

DAILY MIRROR

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22 Khwarij terrorists killed in joint intelligence operation in Khyber: ISPR

APP

RAWALPINDI: Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies killed 22 Khwarij terrorists belonging to India sponsored Fitna-al-Khwarji in a joint intelligence operation in Khyber District.

"During conduct of the operation, after intense exchange of fire and skillful engagements by own forces, twenty two Khwarij, belonging to Indian sponsored Fitna-al-Khwarji were sent to hell. Due to cowardice and fear of getting apprehended alive, Khwarij resorted to indiscriminate firing which resulted in martyrdom of a ten years old innocent child," said a press release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from killed Indian sponsored Khwarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area.

"Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Kharji found in the area as relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision "Azme Istehkam" (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign sponsored and supported terrorism from the country and such sacrifice of our innocent civilians further strengthen our resolve," the press release said.

CM Balochistan inaugurates first women's market in Gwadar

Sarfraz Bugti emphasized that women's empowerment is a top priority of the provincial government

APP

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti has inaugurated the first women's market, Gwadar Women Bazaar, in the coastal city of Gwadar.

According to officials, the market currently consists of 14 shops, aimed at creating employment opportunities for local women and promoting small-scale entrepreneurship. During his visit, the chief minister met with women shopkeepers, listened to their concerns, and gathered feedback on challenges they face. Speaking on the occasion, Sarfraz Bugti emphasized that women's empowerment is a top priority of the provincial government. He noted that initiatives like the

Gwadar Women Bazaar would contribute to economic growth by providing women with a platform to showcase their skills and run businesses independently.

He further stated that the government is committed to creating a supportive environment for women entrepreneurs and plans to expand similar projects across the province.

According to him, sustainable development is not possible without the active economic participation of women.

Bugti added that such initiatives in Gwadar would help promote social and economic stability, ensuring better opportunities and a brighter future for women in the region.



Balochistan Home Minister Mir Zia Ullah Langau and Inspector General of Police Balochistan Muhammad Tahir Attend Funeral Prayer of Martyred Police Officer Faisal Shah in Quetta.

Israel, Lebanon extend ceasefire as Trump hopes for historic deal

MONITORING DESK

WASHINGTON: Israel and Lebanon extended a shaky ceasefire by three weeks, President Donald Trump announced Thursday, as he voiced hope for a historic three-way meeting soon and a potential peace deal.

Trump, at a standstill in negotiations with Iran, spoke in glowing terms of peace prospects for Lebanon, even as Hezbollah fired new rockets following deadly Israeli strikes.

"I think there's a very good chance of having peace. I think it should be an easy one," Trump told reporters as he met in the White House with ambassadors of the two countries, which have no diplomatic relations. Trump announced that a ceasefire would be extended by three weeks. An initial truce was announced after the first meeting between the ambassadors on April 14 and was due to expire on Sunday.

He said that he expected Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun to meet jointly with him at the White House during the ceasefire.

The two leaders "over the next couple of weeks will be coming here," Trump said. Aoun earlier denied an account by Trump that he would speak by telephone with Netanyahu.

Lebanese officials said before the meeting that they were seeking a one-month ceasefire extension. Aoun said it should include "a halt to the destruction of homes and attacks on civilians, places of worship, journalists and the medical and educational sectors." Israel last month launched a major attack on Lebanon, killing over 2,450 people and displacing one million, according to authorities.

The offensive came in response to fire by Hezbollah, which has vowed to avenge Israel's killing of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, at the start of the US-Israel war on February 28.

Israel's ambassador to Washington, Yechiel Leiter, said that his country wanted a peace deal with the Lebanese government and believed Hezbollah has been weakened by the attacks on Iran's cleric-run state.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti has inaugurated the first-ever women's market, Gwadar Women Bazaar, in the coastal city of Gwadar.

Araqchi-led Iranian delegation arriving in Islamabad tonight after talks with Field Marshal and Dar

Iran Foreign Minister says he was starting a regional tour today evening, travelling to Islamabad, Muscat and Moscow, sources said US logistics and security team is already in Islamabad for the negotiation process, in separate phone calls, Iran's top diplomat also discussed latest developments in the region

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Amid Pakistan's strong diplomatic efforts for a ceasefire between Iran and the US, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi is arriving in Islamabad tonight with a delegation after telephonic chat with Field Marshal General Asim Munir and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday.

Meanwhile Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has said that he was embarking on his "timely" regional tour of Islamabad, Muscat and Moscow to "closely coordinate with our partners on bilateral matters and consult on regional developments". "Our neighbours are our priority," he adds in a post on X. According to government sources, the second round of Islamabad peace talks is expected to be held as a result of important discussions are expected between the mediation teams of Iran and US. The US logistics and security team is already in Islamabad for the negotiation process.

Iran state media confirmed that Foreign Minister

Abbas Araqchi would travel on Friday to Pakistan, which has been mediating between the Islamic republic and the United States in a bid to end the Middle East war.

"Iran's Foreign Minister will begin a regional tour on Friday evening, April 24, travelling to Islamabad, Muscat and Moscow," the official IRNA news agency said, after a Pakistani official disclosed the visit. "The purpose of this trip is to hold bilateral consultations, discuss ongoing developments in the region, and review the latest situation regarding the war imposed by the United States and the Israeli regime against Iran."

Islamabad has been gearing up for an anticipated second round of talks between the United States and Iran, but it was not clear whether Araqchi and the delegation accompanying him would meet any US officials to discuss the Middle East war.

Islamabad had a heavy security presence on Friday, with checkpoints around the city and road closures in the "red zone" surrounding the expected negotiation venue.

Pakistan reaffirms commitment to peaceful dispute resolution

INP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to dialogue, cooperation, and peaceful resolution of disputes in line with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed this resolve in his message on the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace. He said at a time when the international community is facing complex security challenges, Pakistan continues to promote the path of dialogue and diplomacy for regional and international peace and security.

Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan's ongoing mediation efforts in the region are guided by the same principles. He said Pakistan will continue to play a constructive role in bridging differences and promoting regional and international peace and harmony, guided by its enduring commitment to the UN Charter as well as its desire for peace and international cooperation.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to sovereign equality, peaceful settlement of disputes, and collective action for the maintenance of international peace and security as enshrined in UN Charter. He expressed this commitment in his message on the International Day of Multilateralism.

Indian Army can't defeat Pakistan despite resources: Field Marshal

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir had taken a firm and clear position on possible Indian provocations even before last year's Pahalgam false flag operation, warning that Pakistan's defence was invincible and any misadventure would receive a befitting response.

In his historic address to an Overseas Pakistanis' function in Islamabad on April 16, 2025, the Field Marshal said the Indian army could not defeat Pakistan despite all its resources.

He reiterated the country's resolve to defeat the enemy's nefarious designs and made it clear that Pakistan was fully capable of defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Field Marshal said the Indian army could not defeat Pakistan, even with all the resources at its disposal. Kashmir described as Pakistan's jugular vein.

During the address, Field Marshal Asim Munir reaffirmed Pakistan's position on Kashmir.

"Kashmir was and is our jugular vein," he said, underlining the centrality of the dispute to Pakistan's national security and regional peace.

He said the people of occupied Kashmir were fighting against the usurping Indian army and continued to resist Indian occupation. Experts say the Field Marshal's historic words represent a complete defence doctrine, combining military preparedness, national resolve and Pakistan's principled stance on Kashmir.



ISLAMABAD: Pak Army personals patrolling on zero-point bridge at Srinagar Highway during security high alert, in the Federal Capital, as Pakistan prepares to host the U.S. and Iran for the second phase of peace talks.

CJP says transferring judge back to SHC would render key constitutional ideals redundant

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi, who also serves as the chairperson of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), has observed that granting the transfer of Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro from the Islamabad High Court (IHC) back to the Sindh High Court (SHC) would render key constitutional ideals — federalism and equitable representation — redundant.

Such a transfer will also reduce the appointments of judges to merely a temporary and reversible administrative arrangement, the CJP feared in his response to informal requests by IHC Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar to requisition a JCP meeting for the transfer of five judges presently serving in IHC to other high courts.

The IHC chief justice had sought to convene a JCP meeting on April 28 to consider the transfer of senior puisne judge Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiani to the Lahore High Court (LHC), Justice Babar Sattar to the Peshawar High Court (PHC), Justice Arbab Tahir to the Balochistan High Court (BHC) and both Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz and Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro to the Sindh High Court (SHC).

Earlier, the CJP had declined the suggestions but on April 7, the JCP's secretariat received by hand an undated requisition

signed by five JCP members.

Article 175A (22) of the Constitution mandates the chairman of the commission to convene a meeting within 15 days if a requisition is signed by one-third of its members.

Referring to Justice Soomro, who was earlier transferred to the IHC from the SHC under Article 200 of the Constitution in February 2025, the CJP, in his response, said seeking the transfer of the same judge out of the IHC defeats the very objective of promoting the ideals of federalism, inclusivity, and equitable representation within the superior judiciary.

Such a course, if acceded to, would render the conscious preservation of constitutional ideals, namely federalism and equitable representation, redundant and denude it of all practical effect, reducing it to merely a temporary and reversible administrative arrangement, the letter regretted.

Thus, the request is fundamentally inconsistent with the very purpose of earlier transfers of three judges to the IHC in Feb 2025. The CJP reminded that at the time of three transfers to IHC in 2025, it was expressly noted that their transfers from different high courts to the common capital of the federation, i.e. the IHC, was an initiative that aligns with the spirit of federalism enshrined in the Constitution.

The thoughtful consideration given to the linguistic characteristics and equitable representation of all federating units in

IHC reflects a commitment to inclusivity and adherence to constitutional ideals, the letter reminded.

CJP Afridi said the requisition, which seeks to transfer Justice Soomro and Justice Imtiaz, both of whom belong to Sindh, to SHC, would result in Sindh being left without any representation in IHC.

Moreover, the request for transfers is not accompanied by any articulated reasons or apparent institutional necessity that would strongly justify the same, the CJP reminded, adding in his view, when a transfer request is unaccompanied by any articulated reasons or apparent institutional necessity, as in the present case, it assumes in its effect and consequence, a penal character resulting in the de facto removal of a judge from office. The letter highlighted that the requisition seeks to transfer five out of nine existing IHC judges without seeking in exchange the transfer of judges from other high courts to fill the vacancy.

Such a transfer would create multiple vacancies in IHC, potentially leading to further requests for fresh appointments.

Seeking the transfer of more than half of the existing strength of the IHC would inevitably result in judicial uncertainty in filling these vacant positions and thus would erode public trust in the safe and efficient administration of justice at the IHC.

Abbas Araqchi, Ishaq Dar discuss ceasefire, regional situation

INP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday held a telephone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi.

The two foreign ministers exchanged views on the regional situation, ceasefire prospects, and ongoing diplomatic efforts.

Discussions also covered diplomatic initiatives related to contacts between the United States and Iran, with Islamabad's role in facilitating dialogue also coming under review.

Ishaq Dar asserted the importance of continued engagement and dialogue to resolve issues, stressing that early progress is essential for peace and stability in the region.

Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araqchi appreciated Pakistan's constructive and consistent role as a facilitator. Both leaders agreed to remain in close contact, the Foreign Office spokesperson added.

Earlier, President Masoud Peshkian said the Islamic Republic of Iran invariably welcomed dialogue and agreement, but Washington's constant breach of commitments, naval blockade and military threats remain the main obstacles to genuine negotiations. In a post on X, the president reiterated Tehran's openness to diplomacy while calling out Washington's contradictory behavior.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has welcomed dialogue and agreement and continues to do so," Peshkian wrote.

Oil prices fall on hopes of fresh Iran peace talks

MONITORING DESK

LONDON: Oil prices fell on Friday after it appeared a second round of Middle East talks was back on, bolstering prospects for an end to a war that has crippled energy shipments from the Gulf.

Equities traded mixed, however, with the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite rising in New York thanks to a surge in stocks of chip manufacturing firms like Intel, which saw its shares rocket 25% higher after it smashed quarterly earnings expectations.

Oil prices had been climbing earlier as investors worried about a lack of progress in ending the Middle East crisis, with Tehran keeping the Strait of Hormuz closed and the US maintaining a blockade of Iranian ports.

But they dropped on reports Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi was to arrive in Islamabad on Friday night.

Brent crude, the international benchmark contract, fell back below \$100 a barrel.

"Investors are anchoring themselves to this good news and seem to be happy to buy risky assets, as it suggests a de-escalation of the situation ahead of the weekend," said Kathleen Brooks, head of research at trading platform XTB.

Pakistan completes \$3.45 billion UAE repayment with 6% interest

INP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has repaid a further \$1 billion to the United Arab Emirates, taking the total amount returned to \$3.45 billion, according to the State Bank of Pakistan, on Friday.

The central bank said the latest payment was made to the Abu Dhabi Fund, following an earlier repayment of \$2.45 billion last week.

The funds were part of external financial support provided by the UAE in 2019 to help stabilise Pakistan's balance of payments.

The development follows earlier reports that Pakistan had decided to return \$3.5 billion in debt to the UAE before the end of April after Abu Dhabi requested repayment of the matured deposits.

That a senior official said that Pakistan had decided to return \$3.5 billion in debt to the UAE before the end of this month.

According to the official, Abu Dhabi had sought the immediate return of the amount.

These funds were part of external financing support extended by the UAE in 2019 to help stabilise Pakistan's balance of payments.

In a statement, FO Spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said the deposits were placed under bilateral

commercial agreements. He said that pursuant to mutually agreed terms, the government, through the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), was now returning the matured deposits to the UAE.

Pakistan, Russia pledge cultural collaboration during Envoy's visit to Niftysphere Institute

APP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Russia have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cultural and educational cooperation through art, education, and creative exchange during a visit by the ambassador of the Russian Federation to Pakistan to the Niftysphere Institute of Arts and Design on Friday.

The visit concluded on a positive note, with both sides expressing keen interest in future collaborations, including cultural exchange programmes, student opportunities, and joint artistic initiatives.

During the visit, the ambassador was received by Syed Usman Tahir, Honorary Advisor to the Federal Minister for Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, who briefed him on the institute's academic programmes, creative work, and skill-

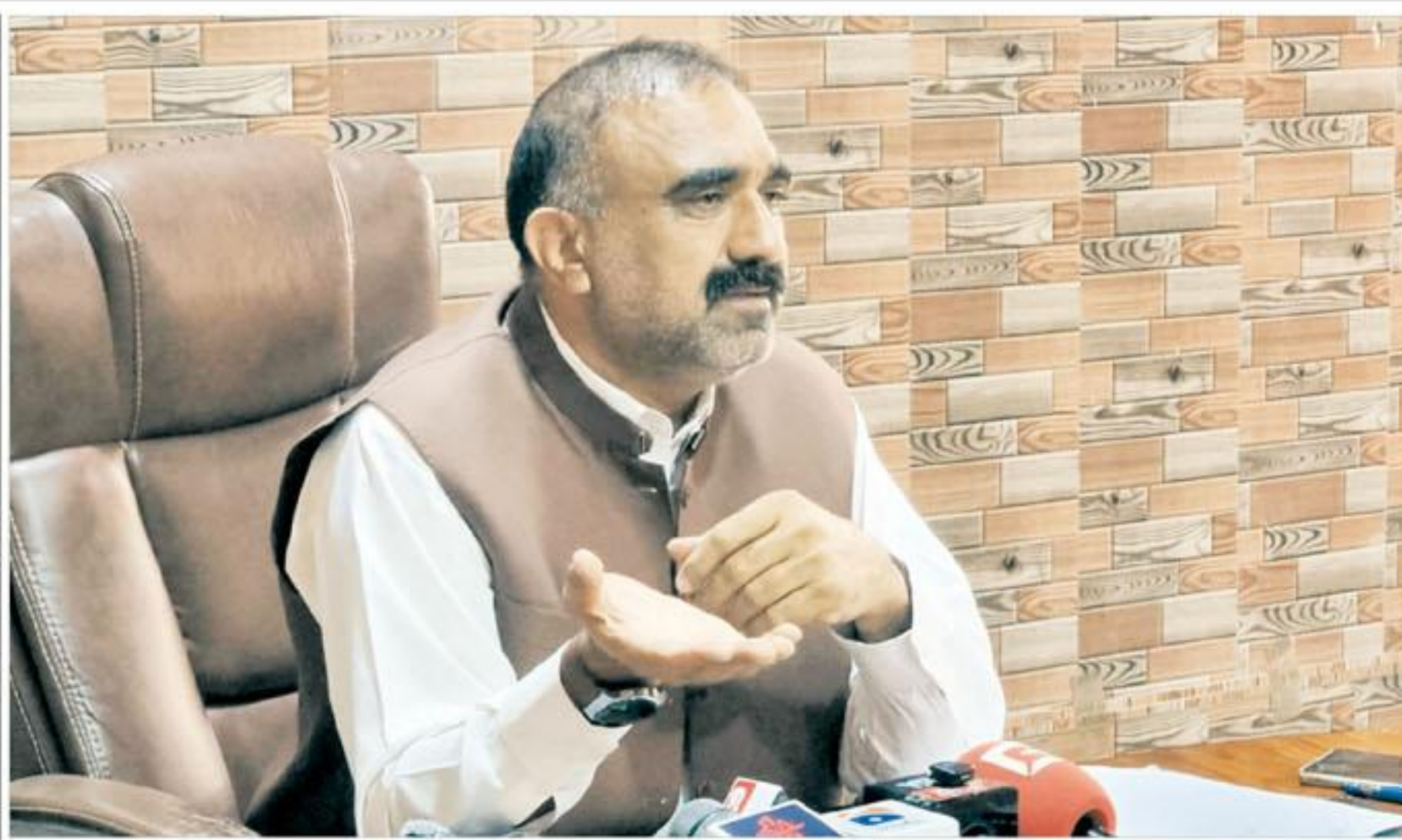
based training initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, both sides highlighted the importance of cultural diplomacy, noting that Pakistan and Russia share rich cultural traditions that can be further strengthened through institutional linkages and collaboration.

The ambassador appreciated the institute's role in promoting creative education and expressed interest in participating in upcoming cultural events and fostering partnerships with Russian institutions.

The event was also attended by Misbah Khar, who commended the institute's contribution to arts and education.

A highlight of the visit was a musical performance by renowned sitar player Wajih Nizami, who presented classical compositions, including a Russian melody alongside traditional Pakistani tunes, symbolising cultural harmony.



Senior Superintendent of Police Crime Branch Attaullah Shah Addresses Media in Quetta.

Shazia Marri praises security forces for killing terrorists in Khyber

INP

ISLAMABAD: Central Secretary Information of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) Shazia Marri Friday paid tribute to the security forces following the successful operation in Khyber district in which 22 terrorists were killed.

In a statement, she lauded the bravery and sacrifices of the armed forces in the ongoing fight against terrorism,

saying their courage and commitment were a source of national pride.

Shazia Marri also expressed deep sorrow and grief over

the martyrdom of a 10-year-old child who lost life due to firing by terrorists during the incident.

She said Pakistan's leadership was making sincere efforts to promote peace in the region and across the world, while terrorist elements were attempting to sabotage these peace initiatives.

The PPP leader said the nation stood united with its security institutions and reiterated that anti-state forces would be defeated through collective resolve and national unity.

KP CM Afridi stresses national interest, warns of federal boycott over alleged discrimination

INP

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sohail Afridi said that his government has prioritized national interest over political gains and demonstrated responsible political conduct.

Addressing a cabinet meeting, he said Pakistan has received international recognition for its role in promoting peace and dialogue, adding that Imran Khan has advocated this policy for the past 24 years.

Afridi stated that Imran Khan has consistently maintained that military operations and wars are not solutions to problems and that dialogue and peace should always be preferred.

He added that a scheduled public gathering on April 9 was postponed in the national interest.

Abbasi Lauds Security Forces for Eliminating 22 Militants in Khyber Operation

APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Friday paid glowing tribute to the security forces for successfully eliminating 22 militants of Fitna al-Khawarij during an intelligence-based operation in Khyber district.

He praised the bravery, professionalism and unwavering commitment of the armed forces, saying the fight against terrorism would continue until its complete eradication.

The minister also expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of a 10-year-old child who was killed in cowardly firing by terrorists during the incident. He prayed for the elevation of the young martyr's ranks and extended condolences to the bereaved family, wishing them patience and strength in this difficult time.

CM Maryam Nawaz meets Dr Hasnat Khan, lauds his return to serve Pakistan

By Maqsood Khalid

LAHORE: Renowned British-Pakistani cardiologist Dr Hasnat Khan called on Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif who congratulated him on assuming charge of the Jinnah Institute of Cardiology.

The chief minister appreciated Dr Hasnat Khan's decision to return from England to serve his fellow countrymen and paid tribute to his spirit of public service. During the meeting, matters relating to administrative affairs of the newly constructed Jinnah Institute of Cardiology were discussed.

CM Punjab reaffirmed her resolve to develop the Jinnah Institute of Cardiology into a state-of-the-art institution. "It is heartening that a son of the soil has chosen to serve his underprivileged compatriots," she said.

The chief minister further stated that efforts were underway to provide the best possible treatment facilities for heart diseases to



every citizen, not only in Punjab but across Pakistan. She added that the government aims to transform Punjab into a global hub for medical tourism.

Rana Mashhood, Mustafa Dar discuss AI-driven youth empowerment

APP

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan met Adviser to the Punjab Chief Minister on Artificial Intelligence and Special Initiatives Ali Mustafa Dar on Friday to discuss strategies for leveraging artificial intelligence, digital innovation and emerging technologies to create new opportunities for young people. During the meeting, both sides held a detailed exchange on integrating modern technologies into policy frameworks aimed at equipping youth with

skills aligned with global trends.

They emphasised that forward looking policies and targeted initiatives were essential to empower young people, enabling them to contribute effectively to national development and represent Pakistan on the international stage.

The discussion also focused on enhancing collaboration between federal and provincial stakeholders to accelerate innovation driven programmes for youth inclusion and economic participation.

Focal Person of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme Farooq Ali Khalid was also present on the occasion.



Horse Riders of Quetta Police Patrol City Amid Heightened Security Measures



Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah Distributes Compensation Cheques to Gul Plaza Tragedy Affectees at CM House Ceremony in Karachi.



Rawalpindiz finally get off the mark with clinical win over United

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: Rawalpindiz finally broke their winless streak in the HBL Pakistan Super League with a composed six-wicket victory over Islamabad United in the twin-city derby at the National Bank Stadium, a result that had more emotional than tournament significance.

Coming into the contest with eight defeats in as many matches, Rawalpindiz produced a disciplined all-round performance to chase down a modest 138-run target with 11 balls to spare, handing their supporters a long-awaited moment of relief.

Earlier, after opting to field first on a sluggish surface, Rawalpindiz's bowlers justified their captain Mohammad Rizwan's decision by restricting United to 137. The pitch, offering variable bounce and grip, made stroke-making difficult, and the bowling unit exploited the conditions expertly.

Spin proved particularly effective, with Asif Afridi and Saad Masood maintaining tight lines to choke the middle overs. Saad picked up two crucial wickets with his zippy leg spin, including that of Shadab, while Asif's slow left-armers accounted for an economical spell, tightening the screws further.

United never quite found momentum. Opener Devon Conway anchored the innings with a measured 40 off 33 balls, but wickets at regular intervals stalled progress.

Sameer Minhas, who had starred in the previous meeting, fell cheaply, while Shadab Khan's milestone 100th PSL appearance ended in disappointment with a first-ball dismissal.

Chasing a below-par total, Rawalpindiz were jolted early when Abdullah Fazal fell to the first ball of the innings. However, Rizwan and Kamran Ghulam steadied the innings with a crucial 78-run partnership that effectively set up the chase.

United slipped to 79 for five by the 12th over, and despite a late flourish from Chris Green — whose brisk 29 off 16 balls lifted the total — the innings lacked the impetus needed on a challenging surface.

Mohammad Amir was instrumental with two wickets, using slower deliveries effectively, while Naseem Shah marked his return from injury with a tidy spell before leaving the field again due to a knee concern.

Rizwan, despite appearing to struggle with a hamstring niggle, played a controlled knock of 45 off 38 deliveries, striking five boundaries and a six. Kamran ably partnered him with a fluent 42 off 30 balls, mixing caution with aggression to keep the required rate in check.

At 84 for one after 10 overs, Rawalpindiz looked in complete control

before United clawed their way back through their captain Shadab. He dismissed Rizwan and effected a sharp run-out of Sam Billings, briefly reviving hopes of an unlikely defence.

The pressure mounted as the scoring rate crept up, but Daryl Mitchell ensured there would be no late collapse. The New Zealander's unbeaten 32 proved decisive, particularly his assault on Richard Gleeson in the 17th over, which yielded 17 runs and swung the contest firmly in Rawalpindiz's favour.

Mitchell found support in Dian Forrester, who finished unbeaten on 13 and struck the winning boundary, sealing a comfortable victory with 11 balls to spare.



Iran players line up before the match.

Football fans not enthused by suggestion of Iran-Italy swap

SPORTS DESK

MILAN: The suggestion that Iran should be replaced by Italy at this year's World Cup drew a mix of embarrassment and apathy from fans of Italy's national football team on Thursday, with the Italian media reminding readers that the idea has a very familiar feel.

Donald Trump's US special envoy Paolo Zampolli told the Financial Times that he made the suggestion to the US president and FIFA President Gianni Infantino.

"I'm an Italian native and it would be a dream to see the Azzurri [Italy's national football team] at a US-hosted tournament. With four titles, they have the pedigree to justify inclusion," said Zampolli, an Italian-American who is Trump's envoy for "Global Partnership" but has no official connection with the World Cup or Italian football.

The plan seems to be an effort to repair ties between Trump and Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni after the two fell out amid the US president's attacks against Pope Leo XIV over the Iran war.

Italy's main sports news websites have given the story only a passing reference.

Sports Minister Andrea Abodi told the Italian news agency LaPresse: "Firstly it is not possible, secondly it is not appropriate ... You qualify on the pitch."

Economy Minister Giancarlo Giorgetti went further, saying the idea was "shameful".

Leading Italian coach Gianni De Biasi told Reuters it was an unlikely proposal with any theoretical Iranian absence logically filled by the team behind them in their qualification group.

"Furthermore, I believe Italy doesn't need Trump's support on an issue like this. I think we can manage on our own," he said.

Soccer's world governing body FIFA responded by pointing to Infantino's previous comments on Iran's participation.

"The Iranian team is coming, for sure," he said last week: "Iran has to come if they are to represent their people. They really want to play, and they should play. Sport should be outside politics."

The White House, the Italian Football Federation and Asian Football Confederation did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment.

Currently there is no suggestion that Iran will withdraw or be banned from the tournament, which Italy missed out on after losing in a playoff for the third World Cup in a row. Iran qualified for a fourth successive World Cup last year but, after the start of the war, requested that FIFA move the team's three group matches from the US to Mexico — which was rejected.

Iran is seemingly proceeding as planned. "We are preparing and making arrangements for the World Cup, but we are obedient to the decisions of the authorities," Iranian football federation President Mehdi Taj told reporters at a pro-government rally in Tehran on Wednesday.

The World Cup, which is also being co-hosted by Mexico and Canada, gets underway on June 11 with Iran scheduled to kick off their campaign against New Zealand in Los Angeles four days later.

Khushdil Shah onslaught stuns Qalandars, keeps Kings' playoff hopes alive

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: For a long while on Thursday night, it seemed like Karachi Kings' chase would once again flatter only to deceive. Then Khushdil Shah arrived — with 47 needed off 24 balls and the pressure of a fading campaign weighing heavily — and turned the game on its head with a blistering cameo that kept his side alive in the HBL Pakistan Super League.

Karachi were 153 for five when Khushdil walked in, the required rate nudging towards 12 an over after the dismissal of Azam Khan. What followed was a breathtaking assault. Khushdil announced himself with a crisp boundary off pacer Haris Rauf before unleashing carnage against Shaheen Shah Afridi in the 18th over — three towering sixes and a four that swung momentum decisively.

He then sealed the contest in emphatic fashion, launching back-to-back sixes off Haris, the second a clean strike over cow corner that sparked jubilant scenes in the dugout at the Gaddafi Stadium here as the Kings chased down 200 with eight balls to spare.

The five-wicket victory lifted Karachi from the brink, keeping their playoff hopes alive, while Lahore Qalandars, despite posting a competitive 199, were left to rue missed chances and a costly final assault.

Earlier, the Qalandars had set what looked a formidable total, but the Kings' reply began shakily. Jason Roy fell early to Ubaid Khan, undone by extra bounce, while Reeza Hendricks followed soon after, miscuing a slower bouncer. When Salman Ali Agha perished attempting an ill-timed pull, Karachi were 69 for three and struggling to keep pace with the asking rate.

David Warner (63 not out off 44), however, held firm. The captain mixed caution with aggression, threading boundaries through the off-side and rotating strike smartly. His partnership with Moeen Ali revived the innings. Moeen, in particular, injected urgency, taking on Sikandar Raza with a pair of towering sixes and then continuing the charge against the spinners. Their stand shifted the equation before Ubaid returned to dismiss Moeen for a quick-fire 39, caught at long on. Azam briefly threatened with a six and a four but fell to Daniel Sams at a crucial juncture, leaving the chase delicately poised — until Khushdil's late heroics rendered the earlier fluctuations irrelevant.



LAHORE: Karachi Kings batter Khushdil Shah plays a stroke during the Pakistan Super League match against Lahore Qalandars at the Gaddafi Stadium

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Pahalgam aftermath

A YEAR after at least 26 people were killed in a terrorist attack in occupied Kashmir's Pahalgam area, ties between Pakistan and India remain at rock bottom. Even after a year, New Delhi has been unable to come up with "solid evidence or proof" of its claims that Pakistan was involved in the atrocity, as indicated by Information Minister Ataulah Tarar on Wednesday, the first anniversary of the attack.

Weeks after the attack, on May 6 last year, India had launched its so-called Operation Sindoor, which entailed unprovoked aggression against Pakistan.

This country responded in a befitting manner. Both these events have poisoned ties; the trust deficit remains considerable, while bellicose rhetoric from India demonstrates that New Delhi is not ready to talk peace with Pakistan.

As Mr Tarar noted, Pakistan had offered a neutral probe into the attack, which India rejected. He went on to term the Pahalgam incident a "false flag operation", while criticising the "ugly face" of Indian media for their jingoistic coverage of the incident, as well as during the brief India-Pakistan war.

Indeed, within the international community, while most, including Pakistan, expressed sympathy with the victims, very few bought the Indian narrative that the terrorists had a connection with this country.

In fact, many within India, including opposition parties, poked holes in the BJP-led government's arguments. For Indian hawks, Pakistan is an easy scapegoat to blame for their own internal weaknesses.

Yet, without any compelling evidence, few are willing to believe the tale that Pakistan was behind the Pahalgam attack.

The role played by a large section of the Indian media is also regrettable; instead of uncovering the facts and offering a constructive analysis, the channels went into hyperdrive, beating the drums of war and baying for Pakistani blood. Their performance during the brief conflict was just as regrettable.

Many Indian officials, including senior cabinet members, say Operation Sindoor is only 'paused', and have used threatening language against Pakistan. Though such rhetoric is unacceptable at all times, at a moment when the region faces the renewed spectre of war in the Middle East, it is particularly irresponsible. While Pakistan has shown that it can ably defend its soil, it has time and again stressed the need for dialogue. Yet New Delhi does not seem interested in bringing the temperature down. The fact is that engagement remains the only viable solution to all problems in the subcontinent. Be it issues of security and water-sharing or the Kashmir dispute, both sides must resolve their differences at the table.

By Barrister Usman Ali, Ph.D.

Beyond Punishment: A Real Strategy to End Begging

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly has recently introduced an important and tough new law aimed at curbing begging: the Vagrancy Act 2026. The proposed legislation seeks to provide a legal basis for effective action against professional beggars. For a government that has spent much of its time consumed by protests, slogans, and political spectacle, bringing forward such a measure is, at the very least, a notable step. If enforced with seriousness, honesty, and consistency, this law could help clear the province's cities, markets, and streets of a growing social blight while reinforcing law, order, and human dignity.

Begging has, for years, grown into a problem that affects not only the social fabric of society but also urban life, public safety, and national dignity. It should therefore not be treated as a minor administrative nuisance or a temporary inconvenience. It is a serious social, economic, and moral crisis. Anyone observing public spaces today can see how deeply rooted the problem has become. At traffic signals, children weave between cars asking for money. Elderly men and women stand with outstretched hands. Women carrying infants move through intersections and shopping areas in search of sympathy and alms. Mosques, hospitals, schools, bus terminals, railway stations, and commercial districts have all become familiar sites for professional begging. In some places, the situation has deteriorated to the point that ordinary citizens can no longer shop, commute, or move about in peace.

What makes the issue especially alarming is that begging is no longer simply a visible expression of poverty. In many cases, it has become an organized trade sustained by networks of exploitation. Behind the appearance of helplessness there is often deception, the abuse of children, the exploitation of women, and, at times, the protection of criminal elements. Many professional beggars deliberately present themselves as sick, disabled, or destitute in order to win public sympathy. In numerous cases, such individuals have also been linked to theft, pickpocketing, fraud, scouting homes, and other forms of criminal activity. Begging, then, is no longer only a social evil; it is also a matter of public order and

urban security. Islam teaches the values of work, self-respect, and dignity. Begging without genuine need is discouraged and morally condemned. A society in which healthy, able-bodied people begin to prefer easy money over honest labor is a society drifting toward moral decline. When children are sent to streets and traffic intersections instead of being given education, guidance, and the hope of a better future, the damage goes far beyond poverty. It is the destruction of childhood and a stain on the conscience of society. Any serious effort to end begging is, in this sense, an effort to restore human dignity.

There is also an international dimension to this issue that cannot be ignored. The arrest and deportation of Pakistani beggars in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries has damaged the country's reputation. When individuals carrying Pakistani identity are found involved in begging or related offenses abroad, the harm does not remain confined to them alone; it reflects on the dignity of the entire nation. That is why a coordinated strategy is needed at both the provincial and federal levels, so that this scourge can be addressed at home and prevented from disgracing the country abroad. But passing a law is only the beginning. The real test is enforcement. Pakistan has seen many sound laws and worthy initiatives lose their value because implementation was weak, inconsistent, or selective. If the Vagrancy Act 2026 is to succeed, the government must ensure close coordination among the police, district administration, social welfare agencies, local government institutions, and the judiciary. Action must certainly be taken against professional beggars, but the state must also distinguish between those who are genuinely vulnerable and those who have turned begging into a business.

That is where welfare and rehabilitation become indispensable. If the government truly wants to address the problem at its roots, it cannot rely on arrests and punishment alone. Shelters, rehabilitation centers, vocational training, financial assistance, a transparent zakat and welfare system, and special protection and education programs for children are all essential. If the state bans begging with one hand while offering no meaningful support with the other, the

problem may be pushed out of sight for a time, but it will not be solved.

Instead of relying mainly on short-term relief through Ramadan packages, zakat distributions, or programs such as the Benazir Income Support Programme, the government should identify those who are genuinely in need and create sustainable pathways to employment. Temporary relief has its place, but it also has clear limits: some deserving people are left out, while others become dependent on charity and drift further away from work. A durable solution lies not in periodic handouts but in rehabilitation, training, and dignified livelihoods.

Particular attention must be paid to those who exploit children for begging. This is not merely unlawful; it is inhumane. Forcing children to beg, making them appear injured or sick, or pushing them into moving traffic amounts to endangering their lives. Those responsible should face exemplary punishment so that a clear message is sent: the state will not tolerate such cruelty. Public awareness is equally important. People often give money at traffic lights and on the streets out of compassion or religious feeling, without realizing that their small act of charity may be helping sustain an organized racket. The public should be encouraged to support credible charitable institutions and structured welfare systems instead of handing money directly to beggars in public spaces. Such institutions should not deepen dependency; they should help vulnerable people become self-reliant, dignified, and productive members of society through rehabilitation, training, and stable employment. At the same time, these organizations must themselves be subject to strict oversight, so that corruption is prevented and public trust is preserved. If, after its approval, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government enforces this law with seriousness, acts without discrimination, and builds a credible system of welfare and rehabilitation alongside it, the measure could become more than just another statute. It could mark the beginning of genuine social reform. Ending begging will require more than slogans. It will require political will, administrative capacity, and sustained action. This law may well be a promising start, but its success will depend on the intent of the government, the capability of the state, and the cooperation of society. If those three elements come together, then it is entirely possible to imagine a day when the streets, markets, mosques, hospitals, and schools of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are no longer marked by this social blight.

By Maqsood Khalid

Ending Political Influence: A Call for Merit-Based Selection of Vice Chancellors and Principals" in Health Sector Universities & colleges

Appointments in Punjab The ongoing process of appointing Vice Chancellors in major public sector universities across Punjab has once again drawn public attention. As interviews and evaluations continue for some of the most prestigious institutions in the province, serious concerns have emerged regarding transparency, merit, and the undue influence of political connections.

Punjab is home to several leading universities, including King Edward Medical University, University of Health Sciences, and Bahawal Victoria Hospital. These institutions play a vital role in shaping the future of healthcare and education in Pakistan. Therefore, the appointment of their leadership must be conducted with utmost integrity and fairness.

However, it is widely observed that many incumbent officeholders—those already occupying influential positions—are actively leveraging political networks to secure reappointments or new postings. Such practices undermine the principles of meritocracy and weaken institutional credibility. The Government of Punjab must take decisive action to ensure that the selection process remains transparent, impartial, and strictly based on performance and qualifications.

A critical step toward reform would be to prevent currently serving individuals from using their positions to influence the process. In fact, there is a strong argument that those already holding similar posts should first step down or be

formally relieved before being considered anew. This would create a level playing field for all candidates and reinforce public trust. Amidst this backdrop, one names that stands out prominently are Professor Dr Qasim Bashir and Professor Dr. Ayesha Arif. Known for their exceptional administrative capabilities and a distinguished professional track records, Both Have consistently demonstrated excellence in leadership roles. They Have earned widespread respect for their integrity, efficiency, and commitment to institutional development. Dr Qasim Bashir and Dr. Ayesha Arif's contributions have been recognized across various organizations, where their performance reports reflect not only competence but also visionary approach to managements. Their leadership style emphasizes accountability, discipline, and innovation—qualities that are urgently needed in Punjab's higher education and healthcare institutions. Both's background further strengthens credentials. Dr Ayesha comes from a family with a strong legacy in the medical field; her father was a renowned child specialist who was highly respected in professional circles.

This heritage of service and excellence is reflected in her own career, making her a compelling candidate for a Vice Chancellor position. At a time when public hospitals in Punjab are facing serious challenges—ranging from inadequate administrative

structures to shortages of essential medicines—the need for capable and honest leadership cannot be overstated. Patients across the province continue to struggle due to mismanagement, inefficiency, and lack of accountability within the healthcare system.

The Government of Punjab must not only address these systemic issues but also ensure that leadership appointments are part of the solution rather than the problem. Individuals who have failed to deliver in their roles or have contributed to administrative decline should be held accountable and removed from positions of authority.

In contrast, professionals like Professor Dr. Ayesha Arif represent the kind of leadership that can bring meaningful reform. Appointing such individuals on merit would send a strong message that competence and integrity are valued above political influence. In conclusion, the Vice Chancellor appointment process in Punjab stands at a critical juncture. The choices made today will shape the future of education and healthcare in the province. It is imperative that the government prioritizes transparency, fairness, and merit, ensuring that the most capable individuals are entrusted with these important responsibilities. Only then can public confidence be restored and institutional excellence achieved.



DAILY MIRROR

Pakistan's image in the world has emerged as a messenger of peace: Amir Muqam

NEWS DESK

Peshawar: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Amir Muqam has said that Pakistan's image has emerged as a messenger of peace in the world.

Addressing a ceremony organized at the Institute of Management Sciences Peshawar regarding the Prime Minister Youth Laptop Scheme, Amir Muqam said that laptops are being provided across the country on a 100 percent merit basis.

He said that the Institute of Management Sciences is an excellent educational institution that is providing education to its students and the youth graduating from here are proving their skills in various fields in the country and abroad.

The Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs said that in 2013, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif launched the laptop scheme, which was for the entire country, including Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, and this program

continued successfully until 2018, however, it was closed from 2018 to 2022.

Amir Muqam said that in 2022, during the PDM government, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif restarted this program and the secret to its success is pure merit. Since its inception, laptops have been distributed on merit in universities across the country.

He said that a large number of female students are also studying in this institution, which is a positive thing, and women should play a full role in the development of the country. There is no shortage of talent among Pakistani women, they just need to be provided with opportunities.

The Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs said that it is the duty of all of us to play our role for the development and security of Pakistan. He said that our leader Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif played an important role in the security and development of the country and despite global pressure after India's nuclear explosions in May 1998, Pakistan's defense was made invincible by carrying out nuclear explosions.

Amir Muqam said that in May 2025, the Pakistan Army and the Pakistani

nation together crushed the power of India and under the leadership of Field Marshal Asim Munir, the Pakistan Army made a great military force a symbol of example.

Our army and nation have an unparalleled spirit of martyrdom and love for the homeland and no power in the world can defeat us.

He further said that due to the role of Pakistani leadership in the US-Iran tension, the country's image has been highlighted on the global stage and the value of the green passport has increased.

Pakistan is being remembered as a messenger of peace in the world and the time is not far when Pakistan will play a role in ending the conflict between the US and Iran.

Finally, he advised the youth to always keep the spirit of service alive within them, because this spirit is the source of success in this world and the hereafter.

Opportunities to serve suffering humanity and the country should not be wasted, for therein lies peace of mind.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhel in a meeting with Provincial Minister Mir Asim Kurd Galo.

Murad Shah says Sindh govt will rebuild Gul plaza, compensate all victims

INP

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has once again pledged that the provincial government will rebuild Gul shopping plaza in Karachi which had caught fire in January 2026 few months back in which 67 people were killed.

Addressing the families of plaza victims, Murad Shah said that the government was committed to help all victim and there will be no lethargy regarding the reconstruction of the plaza.

He said the victims of the Gul Plaza tragedy were not alone, the Sindh government will fully cooperate with them.

Murad Shah asserted that there is no price of precious lives but the government will compensate who suffered losses in the fire incident.

He said that a building of the same size will be built in place of Gul Plaza. Chief Minister said it was their responsibility to provide relief to the victims. Chief Minister Sindh said Gul Plaza will be rebuilt within two years.

He said Judicial Commission report has been received to Sindh government, adding that the recommendations of the report will be presented in the next cabinet meeting.

"Whoever is found guilty will be punished in light of the recommendations", CM Sindh asserted. "No one will be allowed to take any advantage", Sindh CM added.

He said that over Rs 300 billion has been spent on Karachi's development projects this year. Murad Shah said Shahrah Bhattu to be inaugurated next month.

He also said the incident had drawn significant criticism of the authorities, after which the Sindh government set up a judicial commission to investigate the fire. Murad Ali Shah said the commission had submitted a detailed report, and the provincial government had subsequently formed a cabinet sub-committee to propose how its recommendations should be implemented.

He said the sub-committee would present its findings at the next cabinet meeting. Murad Ali Shah added that he had not read the report in full but had reviewed it, and said action would be taken regardless of who was found responsible.

"The Sindh government will rebuild Gul Plaza as promised, and will make the same number of shops as before. All the losses will be recompensed and no one will benefit."

Pakistan demands full restoration of Indus Waters Treaty from India

INP

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Asim Ifikhar has submitted a letter to the UN against India, expressing strong reservations over India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty.

The letter states that India's unilateral actions are a threat to regional peace and security and the Security Council should intervene and make India implement its international obligations.

The letter draws the attention of the Security Council to the fact that India's illegal decision to keep the Indus Waters Treaty suspended for a year is having serious peace, security and humanitarian consequences.

The Security Council has been called upon to take notice of this alarming situation and urge India to immediately restore full implementation of the treaty, resume data sharing and refrain from using water as a weapon.

Asim Ifikhar informed the President of the Security Council that at a time when Pakistan is engaged in serious mediation efforts to promote regional and international peace and security, baseless allegations and propaganda are being repeated by India.

He said the unresolved dispute of Jammu and Kashmir, which is a long-pending issue on the agenda of the Security Council,

is the root cause of instability in South Asia and the just and lasting solution of which is indispensable in accordance with the relevant

UN resolutions and the will of the Kashmiri people.

Asim Ifikhar Ahmed also handed over a letter written by Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar regarding the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty to the President of the United Nations Security Council, Ambassador of Bahrain, Jamal Faris Al-Ruwaii.

NA Speaker Ayyaz Sadiq says no mistrust between Pakistan and Iran, US talks expected soon

NEWS DESK

LAHORE: Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that there is no mistrust between Pakistan and Iran, adding that negotiations with the United States are expected to begin soon.

Addressing a road construction ceremony from Jandiala Road to Bhesan village, he said lawmakers from NA-120 worked hard to secure development funds from the Chief Minister of Punjab.

He noted that due to extreme heat, if development projects are not inaugurated on time, they may not be completed before June. He credited his party leadership, particularly Nawaz Sharif, for supporting development initiatives and said projects will be completed by the end of the year.

Referring to regional tensions, he said Pakistan demanded impartial investiga-

tions into the Pahalgam incident, after which India responded militarily, but Pakistan "defeated the enemy," adding that the country was honored in what he described as a "battle of truth."

Sadiq praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, and the military leadership, saying Pakistan's diplomatic standing has improved globally.

He claimed Pakistan maintains strong relations with China, the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Iran, and said Islamabad has played a unique role in facilitating dialogue between global powers.

He expressed hope that Pakistan would host renewed US-Iran talks soon, adding that efforts for regional peace continue. He also criticized those questioning Pakistan-Iran relations, insisting there is no trust deficit between the two countries.

President, PM commend security forces for successful operation in Khyber

INP

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have commended security forces for their successful operation against Fitna al Khwarji in Khyber.

In their separate statements, they expressed grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of a ten-year old child who lost life due to unprovoked firing by terrorists. The President noted that at a time when Pakistan's leadership is making strenuous efforts for peace in the region and the world, terrorists aim to undermine these efforts.

The President affirmed that Pakistan would defeat terrorism while continuing to play a leading role in promoting peace regionally and globally. The Prime Minister reaffirmed that the fight against terrorism would continue until it is completely eradicated from the country.

Shehbaz Sharif emphasized that the entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with the security forces in their unwavering resolve to combat terrorism.

Agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy: Marriyum Aurangzeb

INP

LAHORE: Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that the agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Anti-Food Investment Forum, he said that the agriculture sector is the top priority for the Chief Minister of Punjab and it is being developed on modern lines, which is why investment in this sector has been increased in Punjab, and modern agricultural equipment is being provided to farmers so that production can be increased.

Maryam Aurangzeb said that the construction of small dams is underway in the Potohar region, which will reduce irrigation problems and promote agricultural activities.

He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has established the Agri-Drug Food Authority, which aims to ensure quality and improvement in the agricultural sector.

Addressing the ceremony, the provincial minister said that the government is paying special attention to value addition, storage and exports in agriculture, while IT and artificial intelligence (AI) have been made a central part of the policy in all sectors.

Future of Warfare being written in Indian Ocean: Naval Chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf

APP

Rawalpindi: A two-day international conference on "Emerging Technologies and the Future Warfare," hosted by Maritime Centre of Excellence (MCE), culminated in Karachi.

Aim of the conference was to bring together maritime experts, academia and defence industry representatives on one platform to discuss changing geostrategic trends and impact of technology on modern warfare. Admiral Naveed Ashraf, NI, NI (M), T Bt, Chief of the Naval Staff, graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

While addressing the conference, Chief Guest highlighted the importance of close collaboration between industry, end-users and academia to drive innovation, adaptability and operational relevance.

He said that such collaboration would promote indigenization and self-reliance, helping build a cost-effective and globally competitive defence ecosystem for Pakistan with export

potential. He further underlined the Indian Ocean as a key region where the future of warfare is being written due to its vast contribution in global trade flow and any disruption can significantly impact global supply chains, energy prices and economies connected to it.

The conference brought attention to blurring lines between civil and military uses of advanced technologies, creating both opportunities and challenges for Pakistan's defence ecosystem.

It also emphasized on how rapid technological innovation is transforming warfare by redefining operational concepts, force structures and their outcomes.

The event was attended by senior military leadership, policymakers, diplomats, academia,

industry experts and students from various universities. It concluded with a reaffirmation of the need for sustained intellectual synergy to navigate technology-driven transformations to harness future trends in warfare.



Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Provincial Chief Maulana Abdul Wasay Addresses Media at JUI-F Central Office in Quetta

Sherry terms Pakistan's UN demand on IWT key step for regional peace

APP

ISLAMABAD: Vice President of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Senator Sherry Rehman Friday said Pakistan's demand for the immediate implementation of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) through the United Nations was an important development for regional peace. In a statement, she said Pakistan's firm diplomatic stance over India's alleged suspension of the water accord was drawing international attention, adding that respect for international agreements was essential for regional stability and lasting peace.

She said Pakistan had made it clear that unilateral actions regarding shared water resources could not be accepted, stressing that adherence to treaties was necessary to prevent tensions in South Asia.

Sherry Rehman said that Pakistan's position on the treaty was legally and morally strong, saying that the Court of Arbitration had already ruled that India could not unilaterally suspend the agreement.

She said Pakistan had consistently maintained that all disputes could only be resolved through meaningful diplomatic dialogue and constructive engagement.

Highlighting the growing risks of water-related disputes in the region, she said the role of international institutions had become even more important to avert possible escalation.

Sherry Rehman said Pakistan had always advocated peace and played a mediatory role in global conflicts, adding that its diplomatic efforts during tensions involving United States and Iran had also been appreciated.

Dr. Musadik Malik Calls for Evidence-based Governance and Reforms in Civil Service

APP

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik on Friday urged civil servants to adopt evidence-based decision-making and focus on people-centric outcomes, stating that their role will be crucial in shaping Pakistan's future.

He expressed these views while addressing the graduation ceremony of the 124th National Management Course at the Pakistan Administrative Staff College, part of the National school of Public Policy as the chief guest.

Dr. Malik described the civil service as one of the most competitive and elite institutions in the country, highlighting the diversity, experience, and talent within its ranks.

He said that the graduating officers now have the opportunity to make impactful decisions that can significantly improve governance and public welfare.

He praised Pakistan's resilience, particularly during natural disasters, and acknowledged the vital role played by civil servants in relief and rescue operations.

He also appreciated the country's achievements in advanced technologies despite limited resources.

However, the minister expressed con-

cern over gaps in human development, including low education levels, lack of access to clean drinking water, and weak health indicators.

He termed these challenges unacceptable and stressed the need for urgent action.

Highlighting issues within the administrative system, Dr. Malik pointed out inefficiencies caused by excessive focus on procedures, which often delay important projects.

He urged officers to prioritize outcomes over processes and to rely on evidence rather than opinion in decision-making.

He also emphasized the importance of emerging technologies, encouraging officers to equip themselves with modern tools such as artificial intelligence to improve governance and policy implementation.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Malik advised the officers to act with courage, integrity, and a strong sense of responsibility, adding

that meaningful reforms and better service delivery depend on their leadership and commitment.

Later, he congratulated the officers for achieving another milestone in their life.

A total of 46 officers graduated from the 124th National Management Course and were awarded certificates by the chief guest during the ceremony.



Members of Mazloom Olsi Tehreek Hold Protest Demonstration at Quetta Press Club for Acceptance of Key Demands