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PM orders for taking immediate measures to operationalize Gwadar Port

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed immediate measures to operationalize the Gwadar Port on a commercial basis.

Chairing a meeting of the Federal Cabinet in Islamabad today, he instructed the formation of a committee headed by Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal regarding the operationalization of Gwadar Port. The committee will work with all stakeholders to make Gwadar Port a modern and fully functional port. Shehbaz Sharif also gave instructions to organize an international conference to create awareness about the importance of the Gwadar Port. He emphasized the need to evolving a comprehensive marketing and awareness and intensifying diplomatic efforts regarding the Gwadar Port.

The Prime Minister also sought details of imports and exports being carried out through Gwadar Port.

The meeting was informed that the Gwadar Port has the capacity to provide

low-cost and timely access to ships up to 50,000 deadweight tonnage to the Persian Gulf and transshipment to the Gulf countries. Furthermore, the port will play an important role in the development of the mining and aquaculture sectors in Balochistan. It will benefit the western regions of China and the Central Asian states. The meeting was further informed that the Gwadar Free Zone has been exempted from all federal, provincial, and local taxes. The rules for the Gwadar Free Zone have also been formulated.

It was told that criminal negligence was committed in the dredging of Gwadar Port from 2018 to 2022, which severely affected the port's depth. However, the dredging work of Gwadar Port was completed in 2022-23, restoring the port's depth. It was further informed that all utility facilities have been provided at Gwadar Port. Besides, the meeting was apprised that several public welfare projects have also been established in Gwadar, including the Pak-China Friendship Hospital, Gwadar Institute of Technical Education,



Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir presides over the 267th Corps Commanders Conference held at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

Any anti-Pakistan misadventure will be dealt with full force: COAS

APP

RAWALPINDI: Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir has said any misadventure against Pakistan will be responded with full and resolute force of the state.

He said this while chairing the Corps Commanders' Conference in Rawalpindi today [Tuesday].

Talking about the provocative statements from the Indian military leadership, General Syed Asim Munir said Pakistan Army remains fully prepared to defend the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. These hollow statements from Indian military are indicative of their growing frustration and serve only to divert the attention of their masses and international community from their multiple internal fissures and blatant violations of human rights.

The forum also took serious note of the recent reckless and provocative statements from the Indian military leadership, terming them irresponsible and detrimental to regional stability.

The prevailing situation along the Line of Control and the Working Boundary was discussed. In solidarity with the resilient people of Kashmir on the eve of Kashmir Solidarity Day, the forum strongly condemned the continued blatant human rights violations in Indian illegally

Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, recognizing them as a grave threat to regional peace and stability.

Reiterating Pakistan's unwavering support for the legitimate struggle of the Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination, as enshrined in relevant UN Security Council resolutions, the forum emphasized the significance of international engagement in addressing these persistent violations.

Expressing grave concern over the continued use of Afghan soil by Fitna Al Khawarij for terrorist activities against Pakistan, the forum stressed the imperative of concrete and tangible actions by Interim Afghan Government against Fitna Al Khawarij instead of denials as well as continuing with the strategy of undertaking all necessary measures in defence of Pakistan and its people.

The conference also underscored the need to accelerate people centric socio-economic development initiatives in Balochistan, recognizing the urgency of countering externally driven narratives of exclusion. The forum reaffirmed that no one will be allowed to disrupt peace in Balochistan and nefarious designs of foreign-sponsored proxies attempting to mislead and radicalize the youth of Balochistan will be decisively thwarted with the unwavering support of the people of the province.

Supreme Court questions jurisdiction of military courts over civilians

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: During the hearing of an intra-court appeal against the trial of civilians in military courts, Justice Jamal Mandokhail questioned the extent of powers granted to military courts under the Army Act.

A seven-member constitutional bench, headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan, is hearing the appeal. The bench included justices Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Musarat Hilali, Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Shahid Bilal Hassan.

Salman Akram Raja, representing a convict, Arzam Junaid, continued his arguments.

While making his case, Raja referred to the F.B. Ali case, that it was decided under the 1962 Constitution, prompting Justice Mandokhail to inquire, "What powers do

military courts have under the Act? Can someone who is not part of the military be tried solely based on the nature of their crime?"

In response, Raja argued that even in the F.B. Ali case, the court emphasised that a civilian's trial could only be justified if fundamental rights were fully ensured.

Justice Mazhar questioned, "F.B. Ali was himself a civilian. How was he subjected to a court-martial?"

Raja responded that the court had ruled that the provision of fundamental rights was essential and that in F.B. Ali's trial, there was no violation of these rights.

Salman Akram Raja argued that Pakistan's judicial system has faced repeated attempts to curtail its independence, particularly noting instances during 1977-1980 when the Balochistan High Court granted bail to individuals convicted under martial law.

Pakistan wants to further strengthen bilateral ties with Japan: Chairman Senate

APP

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Senate Syed Yousof Raza Gilani on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening its ties with Japan and expanding cooperation in multiple sectors for the mutual benefit of both nations. During a meeting with Akamatsu Shuichi, Ambassador of Japan, the Chairman Senate emphasized the need to strengthen economic ties and address the trade imbalance between Pakistan and Japan.

He noted that the current bilateral trade remains below its true potential and called for joint efforts to unlock economic opportunities.

He stressed the importance of high-level visits and parliamentary exchanges to fur-

ther cement bilateral relations.

He extended an invitation to his Japanese counterpart to visit Pakistan and noted that the last high-level visit from Pakistan to Japan was in 2019 when former President Arif Alvi attended the enthronement ceremony of Japan's new Emperor. He reiterated the need for more leadership-level interactions to set a strategic direction for bilateral ties. He also highlighted the role of the Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Pakistani Parliament as a key mechanism for enhancing collaboration.

Gilani commended Japan's special assistance package in response to Pakistan's devastating 2022 floods and acknowledged Japan's contributions to educational scholarships and capacity-building programs for Pakistan's civil service officers.

PM for restoring Green Channel to facilitate overseas Pakistanis

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced to immediately restore Green Channel to facilitate the overseas Pakistanis.

Addressing a ceremony of Overseas Pakistanis Global Foundation in Islamabad this evening, he assured that his government will leave no stone unturned in resolving issues of the expatriates.

The Prime Minister said overseas Pakistanis, through their hard work, is earning accolades.

He said remittances have increased by thirty percent due to the unwavering commitment of the overseas Pakistanis.

Shehbaz Sharif said prominent expatriates will be declared ambassadors at large with official blue passport.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Overseas Pakistanis Global Foundation Zahir Akhtar said expatriates fully assured their support and cooperation to the government and the armed forces to ensure a secure, progressive and prosperous Pakistan.

He said overseas Pakistanis are standing behind the armed forces for ensuring security of the country.

Morocco tragedy: Mortal remains of four Pakistani nationals arrive in Islamabad today

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: In a significant move to support the families of deceased Pakistanis who lost their lives in recent boat accident in Morocco, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced the repatriation of the mortal remains of 13 Pakistani nationals from Morocco during this week.

According to a press release issued by the Foreign Office, the mortal remains of four deceased Pakistanis are scheduled to arrive in Islamabad tomorrow (Wednesday), aboard flight SV726 at 2350 hours (PST).

They include Hamid Shabbir from Mandi Bahauddin, Muhammad Arslan Khan from

Shaikhupura, Qaiser Iqbal from Gujrat and Sajjad Ali from Mandi Bahauddin.

In line with the repatriation process, the government has coordinated a series of arrangements to ensure the smooth arrival and transport of the mortal remains.

In a show of solidarity, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has deputed the Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Chaudhry Salik Hussain to personally receive the mortal remains of the deceased at Islamabad International Airport.

A facilitation desk has been set up at the airport to assist the families of the deceased, while ambulances will be made available to transfer the bodies to their final destinations.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari departed for a five-day state visit to China from February 4-8, 2025, at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping. He was accompanied by a delegation comprising Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Senator Saleem Mandviwala and Dr Asim Hussain.

Balochistan has potential to become main center of economic for country: Governor

APP

Quetta: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail on Tuesday said that due to its unique location and natural resources and minerals, Balochistan has the potential to become an important center of economic and trade activities not only for Pakistan but also for the countries of the entire area. He expressed these views while addressing the participants of the Business Excellence Award ceremony of the Quetta Chamber of Small Industries in the provincial capital.

On this occasion, a large number of men and women associated with industry and trade, including the heads of the Quetta Chamber of Small Industries, Juma Khan Noorzai and Arsalan Faizan were present.

Addressing at the ceremony, the Governor said that the

population of traders and industrialists is actually the population of all of us, our country's economic system is indebted to traders, industrialists and landowners like you.

He said that as a government, it is our responsibility to provide traders

with all the necessary facilities and create opportunities for economic development and give them access to the trade markets of neighboring countries.

He said that in this interconnected world, the global and the local are interconnected, national and international are not opposites but they help each other.

The Governor made it clear that Balochistan is not just a province but a major center of economic and trade activities for the countries of the entire area.

At present, we have profitable opportunities to transform Balochistan into a center of land and sea trade activities, to

connect local businesses with international markets, he said. He said that we have natural resources, coastal belt, strategic location and the determination of our people to make it trade area saying that the current government is ready to provide complete protection to all national and international investors.

There are profitable investment opportunities available here for all investors, it is necessary to make full use of them, he noted and added that it is important that we ourselves take advantage of the available international opportunities, work to build a bright future for Balochistan and show the world that we could do a lot for our country and the world.

Finally, the Governor of Balochistan distributed Business Excellence Awards among businessmen, businesswomen and administrators.

Govt decides to repatriate registered Afghan refugees from twin cities

INP

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to repatriate registered Afghan refugees living in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

According to a notification letter issued by the Prime Minister's House, the refugees will be relocated by March 31.

The decision is part of a phased repatriation plan, which will initially focus on refugees living in the twin cities. The government has assured that Proof of Registration (PoR) cardholders will not be forcibly evicted.

Approximately 2 million Afghan refugees, including 1.3 million PoR cardholders and 700,000 Afghan Citizen Cards (ACC) holders, are currently residing in Pakistan.

The government has granted PoR cardholders permission to stay in the country until June.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in contact with international organizations and foreign embassies to facilitate the repatriation process.

Earlier, seven former Afghan personnel were arrested in Balochistan's Qilla Abdullah district over their alleged involvement in terror activities.

According to Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Riaz Khan, the arrests were made possible by a tip-off from Levies sources, in a raid on house.

The detained individuals, identified as former Afghan forces personnel, are accused of involvement in various terrorist activities. Additionally, they are also suspected of being involved in theft and robbery incidents in the area.

In a separate development it was reported that Afghan citizens are allegedly using Pakistan soil illegally to travel to other countries.

Supreme Court moved against contentious Peca amendments

Petitioner urges apex court to "strike down Act" and review the tweaks as well as law too by full court

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The ruling coalition government's amendments to the controversial Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca) have been challenged in the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

"It is humbly requested in the national interest of peace, and stability both the amendment and existing law may kindly be reviewed in the full court bench in the light of the freedom of expression of our opinion and view to disseminate to our society," reads the plea.

Muhammad Qayum Khan, in his petition, has requested the SC to declare amendments to the Peca as "ultra vires" to the constitutional power of the legislature while terming the tweaks as "extremely repugnant against the human rights, fundamental rights and rights of freedom of expression, speech".

Urging the apex court to immediately strike down the Act to prevent new legal crises, the plea also wants the existing law, approved by previous governments, to be revisited in light of the Constitution.

"We live in the global village where all human beings have equal human rights and such hurting and targeting the opponents could not be sustained and must be restricted along with the current Peca," the petition says.

The development comes as ruling coalition bulldozed the controversial amendments from both the National Assembly and the Senate to an already contentious Peca law within days with the opposition parties, journalists and media bodies decrying the lack of consultations as well as its provisions.

The law, which has now come into effect following President Asif Ali Zardari's assent, provisions new definitions, the establishment of regulatory and investigative bodies, and stricter penalties for disseminating "false" information. The new amendments lowered the punishment for spreading "fake information" online to three years while the offender could also face a fine of up to Rs2 million. The new amendments also proposed the establishment of the Social Media Protection and Regulatory Authority (SMPRA), the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) and the Social Media Protection Tribunal. Furthermore, it stated, that any person "aggrieved by fake and false information" can approach the authority for removal or blocking access to such information and the authority would issue orders no later than 24 hours on the request.

37571 patients treated in Civil Hospital Quetta's Trauma Center in 2024: Dr. Arbab

APP
 Quetta: Managing Director (MD) Trauma Center of Provincial Civil Hospital Quetta Dr. Arbab Kamran on Monday said that at least 37571 patients of the province were treated at Trauma Center Quetta in the year of 2024.
 He said that at present, the Trauma Center is providing free treatment and care facilities to patients beyond its capacity saying that in the event of any accident in Quetta and other districts of the province, the services of Trauma Center Quetta are not hidden in any way.
 He said that as many as 37571 patients were treated at Trauma Center Quetta in which 3571 patients were admitted and 4466 operations were performed. While 34557 X-rays, 1789 ultrasounds, 75576 laboratory tests, 24514 CT scans and 2994 blood transfusion cases were taken during treatment of the patients in the center, he mentioned.
 He said that the Trauma Center treated 19,814 patients related road traffic accidents, 13,965 roof falls, 2,126 fights, 1,093 gunshots, 104 electrocutions, 257

bomb blasts and 214 knife injuries. He said that patients from all over the province come to the Trauma Center for treatment adding that as 32,653 patients from Quetta Division, 1,232 from Kalat Division, 679 from Sibi Division, 447 from Loralai Division, 1,348 from Zhob Division, 308 from Naserabad Division, 102 from Makran Division and 770 from Rakhshan Division were treated at the Trauma Center Quetta.
 The public trusts this institution. Being located in the heart of the city, the beds in the Trauma Center Civil Hospital Quetta are always full due to rush.
 Therefore, they come to the Trauma Center daily for treatment and care, he noted.
 He said that neurosurgeons, orthopedic surgeons, general surgeons, maxillofacial surgeons, pediatric surgeons, doctors, pharmacists, nurses, paramedical staff and other supporting staff of Trauma Center Quetta are performing their duties regularly in three shifts as per their duty schedule and medicine is available 24/7.



QUETTA: Secretary Population Welfare Department Abdullah Khan inaugurating Model Clinic of Welfare Center organized by UNFPA & Population Department.

Balance population essential for coping challenges of future: Abdullah

APP
 Quetta: Secretary Population Welfare Department Abdullah Khan on Tuesday said that the population in the province is increasing rapidly which is creating difficulties due to shortage of resources and balance population is very important for coping challenges of future in the area.
 He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony after the inauguration of the Model Clinic Welfare Center Nawan Killi in collaboration with the Population Department and UNFPA. Secretary Population Welfare Department Abdullah Khan said that the married people of the area could benefit great

ly from the establishment of such modern model clinics where not only counseling is given regarding family planning, but medicines etc. would also be taken from here. He said that with the cooperation of UNFPA, model clinics would be established in Sariab, Pashtunabad, Panchpai in the coming days adding that the Balochistan government is facing a shortage of funds, if the funds are provided, more such clinics to be established in respective areas. Senior District Officer Population Welfare Ayub Khan, Provincial Coordinator UNFPA Sadia Atta, Technical Specialist Dr. Sarmad Khan, Imran Khan, Abdul Latif and others were

present on the occasion. Provincial Coordinator UNFPA Sadia Atta said that the rapid population growth in the country is being worried so therefore everyone should play their role to bring balance to the population. She said that maternal mortality in Balochistan is higher than in the whole of Pakistan, if family planning is implemented, then the deaths of these mothers could also be controlled. She said that married couples should take full advantage of this model clinic in Nawan Killi, all medicines and services are available there saying that UNFPA is keen to work more with the government and the Population Department.

Punjab's Ramazan Package 2025: 3m families to get Rs10,000 each

By Maqsood Khalid
 LAHORE: Punjab government has announced a special financial assistance package for underprivileged families during the holy month of Ramazan. Under this initiative, three million families across the province will receive Rs10,000 each. According to sources, the Price Control and Commodities Management Punjab has submitted a summary for the release of funds. This year, instead of setting up Ramazan bazaars, the government has decided to provide direct financial aid to deserving individuals, enabling them to purchase essential commodities according to their needs. As per official documents, the financial assistance will be delivered directly to the recipients at their doorsteps to ensure convenience and ease. The Punjab government's initiative aims to provide much-needed relief to low-income families during the sacred month of Ramazan.

Development of KP's backward areas Govt's top priority: Kundi

INP
 ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has stated that development and prosperity of backward areas of the province is the top priority of the government.

Talking to different delegations in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said effective measures are underway to provide basic facilities to the public at their door steps. The delegation discussed different issues including establishment of NADRA and Passport offices in remote areas and electricity load shedding in Dera Ismail Khan.

BTTN holds in-house seminar on Kashmir Day to be observed on Feb 5

APP
 Quetta: The Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN) organized an in-house seminar titled "The Kashmir Crisis: Understanding the Genesis and Contemporary Challenges" in observance of Kashmir Day on Tuesday. Kashmir Day, observed annually on February 5, marks Pakistan's solidarity with the Kashmiri people and highlights their struggle for self-determination. The speakers discussed key aspects of the origins of the Kashmir dispute, India's

unilateral revocation of Article 370, India's State-led demographic changes in IIOJK, and legal avenues for justice under international law. The seminar was moderated by Mr. Musavir Hameed, Research officer at BTTN and was attended by BTTN's Faculty of Research. Ms. Sadaf Nadeem highlighted the "The Genesis of the Kashmir Issue" and examined the origins of the dispute since 1947. She also highlighted the role of the United Nations in the unresolved status of Jammu and Kashmir.

IIOJK people denied fundamental rights, facing repression: Azam Nazeer

APP
 ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice and Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday said that today we reaffirm our unwavering support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their rightful struggle for freedom and dignity.
 In his message in line of Kashmir Solidarity Day, he said that for decades, Kashmiri people have endured oppression and injustice, yet their determination remains unshaken. The people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) have been denied their fundamental rights, facing systemic repression and grave human rights violations, he said.
 The minister said that Pakistan stands resolutely with them, not just in words but in action, raising their voices on every international platform, bringing attention to their plight, and advocating for a just resolution. Pakistani cuisine recipes Pakistani cuisine recipes
 Azam Nazeer said that the right to self-determination is not a privilege but a fundamental right, recognized by the United Nations and the global community. No force can suppress a people's aspiration for freedom forever.



Mansoor Foundation Chairman, Hassan Khan Achakzai addresses during the wheel chairs distribution ceremony held at Quetta press club.



Participants are holding Cancer Awareness Walk held at Bolan Medical Complex in Quetta.



Pakistan set to begin preparations for tri-nation series, Champions Trophy today

SPORTS DESK
 LAHORE: Building on a strong winning streak in their recent One-day International (ODI) series, Pakistan are set to begin their preparations for the upcoming tri-nation series and Champions Trophy. A training camp will be held at the Ghani Glass Ground here on Tuesday, marking the first time the national team will practice at the venue.
 The tri-nation series featuring South Africa, New Zealand along with the hosts will kick off in Lahore on February 8. Following that, the team will also focus on preparations for the Champions Trophy, which is set to begin in Karachi with the opening match between Pakistan and New Zealand on February 19.
 In an interesting development, the camp will feature the addition of Hina Munawar as the team operations manager. Hina, on deputation from the Punjab Police, will become the first woman to join the men's national team's management. This is the first time a female official will serve in a men's cricket team management role, a departure from the previous practice of female staff working exclusively with the national women's team.
 The upcoming tri-series will also be the first international event to be held at the newly renovated Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, and at the National Bank Stadium in Karachi, where final touches are being made ahead of the event.
 Despite recent struggles in Test and Twenty20 International formats, Pakistan's performance in the past three ODI series has raised hopes. The team has been impressive, defeating world champions Australia 2-1, Zimbabwe 2-1, and most recently South Africa 3-0. As hosts of both the tri-series and the Champions Trophy, Pakistan will benefit from home advantage, with support from local crowds and familiar conditions.
 The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced a 15-player squad for both events, though in a surprising move, only one specialist spinner, Abrar Ahmad, has been included, leaving out Noman Ali and Sajid Khan, despite their stellar performances in recent Test series against England and the West Indies. Meanwhile, the PCB has confirmed the arrival and training schedules of the South Africa and New Zealand teams. The New Zealand squad will arrive in Lahore in the early hours of Wednesday. Both Pakistan and New Zealand will hold joint training sessions at Gaddafi Stadium on February 6, ahead of the stadium's.



LONDON: Arsenal's Martin Odegaard scores during the Premier League match against Manchester City at the Emirates Stadium.

Arsenal thrash Manchester City to boost title challenge

SPORTS DESK
 LONDON: Arsenal's 5-1 demolition of Manchester City on Sunday kept the Gunners still within reach of Liverpool in the Premier League title race.
 In the battle between the top two for the past two seasons, the Gunners prevailed to move within six points of leaders Liverpool, who have a game in hand.
 "It is a great day for us, especially with the necessity that we had to win the game," said Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta.
 A day to savour for Arsenal against the side that has denied them the title in each of the past two seasons was lit up by goals from academy graduates Myles Lewis-Skelly and Ethan Nwaneri.
 The teenagers became the youngest players to score in the Premier League against the reigning champions since Wayne Rooney announced his arrival for Everton against Arsenal in 2003.
 Lewis-Skelly would have been banned had his controversial red card against Wolves last weekend not been rescinded.
 The left-back made the most of that reprieve with a barnstorming performance that was capped by his first goal for the club.
 He rounded it off with a cocksure celebration as he mimicked City striker Erling Haaland's trademark meditation pose.
 Nwaneri completed the rout with his seventh goal of the season and is thriving in the extra minutes offered by Bukayo Saka's injury layoff.
 The vibrancy of Arsenal's youth contrasted sharply with an ageing City side, whose best days are clearly

behind them and need a refresh if Pep Guardiola is to make them contenders again next season.
 "It's happened all season, we are giving away too many things," said City manager Guardiola. "You cannot lose the control, it's 95 minutes. You cannot finish in the way we played."
 Arsenal were gifted the perfect start inside two minutes as Manuel Akanji lost possession and Kai Havertz squared for Martin Odegaard to open the scoring.
 Haaland headed in his 250th career club goal early in the second half to bring City level but the defending champions are a pale shadow of their former selves this season and conceded within 105 seconds of the restart when Thomas Partey's shot deflected in off John Stones.
 Eighteen-year-old Lewis-Skelly curled in Arsenal's third before Havertz fired low and hard into the far corner with City cut open at will by the Arsenal counter-attack on 76 minutes.
 Nwaneri rounded off the rout when he curled home in stoppage time.
 Defeat leaves City still in fourth but now 15 points off the top and realistically dethroned after four consecutive seasons as champions.
 "How we played in the last 30 minutes was not acceptable. Personally and collectively, it's not us," Stones said. "It is not nice to be involved in that when you know it's not your team in those situations. Credit to Arsenal, this is not an easy place to come to."
 "For 65 minutes, we played some great football at times. We were in the game and it was a swinging point. It swung the wrong way for us. I am angry, upset personally and collectively about how the game finished."

Australian cricketer Khawaja backs journalist fired over Gaza stance

SPORTS DESK
 Australia batsman Usman Khawaja has condemned a radio station's decision to drop cricket journalist Peter Lalor from its coverage of the Sri Lanka test series over social media posts related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
 Australian radio station SEN confirmed on Tuesday it had parted ways with Lalor, the former chief cricket writer of The Australian newspaper, after dialogue with him about some of the commentary on his social media.
 Lalor's feed on X includes re-posts of news stories about Israeli attacks in Gaza and accusations of genocide levelled at the Israeli government.
 Pakistan-born Khawaja, who has been vocal in his support for Palestinians, wrote on Instagram that Lalor "deserved better".
 "Standing up for the people of Gaza is not anti-Semitic nor does it have anything to do with my Jewish brothers and sisters in Australia, but everything to do with the Israeli government and their deplorable actions," Khawaja said.
 "It has everything to do with justice and human rights. Unfortunately hatred towards the Jewish and Muslim community will always exist."
 Australia has been grappling with a series of anti-Semitic and Islamophobic attacks on places of worship, buildings and cars since the beginning of the Israel invasion of Gaza in late-2023.
 The country's race discrimination commissioner, Giridharan Sivaraman, has said Australia is in a "febrile time". "Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia are both real, are both increasing, and are both significant concerns," he has said. Lalor, who was working as a freelance commentator for SEN, said he was told by the station's management that there were accusations he was antisemitic, which he objected to. "I was told my retweeting was not balanced, and insensitive to one side and that many people had complained," he said in a statement to subscribers on his Cricket at AI substack. SEN station boss Craig Hutchison said he and Lalor had a different view of the impact of the commentary on his social media. "We respect Pete as a journalist and long-time contributor to the game but also acknowledge the fear that many families in our community feel right now, and we also need to respect that," Hutchison told the Sydney Morning Herald.



Australia's Usman Khawaja acknowledges the crowd as he walks back to the pavilion upon his dismissal after scoring 232 runs during the second day of the first Test cricket match between Sri Lanka and Australia at the Galle International Cricket Stadium in Galle on January 30.

EXTENSION
 The Medical Superintendent Sandeman Provincial Hospital Quetta pleased to extend the date of opening on 08-02-2025 12:00pm which was published vide PRQ No.3018/24-01-2025 for Provision of Janitorial Services 2024-25 due to holiday on 05-02-2025 i.e. Kashmir Day.
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT
 Sandeman (Provincial) Hospital Quetta.
 PRQ No.3171/04-02-2025
 www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob dpr.gob @dpr.balochistan

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Balochistan turmoil

THE unacceptable loss of at least 22 security men in two separate attacks between Friday and Saturday — in Balochistan and KP — underscore the need to address the problem of terrorism in both provinces with alacrity.

In the first incident, at least 18 paramilitary troops were martyred as they were reportedly ambushed by terrorists in Kalat. In the second episode, four Levies personnel from Balochistan were martyred in KP's Dera Ismail Khan, near the border of both provinces.

The Kalat atrocity has been claimed by the separatist BLA, and while no group has accepted responsibility for the D.I. Khan attack, the area is known to have a TTP presence. These abhorrent attacks illustrate the fact that the biggest terrorist threat Pakistan faces comes from two major actors: religiously inspired militants, and separatist forces.

Though there is no evidence to suggest that the BLA and TTP coordinated these attacks, some experts have said that the latter may be courting the former to jointly fight the state.

After KP, Balochistan is most affected by militancy. As per one think tank, there were at least 24 terrorist attacks in the province last month, resulting in the loss of 11 security men and six civilians. The sophistication and frequency of attacks indicate that separatist forces may be getting help from external hostile actors. Undoubtedly, the state's first priority should be to secure all of Balochistan, and ensure that its people are able to live in peace. While security operations need to be carried out to ensure terrorist groups cannot operate freely, efforts are also required on the diplomatic front to confront inimical states, and warn them against stoking fires within the country. Moreover, funding and arms transfers to the separatists must be traced and blocked.

Yet, while the state cannot compromise on Balochistan's security, a distinction needs to be made between the province's political forces, and separatist militants. Conflating the two is unhelpful, and state action against political activists may actually propel the latter towards militancy.

Poverty, underdevelopment and the issue of enforced disappearances are hard realities in Balochistan.

Therefore, those elements that raise these issues in a democratic fashion should not be demonised by the state.

Lately, we have seen terrorism cases filed against Baloch rights activists. Indeed, in the heat of the moment, some activists may use questionable language during rallies and protests, but this cannot be equated with terrorism.

While the state should confront and neutralise actual terrorists murdering security personnel and innocent civilians, an accommodative approach is required where Baloch activists and political forces are concerned.

By Arifa Noor

Refugee question

EVERYONE seems to be in a hurry to forget Nov 26, from those who were behind it to those who faced the brunt of it. The government must be relieved it is spoken about so little, while the PTI leadership in parliament or in government in KP is also averse to agitating over the issue. But other than the PTI-government tussle, this event had serious implications for a far more vulnerable group — the Afghan refugees in Islamabad.

Their victimisation came to light soon after the protest had ended. For instance, in the aftermath of the event, human rights lawyers such as Imaan Mazari highlighted the discriminatory treatment being meted out to the capital's refugee and Pakhtun population and accused the law-enforcement authorities of racial profiling.

Poor and vulnerable Pakhtun people were said to have been picked up from different parts of the city, as officials tried to demonstrate their efficacy in maintaining security and sending a message to all and sundry about the 'hazards' of street protests.

Such claims were also lent credence by anecdotal accounts doing the rounds in the city, as friends and colleagues told stories of their friends and colleagues who were stopped by the police randomly — all they had in common was their ethnicity. But even within this 'racial profiling', there is a hierarchy, as refugees are the most vulnerable. And this is highlighted in a draft report which has been prepared by the JAC for Refugees, Karachi.

Based on documents such as FIRs collected from the various police stations in Islamabad, the report says 540 people were arrested during the PTI protest and later, of which 86 were Afghan nationals. According to the report, most of the refugees picked up were residents of Rawalpindi and Islamabad and were taken into custody during their commute

to work or back. The majority of them were young men under the age of 25.

A 19-year-old quoted in the story explains how he was picked up when he stepped out to visit the pharmacy. "I was going to the pharmacy in Sector I-10 Islamabad. A policeman stopped me outside the market and bundled me into a van without a word. Later in the day, I found myself at police station Shams in Islamabad and found out I had been booked for having participated in the PTI protest."

It is a worrying assertion that accusing Afghan refugees of serious offences is the norm.

Some of those arrested were not even guilty of stepping out of their homes. A 20-year-old, according to the report, was picked up when a midnight raid was carried out on the basti he lived in. "I was thrown out of my bed by the police and arrested. I ended up in the lockup and later found out that I now faced terrorism charges." He was picked up on Nov 29.

However, it seems the operation to pick up people began a few days before the PTI demonstrators entered Islamabad. For instance, one young man quoted in the report said he was picked up on Nov 23 when he was returning home. According to him, he was stopped by a policeman at a check-post; the refugee's appearance was enough for the policeman to make the decision.

When the 21-year-old tried to resist, he was threatened that he would be charged with a "non-bailable" offence. The young man spent three days at the police station before he was charged. The report points out that the majority of the refugees who were picked up were daily wage workers who earn a living in wholesale vegetable markets.

The draft report also quotes those who claim they were asked for bribes in exchange for being released and not charged with crimes. While a few of them were able to pay hefty amounts, many others could not and continue to make

their way through the judicial process.

But more worrying is the assertion that arresting Afghan refugees and charging them with serious offences has become the norm, which implies this is not limited to a particular event.

And this is an issue that needs more attention. After all, since the change of the regime in Kabul and the decision in Islamabad to send refugees back, Afghan refugees have increasingly become part of the political discourse, in a way that was not apparent earlier. For instance, recent decisions to send them back to Pakistan were linked to terrorist attacks in Pakistan.

Government officials claimed that the decision was made because Afghan nationals had been involved in terrorist attacks; in 2023 when this decision was announced, then interior minister Sarfraz Bugti made this connection in his statements. Even though many analyses on the decision pointed out that it perhaps stemmed from Islamabad's desire to pressure Kabul into stopping the TTP from targeting Pakistan.

It did not stop here. Before, during, and after Nov 26, the government and other officials, in their effort to undermine the PTI protest, played up the ethnic angle. And while there was and there continues to be the idea that one province, KP, is attacking the centre and/or Punjab, officials also alleged that the PTI was bringing Afghans to Islamabad during the protest.

In fact, once the dharna was over, a story made its way to electronic news channels in which different young men confessed on camera that they were illegal refugees who had been paid to take part in the protest; in addition, they also admitted to acts of violence during that period such as damaging property or attacking law-enforcement personnel.

Whether this was done to simply disparage the PTI or to undermine the protest without alienating the Pakhtuns remains unclear.

By Dr Niaz Murtaza

Captain & captains

IN this piece, I cover the new kid on the bloc — the PTI and its captain — and an aged elephant in the room. The Bhuttos are landed elites, the Sharifs business elites, while the Muslim League's top ranks had all elite classes. The PTI is the first federal party led by upper middle-class elites, who seem well-armed, with their education, global links and resources, to rule better.

But these pluses are negated by their weak grassroots links with the masses and elite status. So, many among them prefer self-focused politics over ideological politics aimed at the root causes of the masses' misery. Many rely not on scholarly but shallow social media stuff that supports their faulty views. Many blindly follow populist messiahs who can package their narrow politics as mass politics. But there are no blind cults, only sly ones, which, believing that all is fair in politics, knowingly peddle the false views of messiahs.

Due to these issues, the PTI failed to deliver the change it promised from the PPP and PML-N's bad politics. Its weak grassroots links forced it to rely on electables and the establishment to win in 2018.

Given its lack of a clear ideology and capacities, and its overuse of the populist mantra of ending sleaze to bring progress, it failed to govern well.

The entry of the electables led to sleaze plaguing its ranks. The party's 'IKonomics' mirrored the PML-N and PPP's approach — avoid reforms, coddle mafias, induce growth via twin deficits and not productive investment — lead-

ing to another big crisis.

Many analysts praise the 2008-2018 era for greater democratic progress than earlier, despite the misrule. This progress included our first two straight, freer polls in 2008 and 2013 and civilian power transfer between two fairly elected parties in 2013; the rise of a third party (PTI) that initially looked better; good laws like the 18th Amendment by the PPP, electoral reforms, and Fata's merger by the PML-N and some reforms in KP by the PTI; and less political vendetta.

Our politics contains a big laundry machine.

Given the paucity of democratic progress in our history, many rightly forgave the PPP and PML-N's bigger sins, given their better politics at the time. Against this view, the PTI reversed democratic gains by winning in 2018 with the establishment's aid, casting it as the spoiler party for serious analysts. This view was cemented by its dubious acts in power, such as political vendetta, bad laws, and gags on media and civil society.

But this view has changed given the considerably worse performance of the PML-N and PPP since 2022: constitutional violations; delayed, rigged 2024

polls; total establishment sway; and unmatched assaults on the judiciary, media, opposition and civil society arguably make this the country's worst civilian era. All this has led to a new equation: the Bhuttos and Sharifs have harmed democracy much more in just two years than the PTI since 2011, even without their past sins.

Our politics contains a big laundry

machine that washes the sins of all parties once they face abuse at the hands of the establishment, in the hope that they will learn their lesson and do better in the future. The PPP and PML-N have been lauded many times but failed each time. The PTI must get the same benefit of doubt, even if the chances of it doing better are low too, given that it has misruled only once.

Idealists may not support the PTI politically but they must support its mandate and human rights as analysts.

While its first three waves of protests during the 2014 dharna, the Pana--ma case and on the cipher issue had a weak basis, its current complaints against poll rigging and fake cases are credible. Its protests should also remain peaceful. However, despite the moral perils of pillorying a party suffering much abuse, many still focus more on its past actions than this current set-up's considerably worse ones.

To put it briefly, among the civilian rulers, the Bhuttos arguably damaged democracy the most in my analysis, followed by the parent Muslim League, the Sharifs and the PTI.

The latter party is the last partly due to its relatively shorter life.

Overall, however, the entity with many captains towers head and shoulders above the civilians in undermining democracy. It has contributed to many of the transgressions done by civilians, in addition to those of its own when it ruled alone, and is seen by many to be mainly culpable for almost all our economic, political, social, security and external problems today.

DAILY MIRROR

Pakistan Navy's AMAN-25 exercise aims to enhance maritime security

Over 60 countries will participate in the multinational exercise AMAN-25, aimed at addressing maritime challenges and enhancing global cooperation

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Navy is set to host the ninth edition of the multinational maritime exercise AMAN-25, which will take place in Karachi from 7th to 11th February 2025.

Rear Admiral Abdul Munib, Commander of Pakistan Fleet, briefed the media on the key aspects of the exercise, including the maiden AMAN Dialogue, a significant addition to this year's event.

Global maritime security at the forefront

As global security concerns shift from geo-politics to geo-economics, the protection of sea-borne trade and energy routes has become more critical than ever. The Indian Ocean Region faces multiple challenges, ranging from traditional security threats to emerging non-traditional risks, prompting countries to

rethink their maritime strategies. The Pakistan Navy has taken a proactive role in addressing these issues through the biennial AMAN Exercise, launched in 2007 with the slogan "Together for Peace."

Key highlights of AMAN-25

This year's exercise will see the participation of over 60 countries, including ships, aircraft, special operations forces, and EOD marine teams. The event will be divided into two phases: Harbour (7th-9th February) and Sea (10th-11th February). The Harbour Phase will feature seminars, operational discussions, and sports events, while the Sea Phase will showcase tactical maneuvers, anti-piracy drills, counterterrorism operations, and live-firing exercises. A highlight will be the International Fleet Review, which will be attended by both national and foreign dignitaries.

AMAN dialogue: A new milestone

A new feature of AMAN-25 is the AMAN Dialogue, which will bring together navy chiefs, coast guard officials, and defense forces from across the globe.

This dialogue aims to foster collaboration by addressing shared maritime issues and exploring innovative solutions to challenges at sea.

Rear Admiral Munib emphasized that AMAN-25 will not only enhance maritime security but also reinforce Pakistan's position as a key maritime player committed to global peace and prosperity.

The exercise underscores Pakistan's ongoing role in safeguarding critical Sea Lines of Communication and securing its economic interests in a rapidly changing maritime environment.

Pakistan Navy's continued leadership in initiatives like AMAN further establishes the country's central role in global maritime cooperation.



QUETTA: Governor of Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhel addressing on Business Excellence Award ceremony organized by Chamber of Small Industries and Baluchistan Reforms.

PM inaugurates Jinnah Square project in Islamabad

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has inaugurated the multi-billion rupees Jinnah Square project, completed in a record 72 days to address traffic congestion in the Federal Capital.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony in Islamabad today, he mentioned that Jinnah Square is a major project to address the traffic issues of the Islamabad Capital Territory.

He said this project includes three multilane underpasses, while 14 kilometers of roads have been constructed.

The Prime Minister expressed confidence that the project will not only ease traffic flow and save time but also help reduce pollution.

He also commended Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and the CDA team for their efforts in completing this project in record time.

Stressing the need for the renovation of government buildings constructed during the 1960s, he said it is a matter of utmost satisfaction that the Interior Minister is already focusing on this matter.

Shehbaz Sharif further proposed enhancing the beautification of Islamabad to make it an ideal city.

Blast rocks

Pashin hospital

INP

QUETTA: At least seven injured in blast occurred at a hospital near Pashin Bypass in Quetta, Balochistan.

According to police officials, the blast caused by a gas cylinder leak, damaged the hospital building, leaving two of injured in critical condition.

Sources said that rescue teams and law enforcement agencies rushed to the scene to gather evidence and investigate the matter.

The injured individuals are currently under treatment at the hospital. Police and other law enforcement agencies are investigating the incident to determine the cause of the gas cylinder leak explosion.

Earlier, an explosion in a Punjab-bound passenger bus left a man dead and seven others injured.

District officials said that the ill-fated bus carrying passengers from Khuzdar to Rawalpindi when reached at Khori on the M-8 highway, a roadside parked car exploded with loud blast, which resulted in death of one person in the bus.

Senate Standing Committee on Interior Reviews Key Legislative and Infrastructure Matters

By Zahid Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Interior, chaired by Senator Faisal Saleem, convened on Tuesday at Parliament House to deliberate on various legislative and administrative matters.

The Committee discussed the "Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants (Amendment) Bill, 2025". The Secretary, Ministry of Interior, emphasized the need to strengthen legal provisions to enhance deterrence. The draftsman from the Ministry of Law informed the Committee that the amendment introduces a minimum sentence of three years, which will reinforce deterrence and ensure better enforcement of the law. The Committee members unanimously agreed to pass the bill and underscored the importance of strict adherence to legal enforcement.

Additionally, the Committee reviewed "The Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (Amendment) Bill, 2025". The Secretary, Ministry of Interior, highlighted that a significant number of individuals involved in trafficking have been apprehended. Following an exchange of views, the Chairman Committee directed the

Ministry to share relevant data with the Committee and examine cases where individuals were involved through agents. He further stressed the need to ensure that only authorized agents are recommended for public dealings.

The Committee also discussed "The Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2025". Officials from the FIA reported that fines for offenders have been increased to one million rupees. They further added that extending imprisonment sentences would serve as a stronger deterrent against violations.

In the concluding session, the Committee discussed the revamping of Parliament Lodges. The Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) briefed the Committee on delays and project progress.

He stated that a summary for the complete revamping of Parliament Lodges had been submitted to the Interior Ministry and if funds were allocated in the current budget, the full revamp would proceed. He further added that the available budget had already been reviewed and approval secured. The Committee was informed that the project initially commenced in 2011 but faced land-related issues.

Health card services restored at BINUQ after resolving issues of it for kidney transplantation: Kakar

APP

QUETTA: Chief Executive Balochistan Health Card Dr. Samiullah Kakar said that the health card services have been restored at the Balochistan Institute of Nephrology-Urology Quetta (BINUQ) by addressing the major issues related to the health card system and kidney transplantation.

He said this while talking to the Balochistan Institute of Nephrology-Urology Quetta during his visit.

Dr. Samiullah Kakar said that the major issues related to the health card system and kidney transplantation were resolved in discussions with the BINUQ administration.

He said that free dialysis and kidney transplantation operations have been started 24/7 at the Balochistan Institute of Nephrology-Urology Quetta (BINUQ) through health card system and the serv-

ices of BINUQ Pharmacy and Health Card representative would be available at all times.

He said that transparency in all administrative and financial matters of the health card should be given priority at all times and no illegal action would be acceptable.

He said that concrete steps are being taken to make the health card system in government hospitals of Balochistan more effective and efficient by implementing the special instructions of Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar.

No negligence of any kind will be tolerated in this regard.

In case of any complaint, the patient and his family can contact the helpline and register their complaints, but immediate action will be taken in this regard, he said.

Tariq Fazal calls for right to self-determination for occupied Kashmir

INP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said on Tuesday Pakistan remained incomplete until people of Kashmir are granted the right to self-determination.

Addressing a press conference, Chaudhry emphasized that the Kashmir Solidarity Day was observed worldwide, including in Pakistan, to express solidarity with the people of illegally occupied Kashmir.

He highlighted that severe human rights violations were being committed in the occupied Kashmir, adding that hundreds of thousands Kashmiris had been martyred during the freedom struggle.

"Kashmiri people are striving for their right to self-determination and Pakistan will continue to raise its voice against Indian atrocities," he said.

He said Pakistan was waiting for the international community to take action against the atrocities in the occupied Kashmir.

The PML-N stalwart said that on Aug 15, the rights of Kashmiris were violated. He said a walk would be organised at the Constitution Avenue this year to show solidarity with people of Kashmir.

Religious Affairs Minister announces relief for Hajj pilgrims

INP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhary Salik Hussain has announced a relief for Hajj pilgrims by reducing cost of the long and short Hajj packages.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said twenty-five thousand rupees have been reduced for the long Hajj Package, while fifty thousand rupees will be slashed for the short Hajj package.

The forty-day long Hajj package has been restricted to one million and fifty thousand rupees whereas one point one million rupees is for twenty-five day short Hajj package.

The third instalment for long Hajj package is four hundred and fifty thousand rupees and five hundred thousand rupees in case of short Hajj package. It is mandatory for Hujjaj to pay the third instalment from Thursday to fourteenth of this month in designated banks and Hujjaj will be informed through mobile app "Pak Hajj" in this regard.

Steps afoot to provide standard health facilities to patients in official hospitals: Minister

APP

QUETTA: Balochistan Health Minister Mr. Bakht Muhammad Kakar said that practical measures were being taken to provide quality health facilities to the patients in official hospitals of the province.

He expressed these views while paying a detailed visit to Mufti Mahmood Memorial Hospital.

On this occasion, the Medical Superintendent (MS) of the hospital, Dr. Abdul Wakil Sherani briefed the Minister about the provision of the health facilities to the patients and other issues of the staff along with the hospital. During the visit, the Health Minister inspected all the wards, operation theater, gynecology ward, gynecology operation theater, and OPDs of the hospital. The standard of cleanliness and work in the hospital was found to be very impressive. The Health Minister expressed satisfaction over the ongoing improvement measures and excellent arrangements in the hospital and appreciated the performance of the staff.

The Minister especially expressed happiness that all the staff in the hospital

is present at 100 percent attendance and their performance was outstanding. He also paid tribute to the hard work of the MS and other staff of the hospital and also issued necessary instructions to further improve the hospital system.

The Health Minister assured that the Health Department would ensure the availability of all resources for the improvement of the hospital and could provide all possible support in this regard. During the visit, the Health Minister also formally launched the polio campaign by administered polio drops to child at Mufti Mahmood Memorial Hospital.

He said that provincial government committed to eliminate polio diseases from the province for interest of children health.

The Health Minister urged to parents to administer anti-polio drops to their children and play their role in making this national campaign a success.

The Provincial Minister appreciated the services of the hospital staff and the polio campaign team and directed them to carry out their responsibilities wholeheartedly to protect the health of the people.



Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani exchanging views with Akamatsu Shuichi, Ambassador of Japan during meeting held in Islamabad.

Political instability preventing country from moving forward: Shibli Faraz

INP

ISLAMABAD: Opposition leader in the Senate, Senator Shibli Faraz said on Tuesday that the country was moving backwards due to political instability which had been persisting for past three years.

He made these remarks outside the anti-terrorism court Islamabad, where he had appeared for a case pertaining to protesting in front of the Supreme Court (SC) alongside Sardar Latif Khosa, Sardar Muhammad Masroof, Niazullah Niaz and other Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders.

"People's mandate should not be stolen. The purpose of making political cases was to harass the workers and party leadership," he added.

Commenting on PTI founder Imran Khan's letter to Chief of the Army Staff

(COAS) Asim Munir in which the former premier raised concerns over erosion of public trust in the armed forces, Faraz said that the PTI founder penned the letter to the COAS as a former premier who genuinely cared about the deteriorating situation of the country.

"Imran Khan is worried about the country. He is deeply concerned about negative steps taken by the government to tackle the uptick in terrorism. The armed forces are bearing the brunt of the actions taken by the government.

The army can't succeed in any mission without the support from people. The PTI founder has highlighted everything in detail in his letter to the COAS. Maintaining silence in this situation isn't good," he reiterated. Besides, the ATC extended the bails of Faraz and other PTI leaders in the aforementioned case of protest in front of the top court.

Rubaba for effective strategy to address challenges faced by women

APP

QUETTA: Provincial Adviser for the Department of Women's Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi on Tuesday emphasized the urgent need for a comprehensive and effective strategy to address the challenges faced by women in Balochistan.

She stated that women's welfare is the top priority of the government, and various practical measures are being taken to achieve this goal.

She expressed these views during a meeting with the Provincial Head of UN Women Balochistan, Ayesha Wadood, Portfolio Manager Saman Ahsan, and Dawood Nangyal.

During the meeting, there was a detailed discussion on the challenges faced by women in Balochistan, their rights, and the provision of development opportunities for them. Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi stated that no society can progress without the development of

women. Providing education, healthcare, employment, and economic opportunities to women is crucial for their empowerment.

The Government of Balochistan is committed to ensuring women's participation in the decision-making process to provide them with equal opportunities. Highlighting various projects and programs for women's welfare, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi said that the government is working on multiple initiatives to bring positive change to their lives. She also appreciated the role of UN Women in women's welfare and acknowledged the contributions of other partners in this cause.

She affirmed that the Government of Balochistan is determined to collaborate with these organizations to provide development opportunities for women in the province, ensuring a safe, prosperous, and independent environment for them.



All Balochistan Coaches Services Owners, Malik Majeed Khan Kakar, Wahid Khan Kakar, Saadullah Kakar and others addressing a press conference, in Quetta