always given priority to collective wisdom and joint decisions rather than unilateral decisions.

He said that he assigns clear tasks to the relevant university regarding the implementation of decisions made during senate meetings and holds the concerned vice chancellor and pro-vice chancellor specifically accountable for ensuring their implementation. Today, the positive results of this strategy to ensure transparency, discipline, and accountability in the affairs of all universities have become evident, with the rankings and scoring of all public-sector universities in the province improving twofold. The performance of Mir Chakar Khan Rind University Sibi has improved considerably. He expressed these views while chairing the fifth meeting of Mir Chakar Khan Rind University Sibi at the Governor House in Quetta. On this occasion, Justice Sardar Ahmed Halimi of the Balochistan High Court, Senator Dostain Domki, Provincial Secretary for Higher Education Hashim Khan Ghalzai, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Mumtaz Ali Baloch, Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Alam Tareen, Additional Secretary Abdul Malik Achakzai, representatives of the Finance Department and all senate members were also present. Addressing the members of the fifth senate meeting of Sibi University, Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail specifically directed that the shortage of teaching faculty at the university be filled within 15 days.







Asif Ali Zardari

On Jammu and Kashmir Black Day, we solemnly remember 27 October 1947, when Indian forces landed in Srinagar, marking the beginning of a prolonged and tragic chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. This day reaffirms our recognition of the longstanding aspirations of the Kashmiri people and the continued pursuit of the fundamental and inalienable right to self-determination.

For the past eight decades, the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) have endured profound sufferings, marked by violence, repression and serious violations of fundamental rights. Generations of Kashmiris have made immense sacrifices in their pursuit of justice, dignity and freedom. Their resilience and determination in the face of adversity remain a testament to the enduring strength of their cause.

Since 27 October 1947, the people of IOJK have endured decades of conflict, restrictions and denial of their fundamental rights. The continuing restrictions on fundamental freedoms, heightened militarisation, arrests and reports of human rights violations remain a matter of serious concern and underscore the need for sustained international attention. The situation has further deteriorated since August 5, 2019, when India unilaterally attempted to alter the constitutional and legal status of Jammu and Kashmir.

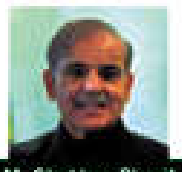
Jammu and Kashmir Black Day is, therefore, not merely a day of remembrance. It is also an occasion to reaffirm our commitment to a peaceful and just resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Lasting peace, stability and prosperity in South Asia remain closely linked to the resolution of this longstanding dispute, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

On this solemn occasion, I call upon the international community, particularly the United Nations and international human rights organizations, to take due cognisance of the human rights situation in IOJK, support efforts for the protection of the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people and contribute meaningfully towards a just, peaceful and lasting resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Pakistan will continue to extend its unwavering moral, diplomatic and political support to the people of IOJK. We will continue to raise their voice at every appropriate international forum and to advocate the realisation of their legitimate aspirations.

Today, we pay tribute to the countless sacrifices of the Kashmiri people and reaffirm our solidarity with our Kashmiri brothers and sisters. Pakistan stands with them in the pursuit of justice, peace, dignity and the realisation of the legitimate right to self-determination.

The day is not far off when the people of Jammu and Kashmir will be able to determine their own future in accordance with their aspirations and the Jammu and Kashmir dispute will move towards a just and peaceful resolution.



M. Shehbaz Sharif

Seventy-nine years ago, Indian forces landed in Srinagar, marking the beginning of a tragic chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir: one that continues to cast its long shadow over the region to this day. Since then, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been denied the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination, as affirmed in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) have endured immense hardship, suffering and oppression. Yet their courage, resilience and unwavering resolve to secure their fundamental rights remain undiminished. The sacrifices of successive generations stand as a powerful testament to their enduring commitment to freedom, dignity and justice.

India has continued its efforts to suppress legitimate political expression and silence the voices that represent the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The prolonged incarceration of Kashmiri political leaders, activists and human rights defenders remains deeply concerning. It underscores the need for due process, respect for basic liberties, and greater international attention to the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

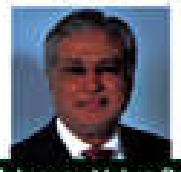
Since 5 August 2019, India has taken a series of unilateral measures in IOJK, accompanied by sweeping restrictions on fundamental freedoms. These measures, affecting the political, legal and demographic character of the territory, have drawn serious international attention. Pakistan has consistently called for these developments to be addressed in accordance with international law and the applicable United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Pakistan's position on Jammu and Kashmir remains clear, consistent and principled. Lasting peace and stability in South Asia cannot be achieved without a just and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

On this solemn occasion, I pay tribute to the countless Kashmiri men, women and children who have offered immense sacrifices in pursuit of their rights. Their memory will always be honoured. The aspirations of the Kashmiri people cannot be extinguished through coercion or repression.

On this Jammu & Kashmir Black Day, the Government and people of Pakistan reaffirm their unwavering solidarity with the people of IOJK. Pakistan will continue to extend its moral, diplomatic and political support to the Kashmiri people, and to advocate for their legitimate rights at every national and international forum.

May the people of Jammu and Kashmir realize a future of lasting peace, dignity and security, and the fulfilment of their aspirations, including the right to self-determination.



Mohammad Ishaq Dar

On this solemn occasion of Jammu & Kashmir Black Day, we recall with deep sorrow the events of 27 October 1947, when Indian forces landed in Srinagar, marking the beginning of a prolonged and tragic chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. Nearly eight decades later, the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) continue to bear the consequences of an unresolved dispute and continue to be denied their inalienable right to self-determination, as affirmed in the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

For decades, the people of IOJK have endured immense hardships, including restrictions on fundamental freedoms, human rights challenges and profound suffering. Despite these difficulties, they have remained steadfast in their determination, courage and resilience. The sacrifices of generations of Kashmiris reflect their continued aspiration for justice, peace, and the right to determine their own future.

The United Nations Security Council has adopted a number of resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir, envisaging a peaceful settlement in accordance with the will of the people. Pakistan has consistently maintained that these resolutions remain central to the resolution of the dispute and has emphasized the important role of the international community in facilitating a just, peaceful and lasting settlement of this long-standing dispute.

The human rights situation in IOJK has drawn greater international attention following India's unilateral actions of 5 August 2019. The subsequent legislative and administrative measures, restrictions on fundamental freedoms, demographic and political changes, and the continued detention of Kashmiri political leaders and activists have further deepened the sense of insecurity and alienation among the people of the occupied territory. These developments have also raised serious questions under international law and relevant international humanitarian and human rights standards.

The international community, including relevant United Nations bodies and human rights organizations, has documented concerns regarding the treatment of civilians and the broader human rights environment in IOJK. These concerns underscore the need for continued international attention and engagement.

Yet, the people of IOJK remain undeterred by such adversity. Their continued struggle for their fundamental rights serves as a reminder that the aspirations of a people cannot be suppressed through force or repression. Their sacrifices and quest for dignity and self-determination deserve the serious attention of the international community.

On this solemn day, Pakistan calls upon the international community to play its due role in addressing the sufferings of the people of IOJK and promoting respect for their fundamental rights. Meaningful and sustained international engagement remains essential for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering political, moral, and diplomatic support for the people of IOJK. We will continue to raise their voice at every appropriate international forum and to advocate for a peaceful and just resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.



Engr Amir Muqam

Jammu & Kashmir Black Day is a solemn reminder of the events of 27 October 1947, when Indian forces entered Srinagar, setting in motion a conflict that has remained unresolved for seventy-nine years. It is a day to remember the sufferings and sacrifices of the Kashmiri people and to reaffirm the international commitments made to them regarding the Right to Self-determination.

For nearly eight decades, the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir have faced prolonged political uncertainty, restrictions on fundamental freedoms and serious human rights concerns. Yet through successive generations, the people of IOJK have demonstrated remarkable resilience and an enduring determination to preserve their identity, dignity and political aspirations. Their sacrifices deserve to be remembered with respect and their voices deserve to be heard.

The developments since 5 August 2019 have added a new and deeply concerning dimension to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Unilateral changes to the constitutional and administrative framework, restrictions on political activity and fundamental freedoms, prolonged detentions, and measures affecting the demographic and political character of the territory have intensified concerns about the future of its people.

These developments cannot be divorced from the broader question of the status of Jammu and Kashmir and its unresolved international dimension. Pakistan's position on Jammu and Kashmir dispute has remained principled and consistent. We believe that no unilateral action can alter the fundamental nature of an internationally recognized dispute.

A durable settlement must be peaceful, just, and consistent with the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

The continuing tensions between Pakistan and India also underscore the importance of resolving the issues that lie at the heart of instability in South Asia. Peace in the region requires sustained diplomacy, respect for international obligations, and meaningful efforts to address the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The international community, particularly the United Nations, must continue to play its role in promoting peace and protecting the rights of the people affected by this longstanding conflict.

On this Jammu & Kashmir Black Day, I pay tribute to the generations of Kashmiris who have endured immense hardships and made profound sacrifices. I also express my solidarity with the families who continue to bear the consequences of this unresolved conflict.

As Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, I reaffirm the Government of Pakistan's continued political, moral, and diplomatic support to the people of IOJK. We will continue to advocate for their legitimate rights and to highlight their concerns before the international community.

Jammu & Kashmir Black Day is not only an occasion to remember the past. It is also a reminder of our collective responsibility to work for a future, in which the people of IOJK can live in peace, security, dignity and with the opportunity to determine their own future.



Attaullah Tarar

October 27, observed as Kashmir Black Day, reminds us of the historic day in 1947 when Indian forces entered Jammu and Kashmir, marking the beginning of a prolonged campaign to deny the Kashmiri people their fundamental right to self-determination.

The sacrifices, resilience and unwavering commitment of the Kashmiri people to their right to self-determination stand as a proud chapter in history. Despite facing relentless oppression and immense hardships, the resolve of the Kashmiri people has remained unshaken.

Pakistan remains steadfast in its commitment to extending political, moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people. We urge the international community and the United Nations to play an effective role in securing the Kashmiri people's recognised right to self-determination and safeguarding human rights in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK).

A just and lasting resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute can only be achieved in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

We pay tribute to the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people in their struggle for freedom and reaffirm Pakistan's unwavering resolve to stand by our Kashmiri brothers and sisters and continue to extend our full support to their just cause.





OCTOBER 27: KASHMIR'S DARKEST DAY

Honouring the Struggle for Freedom and Self-Determination

M Zahid Riffat

KASHMIRIS in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan and around the world are observing October 27, 2026, yet again as the first darkest day in their history, continuing their protest against the occupation of their territory, which India forcibly took over on this day in 1947. The long-unresolved Kashmir dispute remains a source of lingering tension and conflict between the neighbouring nuclear powers, India and Pakistan. The dispute originated when the people of Jammu and Kashmir were denied their fundamental right of self-determination following the partition of the Indian subcontinent and the emergence of two separate independent states, Pakistan and India, on August 14, 1947.

At that time, it was generally presumed that Kashmir, as a contiguous state with a predominantly Muslim population, would accede to Pakistan. However, its Hindu ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, fled to New Delhi in the face of protests by local residents and, through an improper and illegal instrument of Accession, acceded the territory to India on October 27, 1947. On the same day, India airlifted its forces to Srinagar and forcibly occupied the valley against the aspirations of the Kashmiris. This, in brief, is the background to why Kashmiris everywhere, along with freedom- and human-rights-loving people around the world, including in Pakistan, observe October 27 every year as a protest day to mark the first darkest day in their history.

The Kashmiris continue observing the darkest day on October 27, most unfortunately in the changed circumstances following the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019, through illegal amendments to the Indian Constitution by the fascist regime of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, thereby merging the territory into the Indian Union as an integral part of India. For more than 79 years, India has illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir against the wishes of the Kashmiri people, in blatant violation of UN Security Council resolutions and, indeed, its own commitments to the people of Kashmir. Through the determined efforts of Pakistan's civil and military leadership, the Kashmir issue has now been somewhat revived at the UN Security Council.

As such, the Kashmir issue is now occasionally discussed at international forums, where the brutalities and atrocities committed by Indian security forces in the occupied territory are condemned. The Indian government is being asked to take measures to restore normalcy there, implement UN Security Council resolutions and, accordingly, hold a free and fair plebiscite to let the Kashmiris exercise their birthright of self-determination and decide their future themselves in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions. However, it is deplorable as well as condemnable that the international community, led by the world body, continues to refrain from putting pressure on India beyond issuing condemnations, as countries have their own vested financial and economic interests in a big country like India.

Furthermore, besides the brutalities and atrocities committed by Indian security forces, the fascist Indian regime of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also persistently taking deliberate measures to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory in a brutal attempt to obliterate the distinct Kashmiri identity and affect the outcome of a plebiscite envisaged in UN Security Council resolutions. This action by the Indian government violates the UN Charter, Security Council resolutions, and international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention, as changing the demographic structure of a territory in a war crime. The Indian government is settling Indian Hindus in the territory under the guise of state-grant Kashmiri Pandits. Changing the Muslim-majority status of Indian-illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) into a minority has long been part of the Hindutva agenda of the RSS and BJP and they are persistently implementing it in practice. The Modi government has been constructing transit accommodation camps to settle Hindus in IOJK. Construction of transit camps for Hindus is under way in all districts of the Kashmir Valley. As the Indian occupation of Kashmir continues without the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, the indigenous, unarmed struggle for freedom by the Kashmiris also continues until they achieve their cherished objective of freedom from Indian shackles.

Through its civil and military leadership, Pakistan has all along extended full political, diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiri people and will continue to support their indigenous, just and legitimate struggle to secure their right of self-determination, as enshrined in the relevant UN resolutions. A peaceful, negotiated settlement of the lingering Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN resolutions has been and remains a top priority of Pakistan's foreign policy. Without resolving the Kashmir issue, the agenda of the partition of the Indian subcontinent remains incomplete, as Kashmir is regarded as the lifeline of Pakistan. It is an internationally accepted and acknowledged fact that Kashmir itself entails a global danger of escalating nuclear and missile proliferation in both India and Pakistan, coupled with their respective domestic instabilities and historical animosities.

India can kill the Kashmiris but not their aspirations for freedom, which they will never surrender. India should honour its promises to grant the people of Jammu and Kashmir the right of self-determination. They have already rendered endless sacrifices for freedom from illegal Indian occupation. The international community must take concrete steps to end the Indian occupation of the held territory and intervene to resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute peacefully to ensure durable peace, progress and prosperity for the people of the region. India is bound under international law not to change the demography of IOJK and the international community must forestall this move and exert all possible pressure on India's fascist regime to honour its decades-old commitment, implement UN Security Council resolutions and let the Kashmiris exercise their birthright of self-determination. The UN and the international community should also exert greater pressure and influence on India to implement UN Security Council resolutions and let the Kashmiris exercise their birthright of self-determination.



PM calls for timely completion of Railways key projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Monday, directed authorities to complete Pakistan Railways' development projects within the stipulated timelines and according to the highest quality standards, emphasizing a modern railway network is essential for the economic growth, trade, and regional connectivity.

Chairing a meeting to review progress on the Pakistan Railways transformation plan, the prime minister said Pakistan Railways is the country's most cost-effective mode of transport for passengers and freight.

He said upgrading the railway infrastructure would strengthen Pakistan's role as a regional trade and logistics hub.

He directed officials to submit proposals for the upgradation of the Rohri–Multan section of the Main Line-1 (ML-1) railway project, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi, Minister for Information Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Privatization Muhammad Ali, Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani and senior government officials.

The relevant officials briefed the meeting on progress related to the ML-1 and ML-3 upgrade projects, Thar Coal railway connectivity project and other ongoing initiatives.

The meeting was informed that the detailed engineering design for the Karachi–Rohri section of ML-1 has been completed. The upgradation of the Rohri–Nokundi section of ML-3 would be undertaken through the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) and bridge financing.

It was apprised that 60% of the work on the 112-kilometre railway line connecting Thar coalfields to Chhor railway station had been completed, with the project expected to be finished by December 2026.

The prime minister was also informed that an international consultant had been hired to support railway reforms. The officials said the management of Pakistan Railways' schools and hospitals had been outsourced, while work was set to begin on the commercialization of six major railway stations.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan H.E. Jiang Zaidong, along with other dignitaries, visit stalls after jointly unveiling the launch of the China-Pakistan Information Corridor (CPIC) during a ceremony at the Pakistan-China Friendship Centre

PPDA lauds govt for ensuring uninterrupted fuel supplies

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) on Monday commended the Ministry of Petroleum for ensuring uninterrupted fuel supplies across the country despite regional uncertainties.

A PPDA delegation, led by Chief Adviser Malik Khuda Baksh, met Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik and appreciated the government's effective management of petroleum product supplies during the challenges arising from the Strait of Hormuz crisis.

The meeting also discussed petroleum pricing reforms, deregulation, and issues concerning petroleum dealers.

PPDA Chief Adviser Malik Khuda Baksh said that while several neighbouring countries experienced law and order problems due to petroleum shortages, Pakistan successfully maintained uninterrupted fuel supplies through timely and effective government measures.

He assured the minister of the association's full support for the government's policy.

The minister briefed the delegation on the transition from weekly to daily petroleum price announcements, explaining that the new mechanism would be based on a seven-day rolling average of international prices. He said the previous weekly pricing mechanism was also based on a seven-day average and that the new system would update prices daily to enhance transparency, reduce market distortions and better reflect international price movements. The PPDA expressed its support for the proposed mechanism.

Ali Pervaiz Malik said the government was moving towards a market-driven pricing system to promote transparency and protect consumers.



Palestinians hold a solidarity rally in Gaza City in support of Palestinian women detained in Israeli prisons.Participants called for the release of the women detainees, the protection of their human dignity and an end to violations against them.

CCP fines inspection firm Rs.5mln for use of fraudulent trademark

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has imposed Rs. 5 million penalty on M/s MCI-Bureau of Inspection & Certifications Pakistan, for fraudulently adopting a trademark and logo closely resembling that of Bureau Veritas, a France-based global leader in testing, inspection, and certification services, in violation of Section 10 of the Competition Act, 2010.

Bureau Veritas filed a complaint with CCP that MCI-Bureau of Inspection & Certifications Pakistan and MCI-Bureau of Inspection & Certifications United Kingdom had adopted a deceptively similar trade name and logo likely to mislead consumers into believing that its services were associated with the complainant. According to press release issued by the commission, after examining the evidence, the Commission concluded that the respondent had copied the dominant features of Bureau Veritas' registered trademark and logo, including the word "Bureau" and other distinctive elements of the registered mark.

Applying the well-established principles of "overall similarity" and "net general impression," the Commission held that the similarities amounted to fraudulent use of another undertaking's trademark under the Competition Act.

In accordance with these principles, it held that differences in colour scheme did not materially distinguish the respondent's logo, particularly where inspection reports and certification documents are routinely reproduced in black and white and consumers do not ordinarily compare competing logos side by side. The Commission found that MCI Bureau was aware of Bureau Veritas's longstanding reputation and goodwill, and that its withdrawal of a trademark registration application.

Rupee gains 01 paisa against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Rupee on Monday appreciated by 01 paisa against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.95, compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 277.96.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 279 and Rs 279.20, respectively.

The price of the Euro against the rupee increased by 01 paisa and closed at Rs 317.99 from the previous day's closing of Rs 317.98, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs 1.71, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed an increase of Rs 0.45 and closed at Rs 374.41 compared to the previous day's Rs 373.96.

The exchange rate of the Emirate Dirham surged by 01 paisa, while the Saudi Riyal stood stagnant, closing at Rs 75.68 and Rs 74.01, respectively.

PSX posts modest gains, adds nearly 125 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a positive trend on Monday, gaining 124.95 points, a positive change of 0.07 percent, to close at 175,927.74 points against 175,802.79 points recorded on the previous trading day.

During the session, the ready market recorded a trading volume of 675.921 million shares with a traded value of Rs30.267 billion, compared to 621.024 million shares valuing Rs29.884 billion in the previous session. The market capitalization stood at Rs19.763 trillion, down from Rs19.790 trillion a day earlier.

Out of 492 active companies in the ready market, 165 advanced, 277 declined, and 50 remained unchanged. Cnergyico PK led the volume chart with 166.060 million shares, followed by Pak Refinery with 49.159 million shares and TPL Properties with 38.437 million shares.

The top gainers included Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited, which surged by Rs211.00 to close at Rs25,440.00, and Baba Farid Sugar Mills Limited, which gained Rs41.86 to settle at Rs460.42.

On the losing side, Khairpur Sugar Mills Limited declined by Rs187.15 to close at Rs1,684.32, while Khyber Textile Mills Limited fell by Rs128.16 to settle at Rs2,071.22.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik holds a meeting with US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie A. Baker

Punjab moves to expand wheat storage under Rs20bn plan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Punjab government has launched a Rs20 billion public private partnership initiative to establish modern wheat silos across the province to bridge Pakistan's 20 to 25 million metric tonne wheat storage gap, reduce post harvest losses, strengthen food security and ensure stable wheat supplies through modern storage infrastructure and on farm silos for farmers.

The ambitious programme is expected to prevent nearly three million metric tonnes of post harvest wheat losses annually and generate an estimated $289 million in additional value while enabling farmers to store their produce safely and secure better market returns.

Director General Food Punjab Amjad Hafeez told Wealth Pakistan that work on establishing modern wheat silos is already underway under the public private partnership model.

He said the initiative would significantly improve long term storage capacity and enhance supply chain efficiency across the province.

He said the government is simultaneously promoting on farm silos to increase farmers' storage capacity, allowing them to avoid distress sales and retain ownership of their produce until market conditions become favourable.

According to Hafeez, the programme has been designed to address Pakistan's wheat storage deficit of 20 to 25 million metric tonnes, which has long contributed to post harvest losses and supply chain inefficiencies.

Commenting on wheat stocks, he said Punjab has sufficient reserves to comfortably meet provincial requirements until the end of the current wheat year in April next year.

Punjab produced around 21.91 million metric tonnes of wheat this year against an estimated annual domestic consumption of 16.5 million metric tonnes, leaving a surplus of approximately 5.41 million metric tonnes.

The surplus provides a substantial buffer to ensure uninterrupted wheat supplies, meet inter provincial requirements, maintain market stability and strengthen food security, he added. "The releases will be carried out in a calibrated and phased manner to ensure a steady supply of wheat to the milling sector.

This approach is intended to maintain adequate flour availability in the market and help keep flour and roti prices stable and affordable for consumers,"Mr Hafeez said. He said the Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation will also begin dispatching wheat to Punjab this month in line with the province's supply management strategy to ensure the smooth movement of stocks.

DG food reiterated that the government would not allow unjustified increases in wheat, flour and bread prices, stressing that these essential food items must remain affordable, particularly for low income households. He warned that strict legal action would be taken against hoarders or anyone attempting to create an artificial shortage of wheat in the market.

Flour millers have welcomed the government's decision to release wheat from official stocks, expressing optimism that the move will help stabilise flour prices across the province.

Pakistan Flour Mills Association Patron in Chief Asim Ahmad Raza told Wealth Pakistan that the price of the 10 kilogram flour bag has remained in line with the government's notified rates, while price fluctuations have been limited to the 15 kilogram bag produced from wheat purchased on the open market.

DG Amjad Hafeez expressed hope that the release of wheat from government warehouses would help lower flour prices and eventually bring down the prices of roti and naan for consumers.



ISLAMABAD: Artists perform a traditional dance during the launch ceremony of the China-Pakistan Information Corridor (CPIC) at the Pakistan-China Friendship Centre

Zubair Tufail says:

Pakistan-China trade, investment relations reaching new heights

KARACHI (APP): President of the United Business Group (UBG), Zubair Tufail, Monday, said that the 75-year diplomatic relationship and enduring friendship between Pakistan and China have evolved into a strong economic partnership.

China is Pakistan's largest trading partner and investor, while the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has become a historic milestone in bilateral relations, playing a significant role in Pakistan's economy, infrastructure, and energy sector.

Pak-China bilateral trade has reached approximately US$24 billion, with China being Pakistan's largest source of imports, he said elaborating that Pakistan's exports to China stood at around US$3.5 billion, while imports from China have exceeded US$20 billion. He noted that under CPEC, more than US$25 billion in direct investment has been made so far, contributing to the development of energy projects, highways, ports, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), and various industrial initiatives.

ICCI hosts seminar to unlock untapped Pakistan, Netherlands trade potential

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) hosted a seminar titled "Enhancing Bilateral Trade between Pakistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands", where business leaders and entrepreneurs emphasized the need to unlock the vast untapped potential of bilateral trade and investment by strengthening collaboration in innovation, value addition, technology transfer and sustainable economic development.

Welcoming the participants, ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood observed the Netherlands, as one of Europe's leading hubs for trade, logistics, agriculture, innovation, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing, offers immense opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation with Pakistan.

He said Pakistan deeply values its longstanding friendship with the Netherlands and believes that the existing economic relationship can be elevated to new heights. He said there is ample room to further diversify trade, promote joint ventures, attract Dutch investment and facilitate technology transfer.

Gold prices rise by Rs300 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The prices of gold witnessed an increase in the local market on Monday, with 24-karat gold per tola gaining Rs300 to settle at Rs424,536, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold increased by Rs258 to Rs363,971, whereas 10 grams of 22-karat gold rose by Rs237 to Rs333,652.

In the international market, the price of gold increased by $3 to $4,021 per ounce.

Meanwhile, the price of silver per tola increased by Rs107 to Rs6,177, while the price of 10 grams of silver rose by Rs91 to Rs5,295.

The price of silver in the international market also increased by $1.07 to $56.98 per ounce, the association reported.

Pakistan-China Pharma B2B Conference secures over $1.7b in investment commitments

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi, has announced the successful conclusion of the 6th Pakistan-China B2B Investment Conference on Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology and Healthcare, revealing that enterprises from both countries signed more than 120 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), joint ventures, and commercial agreements valued at over US$1.7 billion.

Sharing the update on the social media platform X, Ambassador Hashmi said the agreements span a wide range of sectors, including biotechnology, vaccines, biologics, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), medical devices, pharmaceuticals, Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), clinical research, and other allied healthcare industries. He described the conference as a landmark collaborative initiative conceived by the Pakistan Embassy in China and its four Consulates.

The event was made possible through the continued support of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, the Minister for National Health, and the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Industries.

Ambassador Hashmi also acknowledged the contributions of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (MNHSR&C), the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), the Board of Investment (BOI), the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), and industry representatives from the health sectors of both Pakistan and China.

He said the conference has provided fresh momentum to Pakistan–China business collaboration by promoting investment, technology transfer, industrial partnerships, and deeper economic integration between the pharmaceutical industries of the two countries.

Looking ahead, Ambassador Hashmi said follow-up efforts will begin shortly to facilitate the conversion of signed MoUs into binding contracts and commercial agreements, with the ultimate goal of translating these commitments into operational factories.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits the residence of late MNA Chaudhry Ashraf, offering condolences over the demise of the parliamentarian.

Ali Dar visits Huawei's Lianqiuhu Research & Development Center

LAHORE (APP): Advisor to Chief Minister Punjab on AI and Special Initiatives Ali Dar visited Huawei's Lianqiuhu Research & Development Center in Shanghai, where he was briefed on the company's latest Artificial Intelligence and digital governance solutions.

Huawei Vice President and Chief Solution Architect (Government Public Services, Digitalization) Jianfeng Shen and Peng Wang presented advanced AI technologies and discussed their potential application in transforming public service delivery across Punjab.

During the meeting, both sides explored opportunities to leverage Artificial Intelligence and digital governance to enhance efficiency, transparency, and citizen-centric public services. Discussions also focused on adopting global best practices to accelerate Punjab's digital transformation agenda.

Speaking on the occasion, Ali Dar said that under the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Punjab is being transformed into South Asia's leading AI hub. He stated that Artificial Intelligence will play a pivotal role in making governance more transparent, efficient, and responsive to the needs of citizens, while digital governance will significantly improve the speed, quality, and accountability of public service delivery.

Goods worth Rs8.45trln exported in FY2025

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan exported goods worth Rs. 8,454,431 million during the fiscal year 2025-26, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The exports in rupee term witnessed declined by 5.51 percent compared to the same period of last year, when they stood at Rs.8,947,881million, according to provisional figures released by the bureau.

Meanwhile, on year on year basis, the exports from the country decreased by 10.61 percent to Rs.626,686 million in June compared to export of Rs. 701,091 million during June, 2025. On month-on-month basis, the exports decreased by 16.36 percent in June compared to exports of Rs. 749,272 million in May, 2026. The main commodities of exports during June, 2026 were knitwear (Rs. 101,348 million), readymade garments (Rs.87,768 million), bed wear (Rs. 58,361 million), rice others (Rs.34,558 million), cotton cloth (Rs. 31,209 million), basmati rice (Rs. 24,943 million), petroleum products, excluding top naptha (Rs.19,526 million), towels (Rs.18,462 million), cotton yarn (Rs.17,820 million) and madeup articles, excluding towels &bBedwears (Rs. 13,557 million).

On the other hand, imports during July –June (2025-2026) totaled Rs. 19,594,926 million as against Rs. 18,023,460 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 8.72%. Imports into the country during June, 2026 amounted to Rs. 1,932,135 million as against Rs. 1,530,520 million in May, 2026 and Rs. 1,516,461 million during June, 2025 showing an increase of 26.24% over May, 2026.



The 39th Tokyo International Film Festival, held this year in Tokyo, the capital of Japan, began with a red carpet ceremony despite the rainy weather affecting the city.

Resolution of Kashmir dispute vital for lasting peace, prosperity in South Asia: President

ISLAMABAD, (APP): On Jammu and Kashmir Black Day, we solemnly remember 27 October 1947, when Indian forces landed in Srinagar, marking the beginning of a prolonged and tragic chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. This day reaffirms our recognition of the longstanding aspirations of the Kashmiri people and the continued pursuit of the fundamental and inalienable right to self-determination.

For the past eight decades, the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) have endured profound sufferings, marked by violence, repression and serious violations of fundamental rights. Generations of Kashmiris have made immense sacrifices in their pursuit of justice, dignity and freedom. Their resilience and determination in the face of adversity remain a testament to the enduring strength of their cause.

Since 27 October 1947, the people of IIOJK have endured decades of conflict, restrictions and denial of their fundamental rights. The continuing restrictions on fundamental freedoms, heightened militarisation, arrests and reports of human rights violations remain a matter of serious concern and underscore the need for sustained international attention. The situation has further deteriorated since August 5, 2019, when India unilaterally attempted to alter the constitutional and legal status of Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir Black Day is, therefore, not merely a day of remembrance. It is also an occasion to reaffirm our commitment to a peaceful and just resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Lasting peace, stability and prosperity in South Asia remain closely linked to the resolution of this longstanding dispute, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. On this solemn occasion, I call upon the international community, particularly the United Nations and international human rights organisations, to take due cognisance of the human rights situation in IIOJK, support efforts for the protection of the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people and contribute meaningfully towards a just, peaceful and lasting resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Pakistan will continue to extend its unwavering moral, diplomatic and political support to the people of IIOJK. We will continue to raise their voice at every appropriate international forum and to advocate the realisation of their legitimate aspirations. Today, we pay tribute to the countless sacrifices of the Kashmiri people and reaffirm our solidarity with our Kashmiri brothers and sisters.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers and MPAs called on Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning called on Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Successful operations against Fitna al-Khawarij heavy blow to terrorist networks: PM

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday paying tribute to security forces for eliminating three Khariji terrorists in Dera Ismail Khan, said that the successful operations against Fitna al-Khawarij were a heavy blow to terrorist networks.

The prime minister, in a statement, said that the operations by the security forces would continue until the eradication of terrorism.

He said that the security forces were resolved to purge Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the country of terrorism as the state remained steadfast in its resolve for the complete elimination of Fitna al-Khawarij.

CM Bugti vows to make provincial administrative system more transparent through effective use of modern technology

QUETTA, (VoM Report): A key meeting chaired by Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti was held to discuss improvements in public service delivery and digital reforms. The meeting reviewed progress on the implementation of digital systems in provincial government departments and the modernization of administrative affairs. The meeting was informed that more than 183,000 e-files had been processed under the e-filing system across 28 government departments in Balochistan. Meanwhile, the process of digitizing summaries has also been initiated to further accelerate government affairs, enhance transparency, and ensure effective decision-making. In the initial phase, the transfer of summaries from 10 government departments to the digital system has begun. Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti directed that the process of shifting government affairs to modern digital systems be accelerated further and that all relevant departments effectively fulfil their responsibilities in this regard. He said that eliminating unnecessary delays in government affairs and ensuring timely decisions were essential to making administrative matters more effective and result-oriented. The Chief Minister said that digital governance was not merely about the use of technology; rather, it was an effective means of promoting transparency, speed, and accountability within the government system.

Kashmiri people must be allowed to determine their future freely: Gilani

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has said that a just and fair resolution of the Kashmir dispute is indispensable for establishing lasting peace, stability and prosperity in South Asia.

In his message on Kashmir Black Day, he urged the international community to play an effective role in fulfilling the promises made to the Kashmiri people and ensuring the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions.

The Chairman Senate said that October 27, 1947, remains a dark and tragic day in the history of the Kashmiri people, when Indian forces entered Jammu and Kashmir, disregarding the aspirations and wishes of its people.

He said that the day serves as a solemn reminder of the Kashmiri people's prolonged struggle, unparalleled sacrifices and unwavering commitment to achieving their inalienable right to self-determination.

Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani stated that the Kashmir dispute remains a key pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy and is fundamentally linked to the establishment of peace in the region.

He emphasized that the Kashmiri people must be allowed to determine their own future freely. Despite the use of force, restrictions and persistent concerns over human rights, he said, the Kashmiri people continue their struggle, demonstrating remarkable courage, resilience and steadfastness. The Chairman Senate observed that India's actions of August 5, 2019, raised serious questions regarding the constitutional status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and the fundamental rights of its people. He reiterated Pakistan's rejection of these actions and reaffirmed its principled position that a sustainable resolution of the Kashmir dispute must be based on the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and the relevant United Nations resolutions. Paying tribute to the martyrs of the Kashmir freedom movement, the Chairman Senate said that their sacrifices constitute an unforgettable chapter in the history of the Kashmiri people. He affirmed that Pakistan's Parliament, political leadership and people would continue to support the right to self-determination of their Kashmiri brothers and sisters. He reiterated Pakistan's unwavering commitment to extending political, moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people.



Pakistan, China vows to further enhance bilateral partnership

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning on Monday called on Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, Mao Ning conveyed greetings from Foreign Minister Wang Yi and the DPM/FM reciprocated with warm regards and best wishes to FM Wang Yi.

Welcoming Ms Mao Ning to Pakistan for the Pakistan-China Spokespersons' Dialogue, the deputy prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership with China.

DPM/FM noted with appreciation the regular consultations and exchanges at all levels between Pakistan and China. He noted that the Spokespersons' Dialogue provides an important platform to enhance media cooperation, strategic communication and public diplomacy, fostering greater mutual understanding and bringing the two peoples closer together.

Ms Mao Ning reaffirmed China's commitment to its close partnership with Pakistan and appreciated Pakistan's constructive role in promoting regional peace, stability and dialogue.

CDWP recommends Rs69.9bn KP irrigation project to ECNEC

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The CDWP, chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal, on Monday approved 10 development projects worth Rs40.915 billion.



QUETTA: Former chief minister and MPA Dr Abdul Malik Baloch expressing his views during the assembly session.

Pakistan has not experienced fuel shortage despite challenging regional circumstances: Natalie A. Baker

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik on Monday held a meeting with US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie A. Baker to discuss avenues for strengthening bilateral cooperation in the energy sector.

During the meeting, the Federal Minister briefed the US Chargé d'Affaires on the measures taken by Pakistan to ensure energy security amid the evolving geopolitical situation.

He highlighted that the ongoing conflict in the Middle East had created challenges for fuel availability, requiring proactive measures to maintain uninterrupted supplies.

Natalie A. Baker congratulated Pakistan on efficiently managing the fuel supply situation, noting that the country had not experienced a fuel shortage despite the challenging regional circumstances.

The Federal Minister underscored Pakistan's commitment to securing its energy needs and highlighted the ongoing engagement between the teams of both countries to explore opportunities for cooperation.

He noted that Pakistan's refinery upgradation programme could offer investment opportunities for US financial institutions.

The US Chargé d'Affaires expressed the United States' desire to work closely with Pakistan to address its energy needs.

She emphasized the importance of creating opportunities for US companies in Pakistan and expressed optimism about establishing long-term energy supply contracts, noting that such arrangements would be mutually beneficial and create opportunities for American businesses.



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar presenting a resolution during the assembly session.

Mobilizing domestic capital should be immediate priority: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday emphasized the need for a transparent, commercially viable and investor-friendly framework that would help mobilize domestic savings, attract institutional investment and support private-sector-led economic growth.

The minister chaired the third meeting of the committee tasked with developing the National Private Equity Framework, reviewing progress on regulatory and taxation reforms, domestic capital mobilization and the development of investment opportunities to support a robust private equity ecosystem in Pakistan.

The Finance Minister appreciated the substantive progress achieved across key workstreams and underscored the importance of translating regulatory and policy reforms into practical investment opportunities, said a press release.

The committee reviewed the potential of Pakistan's private equity market, including opportunities arising from acquisitions, business consolidation, new projects and exits by existing investors. Discussions highlighted the prospects of developing a substantial pipeline of investable opportunities over the next five to ten years, supported by significant domestic liquidity that could be channelled towards productive economic activity through an effective private equity ecosystem.

A key focus of the meeting was the mobilization of domestic institutional capital, including resources available with banks, insurance companies, mutual funds, pension schemes and development finance institutions, alongside potential participation from local corporations and family offices.

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