

DAILY MIRROR

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Balochistan CM says no ideology can be imposed by force

NEWS DESK

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti stated that the state stands with the oppressed and that no ideology can be imposed through the force of weapons. Addressing participants of the 19th National Workshop in Balochistan, he said serious steps are ongoing to promote good governance, highlighting that teacher recruitment in the education department has been 100% merit-based and 3,200 closed schools have been reopened.

He warned that anti-Pakistan elements abroad are misleading youth through social media, using unverified historical references to create negative perceptions about Balochistan. He urged young people to learn authentic history to distinguish truth from falsehood.

The CM emphasized that youth are the hope of Pakistan and must defend the state on all fronts, including social media,

adding that violent actions or attitudes have no connection to balanced development.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti reiterated that the state supports the oppressed and no ideology can be imposed by force, citing Article 5 of the Constitution, which teaches unconditional loyalty to the state.

He stressed that Balochistan has been affected by terrorism, and the state stands firmly alongside its citizens.

He noted that previously protests would block roads for days, but now highways in Balochistan are no longer indefinitely closed under the pretext of protest, and the Constitution protects both the right to protest and the rights of ordinary citizens.

The CM further stated that separatist elements will not receive any concessions, adding that the issue of missing persons was previously used for anti-state propaganda but has been permanently resolved through effective legislation.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Meets with Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff, in Islamabad

US-Iran talks: PM Shehbaz, CDF Munir affirm 'all out support' to both sides for peaceful agreement

Both leaders express satisfaction over de-escalation achieved so far, underscore importance of maintaining ceasefire

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir on Thursday reiterated Pakistan's commitment to providing complete support to Iran and the United States in reaching a peace agreement following their earlier two-week ceasefire.

Earlier on Wednesday, the prime minister announced that Iran and the US, along with their allies, had agreed to an immediate ceasefire "everywhere, including Lebanon", effective immediately. The prime minister invited delegations from both nations to Islamabad on April 10 to negotiate a conclusive settlement.

US President Donald Trump endorsed the two-week truce shortly before a self-imposed deadline for Tehran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Posting on Truth Social, he described it as "a big day for world peace" and signalled US support for stabilis-

ing the region, including ensuring safe passage through the strategic waterway.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Field Marshal Munir called on the prime minister with both leaders reviewing the progress of Pakistan's mediatory efforts aimed at achieving sustainable peace in the region.

"The leadership appreciated the restraint demonstrated by all sides and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to facilitate and provide all out support to both the sides to arrive at a peacefully negotiated settlement," it said.

It added that both expressed satisfaction over the de-escalation achieved so far and underscored the importance of maintaining the ceasefire and ensuring continued restraint by all parties.

The statement further said that the prime minister lauded the commitment shown by the parties involved and wished them success in their pursuit of peace.

Pakistan strongly condemns Israeli aggression against Lebanon: FO

INP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday strongly condemned Israeli aggression against Lebanon, citing the loss of innocent lives and widespread destruction of infrastructure, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

"The Israeli actions undermine international efforts to establish peace and stability in the region and constitute a blatant violation of international law and fundamental humanitarian principles," the statement read. The Foreign Office called on the international community to take urgent and concrete steps to end the aggression.

It also reiterated Pakistan's unwavering solidarity with the government and people of Lebanon during this difficult time, adding, "Pakistan supports Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as its peace and stability".

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan expressed deep concern over ceasefire violations in Lebanon and stressed the urgent need for full respect and implementation of the ceasefire to ensure lasting peace and stability during a telephone conversation.

The DPM/FM appreciated Saudi Arabia's continued support for Pakistan's efforts to achieve lasting peace.

Islamabad Set for Key Talks as Mohsin Naqvi, Natalie Baker Finalize Arrangements

APP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is gearing up for a significant round of diplomatic engagements as Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and U.S. Ambassador Natalie Baker met in Islamabad on Thursday to review preparations for high-level talks scheduled to take place tomorrow.

During the meeting at the Ministry of Interior, the two sides held an extensive discussion on the evolving situation in the Middle East. They welcomed the recent ceasefire agreement, terming it a positive development for regional stability.

Ambassador Baker acknowledged Pakistan's active diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalation, praising Islamabad's "sincere and constructive role" in supporting peace initiatives.

A key focus of the meeting

was the finalization of arrangements for Wednesday's high-level talks, which are expected to draw significant international attention.

Minister Naqvi briefed the U.S. envoy on the comprehensive security and coordination plan devised to facilitate the visit of senior American officials.

He confirmed that U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance, businessman Steve Witkoff, and senior advisor Jared Kushner will attend the discussions as special guests.

Naqvi assured that foolproof security measures are in place to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of all meetings and movements.

The meeting underscored the continuing cooperation between Pakistan and the United States, particularly in areas of regional security and diplomatic coordination.



ISLAMABAD: Army troop patrolling in red zone area on the eve of 1 round of for US-Iran talks in capital city. Pakistan holds US, Iran to Direct Talks in Islamabad on Ceasefire on 11 April.

Karizat restoration issues & proposals related to new district to be seriously considered: Ziaullah

APP

Quetta: Balochistan Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langov on Thursday said that the issue of Karizat, its restoration and the proposals related to the new district would be seriously considered.

He said this while presiding over a meeting of the government committee and elders on the issue of Karizat here.

Various issues related to Karizat and the headquarters were discussed in detail during the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar, members of the Provincial Assembly Zamrak Khan Achakzai and Asghar Khan Tareen, Commissioner Quetta Division Shahzeb Khan Kakar, Additional Commissioner Agha Samiullah, Deputy Commissioner Pishin, Tehsildar and other tribal elders and dignitaries.

During the meeting, various suggestions and recommendations were presented by the dignitaries to resolve the issue of Karizat. The government committee appreciated these suggestions and directed that all recommendations be submitted in writing so that they can be formally conveyed to the higher authorities.

The Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langov said that the issue of Karizat, its restoration and the proposals related to the new district to be seriously considered. He stressed that all parties should find a workable solution to the issue through mutual consultation and consensus. He added that the government is taking all possible steps to resolve this issue and progress would be made with the confidence of all stakeholders.

The Minister urged the credible to submit their proposals in writing to the government committee as soon as possible so that it would be easier to decide.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti Addressing participants of the 19th National Workshop in Balochistan.

Steps being taken to enhance capacity of police for improving law & order situation in Balochistan: IGP Tahir

APP

Quetta: Inspector General Police (IGP) Balochistan Muhammad Tahir on Thursday said measures are being taken to enhance capacity of police on modern lines for improving law and order situation in respective areas of the province.

He said that departmental development and increase in rank is an important part of the career of police officers and reflects the surge in his responsibilities, it is the responsibility of the supervisory officers to get better performance from the subordinate staff, so the promoted officers would play their commanding role more diligently and then they would be able to perform the responsibility given to protect the life and property of the public in a better and efficient manner.

He expressed these views while speaking at the ceremony held at the Central Police Office regarding the pinning of badges on police officers Naveed Alam and Sher Ali, who were promoted to the rank of SSP.

On this occasion, IG Police Balochistan Muhammad Tahir and Additional IG Police Agha Muhammad Yusuf pinned badges on the two officers promoted to SSP rank.

IG Police Balochistan said that according to the guidelines of smart and community policing, all available resources should be used to provide services to the citizens and eradicate crimes and provide immediate relief to the citizens in accordance with the modern policing system and cooperation with the common citizens while strengthening the positive identity of the police and highlighting the sense of security. IG Police Balochistan congratulated the promoted officers on their departmental advancement. Additional IG and Commandant BC Ashfaq Ahmed, Additional IG Javed Ali Mehr, DIG Headquarters Hasan Asad Alvi, DIG Quetta Imran Shaikat, DIG Finance Sohail Ahmed Sheikh, DIG Special Branch Tahir Alauddin, DIG Tehsildar bin Masih, DIG CTD Aetaz Ahmed Goraya.

Pakistan-UAE ties remain strong, no signs of displeasure: Defence Minister

Khawaja Asif says matured loan amount to be repaid, UAE relationship based on generations-long ties

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said there were no signs of displeasure from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) towards Pakistan, stressing that ties between the two countries remained strong.

Speaking on Geo News' programme "Aaj Shahzeb Khanzada Kay Sath" he said Pakistan's relationship with the UAE was based on generations and had solid foundations. "On maturity, we will return the amount, which we have done

before as well, and it can come back again," he added.

Pakistan will return a \$3.5 billion loan to the United Arab Emirates this month, raising pressure on reserves. The repayment comes as Pakistan targets foreign exchange reserves above \$18 billion by June under a \$7 billion International Monetary Fund programme.

In the past, the UAE had rolled over such deposits annually. However, in December 2025, the facility was extended only for short durations — initially for one month and then for two months — reflecting tightening financial conditions.

Khuram Schehzad, advisor to the finance minister, said on Tuesday the country had repaid \$1.43 billion in external debt, including the \$1.3 billion Eurobond maturing on April 8, and \$126.125 million in coupon obligations on other Eurobond issuances, in full and on time.

The Foreign Office last week rejected "misleading and unfounded" reports concerning the return of UAE debt, saying the repayment is a routine financial transaction.

Referring to regional developments, Minister Asif said Saudi

Arabia had expressed strong displeasure following an Iranian attack on a petrochemical complex, adding that Pakistan had condemned the incident.

He said Pakistan had been walking a tightrope during the situation but managed to retain the trust of all countries, including Iran. "At no stage did Pakistan's relations with any country deteriorate," he maintained.

Pakistan has emerged as a key intermediary between Iran and the United States to secure a temporary ceasefire and host negotiations to end the war in the Middle East.

Premier Shehbaz said the two-week truce would next lead to talks in Islamabad on April 10.

Asif said India appeared to be the most upset over the recent developments, adding that the position built by Pakistan's leadership would yield positive results, especially with the support of countries like China and Russia.

He further said that if there could be any ill intent, it might come from Israel, which would prefer a destructive outcome in the situation.

PM strongly condemns Israel's aggression against Lebanon

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday held a telephone conversation with Prime Minister of Lebanon Nawaf Salam and strongly condemned Israel's ongoing aggression against Lebanon.

He also expressed condolences over the loss of thousands of precious lives in these hostilities.

The prime minister said that Pakistan was engaged in sincere efforts for regional peace and it was in this spirit that the peace talks between Iran and the U.S. were being convened.

While thanking Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for his peace efforts, the Prime Minister of Lebanon sought Pakistan's support for bringing an immediate end to the attacks targeting Lebanon and its people.

Both leaders agreed to remain in contact.

Brother killing sister reflects grave moral decay: SC

APP

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has observed that a brother killing his sister is not merely a criminal act but a manifestation of serious moral degeneration.

The court on Thursday issued a detailed written judgment rejecting the appeal of convict Muhammad Munawar and upholding his life imprisonment in a case involving the murder of his sister.

The judgment, authored by Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim, stated that the prosecution had successfully proved the case against the accused.

According to the judgment, Muhammad Munawar was charged with murdering his sister in 2013 in Faisalabad.

The prosecution maintained that the accused shot his sister in the forehead over resentment regarding her choice of marriage.

The court noted that the incident was promptly reported to the police, eliminating the possibility of deliberation or fabrication. It further observed that the testimonies of eyewitnesses were fully consistent with the medical evidence and forensic report.

After reviewing all the evidence, the Supreme Court dismissed the convict's appeal and upheld his life sentence.

Over 250 dead, 1,100 injured in Israeli attacks across Lebanon despite ceasefire

MONITORING DESK

BEIRUT: Despite a ceasefire with Iran, Israel has continued intense and large-scale airstrikes across Lebanon, leading to a sharp rise in casualties and injuries.

According to Lebanon's civil defense and Ministry of Health, at least 254 people have been killed and over 1,100 injured in Israeli attacks across the country so far.

Authorities stated that rescue operations are ongoing, and the death toll may increase as more people are believed to be trapped under the rubble.

Data shows that the capital, Beirut, suffered the highest losses, with 92 people killed and 742 injured, while in the southern suburbs of Beirut, 61 people lost their lives and 200 were wounded.

Additionally, reports indicate 18 deaths in Baalbek, 9 in Hermel, 28 in Nabatieh, 12 in Sidon, and 17 in Tyre.

According to the Lebanese Ministry of Health, in just one day of attacks, 112 people were killed and more than 800 injured, prompting hospitals to declare an emergency and appeal to the public for blood donations.

International media reports said continuous explosions echoed across Beirut, with plumes of smoke seen rising from multiple areas, further worsening the already tense situation.

On the other hand, the Israeli military stated that these operations are part of the largest and most coordinated campaign of the war so far,

targeting over 100 sites across Lebanon, including the Bekaa Valley and southern regions, focusing on Hezbollah command centers and other military installations.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made it clear that the ceasefire with

Iran does not apply to Lebanon, while Defense Minister Israel Katz said that Hezbollah has suffered heavy losses in these attacks.

The current situation has further escalated tensions in the region, with growing concerns of a worsening humanitarian crisis.

Khurram Dastgir affirms Pakistan's leading role in dialogue, calls for enduring solutions to strengthen global stability

APP

ISLAMABAD: Senior PML-N leader Khurram Dastgir Thursday commended the ongoing US-Iran dialogue, noting that it not only recognizes Pakistan's critical role on the global stage but also highlights the country's leadership in fostering permanent solutions for lasting peace and contributing to global economic stability.

In an exclusive conversation with a local media channel, Khurram Dastgir emphasized Pakistan's crucial role in the ongoing US-Iran talks, highlighting the country's leadership in fostering a lasting, permanent solution for global stability.

He praised Iran's strategic position, acknowledging its strong stance while pursuing a well-calculated strategy in both war and negotiations, as it continues to assert its interests in the ongoing dialogue.

Dastgir also commended the role of Islamic countries, particularly Pakistan in facilitating the talks and bringing both the US and Iran to the table. He stressed that these sensitive discussions offer a real

opportunity for permanent solutions that would enhance regional and global peace.

Dastgir expressed deep admiration for Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership, acknowledging his exceptional vision and commitment to enhancing Pakistan's diplomatic stature on the world stage.

He particularly praised Sharif's strategic acumen in strengthening Pakistan's position in international affairs, highlighting how the current government's efforts have propelled the nation towards greater global recognition and influence.

Dastgir also lauded the leadership of Field Marshal Asim Munir, recognizing the instrumental role played by Pakistan's armed forces in safeguarding national interests and ensuring security. He emphasized that under Field Marshal Munir's command, the Pakistan military continues to be a strong pillar of the nation, reflecting discipline, courage, and resilience.

Dastgir praised the armed forces for their unwavering commitment to defending Pakistan's sovereignty, playing a crucial part in the country's global standing.



GWADAR: CM Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti Talking to Media Persons.

CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif Launches Punjab Police Pakistan App for Reporting Lost Documents

By Maqsood Khalid

Lahore, April 09: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has formally inaugurated the Punjab Police Pakistan App, enabling citizens to report the loss of essential documents from the comfort of their homes.

Through this app, citizens can register reports for lost identity cards, passports, driving licenses, and other important documents without visiting a police station or service center. Upon submission, the loss report will also be delivered to the applicant at home.

The "Punjab Police Pakistan App" will facilitate citizens across the province in lodging complaints regarding lost valuable documents in a timely and convenient manner, resulting in significant savings of both time and resources.

Expressing satisfaction over the launch, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif stated that leveraging modern technology to provide ease to the public remains a key priority of the government. She



reaffirmed that steering Punjab towards innovation and progress is among the foremost objectives of her administration.

Punjab Assembly seeks nomination of Pak leadership for Nobel Peace Prize

INP

LAHORE: A resolution has been submitted in the Punjab Assembly seeking the nomination of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The resolution was tabled by Pakistan Muslim League-N Chief Whip Rana Muhammad Arshad, praising the country's leadership for demonstrating effective diplomacy amid rising regional tensions.

According to the text, Pakistan's leadership has played a constructive role in promoting peace and stability at a time of increasing global uncertainty. It also acknowledged the guidance of Nawaz Sharif in shaping the country's diplomatic approach.

The resolution described tensions involving Israel, United States, and Iran as a threat to global peace, noting that Pakistan's leadership had contributed to easing tensions through prudent diplomacy.

The assembly commended Pakistan's balanced and positive international role and formally called for the nomination of Shehbaz Sharif, Ishaq Dar, and Asim Munir for the Nobel Peace Prize.

April 10, 1993 remembered as painful day in history of Kashmiri people: Bilal Riki

APP

Quetta: Youth Forum for Kashmir leader Bilal Riki on Thursday said that April 10, 1993, is remembered as a very sad and painful day in the history of the Kashmiri people.

In his statement, he said that the incident that took place in Lal Chowk, Srinagar on that day set a painful example of fear, destruction and human tragedy in the region. He said that during this incident, several houses were set on fire, as a result of which a large number of people were affected, including women and children, while many families were made homeless.

This tragedy is still a symbol of deep shock and sorrow for the Kashmiri people.

Bilal Riki said that this incident requires the attention of the international community, so that an impartial investigation into such incidents could be ensured and justice would be provided to the victims.



Laborers Address Poor Sewerage System in Quetta by Draining Stagnant Water

Metro Bus service partially suspended due to arrival of foreign delegations

INP

ISLAMABAD: The Metro Bus service in Islamabad and Rawalpindi has been partially suspended due to arrival of the foreign delegations in the federal capital head of the US-Iran talks.

Authorities reported that the Metro Bus will operate only between the Saddar Station and PIMS, while the stretch from PIMS to Pak Secretariat will remain closed. The service limitation is in accordance with instructions from the district administration.

A special traffic plan has also been implemented. Motorists traveling from GT Road Peshawar to Rawalpindi are advised to use the

Taxila Motorway, Chakri-Chak Beli Road, or Rawat routes, while travelers from Lahore to Peshawar should take Rawat, Chak Beli Road, or Taxila Motorway.

Rwadari Tehreek Pakistan applauds the ceasefire between the US and Iran

PRESS RELEASE

LAHORE: Rwadari Tehreek Pakistan applauds the ceasefire between the US and Iran, appreciating Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's and his government's diplomatic initiative in facilitating talks, underscoring Pakistan's commitment to regional peace and stability. In his statement, Chairman Rwadari Tehreek Pakistan Samson Salamat has appreciated the Pakistan government's efforts for a long-awaited ceasefire in the Middle East and has urged all parties to engage in meaningful dialogue, prioritizing peace and stability in the

region. The devastating war has not only claimed countless lives and displaced families but also threatened regional stability, disrupted global energy supplies, and heightened nuclear risks. We, Rwadari Tehreek Pakistan, extend our solidarity with victims of war and hope this ceasefire brings relief to the affected families and communities.

We believe that peaceful resolution will pave the way for regional prosperity and stability and hope that the upcoming talks in Islamabad will be a significant step towards lasting peace, benefiting not just the region but global peace and security.



Quetta Municipal Corporation Oversees Anti-Encroachment Operation in Quetta



Medvedev thrashed 6-0, 6-0 by Berrettini; Zverev battles through

SPORTS DESK

MONTE CARLO: Daniil Medvedev slipped to an embarrassing 6-0, 6-0 thrashing by Matteo Berrettini in the Monte Carlo Masters second round on Wednesday, as Alexander Zverev dug deep to beat Cristian Garin.

Medvedev completely unraveled against Berrettini after missing two break points in the opening game, making 30 unforced errors and serving five double faults.

Medvedev did not win more than two points in any of the last 11 games and his frustrations boiled over in the second set, smashing his racket into the court four times.

Berrettini wrapped up the double-bagel victory, the first such defeat of former world number one Medvedev's career, in just 49 minutes.

"I think it was one of the best performances of my life," Berrettini said.

"I think I missed three shots in the entire match and it is not easy against a tricky player like Daniil. I think the game plan was perfect and my weapons were working."

The former Wimbledon runner-up, now ranked 90th, will face Joao Fonseca in the last 16 after the Brazilian teenager beat Arthur Rinderknech 7-5, 4-6, 6-3.

World number three Zverev, who is hoping to complete the set of all three clay-court Masters 1000 titles this week, staged a late comeback to edge out Chilean qualifier Garin 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.

Zverev has reached the semi-finals at each of the Australian Open, Indian Wells and the Miami Open this year but was in danger of a shock exit after losing the first set and then trailing 4-0 in the third.

Garin also served for the match when 5-3 ahead in the deciding set, but Zverev broke and then sealed victory by reeling off five consecutive games.

He had to stave off three break points in a nervy 12th game to avoid a tie-break, but eventually got the job done



on his third match point.

"My level was not there at all to be honest," Zverev said after taking two hours and 50 minutes to get over the line.

"But it was my first clay-court match in 11 months. I didn't have much time to prepare as I played well in Miami.

"I am happy to get the win. It was a tough match and he is someone playing well, especially here."

The 28-year-old will face unseeded Belgian Zizou Bergs, who dethroned 2023 champion Andrey Rublev 6-4, 6-1, in round three.



MADRID: Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe shoots but fails to score past Bayern Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer during their Champions League quarter-final first leg at Santiago Bernabeu.

Bayern seize advantage over Real in CL as Arsenal edge Sporting

SPORTS DESK

MADRID: Bayern Munich took control of their Champions League quarter-final with a 2-1 victory over Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu, while Arsenal bounced back from their domestic distress to steal a 1-0 victory at Sporting Lisbon.

Luis Diaz and Harry Kane struck a each in either half to earn the visitors a slender first-leg advantage after a high-tempo contest in the Spanish capital.

Vincent Kompany's side struck just before halftime when Serge Gnabry slipped a precise pass through for Diaz, who beat the offside trap and fired low past keeper Andriy Lunin in the 41st minute.

Bayern doubled their lead seconds after the restart as Michael Olise squared for Kane to finish neatly from the edge of the box following a swift counter-attack.

Real improved after the hour and Kylian Mbappe pulled one back in the 74th minute, turning in Trent Alexander-Arnold's low cross at the far post.

Manuel Neuer then denied Mbappe and Vinicius Jr with a series of sharp saves as the hosts pressed for an equaliser that never came, as Bayern headed home with a narrow yet significant advantage.

"We came out for the second half and conceded a goal straight away. Both goals we conceded were gifts. Both sides had plenty of chances but Bayern's best player today was Neuer. In the end, that's how it goes," Real Madrid defender Antonio Rudiger told Movistar Plus.

Vinicius forced a superb one-handed save from Neuer in the 17th minute, the Bayern goalkeeper tipping away a low drive from the edge of the box at full stretch.

Mbappe squandered two openings soon after and was denied again in the 29th minute by an outstanding reflex

save from Neuer.

The goalkeeper then produced another fine one-handed save to deny Mbappe in the 65th minute and moments later watched the France forward pull an angled effort wide after clever play from Vinicius.

Bayern coach hailed the performance of the veteran goalkeeper who was named the man-of-the-match.

"If he was the best player, then I'm also happy with that, it's not a problem," Kompany told reporters. "I think you need special performances always at this level in these type of games."

"I think today we had also some chances to score more goals, so let's hope we continue this form next week, and let's hope that our strikers are the best players next week."

Kompany praised two-time Champions League and 12-time Bundesliga winner Neuer's longevity.

"Manu is one of the very few — he's not just able to do it for a very long time, but for a very, very long time," said the Belgian coach. "To still perform like he does now, I think that is something that not many goalkeepers, even the top ones, are able to do."

Bayern had chances of the own as Dayot Upamecano missed an opportunity early in the game from a point-blank range when Alvaro Carreras produced a goal-line clearance.

Real coach Alvaro Arbeloa backed his team to mount a comeback in Munich.

"I think it's a defeat that maybe, with a bit more luck in the second half, we could have avoided," said the Spaniard. "We scored a goal that gave us hope — the pity is we weren't able to put away any more of the chances we had."

"It's not going to be easy, but if any team can win in Munich, it's Real Madrid."

Zalmi edge spirited Kingsmen by four wickets in PSL thriller

By Maqsood Khalid

KARACHI: Peshawar Zalmi survived a late scare to beat Hyderabad Kingsmen by four wickets in a tense HBL Pakistan Super League encounter at the National Bank Stadium night, overcoming a spirited defence of a modest total in an unusually subdued atmosphere.

The venue painted a picture of emptiness. With stands largely vacant due to the government's ongoing austerity drive and the stadium's iconic roof removed as part of a planned renovation, the action unfolded in stark openness.

The silence in the stands, however, was replaced by relentless energy from Kingsmen players, who attempted to compensate for the lack of crowd support with constant chatter and encouragement on the field.

Defending a below-par 145 — and still searching for their first win of the tournament — the Kingsmen relied on intensity and discipline to drag the contest deep despite Peshawar appearing comfortably in control for much of the chase. Zalmi were cruising at one stage, requiring 30 runs off 30 deliveries with six wickets in hand, before Hyderabad's bowlers triggered a dramatic slowdown.

Sri Lankan spinner Maheesh Theekshana and pacer Mohammad Ali conceded only nine runs across two tight overs, applying pressure that shifted momentum.

Hunain Shah then produced a crucial spell, extending a streak of dot balls while dismissing Abdul Samad to leave Zalmi suddenly uncertain.

When Ali followed with a miserly five-run over, Zalmi needed 15 off the final six deliveries, turning what once looked routine into a nerve-racking finish.

Ifikhar Ahmed, however, held his nerve. The experienced all-rounder broke the tension by driving Hunain through the line for four before launching a towering six to reduce the equation to two runs off two balls.

Calm singles by Ifikhar (15 off 10) and Aamer Jamal sealed victory with four wickets in hand.

Earlier, Zalmi's chase had begun briskly. Mohammad Haris flicked Ali for a six off the very first ball before departing early, but captain Babar Azam and Kusal Mendis ensured momentum remained intact. Babar mixed sweeps and drives effectively against Maaz Sadaqat's left-arm spin, while Mendis counterattacked with two sixes off Maaz and Hassan Khan as Zalmi.



HYDERABAD Kingsmen tail-ender Hunain Shah fails to make his ground as Peshawar Zalmi pacer Nahid Rana reacts during the Pakistan Super League match at the National Bank Stadium.

Member APNS

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Calm, for now

MERE hours before the deadline the American president had set himself to destroy Iranian civilisation, a diplomatic breakthrough was achieved, with Pakistan playing a central role in brokering the two-week truce that has been welcomed by the international community.

Forty days after the US and Israel launched their illegal war against Iran, the guns fell silent early on Wednesday as the long-awaited ceasefire took effect, and Iran agreed to open the Strait of Hormuz, the closure of which had led President Donald Trump to hurl expletive-laden threats at Iran.

Though violations were reported, the truce was holding at the time of writing — other than in Lebanon, where Israel continued its barbaric attacks. From threatening to obliterate Iran, Mr Trump announced that a “Golden Age of the Middle East” was at hand after the ceasefire.

If the meeting between the US and Iran goes ahead in Islamabad on Saturday, the world will find out just how close this supposed new era of peace is in the region. For starters, there should be no illusions about the Islamabad meeting: the gap between the American and Iranian positions is wide, and the abrasive presser later on Wednesday by the US war chief and his top general indicated that the ceasefire is “only a pause”, and that Iran “begged” for a truce. Tehran sees matters differently. However, diplomatic efforts are always preferable to hostilities, and if the US had not torpedoed negotiations on two earlier occasions by launching surprise attacks on Iran in cahoots with Israel, a negotiated agreement could have been finalised months ago. Tehran has forwarded a 10-point proposal as a basis for negotiations. This includes lifting of all primary and secondary sanctions, payment of compensation and an end to hostilities on all fronts, including Lebanon. The entire global community felt the economic pain when Hormuz was closed; this was one of Tehran’s main cards, and it played it effectively, sending shockwaves across global commerce.

In fact, the Iranians themselves have been experiencing such pain for decades because of cruel US-led sanctions. The lifting of the economic blockade of Iran, including American threats to other nations not to trade with Tehran, would be a major confidence-building measure that could soften Iran’s tone. Unless there is verifiable relief for the Iranian people, and a permanent end to aggression, the current truce is unlikely to translate into long-term peace. As diplomacy continues, the international community must help assess the damage on all sides — in Iran, in Lebanon and in the Gulf states. US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen Dan Caine said over 13,000 targets have been struck in Iran. This has included civilian infrastructure, including hundreds of schools, as well as hospitals, with over 2,100 civilians killed, as per the UN. It must be asked, particularly of the US: what was gained through this misadventure, except death and destruction? The US claims that all of its pre-war objectives were achieved.

By Khurram Husain

War and peace

IHAVE waited many years, decades, to write these words and the time has finally come. Today, I feel proud to be a Pakistani. Today, my country stands out among the comity of nations as a peacemaker of historic proportions. This is, quite possibly, the single biggest day in the life of our country.

Let’s not underestimate what just happened. A madman president of the United States had just said “a whole civilisation will die tonight, never to be brought back” on the morning of Tuesday, April 7, the day his self-imposed deadline to reopen the Strait of Hormuz was set to expire. The words sounded ominously like a threat to use nuclear weapons, especially when coupled with Vice President J.D. Vance’s remarks that the US has “tools in our toolkit that we so far haven’t decided to use”.

As the deadline neared, attentive observers shared screenshots showing heavy bombers taking off from airbases in the UK, headed for Iran, with a seven-to-eight-hour flight path ahead of them. It was one of the most ominous moments in living memory.

So it is natural that when news first broke, via a tweet from the Pakistani prime minister that a ceasefire agreement had been reached, a brief flare-up of elation ensued. We waited breathlessly to hear acknowledgement and confirmation from the US and Iran, which came a few hours later. The most ruinous war of our time was ended before it could escalate into a catastrophe. And Pakistan played the lead role in bringing this about. This was no minor feat.

There were moments along the way when it seemed all was lost. Even now, the deal is not sealed and the risk of sliding back into hostilities is real. Israel is continuing to bomb Lebanon, prompting a call from their parliament’s Speaker to the Pakistani ambassador asking him to press the Israelis to halt their aggression. Iran’s acceptance of the condition to reopen the strait remains ‘conditional’ and we wait

to see what these conditions are. To me, it is unlikely that Iran will agree to restore the freedom of navigation as it existed before the war. But to retain full control over the strait while remaining within the bounds of international maritime law, Iran will need the cooperation of Oman because a significant part of the Strait of Hormuz falls in Oman’s territorial waters.

The most ruinous war of our time was ended before it could escalate into a catastrophe. And Pakistan played the lead role in bringing this about.

What is clear, however, is that it was Trump who sought and pushed for a ceasefire deal because even though he could deploy bluster including threats to destroy an entire civilisation, he was also boxed in by the economic fallout that the war was creating. The real volatility was yet to hit because countries around the world had stocked up on oil inventories all through 2025 and the opening months of 2026 and all through March. As hostilities rolled on and the strait remained closed, those stocks were drawn down. Whatever hikes we saw in oil prices during this time were just the beginning of what is to come if the strait is not reopened soon.

America cannot remain shielded from high oil prices for long. It may be the last to be hit by the physical shortages that are inevitable if the closure of the strait stretches out for much longer, but its ability to withstand an economic shock is probably the lowest among developed countries. That’s not a judgement on the depth of the American economy’s resilience. It is a judgement on the ability of the American consumer to withstand even a little bit of pain. With petrol prices rising towards \$5 at the pump, mortgages skyrocketing due to the blowouts on 10-year Treasury paper, the mood in America could turn sour against the president very quickly.

Perhaps it is because he was mindful of the economic storm coming his way — if the war was prolonged, the damage to oil

infrastructure mounted and the closure of the strait stretched out — that Trump began suing for peace. This much is evident. It was Trump who wanted an end to the war, after having launched it under faulty assumptions. It was Trump who first presented his conditions for ending the war, having started off demanding nothing less than “unconditional surrender”. Remember that? He climbed down from that to his 15 points and finally settled for a ceasefire followed by talks to a comprehensive peace based on Iran’s 10 points. That is as close to total capitulation as possible given this was a war between a superpower and a middle power at best.

Significant challenges still remain, although a halt to the hostilities followed by face-to-face talks is a big step. For Pakistan, facing the petulance of the UAE in demanding their deposits back in the middle of the diplomacy is a big challenge because it is a massive drain on the foreign exchange reserves at a critical time. Pakistan can manage this outflow by raising some funds from a private placement on the financial markets, like Egypt and Qatar that have just raised \$1 billion and \$3bn respectively in the past few days. It can raise some more by support from China and Saudi Arabia, perhaps by asking for the limits on the swap arrangement and the oil facility to be raised. And the remainder can be arranged by curbing the current account deficit from the programme target, by allowing the currency to depreciate some and agreeing to raise interest rates by some. These options will weigh on the nascent growth underway so far, but in a pinch they can be utilised.

For the warring parties, resumption of normal maritime flows through the strait is critical, but Iran’s acceptance is conditional. The talks will now focus on this as a priority. Despite the challenges to come, Pakistan has pulled off a serious diplomatic caper, and can now clinch its role by seeing the talks through to a comprehensive peace.

By F.S. Aijazuddin

Another volte-face

POLITICAL purges have been practised throughout history. The sudden removal on April 2 by US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth of his army chief of staff, Gen Randy George, follows a pattern. Before him, Hegseth sent home the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, the top admiral of the US navy, the No. 2 general at the US air force, and other senior officers.

Gen George’s departure during an ongoing war is not without precedent. In the early 1950s, during the Korean War, US president Harry Truman disagreed with his senior-most commander general, George MacArthur. MacArthur had told Truman that “the Korean War would be short-lived”. On April 11, 1951, Truman, tired of MacArthur’s bellicose advice and insolent disobedience, relieved him of his command.

In the USSR, Stalin periodically purged his colleagues and subordinates, using the notorious L. Beria, head of his secret police (NKVD). Beria survived Stalin, but within three months was himself purged.

Later, Soviet leader N. Khrushchev was removed by his Politburo colleagues, as was the last Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev whose radical policies of glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring) proved to be his undoing. Being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1990 did not help him. In December 1991, Gorbachev was forced out of power. This is Pakistan’s second diplomatic coup.

Purges became a recurring feature in Chairman Mao Zedong’s China. The veteran Long Marcher Liu Shaoqi — designated successor to Mao — was purged by his mentor.

Incidentally, Liu Shaoqi, as China’s head of state, visited Pakistan in March 1966. Soon afterwards, he was denounced as ‘Chi-na’s Khrushchev’ by the Gang of Four, removed and consigned to political oblivion.

Lin Biao (once head of China’s armed forces) was rewarded by Mao for his service in the Cultural Revolution and designated sole vice chairman. However, Lin — the arch revolutionary turned ‘arch-traitor’ — died in 1971 in a mysterious air crash somewhere over Mongolia.

The ‘great survivor’ in PRC’s history has to be Deng Xiaoping — the architect of China’s emergence as a modern superpower. He served as the PRC’s ‘paramount leader’ from 1978 to 1989, gradually converting Mao’s brittle maxims into ‘socialism with Chinese characteristics’. China’s literacy rate today (97 per cent) is the product of his emphasis on education, with ‘excellence at all levels’.

In Britain, in 1962, the ‘unflappable’ prime minister Harold Macmillan executed a dramatic ‘Night of the Long Knives’, when he summarily dismissed seven members (a third) of his cabinet. In 1989, PM Margaret Thatcher tried to quash a revolt by reshuffling her cabinet, removing her closest colleague, the outspoken foreign secretary Geoffrey Howe. Thatcher won the battle but lost the war. She left 10 Downing Street with ‘blood on the walls.’

Every political purge is essentially a test by an insecure leader who demands allegiance — in Shakespeare’s words, “to the last gasp with truth and loyalty”. Judging from President Donald Trump’s indiscreet jibe about the Saudi crown prince, Trump shares Lyndon Johnson’s very similar definition of

allegiance.

Could President Trump’s hubris fall victim to his own dangerous machinations? Historians will spend their lives analysing President Trump’s waywardness. The observation of the French savant Andre Malraux may help: “To know a man nowadays is above all to know the element of the irrational in him”.

In the past two days, Trump has repeated a volte-face that earned Hitler his place in history. In 1939, Hitler threatened Czechoslovakia, then invaded it. He threatened Poland, and invaded it. He signed a pact with the USSR, and then invaded it.

This week, Trump first threatened Iran with annihilation: “A whole civilisation will die tonight, never to be brought back again.” On Tuesday, within hours of his Doomsday deadline, he ordered a suspension of bombing for two weeks, “based on conversations with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir of Pakistan”.

Iran has agreed to this cordial conciliation, with the caveat that “this does not signify the termination of the war. Our hands remain upon the trigger”. For the Iranians, this pause is what Churchill said in 1942: “Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.”

Pakistan’s PM Shehbaz Sharif welcomed the ceasefire, complimenting the US and Iran on their “remarkable wisdom”. He will host them for talks in Islamabad on April 10. Will Israel join? The truce, Sharif says, includes “the United States of America, along with their allies [presumably also Israel]” and applies to “Lebanon and elsewhere”.

DAILY MIRROR

Pakistan, Ethiopia explore trilateral maritime alliance to boost Asia-Africa trade

APP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Ethiopia have agreed to explore the establishment of a trilateral maritime alliance, potentially involving Djibouti, aimed at enhancing trade connectivity between Asia and Africa.

The understanding was reached during a meeting between Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry and Ethiopian Ambassador Dr. Oumer Hussien, who called on the minister for the first time after assuming his diplomatic assignment.

The two sides reviewed proposals and measures to expand bilateral trade and economic engagement, said a news release issued here on Thursday.

During the meeting, Junaid Chaudhry underscored Pakistan's growing focus on expanding maritime links with African nations and proposed the formation of a three-country alliance comprising Pakistan, Djibouti and Ethiopia. He noted that the framework could be expanded to include additional countries based on mutual consultations.

The minister highlighted that despite being a landlocked country, Ethiopia could significantly

enhance its trade capacity by utilising Port of Djibouti under a structured maritime arrangement. He added that a formal agreement could be signed following the completion of necessary groundwork, with a ceremony planned to mark the occasion.

Ambassador Dr. Oumer welcomed the proposal and emphasised the need for technical consultations

between experts from both sides and both sides designated focal persons to deliberate on operational modalities and develop a practical framework for the proposed alliance.

Junaid Chaudhry also briefed the ambassador on the performance and capacity of Pakistani ports,

stating that recent cargo handling figures reflected a substantial increase in operational efficiency. He noted that port activity in recent weeks had demonstrated throughput levels comparable to those typically achieved

over a much longer period.

Highlighting efforts to strengthen economic engagement with Africa, the minister referred

to a business facilitation initiative titled "Africa House", aimed at providing a one-window platform for African traders to access Pakistani goods and services.

The Ethiopian envoy appreciated Pakistan's outreach under its "Look Africa" and "Engage Africa" policies, describing them as reflective of a strong commitment to building enduring partnerships with East African nations.

He noted that Ethiopia imports pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments, garments, fertilisers, rice and food products and expressed optimism about further expanding bilateral and regional cooperation under the proposed maritime framework.

Concluding the meeting, the both sides agreed to maintain close coordination to translate the proposal into a practical initiative at the earliest.



ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador to Pakistan Natalie Baker and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting.

Pakistani leadership at forefront of global stability efforts says Sherry Rehman

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party Senior Leader and former US envoy Sherry Rehman hailed Pakistan's diplomacy as a historic global breakthrough, crediting it with averting a major crisis and calling for continued negotiations to ensure lasting stability.

Speaking exclusively to a local news channel, Rehman said Pakistani leadership has won widespread international acclaim for defusing critical world tensions, playing a pivotal role in the historic U.S.-Iran ceasefire.

She described the agreement as a landmark achievement at a time when the world was on the edge of turmoil.

Rehman stressed that dialogue must continue uninterrupted, with flexibility maintained on core issues, and warned that spoilers on social media or any violation of the ceasefire could undermine progress.

She emphasized that sustained diplomacy and constructive engagement remain the only path to enduring peace.

While highlighting Pakistan's global recognition, she said that while much of the world faced uncertainty, Pakistan's leadership brought relief and stability to its citizens.

She urged internal politics to be set aside in such historic moments, calling this achievement unprecedented in decades and describing it as nothing short of a miracle, reflecting Pakistan's strong, capable and respected role on the world stage.

She specifically lauded President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, noting their relentless efforts and strategic engagement.

She also added that their decisive leadership was instrumental in steering the world away from the brink of crisis, earning Pakistan global recognition.

Sherry also suggested that Islamabad could host extended peace talks in Pakistan's capital to build on the ceasefire momentum, urging both the United States and Iran to use this window to address core issues such as sanctions, security guarantees and a road map for long-term stability.

She reiterated that a sustained negotiation framework was vital to prevent a relapse into conflict beyond the initial truce period, adding, both sides should show greater flexibility and mutual trust.

Over 400 eye patients treated free of cost in LRBT on daily basis after examining: Dr. Aziz

APP

Quetta: Senior Medical Officer of Layton Rehmattulla Benevolent Trust (LRBT) Dr. Aziz Memon, on Thursday said that the LRBT is providing free and quality treatment to the poor and deserving patients suffering from eye diseases across the country, including Balochistan, where hundreds of patients are benefiting on a daily basis.

Talking to APP, he said that about 400 eye patients are examined and treated free of cost in LRBT every day, while the number of patients increases during summer.

He said that a large number of patients are women, including about 60 percent of mothers who come for treatment with their young children.

Dr. Aziz Memon said that more than 30 eye operations (surgeries) are also performed in the institution on a daily basis, while more than 50 diabetic patients are regularly examined and treated so that timely prevention of eye damage due to sugar is possible.

He further said that all departments related to eye diseases are fully functional in LRBT, where detailed eye examination, laboratory tests and other necessary medical facilities are being provided through modern machinery.

He said that the trained and professional staffs of the institution are always engaged in serving the patients coming from the remote areas of Balochistan including Quetta, the provincial capital.

Responding to a question, Dr. Aziz Memon appealed to

philanthropists and donors to extend their cooperation with LRBT to provide free treatment to as many deserving people as possible.

He said that the support of philanthropists is the real strength of this institution, thanks to which millions of people are saved from losing the blessing of sight.

He reiterated his commitment that LRBT would continue its efforts to serve the people of Balochistan and steps could be taken to further improve the health sector, so that every deserving patient would get timely and quality treatment.

C&W Secretary expresses resentment on incomplete projects, directs to complete them soon

APP

Quetta: Secretary Communications and Works (C&W) Babar Khan on Thursday expressed his strong resentment over the incomplete projects and directed that steps would be taken to complete delayed projects soon for facilitating people in the areas of the province.

He said this while chairing a meeting to review the progress and issues being faced by the ongoing incomplete development projects in the province.

Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers and District Executive Engineers of all six zones of the province participated in the meeting via Zoom.

During the meeting, District Executive Engineers from across the province gave a detailed briefing on the ongoing but yet incomplete projects in their respective districts. The briefing discussed in detail the obstacles hindering the completion of these projects, which included technical

issues, financial difficulties and other administrative issues.

On this occasion, Secretary Communications and Works Babar Khan expressed his strong anger over the incomplete projects and said that all such projects that are delayed for any reason should be completed immediately.

He clarified that no justification for delay would be acceptable.

The Secretary directed the officers to show seriousness and responsibility to resolve this serious issue and adopt effective strategies to remove the obstacles immediately.

He said that incomplete projects not only hinder public welfare but also have a negative impact on the overall performance of the Department of Communications and Works.

Babar Khan said that practical steps would be taken to ensure timely completion of all pending projects and that progress would be regularly reviewed.

DPM Dar discusses evolving regional situation with FMs of Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan

APP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday held telephone conversations with the Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan and Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov to exchange views on the evolving regional situation.

The deputy prime minister expressed deep appreciation for Saudi Arabia's steadfast support of Pakistan in its efforts to promote peace and stability in the region.

Both leaders underscored the importance of continued dialogue and diplomatic engagement to advance lasting peace and agreed to remain in close contact.

In a separate call, Azerbaijan's FM Bayramov commended DPM/FM and Pakistan's leadership for its role in securing the initial ceasefire and promoting peace and stability in the region.

DPM/FM reaffirmed Pakistan's continued resolve and expressed hope that these efforts would lead to lasting peace.

Bahrain's King lauds Pakistan's role in Iran-US ceasefire

APP

ISLAMABAD: King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa on Thursday conveyed his deep appreciation to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for Pakistan's success in bringing about a ceasefire between Iran and the U.S. that has created the prospects for lasting peace in the region.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a telephone call with Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa. During their warm telephonic conversation, the prime minister thanked King Hamad for supporting Pakistan's peace efforts.

He also appreciated the exemplary restraint demonstrated by the Bahraini leadership in the wake of attacks over the past six weeks. PM Shehbaz

Sharif also offered condolences over the loss of precious lives in Bahrain, during the recent hostilities and prayed for swift recovery of the injured.

Both leaders agreed to continue working together for regional peace and stability.

Education Minister takes notice of textbooks shortage in Quetta, directs to provide books in 2 days

APP

Quetta: Balochistan Education Minister Raheela Hameed Durrani on Thursday took strict notice of the shortage of textbooks in Quetta government schools and directed the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to provide textbooks to them.

She has clarified that the provision of textbooks should be ensured in all government educational institutions in the provincial capital Quetta within two days so that the education of students is not affected.

The provincial minister, while issuing instructions to Balochistan Textbook Board Chairman Dr. Gulab Khan Khilji, Director Schools and other concerned officers, said that all available resources should be utilized on an emergency basis and the process of delivery of textbooks should be expedited.

In this regard, Chairman Balochistan Textbook Board Dr. Gulab Khan Khilji made an emergency visit to the government bookstore in Quetta on Thursday and strictly instructed the staff present on the spot to complete the delivery of textbooks to all government schools within two days.

She said that no negligence would be tolerated in this process and all the concerned staff should discharge their responsibilities in a proper manner.

The Education Minister further said that under the supervision of the

Balochistan Secondary Education Department and Secretary Lal Jan Jafar, the process of distributing textbooks has been completed in most of the districts of the province, especially in remote areas.

However, due to the success of the admission campaign in the year 2026 and the activation of inactive schools, the number of students has increased significantly, resulting in the need for more textbooks, she said.

She said that under the second phase, additional books have been delivered to the central store in Quetta and the district authorities have been directed to immediately distribute these books to the schools in a transparent and efficient manner.

The Minister said that in this regard, the concerned officers and officials have also been strictly bound to monitor the delivery and distribution process themselves and ensure timely completion.

She said that as a result of the rehabilitation of inactive schools and the admission campaign 2026, the demand for textbooks from schools has increased significantly, which is being met on an emergency basis.

Raheela Hameed Durrani reiterated the commitment that the Balochistan government would continue to take all possible steps to promote education and provide facilities to students so that no child's education is affected due to lack of resources.



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

PM Shehbaz reaffirms support for Chinese investment, meets Jin Yongsheng-led delegation

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday underscored Pakistan's commitment to strengthening business-to-business cooperation with China, saying the government was prioritizing measures to facilitate foreign investors through a transparent and sustainable investment framework.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with a four-member delegation led by Jin Yongsheng, Chairman of Service Long March Tyres, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

During the meeting, the prime minister highlighted that Pakistan was working on a priority basis to expand Pakistan-China business partnerships, noting that the government firmly believed in providing a stable, transparent, and investor-friendly environment. He said the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was actively supporting investors by ensuring stream-

lined procedures and institutional facilitation.

Calling joint ventures like Service Long March Tyres vital for bilateral economic cooperation, the prime minister said such partnerships contribute significantly to economic growth, job creation, technology transfer, and export enhancement.

The delegation briefed the prime minister on the company's upcoming investment plans in Pakistan and shared that Service

Long March Tyres remained focused on export-oriented production. According to the briefing, the company generated export revenue of \$54 million during 2024-2025.

Officials also informed the meeting that the Board of Investment (BOI) had been actively facilitating the company across multiple sectors, including support for the establishment of a sole development zone in Nooriabad, Sindh, where all required facilities had been provided to advance the project's implementation.

GB Governor, Aleem Khan discuss road projects, hail Pakistan's diplomatic success

APP

ISLAMABAD: Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah on Thursday called on Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan to discuss infrastructure development and improvement of road networks in the region.

During the meeting, both leaders exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and expressed satisfaction over Pakistan's recent diplomatic achievements, congratulating each other on the success, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

Abdul Aleem Khan remarked that by the grace of Almighty Allah, Pakistan's dignity and prestige have significantly increased.

The meeting also included discussion on the proposed Motorway Project from Mansehra, Naran, Kaghan and Babusar Top to Jalkhand (MNJ). Abdul Aleem Khan stated that this Motorway would serve as an alternative to the Karakoram Highway KKH and reduce travel distance by 100 kilometres as well. He

added that facilitating easier travel and promoting tourism this project will be a game changer for the region.

Governor Gilgit-Baltistan, Syed Mehdi Shah highlighted various issues related to the Communications Sector in Gilgit-Baltistan. In response, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan assured full cooperation and promised the provision of Emergency Service 1122 on highways in the region.

Aleem Khan further stated that the Government aimed to improve roads in tourist areas on priority basis to attract more visitors, thereby creating employment and business opportunities for local communities. He reiterated the commitment to ensuring uniform development across the country and prioritizing the construction of quality road infrastructure in all regions especially in northern areas.

Governor Gilgit-Baltistan expressed satisfaction

with the performance of the National Highway Authority and appreciated the Federal Minister's support for the development of Gilgit-Baltistan.



Senior Politician Haji Lashkari Raisani Addresses Ceremony for Chehlum of Iranian Supreme Leader Martyr Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei at Quetta Press Club.