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PM Shehbaz directs to assess quality of healthcare services

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday inaugurated the revamped Pakistan-China Friendship Hospital here and directed the authorities to ensure provision of free, quality healthcare to patients from across the country, stressing that public resources must be utilised to serve humanity rather than allowed to go to waste through institutional neglect.

The prime minister toured the newly renovated facility, received a briefing from Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal and interacted with patients, reaffirming his government's commitment to ensuring free treatment through professionally managed healthcare facilities.

Originally gifted by China during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Isolation Hospital and Infectious Treatment Centre (IHITC) had become non-operational after the pandemic subsided, remaining closed for years. Its revival under the new name of Pakistan-China Friendship Hospital aims to restore a valuable national asset and provide modern medical services to patients, particularly those unable to afford expensive treatment.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif regretted the prolonged closure of the hospital, describing it as a painful example of neglect towards the poor and vulnerable sections of society. He said he had taken immediate notice of the situation after learning about the hospital's condition through a newspaper report and directed the health minister to take urgent measures to restore the facility. The prime minister said the hospital was a generous gift from the Chinese government and people, reflecting Chinese President Xi Jinping's vision of international cooperation and shared responsibility for human welfare. He apologised to the Chinese ambassador and the people of China for the years during which the facility remained closed. PM Shehbaz Sharif said the government would bear 100 percent of the treatment costs, while the Indus Hospital and Health Network (IHHN) would manage the facility under a public-private partnership model. He said his experience with hospitals managed by the network had convinced him that entrusting public healthcare facilities to competent organisations could improve service delivery, efficiency and accountability. The prime minister directed Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal and the hospital's management to make the facility a model institution, emphasising that providing treatment to those unable to afford it was among the most valuable forms of public service.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveils the plaque of inauguration of Pakistan China Friendship Hospital in Islamabad.


ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari addresses the National Assembly.

Education essential for advancing Balochistan's social, economic development: Governor

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has pledged to establish a full-fledged university in Zhob as part of efforts to expand modern higher education, research and digital learning opportunities in the region. Addressing faculty members and students of the BUITEMS Zhob Campus at Governor House Quetta, the governor said greater access to quality education was vital for strengthening human resources and unlocking the economic potential of remote areas.

He highlighted the achievements of students from the Zhob campus, noting that Sanaullah and Muhammad Ikhlas had won fully funded scholarships through a nationwide competition to pursue advanced studies in artificial intelligence and cybersecurity in China.

Mandokhail also said 14 students of the campus had cleared competitive examinations conducted by the Public Service Commission, describing their success as a reflection of the institution's expanding academic capabilities.

The governor acknowledged the efforts of Professor Dr. Abdul Salam Lodhi and his team in advancing educational activities at the Zhob campus.

He said student enrollment had doubled over the previous year after admission fees were reduced, making higher education more accessible to students from underserved communities.

To further support female students and faculty members, Mandokhail announced the provision of two coaster vehicles for transportation.


ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairing a meeting to review Pakistan's foreign policy priorities, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dialogue vital to overcome country's economic, political challenges: Maulana Wasay

KILLA SAIFULLAH/ LORALAI (ANN): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Balochistan President Senator Maulana Abdul Wasey has called on political forces to bridge their differences and pursue a broader national consensus, saying dialogue and political understanding are vital to overcoming the country's economic and political difficulties.

Speaking at separate events, including the inauguration of a water-supply bore in Shanal Gat, Muslim Bagh, and the annual Dastar-e-Fazilat conference at Madrassa Aqsa in Margha Faqirzai, Wasey urged the government and opposition to work toward a renewed political understanding in the larger national interest.

Wasey said greater political tolerance, mutual respect and consensus could help create an environment conducive to stability and allow the country to address its major challenges more effectively.

He also highlighted the contribution of religious seminaries to religious education.

Political disagreements over one's share of power should not lead anyone to speak against country: Danyal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry on Thursday called for constitutional amendments to address public issues whenever necessary, while saying the creation of new provinces required extensive debate.

Talking to the media outside Parliament House, he said several key questions needed to be addressed regarding the creation of new provinces, including the purpose of establishing them, the number of provinces required, the issues they would resolve and the outcomes expected from such changes.

He emphasised that the primary objective should be to establish efficient administrative units, strengthen institutions and ensure that power reached the people, enabling the government to address public grievances more effectively.

At the same time, he stressed the importance of maintaining a strong federation.

Barrister Danyal said financial autonomy was one of the most important considerations in creating any new province or administrative unit, which should be capable of meeting its own expenditures.

Meanwhile, Barrister Danyal criticised Maulana Fazlur Rehman's remarks, saying that these were differed significantly from his previous position.

He recalled that earlier, the JUI-F chief had alleged that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had been imposed on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) to promote terrorism and destabilize the province.

Security forces kill Indian sponsored terrorist in Kech District

QUETTA, (APP): Security forces killed a terrorist belonging to Fitna al Hindustan during an intelligence-based operation in the Minaz area of Buleda in Kech district under operation Radd-ul-Fitna 3. Security sources said that the incident occurred when terrorists attempted to establish a blockade while taking two women with them in the Minaz area.

The Security forces pursued the fleeing terrorists, triggering an exchange of fire during which one terrorist was killed, they said.

Strong legislature essential to empower people of Pakistan: Bilawal Bhutto

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday urged the opposition to actively participate in parliamentary committees to strengthen Parliament, saying a strong legislature was essential for empowering the people of Pakistan.

Speaking in the National Assembly, he said political leaders should move beyond political point-scoring and accusations and work collectively to ensure that Parliament played its constitutional role effectively. Bilawal said the opposition's decision to stay away from parliamentary committees, including the Finance Committee, had weakened Parliament and deprived its constituents of representation in important forums. Addressing the Leader of the Opposition, he urged him to use his authority to direct opposition members, particularly those belonging to PTI, to return to key parliamentary committees.

He specifically called for opposition representation in the proposed Electoral Reforms Committee, saying its formation had been supported through parliamentary resolutions.

He said participation in the committee could provide a starting point for addressing concerns about electoral processes, including alleged irregularities and issues arising from by-elections.

The PPP chairman said that if the opposition genuinely wanted Parliament to become effective and address its concerns, it should participate in the relevant forums rather than remain absent. Discussing regional and geopolitical developments, Bilawal called for a comprehensive briefing to Parliament on the security, economic and diplomatic challenges facing Pakistan. He proposed that the finance, foreign affairs, defence and interior ministers, along with other relevant officials, briefed the House on the emerging regional situation, its potential consequences for Pakistan and the government's preparations to address them.


QUETTA: A delegation of Altaf Developments led by its Chief Executive Officer Altaf Khan meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

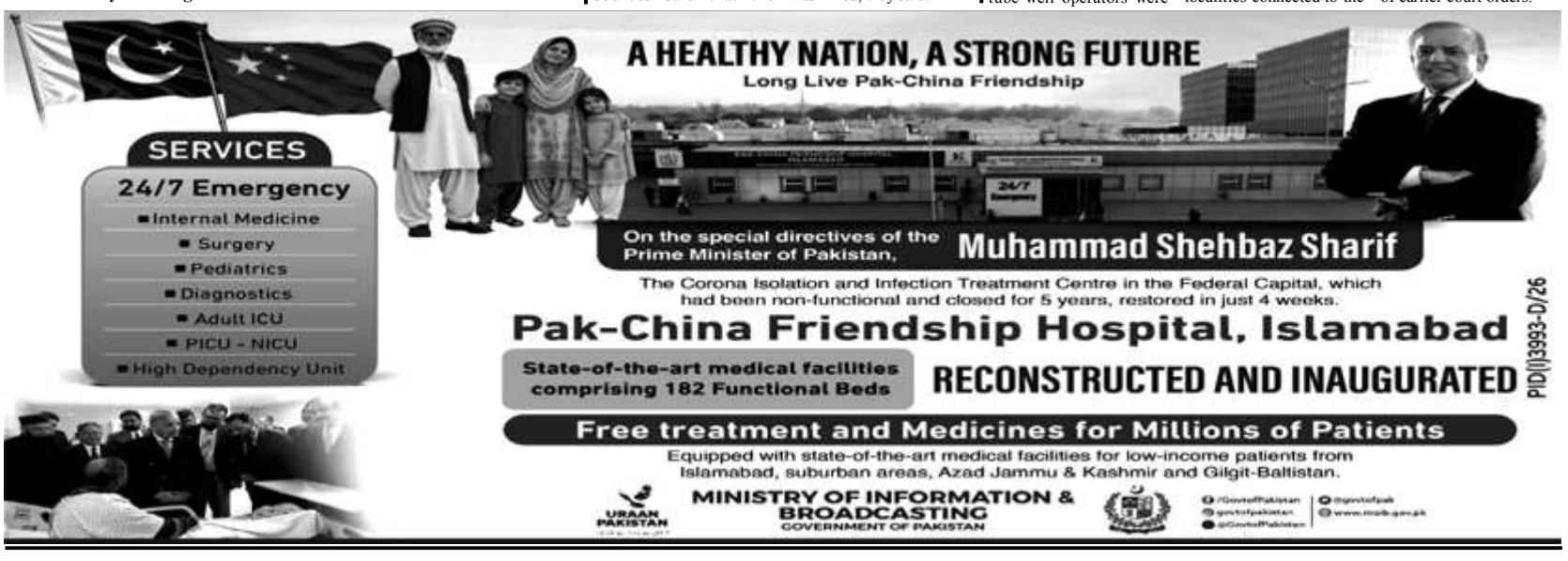
BHC summons top officials over drinking water crisis in Quetta

QUETTA, (VoM Report): The Balochistan High Court has directed senior administrative and water-management officials to appear before it on November 2 over continued drinking water shortages in Hazara Town, Karkhasa and Hazar Ganji. A two-member bench comprising Chief Justice Muhammad Kamran Khan Malakhail and Justice Muhammad Najmuddin Mengal heard a constitutional petition concerning inadequate water supplies and allegations that private tube-well operators were exercising control over water distribution.

The bench expressed concern over the lack of satisfactory progress by the Quetta Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA), noting that the petition had been pending since September 21, 2023, despite repeated directions issued by the court.

During the proceedings, WASA Executive Engineer told the court that tube wells in Karkhasa had been brought into operation and that two reservoirs, with capacities of 300,000 and 200,000 gallons, were supplying localities connected to the pipeline system.He further informed the bench that 11 tube wells had been installed in Hazar Ganji, while the remaining work was expected to be completed within five to six months after administrative delays.

The petitioner's counsel, however, challenged the WASA account, maintaining that residents were still experiencing acute shortages despite paying monthly charges. He also alleged that private water suppliers were selling water while using WASA pipelines in breach of earlier court orders.



THE VOICE OF MILLIONS

Friday October 30, 2026

Houthis trying to defend regional policies of Iran

The latest wave of violence in Yemen started last July when Yemen's internationally recognized government forces prevented an aircraft from Iran from landing at Sanaa airport. In return, the Houthis, claiming that this intervention ended the U.N. mediated truce of 2022, launched a massive offensive against not only government forces but also Saudi Arabia in late August. Thus, the fighting restarted in the already de facto divided country.

The Houthis attacked the Saudi capital city, Riyadh, but the drones launched by the Houthis were successfully intercepted and destroyed by the Saudi-led coalition. Both sides of the conflict affirmed that many sensitive targets in Riyadh were hit by the Houthis, including the Aramco facilities in Yanbu, a strategic port on the Red Sea. Many civilian infrastructure sites were also targeted. Last week, Saudi authorities accused the Houthis of targeting Mecca, the most sacred city of Islam, with a drone that was successfully intercepted. Although the Houthis have strongly denied the claim, many governments denounced the attempt and the Houthis.

It seems that the Houthis want to expand their control in the country. On the one hand, the Houthis want to control the strategic Bab al-Mandeb Strait, one of the most strategic shipping lines, in order to increase their deterrence power. By taking over some of the most strategic cities such as Mocha, Marib, Taiz, al-Bayda and Lahj, the Houthis want to control the passages in the straits. Thus, they will be able to deter the United States and other Western countries from attacking Iran. Control over the Bab al-Mandeb Strait by the Houthis has increased security concerns about the free passage of the Hormuz Strait.

On the other hand, they are determined to continue their attacks against Saudi targets and thus to escalate the tension to change the regional balance of power in favor of Iran, which was recently severely weakened by the U.S. and Israel's attacks. Iran and its proxies blamed Saudi Arabia and other regional Arab states for being attacked by the U.S. and Israel. By mobilizing the Houthis, Iran attempts to expand the war's geographical scope and to diversify the fronts of the conflict. Eventually, Iran wants to open economic and political fronts in addition to the military one.

However, it seems that these "measures" taken by the Houthis are counterproductive. While they try to increase their deterrence against the attackers, they give excuses to other countries to attack Iran and the Houthis. Considering the upcoming elections in both the U.S. and Israel, it is highly likely that these two states will launch a massive attack against Iran to change the result of the elections in their favor. It seems that the only way that both Trump and Netanyahu can come out of the crisis that they face is the resumption of violence.

Similarly, the cost of the war increases for all countries involved, including the U.S. and Israel. Therefore, especially the U.S. does not want to open a new front that will influence not only the conflicting sides but the whole world. Therefore, the U.S. government negotiated with the Houthi officials in Oman and during the meeting, the Houthis assured the U.S. that they will not target American vessels.

The Houthis banned the passage of Saudi ships only. Thus, they want to put pressure on Saudi Arabia, which uses an alternative pipeline to the Strait of Hormuz. As a result of this thinking, the Houthis hit the East-West pipeline. These attacks ended up with the disruption of Saudi oil and thus increased the price of oil to over $100.

The eruption of violence in Yemen in the last two months demonstrates that the Houthis are a typical proxy actor. Although the Houthis have some independent interests, principles and objectives, they are heavily dependent on Iran. Instead of solving the humanitarian crisis in the country, they try to defend the regional policies of Iran. The Houthis gained international recognition, especially after they attacked Israel for its genocide in Gaza.

According to the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), 22 million Yemenis, almost half of the country's population, are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. This makes the crisis the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The country is facing the world's worst cholera outbreak. Millions of Yemenis are unable to access food, water or health care. Therefore, it is expected that the Houthis should become a Yemeni national force and sever their ties with Iran. This is the only way to achieve political stability in the country and to prevent external interventions into the conflict.

From trust to strategy

SEHAR KAMRAN

Pakistan has more than one reason to reflect on its journey. From a state struggling for survival, it has evolved into a nuclear-armed country with substantial conventional capabilities and a network of longstanding strategic partnerships.

The signing of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA) between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye on 7 August 2026 adds a new and significant dimension to that journey. Signed in the Holy City of Makkah, the agreement represents not simply a military understanding between three capable states, but the institutionalisation of relationships and trust that have developed over generations. However, its long-term value will be measured by the stability it helps create and the economic opportunities that stability makes possible. Collective defence, properly managed, can generate collective dividends in both security and prosperity.

Pakistan arrives at this moment with a clearer sense of its own strategic standing. Its nuclear capability established an essential threshold of autonomy. What has mattered more recently is the demonstration that this capability is paired with professional judgment and national cohesion. The May 2025 India-Pakistan conflict, known as "Marka-e-Haq", tested that combination under pressure. Under the leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, the armed forces conducted a precise and restrained multi-domain response. The outcome reinforced public confidence and signalled to partners that Pakistan could defend its interests without unnecessary escalation.

Marka-e-Haq was a turning point. For Pakistan, it was an important demonstration of how strategic maturity and operational competence can reinforce one another, potentially strengthening the confidence of partners. In this regard, the Makkah Agreement demonstrates how those relationships can move beyond sentiment and symbolism towards practical cooperation in defence, security, diplomacy and economic development. The agreement should not be interpreted as the emergence of an offensive military bloc, nor as a pact directed against any particular country. Its stated purpose is collective defence and deterrence, consistent with the right of individual and collective self-defence recognised under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. Its central principle is straightforward: an armed attack against one of the three countries will be regarded as an attack against all three.

That distinction matters. Deterrence is not about preparing for war; its ultimate purpose is to make war less likely. In a region that has endured repeated conflicts, geopolitical rivalries and external intervention, a credible framework for collective defence, if managed with restraint, transparency and responsibility, can contribute to stability rather than undermine it.

From Trust to Strategic Partnership: The deeper significance of the Makkah Agreement lies in what preceded it. Pakistan's relationship with Saudi Arabia has evolved over generations, encompassing political, economic, religious and defence ties. Pakistan and Türkiye likewise share a longstanding partnership marked by strategic cooperation and strong public goodwill.

Türkiye's diplomatic and political support for Pakistan during the May 2025 India-Pakistan crisis was a notable demonstration of strategic solidarity. The Makkah Agreement is therefore not the beginning of trust between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. It is the institutional expression of trust built over decades. This development also reflects Pakistan's transformation into a trusted defence partner whose credibility now contributes to wider regional stability.

There is another historical connection, particularly significant for Pakistan and the Muslim world. In 1974, Pakistan hosted the Second Islamic Summit Conference in Lahore under Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, bringing together leaders from across the Muslim world. The summit was a powerful expression of political solidarity, but it also reflected a deeper recognition: shared interests require institutions and relationships through which states can act together.

The present defence agreement is not the direct institutional product of a decision taken more than five decades ago. Yet there is a meaningful continuity of thought. The 1974 Summit represented a powerful political expression of Muslim unity; the Makkah Agreement represents a contemporary effort to translate long-standing relationships into practical strategic cooperation.

This year's Independence Day therefore coincides with a new chapter in Pakistan's engagement with the Muslim world. Pakistan's strength has increasingly been demonstrated not only through the possession of military capability, but through its ability to build confidence with partners.

The purpose of strategy is to create the conditions in which peace can be preserved. The Makkah Agreement can be understood in precisely this context. It is not an instrument for confrontation, but a mechanism intended to strengthen deterrence and preserve peace.

Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan each occupy strategically important positions and possess capabilities that are complementary rather than identical. Saudi Arabia has enormous economic and diplomatic weight and sits at the heart of the Gulf. Türkiye connects Europe, the Middle East and Asia and has developed a significant indigenous defence industry. Pakistan occupies a pivotal geographic position between South Asia, the Arabian Sea, the Gulf and Central Asia and possesses extensive military experience.

The agreement's openness to other regional countries makes this possibility even more significant. The Makkah Agreement could become a building block for a broader framework of regional consultation, crisis management and collective deterrence, provided it remains inclusive, defensive and respectful of international law. The initial response from beyond the three signatories is therefore important. Kuwait has felicitated Pakistan on the agreement, while Bahrain has welcomed it as an addition to the region's broader defence architecture. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation has described it as an important strategic step with the potential to contribute to regional and wider Muslim-world stability. These reactions suggest that the agreement is already being viewed within a wider conversation about regional security. Security and Prosperity: That conversation should now move beyond defence.

The Gulf states, Türkiye, Pakistan and other regional countries face interconnected challenges: terrorism, maritime insecurity, energy security, missile and drone threats, cyber risks and the economic consequences of prolonged conflict. No single country can address all of these challenges in isolation. The answer does not necessarily require one grand alliance. The Muslim world is too diverse, and its states have distinct national interests. A more practical model may be a network of overlapping partnerships built around shared interests. Security is also an economic proposition. Trade requires safe routes. Investment requires predictability. Energy markets require stability. Infrastructure projects require confidence that they will not be disrupted by conflict.

The economic ambitions of Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan all depend, in different ways, on a stable regional environment. A more secure region can attract investment, facilitate connectivity and create the conditions for economic growth. The ultimate dividend of security is prosperity.

For this reason, the Makkah Agreement should not be judged solely by its military dimension. Its long-term value will depend on whether it contributes to a region in which countries are more willing to trade, investors are more willing to commit capital, and governments have greater confidence in managing crises without escalation. From Independence to Interdependence: Pakistan's Independence Day provides an appropriate moment to consider this broader evolution.

In 1947, Pakistan's overriding challenge was survival. In the decades that followed, it built the institutions, capabilities and partnerships necessary to secure its independence. The achievement of nuclear capability fundamentally altered its strategic position. The development of a sophisticated defence sector expanded its capacity for self-reliance. And its long-standing relationships with Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and other Muslim countries created a diplomatic network that remains one of Pakistan's important strategic assets.

The next stage is to convert these capabilities and relationships into greater economic and regional connectivity. The signing of the Makkah Agreement is therefore a beginning, not an endpoint. Its credibility will depend on implementation: regular strategic consultation, reliable crisis communication, intelligence cooperation, interoperability, joint training and clearly defined mechanisms for consultation during a crisis. Economic cooperation should develop alongside security cooperation, particularly in energy, infrastructure, technology, agriculture, education and defence industries.

For decades, the Muslim world has spoken of solidarity. Solidarity, however, must eventually be translated into practical cooperation. That does not mean creating a single political or military bloc. It means developing the capacity to cooperate where interests converge while respecting the sovereignty and individual priorities of participating states.

The Makkah Agreement demonstrates that long-standing political relationships can produce concrete strategic mechanisms. It also offers a model of regional responsibility: capable states working together to strengthen deterrence while preserving diplomacy and respecting international law. For Pakistan, this is an opportunity to use its relationships not to deepen divisions, but to build bridges between South Asia, the Gulf, the Middle East and Central Asia.

There is something particularly powerful about the fact that this agreement was signed in Makkah. The city represents a spiritual centre for the Muslim world, while the agreement signed there addresses a practical question faced by states everywhere: how to preserve peace in an uncertain international environment. The answer cannot rest on military power alone. It must also rest on trust, diplomacy, economic interdependence and the willingness to stand together against aggression while leaving the door open to dialogue.

This Independence Day, Pakistan can therefore look back with confidence while looking ahead with responsibility. From a country born amid extraordinary uncertainty, it has emerged as a nuclear power, a capable military state and an increasingly trusted defence partner. The Makkah Agreement gives that evolution a new strategic expression. Whether it becomes simply another defence agreement or the beginning of a wider chapter in the security and prosperity of the region will ultimately depend not on the ceremony of its signing, but on the wisdom with which it is implemented.

The agreement will also face challenges. The three countries have different threat perceptions, geographic priorities and economic interests. A durable partnership will therefore require careful coordination rather than automatic alignment. Its success will depend on ensuring that collective defence strengthens deterrence without producing unnecessary escalation, and that strategic cooperation does not become a substitute for diplomacy. For Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, the opportunity is clear: turn trust into cooperation, cooperation into stability, and stability into prosperity. That would be a fitting next chapter for Pakistan as it celebrates another year of independence.

The writer is a Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan for the term 2024-2029, and a Patron in Chief of a non-partisan think tank; the Centre for Pakistan and Gulf Studies (CPGS). Twitter @SeharKamran

The Simmering Strategic Quagmire

IMRAN MALIK

The US-Israel Combine's rather misfiring war on Iran continues to trudge along pedantically and aimlessly. Its vaunted military has failed to achieve any of its objectives at the geopolitical and geostrategic levels. A destabilising, disruptive stalemate confounds the region and the world, with no viable exit strategies evident for either belligerent. The US' increasingly "start-stop" war on Iran indicates that it is not maintaining momentum in its offensive operations, an inviolable principle of war. A lack of strategic clarity and ample and timely replenishments of costly, hi-tech weapon systems, munitions, missiles, etc., has left it wallowing in abject strategic vacuity. A tenacious Iran has the US fixed in the Middle East (ME), disallowing it any egress, honourable or otherwise. President Trump has now been reduced to merely reinforcing failure. Period. It is a prime example of how a war must never be blundered into or fought. PM Netanyahu manipulated the US into this strategic quagmire, then smartly manoeuvred Israel out of direct combat with Iran and left it, along with the Gulf Arab states, to face Iran's ferocious, unrelenting retaliation!

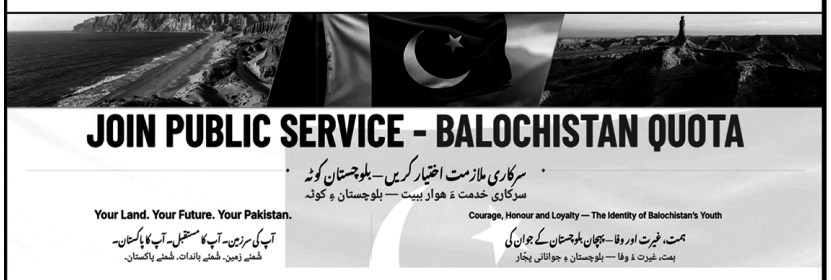
The geopolitical and geostrategic environments in the ME are undergoing rapid paradigm shifts. Currently, the Gulf Arab states are facing a treble jeopardy. The US bases on their territories are attracting relentless Iranian missile and drone attacks, while the Sea Lines of Communication (SLOC) and trade routes through the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea-Gulf of Aden-Bab el-Mandab complex are becoming increasingly hazardous for all shipping. These choke points are seriously undermining international trade in oil, gas, fertilisers, petrochemicals, food grains, etc. However, the Gulf Arab states face yet another gargantuan geopolitical dilemma with critical geostrategic implications. Portentously, the US, their supposed ally and avowed net stabiliser and security provider in the region, is itself guilty not only of subjecting them to rampant political, diplomatic and economic coercion, but also of orchestrating (un)controlled chaos and/or attacks on most of them. The US has applied a variety of operational methodologies to that end: one, attacking them directly without allies (currently Iran); two, facilitating, arming and supporting Israel to carry out aggression against them (Palestine, Gaza and the West Bank—genocide, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq and Qatar); three, acting in connivance with Israel (Iran, June 2025 and February 2026); four, outsourcing aggression to its allies ("leading from behind", while NATO, France and the UK attacked Libya in 2011); five, instigating, fuelling and sustaining bilateral wars between them (the Iran-Iraq War, 1980–88); and six, acting with the help of allies and Coalitions of the Willing (Iraq in 1991 and 2003, and Afghanistan in 2001). The US-led West's support for Israel's wanton, merciless genocide of the Gazans-Palestinians has further marred its relationships with the Arabs, the region and the world at large. All this is to satiate Israel's perpetual, ersatz insecurities! The Gulf Arab states now interpret these as unacceptable, unjust and untenable existential threats.

Government of Pakistan

(Ministry of Defence)

Pakistan Armed Services Board Department

URAAN PAKISTAN



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS (Relevant GoP exemptions to be mentioned where applicable by all relevant departments)	GENERAL INFORMATION
• Clearly mention the Post Name, District, on the application. • Applications should reach PASB Sectt within 15 days of Publication of Advertisement on the given address. • Only candidates holding a valid Local/Domicile Certificate of Balochistan are eligible. • 5% quota is reserved for Minorities. • War Wounded Retired Amred Forces Official will be given preference. • Candidates must provide 3 x Latest Photopraphs, Copy of CNIC, Photocopies of Highest Civil / Military Qual Certificates and Photocopy of Discharged Book. • Any candidate found holding domicile from another province will be disqualified immediately. • Dismissed / removed employees of any organization or having discipline record are ineligible. • If any information or documents provided by the candidate is found bogus / fake at any stage (even after joining) the appointment will be terminated and legal action will be initiated. • Max Age shall be calculated from the Closing date of Applications. • Only Shortlisted Candidates will be called for interview. No TA/DA is admissible. • Incomplete application will not be entertained. • Application on prescribed form (which can be downloaded from office website **www.pasb.mod.gov.pak)** • **Venue of Interview**. Interviews of shortlisted candidates will be conducted at Balochistan Armed Services Board Directorate, Hali Road, Quetta • **Mailing Address**: Deputy Director (HR), Pakistan Armed Services Board Secretariat, Street No-6, House No-100-A1, Chaklala Scheme-III, Rawalpindi • **Contact No**: 051-9280125	• Recruitment will be done at doorstep (at Districts level) with help of newly established employment cells in districts of Balochistan as a special case to ensure recruitment of residents. • All Recruitment (BPS 1-15) to be done by Walk-in-interview (No Entry & Written Test). • Upper Age relaxation of 5 years instead of existing 3 years, in addition to 5 years general age relaxation.

PID(I)3965/26

Iran says Hormuz shipping route deal with Oman is close

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iran and Oman are close to agreeing on a new shipping route through the blocked Strait of Hormuz, according to officials in Tehran.

The two Gulf states have agreed on the geographical coordinates of a navigation route through the strait, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei was quoted as saying by state news agency IRNA on Wednesday evening.

A joint statement was in the final stages of review and drafting, he said, provided that no external party interfered in the process.

Oman has not publicly commented on the reported agreement, which Iran says was negotiated without US involvement.

Ships were able to pass freely through the strait, which lies between Iran and Oman, before the war began in late February. Any arrangement giving Tehran extensive control over shipping through the strategically important waterway would represent a strategic gain for Iran.

Baghaei cautioned that an agreement with Oman alone would not guarantee safe passage. Security in the strait remained linked to what he described as the continuing US blockade and other "aggressive and threatening" actions against Iran, he said.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi also said an agreement on new shipping arrangements was nearing completion, according to IRNA.

However, he stressed that the proposed arrangement would not amount to a full reopening of the strait, but would instead establish a new model for maritime traffic.

US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday evening that the strait could open on Wednesday or Thursday as part of a possible agreement with Iran.

The Strait of Hormuz is a crucial route for global shipments of oil, gas and fertilizer.

The dispute over the waterway and the terms under which ships would be allowed to pass has been a major factor in the renewed escalation of the war between the US and Iran.



A protest was held in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, demanding concrete measures to prevent femicides.

Myanmar ex-junta chief on first Thailand trip as civilian leader

Monitoring Desk

BANGKOK: Myanmar's ex-junta chief Min Aung Hlaing met with Thailand's prime minister in Bangkok on Thursday, his first visit to the neighbouring nation as civilian leader, as he seeks a return to the diplomatic fold for his pariah state.As a general, Min Aung Hlaing led a 2021 military coup that ousted democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi, triggering a civil war estimated to have killed more than 100,000 people on all sides. He was installed as Myanmar's president in April following stage-managed elections that democracy watchdogs and Western nations called a sham intended to launder the junta's image. Thailand has since been leading an effort to normalise relations with Myanmar, both bilaterally and through the 11-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627101216943 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer Buildings Zhob invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 1500 PKR and bid Security 3%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	Construction of DC Complex Zhob	100,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 70,000,000 PKR Amount in1 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm 3 Similar assignments must be 70% of the total amount of bid cost .Completed in last three CDR 3% Of Estimated Cost from Shaduled Bank of pakistan & Green challan of amounting RS.1500 The bidder shall submit a Power of Attorney Rs.100/- judicial stamp paper, mentioning the name of work and TSE No., duly attested by the oath commissioner. In case of the owner, a self-authorization undertaking on stamp paper shall be provided. PEC Category Code is C-4 and above (Upto 200 million) 2026-27 **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 12 November, 2026till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Address: District Zhob Phone no: 3013763038
Email: farooqtareen2018@gmail.com

**Executive Engineer (Buildings)
CWPP&H Department, District Zhob**

DPRQ/PRQ No.2138/29-10-2026

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

3 killed after car crashes onto railway line in Germany

Monitoring Desk

GERMANY: Three people were killed on Thursday after their car veered off a motorway in southern Germany and came to a stop on a railway line, disrupting both road and rail traffic, police said.

The car left the A3 motorway near Nittendorf, west of Regensburg, at around 7 am (0500 GMT) for reasons that remain unclear. No other vehicle was involved.

Although the car did not collide with a train, the occupants suffered fatal injuries and died at the scene. The busy Regensburg-Nuremberg railway line was closed while the vehicle was recovered, while the A3 motorway towards Nuremberg was also shut, causing major traffic delays during the morning rush hour.

Man charged with killing Scottish aid worker

Monitoring Desk

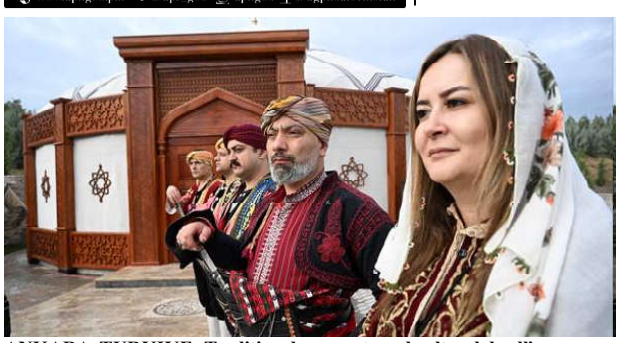
GREECE: An Afghan boxer has been charged with killing Scottish aid worker Elisabeth Ross in Greece.

Sharif Ahmadzai, 26, has been charged with homicide with intent, alongside robbery and weapons offences.

The body of Ross, who was 38, was discovered in a suitcase by a homeless man in a derelict building in the Kypseli area of the Greek capital on 18 July.

Ahmadzai was remanded in custody until his trial, which could take up to 18 months. During the hearing he asked for an English translator but did not respond to the charges.

Ahmadzai arrived in court in Athens on Thursday morning in an unmarked Grey car. He was escorted out with masked officers holding his head down.



ANKARA, TURKIYE: Traditional garments and cultural dwellings representing member countries are displayed during the inauguration ceremony of the Turkic States Civilization Park at the Presidential Complex in Ankara, Turkiye, on October 29, 2026. Held alongside the 13th Organization of Turkic States (OTS) Summit, the exhibition highlighted the rich heritage, folklore, and shared customs of the Turkic world.



President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his wife Emine Erdogan hosted a formal dinner at the Bestepe National Exhibition Hall in honor of the visiting heads of state and government and their delegations on the occasion of the 29 October Republic Day and the Turkic States Organization (TSO) Summit.

New Zealand PM Luxon open to referendum on electoral system

Monitoring Desk

WELLINGTON: New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said on Thursday he was open to a referendum on whether to change the country's electoral system, opening another split in his centre-right coalition months ahead of a general election.

New Zealand adopted the German-style Member Proportional (MMP) system in 1996 after an inquiry found smaller parties were being shut out of parliament under the previous first-past-the-post system.

Luxon said in an interview with radio station Newstalk ZB that a referendumis "something we should consider", and could be held as early as 2027 if he returns to power following a general election scheduled for November 7. "I think I would because I actually think that it is quite right to check in constitutionally and say, is this the system, New , you still want?" he said.

He did ' not say whether any referendum would be binding.

Luxon's remarks led to criticism from his coalition partners, who are already split on economic and minority issues.

Winston Peters, the leader of ' New Zealand First, a minor party in Luxon's National-led coalition, called the idea "inexplicable". "Shutting down and taking away true democratic representation from the people of New Zealand should be seen for what it is – a power grab and an ignorance for what it means to be a democracy," he said in a post on X.

Two Israeli soldiers killed in south Lebanon explosion

Monitoring Desk

BEIRUT: The Israeli military said on Thursday that two soldiers were killed and four others seriously wounded during an explosion in southern Lebanon.

The Israel Defense Forces said the injured were evacuated and taken to hospital after Wednesday's incident.

Congo Ebola health workers protest unpaid wages, disrupting response as deaths top 1,800

Monitoring Desk

BUNIA: Dozens of Congolese health workers at the epicenter of the fastest-growing Ebola outbreak on record staged protests Thursday to demand payment for their wages, abandoning several health facilities even as aid workers warn that the disease is still spreading at an alarming rate.

Confirmed cases in the outbreak, meanwhile, reached 3,973, including 1,801 deaths, according to the government data as of Tuesday published on Thursday. It is the second-largest Ebola outbreak on record, behind the 2014-2016 West Africa outbreak that recorded more than 28,000 cases, including over 11,000 deaths.

The health workers are protesting at the governor's office in Bunia, the capital of Ituri province, which accounts for nearly 90% of the Ebola cases in the country. They are the latest group to walk off their jobs since protests over pay issues began weeks ago.

The health workers, including nurses providing critical care to Ebola patients, said they haven't received wages and bonuses for their work fighting Ebola since the outbreak was declared in mid-May in one of Congo's most remote and vulnerable areas ravaged by rebel conflict.

"With this way of managing things, Ebola will not end in this province. We ask the authorities to get involved at all levels so that a solution is found quickly," said Edouige Makosi, one of the protesters.

Officials have in the past blamed logistical issues for the payment delays.

Congolese authorities did not immediately respond to an inquiry for comments on Thursday. Poor welfare for frontline workers has been a key source of concern in the outbreak.

Apart from the payment issues, many health workers and facilities have been attacked by rebels and angry mobs.

North Korea fires ballistic missile: South Korea military

Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: North Korea fired a short-range ballistic missile over the Sea of Japan on Thursday, Seoul's military said, with the launch coming after Pyongyang lambasted Japan's military build-up in the Pacific.

North Korea, which since 2019 has repeatedly declared itself an "irreversible" nuclear state, featured among growing regional threats in a recent Japanese government assessment. Tokyo's Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi said this week that Japan's military needs to be boosted with a "sense of urgency and crisis".

In a statement carried by North Korean state media on Wednesday, Kim Yo Jong—the powerful sister of leader Kim Jong Un—said Pyongyang's "leadership will set up additional military options which are obviously due to Japan's transformation".

On Thursday, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said that "our military detected one short-range ballistic missile launched from the Wonsan area of North Korea at around 5:00 pm (0800 GMT)".

Authorities in Seoul and Washington were analysing the missile's exact specifications, it added in a message to news organisations.

The JCS said earlier the missile was launched towards the East Sea, referring to the body of water also known as the Sea of Japan.



Due to Israel's ongoing attacks and blockade on the Gaza Strip despite the ceasefire, food shortages in the region continue. Hot meals were distributed to Palestinians in the Nuseyrat Refugee Camp in the central Gaza Strip. Many people, including children, crowded the distribution point.

No.8(126)/2026-A-V
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

JOIN PUBLIC SERVICE - BALOCHISTAN QUOTA

سرکاری ملازمت اختیار کریں—بلوچستان کوٹہ
سرکاری خدمت ءَ ھوار بیت — بلوچستان ءِ کوٹہ

Your Land. Your Future. Your Pakistan.
آپ کی سرزمین۔ آپ کا مستقبل۔ آپ کا پاکستان۔
شمئے زمین۔ شمئے بانداتہ۔ شمئے پاکستان۔

Courage, Honour and Loyalty — The Identity of Balochistan's Youth
ہمت، غیرت اور وفا—بلوچستان کے جوان کی پہچان
ہمت، غیرت ءُ وفا — بلوچستان ءِ جواناں پچّار

SITUATIONS VACANT

Applications are invited from citizens of Pakistan having domicile of Balochistan for recruitment against the following posts lying vacant in Federal Law Offices and Special Courts/Tribunals situated at Balochistan Province under the administrative control of Ministry of Law and Justice on merit basis:-

S. No.	Name of Post	No. of posts / stations	Domicile of the candidates required	Age Limit	Qualification
1.	Reader (BPS-14)	Quetta = 01 Makran = 01	Balochistan	18-25	I. Graduate
2.	Stenotypist (BPS-14)	Quetta = 02	Balochistan	18-25	(i) Intermediate. (ii) Minimum speed of 80/40 w.p.m in shorthand/typing respectively. (iii) Must be computer literate
3.	UDC (BPS-13)	Quetta = 02 Makran = 01	Balochistan	18-25	I. Intermediate II. (3 Weeks Basic IT Training Course (including MS Office) will be conducted by NITB after selection before completion of probation period).
4.	Nazir (BPS-11)	Makran = 01	Balochistan	18-25	I. Intermediate
5.	LDC (BPS-11)	Balochistan (Quetta) = 01 Makran = 01 Dera Allah Yar = 01	Balochistan	18-25	I. Matric with minimum typing speed of 30 w.p.m. II. (3 Weeks Basic IT Training Course (including MS Office) will be conducted by NITB after selection before completion of probation
6.	Driver (BPS-04)	Quetta = 02 Makran = 01	Quetta Makran	18-30	(i) Primary Pass. (ii) Valid driving license holder and well versed with the traffic rules. (Local basis)
7.	Bailiff (BPS-03)	Makran = 01	Makran	18-25	Matric (Local basis)
8.	Naib Qasid (BPS-01)	Quetta = 09 Makran = 01 Zohb = 01 Loralai = 01 Khuzdar=01	Quetta Makran Zohb Loralai Khuzdar	18-25	Primary Pass (Local basis)
9.	Farash (BPS-01)	Quetta = 01 Makran = 01	Quetta Makran	18-25	Primary Pass (Local basis)
10.	Chowkidar (BPS-01)	Quetta = 03 Makran = 01	Quetta Makran	18-25	Primary Pass (Local basis)
11.	Sweeper (BPS-01)	Quetta = 02 Makran = 01	Quetta Makran	18-25	Primary Pass (Local basis)
	Total	**37**			

TERMS AND CONDITION:-

1. The subject recruitment shall be made on criteria/mechanism as per policy of the Government in vogue, further defined by the Establishment Division vide O.M No. 2/5/2026-BEFC/001 dated **22nd October, 2026** and dated **27th October, 2026**.
2. Selected candidates have to submit Medical Certificate as required under Rule 17 of the Civil Servant (Appointment, Promotion and Transfer), 1973 and in case a candidate is declared medically unfit the alternate candidate shall be offered the post.
3. Candidates shall have to produce original documents along with set of attested copies of the Degrees / Certificate by HEC / recognized Board / Universities / Institutes and other relevant documents at the time of interview.
4. The candidates can apply through National Job Portal website: (http://www.njp.gov.pk/) within fifteen days from the date of advertisement.
5. For the post at sr. No. 02 and 05 requiring trainable skills, such as shorthand, typing or basic computer proficiency, there shall be a one-time relaxation of the requirement to possess the prescribed skill at the time of initial appointment. In Case none of the candidates have any certifications at the time of the selection, the selected candidates shall acquire the prescribed proficiency through departmental on-the job training after joining within probation period. Their proficiency shall be assessed before confirmation, and failure to acquire it shall be dealt with under the applicable probation and service rules.
6. Candidates already in Government Service should apply through proper channel and must provide NOC otherwise application will not be entertained, and they have no right to claim.
7. The number of vacancies can be increased or decreased.
8. No TA/DA will be admissible for appearing in test/interview.
9. Applications received by hand will not be entertained.

GENERAL INFORMATION:-

1. Recruitment will be done at doorstep (at Districts level) with help of newly established employment cells in districts of Balochistan as a special case to ensure recruitment of residents.
2. All Recruitment (BPS 1-14) to be done by Walk-in interview (No Entry & Written Test).
3. Upper Age relaxation of **5 years** instead of existing **3 years** for candidates of Balochistan will be entitled; in addition to **5 years** general age relaxation.

PID(I)3934/26

**(Zubair Ahmed)
Section Officer (A-V) Ph: 051-9207416**

Political differences should not undermine national interests: Defence Minister

Says confrontational politics would only deepen bitterness

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Thursday urged political leaders to prioritise constitutional politics, national integrity and the country's security over personal and group interests, saying Parliament should convey a message of dignity and unity to the country's 260 million people.

Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, he said political leaders should find ways to resolve their differences rather than create obstacles to dialogue, adding that confrontational politics would only deepen bitterness.

He urged parliamentarians and political leaders to settle disputes through negotiations, stressing that political differences should not undermine national interests or close avenues for reconciliation.

He said the political leadership, including senior parliamentarians, should convey a message of respect and responsibility instead of engaging in verbal clashes.

Referring to a speech delivered the previous day by the JUI-F chief, he said the situation might have been different if the party had been given a share in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government.

He said the JUI-F chief had levelled several allegations but had not provided evidence to substantiate them.

He acknowledged Maulana Fazlur Rehman's stature in the country's political history but said political disagreements should not prevent leaders from recognising positive developments in Pakistan's national and international interests. He also questioned the performance of a former chairman of the Kashmir Committee, asking what he had done for Kashmir during his 10-year tenure.

He said Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir had played a key role in facilitating dialogue and de-escalation in the region. In response to remarks by Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the defence minister clarified that the discussions in Iran were not related to a defence agreement or Pakistan's defence policy, but were aimed at promoting peace and dialogue. He said Pakistan's leadership had worked to create space for negotiations following the recent conflict, helping prevent further deterioration of the regional situation, including tensions relating to Yemen.

Khawaja Asif said Pakistan had also entered into defence arrangements involving Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan, as well as Qatar, Türkiye, Pakistan and Indonesia, adding that these developments had become part of the country's history.

He said he had participated in the relevant defence agreements in his capacity as defence minister.

However, he clarified that the discussions in Tehran did not fall within the direct mandate of the Ministry of Defence.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif cuts the cake to celebrate the Republic Day of Turkiye



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari in a meeting with Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) during her visit to the BISP Headquarters.

Pakistan for senior leadership roles for women in mediation

UNITED NATIONS (APP): With global conflicts multiplying, Pakistan has strongly advocated for empowering women as "agents of peace," demanding their inclusion with full decision-making authority at senior levels of mediation, peace negotiations, and conflict resolution.

"Women are not merely victims of conflict; they are agents of peace, resilience and reconciliation," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, Pakistan's Acting Permanent Representative to the United Nations, told the UN Security Council which held a debate on "Women, peace and security in the next quarter-century: fulfilling the promise through implementation."

He emphasized that moving beyond standard international commitments to measurable results on the ground is vital for building lasting global stability. He underscored that preventing armed conflicts through active preventive diplomacy remains the single most effective way to safeguard women and girls from the horrors of war.

Govt regards legal fraternity as important partner in reform process: PM Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday congratulated the Independent Group on its victory in the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) elections, extending special felicitations to its leaders Azam Nazeer Tarar and Ahsan Bhoon. The prime minister also congratulated newly elected SCBA President Syed Amjad Shah and other office-bearers, expressing his best wishes for their future endeavours, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

The prime minister said the group's victory reflected the legal fraternity's confidence in the government's policies and support for its stance on law and justice.

He said the election result demonstrated that the lawyers' community appreciated the government's constitutional and legal reforms. The prime minister said the government had always regarded the legal fraternity as an important partner in the reform process and would continue to do so.

He also praised the leadership of the Independent Group, particularly Azam Nazeer Tarar and Ahsan Bhoon, for their efforts, advocacy for lawyers' rights and initiatives aimed at their welfare.

PM Shehbaz Sharif expressed hope that the newly elected president, Syed Amjad Shah, and his team would further strengthen cooperation between the government and the legal fraternity in advancing the rule of law and justice in the country.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia vows to further strengthen strategic partnership

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Pakistan and Saudi Arabia here on Thursday have discussed ways to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation, expand trade and investment opportunities, and advance shared economic priorities, reaffirming the importance of their longstanding relations and continued engagement to promote mutual economic interests.

The discussion took place during a meeting between Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, and Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr. Rajeh Tami Albugamy, who called on the minister, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

The Finance Minister welcomed the Ambassador and reaffirmed the longstanding bonds of friendship and brotherhood between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. He appreciated Saudi Arabia's continued support for Pakistan and emphasised the importance of further strengthening the economic relationship between the two countries.

The Saudi Ambassador underscored the historic relationship between the two countries, rooted in shared faith, history, mutual trust and respect. He emphasised that stronger business-to-business engagement could further deepen people-to-people connections and create mutually beneficial economic opportunities.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb highlighted Pakistan's progress in restoring macroeconomic stability, noting improvements in foreign exchange reserves and inflation, as well as recent upgrades by international credit-rating agencies.

He also referred to Pakistan's return to international capital markets through its recent US$ three billion Eurobond issuance and its access to China's capital market. He highlighted the importance of building on recent economic gains to strengthen investor confidence and support sustainable, investment-led growth.

The two sides discussed opportunities for cooperation in agriculture, minerals and mining, and other sectors with investment potential. They emphasised the importance of translating shared priorities into tangible outcomes and strengthening commercial engagement between the two countries.

The meeting also featured an exchange of views on the prevailing regional situation and ongoing conflict, with emphasis on the importance of peace, stability and continued cooperation to address emerging challenges and safeguard regional economic prospects.

The discussion also highlighted Pakistan's strategic geographic location and its potential to serve as a regional trade and transit hub, facilitating connectivity and creating opportunities for wider economic cooperation.

Aurangzeb reiterated the government's commitment to staying the course on structural reforms and maintaining a stable, predictable investment environment to support domestic and foreign investment.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, addressing at the Monthly Development Update for Oct 2026.

Shaza urges internet users to carefully verify information before clicking on any online link

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Thursday said that Pakistan had joined the top-tier countries in cybersecurity following a significant improvement in global rankings, while comprehensive cybersecurity legislation was in its final stages.

Addressing the closing ceremony of Cybersecurity Awareness Week 2026, organised jointly by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), she said that cybersecurity was no longer merely an IT issue but a shared challenge concerning the country's way of life, economic development and national security. She said that Security Operations Centres (SOCs) and the National Computer Emergency Response Team (National CERT) were fully operational at the federal level, while provincial CERTs were also ready to respond to cyber threats.

She added that necessary amendments to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) had made the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency an independent body to enable prompt action against online crimes and complaints.

Shaza Fatima said that, under the prime minister's special directives, young people were receiving training in artificial intelligence and advanced cybersecurity at the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) and the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC).



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan being briefed about Quetta Metropolitan Corporation.

UNICEF hands over 250kW solar powered medical supply warehouse to Balochistan health dept in Uthal

UTHAL (APP): The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has handed over a 250-kilowatt solar-powered medical supply warehouse to the Balochistan Health Department in Uthal, Lasbela district, a development expected to enhance the timely delivery of medicines and vaccines across the province while significantly reducing transportation costs.

Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Health Secretary Mujeebur Rehman Panezai and UNICEF Chief Field Officer Fitsum Assefa visited Lasbela to inspect the newly established warehouse equipped with modern facilities.

The delegation also reviewed services at the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital. Commissioner Lasbela Division Saira Atta, Deputy Commissioner Lasbela Humeira Baloch, Provincial EPI Coordinator Dr Aftab Kakar, UNICEF representative Dr Aamir and other officials were also present on the occasion.

First Lady lauds BISP's role in women's empowerment, assures full support for initiatives

ISLAMABAD, (APP): First Lady, Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari on Thursday visited the headquarters of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) here and chaired a meeting to review its initiatives for poverty alleviation, women's empowerment, financial inclusion and skills development.

Chairperson BISP Senator Rubina Khalid and Secretary BISP Amer Ali Ahmad briefed her on the programme's achievements and ongoing initiatives, a Presidency's news release said.

The First Lady appreciated BISP's role in supporting vulnerable families and advancing women's empowerment. She emphasised financial literacy and public awareness to help beneficiaries make informed financial decisions and access their entitled assistance with dignity and transparency.

She called for stronger grievance redressal mechanisms, exploring collaboration with Lady Health Workers to expand community outreach, and greater use of social and digital media to raise awareness about BISP's programmes and services.

She assured BISP of her full support in advancing its initiatives. Senator Rubina Khalid highlighted BISP's economic impact, citing a World Bank study indicating that every rupee spent through the programme generates an estimated PKR 2.34 in real income. BISP supports approximately 1.66 million full-time equivalent jobs, two-thirds in rural areas, while economic activity generated through the programme is estimated to contribute PKR 174 billion annually to the national exchequer.

The First Lady was briefed on the Benazir Hunarmand Program, under which more than 50,000 people have registered for market-relevant skills training linked to employment and self-employment.



Ethiopian refugees fleeing conflict in Moyale, Kenya, are trying to survive in a temporary camp set up in a school building. It is reported that approximately 50,000 people, mostly women and children, have sought refuge in Kenya due to the conflicts in Ethiopia's Oromiya and Somali regions.

CS Balochistan vows to transform QMC into more efficient, citizen-focused institution

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan has directed the Quetta Metropolitan Corporation (QMC) to undertake broad administrative and technological reforms aimed at improving transparency, accountability and the quality of municipal services.

The directives were issued during a high-level meeting chaired by the chief secretary to examine the corporation's administrative and financial affairs.

Khan called for QMC to be transformed into a more efficient and citizen-focused institution through the adoption of modern technology and stronger administrative mechanisms.

He ordered the immediate rollout of digital record-keeping and an e-filing system across the corporation, along with reliable internet connectivity at its offices.

The measures are intended to reduce procedural delays, improve record management and facilitate the processing of official matters. The chief secretary also instructed officials to introduce biometric and facial-recognition systems for employee attendance, saying stronger monitoring of staff presence would help improve workplace discipline and institutional accountability. Officials briefed the meeting on the corporation's administrative setup, financial affairs, existing public services and proposed reform measures.

Khan directed the authorities to make the building-plan approval mechanism simpler and more efficient so that citizens could obtain approvals without unnecessary procedural hurdles or delays.

He emphasized that technology should be deployed not merely as an administrative upgrade but as a means of improving operational performance, promoting transparent decision-making and making municipal services easier for residents to access. The chief secretary further ordered officials to focus on implementing the proposed reforms rather than limiting efforts to policy formulation

Ahsan Iqbal vows to ensure efficient utilization of public funds, increased funding for merged districts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday highlighted Rs14.5 billion in savings from development projects during the first quarter of FY2026-27, increased federal funding for newly merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and growth in exports, stressing the need for export-led economic transformation. Presenting the Monthly Development Update for October 2026, the minister said merchandise exports rose by 7.7 per cent to $8.5 billion during July-September, while combined exports of goods and services increased by 11 per cent to $11.2 billion, supported by 22.8 per cent growth in services exports.

ICT exports reached $1.2 billion, while workers' remittances increased by 14 per cent to $10.9 billion.

He emphasized that Pakistan must expand its export capacity, diversify products and strengthen domestic value chains to reduce external vulnerabilities and achieve sustainable economic growth. Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan recorded 3.7 per cent GDP growth in FY2025-26, while the government was targeting four per cent growth in the current fiscal year. Large-scale manufacturing registered 1.9 per cent growth during the first two months of FY2026-27, with 12 of 22 industrial groups reporting positive growth. He said the government must ensure that rising imports, including machinery and raw materials, translate into higher domestic value addition and exports. He stressed that sustained annual growth of five to six per cent was necessary to generate sufficient employment, but warned that consumption- and import-led expansion would not be sustainable without stronger exports. The minister said rigorous scrutiny of development projects had generated savings of Rs7 billion in September, taking cumulative savings to Rs14.5 billion during the first quarter. The Planning Commission would continue to eliminate unnecessary costs, improve project design and ensure efficient utilization of public funds.



SOHBAT PUR: Provincial Minister Communication & Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa and Deputy Commissioner Fareeda Tareen inspecting the under construction projects.

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