



E-Commerce, skills training, formalization to unlock Pakistan's export potential: Jam Kamal



Govt actively pursuing diversified capital markets strategy, finmin tells EU envoy



Leghari pays tribute to Allama Iqbal, calls for self-reliance and character building

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PM Shehbaz approves streamlining of P3A to expedite development projects

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday gave in-principle approval to further integrate and strengthen the Public-Private Partnership Authority (P3A) and its related framework to speed up development initiatives during a high-level meeting.

According to a statement by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), PM Shehbaz chaired a high-level meeting in Islamabad to accelerate development projects through public-private partnerships (PPP) and instructed authorities to expedite the implementation of the newly approved system. "Meeting decided that the P3A would be placed under the Privatisation Division to align its performance with modern requirements and improve efficiency in PPP-

based projects," it said. The statement further added that the prime minister directed that the capacity of relevant ministries and departments be enhanced to enable them to initiate development projects through public-private partnerships.

Premier said PPP-based projects should be made part of the key performance indicators (KPIs) of ministries and departments, adding that "through P3A, we were making the public-private partnership system more transparent and faster". "The meeting was given a comparative overview of PPP models in various countries at regional and global levels, along with a briefing on the proposed new system. Officials said that under the new frame-



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding institution mechanism for public private partnership.

Trump says he does not want to extend ceasefire, predicts 'great deal' with Iran

PEAK POINT



NEW YORK: United States President Donald Trump on Tuesday told CNBC in an interview that he did not want to extend a ceasefire with Iran. He asserted that the US was in a strong

negotiating position and would end up with what he called a great deal.

"I don't want to do that. We don't have that much time," Trump said when asked about the possibility of extending the ceasefire.

He said that the US would resume its attacks on Iran if a deal was not struck with Tehran soon.

"I expect to be bombing because I think that's a better attitude to go in with. But we're ready to go. I mean, the military is raring to go," he said. The prospect of last-ditch peace talks in Islamabad remains up in the air, with uncertainty over whether Iran will send a delegation. Washington has expressed confidence that talks with Iran will go ahead in Pakistan, and a senior Iranian official said Tehran was considering joining.

Trump earlier blamed Iran for ceasefire violations amid uncertainty over peace talks.

Islamabad sets stage for high-stakes talks

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has set the stage for a high-stakes second round of negotiations between the United States and Iran in Islamabad, likely to take place just hours before a Pakistan-brokered ceasefire expires on Wednesday. Despite lingering uncertainty surrounding 'Islamabad Round 2' due to Iran's

reluctance to formally confirm its participation, a US delegation led by Vice President JD Vance is set to travel to the federal capital along with senior officials. There was some ambiguity about Vance's whereabouts, as President Donald Trump told the New York Post that Vance was already on his way to Islamabad, but White House officials said the vice president would depart on Tuesday, with talks expected on Wednesday. While there was confusion over the exact timing of arrival, there was certainty that the US delegation would be coming. Iran, however, has maintained public suspense, even though developments on the ground in Islamabad suggest a different trajectory. Even hours after the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Tehran had not yet decided whether to join the talks, US military aircraft were seen landing at Nur Khan Airbase, indicating that preparations were moving ahead regardless of the public posture. Iran has accused the United States of not adhering to the ceasefire terms and has urged Washington to end its naval blockade of the strategic Strait of Hormuz before entering negotiations. "Honouring commitments is the basis of meaningful dialogue.

China backs Pakistan's diplomatic efforts to facilitate US-Iran engagement

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq

Dar on Tuesday and discussed the latest regional developments, the Foreign Office stated. During the meeting, Ambassador Zaidong conveyed Beijing's full support for, and appreciation of, Pakistan's persistent efforts to facilitate engagement between the United States and Iran. He noted that such diplomatic initiatives are crucial for ensuring sustained peace and stability across the region and beyond. The development takes place as Pakistan is set to host another round of negotiations between the United States and Iran aimed at a potential peace agreement, following the two week temporary ceasefire that expires on April 21.

Reaffirming the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, Deputy Prime Minister Dar underscored the enduring strength of bilateral ties. He further emphasised the importance of maintaining high-level exchanges.

Azerbaijan says it is ready to supply LNG to Pakistan

PEAK POINT

AZERBAIJAN: Azerbaijan's state energy company SOCAR is ready to supply liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Pakistan as soon as it receives a request from Islamabad, the company told Reuters on Tuesday, as Islamabad seeks spot cargoes to ease a growing energy shortfall. SOCAR said a framework agreement signed in 2025 between SOCAR Trading and Pakistan LNG Limited (PLL) allows the Pakistani buyer to purchase LNG cargoes directly under an accelerated procedure. "SOCAR is ready to provide LNG to Pakistan as soon as PLL submits.

Pakistan Navy conducts successful test of locally developed air-launched cruise missile: ISPR

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Navy conducted a successful test of the indigenously developed 'Taimoor' air-launched cruise missile, the military's media wing said on Tuesday.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that the "Pakistan Navy has conducted successful live weapon firing of Taimoor air-launched cruise missile — an indigenously developed Anti-Ship Weapon System — in a powerful demonstration of precision strike capability and operational readiness".

ISPR said that the cruise missile "executed its mission with exceptional precision, validat-

ing Pakistan Navy's combat capability to detect, and capabilities in the conventional domain".



target and decisively neutralised enemy sea-based threats at extended ranges".

The statement added that the test marked "a pivotal elevation of national defence capability".

It further said that the test had "strengthened Pakistan armed forces' multi-dimensional coordinated strike posture

concluded.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also lauded the successful test, stating that it was a "milestone" in Pakistan's defence capabilities.

As per a statement by the Ministry of Interior, Naqvi congratulated the nation on the successful test, affirming that Pakistan Navy remained "committed to protecting the nation's maritime borders".

On April 16, the navy successfully fired a locally developed anti-ship ballistic missile to engage targets at an extended range.

In January, the navy conducted a "comprehensive exercise" in the north Arabian Sea, where it successfully fired a surface-to-air missile.

PAA extends airspace ban for Indian aircraft until May 24

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Airport Authority (PAA) on Tuesday extended its airspace ban for Indian aircraft for another month until May 24, marking a year of flight restrictions on India's airlines. "Pakistan airspace will remain closed to Indian-registered aircraft, or Indian airlines/operators (including military flights)," a PAA Notice to Airmen (Notam) said. "This ban will now be effective till May 24, 2026 at 4:59am."

Pakistan's airspace is divided into two flight information regions (FIRs) — Karachi and Lahore, according to a Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) document from 2022.



SPORTS



PSL 11: Lahore Qalandars beat Quetta Gladiators in closely fought encounter



PEAK POINT
LAHORE: Lahore Qalandars held their nerve in a last-over thriller to defeat Quetta Gladiators in the 30th clash of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 11 at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium on Tuesday.

Chasing 198, the Gladiators were restricted to 188-7 in their 20 overs, courtesy of an exceptional performance by the Qalandars' bowling attack.

The Gladiators got off to a strong start as openers Shamyul Hussain and skipper Saud Shakeel set the tone with a fluent flow of runs. However, Sikandar Raza broke the 49-run opening stand by

removing Saud, who scored a run-a-ball 17, including three fours.

Shamyul then stitched a steady partnership with Rilee Rossouw to stabilise the innings and take the total past the 50-run mark. The young opener continued to impress, bringing up his third PSL fifty and keeping his side in the chase.

His innings, however, ended via a run-out, thanks to a sharp throw from Daniel Sams, with wicketkeeper Haseebullah Khan completing the dismissal. Shamyul scored a brilliant 53 off 31 balls, hitting five fours and three sixes, leaving the score at 88-2 in 9.4

overs. On the very next delivery, Haris Rauf struck to dismiss Hasan Nawaz for a first-ball duck. Rossouw and Khawaja Nafay then added valuable runs to push the total beyond 100.

Rossouw looked in sublime touch, smashing boundaries at will and bringing up his 13th PSL fifty. However, their 40-run stand was broken by Ubaid Shah, who dismissed Rossouw for a blistering 62 off 29 balls, including five fours and five sixes, reducing the Gladiators to 149-5 in 14.5 overs.

The Gladiators then lost wickets in quick succession, with

Bevon Jacobs falling cheaply to Shaheen Afridi. Brett Hampton was also dismissed soon after, undone by a sharp yorker from Rauf, who claimed his second wicket after the batter scored seven off as many balls.

Abrar Ahmed kept the scoreboard ticking, finding boundaries to ease the pressure as his side needed 19 runs from the final over.

Haris Rauf bowled the last over and sealed the win for his team, conceding just nine runs. Abrar remained unbeaten on 24 off 14 deliveries, hitting five fours, while Alzarri Joseph also chipped in with three runs.

PCB eyes Saudi stadium to take PSL beyond borders



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is planning to construct a cricket stadium in Saudi Arabia, which could potentially host Pakistan Super League matches in the future. According to details, the PCB aims to promote cricket in Saudi Arabia, where a large population of Pakistanis and other Asian expatriates have a strong interest in the sport. The Saudi government is also actively encouraging sports activities within the country and is taking various initiatives in this regard.

The PCB has formally expressed its interest in building a cricket stadium in Jeddah. In a recent Board of Governors meeting, approval was granted to explore this opportunity in collaboration with the Saudi Arabia Cricket Federation. Sources indicate that various venues in Saudi Arabia are currently being reviewed to select a suitable location for the stadium. However, the project is still in its early stages. If negotiations with local authorities are successful, a formal agreement will be signed, after which construction work will begin. PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi is known for his swift decision-making and speed. If progress continues at this pace, the stadium could be completed within a year of signing the contract.

Multan Sultans cruise past Rawalpindiz in PSL 11 clash



PEAK POINT
KARACHI: Steven Smith's half-century and disciplined bowling guided Multan Sultans to a six-wicket victory over Rawalpindiz in the 31st match of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 11 at Karachi's National Bank Stadium on

Tuesday. Set to chase a daunting 166-run target, the 2021 champions knocked the winning runs for the loss of four wickets and eight balls to spare.

The Sultans got off to an underwhelming start to the pursuit as they lost opener Sahibzada Farhan (20)

both perished in successive overs.

The veteran top-scorer for the 2021 champions with a brisk 56 off just 31 deliveries, studded with five fours and three sixes, while Philippe made a cautious 19-ball 17. With the scoreboard reading 100/3 in 11.3 overs and a further 66 runs required off 51 deliveries, skipper Ashton Turner joined his deputy Shan Masood, and the duo batted sensibly to put Sultans within touching distance by knitting a 57-run partnership. Razaullah broke the stand on the first delivery of the penultimate over by dismissing Masood, who made 20 off 22 deliveries.

HEC Inter-varsity Hockey Championship begins at GCUF



PEAK POINT
FAISALABAD: The Inter-varsity Hockey (Zone One) Championship 2025, 26 (men) organized by the Higher Education Commission started at Government College University Faisalabad on Tuesday.

The teams from leading universities – University of Sargodha, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Thal University Bhakkar, and the University of Faisalabad

are participating in the championship. The opening ceremony was held at the hockey stadium, Madina Town, Faisalabad, which was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Government College University Faisalabad Prof. Dr. Rauf Azam along with Chairman Sports Board Prof. Dr. Nasir Amin.

On this occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rauf Azam said, "Hockey is the national game of Pakistan and we have to achieve success at the international level again through hard work and practice." He said that there is no dearth of talent among Pakistani youth. They only need to be provided with good coaches and high-quality sports facilities. After the opening ceremony, the first match of the tournament was played between the University of Sargodha and the University of Agriculture Faisalabad. The University of Agriculture Faisalabad defeated the University of Sargodha by 1-0.



LAHORE: A view traditional Punjab wrestling "Dangal" under supervision of president Lahore Desi Kushi Association Mehr Muhammad Kaala Pehlwan.

ITF Pakistan Syed Dilawar Abbas Memorial Jr Tennis C'ship continues

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) informed that the Treet ITF Pakistan Syed Dilawar Abbas Memorial Junior Tennis Championship (J-60, Leg-3) continued here at the PTF Tennis Complex.

A total of 24 boys and 20 girls from 16 countries, including Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Singapore, Japan, China, Australia, Russia, Poland, South Korea, Sri Lanka, USA, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Netherlands, and Thailand, are participating in the championship.

The event is organised annually in memory of Late Senator Syed Dilawar Abbas, who served as President of the Pakistan Tennis Federation from 2001 to 2009, as a tribute to his legacy, passion, and

love for tennis. The event is proudly sponsored by Faisal Movers, Book Karo, OGDCL, Ndure Shoes, and Syngenta Pakistan.

Boys Singles Pre-Quarterfinals: Artem Bukin (RUS) beat Amir Mazari



(PAK) 6-2,6-2; Jayden Park (HKG) beat Junxuan Cheng (CHN) 6-4,7-6(5); Ganuka Fernando (SRI) beat Muhammad Afzal (PAK) 6-0,6-0; Mikael Ali Baig (PAK) beat Abdaar Ali (PAK) 6-1,6-0; Ahtesham Humayun (PAK) beat Ho Wan Yeung (HKG) 6-3,6-3; Luke Jie

Xi Ho (SGP) beat Vladislav Chiburaev (RUS) 6-2,6-1; Abubakar Talha (PAK) beat Inam Qadir (PAK) 6-0,6-1; Hamza Roman (PAK) beat Ruoyu Hua (CHN) 6-4,7-5.

Girls Singles Pre-Quarterfinals: Varvara Rubetsova (RUS) beat Kiko Okuyama (JPN) 6-3,2-6,7-5; Zihan Feng (CHN) beat Khadija Khail (PAK) 6-1,6-0; Ai Teng (CHN) beat Zunaisha Noor (PAK) 6-0,6-0; Yijia Wang (CHN) beat Hinako Higaki (JPN) 2-1 (ret); Zhiyu Zhou (CHN) beat Yulia Artuhina (POL) 6-0,6-0; Yitong Lu (CHN) beat Eyu Yoshida (JPN) 6-0,6-1; Srimuk Pritchaphaph (THA) beat Romaisa Malik (PAK) 6-1,6-2; Yerin Lim (KOR) beat Safia Uzoral (KAZ) 6-0,7-6(5).



Federal Minister for Railways, Muhammad Hanif Abbasi and Sindh Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah inaugurated the Rs. 1.33 billion project, aimed at transforming the historic 150-year old Rohri Junction into a modern railway facility within six months.

Ayaz Sadiq inaugurates 11 KV padhana-2 feeder at air avenue grid station, barki, Lahore

PEAK POINT LAHORE: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, inaugurated the 11 KV Padhana-2 feeder at the Air Avenue Grid Station, Barki, Lahore, established under the auspices of the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO). The project, completed at a cost of PKR 30 million, has been successfully accomplished in a remarkably short span of

three months, strengthening of public trust. He reaffirmed that efforts aimed at public welfare projects will continue with the same commitment and dedication. It is worth mentioning that earlier, the 11 KV Padhana feeder was connected to the 132 KV Ghazi Grid Station and was operating under an approximate load of 400 amperes, resulting in system stress along with issues such as voltage.

Millions surrendered as NCC secretariat faces financial gaps

NADEEM TANOLI ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), chaired by Syed Naveed Qamar, has highlighted financial lapses in the National Curriculum Council (NCC) Secretariat and raised questions over its indirect role in controversial decisions by the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education regarding technical institute affiliations. According

to audit documents presented before the committee, funds allocated for the establishment of the NCC Secretariat remained underutilized, with Rs. 48.85 million surrendered back to the government due to vacant posts. Officials explained that these savings occurred under Employees Related Expenses and could not be reallocated to other heads due to Finance Division policy restrictions. In addition,

over Rs. 3 million lapsed at the end of the financial year, reportedly due to administrative issues, including delayed cheque submissions and system-related errors. The PAC session also examined NCC's relevance in a separate audit objection involving FBISE's affiliation of 245 technical institutes without clear legal authority. Audit findings revealed that FBISE collected Rs. 26.75 million in fees

despite lacking provisions in its governing law to regulate technical education. During the proceedings, FBISE management defended its actions by citing the absence of a dedicated technical board in Islamabad and stating that the curriculum for technical programs had been developed by the National Curriculum Council. Committee members noted that while curriculum development falls within

NCC's mandate, it does not automatically grant regulatory or examination authority to FBISE. The issue raised concerns about overlapping responsibilities and gaps in the regulatory framework governing technical education in the federal capital. The PAC emphasized the need for clearer institutional roles, improved financial planning, and strict adherence to legal mandates to avoid misuse of authority and

public funds. Lawmakers also called for better coordination between education bodies to ensure that policy decisions are backed by proper legal and administrative frameworks. The findings have brought attention to both financial inefficiencies and governance challenges within key education institutions, reinforcing calls for accountability and structural reforms in Pakistan's education sector.

Opinion & Editorial

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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

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Highest HCV burden

The healthcare system of Pakistan is currently in such a state that it sometimes punishes citizens for seeking treatment. Many people walk into a hospital seeking affordable medical care and, unbeknownst to them, walk out carrying a highly dangerous viral infection. More often than they, they find out too late. The reuse of syringes, unsafe blood transfusions and improper sterilisation practices are unfortunately alarmingly common. This negligence has propelled Pakistan to the top of global rankings for Hepatitis C (HCV), with 9.8 to 10 million cases. Combined with Hepatitis B (HBV), between 13.8 and 15 million Pakistanis are believed to be living with either virus, and only 25 to 30 per cent are aware of it. The abnormally high number of cases is a direct result of an unchecked medical culture which allows for over 600,000 quack doctors to operate in Pakistan. Often unlicensed, these clinics prioritise profits over patients' safety and end up exposing millions of people to a deadly infection. The trouble with HCV, which directly impacts the liver, is that its symptoms can take decades to materialise. By then, the liver has suffered enough damage to be at risk of scarring, failure or cancer. In a country where even basic outpatient treatment is difficult for many citizens to access, expecting them to show up for unprompted and regular medical checkups or screening tests can only be wishful thinking.

No time for allies

Arifa Noor **T**HERE is a war in the neighbourhood and Pakistan is playing the role of the mediator, trying to convince two old foes to smoke the peace pipe and let bygones be bygones. Old habits die hard, however, and the negotiations between distrustful enemies are fraught with tension. This makes it more difficult for those holding the pipe, i.e., the inhabitants of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

Hence, everyone in Pakistan and elsewhere watches, with the world on the edge of a war and economic disaster. And with world peace at stake, domestic affairs too are at a standstill, even forgotten. Who has time to remember Imran Khan or his wife who continue to be held incommunicado, or other prisoners who too have invoked the wrath of the powerful? No one is now even keeping count of how long it has been since Khan hasn't been allowed to meet his family.

In other words, domestic politics is dead. Indeed, political parties seem so 2025, a style that is not going to return to centre stage soon. This year is all about wars, alliances and oil prices while politicians and political parties are a thing of the past, much like skinny jeans. But if old habits die hard for the Iranians and the Americans, they are equally hard to shed for us ancient hacks, who can do little but keep an eye on politics.

So while the Iranian and American journalists were discovering Islamabad and the media centre, chasing what went down at Serena Hotel, it was hard to miss that the hosts over that busy weekend were the inhabitants of Rawalpindi; the prime minister, Shehbaz Sharif; and his deputy, Ishaq Dar, of the MOFA (ministry of foreign affairs) fame.

The PPP was missing on such an important hosting moment for Pakistan. Now at this stage, the reader may be wondering if I have gone cuckoo. After all, who else would be the hosts? The three who run the country had also been leading the diplomacy hustle in the region, flying to and fro and calling up everyone and their foreign minister, trying to get the warring parties to talk peace. So no wonder once everyone headed to Islamabad, from the airport meet-and-greet to the photo ops at the Serena, only they (and a few others) were there. For some of us, this indicated that all was not well in the state of hybrid nizam (system) last week.

The PPP was missing on such an important hosting moment for Pakistan. Indeed, frenzy and important ally of the N and this hybrid system, the PPP was nowhere around. Indeed, it does seem a bit off that the vice-president of the world's superpower was in town and Pakistan's president wasn't even in the city. More than one story suggested he was in

Sindh. Now some have argued that the PPP is not part of the government and hence had little to do with an event being managed by the federal government. Asif Zardari, according to this argument, holds a constitutional post and is not part of the executive. However, this is a bit hard to accept as until recently, both the prime minister and president were at pains to tell the world that they stood together. For instance, in 2025, Zardari and Sharif reached the airport together more than once to welcome important foreign guests such as the king of Jordan, the Turkish president and others. And now in 2026, when an even more important guest came to town, Zardari didn't bother to stick around. Equally intriguing was the absence of Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari; his only contribution was to give interviews to foreign media channels. Janam janam kay allies, who we are told, will stay together no matter what (or at least till the PTI is persona non grata), were suddenly two different entities with specific roles. That this did not go down well with the PPP can perhaps be gleaned from the party's behaviour once the trip was over. After the guests had left, the party sprang into action to claim some of the glory; for instance, the chief minister of Sindh gave a statement where he gave equal credit to the president, the prime minister and the army chief.

Courtesy Dawn

Know your enemy

Amna Hashmi **I**f you know yourself and know your enemy, you will not fear the results of 100 battles.

It is the most quoted military maxim in recorded history. It is also, without exception, the most ignored one.

We keep fighting the hundred battles. Consider Iran. The US has been grossly misinterpreting that nation for almost 47 years. All the sanctions, all the assassinations, all the ultimatums have been based upon the same false premise, that Iran is a Western rational actor, that pressure yields results, that a country will yield when its economy is bleeding. It doesn't. It thinks in decades and not election cycles.

It takes the punishment in proxies, Hezbollah, the Houthis, and militias in four countries, and never offers a clean target to retaliate. Sun Tzu called it formlessness. You cannot fight something that you cannot define. The maximum pressure doctrine by Trump is based on the assumption that the enemy will flinch. Sun Tzu knew better: a cornered enemy does not surrender. It fights to the last drop of blood. The existing nuclear brinkmanship with Tehran is not pressure at work; it is pressure that is breeding the very desperation it is said to be forestalling.

Then there is Gaza. Israel was familiar with Hamas tactically; its tunnels, its weapons, its command structure, but not with its strategic thinking on October 7th: that the attack was created as much to provoke a reaction as to cause one, making Israeli military superiority a liability in the international arena.

In its turn, Hamas did not fully count on the magnitude of the destruction that was to come. Two parties, each of which was sure it knew the other. Both turned out wrong. Sun Tzu would have recognised this; they were battling the foe they had imagined, not the one they had in front of them.

Courtesy Tribune

E-Commerce, skills training, formalization to unlock Pakistan's export potential: Jam Kamal



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan said that Pakistan can significantly boost its exports by combining skills development, e-commerce integration, and gradual formalization of the economy, while ensuring a level playing field for compliant businesses.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of business leaders and development practitioners led by Taimur Siddique, Director Shahi Group, said a press release

connectivity, skilled labor, and an established industrial ecosystem.

"Pakistan has the talent, infrastructure, and entrepreneurial capacity. Our focus is to connect this potential with global markets through policy support and digital platforms," he said.

During the discussion, participants highlighted successful grassroots initiatives, including stitching and vocational training centers in Balochistan where young women are being trained on modern equipment.

These centers are enabling local communities to produce export-quality goods, creating income opportunities at the grassroots level.

Jam Kamal Khan stressed that training alone is not sufficient without market access.

He underscored the importance of linking such initiatives with e-commerce platforms, allowing locally produced goods to reach international buyers. He noted that digital trade has opened new avenues, particularly for remote and underserved areas.

issued here on Tuesday. The meeting was also attended by Nawabzada Mir Muhammad Zarain Khan Magsi, Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism and Culture, Balochistan, along with representatives from textile, leather, and trade sectors.

The Minister emphasized that Pakistan has a strong foundation for export-led growth, particularly in sectors such as textiles, leather, and value-added recycled products.

He noted that hubs like Karachi offer natural advantages due to port

Govt actively pursuing diversified capital markets strategy, finmin tells EU envoy

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday said the government was actively pursuing a diversified capital markets strategy, aimed at strengthening external buffers and ensuring sustainable financing.

He made the remarks during a meeting with European Union (EU) Ambassador to Pakistan Raimundas Karoblis, the finance ministry said in a post on the social media platform X. The minister underscored Pakistan's steady return to macroeconomic stability and renewed engagement with international capital markets, highlighting "growing investor confidence and the government's commitment to a structured and forward-looking economic reform agenda".

"He noted that Pakistan has recently re-entered international capital markets after a four-year hiatus through a privately placed Eurobond transaction, which witnessed strong investor interest and was successfully

upsized," the ministry said.

It added that Aurangzeb emphasized that "this milestone reflects improving economic fundamentals and signals a positive trajectory for Pakistan's global financial integration".

Aurangzeb further stated that "the government is actively pursuing a diversified capital markets strategy, including future international issuances and innovative financing instruments, aimed at strengthening external buffers and ensuring sustainable financing".

The ministry added that the EU ambassador extended an invitation to the finance minister to participate in the high-level EU-Pakistan Business Forum scheduled to be held on April 28 in Islamabad, which the minister accepted. According to the ministry, Aurangzeb is expected to deliver the keynote address at the opening plenary session on the theme "Pakistan Rising: Incentives, Reforms, and the Next Investment Frontier". It added that the minister appreciated the EU's efforts in "bringing together a large number of



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, holding a meeting with H.E Mr Raimundas Karoblis, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, who called on the Finance Minister.

Governor Kundi calls for enhanced global aid for merged districts

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday emphasized the need for increased support from international humanitarian organizations for the province, particularly the merged districts, which still require greater global attention.

He expressed these views while talking to a two-member delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), led by its Peshawar head Bruno Radicchi, at the Governor House. ICRC Deputy Head Zartasha was also present on

the occasion.

The Governor appreciated the ongoing cooperation of the ICRC with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and highlighted its role in humanitarian assistance.

He said that Afghan refugees crossing through the Torkham border face multiple challenges due to a lack of facilities, adding that directions have been issued to the PRCS to extend maximum support. However, he stressed that further assistance from international organizations would be essential.

Kundi said that residents



of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially those in the merged districts, require improved access to basic facilities, which cannot be ensured without the support of global partners.

Earlier, the delegation briefed the Governor on ICRC's ongoing activities in the province. They informed that the organization is

Naqvi Congratulates Nation on Successful Test of Navy's Taimur Cruise Missile

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday congratulated the nation on the successful test of the Taimur Air-Launched Cruise Missile conducted by the Pakistan Navy.

In an official statement, Naqvi described the successful test of the indigenously developed anti-ship cruise missile as a remarkable achievement by the country's scientists and engineers. He said the accomplishment reflects Pakistan's growing capabilities in the defence sector.

The interior minister termed the successful launch a significant milestone, adding that it further strengthens the country's defence preparedness. He lauded the efforts of the experts involved in the development of the missile system.

Naqvi reaffirmed that the Pakistan Navy remains fully committed to safeguarding the country's maritime boundaries and ensuring national security.

Leghari pays tribute to Allama Iqbal, calls for self-reliance and character building

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari on Tuesday paid rich tribute to Allama Muhammad Iqbal on his death anniversary, saying that Iqbal's teachings continue to offer comprehensive guidance for national development through self-reliance, character building and perseverance.

In his message, the minister said that Iqbal's philosophy serves as a beacon of determination, courage and high ideals for the younger generation. He noted that Iqbal not only inspired youth to dream big but also taught them how to turn those dreams into reality, which is essential for the progress of any nation.

The minister further said



that education and character building form the cornerstone of Iqbal's philosophy, while the concept of selfhood (Khudi) empowers nations to achieve greatness.

He emphasized that sustainable solutions to contemporary challenges could also be found in Iqbal's teachings, urging the nation to draw inspiration from his vision. The minister said that a strong, sovereign and developed Pakistan could only be built by adhering to Iqbal's ideas, which pave the way for national stability and prosperity.

Nawaz highlights PML-N's focus on development ahead of GB elections

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: PML-N President Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday vowed that, if elected, the party would focus on development in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB).

The remarks come ahead of the GB Assembly elections scheduled for June 7, with other parties also ramping up their preparations. Nawaz made the comments in a televised address to the PML-N's parliamentary board for GB, where he highlighted past projects launched by the party in the region.

He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, his younger brother, had the "same passion" for developing GB as him, noting that the region had massive potential.



The former premier highlighted road projects "worth \$60-\$65 billion", adding that "24-hour journeys were reduced to 10 hours". He recalled facing criticism for having a tunnel constructed in Chitral as it was sparsely populated.

Referring to the initiatives undertaken by PM Shehbaz during his time as the Punjab chief minister, and now by his daughter Maryam, Nawaz told the party members: "You should copy it, and all these things."

Bilal Haider Aga CEO and owner Technimen Agha visits Pakistan HC in Nairobi



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Mr Bilal Haider Aga CEO and owner Technimen Agha and Mr. Irfan Alsam, CEO and owner of Longlife surgical visited Pakistan High Commission in Nairobi. Both companies are sialkot based interested to export to Kenya. HE High

Commissioner, Mr. Ibrar Hussain Khan and Commercial counselor, Ms. Adeela Younis met them. The companies are participating in Medic Expo Kenya, on self sponsored basis. Pablic, Nairobi supported the firms for B2B linkages of Kenya importers for surgical instruments!