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Field Marshal Asim Munir Graces 46th PARA Central Meet Closing Ceremony in Jhelum

WEB DESK:

Closing Ceremony of 46th Pakistan Army Rifle Association (PARA) Central Meet was held at Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU), Jhelum, the military's media wing said.

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF) graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The mega shooting event was conducted from 7 October to 11 November 2026, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said

Admiral Naveed Ashraf, NI, NI (M), T Bt, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) attended the ceremony as Guest of Honour and also awarded trophies and medals to the award winners and runners up along with COAS & CDF in various categories.

Over 1500 Firers from Army, Navy, Air Force, Civil Armed Forces including Rangers (Sindh & Punjab), Gilgit Baltistan (GB) Scouts and teams ex Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Federal Rifle Association and civilians participated in the competition.

In the 4th Inter Services Combat Shooting Championship, Pakistan Army won the championship trophy. Pakistan Army's Army Marksmanship Unit won the Prime Minister 'Skills at Arms' Big Bore National Challenge Match.The highest military shooting honuor, ''The Master at Arms' Trophy (Doli Cup) was awarded to Havildar Fazal Rehman of Punjab Regiment. Punjab Regiment who also secured victories in the Unit Firing.



Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF) graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

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PTI founder Imran Khan brought to Pims, undergoes eye procedure

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At least 12 cops injured as police party comes under attack in KP's Kohat

Gas Explosion in Quetta Leaves Mother, Daughter Among Four Injured

NEWS DESK:

A gas leak explosion on Mari Street near Arbab Karam Khan Road in Quetta left four people,
including a mother and her six-year-old daughter, severely burned on Wednesday.

The woman suffered burns to 90 percent of her body, while her daughter sustained burns to 60 percent, according to Civil Hospital officials. Both remain in critical condition.

Police and rescue teams reached the scene shortly after the explosion and shifted all four injured persons to the Civil Hospital's Burn Unit for treatment.

Hospital authorities said the other two injured persons were discharged after receiving initial medical care.

Police attributed the explosion to a gas leak and said further investigation into the incident was underway.



PM Shehbaz highlights Pakistan's solar 'revolution by ordinary citizens' at COP31

NEWS DESK:

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday highlighted Pakistan's solar power boom at the COP31 in Turkiye, where world leaders gathered to discuss joint solutions to combat climate change.

This year's summit focuses on transitioning toward a low-carbon future. Delegates from nearly 200 countries are meeting in the Mediterranean resort city of Antalya as global greenhouse gas emissions show little sign of falling and wars, inflation and other crises compete for political attention.

Addressing a high-level dialogue on clean energy transition, titled '35 by 35: Powering the Future', PM Shehbaz said: "In my country, an extraordinary transition has already taken place.

"In just two years, Pakistan has added nearly 22 gigawatts of rooftop solar capacity — a quiet revolution by ordinary citizens seeking affordable power and a cleaner, more predictable future."

He affirmed that Pakistan fully supports the '35-by-35 Global Electrification Pledge', wherein countries agree to aim to increase electricity's share of total final energy consumption to around 35 per cent by 2035 in line with global climate objectives.

The premier recalled the recent inauguration of a "key section" of Pakistan's seventh nuclear power plant, Chashma-5, referring to its dome placement. He explained that the project will add 1,200 megawatts of clean energy to Pakistan's energy mix.

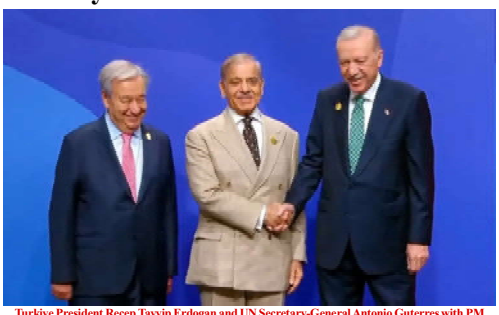
He thanked Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose country has the COP31 presidency, for convening the "important dialogue".

Earlier in the day, PM Shehbaz was received by Erdogan and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres upon his arrival at the venue, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

The premier and other world leaders then gathered for a group photograph at the summit.

In his speech at the Leaders' Summit, PM Shehbaz will highlight Pakistan's climate priorities and emphasise the urgent need for enhanced global climate action and strengthened international cooperation to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change, according to PMO.

The Foreign Office (FO) said the prime minister will also highlight "Pakistan's steps towards rapid solarisation.



Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres with PM Shehbaz at COP31 in Antalya, Turkiye on Nov 11. — Screengrab via Pakistan TV

BHC Orders Salaries for Balochistan Local Body Representatives Within Six Months

QASEEM SHAH:

QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) has directed the provincial government to resolve all legal and financial hurdles to finalize salary and allowance rules for elected local government representatives, chairmen, and vice-chairmen within six months.

?A two-judge bench comprising Justice Iqbal Ahmed Kasi and Justice Mian Muhammad Rauf Atta issued the directive while disposing of a constitutional petition filed by the Chairman of the Municipal Committee Mastung. The decision, authored by Justice Mian Muhammad Rauf Atta, emphasized that local governance serves as a fundamental pillar of democracy under Article 140-A of the Constitution, requiring adequate institutional and financial support from the state.

The petitioner had sought compensation and civil service status under Section 35 of the Balochistan Local Government Act 2010, citing unfulfilled promises made by the Chief Minister during a local government conference in February 2025.

In response, the provincial government and financial authorities noted that compensating local leaders involves an estimated annual expense of PKR 1.8 billion. They argued that payments cannot be released retroactively or without formalized rules,

budget allocations, and cabinet approval. Furthermore, the court clarified that elected representatives hold public office and cannot be equated with civil servants or assigned official service grades.

Refusing automatic or retroactive back-pay, the high court held that compensation rights depend entirely on formal notification of the rules. However, acknowledging the vital public services local leaders provide—from sanitation to solid waste management—the bench directed the Local Government Department to coordinate with the Law and Finance departments to clear all objections.

?The court ordered the government to draft the proposed Balochistan Local Councils (Compensation) Rules and present a financially viable proposal to the cabinet for final approval strictly within six months.



QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

The Pressing Problems of Urdu and the New Generation

BY ZEESHAN KHAN

Urdu is more than a language. It is a symbol of Pakistan's cultural identity, literary heritage and national unity. Yet, in a society where English increasingly dominates education, official affairs and professional life, an important question arises: are we preparing our younger generation for global competition at the cost of their connection with their own national language?

The growing preference for English in Pakistan has created a linguistic divide that extends beyond communication. For many people, English proficiency has become a symbol of social status, educational achievement and professional success. Meanwhile, Urdu, despite its national status, often receives less attention in classrooms, workplaces and government institutions.

This situation demands serious reflection. A nation can embrace modern education and international opportunities without neglecting the language that represents its identity.

Urdu and Pakistan's National Identity

The progress of a nation depends not only on economic development and scientific advancement but also on its cultural foundations. Language plays a central role in shaping collective identity, preserving traditions and connecting generations.

Urdu has historically served as a common medium of communication among diverse communities in Pakistan. Its literature, poetry, journalism and intellectual traditions have contributed significantly to the country's cultural landscape.

However, the position of Urdu in practical affairs does not always reflect its constitutional status. Article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan declares Urdu the national language and provides for arrangements for its use for official purposes. Nevertheless, English continues to dominate many administrative, educational and professional settings.

This gap between constitutional recognition and everyday practice raises an important question: why has Urdu struggled to secure a stronger position in the institutions of its own country?

The answer involves historical practices, educational policies, administrative traditions and the widespread perception that English offers better opportunities for social mobility.

English: A Gateway to Opportunity or a Barrier to Equality?

There is no denying the importance of English in the modern world. It facilitates access to international research, scientific literature, technological developments and global employment opportunities. Pakistani students need English-language skills to compete effectively in many academic and professional fields.

The problem begins when English proficiency becomes a substitute for measuring knowledge, intelligence and competence.

In Pakistan, students who speak English fluently may receive greater social recognition, while those who communicate primarily in Urdu or regional languages can face unfair judgments



about their educational abilities. This perception can disadvantage talented students who lack access to expensive English-medium schools or additional language-learning resources.

Consequently, language can become a marker of privilege rather than simply a tool for communication.

A student's ability to understand science, solve mathematical problems, analyse social issues or demonstrate professional competence should not be judged solely by fluency in English. Educational institutions must recognise the difference between subject knowledge and language proficiency.

Pakistan needs an education system in which English opens doors to international opportunities without becoming a barrier that excludes capable students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Growing Distance Between Young People and Urdu

One of the major concerns is the declining engagement of some younger people with Urdu reading, writing and literature. In certain educational environments, students may become comfortable communicating in English while struggling to express complex ideas in Urdu.

This does not mean that the younger generation is responsible for the problem. Their linguistic habits are shaped by the education system, family environments, digital platforms and social expectations.

When schools give greater prestige to English, parents naturally encourage their children to master it. When employers prioritise English communication, students respond accordingly. When academic resources and professional opportunities are concentrated in English, the preference becomes even stronger.

The result is a cycle in which Urdu is treated as less useful despite its importance in public communication and cultural life.

The solution is not to discourage English-speaking students or restrict their educational choices. Instead, schools and families should create opportunities for young people to read Urdu books, explore literary traditions, write creatively and use the language confidently in academic and professional discussions.

Urdu must become a language of knowledge, innovation and contemporary expression—not merely a subject students study to pass an examination.

Urdu Education Deserves Serious Attention

Language education should develop practical skills rather than focus exclusively on memorisation. Students need opportunities to improve their reading comprehension, vocabulary, writing, critical thinking and ability to communicate ideas clearly.

The same principle applies to Urdu and English.

Educational institutions should invest in modern Urdu textbooks, high-quality digital learning materials, literary activities and translation projects. Scientific and academic concepts should also be made accessible through reliable Urdu resources, helping students understand complex subjects while strengthening their command of the language.

At the same time, English should remain an essential component of education. Students need both languages to participate effectively in national life and the international academic community.

A balanced approach would enable young people to understand global developments in English while communicating their ideas, experiences and knowledge confidently in Urdu.

Urdu in Government and Public Institutions

The use of Urdu in official affairs is another important dimension of the debate. Article 251 of Pakistan's Constitution provides the constitutional basis for promoting Urdu as the national language and arranging its use for official purposes.

However, translating this principle into effective administrative practice requires planning, institutional commitment and consistent implementation.

Government departments could expand access to Urdu-language forms, public information, educational materials and citizen services. Legal and administrative documents should be made understandable to ordinary citizens, with accurate translations and appropriate safeguards where authoritative legal texts are required.

Such measures would improve accessibility and help citizens engage more effectively with public institutions.

Promoting Urdu in official affairs should not mean abandoning English where it is practically necessary. Rather, it should ensure that citizens are not disadvantaged simply because they cannot understand complex English-language documents or administrative procedures. A national language gains strength when people can use it meaningfully in everyday life.

Literature, Writers and the Responsibility of Society

Writers, poets, journalists, teachers and intellectuals have an important role in keeping Urdu relevant to contemporary society. Literature preserves collective memory, challenges established ideas and provides a space for discussing social and political realities.

International literary gatherings and conferences have historically offered opportunities for scholars and writers to examine the challenges facing Urdu, including the influence of other languages and the changing relationship between literature and society.

Guilty of journalism

Arifa Noor:

AS a journalist making a living solely in the industry, the challenging times confronting the profession are rarely far from one's mind. Navel-gazing has become more than a side distraction in some ways. No wonder then that a new book on the industry by a stalwart, Mazhar Abbas, was on the must-read list.

He has been active in both journalism and the trade union politics of media organisations; Abbas is someone who many in my generation look up to for being among the few who have been able to do both journalism and its politics proficiently and with integrity. None of this is insignificant. Since the proliferation of electronic media, union politics has rarely attracted journalists of stature.

It is worth asking at this stage whether he is one of the last Mohicans. His latest book, Media Under the Shadow of Death, covers a wide range of issues — from the origins of the unions formed in the early years of a fledgling country to issues the industry grapples with today: censorship, violence against journalists, and the challenges of technology.

For someone like myself who isn't very well-versed in the history of union politics, the historical account in the early chapters of the book is a fascinating description of how the Sindh Union of Journalists and the Pakistan



Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) came into being, and how journalists pushed back against the earlier undemocratic efforts of the state of Pakistan. Beyond the events themselves, discussions with people such as Roedad Khan also offer insight into the ruling elite's thinking at the time and their attitudes towards democracy and press freedom.

At the same time, this earlier period also reveals how far back some unfortunate trends go. Even then, journalists' biases against one another, or in favour of one political stakeholder over another, allowed the state or government to take advantage. The principles of democracy or freedom of expression never proved bigger than personal likes or dislikes.

He, too, quotes the famous story of journalists who went to Gen Ziaul Haq and asked him to delay the elections for fear of a PPP victory. In recent times, one has seen media groups attack each other at the behest of the powers that be. The second pattern, which seems to date back further than we realise, is the inability of media owners to match journalists in opposing the state's suppressive methods; the latter's decision to sign a code of conduct during the emergency imposed by Gen Pervez Musharraf is a case in point. But there are no sweeping judgements, as the financial pressures on the media owners and their limitations are also understood by the author.

'Media Under the Shadow of Death' documents the key challenges in Pakistani journalism.

The strongest part is perhaps the account of the media under Musharraf. This is partly because it's a recent period when Pakistan's media flourished and expanded but also faced challenges, including increased violence against journalists as well as events such as the emergency.

The latter happened when the author himself was an elected official of the PFUJ and was organising protests against the dictator's actions. For those of us who were present at the time — in the trenches or on the sidelines — those were heady times. It seemed then that the political parties, lawyers' organisations, journalists, and others could push back against a military dictator struggling to sustain his rule. No one thought this was simply a transitory moment; it seemed like a permanent change — though we have grown wiser since. But back then, it was a moment of great hope, and the PFUJ's role was significant. Even now, reading about it brings a sense of satisfaction.

As the author himself notes, it was perhaps the last time the federation acted with unity. However, he doesn't go into the details of what happened later, or how the organisation not only split but has also become a shadow of its former self since then. With his intimate knowledge of union issues, Abbas could have provided an insight into the present mess in journalistic organisations and perhaps kick-started a debate on possible solutions. This omission is disappointing in some ways. The second strongest part of the book is the section where he discusses the killings of journalists, though given the number of case studies, not each case is tackled with an even hand. Some are detailed and some sketchy. However, the more high-profile the case, the more interesting the details — though they still leave one wanting more. This is especially true of cases such as Wali Babar's, where Abbas provides the details of the deaths that followed the investigations of the journalist's murder — police officers investigating the case, the prosecutor, and even witnesses were killed as the matter progressed. Similarly, the book details high-profile cases (Hayatullah Khan, Musa Khankhel, Arshad Sharif) as well as low-profile ones that may not have garnered much attention.

Overall, the book is a resource compendium rather than a chronological or analytical account. There are historical accounts — a chapter on press laws and then one on the case studies of journalists' killings. This also means the book's tone is a wee uneven.

Perhaps, as the author says at the outset, the book kept getting delayed because of the fast-changing events in the industry and the polity. This might also explain why the writing and editing needed a bit more work. One can only hope some of these issues are addressed in a second edition if there is to be one — for the information in the book is valuable and deserves to be read by those who still haven't fallen out of love with this profession despite the filth we wallow in these days.

Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail Calls for Modern Skills and Innovation at University of Balochistan Convocation



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has emphasized the importance of modern education, technological skills, innovation, and creative thinking to prepare the province's youth for emerging economic opportunities.

Addressing the convocation ceremony of the University of Balochistan in Quetta, the governor described the university as one of the province's prominent educational institutions, saying its graduates had played an important role in national development and progress.

He said the university's alumni included active leaders, intellectuals, researchers, and professionals serving in various fields.

Highlighting the challenges and opportunities of the modern era, Governor Mandokhail said the world was currently experiencing the Fourth Industrial Revolution, in which artificial intelligence (AI), data science, solar energy, and innovation were transforming traditional concepts of development.

He stressed that obtaining conventional academic degrees alone was no longer sufficient in the rapidly changing world. Students must also focus on developing professional skills, adaptability, creative thinking, and the ability to respond to emerging challenges.

The governor said Allah had blessed Balochistan with natural beauty, enormous human potential, and exceptional geographical importance.

He noted that Balochistan occupied a strategic position as an important gateway connecting Central Asia and the Middle East.

Referring to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said Gwadar was at its centre and described the initiative as more than just a development project, calling it a new gateway to economic growth and opportunities.

Governor Mandokhail emphasized that the future of Balochistan would depend on its ability to develop a skilled, educated workforce equipped with modern technological knowledge.

He expressed confidence that if the province succeeded in preparing its young generation with the necessary skills, education, and technological expertise, it would be well-positioned to benefit from emerging economic opportunities.

He further stated that the people of Balochistan should be among the first and biggest beneficiaries of CPEC and the emerging regional economy.

The governor's address highlighted the importance of strengthening educational institutions, promoting innovation, and equipping young people with modern skills to ensure Balochistan's meaningful participation in future economic development.

Balochistan IGP Muhammad Tahir Visits Kech, Reviews Security Situation and Police Performance



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Balochistan, Muhammad Tahir, paid an important visit to Kech district (Turbat), where he reviewed the overall law and order situation, security arrangements, and ongoing strategies to prevent crime.

He was accompanied by DIG Police Makran Range Shad Ibn Masih, DIG Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Iftizaz Ahmed Goraya, DPO Kech Zohaib Mohsin, and other senior police officers.

During the visit, DIG Makran Range Shad Ibn Masih and DPO Kech Zohaib Mohsin briefed the IGP on the prevailing security situation in the Makran region and Kech district, measures taken to ensure public safety, and the overall performance of the police force.

Upon his arrival, a well-disciplined police contingent presented a guard of honour to the IGP.

The briefing covered various security challenges, crime prevention measures, anti-narcotics operations, patrolling arrangements, public safety initiatives, and strategies for promoting modern policing across the district.

During the visit, IGP Balochistan Muhammad Tahir also held a special meeting with the families of police martyrs and paid tribute to the supreme sacrifices made by police personnel in maintaining peace and protecting the lives and property of citizens.

He said that the police martyrs had rendered extraordinary sacrifices for peace and public safety, adding that their contributions would never be forgotten. He reaffirmed that the police department would continue taking all possible measures to ensure the welfare of martyrs' families, provide them with necessary facilities, and address their concerns.

Reviewing the law and order situation in Kech, the IGP said that protecting the lives and property of citizens, upholding the rule of law, and providing a peaceful environment were the foremost priorities of Balochistan Police.

He added that all available resources were being utilized to eliminate crime and maintain peace and stability, while the police force was performing its responsibilities in line with modern policing requirements.

The IGP directed police officers and personnel to make operations against criminal elements more effective and strengthen community engagement to promote public-friendly policing and further build citizens' confidence in the police.

As part of his Turbat visit, IGP Muhammad Tahir also inspected City Police Station Kech, where he reviewed different sections of the police station, official records, administrative affairs, and facilities being provided to the public.

He expressed satisfaction with the overall performance of the police station and directed the concerned officials to further improve the standard of public services.

On the occasion, the IGP distributed certificates of appreciation among police personnel who had demonstrated exceptional performance and dedication while performing their duties.

Appreciating their professionalism, commitment, and efforts to protect the public, he said that officers and personnel who demonstrated hard work, honesty, and outstanding performance were valuable assets of the police department.

IGP Balochistan Muhammad Tahir reiterated that Balochistan Police would continue fulfilling its responsibilities with dedication and professionalism to maintain law and order, prevent crime, and ensure the protection of citizens throughout the province.

Saudi Arabia Expresses Strong Interest in Investing in Balochistan, Creating Job Opportunities for Skilled Workers



NEWS DESK: Saudi Arabia has expressed strong interest in investing in Balochistan and providing employment opportunities for the province's skilled workforce.

Chairman of the Saudi-Pakistan Joint Business Council, Prince Mansour bin Mohammed Al Saud, led a 10-member high-level Saudi business delegation in a meeting with a senior delegation from the Government of Balochistan in Karachi. The Balochistan delegation was headed by Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade (BBoIT) Vice Chairman Bilal Khan Kakar.

Managing Director of Balochistan Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (B-TEVTA), Abdul Kabir Zarkoon, and Managing Director of Lasbela Industrial Estates Development Authority (LIEDA), Liaquat Kashani, also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Saudi delegation received a detailed briefing on investment opportunities and various development projects in Balochistan.

The proposed investment projects included a urea fertilizer manufacturing complex utilizing low-BTU gas, a ferrochrome plant, industrial development opportunities through LIEDA, the blue economy, olive cultivation, livestock farming, minerals, and energy-sector projects.

Prince Mansour bin Mohammed Al Saud expressed Saudi Arabia's willingness to actively participate in investment initiatives in Balochistan and invest in project-ready opportunities. He also assured the provincial government of efforts to create employment opportunities for skilled workers from Balochistan in Saudi Arabia and accelerate progress in this regard.

He described the initiative as a special gift for the Government of Balochistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Bilal Khan Kakar said that investment in minerals, energy, agriculture, livestock, the coastal economy, and industrial sectors could significantly boost economic activity and generate extensive employment opportunities at the local level.

He said Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti's vision was to transform the province into a major hub for domestic and international investment and trade.

Kakar added that the provincial government was committed to facilitating investors and establishing a business-friendly environment to attract foreign investment.

He invited the Saudi business delegation to take full advantage of the investment opportunities available in Balochistan. He further assured the delegation that the Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade would facilitate investors by identifying viable projects, coordinating with relevant government departments, and supporting them throughout the investment process.

The meeting marks a potential step towards strengthening Saudi-Pakistan economic relations, attracting foreign investment to Balochistan, and creating new employment opportunities for the province's skilled workforce.

Anti-Drug Crackdown in Toba Kakari: Authorities Destroy Cannabis Crop in Joint Operation



BARSHORE: Authorities in Barshore have launched a joint crackdown against drug cultivation in remote border areas, destroying a cannabis crop in Toba Kakari as part of efforts to protect local residents and the younger generation from drug abuse.

The operation was conducted yesterday under the special directives of Deputy Commissioner Barshore, Flight Lieutenant (Retd.) Khalid Shams, and led by Assistant Commissioner Toba Kakari, Moeed Jamot.

District Police, the Excise Department, and the Anti-Narcotics Force actively participated in the operation.

During the crackdown, a standing cannabis crop was set on fire and destroyed on the spot in Toba Kakari.

The primary objective of the operation was to protect the people of the district, particularly the youth, from the devastating consequences of drug abuse and eliminate illegal drug cultivation. On the occasion, Assistant Commissioner Moeed Jamot and District Police Officer (DPO) Abdul Sattar Dashti expressed their joint commitment to eliminating the menace of drugs from society and ensuring public safety. They said that combating drug-related activities and protecting citizens remained the top priorities of the administration and law enforcement agencies.

The officials appealed to local residents, religious scholars, and community elders to extend their full cooperation and public support to the anti-drug campaign.

Deputy Commissioner Reviews EPI Programme in Usta Muhammad, Directs 80% Vaccination Coverage



USTA MUHAMMAD: Deputy Commissioner Usta Muhammad, Muhammad Ramzan Palal, chaired an important meeting to review the performance of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), with a focus on improving vaccination coverage and ensuring access to immunization for every child across the district.

The meeting was attended by District Health Officer Dr. Ameer Ali Jamali, Deputy District Health Officer Dr. Karrar, Dr. Khurram from N-STOP, and all vaccinators working across the district.

During the meeting, participants reviewed the overall performance of the immunization programme, progress towards assigned targets, and ongoing vaccination activities aimed at protecting children against various preventable diseases.

Special attention was given to identifying zero-dose children and ensuring their vaccination, reviewing progress under the November 2026 Sub-National Immunization Days (SNID) campaign, and tracing children who remained unavailable during the campaign so they could be vaccinated.

The meeting placed particular emphasis on achieving at least 80 percent coverage for MR-I (Measles-Rubella) and Penta-3 vaccines.

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ramzan Palal directed the health authorities to pay special attention to areas and union councils where vaccination coverage remained below the prescribed targets. He instructed the concerned officials to identify all zero-dose and dropout children and take effective measures to bring them into the routine immunization programme.

The meeting also decided to establish special teams at union council and tehsil levels to address cases involving parents who refuse vaccination.

These teams will engage with parents, raise awareness about the importance of timely childhood immunization, and educate them about protection against life-threatening diseases.

The initiative aims to address parental concerns, build trust, and encourage families to ensure timely vaccination of their children.

Furthermore, advisory notices were issued to union councils where MR-I and Penta-3 vaccination coverage remained below 80 percent, directing them to improve their performance.

Vaccinators were instructed to regularly monitor vaccination progress in their respective areas, maintain updated records of missed children, and strengthen field activities to ensure that no child is left behind.

Speaking during the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ramzan Palal emphasized that providing timely immunization to children was an important national responsibility, leaving no room for negligence or carelessness. He directed health department officials and vaccinators to achieve the assigned targets through effective coordination, strict monitoring, and a coordinated strategy.

DC Chaman Chairs DCC Meeting, Reviews Security Situation and Development Projects

CHAMAN: Deputy Commissioner Chaman, Habib Ahmed Bangulzai, chaired an important meeting of the District Coordination Committee (DCC) to review the overall situation in the district, law and order, security arrangements, departmental performance, administrative affairs, and ongoing development projects.

The meeting was attended by senior officials and representatives of Chaman Scouts, Frontier Corps (FC), District Police, intelligence agencies, the Education Department, district administration, and other relevant government departments.

During the meeting, heads of various departments briefed the participants on their respective departmental performances,

assigned targets, measures taken to achieve those targets, and progress made so far.

Detailed discussions were also held on development projects and schemes initiated in Chaman under the Balochistan Special Development Initiative (BSDI) programme.

The participants reviewed the progress of ongoing, under-construction, and completed development schemes, emphasizing timely completion, construction quality, and ensuring that projects effectively address the needs of local communities.

The meeting also examined the overall security situation in Chaman, measures to maintain law and order, protection of citizens' lives and property, and steps to address public concerns and challenges.

Participants agreed that effective coordination and a joint strategy among all relevant departments were essential for maintaining peace and stability, improving administrative performance, and promoting public welfare in the district.

Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Habib Ahmed Bangulzai directed all departmental heads and officers to perform their responsibilities professionally, accelerate practical measures to achieve assigned targets, and further strengthen coordination and cooperation among their respective institutions.

He emphasized that negligence or inefficiency would not be tolerated in resolving public issues,

maintaining law and order, ensuring effective security arrangements, and completing development projects within the stipulated time.

The deputy commissioner reiterated that the district administration would continue working closely with all relevant departments through a coordinated strategy to improve governance, ensure sustainable peace, and promote public welfare in Chaman.

BRA Plans to Bring Content Creators into Tax Net, Announces 15% Sales Tax on Taxable Services

QUETTA: The Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA) has reviewed key measures to bring content creators into the provincial tax net and enforce Sales Tax on Services on their taxable activities.

The meeting was chaired by Member Operations Balochistan Revenue Authority, Muhammad Younis Sarparah.

Assistant Commissioner BRA Waqar Mushtaq and Assistant Director Public Relations Samiullah Umrani also attended.

During the meeting, participants received a comprehensive briefing on the application of provincial sales tax to content creators, registration procedures, legal requirements, and tax collection mechanisms.

The meeting was informed that content creators earning more than Rs. 100,000 per month by providing services through digital platforms and social media would be required to register with the Balochistan Revenue Authority.

It was further stated that a 15 percent provincial sales tax would be applicable to relevant taxable services.

Special attention was given to the need for effective measures and awareness campaigns to bring the rapidly growing digital economy within the provincial taxation framework.

Participants emphasized the importance of educating content creators about applicable tax laws, their legal responsibilities, and the registration process to ensure compliance and facilitate their integration into the formal tax system.

The initiative aims to formally bring individuals and businesses associated with the digital economy into the provincial tax network, broaden the tax base, improve tax compliance, and increase provincial revenue.

The Balochistan Revenue Authority's initiative reflects efforts to expand the provincial tax system in line with the growth of digital platforms and online service-based businesses.

PTI founder Imran Khan brought to Pims, undergoes eye procedure

NEWS DESK: Former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan was again taken to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) for tests and follow-up treatment for his eye condition, a hospital official told Dawn on Wednesday.

"Imran Khan was brought from the Adiala jail in Rawalpindi to Pims in Islamabad during the night between Nov 10 and 11 for a medical check-up and follow-up eye treatment on the advice of the ophthalmologist treating him," the official said.

The hospital official added that, prior to the procedure, the former premier underwent a medical examination, including an ocular assessment.

"His vital parameters were found to be normal. He was clinically stable, and his general physical examination was unremarkable. After obtaining informed consent and following standard monitoring procedures, precautionary measures and clinical protocols, the ophthalmology team administered an intravitreal anti-VEGF injection," the official said.

He added that Imran remained "clinically stable before, during and after the procedure". The PTI founder was discharged at around 2:30am with the necessary instructions for further care and follow-up, according to the official.

Later, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said the party came about Imran's check-up



through media reports and reiterated the demand that the former prime minister be taken to Shifa International Hospital — a private hospital in Islamabad — for a comprehensive medical examination.

"We reiterate our longstanding demand for the immediate and full implementation of the Supreme Court's order dated 18 August 2026,

which directed that Imran Khan be shifted to Shifa International Hospital for medical examination and treatment, and that a medical board be constituted, comprising, among others, his personal physician, with the inclusion of a family member," he said.

Gohar added, "Regrettably, this order has remained unimplemented for nearly three months."

The former premier's last reported hospital visit to Pims particularly for his eye ailment was in June.

Imran has been imprisoned since August 2023, and his health has deteriorated over the course of his prison sentence, prompting outcry from members of the party.

His eye ailment — right central retinal vein occlusion — came to light in late January, following which he has been taken to hospital multiple times.

On Aug 18, the Supreme Court directed the government to shift the jailed ex-premier to Shifa International Hospital in Islamabad, a day after the superintendent of the Adiala jail — where Imran is imprisoned — submitted a report to the SC on the ex-premier's health condition.

In the report, the jail administration said adequate healthcare facilities were being provided to Imran and his wife, with their health and well-being a priority.

However, an annexure to the report stated that Dr Akhtar Ali Bandeshah of Pims examined him on Aug 1 and noted complaints of uncontrolled and fluctuating blood pressure, palpitations, headache and restlessness.

Health minister denies vaccine scam allegations

NEWS DESK: Amid allegations of irregularities in vaccine procurement, Federal Health Minister Mustafa Kamal on Tuesday claimed that not a single rupee of public money had been lost in the controversy surrounding the procurement of vaccines for Umrah pilgrims.

He said a private company had purchased the vaccines, while the entire amount collected for the purpose, amounting to Rs183 million, remained deposited in a National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) account.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said he wanted to present the facts before the nation following a week-long controversy over the vaccine procurement process.

He said the health ministry would upload the inquiry report on its website to ensure transparency.

It may be recalled that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had ordered an inquiry into the procurement of meningococcal meningitis and influenza vaccines by Border Health Services-Pakistan (BHS) under a public-private partnership (PPP) arrangement



for pilgrims and overseas job seekers.

It was alleged that the previous vaccination arrangement involved a cost of around Rs1,250 per dose per person, whereas the amount under the new arrangement was approximately Rs4,500 per pilgrim.

The prime minister had constituted a five-member committee, headed by the secretary of the Cabinet Division, to examine the procurement process and determine whether it complied with the relevant rules and procedures.

Mr Kamal explained that BHS had approached the ministry regarding vaccination requirements for people travelling abroad for Umrah. The ministry constituted a procurement committee on May 9 and also established a grievance committee, headed by the director general of health, to address complaints.

However, he claimed that BHS officials subsequently formed their own committees, including procurement and appellate committees, bypassing the ministry's arrangements and violating prescribed procedures.

The minister said the inquiry found that BHS officials had bypassed the Ministry of Health and violated Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules. Nadra was also brought into the process through a public-private partnership arrangement, with payments deposited into its account.

He said the inquiry held BHS officials, members of the procurement committee and a subsequent director responsible for endorsing the process.

Lawyers observe strike against suspension of PHC powers by FCC

NEWS DESK: The lawyers observed a strike across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday on the call of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council (KPBC) against the decision of the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) regarding the suspension of the powers of the Peshawar High Court under Article 199 of the Constitution.

A meeting of lawyers organised by the Peshawar High Court Bar Association was also held, with participants threatening an indefinite strike in case the powers of the high court aren't restored by Nov 16.

The lawyers mostly stayed away from the courts, including the Peshawar High Court at its principal seat in Peshawar and benches in other cities.

Meeting decides to start indefinite strike if high court's powers not restored by 16th

The decision to boycott courts in the province was taken by the KPBC in an emergency general body meeting chaired by its vice-chairman, Mohammad Rafiq, on Nov 7.

The KPBC's meeting, also attended by chairman of its executive committee Sardar Waqarul Mulk and other members,

had voiced concern about the FCC decision regarding the suspension of the PHC's powers whereby it was restrained from proceeding with petitions under Article 199 of the Constitution.



It maintained that the decision had usurped the basic rights in KP and that it was a great injustice to the people of the province.

The council said that it opposed undemocratic actions like the governor's rule and emergency in the province and would raise its voice on every forum for restoration of democracy.

It also said that it had filed an application with the Federal Constitutional Court to become a party in the case related to cases registered under section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Ordinance.

The application has been filed through Bar Council member Babar Khan Yousafzai, in which along with becoming a party in the said cases,

a request has been made to restore the constitutional jurisdiction of the Peshawar High Court in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under Article 199 of the Constitution.

The council had passed a resolution in its general body meeting for filing the said application.

Pakistan pushing for diplomacy amid global tensions

NEWS DESK: Calling for stronger diplomacy, dialogue and multilateral cooperation to address growing global tensions, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar here on Tuesday stressed that Pakistan would continue to work for regional peace, while safeguarding its sovereignty and national interests.

Addressing the Margalla Dialogue 2026, organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), he highlighted that the shape of the emerging world order remains uncertain. "The choices countries make during this transition will help determine whether it produces greater cooperation or deeper confrontation," he said.

"The international security architecture faces mounting pressure. Intensifying great power rivalries, protracted conflicts and erosion of arms control agreements are increasing the risks of confrontation and miscalculation," he noted, addressing the theme of this year's dialogue, 'Global Order in Transition: Navigating Strategic Uncertainty'.

Posing the question "how can we safeguard our security and build a more prosperous future for our people?", Mr Dar maintained that the answer lies in "strength at home and effective diplomacy abroad".

He noted that the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement with Saudi Arabia and Turkiye, was a defensive arrangement aimed at strengthening collective security and credible deterrence, rather than targeting any particular country.

Discussing



Pakistan's international partnerships, he described relations with China as a cornerstone of the country's foreign policy, while highlighting constructive engagement with the United States and expanding cooperation with Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, Iran, Gulf countries, Europe and Central Asia.

He reiterated that Pakistan sought peace but would firmly defend its sovereignty, stressing that a just settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions was essential for lasting peace in the region.

He also warned against Indian attempts to weaponise water, adding that Pakistan would safeguard its rights under the Indus Waters Treaty.

Mr Dar also classified terrorism emanating from Afghan territory as a serious security challenge, adding that Pakistan would continue protecting its people while supporting a peaceful, stable and economically integrated Afghanistan.

With regard to the Middle East, the foreign minister said Pakistan's facilitation of the Islamabad talks between the United States and Iran in April had reflected its commitment to resolving conflicts through dialogue.Other panel discussions at the event also featured noted national and international speakers.

JI announces nationwide protests, Lahore rally against inflation and delays in LG polls

NEWS DESK: Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on Wednesday announced a series of major public gatherings across the country as part of the party's campaign against inflation, farmers' problems and delays in local government (LG) elections.

Addressing a press conference at JI's Mansoorah headquarters, Rehman said JI would hold a public gathering in Quetta on Nov 22, followed by a major rally at Minar-i-Pakistan in Lahore on Nov 29. Similar gatherings would later be organised in Peshawar and Karachi as well, he added.

The JI has been demanding for over two months that the Centre abolish petroleum levies, as fuel prices have skyrocketed due to conflicts in the Middle East since March.

Speaking on Wednesday, Rehman said his party has now decided to broaden that movement to include protests against rising prices of petroleum products and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG),



difficulties faced by farmers and delays in holding LG polls.

Since last week, the government has made six consecutive reductions in the prices of petrol and diesel as global oil prices declined.

However, relief is yet to reach the public as consumers continue to pay the same rates for essential commodities due to no change in goods transporters' charges.

LPG also continues to be sold at rates much higher than the official rate, following disruption of supply from Iran.

Rehman claimed no other political party was seriously raising issues affecting ordinary citizens.

He maintained that political movements should neither resort to violence nor take up batons, describing the JI's campaign as organised and peaceful.

Highlighting the economic difficulties facing the public, Rehman said LPG prices had crossed Rs500 per kg, while electricity and gas tariffs remained excessively high. He also alleged that oil refineries were making huge profits from petroleum products.

Under a one-month arrangement announced on Nov 2, oil refineries are to contribute to the petroleum levy by bearing a monthly cumulative impact of Rs15 billion, according to the government. This allows a Rs14.71 reduction in the petrol price at the consumer end.

The JI chief also criticised the Punjab government, led by PML-N's Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, over what he said was a deteriorating agricultural situation.

At least 12 cops injured as police party comes under attack in KP's Kohat

NEWS DESK: At least 12 cops were injured on Wednesday as a police party came under attack in Kohat's Gumbat tehsil, according to officials.

Rescue 1122 spokesperson Jawad Afridi, in a video message, said, "There was an incident where a police party came under fire, and so far, we have shifted 12 police personnel to the hospital."

He said that according to the injured police officials, there were several bodies at the scene. He added that details regarding the exact number of deaths would be shared when more information became available.

A statement issued by KP police said that a major operation had been launched against illegal gold mining, which was being fuelled by a nexus between terrorists and criminal elements.

It said that terrorists attack a police contingent in the Darbukach area, within the jurisdiction of the Gumbat police station, adding that Fitna al Khawarij were behind the attack.

Fitna al Khawarij is a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

Police said that additional personnel had been dispatched to the



area and an exchange of fire was underway.

The incident comes a day after the Kohat deputy commissioner imposed a 60-day ban on parking excavators within the limits of Block-C, Block-D of placer gold and adjacent mining areas. The order issued from the DC office stated that certain individuals, groups and locals had parked excavators at their residences near mining areas, which could easily be used for the unauthorised mining of placer gold.

It said despite several operations conducted by district administration to vacate areas of illegal mining, the presence of excavators within residential areas continued to facilitate and encourage such activities, posing a grave risk to public order and state interest

It said that district administration, in order to curb the illegal mining activities, was compelled to take stringent measures to prevent the misuse of excavators, which have become a key tool in facilitating unlawful placer gold extraction. Through another order, the administration had also banned the sale, purchase and supply of petroleum products in open containers/bottles for use in un-authorised mining of gold in the district.