

DAILY MIRROR

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We are taking coordinated steps to protect the historical and cultural heritage of Balochistan and empower women: CM Balochistan

APP

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has said that the government is taking coordinated and practical steps for the protection of the historical and cultural heritage of the province, empowerment of women and immediate resolution of public issues. He expressed these views while inaugurating various development projects and addressing an open court held at FC Balochistan (South) Headquarters Panjgur Rifles during his visit to Panjgur.

The Chief Minister inaugurated the restoration and renovation of the shrine of Sufi saint Shahu Qalandar, which was in ruins due to dilapidation.

The Balochistan government provided special funds of Rs. 18 million for the restoration of this important spiritual, historical and cultural heritage, the responsibility of which was entrusted to FC

Balochistan (South), which, with the technical assistance of prominent institutions of the country, especially the Walled City Lahore Authority, completed it in a short period of time to high standards.

The Chief Minister appreciated the performance of FC Balochistan (South) for the timely and quality completion of the project, terming it an exemplary initiative and announced that the responsibility of restoring other historical sites including Khudabadan Fort in Panjgur and Panno Fort in Turbat is also being entrusted to the same institution. He said that the

restoration of Shahu Qalandar Shrine has not only given new life to a spiritual center but also added a beautiful and significant addition to the ancient heritage of the province. During the visit, the Chief Minister also inaugurated the newly established Women Skill Development Center under the FC Balochistan (South) Parwaz Foundation.



ISLAMABAD: An army personnel stand alert at D Chowk in the Federal Capital as the security tighten for Iran-US talks. Islamabad host talks between the United States and Iran on a resolution to the war and the Strait of Hormuz, which remains at a standstill despite the ceasefire.

JD Vance heads to Pakistan for crucial US-Iran peace talks

Pakistan puts in place extensive security and administrative arrangements as it prepares to host peace talks between US and Iran in Islamabad aimed at ending the war and permanently restore key oil supply route

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: US Vice President JD Vance head to Pakistan for crucial US-Iran peace talks.

Vance spoke just before leaving Washington for Pakistan. Vance said he is looking forward to upcoming negotiations with Iran and that he expects the talks in Islamabad to be positive, reports AFP. He also said US President Donald Trump gave him "some pretty clear guidelines" on negotiations.

US Vice President JD Vance said Friday he hoped for a "positive" outcome as he departed Washington for US-Iran peace talks being held in Pakistan.

"We're going to try to have a positive negotiation," he told reporters before take-off from Joint Base Andrews. "If the Iranians are willing to negotiate in good faith, we're certainly willing to extend the open hand. If they're going to try to play us, then they're going to find the negotiating team is not that receptive."

Vance said he is looking forward to the upcoming talks and expressed confidence that they could yield positive results.

"We believe talks with Iran will be positive," he stated, signaling cautious optimism from the US side.

"The vice president emphasized that the delegation is acting under clear instructions from President Donald Trump. "President Trump has given us some clear instructions regarding talks," Vance said, underscoring the administration's focused approach to diplomacy.

Vance stressed that progress will depend on Iran's willingness to engage constructively. "If the Iranians are ready to talk in good faith, then we are also ready," he said, highlighting the US position on mutual cooperation. The talks in Pakistan are being closely watched as a potential turning point in easing tensions between the US and Iran. With both sides expressing readiness for dialogue, the upcoming discussions could play a key role in shaping the region's future stability.

Pakistan, Netherlands vow for closer economic cooperation; stress full implementation of Lebanon ceasefire

APP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday held a telephonic conversation with Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, Tom Berendsen, during which the two sides discussed regional developments and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation.

Foreign Minister Berendsen commended Pakistan's role in facilitating the recent ceasefire and expressed support for its continued efforts to advance diplomacy aimed at achieving lasting peace in the region, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs news release said.

The two foreign ministers also voiced concern over serious ceasefire violations in Lebanon and underscored the importance of ensuring full implementation of the ceasefire agreement to secure durable stability. During the conversation, both leaders reaffirmed the strength of Pakistan-Netherlands relations and expressed their resolve to further expand cooperation in trade, economic, and investment sectors, reflecting a shared commitment to deepening bilateral engagement.

Pakistan Navy rescues 18 crew members after distress call in Arabian Sea

INP

KARACHI: The Pakistan Navy on Friday rescued 18 crew members of a merchant vessel after receiving a distress call in the North Arabian Sea.

According to a statement issued by the navy, "In a swift humanitarian operation, Pakistan Navy successfully rescued and evacuated 18 crew members including nationals of China, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Vietnam and Indonesia, following a distress call from Merchant Vessel (MV) Gold Autumn, operating in North Arabian Sea at 200 Nautical Miles (approximately 370 kilometres) off Pakistan's coast."

The statement said that upon receiving the emergency alert, the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) activated its

Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) and promptly initiated response protocols.

"Accordingly, Pakistan Navy Ship Hunain, patrolling in assigned area, was immediately tasked to provide assistance to MV Gold Autumn," it added.

It further said that the PNS Hunain undertook the search and rescue operation, demonstrating "professionalism and operational expertise".

"Pakistan Navy Ship's team, comprising of specialists, provided medical assistance, supported in firefighting, conducted damage assessment of the vessel and later rescued crew members," the statement said,

adding that the evacuated crew members were safely transported to Karachi for further medical care and subsequent repatriation to their respective countries.



LAHORE: PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif in a meeting with Sindh Governor Syed Nihal Hashmi.

Lifting of sanctions from Iran will benefit Pakistan, other countries: Bilawal

INP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman and former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said lifting of sanctions from Iran will not only benefit Pakistan, but a large global community.

Pakistan is all set to host ceasefire talks in Islamabad between Iran and United States. All arrangements have been finalised for the high-stake talks.

Referring to the recent US-Iran ceasefire, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said the world is now looking towards Pakistan, recognising it as a country playing a constructive role in promoting peace. He added that the international community expects Pakistan to contribute to maintaining global stability.

Bilawal expressed hope that the

lifting of sanctions on Iran,

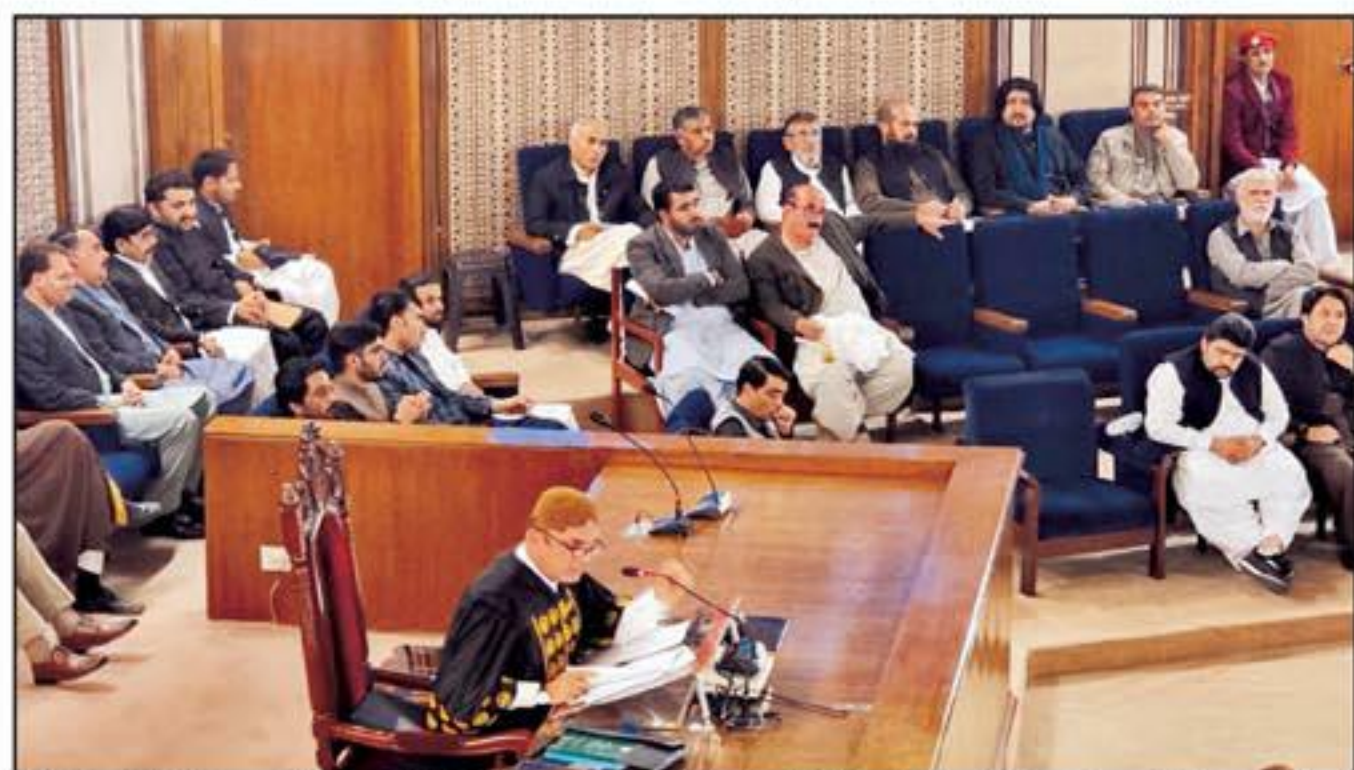
stating that such a development would benefit not only Pakistan but the wider global community.

The PPP chairman also strongly criticised Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar, stating that India's position reflects narrow-mindedness.

The former foreign minister said Mr Jaishankar's remarks expose India's frustration and limited outlook. He added that Pakistan is increasingly emerging on the global stage.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stressed that Pakistan and India must not leave their disputes unresolved,

noting that despite repeated tensions, both countries have reached ceasefires on multiple occasions.



Balochistan Assembly Speaker Abdul Khaliq Achakzai Presides Over Session at Provincial Assembly in Quetta.

1973 Constitution reflects unity, democratic identity: Gilani

APP

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani said the Constitution of 1973 is a symbol of Pakistan's democratic identity, national unity and constitutional supremacy.

In his message on Constitution Day on Friday, he said April 10, 1973, was a historic day when the nation unanimously adopted a Constitution that strengthened the federation, protected provincial rights and created balance among state institutions.

He added that it continues to guide the political system and ensures democratic continuity. The chairman said the Constitution not only strengthens the state system but also guarantees the protection of people's basic rights.

He said the Constitution is not just a legal document but represents the nation's collective thinking, political wisdom and commitment to democracy. He stressed

that respect for the Constitution, rule of law and democratic values is essential for the country's progress and stability. Gilani paid tribute to the 1973 Parliament and its leadership, especially Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, for playing a key role in building consensus on the Constitution.

He said Bhutto set aside differences and worked in the national interest to create a strong constitutional framework. He said the Constitution ensures justice for the poor,

representation of women, equal rights for minorities and inclusive lawmaking for all sections of society.

It also defines the powers of institutions and promotes transparency and accountability. The Senate chairman said Parliament remains committed to improving the lawmaking process to make it more effective and people-focused. He also appreciated Pakistan's active diplomacy, saying it has improved the country's image globally.

Pakistan's economy expected to grow, but downside risks loom: ADB

APP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's economy recovered as growth strengthened and inflation declined in fiscal year 2025 (FY2025, ended 30 June 2025), supported by tight macro-economic policies and progress in economic reform, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a report on Friday.

According to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) April 2026, ADB's annual flagship economic publication, Pakistan is expected to sustain its economic performance in the medium term, with real gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast at 3.5% in FY2026 and 4.5% in FY2027, from 3.1% in FY2025, as manufacturing recovers and investment increases.

"Pakistan's economy has stabilized and begun to show stronger momentum, supported by progress in implementing key economic reforms amid a challenging global environment," said ADB Country Director for Pakistan Emma Fan. "Growth is expected to continue in 2026 and 2027, but

downside risks are significant. Sustained reform efforts are critical to preserve

the growth momentum and bolster fiscal and external buffers against global shocks."

Average inflation is projected to rise to 6.4% in FY2026 and 6.5% in FY2027 due to surging oil prices and disrupted trade routes amid the Middle East conflict, as oil and gas constitute a large share of Pakistan's imports.

The central bank is expected to ease monetary policy cautiously to stabilize inflation within its medium-term target range of 5%-7%.

A prolonged Middle East conflict could weigh significantly on the economic outlook by slowing growth through higher energy and fertilizer costs,

weakening agricultural and industrial output, reducing remittances, and widening the current account deficit. Adherence to the economic adjustment program is therefore critical to strengthening resilience and enabling sustainable and inclusive growth.

In FY2026, growth will be supported by a rebound in private-sector investment,

driven by the recent progress on reform measures and a stable foreign exchange market.

The effective implementation of the reform program is expected to foster a more stable macroeconomic environment and gradually remove structural barriers to growth. Economic activity in both industry and services will benefit from monetary easing.

Construction activity will be backed by fiscal incentives introduced in the FY2026 budget, alongside post-flood reconstruction efforts.

Despite recent stabilization and recovery, Pakistan's economic outlook faces significant downside risks from global economic uncertainty, leading to elevated inflationary, fiscal,

and external account pressures. Addressing these challenges requires prudent macroeconomic policies and steadfast implementation of structural reforms.

French FM congratulates Pakistan on its role in securing ceasefire

APP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday received a phone call from Foreign Minister of France, Jean-Noël Barrot.

During the conversation, FM Barrot congratulated Pakistan on its role in securing the initial ceasefire agreement and expressed support for Pakistan's continued efforts toward a diplomatic pathway for lasting peace and stability in the region.

Both leaders expressed concern over serious ceasefire violations made in Lebanon and underscored the importance of full implementation and respect for the ceasefire.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations, enhancing economic and trade cooperation, and agreed to stay in touch.

Pakistan, Vietnam enjoy cordial, friendly ties: President Zardari

APP

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has extended warm congratulations to President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam To Lam, on his election, noting that the unanimous vote of the National Assembly reflects the trust and confidence reposed in his leadership.

In his letter, the President expressed confidence that, under President To Lam's stewardship, Vietnam would continue to achieve greater progress and prosperity.

Referring to Pakistan - Vietnam relations, the President said the two countries enjoy cordial and friendly ties based on mutual trust and goodwill.

He conveyed his desire to work closely with President To Lam to further strengthen bilateral relations and advance shared goals of peace, stability and prosperity, while enhancing cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two peoples.

Nawaz Sharif says Pakistan emerges as global peace player after ceasefire

NEWS DESK

LAHORE: PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif said that Pakistan has achieved a unique position in the world and has emerged as a proponent of peace.

During a meeting with Sindh Governor Syed Nihal Hashmi, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that the ceasefire between Iran and the United States is a welcome development for global peace, adding that Pakistan played an important role in promoting peace as a responsible state. He said that he pays tribute to the outstanding diplomatic efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, adding that under Shehbaz Sharif's leadership, remarkable success was achieved on the diplomatic front.

He further said that Pakistan played an active and positive role for peace in the region, and welcomed the move of Iran and the United States towards resolving issues through dialogue, emphasizing that global conflicts are resolved through diplomacy and negotiations, not war.

Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan once again delivered a message of peace to the world, and that the current government has improved the country's global image, adding that Pakistan's efforts will prove to be a significant milestone in bringing stability to the region.

He urged the international community to take advantage of this opportunity for peace. He said Pakistan has always been a proponent of peace, development, and stability, expressing hope that the ceasefire would become the foundation for lasting global peace, and added that Pakistan has proven it can play a positive role even in difficult circumstances.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir made sincere and exceptional efforts for global peace which proved successful, adding that Pakistan has been chosen for the establishment of peace.

She said Pakistan's sincere and historic efforts for peace in the region and the world made the impossible possible, and congratulated the leadership of the United States, Iran, and Islamic countries for their role in bringing peace to billions of people.

Eyes of the world firmly fixed on Pakistan: Masood Khan

APP

ISLAMABAD: Former ambassador to United States, China and United Nations, and former president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Masood Khan here on Friday has hailed Pakistan's diplomatic efforts as a historic breakthrough, stating that the country has set a new global benchmark in peacemaking by facilitating direct engagement between the United States and Iran during one of the most dangerous conflicts in recent history.

In an op-ed titled "Pakistan's mediation: A catalyst for peace" written by Ambassador Masood Khan and published by Al Jazeera Arabic, he described the moment as unprecedented and noted that the eyes of the world are now firmly fixed on Pakistan.

"I do not recall any such responsibility being entrusted to a country in the history of diplomacy," he remarked, emphasizing that Pakistan's swift and sustained engagement from the very onset of the conflict transformed what seemed an impossible task into a tangible achievement.

He commended the leadership of Pakistan, including the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, for their coordinated and tireless efforts.

Through intensive shuttle diplomacy and continuous high-level contacts across global capitals,

Pakistan succeeded in creating the conditions necessary for a ceasefire and, crucially, for direct, face-to-face negotiations between Washington and Tehran—an outcome not witnessed at this level in decades.

Ambassador Khan highlighted three major successes: the establishment of a ceasefire framework, Islamabad's emergence as a trusted venue for dialogue, and the facilitation of direct engagement between the two adversaries.

He noted that this development marks a significant departure from past indirect negotiations, opening a new pathway for substantive diplomacy.

However, he cautioned that the road ahead remains complex.



RAWALPINDI A closed view of Saddar Bazaar in Pakistan, as peace talks between Pakistan, Iran, and the US take place, with the area shut down for security reasons.

Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif Approves Establishment of Punjab Cyber Crime Unit to Curb Social Media Harassment

By Maqsood Khalid

Lahore: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved a major initiative to address the growing issue of harassment and blackmailing on social media, particularly targeting children and women, by establishing a dedicated Punjab Cyber Crime Unit.

During the meeting, it was decided that special mobile units will be set up to facilitate minor boys and girls affected by online harassment and blackmailing, enabling them to lodge complaints without visiting police stations or offices. Victims, especially women and children, will also be able to register complaints through a Virtual Police Station, the

Cyber Crime Unit front desk, and the "PKM" mobile application, while ensuring complete confidentiality of their identity.

The government has also decided to introduce strict legislation to ensure exemplary punishment for perpetrators involved in social media harassment and blackmailing. In this regard, work has commenced on the initial draft of the Punjab Online Safety Act 2026, which will soon be presented for approval.



The meeting further resolved to establish a Cyber Patrol Wing and a Cyber Police Academy under Punjab Police.

Additionally, an advanced intelligence system will be introduced for effective social media monitoring and surveillance.

Provincial Minister Haji Ali Madad Jatak expresses condolences on the death of former Punjab Governor

APP

Quetta: Pakistan Peoples Party central leader and provincial minister Haji Ali Madad Jatak has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of former Punjab Governor and senior politician Sardar Zulfiqar Ahmed Khan Khosa. In his condolence statement on Friday, the provincial minister said that Sardar Zulfiqar Ahmed Khan Khosa was a thoughtful, dignified and experienced politician who rendered outstanding services in the country's politics.

His political and public services will always be appreciated and he will be remembered for a long time. Haji Ali Madad Jatak expressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the family of the deceased and prayed that Allah Almighty may grant the deceased a high position in the realm of mercy and grant the bereaved family the ability to bear this shock with patience and fortitude.



QUETTA: A vendor selling dry fruit on his hand cart.

Deputy Senate chairman expresses grief over demise of Jamil Akbar Bugti

APP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Nasir on Friday expressed deep sorrow over the death of Nawabzada Jamil Akbar Khan Bugti.

In a condolence message, he paid tribute to the late leader's political and social services, saying he was a respected tribal and political figure who worked for the rights and development of the people of Balochistan.

He said his death is a great loss for the country, especially for Balochistan, which has lost a sincere and influential leader.

Nasir also extended condolences to the bereaved family and prayed that Allah grant eternal peace to the departed soul and give strength to the family to bear the loss.

Senator Rubina Khalid pays tribute to Pakistan's constitutional legacy

APP

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid on Friday said Pakistan Constitution Day is a symbol of national consensus, democratic continuity and the protection of every citizen's fundamental rights. She said the 1973 Constitution remained the foundation of justice, equality and the welfare state that Pakistan's founders envisioned.

In her message, Senator Khalid credited Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto with uniting a fractured nation under a single, unani-

mously adopted constitutional framework in 1973, describing it as one of the most remarkable achievements in Pakistan's political history. She also honored Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who she said, waged a courageous struggle to restore the Constitution and democracy at a time when both were under grave threat.

Highlighting the Pakistan Peoples Party's democratic milestones, Senator Khalid said the 18th Constitutional Amendment, passed during the presidency of Asif Ali Zardari, strengthened the parliamentary system and granted provinces the autonomy.



QUETTA: Daily wages labour sit with their work tools at Bacha Khan chowk looking some work.



Kusal Mendis ton, Babar's 87 power Zalmi to record rout of Kings

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: Kusal Mendis struck a blistering century while Babar Azam smashed an unbeaten 87 as Peshawar Zalmi handed Karachi Kings a crushing 159-run defeat here at the National Bank Stadium on Thursday night.

The top-order pair's brilliance, followed by Abdul Samad's late onslaught, propelled Zalmi to a mammoth 246-3 before their bowlers skittled the Kings for a paltry 87, with Nahid Rana, Sufiyan Muqem and Ifthikhar Ahmed claiming three wickets each to seal the heaviest victory in PSL history.

The victory lifted Zalmi to second in the PSL standings with three wins out of four matches — one of which was washed out — as Karachi dropped to fourth.

Mendis smashed 109 off 52 balls, hitting 14 fours and four sixes, while sharing a record 191-run partnership — the highest in PSL history — with Babar, whose 51-ball knock included 10 boundaries and two sixes.

Samad then capped the innings with a belligerent 40 off just 12 balls, hammering three fours and four sixes after arriving at the crease at the start of the 18th over.

Zalmi raced to 65-1 in powerplay, both Babar and Mendis displaying flair and aggression after Mohammad Harris fell on the second ball of the innings to spinner Khushdil Shah.

Mendis launched the counterattack with consecutive sixes off Mir Hamza, while Babar accelerated at the other end with two fours and a six — the latter taking him past 12,000 T20 runs — off Khushdil.

Mendis then took apart Abbas Afridi for three successive fours, before both batters capped the powerplay with a boundary each.

The Sri Lankan brought up his half-century off 26 balls in the ninth over, having earlier swept Adam Zampa for six. He continued to dominate, pulling and driving Hamza Sohail for boundaries as Zalmi reached 102-1 at the halfway mark.

Babar reached his fifty off 32 balls, elegantly driving Moeen Ali inside out before striking him through the covers for consecutive boundaries.

Zalmi surged past 150 in the next over as Babar and Mendis took further toll on Zampa, with the latter reaching his century off just 48 balls. Zampa endured a tough outing as both the batters continued to attack but the partnership was eventually broken when Mendis miscued an attempted big hit against Abbas to substitute Haroon Arshad in the covers.

Abbas struck again two balls later, dismissing Michael Bracewell, who had earlier hit a six off his first delivery, as Zalmi briefly lost momentum.

However, Babar ensured there was no let-up, guiding Zalmi past 200 in the 18th over with a crisp boundary off Mir Hamza.

Samad then unleashed a stunning display of power-hitting, smashing Abbas for three consecutive sixes before plundering Mir Hamza

for three fours and a six in the final over to lift Zalmi to an imposing total.

Kings' chase began disastrously, with Mohammd Waseem holing out to Ifthikhar on the third ball. Farhan Yousuf's diving catch then removed captain David Warner, while Ifthikhar trapped Salman Ali Agha left to deepen the crisis as they fell to 8-3 in the third over.



BARCELONA: Atletico Madrid's Julian Alvarez (second R) scores from a free-kick past Barcelona goalkeeper Joan Garcia during their Champions League quarter-final first leg at Camp Nou.

Atletico punish 10-man Barca as red-hot PSG beat Liverpool in CL

SPORTS DESK

BARCELONA: Julian Alvarez and Alexander Sorloth's goals earned Atletico Madrid a commanding 2-0 lead over 10-man Barcelona, while, holders Paris St-Germain recorded an easy 2-0 home win over Liverpool as Champions League quarter-final first leg clashes concluded on Wednesday.

The La Liga leaders were on top in the all-Spanish tie at Camp Nou before Pau Cubarsi was sent off for bringing down Atletico's Giuliano Simeone, who was through on goal.

Alvarez whipped home the free-kick and Sorloth doubled their advantage with 20 minutes remaining to give Atletico a strong chance of reaching the semi-finals.

Diego Simeone's side, who have never won the competition, reached the 2014 and 2016 finals but were beaten by rivals Real Madrid on both occasions.

"We have things to improve and learn from... we're happy for the win but there's a long way to go," Atletico's Antoine Griezman told Movistar. "We're very far from the semis, we're 90 or more minutes away... we're confident but keeping our feet on the ground."

Barca, semi-finalists last season, need to make a huge comeback next Tuesday in Madrid if they are to stand a chance of lifting the trophy they last won in 2015.

"It will be tough there but if anyone can do it, it's us," Barca defender Ronald Araujo told Movistar. "We've got great players, quality, personality — we will look for the comeback."

Atletico knocked Barca out of the Copa del Rey in the semi-finals in March and this was the second of three meetings between the sides in a space of a fortnight.

Hansi Flick's side controlled the game with Atletico talisman Griezmann quiet against his former team, but a

moment of clumsiness from Cubarsi dramatically gave the visitors the upper hand before half-time.

The 19-year-old centre-back, chasing Giuliano Simeone as he ran through on goal to reach a ball in behind Barca's defence from Alvarez, clattered the Atletico coach's son from behind.

Although referee Istvan Kovacs only produced a yellow card for Cubarsi, he upgraded it to a red after a VAR review.

Worse was to come for Barca, with former Manchester City striker Alvarez whipping the free-kick into the top corner.

Flick tore into the officiating after an incident in the 53rd minute when Barca appealed for a penalty. Goalkeeper Musso appeared to have put the ball in play from a goal kick before defender Marc Pubill handled it inside the six-yard box to retake the goal kick.

Referee Kovacs waved play on and the VAR crew did not call him to the monitor, sparking animated protests from the home bench.

"The VAR was very focused today for Atletico, he's a German guy, so thanks Germany," former German national team coach Flick told reporters. "It's for me a clear red card."

Flick said the VAR officials should have asked Kovacs to review the incident.

"For my perspective it's clear, he has to call and say okay come on look at this, the same like before. I don't understand," added Flick.

"I haven't spoken with the referee. I think it was better not to speak with him.

"We have to accept it, and focus in the match next Tuesday in Atletico. We have the quality, the players who can decide (this game) and we have to fight."

Chris Green, Devon Conway give United facile win over Qalandars on sluggish surface

By Maqsood Khalid

KARACHI: Islamabad Unit-ed's spinners exploited a sluggish pitch to perfection before Devon Conway and Mohammad Faiz guided their side to a comfortable nine-wicket victory over Lahore Qalandars in their HBL Pakistan Super League clash in a hot afternoon here at the National Bank Stadium.

On a sticky surface that demanded patience rather than power, United adapted far better than their opponents, restricting Lahore to a scanty 100 — the lowest total recorded at the venue in the PSL history — before completing the chase with clinical ease.

Australian off-spinner Chris Green led the effort with a disciplined spell of 3-19, supported effectively by Imad Wasim and captain Shadab Khan as Lahore's batting repeatedly faltered against spin on a surface offering grip and variable pace.

"I thought it was a great wicket for a day game," Green said afterwards. "The square was quite dry and, to be honest, it was a complete bowling performance."

Lahore never recovered after a cautious start. The slow track blunted their batters' attacking strokes forcing them to commit mistakes as they crawled to 34-2 in powerplay.

Imad in the opening over remo-ved Mohammad Naeem (nought) before the left-arm spinner sent Abdullah Shafique (10) back as the batter picked out a diving Shadab at mid-off in the fifth over.

Green bowled Haseebullah Khan (19 off 22 balls) in the eighth over with a delivery that held its line, while Rubin Herm-ann (four) holed out off Shadab in the ninth as Qalandars slipped to 50-4 at the halfway mark.

Asif Ali briefly threatened to launch a counterattack, striking Faheem Ashraf for a six in the 12th over, but fell soon after attempting another big hit, handing Shadab his second wicket. Green then produced a standout moment in the field, diving sharply to his right to complete a return catch and dismiss debutant Ryan Burl (two) in the 14th.

Sikandar Raza attempted to rebuild with a measured knock, striking boundaries through placement rather than power, but scoring remained laborious. The Zimbabwean all-rounder eventually departed for 25 off 19 balls in the 16th over, sweeping Green straight to short fine leg as the Qalandars' hopes, who were now 91-7, of a late recovery faded.



ISLAMABAD United opener Devon Conway in action during the Pakistan Super League match against Lahore Qalandars at the National Bank Stadium.

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Attacking Lebanon

MANY questions remain about which way the negotiations between the US and Iran to find a permanent end to the hostilities can go.

Amongst the biggest unknowns is Lebanon; on the day the two-week truce between Washington and Tehran, brokered by Pakistan, was announced, Israel launched a barbaric assault on Lebanon, causing a high number of casualties and massive damage to infrastructure. Over 200 people were reported to have been killed during Wednesday's atrocious attacks by Israel, while hostilities continued yesterday.

Israel is understandably furious that its joint effort with the US to destroy Iran has ended in failure; Israeli media is full of criticism of the regime for failing to achieve its goals in this brutal war. Now it seems that Tel Aviv has decided to direct its rage at the Lebanese people in the name of going after Iran's ally Hezbollah. There has been deliberate targeting of civilians — a war crime — in the country under the so-called Dahieh Doctrine. But Israel is no stranger to carrying out such attacks, having engaged in them across the Middle East for decades.

There also appears to be 'confusion' regarding Lebanon's inclusion in the 10 points forwarded by Iran as a basis for the negotiations. The Iranians insist Lebanon is an "inseparable part" of the ceasefire, while Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also asserted that the Arab state was included. However, the Americans seem to be having second thoughts, as President Donald Trump has said Lebanon is a "separate skirmish". Regardless, it is essential to ensure that the Lebanese front is part of the truce for both humanitarian reasons and to save the larger peace process between Iran and the US, which could collapse if Israel continues its butchery. The UN, as well as many of America's allies, including the UK, France, Japan and others, have endorsed the call for a ceasefire in Lebanon.

It was Israel — which reportedly fed faulty intelligence to Mr Trump about how Iran could be easily defeated — that convinced the US to go to war with the Islamic Republic.

Now it appears that Tel Aviv is using every trick in the book to ensure that the nascent peace process fails, and hostilities in the Middle East resume.

Mr Trump must decide whether he wants to indeed put 'America first', or to do Israel's bidding, even if the region is set alight in the process. The US has considerable leverage over its proxy Israel; the time to use it is now. Washington must impress on Tel Aviv to immediately halt all hostilities in Lebanon. Hezbollah is just an excuse. The Zionist state has long coveted Lebanon in pursuit of its 'Greater Israel' scheme. It must be stopped from continuing its attacks in Lebanon and its wholesale slaughter of innocent civilians there.

By Tariq Khosa

A call to conscience

THE US-based NGO Freedom House recently observed that, among the 88 countries categorised as 'free', the US had experienced the sharpest fall, dropping to its lowest level since the organisation began publishing its scores in 2002. Meanwhile, Sweden's V-Dem Institute lamented that America was witnessing the most "severe magnitude of democratic backsliding ever", could no longer be described as a "liberal democracy" and was in the midst of the process of "autocratisation".

Political scientist Giuliano da Empoli in *The Hour of the Predator* (2025) says that "in the new world, everything that needs to be settled will be settled by fire and sword". Currently, the most violent characters "find meaning in life only when they are in conflict". War is back in fashion and "leaders who rattle sabres win elections, and some of them follow through on their threats". It is noted that over "the last five years, global military spending has increased by 34 per cent".

In a prescient declaration, Empoli wrote about the current US president being "at the head of a motley procession of shameless autocrats, tech conquistadors, reactionaries and conspiracy theorists, all spoiling for a fight". He warned that the era we were living through was Machiavellian, wherein modern-day princes care least for the norms of legitimate power. The author of *The Prince* had depicted "how power can be asserted amid chaos". "The hour of the predator is upon us," says Empoli. The current lot "draw their strength from instability, unpredictability, aggression".

The world has entered an era of "wrecking-ball politics", the 2026 Munich Security Report proclaims. "Ironically, the president of the United States — the country that did more than any other to shape the post-1945 international order — is now the most prominent of the demolition men". New policies may create an unsafe, less prosperous world "shaped by transactional deals rather than principled cooperation, private rather than public interests, and regions shaped by regional hegemony

rather than universal norms". The report concludes that the US has largely abandoned its role as 'leader of the free world'. We are seeing a pattern of increasing restrictions on freedom of expression, association and assembly.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt passed away in 1945 before he could deliver his speech in honour of Thomas Jefferson. FDR had written: "Today we have learned in the agony of war that great power involves great responsibility. ... We seek peace — enduring peace." "If civilisation is to survive," he wrote in his unaddressed speech, "we must cultivate the science of human relationship — the ability of all people, of all kinds, to live together and work together, in the same world, at peace."

Albert Einstein's final words were also about peace, and how to achieve it. Though sympathetic to Zionism, he stressed Judaism's humanism, "the democratic ideal of social justice coupled with the ideal of mutual aid and tolerance among all men". His last speech written and not delivered in 1955 due to his sudden death invoked humanity, truth and justice in the conflict between Israel and Egypt that he termed "an old-style struggle for power ... presented to mankind in semireligious trappings".

Prof Timothy Snyder, whose 2017 book *On Tyranny* listed 20 lessons from the 20th century, published a new book *On Freedom* last year. He says that "a big lie can bring down a whole country," adding that "the 20th century should have been Germany's century, but the Germans got caught in a story. The 21st century could be America's, but the Americans...voted for a big liar. "Believing a lie means serving a master, living or digital," says Snyder. Freedom of expression means creating "circumstances in which facts ennoble the individual and challenge the powerful". Reporters of truth are heroes to be defended, not just praised. Freedom of speech, according to Euripides, is a "fair-flowing fountain" defined by truth and risk. Tyranny is born of lies.

In Pakistan, we see a pattern of increasing restrictions on freedom of expression,

association and assembly. A critical social media post resulted in a harsh sentence and conviction under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act of a lawyer couple — Imaan Mazari-Hazir and Hadi Ali Chattha — in Islamabad. Seventeen years of rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Rs36 million is preposterous and sheer vendetta. Usama Khilji, writing in this paper, rightly pointed out that "the lack of proportionality is jarring ... and the overstepping of legality clear". What was the couple's crime? Raising a voice for missing people and campaigning against the reprehensible practice of enforced disappearances. The message is clear: no one should question the state's counterterrorism policies and enforced disappearances, or the violation of due process and fundamental human rights.

UN special rapporteurs were alarmed by the severity of the conviction "for simply exercising rights guaranteed by international human rights law". They rightly observed that "the exercise of this right should never be conflated with criminal conduct, especially not terrorism". This drastic action has had a "chilling effect on civil society" as rightly reported by this paper; the allegedly 10 criminal complaints since 2022 against the couple smack of venom by the deep state. The FIA and National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency, unfortunately, appear to be acting as tools of repression. Antiterrorism courts have been compared to kangaroo courts, violating the Supreme Court's verdict in 2019 on the misuse of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, and invoking this draconian law against political opponents and civil society activists. Corruption has seeped into the body politic.

According to the recent Ipsos-FPCCI Index of Transparency and Accountability, a widening gap exists between public perception and the reality of corruption in Pakistan.

Bribery, nepotism and enriching oneself through illegal ways are widespread. There is a trust deficit between the citizens and "public institutions burdened by a reputational loss".

By Sheikh Moazzam Khan

When a Letter Moves from "To Pakistan" to "To Conscience"

I know a man who has been searching for justice for the past thirty-five years.

In the beginning, he believed in the system. He wrote letters to the President of Pakistan, the Prime Minister, Chief Secretaries, Governors, Chief Ministers, courts, and every relevant authority he could reach. He believed that somewhere, somehow, a door would open—someone would listen.

But when every door responded with silence, when files kept moving yet decisions never came, he changed the addressee of his letters. He began to write: "To Pakistan."

At that point, he was no longer addressing a specific office; he was questioning the entire state. His letters spread across all four provinces, reaching every institution—yet the result remained unchanged: silence, delay, and indifference.

He approached human rights commissions, ombudsmen, and courts. Everywhere, he established the same facts: his work had been fully completed, officials had acknowledged it, and even Ex-Post Facto Approval had been granted.

Yet the question remains unchanged: if everything has been accepted, why has the payment not been made?

At this stage, the matter is no longer about a single payment. It becomes a question of the system's conscience. That is why the man chose a new path. He no longer writes to the President or the Prime Minister. Instead, he writes:

"To that person of conscience whose heart carries the fear of God and for whom justice is an obligation." Because he has realized that the issue is not of offices—it is of conscience. In his letters, he highlights another bitter truth: in this country, the great-

est burden of injustice falls upon those symbolized by the letter "M"—the traveler, the patient, and the destitute.

The destitute is the petitioner—the one who applies, requests, and waits. Today, millions stand in that same line: someone for an identity card, someone for a passport, someone for a child's admission, someone for salary or allowance, someone for an FIR, someone for land records, someone for medical treatment, someone for justice.

Everywhere there are applications—and behind every application stands a helpless human being.

Above this, there is adulteration—adulteration in food, in medicine, in justice. Every aspect of life is clouded by uncertainty and helplessness.

He says, "My name also begins with 'M', so I too am among the destitute." Then he asks a simple but piercing question:

If an officer or an institution issues a decision, can it also defend that decision?

If not, was the decision ever correct? And if it was incorrect, is there any accountability—or none at all?

Civilized societies have not treated this as a philosophical question; they have resolved it through law, judgments, and enforcement.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 23) affirms that every person has the right to just and favorable remuneration for their work, and the state is responsible for ensuring it. The European Court of Human Rights, in cases such as *Burdov v. Russia*, established that delays in payment by the state constitute a violation of human rights, entitling the affected individual not only to the principal amount but also to additional compensation.

The Supreme Court of India, in *State of Kerala v. M. Padmanabhan Nair*, ruled that delays in payments to retirees or contractors are unacceptable and that the state is bound to pay with interest.

In the United States, courts have consistently applied the doctrine of unjust enrichment, holding that if the government benefits from an individual's or a company's services, failure to compensate is unlawful.

In the United Kingdom, judicial precedents have repeatedly compelled the government to compensate citizens for delays and wrongful decisions, emphasizing that state injustice must be corrected without delay.

Similarly, the United Nations Human Rights Council and other international institutions maintain that unjustified delay or denial by the state cannot be sustained, and prompt remedy is essential.

Even Pakistan's own Supreme Court of Pakistan has, in various judgments, recognized that prolonged silence and delay by state institutions amount to a form of injustice requiring redress.

All these global precedents converge on a single principle:

If a state acknowledges a citizen's right, it must fulfill it.

If it fails to do so, this is not merely an administrative lapse—it is a moral and legal failure.

This is the global standard.

And it is against this standard that our system stands tested—where, time and again, an ordinary citizen loses.

This column is not the story of one man. It is the story of an entire system under examination.

It is a question—addressed to the state, to institutions, and to all of us:

Is there still anyone in this country who can simply say:

"Give the rightful their due"?

DAILY MIRROR

Pakistan calls for building trust between Kosovo & Serbia to move forward towards regional peace

APP

UNITED NATIONS: While last year's successful legislative elections in Kosovo featured broad participation, Pakistan has warned of the "complex and intricate web of challenges" ahead and called for Kosovo-Serbia dialogue for establishing peace and stability in the Southeast European region.

"Trust building between the two sides remains essential for moving forward," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, told the UN Security Council on Wednesday.

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in February 2008 following years of ethnic tensions, but Serbia has not recognized the declaration. The European Union has since been facilitating dialogue between the parties on a range of practical matters.

Speaking in the course of a debate on the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the Pakistani envoy said divisive rhetoric, hate speech, and inter-communal tensions should not be allowed to take root and disturb peace and tranquillity.

Pakistani, he said, believes that only a sustained and meaningful dialogue

process, a toning down of political rhetoric, and the full implementation of commitments made under mutual accords can help overcome all challenges and lead to lasting peace and stability in the region.

"We appreciate European Union's steadfast commitment and efforts to facilitate dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina," the Pakistani envoy said, hoping that both sides will continue to build on the positive momentum, refrain from unilateral actions that stoke tensions, and continue constructive cooperation to resolve all outstanding issues.

Underscoring that "the Balkans have suffered enough from the failures of the past", Ambassador Jadoon urged: "The future, surely, must be different."

Both parties must choose the path of "principle over prejudice and patience over provocation", he said.

"What the region urgently needs is meaningful engagement, a firm commitment to the principles of mutual respect, recognition of mutual sensitivities, safeguarding social and economic rights of all peoples, and promotion of the spirit of peaceful co-existence, and inter-communal harmony, Ambassador Jadoon added.

At the outset, Peter Due, Special Representative and Head of UNMIK, told

the Security

Council during his first briefing that while the December 2025 polls featured broad participation, the momentum is being tested.

He noted that the process of electing a new President remains incomplete, following a year of political stalemate.

Due, who took the key role three months ago, emphasized that the return of Kosovo

Serb mayors in the north was a positive step yet warned of "challenges" including administrative gaps and language barriers.

"These are not merely technical issues," he said, urging continued engagement. Guided by Resolution 1244 (1999), UNMIK is focusing its efforts on community-level dialogue.

"Trust among communities, and between communities and institutions, allows progress, dialogue and cooperation to take root," he stressed.

The mission itself is navigating a UN-wide liquidity crisis, having reduced encumbered positions by nearly 30 per cent. Despite these financial constraints, Due insisted the mission remains vital in fostering an inclusive culture "where every community sees itself reflected in the path forward".



Provincial Minister Mir Mohammad Asim Kurd Gilo Addresses Media Outside Balochistan Assembly in Quetta

Pakistan Extends Visa-free Travel to Delegates, Journalists from Participating Nations, Not Third-country Nationals: FO

APP

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office spokesperson, Ambassador Tahir Andrabi on Friday stated that Pakistan has extended visa-free travel to delegates and journalists from participating nations of Islamabad Talks 2026, i.e., Iran and the USA.

On media queries regarding Pakistan's decision to allow visa-free travel for Islamabad Talks 2026, the spokesperson said that this facility, extended for the duration of the talks, did not cover third-country nationals.

1973 Constitution guarantees fundamental rights, freedom of expression: Governor, CM Sindh

APP

KARACH: Governor of Sindh Syed Nehal Hashmi and Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah have said that the Constitution of Pakistan was a symbol of the country's survival, security and federation.

In their separate messages on Constitution Day on Friday, they said that protecting the Constitution was a national duty of every Pakistani and no compromise would be made on it.

They said that 1973 Constitution guaranteed fundamental rights, freedom of expression and religious freedom. Equipping youth with IT and modern knowledge is the foundation of a bright Pakistan, they expressed and added that the rule of law and adherence to constitutional limits were the path to progress.

The Governor said that national unity was essential for upholding the Constitution and achieving economic stability.

He said that the federal government would continue full cooperation for the development and progress of Karachi and all districts of Sindh. Sindh Chief Minister said that Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto gave the nation a unanimous, democratic and Islamic Constitution.

Islamic identity of the Constitution is due to the visionary leadership of religious parties: Fazlur Rehman

NEWS DESK

Islamabad: JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said that the Islamic identity of the Constitution is due to the visionary leadership of religious parties.

Giving an important message regarding the day of the unanimous adoption of the 1973 Constitution in the federal capital, Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that today the 1973 Constitution was unanimously adopted, Pakistan was officially called the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and today is a symbol of national unity.

He said that despite a two-thirds majority, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto preferred national consensus, the 1973 Constitution is a true national charter, we pay tribute to the architects of the Constitution, and the role

of Islamic thinker Mufti Mahmud and opposition leaders is worthy of pride.

The JUI chief said that the Islamic identity of the constitution is due to the visionary leadership of religious parties, that the protection of the rights of the four provinces is the foundation of the constitution, and that the constitution was damaged by authoritarian forces in the past.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman further said that political workers and the people made sacrifices to defend the constitution, the nation maintained the unanimous status of the constitution, and he prayed that Pakistan would achieve progress, prosperity and stability. Islam and democracy are the guarantors of the success and development of the beloved country.

Khamenei says Iran does not want war but 'criminal aggressors' won't go unpunished

MONITORING DESK

TEHRAN: Iran's new supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei said in his latest written message that his nation did not want war with the United States and Israel, but would protect its rights as a nation, state television reported Thursday.

"We did not seek war and we do not want it," he said in the message read out on state TV, weeks after his father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was martyred on February 28, the first day of the war.

"But we will not renounce our legitimate rights under any circumstances, and in this respect, we consider the entire resistance front as a whole," he added, in an apparent reference to Lebanon where Israel is fighting with Tehran's ally Hezbollah.

"All must know that, by Almighty God's will, we definitely won't allow the criminal aggressors who attacked our country to go unpunished."

Iran this week agreed to a fragile two-week ceasefire with the United States that could lead to peace negotiations after threats of annihilation from US President Donald Trump.

The supreme leader also urged the country's southern neighbours to carefully observe ongoing regional developments, describing them as a "miracle" and calling for a clear and informed stance.

He said that Iran will move the management of the strategic Strait of Hormuz into a new phase.

Khamenei told Iranians that they must "not imagine that taking to the streets is no longer necessary" despite the announcement of the ceasefire.

"Your voices in public squares are undoubtedly influential in the outcome of the negotiations," he said.

Likely wounded in the strike that martyred his father, Mojtaba Khamenei, has still not been seen in public since his leadership appointment.

He has issued written declarations, most of them read out by presenters on state television.

US President Donald Trump has even speculated that he could be dead, but Iran's state television said he is recovering from his injuries and posts photos of him, without specifying when they were taken.

President Zardari felicitates President of Myanmar on assumption of office

APP

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday extended felicitations to President of the Republic of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, on his election to the office, expressing confidence in the continued growth of bilateral relations between the two countries.

In his letter, the President conveyed warm greetings on the assumption of office by President Min Aung Hlaing.

Highlighting the cordial relations between Pakistan and Myanmar, the President noted that the two countries are bound by shared historical and civilisational ties.

He expressed the confidence that, under President Min Aung Hlaing's leadership, bilateral cooperation would continue to expand, creating new opportunities for mutually beneficial partnership in areas of common interest.

Sindh implements austerity measures, notifies early market closure among other steps

INP

KARACHI: The Sindh government on Friday notified that all shops, markets and shopping malls in Karachi and other divisional headquarters of the province will close at 9pm throughout the week, including Saturday and Sunday,

as part of austerity measures and in line with the federal government's decision.

In a notification dated April 10, the provincial government further stated that markets, shops and shopping malls in districts other than divisional headquarters will close at 8pm.

Tandoors (as standalone shops), milk and dairy shops, bakeries,

medical stores and pharmacies, medical laboratories, clinics and hospitals, as well as fuel stations, will remain exempt from the order.

It further stated that hotels, restaurants, and food outlets will be allowed to operate between 7pm and 11:30pm for dinner timings. However, there will be no restriction on home delivery and takeaway services.

The notification further stated that all marriage/wedding halls and banquets in the province will operate between 8pm and midnight.

Over the past month, the government has adopted a host of austerity measures in the wake of the global fuel crisis triggered by the US-Israel war on Iran.

Aleem Khan Welcomes Iran-US Talks in Islamabad, Lauds Leadership's Efforts

APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Friday welcomed the commencement of negotiations between Iran and the United States in Islamabad, terming it a positive development for global peace.

He extended a warm welcome to the US Vice President and the Iranian leadership on their arrival in Pakistan, stating that Islamabad has become the center of global political attention, reflecting Pakistan's effective and balanced diplomacy. In his message on X, the minister said that due to the excellent leadership and successful diplomatic strategy of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir, Pakistan's role was being appreciated worldwide.

He also commended the efforts of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, stating that these collective efforts were further strengthening Pakistan's positive image. Aleem Khan condemned ongoing conflicts around the globe, emphasizing that peace was the only path to progress and prosperity.

He added that Pakistan had practically proven itself as a flag bearer of global

peace and is playing a key role in ensuring regional stability. He expressed the hope that a message of peace and stability would emanate from Islamabad to the entire world. Abdul Aleem Khan further hoped that the ongoing negotiations would conclude successfully and yield positive outcomes.

He praised the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, stating that their hard work and strategic role earned the confidence of all parties involved, leading to the ceasefire and the initiation of negotiations. Sardar Yousaf noted that the trust placed in Pakistan's leadership was a matter of pride for the nation, adding that countries such as the United States and Iran had also expressed confidence, further strengthening the diplomatic process. Expressing the hope that the temporary ceasefire would turn into a permanent solution, he congratulated the nation and emphasized the importance of unity and collective prayers.

He particularly appealed to religious scholars and the general public to offer special prayers during Friday sermons, urging them to pray for the success of ongoing negotiations and for lasting peace in the region and across the world.



QUETTA: A view of clouds hovering over sky in provincial capital.

Provincial Education Minister orders Immediate Supply of Textbooks in Quetta Schools

APP

QUETTA: Provincial education Minister Raheela Hameed Durrani on Friday has taken serious notice of the shortage of textbooks in government schools across Quetta and directed officials to ensure immediate distribution. She emphasized that all public educational institutions in the provincial capital must receive the required textbooks within two days to prevent disruption in students' learning.

The minister issued strict instructions to the Chairman of the Balochistan

Textbook board, Dr. Gulab Khan Khilji, the Director of Schools and other relevant officers to mobilize all available resources and expedite the delivery process, said a news release.

She warned that negligence or delays at any level would not be tolerated.

In response, Dr. Gulab Khilji conducted an emergency visit to the government textbook store in Quetta. During the inspection, he instructed staff to complete the distribution of textbooks to all government schools within the two-day deadline. He reiterated that any lapse in this process would be unacceptable.

Govt taking serious steps for development of backward areas to ensure welfare of public in Kohlu: Commissioner

APP

Quetta: Commissioner Koh-e-Sulaiman Division Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Qambrani said that the Balochistan government is taking serious steps for the development of backward areas and public welfare would be ensured by utilizing all resources.

He said this while inspecting various development projects during his visit to Kohlu on Friday and chaired a meeting to review the progress of ongoing development projects under PSDP 2025-26 on special directive of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti. In the meeting, Commissioner Koh-e-Sulaiman Division was given a detailed briefing regarding the pace and quality of work on projects related to health, education, clean drinking water, road construction, agriculture and livestock.

The Commissioner directed the officers to complete all development projects within the stipulated time and no delay or negligence would be tolerated. He clarified that strict legal action would be taken against contractors who do sub-standard work.

The officers should take immediate and effective steps to ensure timely and quality completion of projects of public interest so that facilities could be provided

to the public as soon as possible. Officers from various departments, including Deputy Commissioner Kohlu, were also present in the meeting, who informed the Commissioner about the progress made in their respective fields. Commissioner Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Qambrani said that the purpose of the newly established Koh-e-Sulaiman Division in the vision of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti is to improve administrative affairs in backward districts and enable immediate resolution of public problems. He said that with the establishment of this division, the people of Kohlu, Barkhan and Upper Dera Bugti would no longer need to go far to solve their problems, but problems would be addressed effectively at the local level. He added that the Balochistan government is taking serious steps for the development of backward areas and public welfare would be ensured by utilizing all resources. Later, the Commissioner visited various under-construction projects in which he took a detailed review of the ongoing development work on Kohlu-Rakni Highway. On this occasion, he was given a comprehensive briefing by the concerned authorities regarding the progress of the project, quality of construction and the problems being faced.



KARACHI: Pakistan Navy undertakes rescue operation for crew of MV.GOLD AUTUMN off Pakistan coast.