

# DAILY MIRROR

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## Providing better facilities to lawyers to make justice system more effective: CM Bugti

APP

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Monday said that the welfare of lawyers is among the priorities of the government and practical steps are being taken to solve the problems being faced by lawyers in the province.

He said this while taking a joint delegation of members of the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) and Balochistan Bar Council (BBC) called on him here.

During the meeting, they discussed in detail the problems being faced by the legal community and the ongoing and proposed measures for their welfare.

In the meeting, a detailed briefing was given on the progress of the digital library and the Lawyer Welfare Housing Scheme, including medical coverage for the treatment and improvement of medical facilities for lawyers, provision of chambers for lawyers on concessional basis in

Baldia Plaza, provision of pink scooters, shuttle carts, buses and pink vans for the convenience of lawyers.

On this occasion, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the justice system could be made more effective by providing better facilities to lawyers.

He expressed his determination that the government would work with the legal community to advance welfare projects and the projects started for lawyers to be completed as soon as possible.

The lawyers' representatives in the meeting included Pakistan Bar Council member Munir Ahmed Kakar, while Balochistan Bar Council members Nadir Chhalgari,

Ayaz Mandokhel, Najeeb Kakar and Afzal Harifal, Principal Secretary Imran Zarkoon and Law Secretary Dr. Pervaiz Noshirvani were also present on the occasion.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti while taking to a joint delegation of members of the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) and Balochistan Bar Council (BBC) called on him here.

## FM Dar emphasises continued dialogue and engagement to Araghchi as momentum for US-Iran talks picks up

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar emphasised the importance of continued engagement and dialogue to his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi on Monday as momentum picked up for talks with the United States to achieve a peace deal.

The Foreign Office said in a post on X that FM Dar spoke with Araghchi.

"FM emphasised the importance of continued dialogue and engagement at the earliest to resolve all pending issues, in order to promote regional peace and stability. Both agreed to remain closely engaged."

The Iranian government said they discussed regional developments and cease-fire-related issues, exchanging views on ongoing coordination.

Earlier, Australian FM Penny Wong praised Pakistan's "constructive role" in facilitating dialogue as well as its continued commitment to diplomatic efforts

during a telephone call with Dar.

The FO said Wong expressed appreciation for Dar's efforts and Pakistan's role in promoting dialogue between Tehran and Washington.

"She commended Pakistan's continued commitment to promoting diplomatic engagement in this regard," the statement said. The ministry added that FM Dar briefed Wong on the 'Islamabad Talks' held on April 11-12 and reiterated Pakistan's resolve to continue encouraging dialogue and constructive engagement. "The two leaders expressed concern over the broader implications for the global economy, particularly for developing countries, and emphasised the importance of peaceful conflict resolution," the statement added.

FM Dar has received unprecedented international recognition for his diplomatic leadership, as Pakistan positioned itself at the centre of high-stakes mediation efforts during the escalating Iran-US-Israel crisis.

## Uncertainty prevails over talks amid mixed signals from Iran; Trump says US delegation en route to Islamabad

Trump says he is willing to meet with senior Iranian leaders if a breakthrough is reached; Iran's foreign ministry says Tehran has yet to decide on whether to attend talks

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Uncertainty prevailed on Monday over whether the United States and Iran would hold a second round of direct talks, as mixed signals emerged from Tehran amid intensifying tensions with Washington, even as Islamabad prepared to host the two sides.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump told The New York Post that US Vice President JD Vance and an American delegation were en route to Pakistan and expected to land within hours for the peace talks with Iran.

He added that he was willing to meet with senior Iranian leaders if a breakthrough is reached.

"We're supposed to have the talks," Trump said in a brief interview, brushing aside doubts about whether negotiations would fall apart. "So I would assume at this point nobody's playing games." "They're heading over now," Trump said shortly after 9am ET (6pm PKT). "They'll be there tonight, [Islamabad] time."

However, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters that Vance was still in the US and had not yet departed for Pakistan.

Iran undecided on participation

Earlier in the day, Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei said Tehran had yet to decide on whether to attend the next round of talks with the US.

His statement came after Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said earlier in the day that Tehran was continuing negotiations with the US but remains ready to take "necessary measures" amid fears of renewed escalation.

The statements coming from Iran are reminiscent of Tehran's stance ahead of the first round of Islamabad Talks, when Iran demanded that its "pre-conditions" be met in order for the dialogue to proceed.

## Four terrorists killed, one police officer martyred in separate IBOs in K-P

APP

RAWALPINDI: One police officer was martyred and four terrorists, including two highly wanted commanders, were killed in two separate intelligence-based operations in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, officials confirmed on Monday.

In one operation, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement, "After intense exchange

of fire, two khwarij, belonging to Indian sponsored Fitna-al-Khawarij, including Kharji Ring leader Waheedullah alias Muktiar, along with a suicide bomber were sent to hell."

A suicide jacket, weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the terrorists.

The state uses the term Fitna al-Khawarij for the terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

The ISPR said that the terrorist ring leader Waheedullah was "amongst the most wanted terrorists"

due to his involvement in multiple terrorist activities, including attacks that led to the "martyrdom of security forces personnel and innocent civilians".

According to the statement, he was also the main handler of a suicide bomber in Bannu District on February 21, an attack in which Lieutenant Colonel Gul Faraz was martyred.

## Pakistan, Iran Discuss Islamabad Dialogue Preparations as Envoys Meet

APP

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with Iranian Ambassador Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam on Monday to review arrangements for the second phase of the Islamabad Dialogue.

Both sides discussed the security and organizational preparations for the upcoming talks and emphasized the need for a sustainable solution to regional tensions through diplomatic and negotiation channels.

Minister Naqvi briefed the envoy on his recent visit to Iran and said preparations for the next round of the Islamabad Dialogue had been completed, with foolproof security meas-

ures in place for all foreign delegations.

The Iranian ambassador appreciated Pakistan for its constructive and positive role in efforts to reduce regional tensions.

Naqvi reaffirmed that Pakistan values its decades-old brotherly ties with Iran and

believes negotiations are the only way forward in the Pakistan-Iran-US dispute. A lasting resolution, he said, is essential for regional peace and stability.

The Chief Commissioner Islamabad, IG Islamabad Police, and Deputy Commissioner Islamabad were also present during the meeting.



Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held a meeting with Iranian Ambassador Dr Reza Amiri Moghadam in Islamabad.

## Lady Constable Malik Naz set new example of bravery, duty & selflessness by sacrificing her life for protection of people: Rind

APP

Quetta: The first female martyred officer of Balochistan Police, Lady Constable Malik Naz was martyred, while another police officer was also martyred and several officers were injured in the exchange of fire during an operation against criminal elements near Khuzdar on Monday.

Assistant to Chief Minister Balochistan for Political and Media Affairs Shahid Rind strongly condemned the incident and said that Lady Constable Malik Naz has set a new example of bravery, duty and selflessness by sacrificing her life for the protection of the people.

He said that Head Constable Samiullah was also martyred in this unfortunate incident, while immediate medical assistance

is being provided to the injured officers.

Shahid Rind said that the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) is investigating the incident and the involved elements would be brought to justice at all costs. He clarified that operations against peace-loving elements would continue without interruption and the writ of the state to be upheld at all costs.

Shahid Rind said that the family of martyr Malik Naz is a shining example of sacrifices, her husband also served in the Levies Force. He said that martyr Malik Naz has left behind three innocent children to mourn.

He said that the Balochistan government stands with the families of the martyrs and would provide them with all possible support.



Pakistan-Egypt Joint Exercise Thunder-II, focused on counterterrorism operations, was successfully conducted at Cherat.

## Pakistan upsizes Eurobond issuance to \$750m amid 'strong investor demand'

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has upsized its Eurobond issuance to \$750 million, with an additional \$250 million placed with global institutional investors, said Khurram Schehzad, adviser to the finance minister, on Monday.

Schehzad made the announcement in a post on X, saying Pakistan upsized the issuance by exercising the Green Shoe Option.

"The upsizing reflects stronger-than-expected investor demand, reinforcing confidence in Pakistan's economic outlook and market re-entry," he said.

The 3-year Eurobond, initially placed at \$500 million, attracted significant global interest - enabling the government to broaden investor participation, said the adviser.

Schehzad, on April 17, announced Pakistan's return to the international capital markets after a four-year gap.

Taking to his official X handle, he said: "Pakistan has successfully returned to the international capital markets after a four-year hiatus, with the issuance of a \$500m Eurobond today, at attractive terms under its Global Medium-Term Note (GMNT) Programme."

Announcing the upsizing of the Eurobond issuance,

Schehzad said that it signalled strong investor demand, sustained appetite, and enhanced depth and liquidity in Pakistan's sovereign yield curve.

He asserted that the development reinforced Pakistan's re-engagement with global capital markets and confidence in the country's economic outlook.

The development came around two weeks after Schehzad confirmed that Pakistan repaid \$1.43 billion in external debt, including the \$1.3 billion Eurobond.

In an X post on April 4, he said that debt servicing contin-

ued to be executed, "... reflecting consistency, discipline, and strengthened capacity."

The \$1.43 billion repayment also included \$126.125 million in coupon obligations on other Eurobond issuances, he added.

Pakistan has also returned \$2 billion in debt to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during the ongoing month.

A spokesperson for the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) confirmed the repayment of the deposit on April 18, saying the amount was kept with the central banks as a safe deposit.

## PM, European Council President discuss Middle East situation

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif received a telephone call this evening from President European Council António Costa. During their cordial conversation, the two leaders exchanged views on the current situation in the Middle East.

The Prime Minister shared with António Costa the latest updates on Pakistan's diplomatic outreach and peace efforts. The President of the European Council expressed deep appreciation for Pakistan's constructive role in promoting dialogue and stability in the region. He also assured the European Union's readiness to support this process, in every possible manner.

Both leaders stressed on the need to continue with dialogue and diplomacy to ensure lasting regional and global security. In this regard, the two leaders also agreed to remain in touch.

## Naqvi, US Envoy Hold Talks on Regional Stability and Islamabad Dialogue Security

APP

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the United States Embassy in the Diplomatic Enclave on Monday, where he held a detailed meeting with US Ambassador Natalie Baker to review bilateral ties and the evolving regional situation.

During the meeting, both sides discussed ways to strengthen Pakistan-US relations and exchanged views on the latest developments in the region. They also reviewed the security arrangements put in place for the second round of the Islamabad Dialogue, scheduled to be held in the capital.

Ambassador Natalie Baker appreciated Pakistan's sincere efforts to help defuse tensions in the region, acknowledging Islamabad's constructive diplomatic role.

Minister Naqvi briefed the US envoy on the comprehensive security plan formulated for all distinguished guests attending the upcoming dialogue. "Special security arrangements have been made for all our important guests," he said, adding that Pakistan hoped for the successful conclusion of the second round of the Islamabad Dialogue.

Director General FIA Dr. Usman Anwar, Chief Commissioner Islamabad Suhail Ashraf, Inspector General Islamabad Police Ali Nasir Rizvi, and Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Memon were also present during the meeting.

## Pak-Egypt Joint Exercise Thunder-II concludes

APP

RAWALPINDI: The two week long Pakistan-Egypt Joint Exercise Thunder-II, focused on counterterrorism operations, was successfully conducted between the armies of Pakistan and Egypt at Cherat, Pakistan.

The exercise was designed to enhance interoperability by refining drills, procedures, and techniques related to counterterrorism operations through joint training, said news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Combat teams from the Special Services Group (SSG) of the Pakistan Army and the Egyptian Special Forces actively participated, demonstrating exceptional professionalism and operational skill throughout the exercise.

General Officer Commanding, Special Services Group, attended the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest, while the Commander of Egyptian Paratroopers, Major General Mohamed Saad Abdel Razik, and the Defence Attaché of Egypt also witnessed the event.

The exercise also served to further strengthen the longstanding and historic military-to-military relations between the two friendly nations.

## Balochistan Levies lady constable martyred in terrorist attack in Khuzdar

INP

KHUZDAR: A lady constable was martyred in a terrorist attack in Khuzdar District of Balochistan police said on Monday.

The victim, Lady Constable Malik Naz, embraced martyrdom on April 19, 2026, when terrorists carried out an attack in the Bajoi area of the district. Officials said Malik Naz had joined the Levies Force in 2013 under the Shaheed quota after her husband, Abdul Ghani, was martyred in a targeted killing in 2011 while serving in the force. Continuing her husband's legacy, she served with dedication and courage.

Funeral prayers for the martyred constable and a head constable, who was also killed in the same attack, were offered in Quetta. DIG Khuzdar Wazir Khan Nasir, other police officials, and local residents attended the prayers. Both personnel were laid to rest with full state honours.

Meanwhile, the military's media wing, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), said two terrorists linked to the Indian proxy group

Fitna al-Khawarij were killed in an intelligence-based operation in Bannu. According to the ISPR, an intelligence-based operation was conducted by security forces on April 19, 2026, in Bannu District following reports of the presence of Khwarij elements.

During the operation, an intense exchange of fire took place, resulting in the killing of two Khwarij affiliated with the Indian-sponsored Fitna al-Khawarij. Among those killed was Kharji ring leader Waheedullah alias Muktiar, along with a suicide bomber.

## Headmaster Rizwan for educational promotion, admits more children than task given by govt

APP

Quetta: Headmaster of Higher Secondary School Gandakha Rizwan Jamali on Monday said that according to the vision of the Chief Minister Balochistan,

practical steps are being taken to promote education in the area, under which free books are being provided to the students and the admission campaign is going on in full swing.

Talking to APP, he said that in order to bring more and more children to school, a team of teachers is going door to door to inform parents about the importance of education and they are being encouraged to get their children admitted to school.

He said that education is the fundamen-

tal right of every child and no negligence would be

tolerated to achieve this goal, saying that steps are also being taken to provide quality education in the school, ensure teacher attendance and improve the educational environment so that students could get education in a better way.

Headmaster Rizwan Ahmed Jamali said that educational revolution is possible only with the mutual cooperation of parents and teachers, so parents should realize their responsibility and play their role in adorning their children with the jewel of education.

He expressed his determination that Higher Secondary School Gandakha to be made an exemplary educational institution in the area.



Director General PDMA Balochistan Jahanzeb Khan Ghorezai and Deputy Commissioner Qilla Abdullah inspect rain damage at Qilla Abdullah.

## Interior Minister Pays Tribute to Fallen Officers After Khuzdar Attack

APP

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid glowing tribute to Lady Constable Malik Naz and Head Constable Samiullah, who were martyred in a cowardly attack in Khuzdar.

The interior minister said that Balochistan's brave daughter laid down her life while performing her duty, setting an extraordinary example of courage and sacrifice. He noted that Lady Constable Malik Naz achieved the highest honour of martyrdom through her bravery.

"The entire nation salutes this brave daughter who gave her life for the security and survival of our beloved homeland," Naqvi said, adding that her sacrifice will forever be remembered.

He said the country is proud of courageous daughters like Malik Naz, whose dedication and heroism upheld the nation's dignity and values.

## CM Pays Tribute to Martyred Lady Constable in Khuzdar Operation

APP

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has paid rich tribute to the martyrdom of Balochistan Police Lady Constable Malik Naz Baloch, who embraced martyrdom during an anti-terrorism operation in Khuzdar. The chief minister lauded the courage and sacrifice of the martyred policewoman, saying that in the fight against terrorism, she set a shining example of bravery and dedication.

She said that Shaheed Malik Naz proved that when the daughters of the nation stand firm, no force can defeat them.

CM Maryam Nawaz expressed heartfelt condolences and sympathy with the bereaved family of the martyred police constable and prayed for their patience and strength to bear the irreparable loss.



QUETTA: Writer Sadaf Ghouri addressing on her book launching ceremony organized by Balochistan writers and Reforms.

## CM Maryam underscores importance of Chinese language on UN observance day

By Maqsood Khalid

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, in her special message on Chinese Language Day, said that the Chinese language has gained significant importance on the global stage.

She noted that Chinese is one of the six official languages of the United Nations. In her message, the chief minister stated that approximately 1.25 billion people around the world speak Chinese. She added that China's remarkable development serves as a bright example for the world.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif appreciated China's key role in promoting peace, stability, and global development.

She extended her congratulations to the Chinese people on Chinese Language Day and said that language plays a vital role in strengthening connections among people.

She further stated that China's political, diplomatic, and economic importance is widely acknowledged, making awareness of the Chinese language essential. The chief minister



remarked that learning Chinese can further strengthen the friendship between Pakistan and China.

She also highlighted that Punjab Police personnel assigned to the security of Chinese nationals are being taught the Chinese language. She emphasized that proficiency in Chinese is crucial for connecting with China's market, adding that learning the language helps in understanding Chinese culture and fostering better relations with its people.

## Punjab Assembly Speaker declares executive agricultural tax notification null and void

INP

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan, on Monday declared an agricultural tax notification issued through executive orders as null and void, asserting that only the Assembly holds the authority to impose taxes. While delivering his ruling on the floor of the House, the Speaker stated that the power to levy taxes rests solely with the provincial legislature and cannot be exercised by any government official.

"This authority of the Punjab Assembly cannot be exercised by a government offi-

cer," he said, adding that no executive authority, including the senior member of the Board of Revenue, has the legal mandate to impose any form of tax.

Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan further termed the issuance of such a notification a violation of the Assembly's privilege, stressing the need to uphold constitutional boundaries between legislative and executive powers.

He directed the Standing Committee on Legislation to review all taxes imposed through executive authority and submit a detailed report to the House within 15 days.



Vendor Sells Vegetables on Pushcart in Quetta to Support Family.



## Tougher dope testing for Indian athletes as federation banished to highest-risk bracket

SPORTS DESK

Indian athletes must now meet tougher anti-doping requirements after their federation was placed in World Athletics' highest-risk category, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) said on Monday.

India ranked among the top two in athletics' most anti-doping rule violations between 2022 and 2025, prompting the AIU board to move the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) from Category B to Category A.

Category A federations, deemed the highest risk, face stricter obligations under the rules, including minimum testing thresholds for national-team athletes, the AIU said.

"The doping situation in India has been high-risk for a long time and, unfortunately, the quality of the domestic anti-doping programme is simply not proportionate to the doping risk," AIU Chairman David Howman said in a statement.

While the AFI advocated for anti-doping reforms within India, not enough changed.

"The AIU will now work with the AFI to achieve reforms to safeguard the integrity of the sport of athletics, as we have done with other Category A member federations," it said.

India, which will host the 2030 Commonwealth Games and is bidding for the 2036 Olympics, also topped the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) list of doping offenders for three straight years.

WADA president Witold Banka, who was in India last week, called the easy availability of performance-enhancing drugs in the country a "serious problem", and met senior officials of India's federal police seeking help to disrupt supply chains.

AFI Spokesperson Adile Sumariwalla said the federation was working with the AIU, the sports ministry and India's National

Anti-Doping Agency to address the issue. "AFI has got a strong plan and we are all for criminalising doping in this country,"

Sumariwalla, also a World Athletics vice president, told Reuters by telephone. "There's nothing wrong in more scrutiny. More athletes are getting caught in India because more tests are being conducted.



PESHAWAR Zalmi captain Babar Azam completes the run to reach his century against Quetta Gladiators during the Pakistan Super League match at the National Bank Stadium

## Babar's blistering century lights up PSL as Zalmi rout Gladiators

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: When the entire world desperately wants peace in these depressing times that have seen the stands here at the National Bank Stadium turn deserted, roaring cheers at cricketing venues in Pakistan have become a rarity. However, when Babar Azam hits a century, when he does that after more than two years and 67 T20 innings, when he launches four cracking sixes in his knock during the high-pressure death overs, celebrations become inevitable.

They celebrations elude no one, surely not the Peshawar Zalmi players jumping up and down like kids in the team's dugout, not the VVIP guests who populate the special boxes and galleries of the new building at the venue, not even the Quetta Gladiators players who rushed to the middle to pat Babar's back when he completed the elusive three figures for the 12th time in the shortest format while sprinting back to the striker's end for a couple on the last ball of the Zalmi innings.

The captain's knock, accounting for exactly 100 not out coming off 52 balls, along with Kusal Mendis 44-ball 83, boosted Zalmi to 255-3 — the third highest total in HBL Pakistan Super League history.

That was just too much for Gladiators to chase as they went down to a 118-run drubbing, their fifth loss of the ongoing tournament. Zalmi, meanwhile, remained perfect, with seven wins in eight games.

Opening the innings with Mohammad Harris, Babar hardly took any risks, demonstrating trust in his natural game — as Zalmi batting coach Misbah-ul-Haq put it a few days ago, the right-hander was "timing the ball".

Characteristic of his reputation, Babar facilitated the striker on the other end to launch the fireworks, relying on singles and doubles when his natural flow of the bat was-

n't resulting in boundaries.

Harris' 16 off five, that included two sixes in the very first over off Jahandad Khan, gave Zalmi the platform to cruise to 80 in powerplay, with Mendis taking over after Harris departed in the second over.

Mendis, in the form of his life, hit three fours and two sixes making use of the field restrictions. Babar, meanwhile, had cracked only two boundaries in the first six overs.

The 31-year-old continued to avoid the main role, with Mendis taking charge as the pair stitched together a 135-run second-wicket stand — the 47th century partnership of Babar's T20 career — that completely dismantled the chase before it even began.

The stand was a masterclass in contrasting styles. Mendis was the aggressor, punishing anything short or wide with disdain. He brought up his fifty off just 24 balls with a crisp cut off Usman Tariq and later drilled Saud Shakeel straight down the ground and through backward point with authority.

One of his most audacious strokes came against the same bowler when he danced down the track and thumped a slower ball flat past long-off.

Babar, on the other hand, kept playing the perfect foil in the early phase, content with rotating strike and picking singles and doubles while his partner launched the fireworks.

Babar had struck only five fours by the middle of the 17th over, relying on timing and placement rather than brute force.

But once Mendis — caught at deep midwicket off Usman Tariq — and Farhan Yousaf's, smashing 19 off eight balls, departed, Babar turned the game on its head with Aaron Har—die joining the party at number five and unleashing a brutal onslaught.

## Sri Lanka's Dasun Shanaka handed one-year PSL ban for IPL switch

SPORTS DESK

The Pakistan Cricket Board on Monday said Sri Lankan cricketer Dasun Shanaka had been banned from participating in the HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) over his "unilateral withdrawal" from this year's tournament.

According to ESPNcricinfo, Shanaka left Lahore Qalandars to play for the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Rajasthan Royals.

In a statement, the cricket board said that "the player's unilateral withdrawal from the tournament on March 21, 2026, constituted a clear breach of both the Player Registration terms and the Tripartite Agreement".

As a penalty, the cricket board declared the player ineligible to participate in the next edition of the PSL — scheduled for 2027. The PCB said that as per its findings, Shanaka's withdrawal was "made on grounds not recognised within the existing contractual framework".

The statement also quoted Shanaka as saying that he "deeply" regretted his decision to withdraw from the tournament.

"I deeply regret my decision to withdraw from the PSL and offer my sincere apologies to the people of Pakistan, the fans of PSL, and the wider cricket community," Shanaka said. The player held that PSL was a "prestigious tournament" and apologised to Lahore Qalandars fans.

"I fully understand the disappointment caused by my actions," he said.

"I have the greatest respect for Pakistani fans and have always enjoyed my time in Pakistan," he added, expressing hope to return to the tournament with "renewed dedication and the trust of the fans".

The PCB said that while it acknowledged the player's "expression of regret and his stated passion for playing in Pakistan [...]

the severity of the contractual violations necessitates regulatory action to maintain the integrity and exclusivity of the league".

It added that it remained committed to "upholding the professional standards and binding nature of its player contracts to ensure the continued success of the PSL brand".

The IPL and PSL have been held almost simultaneously in recent years, making it difficult for international players to feature in both tournaments.



Sri Lanka's captain Dasun Shanaka watches the ball after playing a shot during the 2026 ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup group stage match between Sri Lanka and Oman at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Kandy.

**CORRIGENDUM**

With reference to the advertisement published in daily newspaper vide PRQ No. 4490/06-04-2026, regarding the development scheme of Loralai Division. The corrigendum is issued against the TSE-2526041010793.

**CHANGED AREA.**

S.NO:  
1. Case Schedule.  
2. Eligibility Criteria.  
**NOTE: The Remaining terms & conditions shall remain same.**

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
Urban Planning & Dev. Department  
Loralai Division at Loralai

PRQ No.4678/20-04-2026  
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## Daily Mirror

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## Round two?

**W**ITH the prime minister having concluded a three-nation tour to marshal support for Pakistan's diplomatic efforts in the Middle East, and the chief of defence forces wrapping up an important, three-day trip to Iran, attention turned once again to Islamabad over the weekend.

Even though key stakeholders have been silent about setting a date, the federal capital, it seems, is already preparing to host another round of high-level engagements, with security plans and logistical arrangements being put in place to welcome high-profile foreign dignitaries. Routes along which VVIPs are expected to travel have been cleaned and spruced up, curbs have been repainted, and the CDA was said to have engaged in some feverish landscaping, according to local media reports. Offices in the Red Zone have been told to stay shut, and traffic diversion plans are being devised to ensure that everything stays smooth and in control during what is expected to be the most important event Pakistan has hosted in years.

By all accounts, the Pakistani civil and military leaderships have outdone themselves. They have already earned much respect and gratitude not just on both sides engaged in the war, but also in world capitals weary and worried about where the hostilities had seemed headed before the ceasefire was called. The leadership is now aiming for the ultimate goal: a formal agreement or memorandum between the US and Iran that brings lasting peace to the region.

It seems that the negotiations did not end after US Vice-President J.D. Vance's abrupt departure last Sunday, and much continued to be discussed and deliberated through backchannels, facilitated by Pakistan, long after the negotiating parties had left. US President Donald Trump's flurry of posts on his social media platform on Friday made it seem as if the war was all but over.

Yet it would perhaps be too optimistic to expect that this nightmare is over. There have been rumblings over the weekend, with the terms of the ceasefire being tested in Lebanon and leaders on both sides still sticking to rigid positions over the Strait of Hormuz and locked in a war of words. With no date formally announced for round two and the clock on the ceasefire running out, there was uncertainty over how the chips would fall. While negotiations have clearly reached a very advanced stage, the last few hurdles that remain must also be removed. Both sides, it seems, will need to make some more sacrifices if they wish for the hostilities to stop. If efforts to bring Iran and America to a long-term settlement are successful, and a treaty or a precursor to one is signed in Islamabad, Pakistan will deserve credit for pulling off what had once seemed highly improbable. Much is riding on the events of the next few days. One can only hope for the best.

By Waqar Wadho

## Trapped in place

**P**AKISTAN'S unemployment rate has hovered around six to seven per cent for nearly three decades. Policymakers cite it, donors reproduce it, and policy conversations move on (at least until the next Labour Force Survey). A persistently modest unemployment rate, by any standard reading, signals a healthy labour market that is functioning well. The economy is doing great in absorbing its workforce, job-seekers are finding employment, and whatever problems remain are at the margins. This is the underlying narrative of Pakistan's labour market from the headline unemployment numbers. But it is misleading and wrong, not because the numbers are fabricated, but because the employment rate is the wrong number to look at. The truth is that the unemployment rate numbers in Pakistan hide more than they actually reveal.

The context is key here: Pakistan's economy does not offer any comprehensive social protection such as unemployment insurance. In the absence of social protection, Pakistani workers simply cannot afford to be unemployed. They accept whatever is available: a corner in someone else's shop, a day's wage at a construction site, a few acres of someone else's land. The result is a labour force that looks employed but mostly is not — definitely not in any sense that translates into security, productivity or a return on the education their families struggled to fund. So, the meaningful questions are not whether people are working but what they are earning, under what conditions, and whether any of it is connected to the skills they spent years acquiring. These are the questions I tried to answer in a new policy paper that I presented at the Lahore School of Economics' annual conference recently, and the findings have not left me since.

The answers that the latest Labour Force Survey (2024-25) provides are not comfortable. Nearly 87pc employed Pakistanis work in the informal economy. That figure alone puts Pakistan at the extreme end of

the global distribution. What informality costs these workers is not a matter of speculation: after controlling for education, age, and location, informal workers earn roughly 31pc less than comparable workers in formal employment. That by no means is a transitional gap that growth will gradually close. What makes it worse is that urban centres are not generating formal jobs at scale either. The urban-rural difference in informality is only 12 percentage points! Even more alarmingly, formality does not seem to be something you can educate your way into. It essentially requires a formal sector large enough to actually hire you, and Pakistan's is not. The outcome is that even among Pakistanis who hold postgraduate degrees, close to half remain informally employed.

The unemployment rate numbers in Pakistan hide more than they actually reveal.

The second thing the data makes plain is who bears the burden of this informality, and where. The gender gap in labour force participation stands at 54 percentage points. With female labour force participation of only 25pc, women are more than three times less likely to be employed than men. The more revealing number to me, however, is the geographic division. Only 12pc of urban women participate in the labour market! Not in rural Pakistan; in our cities where women have better access to education and services than their rural counterparts, they are less likely to be employed. Urbanisation is supposed to pull women into the workforce. In Pakistan, something is running the process in reverse.

Rural women participate at 31pc. One positive correlation that data makes clear is a U-shaped relationship between the level of education and female labour force participation. Even though women with primary/secondary/high school education have lower participation rates than uneducated women, the rates increase significantly for university graduates, reaching 43pc for women with post-graduate education.

Beyond participation, working women disproportionately bear the burden of informality. The informal sector wage penalty for females is more than twice as much as that for males. Not only that, for the women who do make it into paid employment, more than 80pc of the wage gap they face relative to men cannot be explained by any difference in their observables (age, education, sector, location). The residual (gender discrimination), which is what you are left with once the measurable factors are accounted for, is doing most of the work.

The third structural fault-line the data reveals is the mismatch between education and labour market outcomes. We have spent two decades expanding universities and producing graduates the economy cannot absorb. Returns to schooling are real: postgraduate degree holders earn substantially more than uneducated workers, and each additional year of schooling raises wages meaningfully. But education barely improves the probability of finding employment in the first place. Among working-age Pakistanis with a university degree, more than a third are not employed. Among young graduates aged 15 to 29, the share of those who are neither working nor studying is higher than of those who only completed an intermediate diploma.

To me, these are not three separate problems that the micro data reveal. They point to a unified structural problem. Pakistan's formal sector is too small and too weak to absorb the working-age population in productive employment.

Informality is the mechanism through which everything else breaks down; it suppresses wages, it excludes women and concentrates the hefty wage penalties on women, and it swallows the returns that educated workers expect from their investment in schooling.

When 87pc of the workforce sits outside the institutions through which rights are enforced, contracts honoured, and productivity gains can be distributed, the standard toolkit of labour market interventions achieves very little.

By Sheikh Moazzam Khan

## Justice — A Word in Speeches or the Foundation of a State?

**S**ometimes, a single word is enough to expose an entire system. One such word is justice. It is the same word politicians deliver with conviction at the end of their speeches, and the same word citizens hold onto as their last hope. But the question remains: is this word confined to speeches, or does it exist in reality?

in one of his speeches during his time in opposition, declared justice as the very foundation. He stated that if the government succeeds, Pakistan succeeds, and that we must set aside our egos and work together for the country—provided that justice remains the core principle. He further pointed out that around the world, where economic growth has occurred, peace has followed. This is a widely accepted reality, proven repeatedly throughout history.

However, a fundamental question arises—if justice itself does not exist, how can an economy stand strong? If justice is weak, how can peace prevail? This is not a theoretical question; it is one that has lived in the hearts of ordinary citizens for decades.

The Constitution of Pakistan itself is built upon these principles. Article 4 guarantees every citizen the right to be treated in accordance with the law. Article 9 ensures the protection of life and liberty, while Article 25 guarantees equality of all citizens. These are not merely legal provisions; they are promises made by the state. Yet when a citizen spends decades wandering from door to door in search of justice, one is compelled to ask: are these promises confined to paper?

Global leaders have consistently emphasized justice as the foundation of a state. once said that peace is not possible without justice. stated that without justice, governance becomes

merely a play of power. clearly articulated that justice delayed is justice denied. These are not mere words; they are principles upon which nations rise or fall.

Zardari, in his speech, also referred to CPEC, Gwadar, and Pakistan's strategic geographical position as opportunities rather than liabilities. He emphasized that Pakistan

must stand on its own economic strength instead of relying on loans. This is correct. However, economic strength itself rests on the foundation of justice. When investors lack confidence in a fair system, and when citizens are deprived of their rights, no economy can sustain itself for long.

He also highlighted the issues of Karachi, particularly the water crisis, calling it a genuine human rights concern. Indeed, Karachi is the economic engine of Pakistan. But again, the same question persists—can such issues be resolved without justice? said:

“A government may endure with disbelief, but it cannot endure with injustice.”

This is not merely a moral teaching; it is a governing principle. History stands as witness that states collapse when justice disappears.

When a citizen spends 30 or 35 years in pursuit of justice, it ceases to be an individual issue. It becomes a question mark over the entire system. It challenges the very claims of a state that calls itself constitutional and democratic.

We must also examine global examples where justice was prioritized. Singapore strengthened the rule of law, South Korea enforced accountability, and Malaysia implemented institutional reforms. The result was



economic growth, stability, and public trust. In contrast, where justice remained weak, instability and decline followed.

The issue, therefore, is not that we do not know the path. The issue is that we hesitate to walk it.

We draft policies, hold conferences, and deliver speeches, yet we ignore the most fundamental pillar—justice. Today, the question is simple, yet its weight is immense:

Does justice truly exist in this state? Or is it merely a beautiful word used in speeches?

If justice exists, it must be demonstrated—through action, through decisions, and by reforming a system that forces a citizen to wander for decades. And if it does not exist, then we must have the courage to speak the truth—because no state can endure on falsehood for long.

This column is not the story of a single individual. It is a reflection of an entire system.

And now, a few lines that echo this pain:

On the path of justice, the weary one sat still, Not a man defeated—but time itself was ill.

Sheikh Moazzam Khan I scream aloud, yet no echo returns, What kind of land is this, where justice never burns?

If truth remains denied, the question will remain,

Is this a nation—or just a dream in pain?

Now the decision rests with time— Will justice remain a word, or become a reality?

# DAILY MIRROR

## Pakistan Stands Firm In Sustaining Dialogue Against Coercive Pressures: Masood Khan

APP

MIRPUR: Sardar Masood Khan, former ambassador to the United States, China, and the United Nations, and former president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has stated that despite rapidly shifting developments and heightened tensions, Pakistan remains actively engaged in steering the United States and Iran toward a negotiated settlement, even as both sides adopt increasingly hardened positions.

Commenting on the evolving situation, in a statement issued here on Monday, Ambassador Khan described the current phase as a "coercive contest," where diplomatic engagement is unfolding alongside intense military and economic pressure. He noted that while there have been intermittent positive signals—such as the temporary opening of the Strait of Hormuz—these gains have been undermined by continued maritime restrictions and renewed threats, creating an atmosphere of uncertainty and mistrust.

He observed that both Washington and Tehran are simultaneously preparing for negotiations and confrontation. "Iran has kept the option of dialogue open

while signaling readiness for retaliation, whereas the United States is intensifying pressure to extract maximum concessions before any formal agreement," he said. This dual approach, he added, has made the second round of talks more complex than the first, despite initial success in bringing both sides to the table.

Ambassador Khan emphasized that key sticking points continue to hinder progress, including Iran's nuclear program, sanctions relief, the future of the Strait of Hormuz, and the status of regional allies. He noted that the United States has adopted a maximalist stance, seeking far-reaching commitments, while Iran views many of these demands as excessive and incompatible with its sovereign rights.

Highlighting Pakistan's role, he stated that Islamabad has completed all necessary preparations to host the next round of talks and continues to maintain close contact with both sides, as well as key regional stakeholders, including Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, and China. Pakistan, he noted, is working diligently to bridge differences and sustain momentum toward dialogue, despite the volatile environment.

He further pointed out that internal dynamics in both countries are influencing their negotiating positions. While the US leadership seeks to maintain domestic and political confidence, Iran faces significant internal pressures to defend its strategic interests and justify any concessions at the negotiating table. Ambassador Khan cautioned that recent developments, including the continuation of the US naval blockade despite partial easing measures by Iran, have contributed to growing skepticism. "There is a trust deficit, with fears that negotiations could be used as a cover for further escalation," he remarked.

On the possibility of high-level political engagement, he suggested that any visit by President Donald Trump would likely occur only after substantial agreement has been reached, serving as a symbolic endorsement rather than a negotiating step.

Concluding his remarks, Ambassador Khan reiterated cautious optimism, stressing that while challenges remain significant, the existence of dialogue and continued mediation efforts by Pakistan provide a viable pathway forward. He underscored that sustained engagement and balanced diplomacy are essential to transforming this fragile moment into a durable peace.



Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal he was virtually addressing the media at the launch of the Ministry's Monthly Development.

### China's Xi calls for Strait of Hormuz to remain open in call with Saudi crown prince

MONITORING DESK

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping called for normal passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz to be maintained, in a phone call on Monday with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman held as Beijing steps up efforts to help end US-Israel war against Iran.

China is concerned over renewed instability around the strategic waterway, as a US-Iran ceasefire came under fresh strain after the US seized an Iranian cargo ship and Tehran signalled it would not join new peace talks for now.

China is the main buyer of Iranian crude. Iran has largely closed the strait to ships other than its own since the US and Israel launched the war in February, while Washington has imposed a blockade of Iranian ships since last week.

China advocates an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire, and insists on resolving conflicts in the Middle East through political and diplomatic channels, state news agency Xinhua cited Xi as saying. "The Strait of Hormuz should remain open to normal passage, as this serves the common interests of regional countries and the international community," he told the Saudi leader. Worries have mounted over the survival of the ceasefire between Washington and Tehran after the US seizure of the Iranian vessel. Trump had credited Beijing with helping to get Iran to the previous negotiations with the US in Pakistan.

The Chinese foreign ministry on Monday expressed concerns over the "forced interception" by the US of the Iranian ship, while urging relevant sides to abide by the ceasefire agreement.

Xi's call with the Saudi crown prince followed a meeting in Beijing last week with the crown prince of Abu Dhabi, when Xi urged adherence to international law. He also told the Saudi crown prince that China supports countries in the Middle East in "taking their future and destiny into their own hands, and promoting long-term regional stability and peace".

### President for accessible Chinese language education for stronger Pak-China ties

APP

ISLAMABAD: As the international community observes United Nations Chinese Language Day today, President Asif Ali Zardari has called for a focus on accessible and structured Chinese language education to respond to real needs and strengthen practical cooperation between Pakistan and China.

The president, in a message on the Day, said that Chinese Language Day highlighted the global importance of linguistic understanding in an increasingly connected world.

"In Pakistan, interest in the Chinese language has grown steadily, particularly in universities where structured teaching programmes are now well established," he said.

The president said that at institutions such as the University of Karachi and the University of the Punjab, along with programmes at the National University of Modern Languages, students were offered graded instruction, certification courses and cultural learning opportuni-

ties. He said that in Sindh, the Confucius Institute at the University of Karachi served as a major centre for Chinese language education, offering systematic courses and training with both local and native instructors. Similar initiatives in other parts of the country have expanded access for students and professionals seeking practical language skills, he added.

"This growth also extends to specialised training for personnel working in public service roles involving coordination with Chinese nationals. Such instruction supports

clearer communication and more effective working arrangements on the ground," President Zardari said.

He said for many young people, learning Chinese was increasingly linked to opportunities in education, trade and technical cooperation. It provides a practical skill that can support engagement with Chinese companies, scholarship programmes and joint projects across different sectors, he added.

### Ayaz calls for revisiting Iqbal's philosophy of selfhood, national identity

APP

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal was a great thinker, poet and philosopher of the subcontinent who, through his thought and poetry, awakened a sense of selfhood, awareness and freedom among Muslims.

In his message on the death anniversary of Poet of the East Allama Muhammad Iqbal, he said that Allama Iqbal envisioned a society based on justice, equality and spiritual values.

He said that Iqbal's ideas provided the intellectual foundation for the Muslims of the subcontinent to establish a separate homeland, which later materialised in the form of Pakistan.

Ayaz Sadiq said that even in the present era, Allama Iqbal's message inspires towards knowledge, action, unity and self-reliance.

He emphasised that the young generation should draw guidance from Iqbal's teachings and play a proactive role in the country's development and prosperity.

Ayaz Sadiq said that in the current global context, it was imperative for the

Muslim Ummah to adhere to Iqbal's philosophy in order to address the challenges it faced.

He said that Iqbal's philosophy teaches unity, harmony and collective struggle to the Muslim Ummah, adding that there was a need for the Muslim world to promote mutual solidarity and resolve its issues through wisdom and a collective strategy.

Ayaz Sadiq said that Allama Iqbal's philosophy teaches hope, courage and perseverance, and that his ideas continue to guide in confronting contemporary challenges.

He further said that Iqbal's teachings should be adopted in individual and collective lives to lay the foundation of a strong, self-reliant and developed Pakistan.

On the occasion, Deputy Speaker of National Assembly Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah said that Allama Iqbal's thought and poetry serve as a guiding light for the youth.

He said that Iqbal's ideas must be understood and implemented in practical terms so that Pakistan could be made a strong and prosperous state.

### PM pays tributes to martyred Balochistan woman police constable

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday paid tributes to Balochistan Police woman Constable Malik Naz Baloch, who embraced martyrdom while protecting the motherland from terrorists in Khuzdar.

The prime minister, in a statement, prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of the rank of martyred constable and expressed heartfelt condolences to her family.

He prayed for the strength for the bereaved family to bear the loss with equanimity.

The prime minister said that Malik Naz Baloch was the first woman police constable from Balochistan, who set an example of bravery by laying down her life in the line of duty for the protection of the homeland.

"The entire nation, including myself, takes pride in the brave police force. The war against the scourge of terrorism will continue until its elimination from the country," he resolved.

### Australian FM lauds Pakistan's constructive role in US-Iran dialogue

APP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday held a telephone

conversation with Foreign Minister of Australia Penny Wong, with the latter appreciating Pakistan's constructive role in facilitating dialogue between Iran and the United States.

During the conversation, the Australian FM also lauded the deputy prime minister's efforts, as well as Pakistan's continued commitment to promoting diplomatic engagement in this regard.

Dar apprised her of the Islamabad Talks held on April 11-12, and reiterated Pakistan's resolve to continue encouraging dialogue and constructive engagement.

The two leaders expressed concern over the broader implications on the global economy, particularly for developing countries, and emphasized the importance of peaceful resolution of conflicts.

### Global inflation is likely to increase to 4.4%: Ahsan Iqbal

NEWS DESK

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal has said that global inflation is likely to increase to 4.4% in 2026.

While delivering a virtual address on the monthly development report of the federal capital, Ahsan Iqbal said that despite security reasons, the report was released and its continuity was maintained, and the Prime Minister and the military leadership were engaged in active diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict.

He said that complex global conflicts can only be resolved through negotiations, flexibility and patience are essential. Pakistan has improved its reputation globally by achieving a difficult diplomatic goal, and if the war continues,

there is a risk of negative impacts on the global economy and an increase in inflation.

The Federal Minister for Planning said that in the 8 months of the current fiscal year, the economy has stabilized, inflation has decreased to 5.5%, the economic growth rate has been 3.8%, the external and financial sectors have improved, the global economy is under pressure due to Middle East tensions, and growth is expected to be 3.1%.

Ahsan Iqbal said that global inflation is likely to increase to 4.4% in 2026. On April 11, petrol was reduced by Rs 12 and diesel by Rs 13.5 per liter. Diesel was further reduced by Rs 32.12 per liter to provide relief to farmers.

He further said that the government is active in controlling inflation and providing public relief.



Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Provincial Ameer Maulana Abdul Wasay and DG PDMA Jahanzeb Khan Address Press Conference in Quetta.

### A ceremony was held in honor of Prof. Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din, Executive Director of the Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC), Lahore, on the occasion of his retirement

By Maqsood Khalid

LAHORE: Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique attended the event as the chief guest. The ceremony was also attended by Chairman of the Chief Minister's Advisory Committee on Cardiac Diseases and Chairman of the PIC Board Dr. Farqad Alamgir, Vice Chancellor of King Edward Medical University Prof. Dr. Mahmood Ayaz, Vice Chancellor of Fatima Jinnah Medical University Prof. Dr. Khalid Masood Gondal, CEO of Punjab Health Initiative Management Company Dr. Ali Razaq, former Mayor of Lahore Col. (R) Mubashar Javed, along with senior doctors, faculty members, nurses, paramedical staff, and a large number of guests.

Participants paid rich tribute to Prof. Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din for his outstanding contributions to the medical field. A documentary highlighting his life achievements and professional journey was also screened during the event.

Addressing the ceremony, Khawaja Salman Rafique said the day held great significance and expressed pride in Prof. Bilal's remarkable career, noting that he

had served with dignity, professionalism, and excellence as an administrator. He added that Prof. Bilal belongs to a highly respected family and that the speakers' heartfelt remarks on his retirement reflected the deep respect he commands.

In his address, Prof. Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din expressed gratitude to the Government of Punjab for entrusting him with the leadership of a prestigious

institution like PIC. He said he always strived to improve services for patients and visitors at the institute. He also thanked his parents, teachers, family, and friends for their support throughout his career, adding that serving humanity is a noble cause beloved by Allah.

The event concluded with appreciation for Prof. Bilal's lifelong dedication to healthcare and public service.

### PML-N reviews Gilgit-Baltistan election strategy at key meeting chaired by Nawaz

NEWS DESK

LAHORE: An important meeting of the Gilgit-Baltistan Parliamentary Board of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was held under the leadership of party chief Nawaz Sharif, where top party leaders reviewed the political situation and election strategy for the region.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. PML-N leaders Marriyum Aurangzeb and Khawaja Saad Rafique were also present.

During the session, the Gilgit-Baltistan leadership briefed the party on the challenges being faced in the region. A detailed review of the political landscape across all 24 constituencies of Gilgit-Baltistan was conducted, with the committee presenting its report. The

meeting was held in two sessions, during which each constituency was discussed individually.

Party leaders also reviewed the possibilities of seat adjustments in Gilgit-Baltistan as part of their broader electoral strategy.

Addressing the meeting, Nawaz Sharif emphasized that the party would contest the upcoming elections in Gilgit-Baltistan based on its performance. He reaffirmed the commitment to initiating a new phase of development in the region and stated that the process of construction and progress would be restarted.

He stressed that party tickets would be awarded strictly on merit, urging leaders to keep the party's track record in mind during the election campaign.

According to sources, the party leadership also expressed its desire to form a single government in Gilgit-Baltistan following the elections.



Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, Meets with Dr. Oumer Hussien Oba, Ethiopian Ambassador, in Islamabad