

DAILY MIRROR

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Trump directs US navy to 'shoot and kill' any boat laying mines in Strait of Hormuz

MONITORING DESK

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has ordered a threefold increase in operations in the Strait of Hormuz, warning that no delay or leniency will be tolerated in the matter.

In a statement posted on social media, Trump directed the US Navy to target all vessels, regardless of size.

He further said that any boat involved in laying mines in the Strait of Hormuz would be destroyed without hesitation.

Trump claimed that 159 enemy naval vessels had already been sunk, adding that US minesweepers were actively working to clear the waterway.

Separately, the US president told media that there is no fixed timeline for extending the ceasefire with Iran.

According to Fox News, Trump said he is in no rush to end the conflict and is seeking a strong and comprehensive agreement.

He added that the military has been

instructed to maintain the blockade and remain prepared for all possible scenarios. Trump also stated that the ceasefire would continue to be extended until Iran presents its proposals.

Calling the development positive for a second round of negotiations, he indicated that the next phase of talks could possibly take place on Friday.

Meanwhile, Karoline Leavitt, the White House Press Secretary, told media representatives that no final timeframe had been set for the ceasefire.

Leavitt dismissed reports suggesting a three-to-five-day extension of the ceasefire as incorrect.

She further said that President Trump had set no deadline, was satisfied with the naval blockade, and believed that Iran was currently in a very weak position.

She also noted that varying statements were emerging from the Iranian leadership, which she described as inconsistent and lacking substance in the public sphere.

CM Bugti inaugurates Province's first-ever decimated research facility, Balochistan' Center of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism

APP

QUETTA: In a landmark initiative aimed at curbing trends of violence and extremist narratives, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti here on Thursday inaugurated the province's first-ever dedicated research facility, the Balochistan Center of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Provincial Home Minister Mir Zia Langau, members of the provincial assembly, senior government officials and representatives of relevant institutions. Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat delivered a detailed briefing on the center's objectives, research scope, and future plans.

Speaking at the event, Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti emphasized that the center

would highlight the challenges faced by youth and provide concrete foundations for solutions through research. He stressed that engaging young people in positive activities remained the government's top priority, while discouraging violent ideologies and extremist rhetoric required practical measures.

Sarfraz Bugti praised the efforts of the provincial home minister, the additional chief secretary and the administration for bringing the project to fruition. Following the inauguration, the chief minister visited the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) Quetta campus, where he planted a tree and chaired a meeting. Later, he addressed students during a youth dialogue session, underscoring the importance of critical inquiry and research in distinguishing between perception and reality.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Jiang Zaidong called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Timely steps averted crisis as energy security vital part of future planning: PM

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday calling energy security a vital part of the country's future planning, said that the government's timely measures regarding energy conservation in the current regional situation averted a crisis.

The prime minister, chairing a high-level meeting regarding energy security, said that work was underway on a plan to maintain strategic reserves of crude oil in the country, keeping in view future energy needs.

Besides, he said that for energy conservation and sustainable development, means of transportation should be gradually transitioned to eco-friendly electric vehicles (EVs).

The prime minister directed to purchase only electric buses and motorcycles for government use in the future and accelerate the establishment of charging stations for EVs.

Calling for a strategy to facilitate the acquisition of batteries for the storage of surplus solar electricity, he said that local manufacturing of high-quality storage batteries should also be encouraged.

During the briefing, the participants of the meeting were told that the National Coordination and Management

Council (NCMC) was reviewing the energy situation on a daily basis.

It was informed that sufficient stocks of petroleum products were available, and the food security situation in the country was also stable.

The participants were told that through the continuous efforts of oil and gas companies, local production of gas and oil was increasing and a PC-1 was being prepared for two pilot projects for battery storage at the grid level.

Besides, the domestic consumers generating solar energy were being encouraged to install battery storage.

Federal ministers Musadik Masood Malik, Ahad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Sardar Awais Leghari, Attaullah Tarar, Ali Pervez Malik, Ahsan Iqbal, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Privatization Muhammad Ali, Minister of State Bilal Azhar Kayani, Special Assistant Haroon Akhtar, and relevant senior government officials attended the meeting.

PM Shehbaz meets Pakistani astronauts, calls space mission historic milestone

INP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met Khuram Daud and Muhammad Zeeshan Ali, two Pakistani astronauts formally selected for training under China's manned space programme.

The meeting was attended by key officials, including Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, along with other senior government representatives and the chairman of Pakistan's space agency, China's Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, was also present on the occasion.

During the meeting, the prime minister congratulated the astronauts and said their selection for a space research mission reflects Pakistan's growing capabilities in science and technology. He termed the mission a moment of pride for the nation and expressed confidence that it would mark a new chapter in the country's space journey.

He further noted that the collaboration with China in the field of space exploration would strengthen bilateral relations and open new avenues for scientific progress.

The Chinese ambassador welcomed Pakistan's efforts in space research and appreciated the deepening cooperation between the two countries in this field.

PM Shehbaz meets Chinese Ambassador, discuss regional situation & Pakistan's peace efforts

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday met with Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Jiang Zaidong, during a courtesy call paid on him, where the regional situation in the Middle East and Pakistan's peace efforts also came under discussion.

The prime minister was assisted by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, along with other senior government representatives and the chairman of Pakistan's space agency, China's Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, was also present on the occasion.

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Office news release said.

The prime minister conveyed his warm regards and greetings to President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang. While expressing his satisfaction at the positive trajectory of Pakistan-China bilateral relations, the prime minister reaffirmed that Pakistan took great pride in its All-Weather Cooperative Strategic Partnership with China. He also spoke of his resolve to continue working closely with the Chinese leadership, to ensure that the relationship grows from strength to strength.

The Chinese Ambassador thanked the prime minister for receiving him and expressed China's appreciation of Pakistan's diplomatic efforts for lasting peace in the region.



Quetta: Balochistan Minister for Food and Chairman Balochistan Food Authority Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dumar held a meeting with Director General NADRA Balochistan Naveed Jan to address issues of blocked identity cards in Sanjawi area of Ziarat.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti Speaking at the event.

Food Minister holds meeting with DG, NADRA Balochistan to address issues of blocked identity cards

APP

Quetta: Balochistan Minister for Food and Chairman Balochistan Food Authority Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dumar held a meeting with Director General NADRA Balochistan Naveed Jan to address issues of blocked identity cards in Sanjawi area of Ziarat.

The public problems facing the Sanjawi area of Ziarat district, especially the long-standing issue of blocked identity cards were discussed in detail during the meeting. The Provincial Minister informed the people of Sanjawi about the problems facing NADRA and said that the blocking of identity cards has put the citizens in serious difficulties, for which urgent and sustainable solutions are indispensable. He also proposed that a special committee would be formed to visit Sanjawi every month and ensure redressal of public grievances on the spot.

Haji Noor Muhammad Dumar further informed that important decisions have been taken to improve the facilities at the

Sanjawi NADRA Center, under which new male and female staff have been approved so that better and timely services could be provided to the public.

He said that along with this, a solar system and generator have also been approved to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity in the center, which would prove to be a big relief for the people of the area. On this occasion, Director General NADRA Balochistan Naveed Jan also gave formal approval for one-window service along with solving the problems of Sanjawi on priority basis, so that the people could get all the facilities at one place. He said that NADRA is committed to providing modern, efficient and quality facilities to the people and all available resources would be utilized to improve services in remote areas. The meeting reiterated the commitment that mutual cooperation would be further promoted to solve the problems of backward areas including Sanjawi so that the problems being faced by the people could be permanently and permanently eliminated.

FO slams India's 'baseless propaganda' linking Pakistan with Pahalgam incident

Islamabad urges New Delhi to refrain from all rhetoric, actions that may spoil peace efforts in Mideast

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Thursday slammed India for resorting to a campaign of baseless allegations and propaganda linking Pakistan with the April 2025 Pahalgam incident.

"At a time when Pakistan, along with its international partners, is undertaking concerted diplomatic efforts for regional and international peace and security, it is deplorable that India has once again resorted to a campaign of baseless allegations and propaganda to link Pakistan with the Pahalgam incident," the FO said in a statement.

The Foreign Office response came after the Indian Army issued remarks on the Pahalgam anniversary.

The longtime neighbouring adversaries went to war in May last year after India launched an unprovoked attack on Pakistan following the attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), which claimed the lives of 26 people.

Without offering any evidence, New Delhi had accused Islamabad of orchestrating the deadly attack in Pahalgam — a charge that Islamabad denied and also asked it to hold a neutral investigation.

India followed the baseless accusations with unlawful missile strikes inside Pakistan, which resulted in the martyrdom of several civilians and security personnel.

Pakistan responded by downing seven Indian fighter jets, including three Rafale, dozens of drones, and destroying an S-400 defence system.

The war between the two nuclear-armed nations ended on May 10 with a ceasefire agreement brokered by the United States.

Lashing out at New Delhi, the FO, in a statement issued today, said: "It is unfortunate that, in the midst of an ongoing regional crisis, India remains focused on weaponising its false narrative against Pakistan for narrow domestic political gains."

After receiving a befitting reply to its misplaced adventurism in the form of Operation Banyan-um-Marsoos last year, the Foreign Office said that such allegations constitute yet another chapter from India's playbook of creating a smokescreen for its continued sponsorship of terrorism across the region.

"The fact remains that such propaganda campaigns cannot distract the international community's attention from India's continued occupation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) and its denial of the right to self-determination to the Kashmiris, in violation of relevant UN resolutions."

"Nor can such gimmicks conceal the fact that India continues to undermine regional peace and security by resorting to inflammatory rhetoric, repeated provocations, and aggressive military posturing, including its illegal unilateral action to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance, in clear violation of international law," the statement added.

It said that Pakistan hopes the international community will call on "India to demonstrate responsible behaviour and to refrain from all rhetoric and actions that may serve as a spoiler" to ongoing efforts aimed at regional and international peace and security.

A day ago, on the first anniversary of the Pahalgam attack, Federal Minister for Information Attaullah Tarar criticised New Delhi for failing to provide "credible evidence" for its allegations against Pakistan.

In a special televised statement, the minister said India had also sidestepped calls for an independent investigation into a "false flag operation".

Tarar said the Pahalgam incident reflects a mindset driven by "hollowness, illogical thinking, false pride, arrogance, and greed", adding that India has consistently been unable to address concerns raised over the episode and is yet to provide satisfactory answers despite the passage of a year.

US Ambassador Meets Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi: Talks Focus on Regional Situation, Ceasefire Extension

APP

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held an important meeting with the US Ambassador to Pakistan, Natalie Baker, during which the two discussed in detail the latest developments in the region.

The meeting also covered ongoing diplomatic efforts regarding the holding of the second round of the Islamabad Dialogue. Both sides emphasized the need for sustained diplomatic channels to achieve a lasting resolution to the ongoing conflict.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi appreciated US President Donald Trump's initiative to extend the ceasefire, calling it a welcome and significant step toward reducing tensions. He expressed hope that positive progress would also come from Iran's side. Naqvi stated that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal General Asim Munir were making strong efforts at all levels to help resolve the issue.

He expressed optimism that all parties would give diplomatic and peaceful solutions a chance.

US Ambassador Natalie Baker praised Pakistan's constructive role in promoting peace and contributing to efforts aimed at resolving the regional conflict.

Pakistan backs Libya's sovereignty, urges Libyan-led peace process at UNSC

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday reaffirmed its support for Libya's sovereignty and a Libyan-led political process as the only viable path to lasting peace and stability, according to a statement delivered at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) briefing on the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL).

Speaking at the UNSC, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said, "For Pakistan, Libya is a brotherly country, and we remain steadfast in our support for its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and national unity."

He welcomed recent political and security developments in Libya while cautioning that significant challenges remain, particularly in achieving consensus on electoral arrangements.

Emphasising Pakistan's position on the political process, he stated: "A Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process is the only viable path to lasting peace and stability." He added that Pakistan supports ongoing UNSMIL efforts, including structured dialogue aimed at bridging institutional divides.

On security, Pakistan welcomed what it described as "relative calm" in and around Tripoli, urging continued engagement between Libyan stakeholders to advance security sector reform and unify military institutions across the country.

Highlighting progress in the judicial and economic tracks, the envoy noted efforts by Libyan legal institutions to preserve judicial unity, as well as a recent agreement on a unified spending framework, which he said could support long-term economic stability.

Canada lauds Pakistan's efforts for advancing regional peace: FO

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening Pakistan-Canada bilateral relations across diverse sectors.

He was talking to the Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ambassador Tarik Ali Khan, who called on him in Islamabad on Thursday.

Dar also underscored Pakistan's continued efforts toward promoting lasting peace in the region and beyond. Ambassador Tarik Ali Khan conveyed Canada's appreciation and support for Pakistan's efforts to facilitate engagement aimed at advancing regional peace.

According to the Foreign Office (FO), Canada has expressed its appreciation to Pakistan for its efforts to "facilitate engagement aimed at advancing regional peace". Ottawa's sentiments were conveyed by Canadian Ambassador to Pakistan Tarik Ali Khan when he called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, who reaffirmed Islamabad's commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations.

Key Appointment at Punjab Institute of Cardiology

By Maqsood Khalid

LAHORE: The Government of Punjab has made a significant leadership appointment at the Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC), entrusting its executive leadership to Prof. Dr. Syed Imran ul Hassan.

According to a notification issued by the Services and General Administration Department, Prof. Dr. Syed Imran ul Hassan has been assigned the additional charge of Executive Director at PIC, Lahore. The appointment took effect on April 21, 2026, and will remain valid for three months or until a permanent appointment is made. Prof. Dr. Imran ul Hassan brings over 18 years of extensive experience in cardiac anaesthesia. He is currently serving as the in-charge of surgical intensive care units comprising 62 beds, reflecting his strong background in critical care management.

Under his leadership, three modern cardiac medical ICUs, with a total capacity of 18 beds, have been successfully established within the PIC emergency department. These units are considered among the most advanced critical care facilities in the province, equipped with state-of-the-art medical technology.

The ICUs are operating under the super-

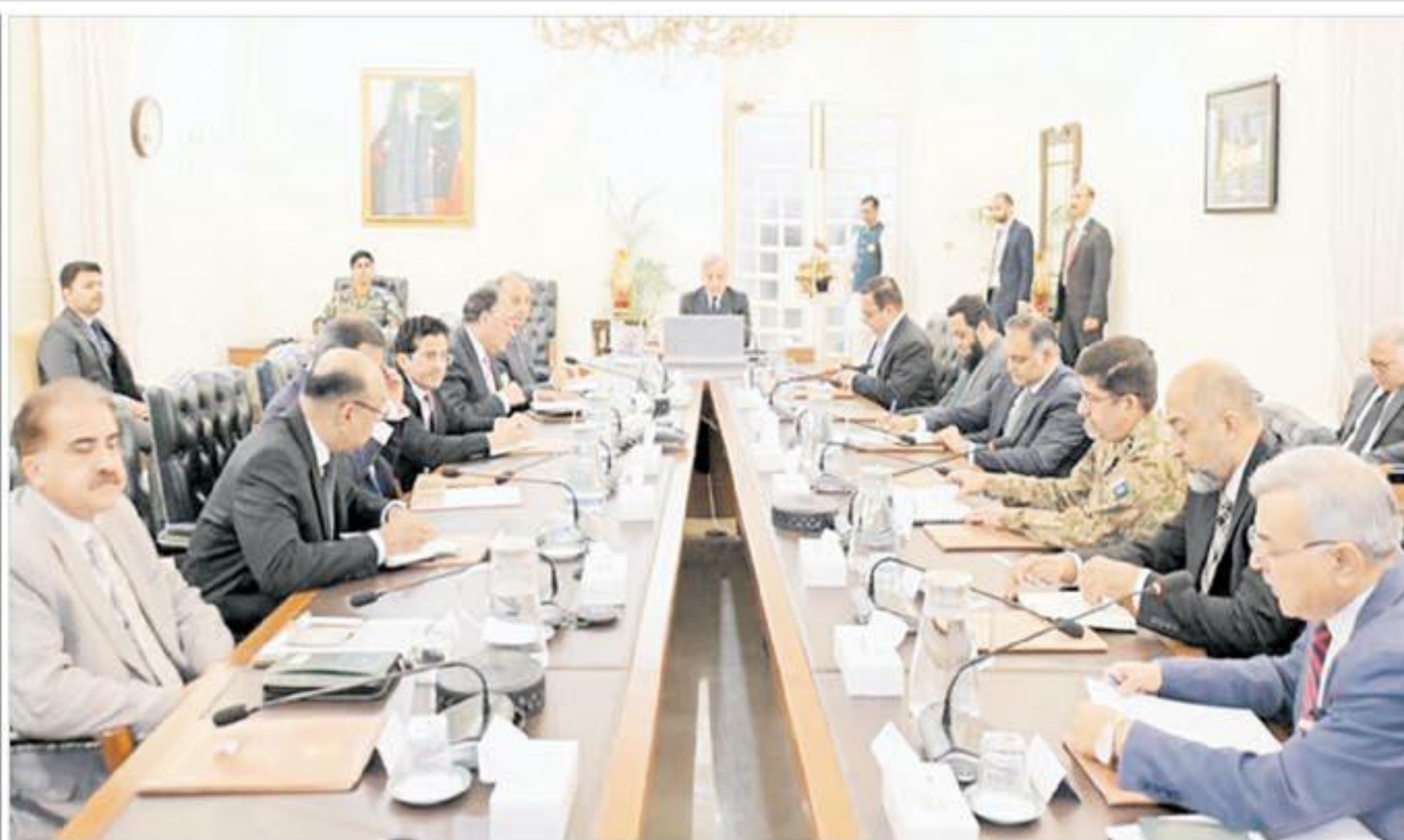


vision of Dr. Farqad Alamgir, ensuring that patients receive the highest standard of care.

In July 2025, following directives from Maryam Nawaz Sharif, PIC introduced the "Code Blue" system for the first time across its emergency department, ICUs, and catheterization laboratories. Additionally, an integrated "Code Red and Code Blue" emergency response system was implemented to ensure rapid and coordinated action during critical situations.

Currently overseeing a total of five ICUs, Prof. Dr. Imran ul Hassan has played a pivotal role in launching modern emergency response systems, significantly strengthening the hospital's ability to manage life-threatening cardiac emergencies.

The medical community has widely welcomed this appointment, viewing it as a positive step toward enhancing emergency cardiac care standards not only at PIC but across Punjab. Experts believe his leadership will contribute to improved patient outcomes and timely access to advanced medical treatment.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding energy security

Mir Tariq Khatran thanks political leaders, friends & relatives for attending his son wedding party

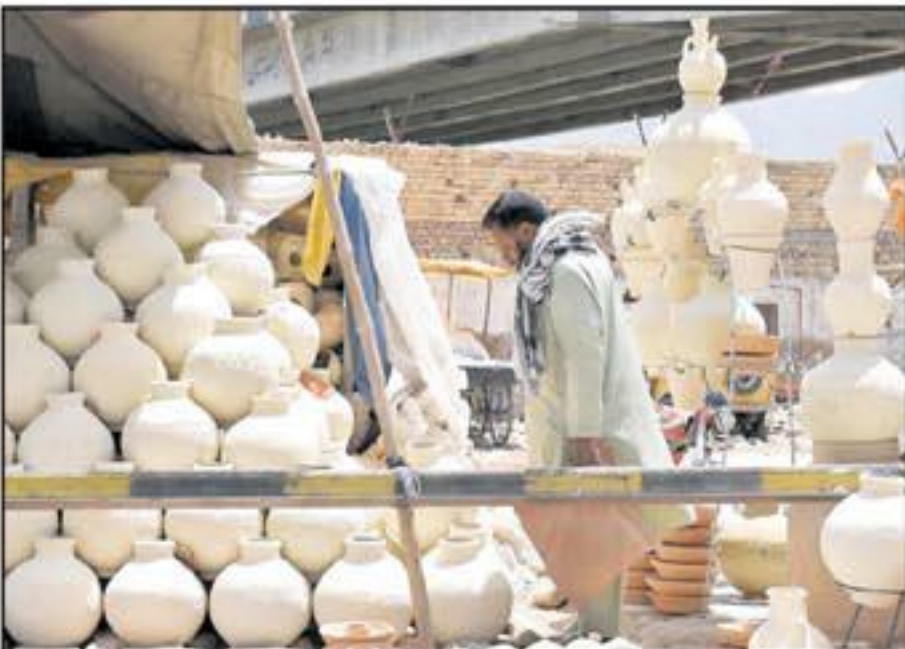
APP

Quetta: Senior tribal and political leader Mir Tariq Mahmood Khatran on Thursday thanked political leaders and all friends and relatives for attending his son's wedding party. In a statement, he said that he is extremely grateful to all those who attended and expressed their love with him on this happy occasion.

He added that if any friend or relative could not receive the wedding invitation or if someone's name was left out, he sincerely apologizes.

Mir Tariq Mahmood Khatran said that one of the major reasons for holding the wedding ceremony in Quetta was his own health issues, due to which this decision was made.

He said that this was the main reason while all other matters are secondary.



QUETTA: A vendor displaying clay water pots on joint road for selling purpose.

Governor Sindh chairs high level meeting at Commissioner Office Sukkur

APP

SUKKUR: A high level meeting was held at the Commissioner Office Sukkur under the chairmanship of Governor Sindh Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi here Thursday. The meeting was attended by senior officials from various federal and provincial departments.

Representatives from DG NADRA Aliya Abdul Razzaq, Addl Director FIA Abdul Ahad, GM National Highway Authority (NHA) Muhammad Hussain Shah, CE, SEPCO Abdul Ghani Sheikh, Regional Head Jacobabd, SSGC Jai Kumar Chawalla, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), ASP Shoaib Ameen Police, Deputy Director Information Department district administration, and other relevant institutions participated in the meeting.

Punjab Launches First Pediatric Stroke Center at Lahore General Hospital

By Maqsood Khalid

LAHORE: In a landmark step toward improving child healthcare, Punjab has established Pakistan's first-ever Pediatric Stroke Center at Lahore General Hospital. The initiative, launched under the vision of Maryam Nawaz Sharif, aims to protect children from life-threatening neurological conditions, particularly stroke.

This state-of-the-art facility has been developed with the collaboration of the Punjab Institute of Neurosciences and marks a historic milestone in the province's medical landscape. For the first time in Punjab's history, children suffering

from stroke and related conditions will have access to specialized, round-the-clock care equipped with the latest medical technology.

According to leading medical experts, including Prof. Dr. Farooq Afzal,

Prof. Dr. Asif Bashir, Prof. Dr. Qasim Bashir, and Prof. Dr. Faryad Hassan, the center will provide 24/7 advanced treatment facilities to children coming not only from across Punjab but from all over Pakistan. The availability of dedicated pediatric stroke care is expected to significantly reduce mortality and long-term disability among young patients.

The Principal of Ameer-ud-Din



Medical College emphasized that this center represents a beacon of hope for families dealing with complex neurological disorders in children. It reflects a strong commitment to the "Healthy Punjab" vision spearheaded by the provincial government.

KP gov forms Climate Resilience Committee to promote sustainable development

INP

PESHAWAR: The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has stepped up efforts to address escalating environmental threats by forming a high-level Climate Resilience Committee aimed at strengthening policy coordination and promoting sustainable development across the province.

According to an official press release issued here Thursday, the Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development and includes key stake-

holders such as the Secretaries of Environment, Forests and Wildlife, Planning and Development, Finance, Irrigation, Local Government, and Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement.

The Committee will also comprise the Director General Forests, representatives from the Pakistan Meteorological Department, environmental and climate change experts and development partners to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated response to climate-related risks.

The officials said the initiative reflects the province's renewed commitment to climate resilience.



QUETTA: A vendor selling anjeer on his hand cart clay water pots on joint road.



Hassan Khan holds nerve after Usman Khan ton as Kingsmen edge Sultans in thriller

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: Entering their debut HBL Pakistan Super League season with four losses in a row, Hyderabad Kingsmen had come a long way into Wednesday's night fixture against the high-flying Multan Sultans, winning the next three on a trot.

With their eyes on the playoff spot, their hopes were boosted by Usman Khan, who neared his nineties, and captain Marnus Labuschagne at the other end, anchoring with authority.

The Kingsmen needed 52 off the last six overs, to cancel out Steve Smith's century effort earlier. And then Sultans captain Ashton Turner turned to his fellow Australian Peter Siddle.

The 41-year-old, 67-Test veteran, steamed in, got hit by Usman for a six over deep fine leg. But bounced back instantly, hitting the deck hard to get Labuschagne caught at short fine, breaking a 123-run partnership.

After Usman completed his century — the fastest of the season — in the next over off Mohammad Wasim, Siddle returned. A slower one saw Glenn Maxwell hole out, before Usman himself fell attempting another big hit, leaving Hyderabad wobbling with the finish line in sight.

But the Kingsmen found unlikely composure in the lower order. Hassan Khan and Irfan Khan Niazi combined nerves with audacity.

Hassan, fearless from the outset, whipped a low full toss over fine leg for six and followed it with a crisp drive past mid-off. Irfan complemented him with a stunning flat six over cover off Mohammad Wasim that shifted the pressure back on Multan.

With eight needed off the final over, the pair kept their cool — nudging singles before Hassan sealed the chase in emphatic fashion, pulling a slower bouncer over midwicket for six to spark jubilant celebrations.

The four-wicket victory propelled Hyderabad into the top four, marking their fourth consecutive win and a remarkable turnaround in the standings, while Multan's hold near the summit loosened after a game they had largely controlled.

The chase, however, had not begun smoothly. Early strikes from Multan saw Maaz Sadaqa fall to Mohammad Ismail, followed by the struggling Saim Ayub, leaving the Kingsmen under pressure in the powerplay. The situation worsened when Kusal Perera departed for a duck, reducing them to 54 for three.

What followed was a counter-attacking masterclass. Usman and Labuschagne rebuilt with authority, mixing classical strokeplay with brute force.

Labuschagne was elegant, threading boundaries through cover and executing a deft reverse ramp, while Usman unleashed carnage — dispatching anything short into the stands.

The pair raised their 50-run stand briskly, and soon after brought up their individual half-centuries — Labuschagne off 31 balls, Usman in just 20.

Usman's innings, in particular, was breathtaking. He peppered the leg side with towering sixes, especially against spin, while also showing range with lofted drives over cover.



RUSSIA'S Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova hits a return against Alexandra Eala of the Philippines during their Madrid Open match at Park Manzanares.

Eala sails into second round of Madrid Open

SPORTS DESK

MADRID: Filipina star Alexandra Eala enjoyed a strong start to her Madrid Open campaign on Wednesday, moving past Russian qualifier Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-3, 6-3 to reach the second round at the event for the third straight year.

The 44th-ranked lefty needed one hour and 31 minutes to dismiss Pavlyuchenkova, who was a semifinalist in the Spanish capital in 2021.

The 34-year-old Pavlyuchenkova, a former French Open runner-up currently ranked 116 in the world, is 0-6 in tour-level main draw matches so far this season.

Eala saved all four break points she faced and broke Pavlyuchenkova twice in a tightly-contested 54-minute opening set.

The 20-year-old phenom briefly lost her advantage in the second set but swept eight points in a row to regain her lead and book a clash with 19th seed Elise Mertens.

"I feel really great. I love Madrid, it's an amazing tournament," said Eala, who has been training at the Rafa Nadal Academy in Mallorca for almost eight years. "Every time I come here, I feel very comfortable, I feel like I'm at home."

Pavlyuchenkova, who was playing with a heavily-strapped right upper thigh, committed close to 40 unforced errors in what was her first meeting with Eala.

"Every match at this level is a battle, all of us players we fight until the end and she's been on the tour for many years.

So I'm really happy with this win. She's a great player and I'm really happy to be in the next round," Eala added.

In ATP action at the Caja Magica, 2021 Madrid finalist Matteo Berrettini crashed out to Croatian qualifier Dino Prizmic 6-3, 6-4.

"It's definitely a big thing for me and it's a pleasure to share the court with him," said the 20-year-old former Roland

Garros junior champion. Prizmic will next take on American fourth seed Ben Shelton.

Meanwhile, former US Open champion Marin Cilic claimed his

first Madrid Open win since 2022 with a hard-fought 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 performance against world number 44 Zizou Bergs.

It was the 37-year-old Croatian's first top-50 victory on clay in four years and it earned him a second-round meeting with Brazilian teenager Joao Fonseca.

Man City go top and relegate Burnley with narrow Turf Moor win

SPORTS DESK

Manchester City ended Arsenal's six-month stay on the Premier League summit and condemned Burnley to relegation with a laboured 1-0 victory at Turf Moor on Wednesday.

Erling Haaland's clinical finish after five minutes could have paved the way for a boost to City's goal difference but they lacked a cutting edge as Burnley dug deep.

Haaland hit the post and had other chances as City tried to give themselves a safety margin but Pep Guardiola's side had to make do with a surprisingly narrow victory.

After reeling Arsenal in they now lead the table on goals scored with both sides on 70 points from 33 games and with an identical goal difference of plus 23.

For Scott Parker's Burnley the inevitable has now become a reality as they are stuck on 20 points, 13 points behind the safety zone with only four games remaining.

"We played a really good game, unfortunately we missed a lot of chances. We defended better in the second half. Second half we had less problems," Guardiola, whose side face Southampton in the FA Cup semi-final on Saturday, told Sky Sports. "It was such a demanding game on Sunday. It is not easy after three days but in the Premier League you have to adjust. We are used to doing it. We competed really well, we made a really good game but it's a pity the chances we had."

Burnley produce spirited play
City's fans sang "we are top of the league" at the final whistle as their team hit the top but it was with a mixture of relief as they could never truly relax as Burnley betrayed their lowly status with a spirited display.

Arsenal have led the race since early October but have stalled in April and Haaland's winner in a 2-1 victory against them at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday has given City the edge.

With the race so tight, however, they would have expected to sweep Burnley aside by a wider margin on Wednesday and given themselves the edge on goal difference. It certainly looked that way at the start as Burnley keeper Martin Dubravka made a great save from Rayan Cherki before Haaland was played through and the Norwegian advanced before dinking a subtle left-footed finish past the keeper.



Manchester City's Erling Haaland celebrates scoring their first goal with Jeremy Doku and Rayan Ait-Nouri.

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Ceasefire extension

THOUGH the US has extended the Iran ceasefire — thanks largely to effective Pakistani diplomacy to prevent sliding back towards war — the situation in the Gulf remains extremely volatile. Amongst the biggest sticking points are the respective blockades of the Gulf: Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz, and the US blockade of Iranian ports.

Each side is expecting the other to blink first and lift the blockade, and until there is a satisfactory resolution to this issue, it is difficult to see peace talks scheduled in Islamabad going ahead. While Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif did meet the Iranian ambassador in the capital on Wednesday, at the time of writing there was no indication that Iran had decided on attending talks in Pakistan. Meanwhile, there were reports that the IRGC had seized at least two unauthorised vessels.

Although it would have been preferable if the US had lifted its blockade — and the Iranians had responded by ending their own closure — as a confidence-building measure along with the ceasefire extension, both sides, particularly Iran, should not let this chance at a diplomatic solution lapse. The Hormuz closure is a consequence of the war, not its main cause. The Iranians should consider returning to the table, especially when Pakistan is doing all it can to facilitate successful parleys.

Many of Tehran's objections are justified; after all it was attacked by the US-Israeli combo, and not the other way around. But negotiations are the only way out of this quagmire, with the other choice being a ruinous return to war, which would be a disaster for the entire region. Iranian negotiators should bring all their points of contention to the table.

There needs to be substantive progress at the talks; they should not be a mere photo opportunity. And while the US is not helping matters by issuing threats to Iran, with President Donald Trump leading the pack with his provocative social media posts, the parties involved should not lose sight of the bigger picture. That remains addressing the core issues that have fuelled this war, and bridging the mistrust between Washington and Tehran as much as possible.

The nuclear issue is not impossible to resolve. But for any resolution, both sides must engage in good faith, and show up at the talks. If the US wants progress on the nuclear file, it must also offer a substantive non-aggression pact, promising not to attack Iran, while restraining its ally Israel.

Presently, much of the world opinion is with Iran, as the international community sees that it was the victim in this conflict. Yet if economic pain due to the blockades in the Gulf intensifies, then that sentiment may shift in the opposite direction, especially if Iran is seen as shunning negotiations.

By Crossfire / M.R. Malik

Economy's Stuttering Breath

We are witnessing premature closures, rising inflation, and declining businesses, with markets deserted and streets empty.

The current economic conditions of the country have not only made the life of the common citizen difficult but have also plunged the business community into a severe crisis. There was a time when markets would come alive as evening approached, shops would be brightly lit, and crowds of shoppers would be seen. But today, the situation appears completely different. There is silence in the markets, shopkeepers are worried, and business seems to be plunged into darkness. The recent decision to close shops early has deepened this crisis. Especially for businesses that start after evening and continue late into the night, the decision to close shops at 8 PM is beyond comprehension. It is akin to cutting the roots of a tree instead of watering it. The question is, are such decisions being made keeping ground realities in mind, or purely on paper? In Pakistan, a large number of businesses operate less during the day and more at night. Clothing stores, shoe shops, food points, and small retail businesses earn their main income after evening. People, due to their daily commitments, cannot shop during the day and turn to the markets in the evening. In such a scenario, if shops are closed early, it not only causes loss to business owners but also affects public convenience. On the other hand, inflation has made business almost unbearable. The price at which

traders are buying goods was previously the selling price or even higher. This means the profit margin has vanished. Business owners are either bearing losses or are forced to increase prices, the burden of which ultimately falls on the public. This situation has put both buyers and sellers in difficulty. This storm of inflation is not limited to essential commodities but has engulfed every sector. Transportation costs have increased, rents are sky-high, and utility bills have disrupted business budgets. The continuous increase in electricity prices and unscheduled load shedding have further damaged businesses. Many shopkeepers are forced to resort to generators or UPS, which further increases expenses.

The poor state of internet connectivity has also created a new problem. In today's era, online business has become an important medium, but the slow speed and frequent disconnections of the internet have also affected this sector. Delays in online orders, issues with digital payments, and obstacles in social media marketing are harming businesses. It seems that even in this era of technology, we are deprived of basic facilities.

All these problems combined are creating an environment where doing business is becoming increasingly difficult day by day. Small businesses, which are the backbone of any economy, are being affected the most. Many shopkeepers are forced to close

their shops due to inability to meet their expenses, while the trend of starting new businesses is also declining.

Another aspect of this situation is unemployment. When businesses close, it directly affects employment. Salesmen, helpers, and other employees lose their jobs. Thus, one problem gives rise to many new problems, and the wheel of the economy slows down further.

A question arises: did the government and relevant institutions make this decision keeping ground realities in mind? Was the business community consulted while setting the shop closing hours? A solution that is acceptable to all. Have effective measures been taken to control inflation? The game of electricity is on again, internet service has killed business and life.

There is a fear that if timely measures are not taken, business activities will shrink further, and the ship of the economy will sink in the middle of the sea. This is the time to think seriously and take practical steps, to bring back the vibrancy to the markets, and to set business life on the path of progress once again. Finally, ending with these words: for a strong economy, strong businesses are necessary, and for strong businesses, a conducive environment. These problems need to be solved; perhaps tomorrow will be too late.



By F.S. Aijazuddin

Betrayal, Inc.

THE erasure of modern Iran has been 120 years in the making. It began with the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907, when two imperial powers — the United Kingdom and Czarist Russia — divided Iran into spheres of influence. Russia got the north and the UK received the south.

The subsequent discovery of oil by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company made it a Persian version of the East India Company — a body corporate with imperial purposes. During both world wars, Iran tried to remain neutral. The Allies decided otherwise. In 1941, they ousted Reza Shah Pahlavi and exiled him, installing his pliable 22-year-old son Muhammad Reza Shah on the unstable peacock throne. Ten years later, Iranian prime minister Mohammad Mossadegh nationalised the Iranian oil industry. Within two years, the CIA engineered a coup, toppling Mossadegh and restoring the Shah. For the next 26 years, the Shah reigned while the US ruled Iran. "I believe that my alliance with the West was based on strength, loyalty and mutual trust," the Shah wrote in his autobiography Answer to History, adding sourly, "Perhaps that trust had been misguided."

Just how 'misguided' the Shah learned when, after effectively abdicating in 1979, he fled to Egypt. Later that year, his plane touched down at the wrong airport in Fort Lauderdale, US. Instead of the royal reception he expected from an ally (president Jimmy Carter had lauded the Shah's Iran as "an island of stability"), the Shah was met by an American agricultural inspector who asked whether the Shah had brought "any plants" with him.

Leaders today should heed lessons in political expediency.

In time, the Shah found himself defending claims by the new government to refund \$20 billion. In an interview with Barbara Walters, the Shah admitted to wealth of only "between \$50-\$100 million". The rich enjoy the luxury of not having to calculate their wealth. "If you know how rich you are, you aren't rich," Mrs Imelda Marcos said, after she and her husband president Ferdinand Marcos had been eased into exile by the US. In 1986, they landed in Hawaii with \$717m in cash, 300 crates of assorted jewellery, a large trunk full of pearls, and deposit slips to banks in the US, the Cayman Islands and Switzerland worth \$124m.

The Swiss government later reluctantly returned \$684m of Marcos' money to the Philippines. Ironically, their only son Ferdinand 'Bongbong' R. Marcos Jr, has been Philippines' president since 2022. He is lauded as Trump's "model ally".

Shakespeare's Iago confessed: "I am not what I am". Pakistan has its own experience of Betrayal, Inc.'s duplicity — Generals Ayub Khan in 1969, Yahya Khan in 1971, Ziaul Haq in 1988, and Musharraf in 2008, with civilian governments in between. Each believed that he or she had the steadfast support of the US, until it vanished, as Khrushchev predicted of US-sponsored Cento, like "a soap bubble". (Members of the Baghdad Pact (later Cento) included Iran, Turkiye, the UK and Pakistan but not the US).

Should such lessons in political expediency be heeded by today's leaders? They should, especially when, as the social philosopher Roman Krznaric wrote in his History for Tomorrow, "We live in an era dominated by the present tense". Krznaric admits that

history is at best "a counsellor, not a clairvoyant", but it is his conviction that "anyone who cannot draw upon 3,000 years is living hand to mouth". The US is only 250 years old this year; Iran has 5,000 years of verifiable ancestry.

Krznaric quotes a Maori proverb: "I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on the past." The US, this time unsupported by its more pragmatic allies (except for the professional spoiler Israel), is blundering alone, "backwards into the future".

The US has chosen yet again to battle in a foreign do-main, far from its homeland. It lies co-ntinents away from Iran. A distant tenacious Iran has two closer, superchar-g--ed allies — Russia and China.

Russia is a vengeful creature reassembled from the residual body parts of a defunct USSR. China — Napoleon's "sleeping giant" — has awakened as he predicted to "shake the world".

During the last fortnight, Pakistan's civilian and military leadership have worked with tireless energy to bring Iran and the US sans Israel together. Are the promises extracted from both parties, like pie crusts, made to be broken? Pakistan's nuclear power status may have reinforced its credentials as an armoured peacemaker. Will it emerge unscathed from this dangerous bout between combatants who, even while negotiating, keep their fingers on the trigger and thumbs on the doomsday button?

Nuclear Man should know by now that, while initially "we shape our tools, thereafter, our tools shape us". Misshapen survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki should be lesson enough for today's bellicose leaders.

DAILY MIRROR

Women's empowerment key to Pakistan's Digital transformation: Shaza Fatima

APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, on Thursday underscored that Pakistan's economic progress and digital transformation are closely tied to the empowerment and inclusion of women, who constitute nearly half of the country's population.

Addressing an event, the minister described information technology as a "great equalizer" capable of bridging gender disparities and expanding economic opportunities.

She stressed that no meaningful roadmap for national development can be envisioned without integrating women into all sectors, particularly the digital economy.

Highlighting the policy direction, she said the government is actively promoting women's participation in the technology sector—traditionally perceived as male-dominated—reflecting growing confidence in women's leadership and capabilities.

She added that despite social challenges and dual responsibilities at home and work, women in Pakistan are steadily advancing and setting new benchmarks across industries.

The minister pointed out that over one million young people have been trained in digital skills over the past two years under initiatives such as DigiSkills.pk and Ignite.

Women currently account for around 36 percent of enrolment in certain programmes, with ongoing efforts to achieve gender parity.

She further shared that approximately 300,000 individuals are presently enrolled in DigiSkills programmes, with women's participation steadily approaching 50 percent.

Similarly, women's representation in National Incubation Centers has crossed 35 percent, with plans to expand it further.

Emphasising the transformative potential of the ICT sector, the minister said digital platforms offer flexible work opportunities, enabling women to overcome traditional barriers through remote employment, entrepreneurship, and online education.

"Technology today is embedded in every aspect of life—from health and education to business and daily activities—and women must fully benefit from this transformation," she added.

Referring to financial inclusion initiatives, the minister highlighted the gov-

ernment's move to digitise Ramadan subsidies under the Benazir Income Support Programme.

She said the initiative enabled more than 825,000 women to open digital wallets within a month, ensuring transparency, dignity, and ease of access. These women have since carried out nearly two billion transactions, including utility bill payments and everyday purchases.

To further support access to digital services, the government, in collaboration with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority and telecom operators, has facilitated the provision of free SIM cards to women beneficiaries.

The minister said closing the gender gap remains a core policy priority, adding that Pakistan has made significant strides in bringing more women online. Future initiatives, she said, will focus on expanding digital access, encouraging entrepreneurship, and increasing women's participation in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence.

Drawing on broader social trends, she observed that while women's global participation in the workforce increased after World War II, they have continued to balance professional responsibilities with household duties. In Pakistan, however, women have consistently demonstrated their potential when provided equal opportunities.



Gilgit-Baltistan Election, Electoral Board of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party held meeting chaired by Central President Abdul Aleem Khan.

CM Maryam inaugurates portal 'Apna Khet, Apna Rozgar Scheme'

INP

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif formally inaugurated portal "Apna Khet, Apna Rozgar Scheme," aimed at boosting agricultural and economic prosperity in the province.

Under the scheme, agricultural land worth around 160 billion rupees will be provided to landless villagers.

A total of 88,780 families will benefit from 13,812 agricultural plots across Punjab, while 101,111 families will receive 16,685 plots in Cholistan.

The land will be provided for 10 years strictly for agricultural use, with no permanent construction allowed.

Applicants can apply online from 2nd to 18th of next month on <https://akarpunjabgovt.pk>

Railways Minister condoles demise of Pir Moeen-ul-Haq Gilani's mother

APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Thursday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the demise of the mother of Pir Syed Moeen-ul-Haq Gilani of Golra Sharif.

In his condolence message, the minister extended heartfelt sympathies and complete solidarity with the bereaved family during their time of grief.

He prayed for the departed soul, asking Almighty Allah to grant her forgiveness, elevate her ranks, and bless her with a high place in Jannat-ul-Firdous.

Hanif Abbasi also prayed for patience and strength for the grieving family, saying may Allah grant them courage to bear this irreparable loss.

He said the death of a mother is a profound and irreplaceable loss, the void of which is felt for a long time.

The minister further prayed that the deceased be showered with Allah's mercy and granted eternal peace.

NAB organized seminar on "Functions of NAB & Role of Students in Eradication of Corruption"

APP

Quetta: As part of its ongoing anti-corruption awareness campaign, National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan organized a Seminar on "Role of Students in Eradication of Corruption" at General Muhammad Musa, Govt Boys Postgraduate College, Quetta on Thursday. The primary objective of the seminar was to aware youth about detrimental effects of corruption and to promote collective efforts for building a corruption-free society.

Mr. Ehtisham-ul-Haq, Addl Director NAB (B), Mr. Hussain Baloch, Director Colleges and other speakers engaged with students and faculty, discussing NAB's vision, mission and the significant role, students can play in eradicating menace of corruption.

The Deputy Director NAB (B) Mr. Khuram Shehzad delivered formal speech and emphasized students to adopt such moral standards wherein abhorrence against corruption become integral part of their personalities. It was also deliberated that the teachings of Islam also assert on self-accountability and do not allow an iota of dishonesty and corruption.

He added that nepotism, influence

peddling, bribery, extortion and favouritism were underlined as forms of corruption, but unfortunately, these have been taken by the society as a norm.

He said that the collective efforts of students, as crucial members of society, could play a pivotal role for laying foundation of a corruption-free society.

Afterwards, Mr. Ehtisham ul Haq, Addl Director, NAB (B) effectively and patiently responded to the questions raised by the students and faculty members at the end of the session.

On this occasion, Director Colleges Mr. Hussain Baloch and Principal of the college also shared their thoughts against corruption and they appreciated the efforts of NAB Balochistan with assurance to extend all possible assistance in the anti-corruption awareness drive of NAB Balochistan. The seminar concluded with presentation of shield to the Principal of the College by Addl Director NAB followed by mutual express of gratitude and a note of thanks by both sides.

At the end of the seminar, an awareness walk was also arranged wherein participants of seminar including NAB officers, Director Colleges, Principal, Professors and a fair gathering of students participated.

Construction of Rakhni to Bekar road to be ushered in new era of development: Secretary Babar

APP

Quetta: Secretary Communications and Works (C&W) Babar Khan on Thursday said that the construction of Rakhni to Bekar road would be ushered in a new era of development and prosperity in the area. He said this while presiding over a review meeting held regarding the progress of the Rakhni to Bekar road project.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Sibi Zone Zubair Ahmed Khosa, Chief Engineer Federal Projects Dr. Sajjad Baloch, SE Naseerabad Circle Muhammad Akram Khawaja Khel, Executive Engineer Roads Dera Bugti Shamsul Haq Consultants and other concerned officials.

During the meeting, Executive Engineer Shamsul Haq gave a detailed briefing on the project and said that the construction work is going on at a fast pace and the department is determined to

complete the project before the stipulated time.

He added that there are some technical issues related to funds, but they would be resolved soon and the pace of work to be further accelerated.

Secretary Babar Khan, while addressing the meeting, stressed the importance of the project and said that after Rakhni gets the status of divisional headquarters, this highway from Bekar and Upper Dera Bugti would be connected to the highway, however, a significant increase in traffic is expected, so timely and quality completion of the road is very important.

He directed the concerned authorities to immediately remove all technical obstacles so that there is no delay in the completion of the project.

He said that this highway would not only improve regional connectivity but would also play an important role in promoting economic activities and public convenience.

Gilani visits Golra Sharif, offers condolences

APP

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Thursday visited Golra Sharif to express his heartfelt condolences to Pir Syed Moeen-ul-Haq Gilani and his family on the passing of his mother.

The Chairman Senate conveyed complete solidarity with the bereaved family and stated that he equally shares their grief in this difficult time.

During the meeting with Pir Syed Moeen-ul-Haq Gilani, the Chairman Senate expressed profound sorrow over the demise of the deceased and remarked that the loss of a mother is an irreparable one, the void of which can never truly be filled.

He said that a mother's affection, love, and prayers are among the most precious blessings in life.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani offered special prayers for the departed soul, praying to Almighty Allah to grant her forgiveness, elevate her ranks, and bless her with a place in Jannat-ul-Firdous. He also prayed for patience, strength, and perseverance for the bereaved family, and for their ability to bear this great loss with fortitude.

Pakistan seeks three spot LNG cargoes in first tender since December 2023

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan LNG Limited has issued its first spot tender for liquefied natural gas (LNG) since December 2023 amid supply shortfalls triggered by the US-Israeli war on Iran.

The company is seeking bids from international suppliers for three LNG cargoes of around 140,000 cubic metres each for delivery on April 27-30, and on May 1-7 and 8-14 at Port Qasim in Karachi, according to an advertisement on Thursday for the tender that closes on April 24.

Federal Minister of Energy Awaiz Leghari told Reuters the LNG tender was aimed at meeting rising power demand and to cut reliance on costlier diesel and furnace oil.

Government is not sure when it will get more cargoes from Qatar, Leghari said.

The tender also follows power shortages that triggered widespread outages last week, as a drop in hydropower and disruptions to LNG supplies exposed gaps in fuel availability amid rising demand.

Pakistan has not received any LNG cargoes loaded after the Middle East war began on February 28 and Iran shut off almost all shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, which connects the Gulf to the Indian Ocean.

PM Shehbaz orders probe into non-functional early weather warning systems in G-B

INP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday ordered an inquiry into the non-functional early weather warning systems in Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B), expressing anger over their failure despite clear directives issued last year.

According to the statement by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), chairing a meeting on monsoon preparedness and measures to tackle climate-related risks, the prime minister warned that negligence and poor performance by relevant institutions would not be tolerated.

The prime minister expressed displeasure over the failure to fully activate early warning systems installed in G-B, particularly those aimed at preventing Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), ordering an inquiry into the continued non-functionality of the system and the poor performance of relevant institutions, despite clear directives issued last year. "Pakistan is among the countries most affected by climate change, and urgent action is required," he said, stressing the need for coordinated efforts to mitigate environmental risks.

PM Shehbaz directed all federal institutions to work closely with provinces to remove obstacles in policy implementa-

tion and ensure effective coordination.

Referring to last year's monsoon season, he noted that illegal encroachments along river paths and flood channels had worsened the impact of flooding, saying a more effective pre-emptive strategy had been adopted this year to address the issue. While emphasising the importance of ensuring full functionality of early warning systems and the provision of necessary digital monitoring infrastructure, the premier instructed all departments to enhance their capacity and go beyond available resources to ensure public safety during potential floods.

PM Shehbaz directed the Ministry of Climate Change, the Planning Ministry, and other relevant departments to take unified and practical steps in coordination with provincial governments.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, Economic Affairs Minister Ahd Khan Cheema, Climate Minister Musadik Malik, and Finance Minister Aurangzeb, along with senior officials and provincial chief secretaries. Officials, including the National Disaster Management Authority Chairman Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik, Water and Power Development Authority Chairman Lieutenant General Muhammad Saad (Retd).



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Finance Mir Shoaib Noshervani in a meeting with Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani.

Peace in region lies to resolve disputes through dialogue: Ayaz

APP

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday said that sustainable peace can only be achieved through effective diplomacy, mutual trust and result-oriented negotiations. In his message on the occasion of the 'International Day for Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace,' he said that the prevailing global and regional circumstances demand that nations promote dialogue, tolerance and collective wisdom instead of confrontation and polarization. The Speaker said that Pakistan has always placed the promotion of peace, stability and international cooperation at the core of its foreign policy. He said that Pakistan has

consistently played a responsible role at international and regional forums by prioritizing peaceful resolution of disputes, reconciliation and multilateral engagement. Ayaz Sadiq noted that in the evolving global landscape, challenges such as climate change, economic instability, regional conflicts and complex security threats have made a strong and effective multilateral system more essential than ever. He said that in light of recent tensions in the Middle East, Pakistan, as a responsible state, adopted a timely and effective diplomatic approach. The Speaker appreciated the statesmanship and coordinated efforts of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar.

IPP announces nine candidates, finalizes strategy for GB elections

APP

ISLAMABAD: The Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) on Thursday finalized its electoral strategy for the upcoming Gilgit-Baltistan elections and announced candidates for nine seats in the first phase.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of the party's 20-member Electoral Board chaired by its President Abdul Aleem Khan, held here to review preparations for the June 7 polls, said a press release.

Accordingly, the names of Maulana Sultan Rais, Fatahullah Khan, Captain (r) Shafi Ullah Khan, Emaan Shah and Raja Jalal Hussain were finalized while Shams-ul-Haq Lone, Haji Shah Baig, Haji Gulbar Khan and Khan Akbar Khan will also be entitled for IPP tickets.

The Party's Election Board is expected to announce the remaining candidates for the other constituencies within the next few days.

IPP President Abdul Aleem Khan stated that consultations have been decided upon regarding a possible electoral alliance between Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party and Islamic Tehreek Pakistan in the Gilgit-Baltistan general elections.

Moreover, the Party's future course of action will also be determined in view of the strategies of other political parties.



QUETTA: Dr. Rubina Mushtaq, Vice Chancellor fistng stall on occasion of Worlds Books Day ceremony organized by Qurtaba School of excellence and Bahadur Khan Woman University.