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Faisalabad factory blast kills 20 with manager, staff arrested as owner flees

Balochistan Assembly Adopts Resolution Against Gas Load Shedding



Syed Ali Shah: The Balochistan Assembly on Friday unanimously approved a resolution tabled by Asghar Ali Tareen, urging the federal government to immediately ensure uninterrupted gas supply across the province amid severe winter conditions. Lawmakers from both treasury and opposition benches sharply criticized the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) for what they described as unannounced outages, excessive billing, and administrative failures. The resolution stressed that

Balochistan, being the largest gas-producing region of Pakistan, should not be subjected to prolonged gas shortages while temperatures continue to drop across Quetta and other districts. Asghar Ali Tareen, while presenting the resolution, said: "Our people are facing freezing temperatures while SSGC continues to cut supply without any schedule. This injustice must end immediately." Opposition lawmaker Syed Zafar Agha also condemned the crisis, stating: "Balochistan con-

tributes major resources to the national grid, yet our households are left without gas. The federal government must intervene without delay." MPA Ali Madad Jattak expressed frustration over the company's performance, saying: "Unannounced load shedding and inflated bills have made life miserable. SSGC should be held accountable for its negligence." Lawmakers including Meer Younus Aziz Zehri, demanded strict action, remarking: "People are burning wood and scrap to survive the cold. The

company's management must explain why Balochistan is treated like a stepchild." Other members from both sides of the aisle echoed similar concerns, emphasizing that the province is facing the harshest winter in years and cannot afford further disruptions in gas supply. The house called upon the federal government to issue clear directives to Sui Southern Gas Company to restore uninterrupted supply, improve billing procedures, and present a transparent long-term management plan for the province.



Quetta Train Service Disrupted as Jaffar Express, Bolan Mail Suspended

Quetta Train Service Disrupted as Jaffar Express, Bolan Mail Suspended



News Desk QUETTA: In light of heightened security concerns, the railway administration has partially suspended train operations to Quetta, leaving thousands of passengers facing severe difficulties. According to railway officials, the Jaffar Express, traveling from Karachi to Quetta, and the Bolan Mail, traveling from Quetta to Karachi, have been stopped at Jacobabad Railway Station due to increased security

threats. Officials stated that the trains will not be allowed to resume their journey until clearance is provided by security agencies. Passengers say that the sudden halt of the trains without prior notice has created major inconvenience, particularly for women, elderly passengers, and children, as the crowd on the platform continues to grow. Many passengers have urged the administration to re-

solve the situation promptly and provide alternative arrangements. Railway sources confirm that security agencies are on high alert, and checking procedures have been intensified at Jacobabad and several other locations. The administration has also decided to implement additional safety measures for train operations. Meanwhile, the Chaman Passenger Train is operating as

per schedule, and officials have clarified that no restrictions or changes have been made regarding its route. The Chaman Passenger will depart from Quetta Railway Station at its designated time. Railway authorities have appealed to the public to avoid unnecessary travel and to verify the latest train schedule through the railway helpline before commencing their journey.

7 killed in attack on peace committee office in Bannu

NEWS DESK: Seven people were killed when a peace committee office was attacked in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district, police said on Friday.

Police officials told Dawn that one among those killed was a 'good Taliban' — a term used to refer to a former militant who has surrendered to the state — and the rest were his relatives.

In their complaint to the police, the victims' family has maintained that the attack was a result of a family feud. However, police say the family has taken the stance to avoid another potential attack carried out in retaliation.

The first information report (FIR) of the incident was registered at Haveli police station under Sections 302 (punishment for intentional murder), 324 (attempt of intentional murder), 149 (every member of an unlawful assembly guilty of



an offence committed in prosecution of common objective) and 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon) of the Pakistan Penal Code. The FIR said that the suspects barged into the victims' bathkhana (guesthouse), opened fire on them and fled. Three suspects were nominated in the FIR, which said they were accompanied by other armed men and led by a terrorist commander.

According to the complainant, named Abdulali, there was enmity between his family and the suspects over the matter of a murder. Peace committees, or village defence committees, were formed to assist law enforcement agencies in defending KP areas against terror attacks. These also include former militants, often referred to as 'good Taliban'.

Peace committee officials in KP have been targeted by terrorists in the past as well. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif "strongly condemned" today's attack, state-run APP reported. The prime minister expressed "deep grief and sorrow" over the loss of precious lives in the attack, which he said was carried out by "Fima-al-Khawarij".

Pakistan built a world-class Polio system. Then 40,000 Karachi families said no

NEWS DESK: Forty thousand Karachi families refused polio vaccines this year. In a city where the virus circulates through every district, those refusals represent the gap between Pakistan's impressive polio infrastructure and its inability to close the final mile of eradication. Pakistan has cut polio cases by more than 99.6% since 1994—from 20,000 annual cases to just 30 this year. It has built one of the world's most extensive surveillance systems: 127 environmental sampling sites, 12,500 reporting locations, and campaigns that reach 45 million children. Two of three global poliovirus strains have been eliminated. But Pakistan and Afghanistan remain the only countries where polio still circulates. And in 2024, the WPV1 strain resurged across 90 districts, forcing authorities to overhaul their approach with a "2-4-6



roadmap" under the National Emergency Action Plan. "The last mile is actually very difficult to achieve," said Dr Azra Pechuho, Sindh's Minister of Health and Population Welfare, speaking at Aga Khan University on Friday. "It's the small pockets we're missing as the number of infected children is reducing." A

two-hour event brought together the top names in Polio from the WHO, Sindh government, federal government and AKU. Environmental samples confirm what health officials already know: the virus persists in underserved communities that vaccination campaigns struggle to reach. Every district in

Sindh shows ongoing transmission. The 42,000 vaccine refusals across Sindh—40,000 of them in Karachi—reflect what Dr Azra calls "vaccination fatigue." But Dr Sebastian Taylor from the Technical Advisory Group for Polio Eradication cautioned against assuming families refuse.

Faisalabad factory blast kills 20 with manager, staff arrested as owner flees

NEWS DESK: At least 20 people were killed and several others injured in an explosion at a chemical factory in Faisalabad's Malikpur area early Friday morning.

The blast, which occurred around 6 am, was so powerful that it caused the roofs of six surrounding houses to cave in. Eleven other houses were also damaged.

Area residents reached there immediately and began retrieving bodies of the deceased from the debris. Rescue teams have since taken over operations at the scene and shifted the injured to Allied Hospital, where six of the injured were said to be in critical condition.

Rescue officials said narrow, unpaved streets slowed the response, extending the operation to nearly ten hours. Chemical fumes at the site made breathing difficult, forcing rescuers to work in protective masks.

The police have arrested the factory manager, Bilal Imran, and three other administrative officials while the factory's owner, Qaiser, is on the run.

Mansoorabad police have registered a case against the owner, manager and five employees of the factory, invoking charges of terrorism, murder, attempted murder, negligence and illegal storage of flammable chemicals under six major sections



of the law. Police have booked the accused under Sections 302, 324, 336-B, 440, 147, 149 Sections 3 and 4 of the Explosives Act, and Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act. A search operation has been launched to arrest all seven suspects. According to the

police report, the factory owner, Qaiser Chughtai, factory manager, and five other staff members had been storing and handling highly flam-

mable chemicals inside a container on the premises. Residents had repeatedly complained that the storage of such hazardous material posed a serious threat to their lives and property.

The FIR states that police had earlier warned the owner and manager several times to stop the unsafe practice, but all instructions were ignored.

According to the report, the explosion occurred when a container filled with volatile chemicals detonated, killing 20 people and injuring seven others.

Rescue officials suspect that it was either the boiler or the "cooker" used to heat chemicals exploded. They added that the factory was ille-

gally operating in a residential area. They fear more victims are yet trapped under the debris.

Authorities said the dead included several members belonging to a single family. Among them were 42-year-old Fakira Bibi and her young children — Jannat, 3, Maham, 2, and Ali Hasnain, 1 — as well as 62-year-old

Maqsooda Bibi, her husband Muhammad Shafiq and their son Muhammad Irfan.

Another family lost a father and his three adult sons: Ashiq Hussain, 50, and Bilal, 28, Umar, 24, and Ubaid, 22. Several other children aged between 4 and 13 were also among the deceased.

Another family lost three children identified as four-year-old Irfan, 10-year-old Ahmad and four-year-old Azan Ali. Kehan, 40, and his 13-year-old sister Muqaddas were also killed while 28-year-old Shan, son of Akram, also died in the incident.

The bodies were later handed over to relatives after initial police procedures.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expressed grief over the loss of life and sought a detailed report from Commissioner Faisalabad Raja Jahangir Anwar. Both officials ordered a thorough investigation into the incident.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan's Child Marriage Prohibition Bill: A Long-Awaited Step in the Right Direction



Editorial:

The recent passage of the Child Marriage Prohibition Bill by the Balochistan Provincial Assembly is a landmark moment in the province's journey toward protecting children and promoting social justice. While many have long awaited this legislation, its adoption now is a cause for immense satisfaction, reflecting the government's commitment to addressing a critical societal issue. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti, the provincial government has demonstrated professionalism, transparency, and determination in ensuring that this bill was enacted through proper legislative procedures. The thorough review by assembly committees over the past six months shows a deliberate and consultative approach, prioritizing

consensus-driven lawmaking. This methodical process ensures that laws are not only enacted but are sustainable, widely supported, and rooted in the public interest.

While opposition voices, including those from religious grounds, their dissent is part of a healthy democratic debate. However, it is crucial to note that protecting children from early and forced marriages is a universally recognized human rights concern. The government's decision to move forward, despite protests and a walkout by opposition lawmakers, underscores its dedication to the welfare of Balochistan's younger generations.

Indeed, the enactment of this bill, though delayed, is a step in the right direction. It signals a commitment to ending

harmful traditional practices that compromise children's health, education, and future prospects.

By taking this decisive action, the Balochistan government has set a precedent for social reform, from human rights advocacy, and legislative responsibility in Pakistan. In conclusion, the passage of the Child Marriage Prohibition Bill is more than just a legal milestone—it is a moral and social imperative. The government deserves praise for prioritizing the welfare of children, implementing professional legislative processes, and taking a bold step that will benefit countless lives across the province. While dialogue and debate will always be part of democracy, today marks a day when governance acted in favor of justice, progress, and the future of Balochistan.

National Nutrition Survey (2011): The NNS 2011 covered all provinces: Gilgit Baltistan (GB), Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Sindh, Punjab, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). This included 1,500 enumeration blocks (EBs)/villages and 30,000 households, with a 49% urban and 51% rural distribution.

National Nutrition Survey (2018): The 2018 Pakistan National Nutrition Survey (NNS 2018)

Amber Munir in Balochistan shared in Quetta Voice on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 page04. The article highlights the role of essential nutrients in human resource development along with a brief introduction of malnutrition, characterization of malnutrition, procedure of taking measurements of SAM and MAM cases, medical complications, community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM), infant and young child feeding (IYCF), etc.

Background: Surveys regarding National Nutrition Survey (2001-2002): The National Nutrition Survey conducted in 2001-2002 assessed the nutritional levels and health status of mothers and children in Pakistan. Data was collected through a questionnaire consisting of four modules including a household questionnaire, biochemical samples including serum retinol, serum ferritin, and zinc, were collected from mothers and children under-5. Urine samples were collected from mothers and children ages 6-12 years for iodine deficiency. The survey sampled 10,656 households from 700 primary sampling units.

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National Nutrition Survey (2018): The 2018 Pakistan National Nutrition Survey (NNS 2018)

Malnutrition in Balochistan



is the largest national nutrition survey carried out in Pakistan. It is designed to provide policymakers, program managers, and academicians a unique set of nutrition-related data including environmental, anthropometric, and biochemical indicators.

National Nutrition Survey (2019): The aim of NNS 2018-19 is to undertake a field survey and generate district-specific nutrition information related to malnutrition (both undernutrition and overnutrition) and micronutrient deficiencies among women and children in Pakistan.

Malnutrition status in Balochistan: Balochistan is the most under-developed of Pakistan's provinces, with a high proportion of children under five years of age who are stunted (52%) and 16 percent of who are wasted. Moreover, the prevalence of anemia among children in this age group is 57%

and nearly 49% among women of childbearing age. Numerous factors are thought to contribute to child undernutrition in Balochistan, including sub-optimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices; frequent child infections (especially diarrhea diseases and measles); maternal nutritional deficiencies and/or illness and death; absence/inadequacy of micronutrient supplementation; and household food insecurity and gender inequality.

A survey conducted by the National Nutrition Cell revealed that 49% of women in Balochistan were suffering from malnutrition. Moreover, the ratio of maternal anemia was 49%, anemia among children below five years was 57% and iodine deficiency among women was 29%.

Balochistan Nutrition Program for Mother and Children (BNPMC) in response to the challenging nutrition situation in the province, the Department of Health (DoH) launched the Nutrition Program for Mothers and Children (BNPMC) in 2016. They implemented nutrition activities among the rural and urban population of seven selected districts. The total population of these districts is 1,654,613, of which estimated target populations include 152,369 pregnant and lactating women (PLW). Stakeholders include the DoH, Peoples Primary Healthcare Initiative (providing health services at Basic Health Units in the districts), and local NGOs.

The total cost of the above project was 1,492.62 million PKR (US\$14.21 million) of which 80% were provided by the World Bank and 20% by the Government of Balochistan. A major part of the funding

(41%) was allocated to strengthen institutional arrangements which include staffing, technical assistance for capacity building, strengthening coordination mechanisms, addressing malnutrition among children and PLW (37%), and addressing micronutrient malnutrition (13.6%).

Future Plans

The aforesaid program ended in December 2019 and was limited to seven districts; whereas the malnutrition situation continues to exist in 22 districts of Balochistan.

Therefore, the Government of Balochistan has assigned DoH and PPHI to extend nutrition intervention in 22 districts for which project proposals are ready; implementation is expected from July 2021.

The author is a program officer in PPHI

THE DILEMMA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) WEAPONS

Masoor ul Hassan

The danger associated with autonomous and semi-autonomous weapons systems is unacceptable. There exists a near consensus that such weapons must not be completely AI-controlled.

The design must include appropriate levels of human judgment while resorting to them. This line of thought gains more credence when the present degree of global polarization is taken into view. The international order is tilting towards autocracy and the likelihood of employment of these weapons is becoming a reality. The norms and values of world politics were subjected to heavy Trumpian Strain in the recent past when the competition of naked power showed its ugliness in international relations.

The Genesis of warfare

The history of warfare is as old as the human race. The Book of Genesis states that Cain killed Abel to avenge his vengeance. Ever since vengeance, confrontation and bellicosity have remained pervasive throughout human cooperation and amiability in human relations. The perception of life as a zero-sum game breeds selfishness and consequent animosity between individuals, groups, or states. Instincts of survival and procreation are reflexive thus natural for all living organisms including us humans.

War, being one of the forms of human relations, received due attention

However, what distinguishes Homo

dividuals, groups, or states. Instincts of survival and procreation are reflexive thus natural for all living organisms including us humans.

War, being one of the forms of human relations, received due attention

However, what distinguishes Homo

sapiens from other living entities is the quest for controlling the forces of nature like wind, water, fire, and Sunlight for enhancing the level of physical comfort and peace of mind. This pursuit did improve amenities of life over time but alongside increased societal complexities. War, being

one of the forms of human relations, received due attention of social scientists for defining ethical and moral issues.

Caine, who may have used a sharp stone, a strong branch of a tree, or simple brute force to strangle Abel, would be flabbergasted if he were to visit our times. The civilization we live in

today took centuries over centuries to materialize.

The use of electromagnetic spectrum was considered a game-changer

The use of electromagnetic spectrum was considered a game-changer before Counter Measures (ECM) were developed

which then was countered by Electronic Counter Measures (ECM).

When the lethality of weapons created a situation of mutually assured destruction (MAD) the situation became unacceptable.

Various treaties like Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty

(START), and many more were signed to avert the unacceptable destruction of the human race.

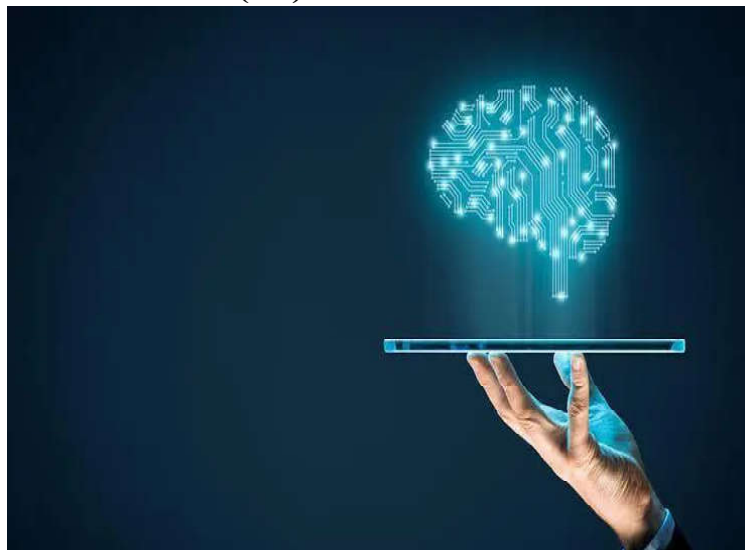
Exercising restraint was never so important

Exercising restraint was never so important before the development of autonomous weapons; chemical, biological, radiological, and

Word count (592) Group captain Masoor ul Hassan served as Fighter Pilot in the PAF.

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Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Calls on Federal Minister for Human Rights

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, H.E. Robert-Jan Siegfert, paid a courtesy call on the Federal Minister for Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar.

The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration and exchanging views on ongoing initiatives aimed at promoting and protecting human rights in Pakistan.

The Federal Minister welcomed the Ambassador and appreciated the Netherlands' continued engagement and support for Pakistan's human rights priorities. Both sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to advancing equality, inclusion, and the welfare of all citizens.

The Ambassador acknowledged Pakistan's efforts in implementing its human

rights agenda and commended the government's commitment to constitutional guarantees, including freedom of religion and belief.

The Minister highlighted Pakistan's diverse and inclusive society, where all religious communities enjoy constitutional protection. He also briefed the Ambassador on recent legislative advancements, including the introduction of the National Commission for Minorities Bill, a key initiative to safeguard minority rights, promote interfaith harmony, and ensure the full participation of minority communities in national development.

The Minister also outlined progress under the National Action Plan on Human Rights, covering policy reforms, improved access to justice, implementation of inter-

national commitments, and the strengthening of human rights institutions. He highlighted the important role of independent bodies such as the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), and National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC). Efforts to protect vulnerable groups such as women, children, senior citizens, transgender persons, and persons with disabilities were also discussed.

Both sides expressed their intention to maintain close coordination and constructive dialogue to further advance the promotion and protection of human rights in Pakistan. The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of their commitment to deeper collaboration on shared priorities.

Gillani visits Mahmood Group of Textile Mills, Multan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Acting President of Pakistan Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani visited Mahmood Group of Textile Mills in Multan Industrial Estate. During the visit, the head of the group, Khawaja Muhammad Anees, briefed him on the state-of-the-art machinery, production processes, labour welfare programs, and ongoing export orders. Khawaja Muhammad Anees informed the Acting President that Mahmood Group is producing world-class textile products and is adopting sustainable industrial practices through the use of modern technology.

The Acting President

appreciated the group's industrial contributions and its role in strengthening Pakistan's exports.

A detailed discussion was also held on the overall situation of the textile sector, cotton production, and related agricultural matters. Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani stated that textiles form the backbone of Pakistan's exports, while cotton remains the foundation of the textile industry.

He emphasized the need for improving seed quality, irrigation systems, and agricultural practices through the use of modern technology.

Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani lauded the Mahmood Group for its valuable services, noting that the private sector's contribution in enhancing exports and trade is commendable.

Senior government officials, industrialists, and relevant authorities were also present during the visit.



Coordinator to Prime Minister on Commerce Rana Ishaan Afzal Khan Visits National Textile University, Faisalabad

Faisalabad (INP): Rana Ishaan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce, visited National Textile University (NTU) Faisalabad today and received a comprehensive briefing on the university's research, development, and innovation activities in the textile sector.

The Coordinator was briefed on NTU's ongoing projects in sustainable textiles, technical textiles, smart materials, and eco-friendly processing technologies. NTU, Pakistan's premier federal institution for textile education and research established in 1954, operates advanced facilities

including the Central Hi-Tech Laboratory and the National Textile Research Centre, supporting industry collaborations for export enhancement.

Discussions highlighted NTU's strong industry linkages, such as partnerships with Faisalabad-based textile mills for technology transfer and skill development programs that train professionals annually.

The briefing also covered alignment with national export goals, including compliance with international standards like GRS and GOTS for sustainable production.

Rana Ishaan Afzal Khan appreciated NTU's contributions to the textile industry, which accounts for over 60% of Pakistan's exports valued at more than \$15 billion annually.

He assured continued support from the Ministry of Commerce for academia-industry partnerships to drive innovation and achieve \$50 billion in textile exports by 2030.

The visit was attended by Mr. Naveed Gulzar, Chairman Board of Governors NTU; Miran Muhammad Latif, Member Board of Governors; Engr. Dean Zulfiqar, Member Board of Governors; all Deans, Heads of Departments, and senior faculty members.

The Revival of Japan Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship League



TOKYO (INP): The Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Japan, Mr. Abdul Hameed, addressed the inaugural meeting of Japan Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship League on 21 November 2025. He was specially invited by Mr.

Seiji Maehara, Member House of Representatives, Chairman Japan-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship League, to attend the event.

Mr. Seiji Maehara appreciated the upward trajectory of Pakistan Japan cooperation.

He made special reference to his participation in Pakistan's National Day event at Osaka-Kansai Expo 2025. In his remarks, the Ambassador expressed satisfaction that Japan Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship League has been

revived now. He highlighted that the long-standing Pakistan-Japan relations were rooted in peace, development cooperation and common commitment to prosperity. The bilateral relationship was further strengthened through

parliamentary diplomacy and six institutional mechanisms that facilitated collaboration in multiple areas. The event concluded with the mutual commitment to expand the current scope of bilateral relations.

Climate Minister Dr. Musadik Malik urges accelerated investment in green skills to drive climate-resilient growth at COP30

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Dr. Musadik Masood Malik has called for stronger international and domestic investment in green skills development to secure a just, climate-resilient and economically competitive future, as global economies rapidly transition toward clean energy, low-carbon growth and sustainable industrial transformation, according to a press release issued here on Friday.

Speaking as keynote at a high-level side event titled "Building Green Skills for a Sustainable Pakistan" at the Pakistan Pavilion during the UN Climate Summit (COP30) in Belem, the Federal Minister Senator Dr. Musadik Malik, said that the world is witnessing unprecedented structural shifts in economic and industrial systems, with trillions of dollars now flowing into renewable energy, climate-smart infrastructure, battery technology, green transport systems and circular economies.

These transitions, he noted, are reshaping the nature of jobs, market competitiveness, global trade rules and national development models.

Dr. Malik said that despite being among the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, Pakistan holds strong potential due to its young population, entrepreneurial capacity, expanding technology ecosystem and growing recognition that the future of employment will be green, inclusive and innovation-driven.

"Developing green skills is no longer optional. It is essential for strengthening climate resilience, enabling our clean-energy transition, enhancing resource efficiency and unlocking access to global green investment," he said.

He warned that new instruments such as the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) are placing in-

creasing pressure on countries to decarbonize supply chains and develop a workforce capable of meeting emerging compliance standards.

A failure to reskill workers in time, he said, risks leaving developing economies behind as global markets tighten environmental requirements and shift toward carbon-priced exports. The Minister stressed that the transition to a low-carbon economy must also be just and equitable, ensuring that communities and workers dependent on traditional, fossil-

fuel-linked livelihoods are supported rather than displaced. For countries like Pakistan, the green transition must protect workers while also opening new

pathways for economic mobility. Climate action must go hand in hand with the development of human capital, Dr. Malik said.

While Pakistan has embedded climate action into national frameworks, policies and sectoral plans, Dr. Malik said that policies alone cannot deliver the transformation needed without a workforce capable of implementation—including technicians who can operate solar and wind systems, engineers who can build resilient infrastructure, farmers who understand climate-smart techniques,

the private sector to collaborate with Pakistan in expanding climate-relevant education, vocational training and technology access. "Investing in people is central to achieving long-term climate ambition and economic modernization," he said.

The side event brought together policymakers, researchers, multilateral development banks and technical experts to assess how developing nations can close the fast-growing gap between the demand and supply of climate-relevant skills.

The session was moderated by Syed Bulent Sohal, Managing Partner of Sohal & Partners LLP and Pro-Vice Chancellor of Sohal University.

Tatila Pamplona, State Attorney of Pará and President of the OAB Commission at COP-30, stressed that legislative and governance frameworks must embed justice, equity and labour safeguards to ensure that the clean-energy transition delivers social protection and opportunity rather than exclusion.

World Bank Climate Change Adviser, Paola Riddi, outlined the financial and institutional support being extended by multilateral banks.

Rana Tanveer Hussain Highlights Pakistan's Vision for a Sustainable and Prosperous Olive Economy

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, delivered a comprehensive address at the World Olive Day celebration during the 122nd Session of the Council of Members of the International Olive Council (IOC) in Córdoba, Spain.

In his remarks, the Minister highlighted the timeless cultural and civilizational significance of the olive tree, describing it as a symbol of peace, patience, harmony, and co-existence. He noted that the olive tree holds a revered place in all three major religions, where it features prominently in sacred traditions and scriptures.

He emphasized that World Olive Day serves as a meaningful reminder of the values embodied by the olive tree and underscores its cultural, environmental, and economic importance across societies.

The Minister also highlighted a recent achievement that reflects the emerging global recognition of Pakistan's olive sector.

He shared that the Pakistani startup "LO - Lorali Olives" won a Silver Award at the New York Olive Oil Quality Competition, an accomplishment that showcases the quality and promise of the country's olive products. He emphasized that this recognition is a testament to the dedication of Pakistani farmers, researchers, and young innovators who are shaping the future of the olive industry.

He further noted that the Government of Pakistan is strengthening the public-private partnership model to accelerate sectoral development. Through capacity-building initiatives and the provision of essential pre- and post-harvest equipment, this collaboration is generating positive results and improving efficiency across the olive value chain. He added that

these coordinated efforts promote climate-resilient agriculture, and reducing reliance on imported edible oils.

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TENDER NOTICE

The DIRECTOR GENERAL FARMS & FEED RESOURCES QUETTA invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items: TSE-2526119/2561 Note: In All Procurements of GOR Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to be Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of PPRA GOR.

3 No - Class of Object Bid Security

1. Furniture & Kitchen Total Item(s) Count: 5

Procurements shall be made under the Balcashan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 2 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity: 1,000,000 in Previous 2 Years Turn over of at least 500,000 PKR in 2 Subsequent Preceding Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. It is not permissible Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as ineligible and non-responsive Submission of the required Bidding document Free Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned 1,000 PKR issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 04 December, 2025 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The tenders must be submitted latest by 04 December, 2025 10:45 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 11:45 AM Address: Brewery Road, Quetta CASB Quetta. Phone: 0816213477 Fax: 0816213147 Email: dgffr@gov.pk

PRQ No.24855-21-11-2025

DIRECTOR GENERAL FARMS & FEED RESOURCES QUETTA

Boiler explosion at Faisalabad factory kills 12

FAISALABAD (INP): Rescue officials said on Friday that 12 people were killed after the boiler of a factory exploded early on Friday morning near Faisalabad's Malkpur area, causing

the collapse of the building and nearby structures.

In an initial statement, Rescue 1122 said that the incident occurred in Shahab Town, near the Kabbadi Stadium. The

rescue service said that the boiler explosion caused the roof of the factory and those of adjacent houses to collapse, killing four.

Later, it said that search and rescue teams

had pulled out 17 people from the rubble, adding that 12 had died on the spot. It said that the rescue operation was underway under the supervision of the district emergency officer, add-

ing that more than 20 ambulances and fire tenders were taking part. It also said that the Faisalabad Control Room had received a call about the explosion at the factory at 5:28am.

Videos of the rescue work shared by Rescue 1122 showed workers combing through the rubble of buildings and looking for survivors. Meanwhile, Punjab Inspector General of Police

Dr Usman Anwar directed that Rescue 1122, the fire brigade and all related agencies be provided full support. In a statement, he said that police officers and officials should continue

rescue operations to find people buried underneath the rubble. He also directed traffic police to ensure easy access to the site of the incident for ambulances and other rescue vehicles.



ISLAMABAD: Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Afridi pens letter to Maryam over manhandling of Imran's sisters, denial of his visitation rights

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, in a letter to his counterpart in Punjab, Maryam Nawaz, has raised concerns over the alleged manhandling of PTI founder Imran Khan's sisters by police and the obstruction of the incarcerated ex-premier's visitation rights.

The development comes after Afridi on Thursday said he denied access to meet Imran for a seventh time. Further, two days ago police had allegedly manhandled and "violently detained" Imran's sisters from outside Adiala jail in Rawalpindi, where they were camped out after being denied a weekly meeting with him. The letter, which was shared by the PTI on social media platform X early on Friday, stated that Afridi wished to draw Maryam's attention to "serious concerns" re-

garding the "administration of court-mandated visitation rights" of Imran and the recent treatment of his family members.

"Clear and binding judicial directions govern Imran's visitation schedule. These orders explicitly permit his authorities responsible for obstructing or mismanaging immediate family members whose presence is neither political nor disruptive in nature," the KP chief minister said. "Their obstruction, physical restraint or temporary detention is therefore wholly unacceptable," he said. Afridi said that such actions created a "clear impression" that judicial directives were being disregarded, and that jail and police authorities were not safeguarding or facilitating the rights of visitors. He urged Maryam to ensure a proper, safe and dignified waiting area for authorised visitors.

"The current practice of stopping them nearly a kilometre away and compelling elderly family members — particularly women — to sit on roads is wholly inappropriate and must

be discontinued," he said.

He said that the Punjab government should ensure the implementation of all court directives on visitation. He also called for identifying and holding individuals accountable for obstructing, insulting, or physically manhandling peaceful visitors, including Imran's family and members of the KP cabinet. He said that the Punjab government should also issue instructions to the prison and police authorities to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. Further, he called for establishing a mechanism ensuring that all future meetings were facilitated in an "orderly, respectful and legally compliant manner." Afridi ended his letter by saying that Imran was a former prime minister and the leader of a political party he himself represented.

LHC orders strict action against individuals responsible for causing pollution amid smog threat.

LAHORE, Nov 21 (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) has ordered strict action against individuals and entities responsible for causing pollution amid smog threat.

The judge observed that the anti-smog gun is ineffective during today's hearings and the air quality index remains high primarily due to smoke-emitting vehicles. "Enough has already happened," Justice Shahid Karim remarked, noting that smoke-belching vehicles are still visible on the roads.

Justice Shahid Karim directed that the DG ensure environmental squads are visibly present on the roads, adding that such measures would have a noticeable impact. The

NFC meeting scheduled for December 4 to discuss IMF conditions, new award

ISLAMABAD (INP): A meeting of the National Finance Commission (NFC) has been scheduled for December 4 to discuss the implementation of IMF conditions and new financial award.

As per sources, IMF proposals for the changes to the NFC Award will be discussed. To consult on this matter, the federal government has invited the provinces to the upcoming meeting on December 4.

Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, along with the finance ministers of all four provinces, will attend the session, according to the official notification.

The IMF is expected to be on board regarding the proposals for the new National Fi-

nance Award. Sources noted that if multiple sessions are required to finalize the new award, the process could take approximately six to eight months.

Previously, the first scheduled meeting had been postponed at the request of the provinces due to floods.

On Thursday, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) stated that corruption remains a persistent challenge in Pakistan.

Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to publish its first annual report.

IMF, in its Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment (GCDA), stated that corruption poses serious risks to economic development and public trust.

Indian media blitz of comparing Kashmiri doctors with Hamas attempt to gain international sympathies

ISLAMABAD (INP): Indian media blitz of comparing Kashmiri doctors with Hamas is an attempt to gain international sympathies. However, there is need to revert to history to define clearly who is a militant.

Indian Godi media channels rush to compare Kashmiri doctors to Hamas fighter which exposes hypocrisy about Kashmir to win international sympathy. The trick is familiar, label your own rebels, during British colonization as patriots, and someone else's rebels against India as terrorists. But history has a way of mocking such selective morality.

Almost in whole India there is consensus that Bhagat Singh, and Subhas Chandra Bose were labelled "terrorists" by the British even Gandhi discouraged their violence. But it is unanimous in India that they were freedom fighter despite the fact the father of Indian nation did not agree with their paths of resistance.

Now the question is why they were called freedom fighter. Because an alien nation came to colonize their land, snatched their rights and exploited their resources. That is why they chose the path of resistance.

This situation of Kashmiris and Palestinian is almost the same. Palestinian land is being occupied by the colonial Zionist regime who is bent on genocide of Palestin-

ian that is why Hamas chose path of resistance.

If armed resistance against British colonial rule is celebrated in India, then why are Kashmiri and Palestinian resistance movements instantly slotted into the "terrorist" category?

The same goes for Kashmiris. Their land has been illegally occupied for the last eight decades by the Indian Hindutva regime with similar ideology like that of Zionism. In both cases, the central issue is not religion but occupation and political disenfranchisement.

Therefore, Kashmiris have chosen the path of resistance. The question is when Bhagat Singh and Bose are freedom

fighter for resisting British occupation, why can't the Kashmiris resist Indian occupation. Why they are being labeled as militants.

The "Godi media" ecosystem celebrates Bose for raising an army with Axis support, yet condemns a Kashmiri for even expressing political dissent. It glorifies Bhagat Singh for bombing an assembly "to make the deaf hear," yet denounces every Kashmiri teenager who demands autonomy. The hypocrisy of BJP inspired Godi media is evident where they celebrate people who have carried out violent struggle against the Britishers but call the Kashmiris resistance fighters as militants.

KP Chief Minister skips ECP hearing over election code violation

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Sohail Afridi failed to appear before the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday during the hearing of a notice issued over alleged threats to

election officials, prompting the Chief Election Commissioner to announce that an interim order would be issued later in the day.

A four-member bench headed by the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) heard the matter at the ECP headquarters in Islamabad, where security was tightened with deployments from Islamabad Po-

lice, Rangers and the Frontier Constabulary (FC).

Although Chief Minister Afridi and candidate Shehraz Bano Omar Ayub did not attend the proceedings, CM Afridi's counsel, Ali Bukhari, argued that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Advocate General were present. The CEC undelivered that Afridi had been summoned in person, while Bukhari argued that an exemption request had been filed because the chief minister was attending a meeting.

On this, the chief election commissioner said the interim order would be issued today, which will clarify all

issues, including the date of the next hearing.

CM Afridi's lawyer countered the ECP notices by arguing that the Punjab chief minister, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, had also announced a development rally in Rawalpindi, adding that candidate Shehraz Omar Ayub was equally responsible. The CEC then halted arguments from the PML-N candidate's lawyer and adjourned the hearing. Experts noted that the Election Commission wields judicial authority rather than merely administrative power, meaning those summoned are obliged to appear.



ISLAMABAD: Archbishop Tapio Luoma of Finland called on Federal Minister of Law & Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar.

M-Tag service timings expanded allowing residents to visit any of the 10 centres

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Excise and Taxation Department of Islamabad on Friday expanded M-Tag service timings, allowing residents to visit any of the 10 centres seven days a week.

Director Excise and Taxation Bilal Azam announced that the service will now remain available on Saturdays and Sundays, from 9am to 9pm, similar to weekday timings.

According to the department, the decision was taken to facilitate residents who cannot visit centres during regular working days. With increasing traffic on national highways and a surge

in daily commuters, the need for uninterrupted M-Tag services had grown. The weekend plan aims to reduce crowding at centres and offer flexibility for those with tight schedules.

Residents can now visit any of the designated centres across the city for M-Tag registration, renewal, or assistance. The centres have been directed to ensure smooth service delivery and maintain staff presence throughout the extended hours.

Officials said the M-Tag facility plays an essential role in improving toll management and reducing congestion at motorway entry

points.

With electronic tagging becoming mandatory on several routes, the department has seen a steady rise in users seeking registration. The weekend extension is expected to support this transition and encourage more motorists to adopt the system.

Director Bilal Azam said the department is focusing on public convenience and services to ensure that

services remain accessible without long waiting times. He added that the extended schedule reflects the department's commitment to keeping service delivery uninterrupted, especially dur-

ing peak traffic seasons.

The Excise and Taxation Department will continue to monitor public response to the new timings and may introduce further improvements if required. For now, residents can benefit from consistent service hours across the week, making the process easier for families, daily commuters, and intercity travelers.

With the new schedule in place, Islamabad joins the list of regions offering full-week motorway tagging services, ensuring residents face fewer delays and have more options to manage their travel requirements.



QUETTA: In light of the ruling of Speaker Balochistan Provincial Assembly Captain (R) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Commissioner Quetta is briefing the members of the assembly about the construction works in Quetta.

Balochistan Passes Child Marriage Restraint Bill 2025; NCSW Urges Punjab and KP to Follow Suit

News Desk:
QUETTA: The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) has welcomed the passage of the Balochistan Child Marriage Restraint Bill 2025, hailing it as a major milestone for child protection, women's rights, and gender equality in Pakistan. Chairperson of NCSW, Ume Laila Azhar, stated that the law is the result of extensive nationwide consultations involving political leaders, bureaucrats, religious scholars, civil society organisations, and members of the judiciary. "There was unanimous recognition that the minimum age of marriage should be set at 18 years. Even religious scholars and the Council of Islamic Ideology have endorsed this as a fair and reasonable benchmark in



the best interest of children," she said. Azhar emphasized that the legislation is not merely about preventing early marriages. "It is about safeguarding the mental, physical, and emotional development of future generations. By enforcing this law, we ensure that children grow up healthier, receive better education, and are empowered to lead fulfilling lives," she added. The NCSW has urged the governments of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to urgently enact their respective Child Marriage Restraint Bills. With Sindh, the Islamabad Capital Territory, and now Balochistan already aligned with the national standard of 18 years, any further delay, according to the commission, is "unjustifiable and harmful" to

children's wellbeing. Highlighting the importance of uniformity across provinces, Azhar said, "Standardizing 18 as the minimum age of marriage is not only a legislative step but also a moral, constitutional, and humanitarian responsibility. Consistent implementation, strengthened community vigilance, and a united national resolve are key to securing safer and brighter futures for our children." The NCSW reaffirmed its commitment, in partnership with national and international organisations, to support provincial governments in enacting, harmonizing, and enforcing strong legal protections to end child marriage and promote the rights of every child in Pakistan.

MR Vaccination Campaign Reviewed Under ADC General Dr. Abdul Shakoor in Gwadar



News Desk:
GWADAR: A review meeting regarding the Rubella (MR) vaccination campaign was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner General, Dr. Abdul Shakoor. The meeting was attended by key stakeholders, including District Health Officer Dr. Yasar Tahir, Deputy DHO Dr. Shah Nawaz Baloch, WHO DSO Dr. Zafar Iqbal, Sheikh Sagheer, and representatives of relevant field teams. The meeting in-

cluded a detailed assessment of refusal cases, non-availability cases, team performance, and target achievement. The reasons behind refusal cases were also examined, raising the question of what factors are contributing to these refusals. During the session, teams expressed concern that private school owners were not cooperating adequately, which was hindering the overall progress of the campaign. In response,

ADC General Dr. Abdul Shakoor instructed that the Private Schools Association be summoned to ensure they are informed about the need for full cooperation with vaccination teams. Dr. Abdul Shakoor emphasized that the Rubella vaccination campaign is vital for safeguarding children's health, and therefore all institutions and stakeholders must ensure their complete support for its success.

RDMC Launches Fully Funded Reko Diq Scholarship Program for Chagai Students

News Desk:

In a major boost to education in Balochistan, the Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC), in collaboration with Sukkur IBA University, has introduced the Reko Diq Scholarship Program, offering 50 fully funded scholarships to students from District Chagai who completed their intermediate studies in 2024-25.

This initiative aims to expand higher education access and develop skilled human capital in the region. As part of its outreach, RDMC and IBA Sukkur have kicked off an extensive awareness campaign across Chagai.



Information seminars were conducted in various locations including Humai, Nokkundi, Dalbandin, Taftan, and Chagai town, where students and families learned about the scholarship and its long-term benefits.

During these sessions, participants received details about eligibility criteria, the application process, and the advantages of joining the program. IBA Sukkur will conduct a standardized aptitude test for applicants.

Those who pass will begin a six-month foundation program at Sukkur IBA University, designed to strengthen academic skills and prepare students for university education.

The foundation course will help students qualify for admission not only at IBA Sukkur but also at other reputable universities and colleges across Pakistan, depending on their chosen fields.

Under this fully funded scheme, RDMC through IBA Sukkur will cover all academic expenses for four years, ensuring that deserving students from Chagai can pursue quality higher education without any financial burden.

The program underscores RDMC's commitment to youth empowerment, education development in Balochistan, and long-term community uplift. The scholarship initiative was designed in consultation with Community Development Committees (CDCs), reflecting RDMC's policy of working closely with local communities when planning social investment projects.

DC Sagar Kumar Reviews Measles-Rubella Campaign Progress in Killa Saifullah

News Desk:
KILLA SAIFULLAH: An important meeting regarding the ongoing national Measles and Rubella vaccination campaign was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Killa Saifullah, Sagar Kumar. The meeting aimed to review vaccination activities across the district, assess field team performance, enhance

public awareness strategies, and evaluate administrative arrangements. The meeting was attended by District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. Waheed Kakar, District Deputy Commissioner Killa Saifullah, Sagar Kumar, and representatives of relevant field teams. Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner

Sagar Kumar said that measles and rubella are dangerous diseases, and vaccination is the only effective way to prevent them. He instructed health teams to ensure full coverage, particularly in remote areas, rural settlements, and unimmunized children. He also emphasized the importance of maintaining accurate records and ensuring the availability of vaccines.

District Health Committee Reviews Performance Under Chair of DC Quetta

NEWS DESK:

Quetta - A key review meeting of the District Health Committee was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Mehruallah Badini. Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Muhammad Anwar Kakar, DHO Quetta, DSO, MS, Mult



Mehmood Hospital, and other relevant officials attended the session.

During the meeting, the DHO presented a detailed report on the attendance of paramedics and other health staff. The DSM briefed the committee on the supply of medicines to

all BHUs, stock availability, and staff attendance. The Medical Superintendent of Multi-Mehmood Hospital submitted a report outlining the hospital's facilities, electricity issues, road access, and other administrative challenges. Declaring improvement in

the health sector as a top priority, the Deputy Commissioner issued directives to all concerned officers. He stressed that the supply of medicines, presence of doctors and staff at BHUs, and overall service delivery must not compromise.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed stricter monitoring to ensure citizens receive quality healthcare services. He emphasized the importance of coordinated communication between all departments and timely reporting to address issues efficiently.

TENDER NOTICE

Note: 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 PPRA-GOB. The Procurement Engineer (Building) C/PPRA District Wazirabad Invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2025 based on Composite schedules rates 2023 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee 1000 PKR and Bid Security 2%.

S.No.	Name of Work	Estimate
1	WASHKUM DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE PISDP-33902	
2	DISTRICT WASHKUM TSE-23281912483	24,752,704.00
3	ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIMARY SCHOOL KILLI DIRMUHAMMAD SUMALANZARO	24,038,481.00
4	DISTRICT WASHKUM TSE-23281912483	
5	CONSTRUCTION OF LEVIES WASHKUM MASHKAL DISTRICT WASHKUM TSE-23281912473	69,302,436.00
6	CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY HALL BASMA TOWN DISTRICT WASHKUM TSE-23281912453	19,796,438.00
7	DEVELOPMENT OF FOOTBALL GROUND AT MASHKAL DISTRICT WASHKUM TSE-23281912503	77,829,939.00

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 (BRA) Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work 100% of the estimated cost. Turn over of at least 80% annual and subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-3 and above in relevant Category. CDR @ 1% of estimated Cost. 2 Assignment of similar nature of work and completely completed in previous 3 years 100% of the Estimated Cost. Green Chalan @ Rs.3000 Method of Procurement: Single Stage, Two Envelope Procedure. Bid Security: The bid must include a Cash Deposit Receipt (CDR) in the amount specified, issued in the name of the undersigned, from a scheduled bank under the contractor's life account. Full Cash Deposits will result in the blacklisting of the firm. Tender Documents: Can be obtained electronically from www.ppra.gov.pk. Last Date for Bid Submission: 07 December 2025, by 10:00 AM. Tender Opening: 07 December, 2025, at 11:00 AM. Financial bids opening date will be announced later. Additional Conditions: Bid security (CDR) for technically non-responsive bidders will be refunded within 30 days. Bid validity: 90 days. And also for the same work and in the name of the undersigned. The firm has never been blacklisted. All documents and information submitted are true and correct, must be in office of the undersigned prior to bid opening. Documents will be verified from relevant authorities. Contractors who failed to complete previous projects without valid reasons are ineligible to participate. For any queries, please contact the Executive Engineer, Building Communication Works, PPRA, District Public Office through email of the following: Contact Number: 3301323417.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-BUILDING COMMUNICATION WORKS PPRA
District Public Office
PRD No-2483/24-11-2025
www.ppra.gov.pk

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The procurement of works listed below for which Notice Inviting Tender on sealed percentage rates based on CSR 2023 Govt. of Balochistan are invited from interested Contractors / Firms with desired terms & conditions are given below. The tender fee Rs. 3000/- will be deposited through green chalan in the National Bank of Pakistan, Public Branch under the head of account C-42716 (Building) C/PPRA Receipt at the rate shown against each work as mentioned below. EARNEST MONEY 1% of the Bid cost in the shape of a cash deposit. DATE OF COMPLETION 30 June 2027 RELEVANT CATEGORY C-3 & above

S.#	NAME OF WORK	EC00ST
1	CONSTRUCTION OF JAIL SUPERINTENDENT DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT RESIDENCE AND SIX OF RESIDENTIAL FLATS FOR STAFF JAIL WALLAT DISTRICT LEVEL PISHIN	218,096,000
2	TSE-23281912393	

Eligibility of Bidders: Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules-2014. Presence in Active Taxpayer List (ATL) is mandatory. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency in Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA) Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work 100% of the estimated cost. Turn over of at least 80% annual and subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-3 and above in relevant Category. CDR @ 1% of estimated Cost. 2 Assignment of similar nature of work and completely completed in previous 3 years 100% of the Estimated Cost. Green Chalan @ Rs.3000 Method of Procurement: Single Stage, Two Envelope Procedure. Bid Security: The bid must include a Cash Deposit Receipt (CDR) in the amount specified, issued in the name of the undersigned, from a scheduled bank under the contractor's life account. Full Cash Deposits will result in the blacklisting of the firm. Tender Documents: Can be obtained electronically from www.ppra.gov.pk. Last Date for Bid Submission: 07 December 2025, by 10:00 AM. Tender Opening: 07 December, 2025, at 11:00 AM. Financial bids opening date will be announced later. Additional Conditions: Bid security (CDR) for technically non-responsive bidders will be refunded within 30 days. Bid validity: 90 days. And also for the same work and in the name of the undersigned. The firm has never been blacklisted. All documents and information submitted are true and correct, must be in office of the undersigned prior to bid opening. Documents will be verified from relevant authorities. Contractors who failed to complete previous projects without valid reasons are ineligible to participate. For any queries, please contact the Executive Engineer, Building Communication Works, PPRA, District Public Office through email of the following: Contact Number: 3301323417.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-BUILDING COMMUNICATION WORKS PPRA
District Public Office
PRD No-2495/24-11-2025
www.ppra.gov.pk

PAKISTAN AIRPORTS AUTHORITY
پاکستان ایئرپورٹ اتھارٹی

INVITATION TO BID

Bids in accordance with PPRA Rule No. 30 (b) are invited by the undersigned office for the following requirements in Pakistani Rupees:

S. No.	EPAD Tender No.	Description & Bid No.	Fixed Bid Security (PKR)	Bid Submission Date & Time	Bid Opening Date & Time	Basic PKR (Price)
01	P 251/129748	PROCUREMENT OF QUANTITY-02 RUNWAY RUBBER REMOVAL/DEPOSIT MACHINES (RDRDM) TENDERS I.T. No. SOPAR/186/24/0001A	Rs. 31,400,000/-	16 th December 2025 11:00 Hours (Use APS-Handis)	16 th December 2025 11:30 Hours Log. Centre (S) (Use APS-Handis)	F.O.R.

Bids may be submitted as per conditions set out in the bidding documents available on PPRA E-PAD System at <http://www.ppra.gov.pk> (free of cost). Bidders are required to get registered at E-PAD PPRA (Federal) to access the bidding documents and other relevant information including electronic bid submission.

A pre-bid meeting shall be held at 11.00 a.m. on the 4th of December, 2025, at the undersigned address.

Bids must be submitted electronically through PPRA EPADS web portal at <https://epads.ppra.gov.pk> before the closing time and date as well as in hard format (in a sealed envelope) duly filled and attached with requisite information in the specified format provided in the bidding documents, in the undersigned interest on or before the prescribed deadline, otherwise the submission shall not be considered. The sealed bids shall be opened on the same day at the given time. Prospective bidders are requested to submit proposals without waiting for the deadline to avoid any technical glitch at the last moment.

For registration and training on EPADS or in case of any technical difficulty in using EPADS, prospective bidders may contact Mr. Rozwan Mehmood Director MIS PPRA Room No. 108, 1st Floor, F-793 Building, Sector G-5/2, Islamabad (Contact Number: 35111131-3231).

(Note: All prospective bidders shall immediately inform PAA before the bid opening date and time and submit proof of being an Active Taxpayer in Sales Tax Department (100% compliance) on the PPRA portal along with GST & NTN Certificates of Bidder at the undersigned address.)

Original Bid Security must be attached with the Technical Proposal (hard format, in a sealed envelope) and the Bid Security copy (pay order/bank guarantee) must be attached through PPRA online submission as well before the submission date and time.

Time period for performance of contract: Till the satisfactory completion of contract and warranty period.

PAA reserves the right to accept/reject any or all bids due to omissions/reasons which will be communicated to bidders on request.

This advertisement is also available on PAA's website www.paa.gov.pk and PPRA's website www.ppra.gov.pk.

Warning: Any financial instrument submitted by the bidder, if found fake or got dishonoured at any stage would result in blacklisting and legal action as per law.

Additional Director, Logistics (APL)
Logistics Centre (South), HQS Pakistan Airports Authority
J-1AP, Karachi, Pakistan Tel: 021-9907-2908 Fax: 021-9994-2704
www.paa.gov.pk

Pine nut price witnesses unprecedented decline in South Waziristan

NEWS DESK: The price of pine nut (chilgoza) in Lower South Waziristan have witnessed an unprecedented decline in the current season, dropping from last year's Rs10,000 per kilogram to the current Rs3,000 per kilogram.

Traders say that the steep fall in price of pine nut has created financial distress for thousands of families linked with the region's most valuable dry fruit economy.

Commission agent Imran Wazir told this scribe that the dramatic price drop in price of pine nut was result of three major factors. "These factors include exceptionally high production, a slowdown in international demand and a systematic harassment of pine nut traders by customs and police personnel in Lahore, Rawalpindi and other major cities," he added.

He said that pine nut production in South Waziristan Lower surged sharply in the current year, resulting in a large quantity to market. "Farmers and traders were optimistic that a good harvest would bring better earnings. Instead, the reverse happened. Oversupply pushed prices down faster



than anyone expected," he said.

Traders cite high production, shrinking demand and harassment by police and customs officials as main reasons for the new price level, less than one-third of last year's, alarmed local growers, who invested heavily in labour, transport and processing of pine nut. He added that the situation was aggravated by repeated interference from customs and police authorities outside the district.

"In Lahore, Rawalpindi and several other cities, officials teams stop trucks without reason, re-check documents and

unnecessarily and pressurise traders," he alleged. These practices increased transportation costs, delayed deliveries and ultimately reduced the product's freshness and market value, he added.

"Chilgoza is not an ordinary commodity. It is sensitive, expensive and highly perishable. Even small delays affect its worth. When trucks are stopped for hours or a whole day, its price drops instantly," said Mr Wazir.

Local traders said that last year, customs authorities in Lahore sealed pine nut market of Waziristan traders that caused huge losses to them. "We had barely recovered from last year's shock. This

season has pushed the market into another crisis," a trader told this scribe.

Traders said that people of Waziristan dealt in chilgoza trade peacefully and lawfully.

They described the work as one of the most labour-intensive seasonal trades in the region. "From harvesting the cones in high mountains to shelling, cleaning, drying and storing, every step requires hard work. But after all this effort, we are humiliated in other cities through unjustified checking and harassment," they said.

They said that they regularly paid the mandatory Rs5 per kilogram duty to forest department, fulfilling all

legal requirements of the trade. "When all dues are paid, then why traders are stopped repeatedly on highways" questioned a trader.

Javed Wazir, a grower, said that yield of pine nut in the current year increased nearly threefold, placing enormous pressure on market. "When the quantity triples, the price is naturally going to fall. It is basic market economics," he said.

He said that international market, especially in Gulf and East Asian countries, had seen a noticeable decline in demand, leading to fewer export orders.

"Buyers abroad are purchasing less. When global demand drops, local prices immediately feel the impact," he explained. However, he said that the "most damaging" factor was interference by customs and police officials in Punjab's major cities.

"Vehicles carrying pine nut are stopped again and again, demanding legal requirements of the trade. "When all dues are paid, then why traders are stopped repeatedly on highways" questioned a trader.

Pakistan unveils new plan to boost social projects with public and private funding

NEWS DESK: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, reflecting on prospects of improving social impact financing

policy and tax structure improvements, said that Pakistan's emerging Social Impact Financing Framework, a new initiative under the Prime Minister's Office, is aimed at mobilising public, private, and philanthropic capital for measurable social outcomes.

Speaking at the Corporate Philanthropy Awards 2025, hosted by the Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP), he said Pakistan's corporate giving reached a record Rs25.44 billion in 2023 and could double if the government undertakes meaningful policy and tax reforms to encourage structured giving and simplify compliance.

"Corporate giving worth Rs25 billion is an extraordinary milestone," he said. Aurangzeb added the new framework, which seeks to link social spending directly to measurable results. He said the initiative represents a shift from traditional, grant-based aid

toward results-based and impact-linked financing to ensure every rupee achieves tangible outcomes.

"Rather than focusing on generalised spending, we are moving toward results-based and impact-linked financing," he said. "This requires blending public, private, and philanthropic capital into cohesive, outcome-driven structures."

He announced that one of the key projects under the framework will be Pakistan's first Skills Impact Bond, developed with the British Asian Trust and the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC).

"The Skills Impact Bond is being launched to promote skills development and sustainable livelihoods," he said. "It will move us away from relying solely on traditional bank funding and allow us to tap into capital markets to raise financing for social purposes."

Aurangzeb added that the British Asian Trust's partnership brings global expertise to the program, helping Pakistan pioneer market-based social investment models that align philanthropic giving with long-term economic outcomes.

PCP's Corporate Philanthropy Report 2023 revealed that Pakistan's corporate sector contribution was the highest in the two decades since PCP began tracking corporate giving. Public Listed Companies contributed Rs18.23 billion, followed by Public Listed Companies with Rs3.28 billion and Private Limited Companies with Rs3.93 billion. Despite the record figure, Aurangzeb and several experts highlighted policy gaps, complex tax laws, and regulatory inefficiencies that continue to constrain the Pakistani philanthropic ecosystem.

Pakistan's tax code offers limited incentives for charitable giving, and the non-profit certification process remains slow and cumbersome. The minister said these issues must be addressed to enhance transparency and accountability. "Transparency is needed at all ends," he said, referring to bureaucratic hurdles. "We must make it easier for both donors and non-profits to operate, while ensuring credibility and oversight."

Cloudflare crash lays bare Pakistan's digital fragility

NEWS DESK: The recent Cloudflare outage that disrupted services across Pakistan has highlighted the country's heavy reliance on foreign digital infrastructure, underscoring the urgent need for a national preparedness strategy.

When contacted, officials at the Federal Ministry for IT and Telecommunication (ITT) told The Express Tribune that the Government of Pakistan has a robust vigilance system under the National Cyber Emergency Response Team (NCERT). The NCERT monitors systems 24/7 to ensure safety.

On the failure of foreign Content Delivery Networks (CDNs) exposing Pakistan's digital vulnerability and the risk of an absolute halt, an official said Pakistan's own infrastructure is resilient but interconnected with global networks. "Hence, a global outage naturally affects Pakistan." The official, however, did not explain Pakistan's preparedness for such vulnerabilities.

ITT Minister Shaza

Fatima Khawaja was on an official foreign trip and could not be reached.

Cloudflare, a US company whose services include defending millions of websites against malicious attacks, experienced a technical glitch that prevented internet users from accessing several vital websites.

Many users complained about slow browsing and denied access to critical sites like the Pakistan Stock Exchange, the Sindh High Court, X and OpenAI, as those too went down.

Sector specialists told The Express Tribune that the Cloudflare outage did not just disrupt services; it exposed how thin Pakistan's digital foundations remain. IT architects and network engineers said Pakistan's heavy dependence on foreign CDN and routing layers leaves even local platforms vulnerable to failures occurring outside the country.

They argued that Pakistan urgently needs stronger domestic infrastructure, including lo-

cally hosted services, regional Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) and deeper investments in data centres so critical traffic remains within national borders instead of relying on distant networks.

Noman Ahmed Said, Sai Global CEO, said that when Cloudflare, one of the world's largest internet infrastructure companies, suffered a technical failure on November 18, the impact rippled across continents within minutes.

Pakistan felt it immediately. Websites halted, online transactions slowed and digital services struggled to stay online.

The failure did not originate in Pakistan. It was triggered by a faulty internal file inside Cloudflare's global network.

"But the speed with which it brought parts of Pakistan's digital ecosystem to a standstill revealed a larger, uncomfortable truth that we remain dangerously dependent on foreign platform providers without building our own layers of resilience," he added.

NEWS DESK: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) on Friday said it had issued show cause notices to seven private school systems for allegedly abusing their dominant position by purchasing expensive, logo-branded notebooks, workbooks, and uniforms exclusively from school-authorised vendors.

The CCP said the school systems under scrutiny included the Beaconhouse School System, The City School, Headstart, Lahore Grammar School, Frodo's Roots International, KIPS, Allied

Schools, Super Nova, Dar-e-Arqam, STEP School, Westminster International, United Charter School, and The Smart School, among others.

These school networks operate hundreds of campuses nationwide and collectively educate millions of students, giving them considerable influence over enrolled families," it said.

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CCP issues notices to private schools for 'forcing parents to buy costly supplies from exclusive vendors'

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Provinces' seed needs met for wheat sowing

NEWS DESK: As the wheat sowing drive continues in full swing across the country, the Ministry of National Food Security and Research announced on Thursday that all provinces have received their seed requirements.

The ministry in its press release said a total of 168,000 tonnes of seed from the private sector and 196,000 tonnes from the Punjab Seed Corporation have been supplied. The allocations are as follows: 23,000 tonnes to Balochistan, 82,000 tonnes to Sindh, 22,000 tonnes to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 41,000 tonnes retained in Punjab.

Daily convoy tracking and check-post monitoring confirmed smooth movement without any hindrances or disruptions. The Federal Seed Certification and Research and Development (FS&CRD) validated these reports shared by the Punjab government.

The food security ministry noted a petition filed in the high



court by certain seed companies challenging existing seed movement SOPs. The federal government assured full legal support to address the matter. Food ministry hopes to achieve sowing target by end of November. Provinces have reported accelerated sowing momentum, supported by timely floodwater recession, easier land access, and improved availability of certified seeds. The Punjab Agriculture Department reported that the provinces is completing cultivation on 12.5 million

acres against its target of 16.5 million acres for the ongoing Rabi season, eyeing to achieve the target in the next two weeks.

Special trends observed in Punjab include early and rapid sowing due to post-flood land availability. Furthermore, subsidies offered through the Punjab Seed Corporation (Rs500 per bag) and collaboration with private seed companies (Rs550 per bag, totalling Rs5,500 for certified seed) have led to 100 per cent improvement in certified seed

usage. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock confirmed that media announcements regarding a 20 per cent increase in sowing this year have positively influenced farmers, who have also responded well to the initiative. Nationally, Wheat Policy price of Rs3,500 per 40kg bag.

In Sindh, the Director-General Extension reported good availability of certified seed. A total of 533,000 hectares had been sown, marking the best sowing window. By the end of the current

month, 85pc of the target is expected to be completed.

KP reported a target of 781,000 hectares, with 461,000 hectares sown so far (59pc progress). Sowing in sugarcane and rice areas has been slower; however, it is expected to accelerate by the end of November, as temperatures remain favourable and the sowing window extends until Dec 15.

In Balochistan, most cultivation occurs in tube-well irrigated areas, with a few districts relying on canal irrigation, where sowing follows rain harvesting. Out of the 643,000 hectares targeted, approximately 83,000 hectares had been sown. Tube-well irrigated and barani areas are progressing steadily, while the canal-fed Nasirabad division is expected to pick up pace soon.

The secretary agreed that the ongoing mapping of storage facilities will continue next week to facilitate informed future decisions regarding storage planning.

Call to tap growth potential for gems, sporting goods

NEWS DESK: The Ministry of Commerce has initiated a consultative process with relevant sectoral councils for sports goods, gems, and jewellery to identify key bottlenecks hampering growth in these sectors and explore actionable strategies to enhance Pakistan's export performance.

The specific sectoral councils, which brought together relevant stakeholders and officials from the ministries, met on Thursday. Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan, the coordinator to the prime minister on commerce, led discussions on identifying export barriers and formulating strategies to revitalize the sector.

An official announcement said that, in the short-term, the meeting reviewed key challenges and discussed initiatives to strengthen Pakistan's competitiveness in the global sports goods market.

It was agreed to develop a structured skill development initiative in collaboration with universities, NAVTC, and TEVTA to ensure that

training and technical qualifications align with modern industry requirements. The importance of introducing third-party certification to meet international quality benchmarks was also highlighted.

The industry representatives raised several key issues, including streamlining procedures related to the Drawback of Local Taxes and Levies (DLTL) scheme, improving access to the Export Finance Scheme (EFS), updating technical training curricula, and establishing credit lines for exporters.

Mr Afzal stressed the need to institutionalise regular monthly reviews of the sector.

Discussions focused on strengthening the sector, improving competitiveness, and enabling better access to international markets. Participants also reviewed areas where collaboration between government bodies and the private sector could help address challenges and create new opportunities for value addition and skills development.

sports goods industry, noting that improved skill development, credible quality certification, and continuous engagement with stakeholders will collectively enhance the sector's export potential.

According to the official announcement, the sectoral council for gems and jewellery discussed growth and development.

Mr Afzal noted that the gems and jewellery sector has significant potential for contributing to exports and economic growth.

He affirmed the government's commitment to supporting the industry and to fulfilling its mandate to develop a policy framework to guide its progress.

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Stokes leads fightback after Starc's seven as 19 wickets fall in Ashes

NEWS DESK: Nineteen wickets fell on an opening day of carnage in the first Ashes Test on Friday, with England's fearsome attack led by skipper Ben Stokes bowling them into a position of strength after Australia dismissed the tourists for 172.

A rampaging Mitchell Starc took 7-58 in England's first innings, with the back foot after Stokes won the toss on a fine day at a packed Perth Stadium and chose to bat. Harry Brook (52) and Ollie Pope (46) offered the only resistance as they crumbled after lunch.

But England's elite fast bowlers, led by the exceptional Stokes with 5-23, fought back to reduce the hosts to 123-9 at stumps, trailing by 49.

Nathan Lyon was on three with Brendan Doggett yet to score. "What a day," England bowler Brydon Carse, who took two wickets including Steve Smith, told broadcaster. "I think everyone's got their time's worth — 19 wickets."

"Fantastic last session from everyone — put us in a strong position heading into tomorrow."

In a brutal introduction to Test cricket, opener Jake Weatherald went for a second-ball duck, left on the floor by a Joffa Archer bullet and given out lbw. Marcus Labuschagne fended off 41 balls for nine before he too succumbed to the sheer speed of Archer, bowled by a fuller delivery. And when Smith fell for 17 to Carse in the next over, caught by Brook at slip, it was game on. Usman Khawaja, who was feeling stiff so did not open, came in at the fall but lasted just six balls, blown away by a Carse bouncer that took a nick to wicketkeeper Jamie Smith, leaving Australia reeling at 31-4.

Cameron Green (24), Travis Head (21), Alex Carey (26) and Starc (12) all got starts, but in a reflection of the depth of England's pace stocks, Stokes removed them when he brought himself on. "He's amazing. His character, his resilience is everything this team



strives to be." Carse said of the skipper. "A game-changing spell from him in that session." Starc had bagged three wickets in an intimidating opening spell, including Joe Root for a duck, before returning to send Stokes packing in his first over after the lunch break, then mopping up. "He's every previous Tests at the Perth venue

have been won by the side batting first, but England did the best to challenge that, getting off to a horror start. Veteran strike weapon Starc delivered as he has so many times before, enticing a thick edge from Zak Crawley on his sixth ball that Khawaja did well to collect low at slip, the opener gone for naught. Starc has now taken

a wicket in the first over of an innings 24 times. At the other end Ben Duckett settled his nerves with a textbook drive off Scott Boland to bat the first four of the series. But just as he was getting going, Starc pounced again, trapping him lbw for 21 to leave England tottering on 33-2. That brought Root to the crease in his latest

campaign for an elusive first century in Australia. He only lasted seven balls, edging a seaming delivery into the safe hands of Labuschagne at third slip. Pope survived the furnace and was composed before Green came on and he was out lbw, leaving the visitors on 105-4 at lunch. Brook hit Scott Boland for a six in the

first over after the break before Starc again worked his magic, taking out Stokes's stumps with an inswinger when the captain was on six. A fearless Brook raced to his 14th Test half-century before feathering a short ball to Carey, earning Doggett his maiden Test wicket on debut. Starc removed Gus Atkinson cheaply to give him the 17th five-wicket haul of his career and with Doggett they ruthlessly cleaned up the tail. Starc said Friday he was always confident in his ability to get wickets after the 35-year-old was a one-man wrecking ball against England.

"I mean, it's always the plan, isn't it? But it doesn't always happen that way," he said of his knack of bagging wickets in the first over.

"I've just been pretty fortunate to have done it a few times. But it's always been my role to be aggressive, look for wickets. I've never been one to worry about economy rates. "My role is to go looking for wickets, especially with the new

ball, and hopefully make inroads into the opposition."

The 101-Test veteran is carrying an extra burden — with Pat Cummins (back) and Josh Hazlewood (hamstring) sidelined, but he said it was not something that played on his mind.

"Actually, strangely, I've been quite calm all week, even when we got to the ground," he said. "It's unfortunate that we haven't got Josh and Pat with us, but we still have a fair bit of experience in the bowling attack."

With Australia trailing by 49 runs heading into day two, Starc knows he will have to turn it on again on Saturday to keep Australia in the hunt.

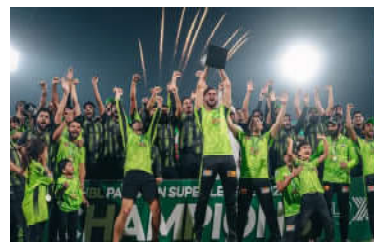
"Two pretty good bowling attacks. Credit to both. I mean, I thought we bowled pretty well, and I thought they bowled pretty well."

Mohsin Naqvi announces revised prize money for next PSL edition

NEWS DESK: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Friday announced a "new reward" for the upcoming Pakistan Super League (PSL) edition set to be held in April 2026.

"Complementing the Pakistan Super League's growth, I am thrilled to announce a new reward for franchisees in the forthcoming editions," Naqvi said on X.

The champions will take home \$500,000 — the same as the 2025 edition — while the runner-up team will take home \$300,000, which is an



increase of the previous year's \$200,000 reward. Additionally, a \$200,000 reward will be given to the "best franchise contributing

towards cricket development. Separately, PCB announced on Friday that the auction for the two new PSL franchise teams will take

place on 6 January, 2026, while the decision for which cities have been shortlisted will be made after December 15. "This marks a sig-

nificant milestone in the league's continued expansion and its commitment to expanding its footprint across Pakistan," the board said of the development.

"The addition of two new teams will also create fresh commercial, sporting and fan engagement opportunities." PSL, which began in 2016 with five teams, expanded to six franchisees with the addition of Multan Sultans in 2018. The inclusion of two more sides would mark its first major restructuring in seven years and push the total number of teams to eight.

'FIFA Series' for smaller nations to expand in 2026 and add women's edition

NEWS DESK: The second "FIFA Series", sponsored biennial tournaments for mainly low-ranked and lesser-financed nations, will expand in 2026 and launch a new women's edition, the global governing body said on Friday.

Though some games in the first 24-nation series in 2024 were sparsely attended, others did spark big fan interest, with more than 85,000 turning up for Egypt's tournament finale against Croatia in Cairo which they lost 4-2.

Host nations for the larger 2026 men's series are Argentina, Azerbaijan, Indonesia,

Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Puerto Rico, Rwanda and Uzbekistan. FIFA said, with the final lineup of participants to be given early in the year.

The women's series will debut in Brazil, Ivory Coast and Thailand.

The aim is to benefit national teams in preparing for the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2026 whilst also strengthening their international competitiveness as a whole," she said.

Illustrating the varied levels of interest in the series, in Sri Lanka in 2024, only 550 people turned up to see Central African Republic beat Papua New Guinea 4-0.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino said in a statement.

Football Australia's interim CEO Heather Garrook welcomed the plans for next year's series.

"These matches will play an essential role in preparing the CommBank Soccerroos for the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2026 whilst also strengthening our international competitiveness as a whole," she said.

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Inter and Milan in early Scudetto clash as Napoli attempt to bounce back

NEWS DESK: Milan takes centre stage on Sunday night as the city's two football giants face off at the San Siro with top spot in Serie A up for grabs, while troubled Napoli try to reset after the international break.

Inter Milan lead the pack, on goal difference from Roma, as Italy's top flight returns to the iconic arena after it hosted the national team's bracing defeat to Norway last weekend.

Cristian Chivu's team are two points ahead of AC Milan, who sit behind Roma in third place and ahead of the weekend's headline clash.

Inter have won 11 of their last 12 matches in all competitions, their one defeat in that run coming at Napoli last month, and have established themselves as favourites for the Scudetto.

After the derby Inter travel to Atletico Madrid where they can put one foot in the last 16 after winning all four of their previous European matches.

Marcus Thuram could make his first start for Inter since September after fully recovering from a hamstring injury which caused him to miss out on France's World Cup qualifiers last week and in October.

But Denzel Dumfries is likely to miss the derby with an ankle injury.

meaning Carlos Augusto will switch

from the left flank to provide width.

Milan meanwhile have Adrien Rabiot back from his calf injury picked up on international duty with France last month, with coach Massimiliano Allegri hoping both he and midfield partner Luka Modric will play their first Milan derby.

C h a m p i o n s

Napoli are level on 22

points with Milan, but even though they are firmly in the title battle all is not well in Naples, with Antonio Conte being given a few days away to cool off during the international break.

Conte exploded with anger after Napoli's 2-0 defeat at fifth-placed Bologna, who are only three points from the summit ahead of their trip to Udinese on Saturday.

The 56-year-old said that he wasn't prepared to "accompany the dead", a reference to a team he said lacked heart and one that sparked

rumours of him resigning before Saturday night's visit of Atalanta.

Conte will be without key midfielder Andre-Frank Anguissa who suffered a hamstring injury with Cameroon, a knock which will keep him out until next year and infuriated Napoli owner Aurelio De Laurentis, who demanded compensation

towards cricket development. Separately, PCB announced on Friday that the auction for the two new PSL franchise teams will take

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Host nations for the larger 2026 men's series are Argentina, Azerbaijan, Indonesia,

Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Puerto Rico, Rwanda and Uzbekistan. FIFA said, with the final lineup of participants to be given early in the year.

The women's series will debut in Brazil, Ivory Coast and Thailand.

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Illustrating the varied levels of interest in the series, in Sri Lanka in 2024, only 550 people turned up to see Central African Republic beat Papua New Guinea 4-0.

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Waseem ready to take on Jakrawut in WBA title defence

NEWS DESK: "I am trying my best and doing everything for the big fight night on November 29," Pakistan's solitary World Boxing Association Gold World Bantamweight champion Muhammad Waseem exclaimed as he is staging the biggest boxing event, where he is defending his title against Thailand's Jakrawut Muangjoo.

Waseem had been training in Liverpool with his coach, Danny Vaughan, and he will be fulfilling his dream of defending the title on home turf.

The 38-year-old also held the fight in Quetta in May, with the help of the Pakistan Army and the Balochistan Government, where international boxers and officials came to the country to witness the first professional bout backed by one of the four recognized boxing bodies in the world.

On Saturday, November 29, the main card flaunts more than seven bouts, and the event features at least 38 foreign boxers and six Pakistani pugilists at Lahore's Garrison Club.

Waseem, also known as Falcon, has also been working with WBA to promote boxing in Pakistan.

With this bout, he will be bringing boxers from the United Kingdom, the US, Mexico, Germany, and France, according to details shared by Punjab Minister of Sports Faizul Ayub Khokhar, who also toured the Garrison Club for the Fight for Glory event.

The 28-year-old showed clear unperturbedness while being substituted during the Atalanta's Champions League win at Marseille but under Palladino has a chance to turn over a new leaf.

Most of the efforts go into strength training, weight, and technique, but also it becomes very hectic at times, because I have to travel at least two hours to Manchester, where I have to spar," he added.

He added that sparring partners he had in the UK were all professional boxers, and more importantly, a chance to Pakistani boxers to compete in an international event.

With this event, the goal is to make boxing an accessible sport for both the fans and the boxers.

"I am coming from Quetta, and I am always connected to the boxing community, and it breaks my heart that most of the time they are ignored and deprived of opportunities that can change their lives."

"So my goal is to provide exposure for them, help professional boxing take root in Pakistan, too. "We are also making sure that we assist women boxers to have their spot in our event, because at the end of the day, all of this will build our boxing community up."

"I am also grateful to the government of Punjab and the Army for helping me in this, because holding an event of this magnitude wouldn't be possible without their support," he concluded.



hosting 38 foreign boxers at once.

However, with all the hype, Waseem, with his orthodox stance, will be taking on south paw Jakrawut, for which he has worked hard.

"I've been training very hard because there is a lot on the line for me," Waseem told this correspondent from Liverpool, where he was training and putting in at least five hours every day.

"The game plan will be different against Jakrawut than my previous opponent, of course, and mainly there is a focus on combinations; he is a south paw as well, so I am training accordingly."

Later, he took on Sunny Edwards for the International Boxing Federation World flyweight title in 2021, which he lost, but finally won another major bout with the WBA Gold World title in May this year.

Waseem has won accolades for Pakistan in amateur boxing, too, but his professional record is also impressive, with 14 wins out of 16 bouts, and posting 10 knockouts in them.

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He is also getting American rapper Mr Capone-E to open for him, while at the heart of it all is to give a taste of professional boxing to the Pakistani sports lovers.

He added that sparring partners he had in the UK were all professional boxers, and more importantly, a chance to Pakistani boxers to compete in an international event.

With this event, the goal is to make boxing an accessible sport for both the fans and the boxers.

"I am coming from Quetta, and I am always connected to the boxing community, and it breaks my heart that most of the time they are ignored and deprived of opportunities that can change their lives."

"So my goal is to provide exposure for them, help professional boxing take root in Pakistan, too. "We are also making sure that we assist women boxers to have their spot in our event, because at the end of the day, all of this will build our boxing community up."

"I am also grateful to the government of Punjab and the Army for helping me in this, because holding an event of this magnitude wouldn't be possible without their support," he concluded.

Illustrating the varied levels of interest in the series, in Sri Lanka in 2024, only 550 people turned up to see Central African Republic beat Papua New Guinea 4-0.

These matches will play an essential role in preparing the CommBank Soccerroos for the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2026 whilst also strengthening our international competitiveness as a whole," she said.

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Russia yet to receive anything official from US on peace plan, Kremlin says

NEWS DESK: Russia has said it is yet to receive anything official from the US on its peace plan, after Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he was ready to work with the Trump administration on its "vision" to bring an end to the war.

The widely leaked US plan includes proposals that Kyiv had previously ruled out, such as ceding areas of the eastern Donetsk region that it still controls, reducing its army in size, and pledging not to join Nato.

These provisions come across as heavily slanted towards Moscow and received a carefully-worded response from Zelenskyy's office on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Russian strikes continue with six people killed overnight - five in the southern Zaporizhzhia region and one in the eastern Dnipropetrovsk region. The draft plan has emerged as Russia claims small territorial gains in eastern Ukraine and Zelenskyy faces a domestic crisis implicating top officials in a

\$100m (£76m) corruption scandal.

The White House has pushed back on claims that Ukraine was frozen out of its drafting, following meetings between US special envoy Steve Witkoff and Russian counterpart Kirill Dmitriyev.

An unnamed US official told CBS News, the BBC's US partner, that the plan was drawn up "immediately" following discussions with Rustem Umerov, one of the most senior members of Zelenskyy's administration, who argued to the majority of it.

Umerov is said to have made several modifications before he presented it to Zelenskyy.

In a post on Telegram, Umerov said he did not provide any assessments or approvals of the plan, adding that Ukraine was "carefully" considering our partners' proposals.

Zelenskyy has been careful not to publicly criticise or reject the plan, saying he "appreciated the efforts of President Trump and his team to return security



to Europe" - perhaps a way to keep the US president outside despite his administration's apparent soft approach towards Russia. His office said the plan "in the American side's assessment, could help reinvigorate diplomacy". Zelenskyy said that he would discuss the proposals with Donald Trump in the coming days. Meanwhile, the Kremlin said it had not received anything official from the US on its peace plan. "We are seeing some elements, but officially we haven't received anything. There has been no substantive discussion of those points," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitri Peskov said. He added that Russia remained "completely open to

peace talks". Russia has long said that any deal would have to address the "root causes of the conflict" - a phrase Moscow has used as shorthand for a series of maximalist demands which, to Ukraine, are tantamount to surrender. Trump has become increasingly frustrated with negotiations with Moscow, culminating in him imposing fresh sanc-

tions on Russia's two biggest oil producers which came into force on Friday.

Moscow currently controls about 20% of Ukraine's territory, and Russian troops have been making slow advances along the vast front line - despite reported huge combat casualties. Kyiv and its European allies have long pushed for a "just and lasting" peace in

Ukraine that would ensure no more of its territory is taken by Russia. However, when asked if Europe was involved in the process of drafting the plan, EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said: "Not that I know of". She added: "For any plan to work, it needs Ukrainians and Europeans onboard".

German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl said the draft document was not fully fledged, describing it instead as a "list of topics and options".

British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz have discussed the plan with Zelenskyy.

The leaked draft proposes limiting Ukraine's military limited to 600,000 personnel, with European fighter jets stationed in neighbouring Poland, as well as plans for Ukraine to forgo many of its weapons.

Kyiv would receive "reliable security guarantees", although no de-

tails have been given. The document says "it is expected" that Russia will not invade its neighbours and that Nato will not expand further.

The draft also suggests Russia will be "re-integrated into the global economy", through the lifting of sanctions and by inviting Russia to rejoin the G7 group of the world's most powerful countries - making it the G8 again.

In Kyiv, the widow of a Ukrainian soldier told the BBC: "This is not a peace plan, it is a plan to continue the war." Another person speaking from one of the occupied territories in Ukraine told the BBC: "I'm trying to keep my sanity here in the conditions of constant propaganda that Ukraine has forgotten us. I hope they will not sign this."

Meanwhile, a soldier in Zaporizhzhia, where several buildings were damaged in deadly overnight strikes, said that if Ukraine did not receive support to end the war then it was up to Europe to help out.

At least 41 dead as relentless rains flood Vietnam

NEWS DESK: Relentless rains and floods have killed at least 41 people in central Vietnam since the weekend, while a search continues for nine still missing, state media reports.

The deluge has submerged more than 52,000 homes and left half a million households and businesses without power, according to reports. Tens of thousands of residents have been evacuated from the flood-affected regions.

Rainfall has exceeded 1.5m (5ft) in several areas over the past three days, even rising beyond the 1993 flood peak of 5.2m in some parts.

\$2bn (£1.5bn) between January and October this year, according to government estimates.

The areas worst-hit by the latest rainfall include the coastal cities of Hoi An and Nha Trang, as well as a key

entry route into the central highlands - where farmers are already reeling from a stalled harvest because of the earlier storms.

In the province of Dak Lak, the country's biggest coffee growing region, tons of thousands of homes were submerged, according to state news outlet Tuoi Tre.

Vietnam is one of the largest exporters of ro-

agency shelters and to relocate people to safety.

The province has declared a state of emergency after landslides damaged major roads and highways.

Traffic was completely halted after part of the Mui Ne Pass, a key entry route into the central highlands, collapsed into a ravine, while a bus narrowly avoided falling into the gap, news agency AFP reported.

Photographs published by local media show people stranded on roofs as floodwaters fill their homes, while a video circulating online shows a suspension bridge in Lam Dong

province getting torn off its anchors.

A restaurant owner in Nha Trang told AFP that his shops were submerged by about a metre of water.

"I am worried about our furniture in my restaurants and shops, but of course I cannot do anything now," said Bui Quoc Vinh.

"I don't think the water is going to recede soon, as the rain has not stopped."

Earlier in November, Typhoon Kalmaegi killed at least five people in Vietnam's central coast, uprooting trees, tearing off roofs and smashing windows. Many in Dak Lak province said their homes had collapsed or flooded.

The same typhoon had killed 188 people in the Philippine island of Cebu, before making its way to Vietnam.

And in September, at least 11 people died after Typhoon Bualoi hit



Extreme weather has battered Vietnam in recent months. Two typhoons, Kalmaegi and Bualoi, left a trail of death and destruction within weeks of each other.

Natural disasters in Vietnam have wreaked damage amounting to

busta, the bitter tasting bean used in instant coffee and some espresso blends.

Weather conditions in the region are set to last until at least Sunday, according to authorities.

Military troops and police officers have been deployed to set up emer-



Ukraine was "ready for constructive, honest and efficient work".

But there is deep concern about some of the reported proposals, including giving up the

entire Donbas region, reducing the size of Ukraine's military, and ruling out the presence of international troops in the country - concessions which Ukraine has rejected in the past.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said that peace will require difficult decisions on both sides. A draft published in the media does include a promise of "reliable security guarantees" for Ukraine. It's believed to suggest some frozen Russian assets should be used to help rebuild Ukraine.

Recent events may have further weakened Ukraine's position. Russia has made further advances in the east of the country. Moscow's long-range strikes on Ukraine's grid has left most of the country

are impossible to ignore in both Washington and Moscow. Europe wants its voice heard. Pressure from European allies could still help Zelenskyy alter the draft proposals.

But there may not be much time. US officials who presented the plan, approved by US President Donald Trump, are said to be working to an aggressive timetable - weeks, not months. They're expected to travel to Moscow soon.

Any hopes of getting Russian President Vladimir Putin and Zelenskyy in the same room to negotiate appears to have been abandoned.



Trump, who's often claimed he can quickly end the war, seems to be running out of patience. He just wants the two sides to sign up to a deal.

Japan edges closer to restarting world's biggest nuclear power plant

NEWS DESK: Japan is edging closer to approving the restart of the world's largest nuclear power plant - the first time it would be operated since the 2011 Fukushima disaster.

Hideyo Hanazumi, governor of the Niigata region where the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa power plant is located, said he has given the green light for the partial restart. The plan to resume operations at the facility, operated by utility company Tepco, still needs approval from the prefecture's government assembly and Japan's nuclear regulator before it can proceed. If approved, it would be the first time Tepco would be allowed to recommence nuclear reactor operations in Japan since its Fukushima plant went into melt-



down following a tsunami. Residents in Niigata would be whether the plant should be restarted or not.

Hanazumi told a news conference on Friday that his decision would be discussed in December at a prefectural government assembly, where he would seek

the assembly's approval. The approval would be for the recommencement of operations at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant's No.6 reactor, followed by the No.7.

The resumption of operations at the facility is part of Tepco's business reconstruction plan following the Fukushima meltdown, which was caused by a 9.0-magnitude earthquake and massive tsunami. When the plant's reactors were flooded by the tsunami, it caused radiation to leak out and forced 150,000 people to be evacuated from the area.

Men posing as India's central bank officials pull off \$800,000 heist

NEWS DESK: Armed men posing as officials from India's central bank have robbed a vehicle transporting 70m rupees (\$800,000, £600,000) in the southern state of Karnataka, police say.

A massive operation has been launched to find the men who robbed the van in the heart of Bengaluru city in daylight. The robbery occurred on Wednesday afternoon. Six men in an SUV stopped a cash transport van on a busy road as it was moving money between bank branches.

Bengaluru police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh told the BBC. The van was carrying a driver, a cash custodian and two armed security guards.

Mr Singh says the robbers told the people in the van that they were



officials from the Reserve Bank of India and needed to verify if they had the correct documents to transport such a huge amount of money. The gang told the cash custodian and guards to get out of the SUV, transferred the cash at gunpoint, and fled. The area had little CCTV coverage, and police are investigating

the cash, police said. The SUV followed the cash van for a few kilometres before the gang forced the driver out of the van, made the cash custodian and guards get out of the SUV, transferred the cash at gunpoint, and fled. The area had little CCTV coverage, and police are investigating

if the gang used multiple vehicles in the operation. The cash transporter had filed a police complaint. The SUV used in the heist had a fake number plate and a sticker that read "Government of India", a police official told the BBC on condition of anonymity.