



**EDITORIAL**  
Balochistan's Education  
Crisis: Beyond Numbers...  
Page No 2



**BUSINESS**  
Leveraging US tariffs can lift  
Pakistan's exports  
Page No 4



**NATIONAL**  
Shehbaz open to talks with PTI but  
rejects 'illegal demands or black-  
Page No 5



**INTERNATIONAL**  
Three killed in Israeli strike  
on vehicle in Lebanon  
Page No 6

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# QUETTA VOICE

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## Arif Habib Consortium Wins Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Privatisation Bid at Rs135bn

**Syed Muhammad Qassem,  
Dawood Ahmed**

**NEWS DESK:** Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Ltd (PIACL) was sold for Rs135 billion on Tuesday after a competitive and transparent auction in Islamabad, marking the country's first major privatisation in nearly two decades.

Three pre-qualified bidders, Lucky Cement, Airblue,

and the Arif Habib consortium, submitted sealed offers earlier in the day. Airblue exited in the initial round after offering a bid below the government's reference price of Rs100 billion. In the first round, Lucky Cement bid Rs101.5 billion, while the Arif Habib group led with an offer of Rs115 billion.

Following a short consultation break, a second round of open bidding began with Rs115 billion as the base price and a minimum increment of

Rs250 million. After a brief contest, Lucky Cement raised its offer to Rs134 billion, but the Arif Habib consortium countered with Rs135 billion, securing the deal as Lucky Cement withdrew.

The bidding process was broadcast live on television and online platforms to ensure transparency.

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Privatisation Muhammad Ali said the transaction was structured to sell at

least 75 per cent of PIA shares, with the option for the winning bidder to acquire the remaining 25 per cent within 90 days. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb praised the process, calling it a positive signal for investor confidence.

He said the participation of leading Pakistani business groups showed trust in the country's economic direction and expressed hope that fresh investment would help end PIA's losses and

modernise operations.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also welcomed the successful auction, describing it as one of the largest and most transparent privatisation deals in Pakistan's history.

The sale follows a failed privatisation attempt last year, when bidding collapsed due to a lack of competitive offers. This time, broader participation revived the long-stalled effort to transfer the national carrier to private management.

## Funeral Prayers Held for Senior PPP Leader Bismillah Khan Kakar

**Sardar Muhammad Khondai:**

The funeral prayers of senior Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) figure and former provincial minister Bismillah Khan Kakar were offered on Tuesday evening at his ancestral village, Kili Habib Zai.

A large gathering comprising political leaders, party workers, tribal elders, and local residents attended the ceremony to bid farewell to the veteran politician.

Notable attendees included National Awami Party chief Hoshul Khan Kakar, Attal Party Provincial President Azar Khan, provincial ministers Mohammad Kakar and Ali Majestic, along with several other senior political figures and prominent tribal personalities.

Those present paid heartfelt tributes to the late leader, recalling his long-standing political struggle, commitment to democratic principles, and services to the people of the province.

Speakers noted that Bismillah Khan Kakar held an important place in provincial politics and remained devoted to public welfare throughout his career. After the funeral prayers, he was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard. Condolences were extended to the bereaved family, while prayers were offered for the departed soul's eternal peace.

## Alcema, PTI workers stage sit-in at Rawalpindi's Factory Naka after being stopped from reaching Adiala jail to meet Imran

**NEW DESK:**

PTI founder Imran Khan's sister Alcema Khan and PTI workers staged a sit-in at Rawalpindi's Factory Naka on Tuesday as they were barred from moving towards Adiala Jail in a bid to meet the incarcerated ex-premier. Over the past several weeks, the PTI founder has been denied meetings in prison with his family, party members and lawyers, prompting them to stage.

## IED Explosion Hits Railway Track in Nasirabad, Another Device Safely Neutralised

**Syed Muhammad Qassem:**

An explosion caused by an improvised explosive device (IED) was reported on a railway track in Nasirabad, according to police officials. The incident occurred in the limits of Shaheed Aziz Baloch Police Station, but no casualties or damage to property were reported.

Officials said the blast was triggered by an IED weighing approximately four to five kilograms near the Alfafabad railway bridge. During security sweeps after the explosion, law enforcement agencies discovered a second explosive device weighing around 10 kilograms, which was successfully defused before it could cause harm.

After the incident, police, along with the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), Special Branch and other agencies, sealed off the area. Samples and other evidence were collected from the site, and investigations are underway to trace those involved and prevent any further incidents.

## Field Marshal Asim Munir Stresses Intellectual Resilience in Modern Warfare

**News Desk:**

Rawalpindi, 23 December, 2025\*: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), HJ, COAS & CDF, visited the National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad on Tuesday, where he was briefed by panel of civil and military participants of ongoing National Security and War Course on their academic perspective about challenges to national security and imperatives for overcoming them, the military's media wing said.

In his interaction, the Field Marshal outlined the complex and evolving global,

regional and internal security environment, emphasizing that the country faces broad and persistent challenges, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

He noted that these challenges span conventional, sub-conventional, intelligence, cyber, information, military, economic and other domains, requiring comprehensive multi-domain preparedness, continuous adaptation and synergy amongst all elements of national power.



The Field Marshal highlighted that hostile elements increasingly employ indirect

ambiguous approaches, including the use of proxies to exploit internal fault lines, rather than

overt confrontation. He stressed that future leaders must be trained and remain

alert to recognize, anticipate, and counter such multi-layered cognitive challenges.

The Field Marshal also highlighted that decision-making under uncertainty with clarity and intellectual resilience are critical attributes for operating in today's contested and diffused security environment.

The Field Marshal lauded NDU's role as a premier institution in developing strategic thinkers capable of translating rigorous training and academic insight into effective policy formulation and operational outcomes.

He underscored that professional military education remains central to strengthening institutional capacity, fostering indigenous capability, and ensuring long-term national resilience.

Concluding his address, the Field Marshal appreciated the panels' sharp analysis and conclusions and urged the participants to remain vigilant, adaptive, and steadfast in upholding the values of integrity, discipline, and selfless service.

Upon arrival, the COAS & CDF was warmly received by the President NDU.

## QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

## SBKWU Teacher Recruitment Scandal Raises Alarms for Pakistan's Education System



## Editorial:

Serious questions have emerged over the secondary teachers recruitment process conducted by Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University (SBKWU), triggering widespread concern about merit, transparency, and accountability in Balochistan's education system.

It is essential to clarify a point that has caused public confusion: the advertised posts were NOT for SBKWU itself. The university was only assigned the responsibility of conducting tests and interviews for Secondary School Teacher recruitment across Balochistan.

According to initial findings, hundreds of candidates who had failed were allegedly declared successful during the teacher recruitment process.

Given the scale of

the exercise, involving thousands of applicants for secondary teaching positions across the province, such irregularities cannot reasonably be described as clerical mistakes. The magnitude strongly suggests organised manipulation, carried out with the involvement or protection of influential individuals rather than the actions of a single official. This issue strikes at the heart of education governance in Balochistan. Secondary school teachers shape the academic foundation of students, and any compromise on merit directly damages learning outcomes.

In Balochistan, where literacy rates remain among the lowest in the country, flawed teacher recruitment further deepens an already critical education cri-

sis. Reports that deserting candidates were sidelined only intensify public frustration and mistrust.

All anti-corruption and accountability institutions must take immediate notice. A transparent, independent, and time-bound investigation is necessary to identify those responsible for manipulating the recruitment process conducted under SBKWU's authority. Accountability must reach every individual involved, regardless of status or influence.

This is not merely an administrative controversy; it is a matter of justice and the future of Balochistan's education system. If credibility in teacher recruitment collapses, public trust in institutions will collapse with it. Balochistan cannot afford silence where integrity is at stake.

## Balochistan's Education Crisis: Beyond Numbers and Empty Promises

**Syed Ali Shah Analysis:** The Balochistan government's claim that around 45,000 children have returned to schools is being pre-

mismanagement, and hollow commitments by successive provincial governments. For years, education in Balochistan has been treated more as

open skies or abandoned education altogether. Shelterless schools are not an exception but a norm across vast parts of the province. Equally alarming

important, but without strict monitoring and enforcement, such reviews risk becoming yet another bureaucratic exercise. The return of

government is serious about change, it must move beyond statements and statistics. Massive investment in school infrastructure, transparent teacher



sented as a major breakthrough in addressing the province's deep-rooted education crisis.

While any increase in enrollment deserves acknowledgment, this figure pales in comparison to the magnitude of the challenge. More than 3.1 million children in Balochistan remain out of school, a reality that exposes decades of neglect,

a slogan than a serious policy priority. Governments have consistently paid lip service to the issue, announcing plans, committees, and reforms that rarely translate into meaningful change on the ground.

The result is a broken system where thousands of schools remain without proper buildings, forcing children to study under

is the issue of so-called "ghost teachers" and ineffective staffing.

Despite repeated claims of reforms under the School Based Recruitment (SBK) system, absenteeism, political interference, and lack of accountability continue to cripple public education.

Reviewing recruitment processes is

45,000 children to schools should not be used to mask the harsh truth: millions

are still deprived of their fundamental right to education. Poverty, insecurity, poor infrastructure, and weak governance continue to push children out of classrooms and into labor, vulnerability, and hopelessness.

If the Balochistan

management, community-based enrollment drives, and sustained political will are essential.

Without tangible action, promises will remain empty, and another generation of Balochistan's children will be left behind. Education cannot survive on rhetoric alone; it demands urgent, honest, and decisive action.

## BUIITEMS Gains Dual Global Recognition: THE Rankings 2026 &amp; UNAI SDG 8 Vice-Chair

**Syed Dara Shikoh Amir**

The Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) has brought new pride to Pakistan and Balochistan by achieving two major international milestones — its inclusion in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2026 and its appointment as the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) SDG Hub 8 Vice-Chair for Teaching and Education. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings represent one of the most credible measures of global academic excellence,

featuring over 2,190 universities from 115 countries. Institutions are evaluated across core areas such as teaching quality, research performance, industry collaboration, and international reputation.

In 2026, 99 Pakistani universities participated in the rankings, with 48 officially ranked and the rest designated as "Reporter" institutions. BUIITEMS proudly secured the 43rd national position, emerging as the only university from Balochistan to be ranked internationally — a remarkable achievement that underscores its commitment to innovation, research, and quality education.

Alongside this ranking success,



BUIITEMS has been appointed as the Vice-Chair for the UNAI SDG Hub 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth,

collaborating with the University of Auckland, which serves as the Global Chair. The University of

Auckland, ranked among the top 1% of universities worldwide and 4th in Oceania in the 2025 Sustainability Rankings, partners

with BUIITEMS to promote sustainable development, inclusive education, and youth empowerment in line with the United Na-

tions Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Representing Pakistan and South Asia, BUIITEMS continues

to drive academic excellence and sustainable progress through innovation, applied research, and education-driven develop-

ment.

With 10,000+ students, 600 faculty members, and 60 academic programs, the university stands as a beacon of growth and opportunity.

Its vibrant alumni network of over 11,000 graduates and partnerships with global institutions highlight its pivotal role in advancing human capital and economic growth.

Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez, Vice-Chancellor BUIITEMS, remarked: "BUIITEMS' inclusion in the Times Higher Education Rankings and our appointment as UNAI SDG 8 Vice-Chair reflect our dedication to advancing higher education, research, and sustainable development."

These recognitions are a testament to the hard work of our faculty, students, and administration who continuously strive for excellence."

These dual international recognitions — from Times Higher Education (UK) and the United Nations Academic Impact — reaffirm BUIITEMS' position as a leading higher education institution in Pakistan, setting new standards in academic excellence, sustainability, and global collaboration.

With its vision of "Quality and Excellence in Education," BUIITEMS continues to symbolize Balochistan's progress and Pakistan's commitment to global education and sustainable development.





## Reko Diq Expands Community Services, New Health Clinic and School in Chagai

News Desk:

Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC) has taken another step toward community development by opening a health clinic and a primary school in District Chagai, strengthening access to basic healthcare and education in the region.

The Mashkicha Community Health Clinic and Nokkiah Primary School were inaugurated as part of RDMC's ongoing Community Investment Program.

Speaking at the ceremonies, Reko Diq Project General Manager Ryan Mitchell said the initiatives reflect a community-centered approach, with projects selected through Community Development Committees to ensure they address local priorities and encourage long-term ownership.

He noted that the focus remains on practical solutions that di-

rectly improve daily life, developed in partnership with local communities to ensure sustainability over time. The Mashkicha clinic is the third healthcare facility established by RDMC in the area, following earlier clinics in Humai and Nokkundi. It primarily serves mothers and children, offering pre- and post-natal care along with essential primary healthcare services.

The facility is expected to improve health conditions not only in Mashkicha but also in surrounding villages.

Community Investment Lead Muhammad Essa Tahir said that together with a Mobile Health Unit currently covering more than 20 villages,

RDMC's health initiatives are helping deliver reliable medical services to remote communities.

On the education front, the opening of

Nokkiah Primary School highlights RDMC's commitment to learning and human development. Education is a key pillar of the company's community efforts, which include improving school infrastructure, enhancing classroom environments and working closely with partners and local residents to achieve lasting outcomes.

The school opening was attended by students, parents, teachers, community elders and local leaders. Community representative Abdul Salam welcomed the initiative, describing education as vital for empowering children and securing a stronger future.

In addition to building schools, RDMC also supports education by appointing qualified teachers and providing textbooks and uniforms, further improving access to quality education across District Chagai.

## Balochistan Throw Ball Team Honored for Winning Bronze Medal

QUETTA: The Balochistan Throw Ball team won a bronze medal in the 35th National Games held in Karachi, securing third position overall. The team was honored with a tea party by the Chairman of Balochistan Throw Ball Association, Imran Khan Afridi, who praised their achievement and emphasized the importance of sports in national development.

Afridi highlighted that countries with strong economies have better sports infrastructure and produce talented athletes.

He cited examples of countries like China, India, and Iran, which have improved their sports performance after strengthening their economies. The Chairman assured support for the team's future endeavors and directed the

General Secretary to formulate a comprehensive program for divisional-level tournaments in Balochistan. The General Secretary, Syed Naeem Akhtar, thanked Afridi for his support and acknowledged the financial assistance provided by Madam Rubaba Hamid Durani and Yasser Faheem for the team's participation in the 35th National Games.

## Kech Sports and Fitness Festival 2026 Trophy Unveiled

TURBAT: The trophy unveiling ceremony of Kech Sports and Fitness Festival 2026 was held at Circuit House Turbat. Former Chief Minister Balochistan Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch was the chief

guest. The event was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kech Bashir Ahmad Badri, festival secretary Altaz Sakhi, and other dignitaries.

Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch praised the ef-

forts of DC Kech for promoting sports and cultural activities in the district.

The festival will kick off on January 5 and conclude on January 16, featuring marathon, sports, and fitness events.



رقم	تاریخ	مقام	مقام	مقام
1	28.01.2026	09:30	مقام	مقام
2	29.01.2026	09:30	مقام	مقام
01	12.01.2026	09:30	مقام	مقام
02	13.01.2026	09:30	مقام	مقام
03	15.01.2026	09:30	مقام	مقام
04	16.01.2026	09:30	مقام	مقام
05	18.01.2026	09:30	مقام	مقام
06	21.01.2026	09:30	مقام	مقام
07	22.01.2026	09:30	مقام	مقام
08	28.01.2026	09:30	مقام	مقام

## Governor Balochistan Highlights Need for Effective Traffic Management and Road Safety Measures

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhail emphasized the need for a comprehensive strategy to reduce traffic accidents on national highways, stating that thousands of passengers die every year in road accidents in the province.

Meeting with DIG Motorway Dr. Quresh Khan, the Governor highlighted the lack of a government building for the DIG, hindering effective traffic management and road safety efforts.

He stressed that it is essential to provide a suitable building for the DIG to ensure efficient functioning of the department.

The Governor appreciated the efforts of the Motorway Police in issuing international driving licenses after thorough testing and interviews.

He emphasized



the importance of modern technology, public awareness, and strict enforcement of traffic laws to address the issue.

He suggested conducting awareness sessions in educational institutions and public sector universities to educate young people about traffic laws and

road safety. Mandokhail also stressed the need for strong coordination among relevant departments to tackle traffic safety challenges.

The Governor assured to raise the concerns at federal and provincial levels to resolve the problems faced by the National

Highways and Motorways department, ensuring timely implementation of road safety measures.

DIG Motorway Dr. Quresh Khan briefed the Governor about the initiatives taken by the Motorway Police to improve road safety and traffic manage-

ment in the province. He sought the Governor's support in addressing the challenges faced by the department.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to work together to enhance road safety and reduce traffic accidents in Balochistan.

## Boosting Investment in Balochistan: CEO BBOIT Meets ICCI President

QUETTA: Qaim Lashari, CEO of the Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade (BBOIT), met with Sardar Tahir Mahmood, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

The meeting focused on exploring investment opportunities, enhancing business collaboration, and strengthening ties between the business communities of Balochistan and Islamabad.

Both leaders agreed to promote business activities through closer coop-



eration and effective collaboration in the future, emphasizing joint initiatives in investment, trade, industrial

development, and business facilitation. Lashari briefed Mahmood on the facilities, incentives, and

policy measures offered to investors in Balochistan, stating that the provincial government is committed

to creating a business-friendly environment and providing all possible support to domestic and foreign investors.

He announced the establishment of a Business Facilitation Center in Balochistan, a historic step to promote investment and commercial activities in the province, making it easier, faster, and more transparent for investors.

Mahmood expressed interest in the vast investment potential in Balochistan and pledged to mobilize Islamabad's business community to invest in the province.

F No. 1-6/2025-Int

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN**

**MINISTRY OF FEDERAL EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

Technical & Financial Proposals are invited on Quality Cum Cost Basis (QCBS) method, as prescribed in the Procurement of Consultancy Services Regulation, 2010, from the eligible Consultancy firms/association of firms/Joint Ventures (JV) for carrying out Consultancy services for "Third Party Validation (TPV) Of Establishment of Daanish School in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT)". The eligible Consultancy firms/association of firms/Joint Ventures having experience of similar nature of works may apply on prescribed form containing following information/particulars duly supported with necessary documents.

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS/INFORMATION:**

- A technically qualified consultant will be selected using the Quality Cost Based Selection method as per PPRA regulations 2010 and the procedure described in the RFP. The RFP containing detailed requirements and Terms of Reference, is available on EPADS at [www.eprocure.gov.pk](http://www.eprocure.gov.pk) and [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk), and <https://mofept.gov.pk>. Online registration on EPADS (a digital portal) is mandatory to download the RFP and submit the bid.
- A pre-proposal meeting will be held on 05-01-2026 (Monday) at 11:00 AM in the Committee Room of Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, 2nd Floor, C-Block, Pakistan Secretariat, Islamabad.
- The interested eligible Consultants/Firms can submit their Technical & Financial Proposals online through EPADS at <http://www.eprocure.gov.pk> on or before January 15, 2026 till 1400 hrs Pakistan Standard time (GMT+5). The technical proposals will be opened on the same date at 1430 hrs in the presence of the consultants/their authorized representatives. Additionally, a hard copy of the bid must be submitted to the address mentioned below before the closing date and time.
- The Employer reserve the right to accept or reject any or all offers under PPRA Rules 2004 as amended time to time.

**For Technical Queries Contact:**

**Mr. Asim Khanzada**  
Cell: +92 3453582628

**For Technical Queries Contact:**  
**For EPADS Registration & Document Submission Queries Contact:**

**Mr. Talat Saeed**  
Cell: +92 321511688

**Asim Khanzada**  
Deputy Director (Dev)  
**M/o Federal Education & Professional Training**

P000516825

## Two prospective PIA buyers bid above reference price of Rs100bn; auction enters second round

**NEWS DESK:** A second round of auction will be held for the privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines at 5:40pm today after the conclusion of the first round, which saw two prospective buyers — Arif Habib and Lucky Cement — bidding higher than the reference price of Rs100 billion.

The bids submitted in the morning came from pre-qualified bidders Lucky Cement, private airline Airblue and the investment firm Arif Habib.

Lucky Cement put up a bid of Rs101.5bn, Airblue Rs26.5bn, and the Arif Habib consortium bid Rs115bn. Following the announcement of the reference price — approved by the Privatisation Commission Board and the Cabinet Committee on Privatisation — a 30-minute break has been taken so that the two top bidders can hold consultations.

The base price for the second round of the auction has been set at Rs115bn, with the minimum increment of Rs250bn. At the outset of the ceremony, the Adviser to the prime minister on Privatisation,

Muhammad Ali, addressed the audience. He hoped that PIA's privatisation would open "paths for investment in the country".

"I would also like to thank all bidders who are present today, and those who were part of the bidding process but did not reach the final round. We wouldn't have been here without them, and this process wouldn't have been completed," he said.

Representatives of the bidding groups walked in one by one to deposit sealed offers into a transparent box, briefly fumbling as they pushed envelopes through the slot in a public ceremony in Islamabad that was broadcast on state television. The reference price for PIA's bidding will now be approved by the Privatisation Commission Board and the Cabinet Committee on Privatisation after bids have been received. The bids will be opened in a ceremony starting at 4:30pm in the presence of the bidders. The bids and the reference prices will be announced, and the bidding will be concluded as per the agreed terms. Adviser to the



prime minister on privatisation, Muhammad Ali will also hold a press conference after the conclusion of the bidding process. The whole process will be telecast live and streamed across all TV channels as well as re-

spective social media handles of the government, which will be hoping to avoid a repeat of the last time the airline went under the hammer. Speaking to the media on Tuesday, Ali said, "God willing, we will get a good bid. There will be

good investment and we will succeed. The auction is Pakistan's second attempt at selling the once storied flag carrier after televised bidding last year collapsed when a solitary offer fell far below the government's reference price, derail-

ing what would have been the country's first major privatisation in nearly two decades. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, while addressing a meeting of the federal cabinet, thanked government officials and the

Privatisation Commission for their role in the national carrier's privatisation.

He stressed that the process has been made "transparent", stating that it will be the "largest transaction" ever in Pakistan's history. "Today, as the bidding starts [...] the bids will come in sealed envelopes, there will be transparent boxes, there will be a live telecast. When the price is determined, the envelopes will be opened. They will compete, and whoever has the highest bid will [succeed]," he said.

"Only God knows how high the bid will go, but the process must come back to the cabinet," he said. Unsuccessful bidders to be excluded from PIA management. Earlier, Ali said the two unsuccessful bidders will be excluded from any future role in the airline's management thanks to a unique stipulation.

In recent remarks, he explained that losing bidders will have no right to join the winning bidder, and only those groups who were not confirmed this, but clarified that this was not a government-brokered meeting, but rather an informal interaction.

while only one of the three consortiums currently in the running for the flag carrier will become part of its administration upon acquisition of a majority stake, Fauji Fertiliser Company Ltd retains the option to join with them subsequently, if it wishes to.

The company was previously in the race for PIA but then decided to quit the bidding process. Ahead of Tuesday's bidding, rumours surfaced of a behind-the-scenes deal involving at least two of the parties involved — the Arif Habib and Lucky Cement groups — that reportedly fell through. In a tweet, journalist Kamran Khan alluded to a meeting where it was proposed to split the controlling stake among three of the four interested parties. However, Khan claimed, this arrangement fell through as one of the parties — i.e. the Muhammad Ali Tabba-led Lucky Cement group — did not agree to it. Both Tabba and a high-ranking government official privy to developments confirmed this, but clarified that this was not a government-brokered meeting, but rather an informal interaction.

## China hits EU dairy with tariffs

**NEWS DESK:** China will impose provisional duties of up to 42.7% on dairy products imported from the European Union, the latest in a series of measures against EU exports widely seen as retaliation for the bloc's electric vehicle tariffs.

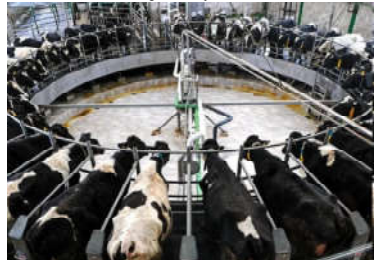
The duties, to be collected from Tuesday, will range from 21.9% to 42.7%, although most companies will pay just under 30%. They target unsweetened milk and cream and fresh and processed cheeses, includ-

ing the iconic French Roquefort and Camembert.

China's Ministry of Commerce said it had found evidence that EU dairy imports were subsidised and hurting Chinese producers. The European Commission, which oversees EU trade policy, said the move was based on "questionable allegations and insufficient evidence" and called the measures "unjustified and unwarranted". It already lodged a complaint at

the World Trade Organisation more than a year ago.

Trade tensions with the EU erupted in 2023 when the European Commission launched an anti-subsidy investigation into Chinese-made electric vehicles. It imposed tariffs in October 2024 in apparent retaliation for EU brandy, pork and now dairy. China's Ministry of Commerce said negotiations over the bloc's EV tariffs resumed this month.



**NEWS DESK:** Pakistan's textile and apparel exports to China demonstrated resilience during January-November 2025, supported by steady demand for core textile inputs and a gradual expansion of value-added categories.

According to the latest figures released by the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), Pakistan's shipments across major textile and apparel product categories covered in the trade data totalled about \$488.5 million during January-November 2025.

The data indicates two leading cotton yarn categories among major export items: one cotton yarn line reached \$205.4 million (8.20%), while another totalled \$181.1 million (7.23%).

Export dynamics strengthened in the second half of the year. Pakistan's exports to China recorded an 8.69% year-on-year (YoY) growth in July-November, with sustained monthly increases

through July (+14.6%), August (+17.9%) and September (+19.4%). At the same time, several consumer-facing categories — including women's wear, home textiles and select made-up textile articles — registered notable gains, indicating pockets of diversification in Pakistan's China-bound textile portfolio.

In particular, the improvement in women's garments and home textile items suggests scope for targeted brand development, compliance up-grades and buyer partnerships in specialised market niches.

"Looking ahead to

2026, I expect to prioritise competitiveness measures such as product standardisation, quality assurance, faster lead times and sustainability compliance. Strengthening technical collaboration, especially in modern finishing, dyeing and high-value knitwear, could help Pakistan move up the value chain and expand its presence in China's textile and consumer goods markets," he added.



## Leveraging US tariffs can lift Pakistan's exports

**NEWS DESK:** A delegation of the Pakistan American Chamber of Commerce visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and met with LCCI President Faheemur Rehman Saigol.

The LCCI president said that the United States is Pakistan's largest export destination, with exports reaching around \$6 billion last year. He said that by effectively using the US tariff structure, Pakistan can increase its exports to \$10 billion.

He pointed out that Pakistan has mostly focused on traditional exports, especially garments, but now it needs to explore new products and sectors to boost exports.

He stressed the importance of moving beyond the five traditional sectors and focusing on IT, minerals, agriculture and other emerging areas, which are also being prioritised by the government and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

The LCCI president highlighted the vital role of the Pakistan community in the US and said Pakistan should fully



benefit from their business networks and expertise. He also emphasised the need to strengthen coordination with all joint chambers, adding that exports of skilled human resources have great potential, which can increase both exports and remittances.

He mentioned that remittances have increased significantly this year and are expected to reach \$42 billion by the end of the year. He said that a comprehensive strategy is needed to send skilled labour to other coun-

tries to further increase remittances.

Pakistan American Chamber of Commerce President Naveed Anwar said that Pakistani businessmen living in the US are deeply committed to Pakistan and want to contribute to economic stability. He mentioned discussions with US Senate representatives highlighted the strong potential of Pakistan's pharmaceutical industry and that Pakistan can increase pharmaceutical exports.

However, he regretted that currently no Pa-

kistani pharmaceutical company is FDA-compliant, which has held the sector back. He said regulatory complications and quality control issues are major obstacles.

Anwar added that after tariffs were imposed on India's pharmaceutical industry, new opportunities have emerged for Pakistan, but quality remains a serious challenge. Dr Sameer Shafiq, who was part of the delegation, said that strict visa policies in the US have created a shortage

of human resources, forcing American companies to look for outsourcing options. He suggested establishing special facilitation centres in Pakistan for such companies, as there is significant potential in this area.

He also pointed out that overseas Pakistanis face difficulties in taking their capital out of Pakistan after investing, which has reduced investment inflows. Regulatory issues and the lack of ease of doing business are major hurdles.

## Gold, silver at new highs on global rally

**NEWS DESK:** Gold prices in Pakistan surged to a fresh all-time high on Monday, mirroring a sharp rally in international markets driven by escalating geopolitical tensions and heightened safe-haven demand.

Silver also climbed to an unprecedented level in the local market. According to rates issued by the All-Pakistan Gems and Jewellers Sarafa Association (APGISA), the price of 10-gran gold increased by Rs5,315 to Rs396,400.

APGISA President Muhammad Qasim Shikarpuri said gold touched its highest-ever level in the domestic market on Monday. The Saturday's increase of Rs1,300 per tola to reach Rs386,162.

Internationally, spot gold jumped nearly 2% to around \$4,421 per ounce by 09:45 am ET after touching the intraday record of \$4,428.92, as investors rushed towards safe-haven assets amid reports of rising

uncertainty remains high. "Geopolitical developments, including reports of a possible escalation involving Israel and Iran, could further support gold and oil prices if tensions intensify," he added.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani rupee edged slightly higher against the US dollar, gaining 0.01% in the inter-bank market. By the close of trading, the local currency settled at 280.22, marking an improvement of Rs1.03 versus the greenback.

The rupee had also posted a modest gain in the previous week, appreciating by Rs0.06, or 0.02%, in inter-bank dealings. It ended the week at 280.25 compared with 280.31 a week earlier, as per data released by the State Bank of Pakistan.

In global currency markets, the Japanese yen remained under pressure, hovering near a record low against the euro on Monday. The weakness followed cautious remarks by Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda after the central bank's interest rate hike on Friday.

Commenting on the global trend, Adnan Agar, Director at Interactive Commodities, said both gold and silver posted fresh record highs during the session. "Gold made a new all-time high around \$4,430 and was still trading near that level. It opened close to \$4,340, so it gained almost \$100 in a single day," he noted, adding that silver also reached a new peak at \$69.30 per ounce.

Agar said the precious metal market largely moved in tandem throughout 2025. "It has been one-way traffic — up, up, and up — even remained under pressure, hovering near a record low against the euro on Monday. The weakness followed cautious remarks by Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda after the central bank's interest rate hike on Friday.

Agar said market participants are increasingly discussing price targets in the \$5,000-\$5,500 range for gold, though





## Social media posts case against Imaan, Hadi: prosecution, defence nearly come to blows after heated courtroom exchange

**NEWS DESK:** Proceedings in the controversial social media posts case against lawyers Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir and Hadi Ali Chatha took a tense turn on Tuesday as lawyers for the prosecution and defence nearly engaged in a physical altercation after a heated exchange during today's hearing.

A detailed cross-examination of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency's (NCCIA) witnesses exposed procedural gaps and triggered heated exchanges inside the courtroom.

The court began recording the statements of prosecution witnesses after last Tuesday in compliance with directives issued by the Islamabad High Court (IHC) the day prior, while hearing a petition filed by Mazari challenging the trial court's November 19 order.

The hearing was conducted by Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka at the District and Sessions Court in Islamabad, with the couple appearing along with their legal teams.

During cross-examination, NCCIA Naib Qasid Afzal admitted that he did not have a petition that his report was prepared using surface analysis techniques on seven screenshots and

## Live auction for PIA's 75% shares underway

**NEWS DESK:** Second round of auction for the privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) will be held shortly, following the conclusion of the first round, in which two bidders, Arif Habib Consortium and Lucky Cement, offered above the government's reference price of Rs100 billion.

Lucky Cement submitted a bid of over Rs101.5 billion and signed the record sheet. Airline followed, with its representative announcing a bid of Rs26.5 billion.

The final bid came from Arif Habib Consortium, offering Rs115 billion. All bids were recorded and signed on the official sheets, with Arif Habib emerging as the highest bidder among the three.

The government's approved reference price for the 75% stake is Rs100 billion, and the first round of bidding saw competitive offers from pre-qualified bidders. An open auction will now take place to finalise the sale.

This marks the second phase of PIA's privatisation process, under which bids are opened and matched

against the reserve price.

The process is part of the government's broader plan to attract investment and restructure the airline, aiming to restore it to a leading position in the aviation sector.

Prime Minister's Adviser on Privatisation and Chairman of the Privatisation Commission Muhammad Ali said the government's objective was "not merely to sell PIA, and collect money, but to turn it into a best-in-class airline."

He said the airline required fresh investment to regain its lost position, adding that the transaction structure had been revised accordingly.

Muhammad Ali said a payment schedule had been finalised under the new privatisation plan.

"Two-thirds of the payment will be made upfront, while the remaining amount will be paid later," he said, adding that "the outstanding amount has also been secured through safeguards."

Addressing a ceremony, he said the privatisation of PIA would pave the way for privatisation of other state-owned entities. "In

fourteen posts, based strictly on the scope letter issued by the investigating officer.

Anis conceded that neither the complaint nor the scope letter mentioned the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM). Manzoor Pashatan or Ali Wazir, and confirmed that the post under scrutiny dated back to October 31, 2021, while the cited individuals were declared proscribed in 2024.

Despite this, he maintained that the accused were spreading a "state-hostile narrative" by referring to enforced disappearances — a position strongly contested by the defence.

Chatha questioned whether references to enforced disappearances by the Supreme Court, high courts, cabinet members, or even former intelligence chiefs would also be considered anti-state. The witness declined to comment, stating such matters were outside his mandate and could only be assessed if he was a case.

Temper flared when sharp remarks were exchanged between the prosecution and defence, resulting in an attempt at physical confrontation. Police intervened to restore order.

He informed the court that his report was prepared using surface analysis techniques on seven screenshots and

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## Punjab CM argues against LHC's suspension of land protection law, says move will 'benefit encroachment mafias'

**NEWS DESK:** Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif expressed strong concern on Tuesday on the suspension of the Punjab Protection of Ownership of Immovable Property Act, 2025 by the Lahore High Court (LHC), arguing that the move would "benefit encroachment and land-grabbing mafias".

Maryam's statement issued by the CM's Office comes a day after LHC Chief Justice Aulia Neelum expressed her disapproval of the law during the hearing on Monday, saying: "It appears that some people want to hold all powers".

While Maryam has defended the law, LHC CJ Neelum expressed her disapproval of the law during the hearing on Monday, saying: "It appears that some people want to hold all powers".

The judge had further observed that the new law had dismantled the civil setup, civil rights, and judicial supremacy.

"If it were up to the authorities, they would even suspend the Constitution," she had said.

Questioning the purpose of the law, CJ Neelum had asked how a revenue officer could hand over the possession of a property in a matter pending before a civil court.

Its suspension would "benefit en-

croachment and land-grabbing mafias", and the public would perceive it as state patronage of such elements, she said.

The CM highlighted that progress in cases pertaining to land and property would often be stalled by stay orders for decades, and justice was being denied to rightful owners.

"This law was neither made for my personal benefit nor does its suspension harm me personally," she said, adding that "real loss" from its suspension would be borne by the poor, widows, and other marginalised citizens.

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millions of citizens suffering from prolonged land and property disputes".

The legislation, for the first time, fixed a 90-day time frame for the resolution of land and property cases that have historically dragged on for years and even generations," she said, terming the law a "major step" toward protecting ordinary citizens from powerful land grabbers and mafias.

Maryam emphasised that the "democratically elected Punjab Assembly had passed the law to free the public from the grip of influ-

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The CM highlighted that progress in cases pertaining to land and property would often be stalled by stay orders for decades, and justice was being denied to rightful owners.

"This law was neither made for my personal benefit nor does its suspension harm me personally," she said, adding that "real loss" from its suspension would be borne by the poor, widows, and other marginalised citizens.

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who were finally beginning to receive relief.

Maryam stressed that "legislation is the constitutional right of the provincial assembly and cannot be obstructed".

Halting the new property law would "shatter the fragile hope of justice that had been rekindled among the poor and oppressed segments of society", the CM said.

While Maryam has defended the law, LHC CJ Neelum expressed her disapproval of the law during the hearing on Monday, saying: "It appears that some people want to hold all powers".

The judge had further observed that the new law had dismantled the civil setup, civil rights, and judicial supremacy.

"If it were up to the authorities, they would even suspend the Constitution," she had said.

Questioning the purpose of the law, CJ Neelum had asked how a revenue officer could hand over the possession of a property in a matter pending before a civil court.

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## Trump appoints Greenland envoy, sparking backlash over US ambitions

**NEWS DESK:** US President Donald Trump named Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry on Sunday as his special envoy to Greenland, drawing renewed criticism from Denmark and Greenland over Washington's interest in the mineral-rich Arctic island.

Trump has advocated for Greenland, a self-governing Danish territory, to become part of the United States, citing its strategic importance and mineral resources.

Landry, who took office as governor in January 2024, publicly supports the idea "You cannot annex another country."

Not even with an argument about international security," Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Greenland's Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen said in a joint statement.

"Greenland belongs to the Greenlanders and the US shall not take over Greenland."

In a post on Truth Social, Trump wrote:

"Jeff understands how essential Greenland is to our National Security and will strongly advance our Country's interests for the Safety, Security, and Survival of our Allies, and indeed, the World."

White House did not respond immediately to requests for comment.

Landry, in a post on X, thanked Trump: "It's an honor to serve ..."

In this volunteer position to make Greenland a part of the US this in no way affects my position as Governor of Louisiana."

The Trump administration put further pressure on Copenhagen on Monday, when it suspended leases for five large offshore wind projects being built off the East Coast of the US, including two being developed by Denmark's state-controlled Ørsted.

Greenland's strategic value

Greenland, a former Danish colony with a population of about 57,000, has the right to declare independence under a 2009 agreement but remains heavily reliant on fishing and Danish subsidies.

Its strategic position between Europe and North America makes it a key site for the US ballistic missile defence system, while its mineral wealth has heightened U.S. interest in reducing reliance on Chinese rare earth minerals.

Nielsen commented on Facebook: "We have woken up again to a new announcement from the US president. This may sound big, but it does not change anything for us. We decide our own future."

Diplomatic tensions escalate

Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen said on Monday he would summon US Ambassador Kenneth Hoyer, who had pledged "mutual respect" during a recent visit to Greenland.

"Out of nowhere, there is now a special US presidential representative to himself, is tasked with taking over Greenland. This is, of course, completely unacceptable," Rasmussen told TV2.

## Iran says missile programme defensive, non-negotiable

**NEWS DESK:** Iran insisted on Monday that its missile programme was defensive in nature and designed to dissuade attack, while adding the existence of its arsenal was not up for debate.

Israel had presented Iran's ballistic missiles, along with its nuclear programme, as the two main threats it sought to neutralise during the 12-day war the foes fought in June.

"Iran's missile programme was developed to defend Iran's territory, not for negotiation," foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said at a weekly press conference.

"Therefore, Iran's defense capabilities, designed to deter aggressors from any thought of attacking Iran, are not a matter that could be talked about."

Iran's ballistic capabilities put Israel within striking distance, and after Israel's unprecedented attacks that sparked the war in June, Tehran responded with

waves of missiles and drones launched at Israeli cities.

According to US broadcaster NBC, Israel is growing increasingly concerned that Iran is seeking to rebuild and expand its missile production following the war, and may seek to attack it again to curtail those efforts.

During a planned visit to the US later this month, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to present (President Donald) Trump with options for the US to join or assist in any new military operations", NBC reported, citing an unnamed source with direct knowledge of the plans and former US officials briefed on them.

Over the course of the recent war, Israel struck military sites, nuclear facilities and residential areas, killing more than 1,000 people.

Israel reported more than 50 Iranian missile strikes inside its territory that killed 28 people.

The US briefly joined its ally in striking Iran's nuclear facilities before declaring a ceasefire.



## Bangladesh summons Indian envoy over protests targeting its diplomatic facilities, vandalism at visa centre

**NEWS DESK:** Bangladesh on Tuesday summoned India's high commissioner in Dhaka to protest what it described as violent anti-Bangladesh slogans and issued threats against the Bangladesh high commissioner, Prothom Alo reported.

India's foreign ministry said on Sunday that the New Delhi demonstration consisted of "20-25 youths" who were dispersed by police after a few minutes, adding that India was "committed to ensure the safety of foreign missions."

Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal also said that India had vandalised at the Bangladesh Visa Centre in Siliguri on December 22 by "extremist elements."

The ministry condemned what it described as premeditated acts of violence and intimidation against diplomatic establishments.

It said such acts not only "endanger the safety of diplomatic personnel but also undermine the principles of mutual respect and values of peace and tolerance."

Calling for a proper investigation, the ministry said: "Bangladesh expects the Government of India to immediately take appropriate steps in accordance with its international and diplomatic obligations to safeguard the dignity and security of diplomatic personnel and establishments."

According to Bangladesh media, around 20 to 25 protesters had gathered in front of the Bangladesh High

Commission in New Delhi on Saturday evening. According to Indian officials, the protesters raised anti-Bangladesh slogans and issued threats against the Bangladesh high commissioner, Prothom Alo reported.

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Calling for a proper investigation, the ministry said: "Bangladesh expects the Government of India to immediately take appropriate steps in accordance with its international and diplomatic obligations to safeguard the dignity and security of diplomatic personnel and establishments."

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India's foreign ministry said on Sunday that the New Delhi demonstration consisted of "20-25 youths" who were dispersed by police after a few minutes, adding that India was "committed to ensure the safety of foreign missions."

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## Three killed in Israeli strike on vehicle in Lebanon

**NEWS DESK:** Lebanon said three people were killed on Monday in a strike near Sidon that Israel said targeted Hezbollah operatives, days ahead of a deadline for Lebanon's army to take control of the group near the border.

Israel has kept up regular strikes on Lebanon, usually saying it is targeting Hezbollah, despite a November 2024 ceasefire that sought to end more than a year of hostilities with the Iran-backed militant group, which it accuses of rearming.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said Monday's strike on a vehicle was carried out by an Israeli drone around 10 kilometres (six miles) from the southern coastal city of Sidon and "killed three people who were inside".

The health ministry reported the same toll.

An Israeli military statement said the army "struck several Hezbollah terrorists in the area of Sidon". Under heavy US pressure and amid fears of expanded Israeli strikes, Lebanon has committed to disarming Hezbollah, starting with the south.

The Lebanese army plans to carry out the task south of the Litani River — about 30 kilometres from the border with Israel — by year's end.

The latest strike came after Lebanese and Israeli civilian representatives on Friday took part in a meeting of the ceasefire monitoring committee for a second

time, after holding their first direct talks in decades earlier this month, also under the committee's auspices.

The committee comprises representatives from Lebanon, Israel, the United States, France, and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said Monday that the goal of the negotiations was to "stop the hostilities, achieve Israel's withdrawal, return prisoners held in Israel and return southern residents to their villages".

"Days away" Israel has also kept troops in five southern Lebanon areas that it deems strategic.

"Lebanon awaits positive steps from the Israeli side," Aoun told visiting Italian Defence Minister Guido Crosetto

on Monday, a presidency statement said.

In a separate statement, Crosetto said that "even after UNIFIL, Italy will continue to do its part."

Supporting with conviction the international presence and supporting the capacity development of the Lebanese armed forces".

When asked if this meant Italy wanted to maintain a military presence in the country, a ministry spokesman confirmed that was the case.

UNIFIL has acted as a buffer between Israel and Lebanon since 1978. But the UN Security Council voted in August to withdraw the peacekeepers in 2027.

Aoun said Lebanon "welcomes the participation of Italy and other European countries in any force that takes the

place" of UNIFIL.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Nawaf Salam said the first phase of the plan to restrict weapons to the state south of the Litani River was "days away from completion", according to a statement from his office.

"The state is ready to move to the second phase, north of the Litani River, based on the plan prepared by the Lebanese army," he added.

More than 340 people have been killed by Israeli fire in Lebanon since the ceasefire, according to a tally of Lebanese health ministry reports.

On Sunday, Israeli strikes in south Lebanon near the border killed one person and wounded another. Israel also said it targeted Hezbollah members.



## WFP presses alarm button on Afghanistan's hunger crisis

**NEWS DESK:** The UN World Food Programme predicts that the number of children suffering from food shortages in Afghanistan could reach around 4 million, with malnutrition among children at its highest level in decades. The report published its findings on December 16, 2025, mapping areas where food insecurity and acute malnutrition range from alert to critical.

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report for Afghanistan, three million more women, men, and children face acute hunger or worse compared to the 14.8 million last year. The IPC system assesses degrees of food insecurity, categorising it into five phases, ranging

from Phase 1 (Minimal) to Phase 5 (Famine). IPC3+ includes Phase 3 (Crisis) and higher, indicating that the number of individuals in this category are facing significant food insecurity, which is how the crisis in Afghanistan has been labelled.

Nearly 3.7 million cases of children aged 6-59 months are projected to suffer acute malnutrition between January 2025 and December 2026, with around 26% experiencing severe acute malnutrition. During that time, an estimated 1.2 million cases of pregnant or breastfeeding women are expected to suffer acute malnutrition.

By January 2026, acute malnutrition is expected to remain stable in some provinces and slightly

worsen in others, with Faryab and Pakitika moving from IPC Acute Malnutrition (AMN) Phase 3 (Serious) to Phase 4 (Critical). Eighteen provinces are expected to remain in IPC AMN Phase 3.

With malnutrition already at its highest level in decades and funding for critical service providers at an all-time low, access to treatment is becoming increasingly limited. If left untreated, malnutrition in children can be

fatal, and child deaths are likely to rise, particularly during the harsh, cold months when food is in short supply.

For the first time in decades, WFP cannot launch a significant winter response, while also scaling up emergency and nutrition support nationwide. It urgently requires US\$468 million to deliver life-saving food assistance to six million of Afghanistan's most vulnerable people, helping them survive.

Afghanistan is facing the full brunt of multiple crises converging. Drought has devastated crops across half the country, while job losses and a struggling economy have crippled incomes. Recent earthquakes have left families homeless,

exacerbating humanitarian needs.

Deportations from Pakistan and Iran have added to the strain, with 2.5 million Afghans sent back this year, many malnourished and destitute. Another 2.5 million are expected to return in 2026.

A United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report published in November 2025 said nearly one in ten overseas Afghans has been forced back home, with more than 4.5 million returnees since 2023, mainly from Iran and Pakistan, increasing the population by 10%. It added that earthquakes, floods, and drought have destroyed 8,000 homes and strained public services "beyond their limits".





# BUITEMS 21<sup>st</sup> CONVOCATION

Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering & Management Sciences, Quetta

## BUITEMS Strategic Plan (2024–29): Advancing Excellence through Vision, Innovation, and Impact

By Professor Khalid Hafeez and Dr. Zahid Rauf

The 21st Convocation of the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) marks a defining moment in the institution's journey—one that celebrates academic achievement while reaffirming its commitment to national development, innovation, and global relevance. It is a proud occasion to honour graduates and faculty whose perseverance, discipline, and intellectual rigour have prevailed in an increasingly complex and competitive world.

At this milestone, the BUITEMS Strategic Plan (2024–29) provides a clear and ambitious roadmap for institutional transformation. The plan envisions BUITEMS evolving into a research-driven, innovation-oriented, and socially responsive university. With a strong focus on quality education, impactful research, digital transformation, industry engagement, and good governance, the strategy reflects many of the achievements being celebrated today. It aims to elevate BUITEMS from its current standing among the top 16 per cent of national institutions to a place among the world's top 1,000 universities.

Over recent years, BUITEMS has strengthened its academic foundation through outcome-based education, curriculum modernisation, and national and international accreditation. Investments in faculty development, competitive research grants, and postgraduate education have significantly enhanced scholarly output and interdisciplinary collaboration. The university's expanding research footprint addresses critical national and regional challenges in technology, sustainability, public policy, health, and economic development.

Student employability remains central to the university's mission. Through expanded industry partnerships, entrepreneurship programmes, and career development services, BUITEMS ensures that graduates are not only academically sound but also

equipped with leadership capacity, ethical grounding, and market-relevant skills. The objective is to prepare students as responsible global citizens who can compete internationally while serving local and national needs.

A distinctive feature of the Strategic Plan (2024–29) is the integration of three cross-cutting themes into academic learning: entrepreneurship, climate change and risk management, and the celebration of Muslim intellectual heritage. Entrepreneurship is promoted to cultivate creativity, innovation, and self-reliance, encouraging students to transform ideas into sustainable ventures. The focus on climate change and risk management reflects BUITEMS' commitment to environmental resilience, preparing graduates to understand and address one of the most pressing global challenges. Equally important is reconnecting students with the rich scientific, engineering, and intellectual legacy of the Muslim Golden Age (750–1450 AD), fostering identity, ethics, and purpose rooted in knowledge and tradition. Together, these dimensions aim to produce graduates who are academically competent, socially conscious, and values-driven.

The strategic direction of BUITEMS for 2024–29 rests on five core pillars: academic excellence and capacity development; research and innovation; good governance and institutional efficiency; community and industry engagement; and global competitiveness. Continuous improvement in curricula and pedagogy, expansion of applied and interdisciplinary research, ERP-based governance reforms, and international collaborations are central to this vision.

BUITEMS' global engagement is further reflected in its distinction as the only university worldwide to serve, for the past three years, as the Global Chair for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 8.



Decent Work and Economic Growth, in alignment with global sustainability commitments, the university has adopted eco-friendly campus policies, including energy efficiency, waste reduction, water conservation, and the use of renewable energy. These initiatives not only reduce environmental impact and operational costs but also strengthen BUITEMS' standing as a climate-conscious institution.

Complementing these efforts is the BUITEMS Pledge for Environmental Protection, initiated by Vice Chancellor Professor Khalid Hafeez. This student, employee, and community-driven initiative promotes environmental responsibility through awareness campaigns encouraging reduced resource consumption, minimisation of food and plastic waste, tree plantation, and civic cleanliness. The initiative aims to secure 10,000 pledges in its first year, expand to 100,000 in the second, and evolve into a nationwide movement thereafter—demonstrating BUITEMS' commitment to climate action through collective ownership.

Ultimately, today's graduates are the true ambassadors of this vision. As they enter professional life, they carry the responsibility to apply their knowledge with integrity, creativity, and a spirit of service—to Balochistan and to Pakistan. BUITEMS takes pride in their achievements and remains confident that, as

lifelong members of the BUITEMS community, they will contribute meaningfully to society, industry, and academics.

On this auspicious occasion, we reaffirm our commitment to excellence, innovation, and impact, and extend our heartfelt congratulations to the graduating class of 2025.

## BUITEMS: Global Recognition and Leadership in Sustainable Development

By: Dr. Bilal Sarwar and Dr. Imrana Niaz Sultan

### A Landmark Year of International Rankings and SDG Leadership

The Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) has achieved a historic milestone by securing positions in three major international ranking frameworks, while simultaneously strengthening its global leadership role in sustainable development under the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) initiative.

### Historic Global Rankings Achievement

BUITEMS has earned international recognition across leading global ranking systems, marking a landmark achievement for higher education in Balochistan:

### Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2026

- Placed in the 1501+ global band
- Ranked among 2,191 universities worldwide
- Only university in Balochistan to secure this global position
- Recognized for performance in teaching, research, citation, international outlook, and industry income

### QS Asia University Rankings 2026

#### Ranked 741–750 in Asia

- #224 in Southern Asia
- 54th in Pakistan
- #1 in Balochistan
- This ranking reflects BUITEMS' strong standing in academic reputation, employer engagement, research impact, and internationalisation.

### THE Interdisciplinary Science Rankings (ISR) 2026

Placed in the 401–500 band globally. Recognized for excellence in interdisciplinary research and innovation.

These achievements collectively position BUITEMS as a rising global university with a growing international footprint.

### BUITEMS: A Pillar of Excellence in Sustainable Development

Alongside its academic achievements, BUITEMS continues to play a pivotal role in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As the Vice Chair for SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) under the UNAI framework,

BUITEMS has been instrumental in promoting quality education, research excellence, entrepreneurship, and social responsibility.

### BUITEMS as a UNAI SDG 8 Hub

- Member of the UNAI Network since 2018
- Served two successful terms as Global Hub for SDG 8 (2018–2021, 2021–2024)
- Appointed Vice Chair for Teaching and Education (2025–2027), alongside the University of Auckland as Hub Chair

### Key SDG Activities and Impact

- In 2025, BUITEMS conducted a wide range of SDG-aligned initiatives, including:
- Emergency and First Aid Training

- World Water Day workshops on water conservation
- Awareness seminars on breast cancer, cervical cancer, mental health, gender equality, tolerance, climate change, and disaster risk management

### MCN Fellowship Achievement

12 BUITEMS students awarded the prestigious MCN Fellowship Class of 2025

BUITEMS is among the top 4% of global institutions receiving this honor

- Fellows are expected to drive entrepreneurship, innovation, and social impact across Balochistan and beyond

## Our Proud Sponsors



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Alumni.builtms.edu.pk | Builtms.Alumni@builtms.edu.pk



## Messages

**Jaffer Khan Mandokhail**  
Governor of Balochistan & Chancellor BUITEMS

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduating students, their families, the esteemed faculty, and the administration of the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering & Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) on the momentous occasion of its 21st Convocation. This event marks an important milestone, celebrating years of dedication, perseverance, and academic commitment. BUIITEMS has increasingly grown into a distinguished center of higher learning, not only for Balochistan but for the entire country. Its continued progress in global academic rankings reflects the university's unwavering pursuit of excellence, innovation, and impactful research. The institution's upward trajectory in various international rankings is a testament to the hard work of its leadership, faculty, and students, and a source of pride for the province. I am also pleased to acknowledge BUIITEMS' remarkable contribution as the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) SDG Hub 8 Vice-Chair for Teaching and Education. This recognition highlights the university's strong commitment to promoting quality education and advancing opportunities for decent work and sustainable economic growth. Its role in this global initiative showcases the institution's dedication to shaping socially responsible and future-ready graduates. To the graduating class, I offer my warmest congratulations. You are stepping into a world full of opportunities and challenges, and I trust that the knowledge and values you have gained at BUIITEMS will guide you to success and service to society. The province looks to you with hope and confidence. I commend the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez, faculty, and administrative staff for their continued commitment to academic distinction and institutional advancement. May BUIITEMS continue to grow as a center of knowledge, innovation, and progress for generations to come.



**Mir Sarfaraz Bugti**  
Chief Minister of Balochistan

It is a matter of great pride and satisfaction to congratulate the graduates, their families, and the entire academic community of the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering & Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) on the occasion of its 21st Convocation. BUIITEMS has emerged as one of the most dynamic and forward-looking institutions in our province. Its steady progress in teaching quality, research productivity, and academic governance is a testament to the dedication of its leadership and faculty. The university's growing visibility in global rankings and its role as the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) SDG Hub 8 Vice-Chair for Teaching and Education reflect its commitment to contributing meaningfully to national development and global educational priorities. For the graduating class, today is a celebration of your hard work, perseverance, and commitment to excellence. You are stepping into a world full of opportunities, but also challenges — challenges that demand innovation, responsibility, and a strong sense of purpose. I encourage each of you to carry forward the values instilled at BUIITEMS and to serve as ambassadors of progress for Balochistan and Pakistan. The Government of Balochistan is committed to supporting institutions like BUIITEMS that empower our youth and strengthen our human capital. I commend the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez, the faculty, and the entire BUIITEMS team for their efforts in shaping a generation of skilled, confident, and socially responsible graduates. May this convocation mark the beginning of a successful and fulfilling journey for all graduates. I extend my best wishes for your future endeavors and pray for your continued success.



**Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani**  
Minister of Education, Balochistan

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my heartfelt felicitations to the graduates, their parents, and the esteemed faculty of the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering & Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) on the occasion of its 21st Convocation. BUIITEMS stands today as one of the leading centers of higher learning in Balochistan—an institution that continues to set new benchmarks in academic excellence, research, and innovation. The University's distinguished performance in international rankings, along with its role as the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) SDG Hub 8 Vice-Chair for Teaching and Education, is a reflection of its unwavering commitment to global standards and meaningful societal impact. This convocation marks a significant milestone for the graduating class. Your dedication, perseverance, and hard work have brought you to this proud moment. As you move into the next phase of your lives, I encourage you to embrace responsibility, uphold ethical values, and contribute positively to the development of our province and our country. You are the torchbearers of Balochistan's progress and ambassadors of the education system that nurtured you. I also extend my appreciation to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez, the faculty members, and the entire BUIITEMS administration for their tireless efforts in providing high-quality education and creating a supportive academic environment for our youth. May this convocation be a stepping stone toward even greater achievements for all graduates. I pray for your continued success and growth in every endeavor.



**Mr. Nadeem Mahbub** (Acting Chairman)  
Higher Education Commission (HEC)

I extend my warmest congratulations to the graduating students, their families, and the distinguished faculty of the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering & Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) on the occasion of its 21st Convocation. BUIITEMS has emerged as a dynamic and forward-looking institution within Pakistan's higher education landscape. Its consistent rise in global rankings — particularly its placement in the 1501+ band in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026 — is an achievement that reflects the University's dedication to quality, innovation, and academic integrity. As the only university in Balochistan with such international recognition, BUIITEMS continues to inspire educational excellence across the province. I am particularly pleased to note BUIITEMS' growing contributions to research, technology advancement, and socio-economic development. Its selection as the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) SDG Hub 8 Vice-Chair for Teaching and Education demonstrates the University's meaningful engagement with global sustainable development goals and its commitment to preparing graduates who can make a positive impact on society. To the graduating class, I offer my heartfelt congratulations. You are stepping into a world that demands creativity, resilience, and a spirit of service. I encourage you to embrace lifelong learning, uphold the values of integrity and professionalism, and contribute to the progress of Pakistan with dedication and pride. I commend the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez, the faculty, and the entire BUIITEMS community for their continued pursuit of academic excellence and for providing a nurturing environment that empowers students to excel. May this convocation mark the beginning of a successful and fulfilling journey for every graduate.



**Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez Tamgha-e-Imtiaz (T.I.)**  
Vice Chancellor, BUIITEMS

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all graduating students, their families, and the entire BUIITEMS community on the occasion of the 21st Convocation. Today marks a significant milestone in the academic journeys of our graduates and reflects years of dedication, hard work, and perseverance. BUIITEMS remains committed to providing high-quality education, fostering innovation, and advancing research that addresses local and global challenges. I am pleased to share that BUIITEMS has once again earned recognition on international platforms: it is placed in the 1501+ band of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026 and the 741-750 band of the QS Asia University Rankings 2026, and ranks 224th in the Southern Asia region. These accomplishments affirm the University's commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and global engagement. We are equally proud of BUIITEMS' distinguished role as the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) SDG Hub 8 Vice-Chair for Teaching and Education, underscoring our commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in quality education, decent work, and economic growth. To equip our students with the in-demand skills of the future, we are reforming our curriculum and have introduced new degree programs, including BS Data Science, BS in Business Intelligence, and BS in Robotics and AI. Our graduates continue to excel. They have earned scholarships at leading universities worldwide, including Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Georgetown, Edinburgh, and many more. More than 100 of our engineers are contributing to major projects across the Gulf, our graduates are working across Europe, and the most prolific researcher at MIT hails from BUIITEMS. To our graduates — today celebrates your achievements and the beginning of your professional journey. Carry forward the values, knowledge, and skills you have gained at BUIITEMS, embrace challenges with confidence, and contribute positively to environment, society, your profession, and the nation. I extend my sincere gratitude to our dedicated faculty and staff, whose tireless efforts sustain BUIITEMS' high standards of teaching and research. To the families of our graduates, your unwavering support has been vital to these accomplishments. May this convocation inspire you to pursue excellence in all your endeavors, and may BUIITEMS continue to thrive as a beacon of knowledge, innovation, and progress for Balochistan and Pakistan.



## Congratulations Graduates

### Gold Medalists


**Winner of Badges of Honor**

**Admissions are Still Open In Key Programs**

**SCAN ME!**