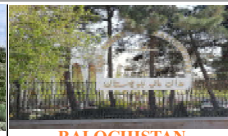




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QUETTA VOICE

Iranian official says CDF Munir's visit yielded 'highly valuable diplomatic achievements'

NEWS DESK:

Iranian President's Office Deputy for Communications and Information Dissemination Seyed Mehdi Tabatabaei on Tuesday described Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's visit to Iran as "highly fruitful", saying it produced "highly valuable diplomatic achievements".

In a post on X, Tabatabaei dismissed "inaccurate media speculation" about the visit, saying its results would "soon become apparent".

"Contrary to some inaccurate media speculation, the visit of Field Marshal Asim Munir, commander of the army of friendly Pakistan, to Iran was highly fruitful and yielded highly valuable diplomatic achievements," he said.

Earlier today, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that "significant progress" had been made in talks with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to end the conflict in the region during his recent visit to Tehran alongside CDF Field Marshal Asim Munir.

"Significant progress was made, and the meeting concluded on a highly positive note. We remain hopeful that this momentum will help pave the way for further progress and lasting peace in the region," Naqvi said in a post on X.

The statement came after CDF Munir and Naqvi concluded their day-long visit to Tehran on Monday, where they pushed for breaking the stalemate in the ongoing US-Iran conflict, reopening the Strait of Hormuz and finding a negotiated settlement to end the conflict.



Chief of Defense Force (CDF), Field Marshal, Syed Asim Munir in Tehran

ility and wider regional instability.

During their meeting with Pezeshkian, Naqvi said he and CDF Munir had a "very positive and productive" discussion with the Iranian president.

"Our discussion focused on the US-Iran conflict, tensions in the Middle East and the way forward, as well as the steps needed by both sides for restoration of the Islamabad MoU thereby leading

to comprehensive settlement of the conflict," he said. Naqvi further said the Iranian president had candidly shared his government's perspective and concerns, adding that they had a "very constructive exchange" on the issues involved.

The statement by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) provided the first detailed official account of CDF Munir's high-level engage-

ments in Tehran amid Pakistan's renewed diplomatic efforts to revive dialogue between Washington and Tehran.

According to ISPR, CDF Munir and Naqvi held "comprehensive discussions" with Iran's top political and security leadership on measures to prevent further escalation, reopen the strategic Strait of Hormuz and bring about an "expedited termination" of the conflict.

The Pakistani military said

the two sides also exchanged views on regional peace and explored ways to reach a negotiated settlement to the disputes.

"The visit was part of Pakistan's diplomatic efforts to end the stalemate in the ongoing US-Iran conflict and explore ways for achieving end to instability in the region," ISPR said in a statement issued at the conclusion of the

daylong trip.

He held separate meetings with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Mohsen Rezaei, the representative of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei on the Supreme National Security Council, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni.

The Iranian leadership, according to ISPR, appreciated Pakistan's "constructive role and sincere efforts" to facilitate dialogue, de-escalation and a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The conflict between Iran and the US that began on February 28 has remained unresolved despite repeated diplomatic efforts by several regional powers, including Pakistan.

A MoU signed by Washington and Tehran on June 17 had envisaged further negotiations towards a permanent settlement, but renewed hostilities subsequently stalled the process.

A major sticking point has been the Strait of Hormuz, a vital global energy route that has remained at the centre of the confrontation. Iran's restrictions on shipping and the US naval blockade have complicated efforts to resume negotiations, with Pakistan, Qatar and Oman stepping up diplomatic contacts to break the deadlock.

Islamabad has argued that resolving the Hormuz standoff could create conditions for the resumption of the broader Iran-US dialogue and has continued efforts to bring the two sides back to the framework of talks.

Balochistan Revenue Authority Appoints 19 Officers on Merit Through HEC

QASEM SHAH:

QUETTA: The Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA) has completed the appointment of 19 officers through the Higher Education Commission (HEC) on the basis of merit, with Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti congratulating the newly selected officers and handing over their appointment letters.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chief Minister Bugti said the entire recruitment process was conducted transparently and without political or executive interference. He highlighted that no candidate from his own constituency, Dera Bugti, was selected, which he said demonstrated that merit was not compromised at any stage.

"I had promised the people of Balochistan from day one that no job would be sold," the chief minister said, adding that more than 14,500 teachers had also been recruited on merit in the Education Department.

Bugti praised Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshervani, BRA Chairperson Abdullah Khan Noorzi and their teams for ensuring complete transparency and meritocracy in the recruitment process.

The chief minister said the Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA) has a critical role in strengthening the province's economy and improving its financial sustainability.

He noted that a significant portion of provincial resources is currently consumed by non-developmental expenditures, leaving limited funds for public welfare and development.



Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA) has completed the appointment of 19 officers through the Higher Education Commission (HEC). Photo DGPR

He expressed hope that the Revenue Authority would generate sufficient resources to at least reduce the burden of non-development expenditure, allowing more public funds to be directed towards the welfare of ordinary citizens.

Addressing the newly appointed officers, Bugti urged them to perform their duties with honesty, dedication and professionalism. He said improving revenue collection and achieving the targets set for the next financial year would be their first major test.

The chief minister also stressed the importance of meritocracy, institutional reform and youth empowerment, saying that expanding merit-based opportunities was essential to reducing the gap between young people and the state.

"Pakistan is our identity, and the state must remain our priority while performing our duties," Bugti said, expressing confidence that Balochistan would achieve economic stability and stand on its own feet.

He further said the provin-

cial government would work to transform the Balochistan Revenue Authority into a model institution. Bugti also welcomed the selection of talented women officers on merit, describing their inclusion as a positive development for the province's public sector.

The chief minister called upon the newly appointed officers to demonstrate unconditional commitment to the state and work collectively to achieve the BRA's institutional and revenue-generation targets.

Two Associates of Former Afghan Commander Reportedly Killed in Quetta Shooting



File Photo of Ambulance

STAFF REPORTER:

QUETTA: Two close associates of Basir Achakzai, a former commander of Afghanistan's previous democratic government, were killed when unidentified armed men opened fire near Sheikh Zayed Hospital in Quetta, police said.

According to the police statement, the incident took place in the vicinity of Sheikh Zayed Hospital, where the two men came under attack by unidentified assailants.

Police said both victims sustained critical gunshot wounds and died in the incident.

Their bodies were shifted for legal and medico-legal pro-

cedures.

The motive behind the shooting was not immediately known. Police and other law-enforcement agencies reached the area following the incident and launched an investigation. Authorities are examining the circumstances surrounding the attack and collecting evidence to determine the identities and whereabouts of the attackers.

The incident has raised concerns over the security situation in Quetta, where sporadic incidents of violence and targeted attacks have been reported in recent months.

Further details, including the identities of the deceased and any arrests, were not immediately available.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan Home Department Completes Landmark Year of Security, Governance and Criminal Justice Reforms

By Saeed Ahmed:

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan's Home Department has completed a landmark year of reforms, introducing a series of legislative, institutional, and administrative initiatives aimed at strengthening law and order, modernizing governance, and enhancing the province's overall security architecture.

Working under the vision of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the department shifted its focus beyond routine administration to long-term institution building, technological modernization, and criminal justice reforms designed to reinforce the writ of the State across Balochistan.

Modern Legal Reforms

During the past year, the Home Department introduced significant legal reforms, including amendments to the Witness Protection framework, reforms to the Balochistan Forensic Science Agency law, legislation enabling Faceless Courts for high-risk terrorism cases, detention centre regulations, the Safe City Authority framework, the Balochistan Prison and Correctional Service Act 2026, and the Probation and Parole Act.

These measures are intended to establish a modern and efficient criminal justice system capable of addressing emerging security threats while improving transparency and accountability.

Institutions Brought into Operation

The department also focused on translat-

ing legislation into practical implementation.

The Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism was made fully operational to support research, policy formulation, and evidence-based counter-extremism strategies. Detention centres were activated under the legal framework for the first time, with the Quetta facility already functional and a modern centre under construction in Turbat.

Strengthening Security Institutions

As part of its institutional reforms, the Home Department operationalized the Provincial Intelligence Fu-

sion and Threat Assessment Centre (PIFAC) to enhance intelligence sharing and inter-agency coordination.

The Balochistan Integrated Security Architecture (BISA) was also established to improve coordination among provincial security institutions.

The Balochistan Charities Registration Authority (BCRA) initiated the province-wide registration of charities, NGOs, and religious seminars in accordance with applicable laws.

Several specialized units, including the Red Notice Cell, Anti-Illegal Spectrum Cell, Anti-Subversion Cell, Anti-Extortion Coordination Mechanism, and Human

Trafficking Cell, were also established to strengthen intelligence-led policing.

Safe City Project Delivers Results

Technology remained at the centre of the department's security strategy.

Safe City operations were reorganized under a unified provincial framework with enhanced institutional oversight, advanced surveillance systems, and digital monitoring tools.

Officials said the system has already facilitated the recovery of more than 100 stolen vehicles and assisted in the

arrest of numerous suspects.

Plans are also underway to expand the Safe City Project to additional cities across Balochistan.

Improved Protection of Public Facilities

For the first time, a comprehensive Security of Vulnerable Establishments programme was implemented throughout the province.

Security audits were conducted at government offices, hospitals, educational institutions, and other sensitive installations, while more than 1,500 locations were equipped with

modern CCTV surveillance systems to strengthen public safety.

Counter-Terrorism Capacity Expanded

The Home Department further enhanced its counter-terrorism capabilities by establishing a dedicated drone surveillance unit to support intelligence gathering, anti-terror operations, and anti-narcotics enforcement.

Bomb disposal units were strengthened, while work continued on introducing video-link proceedings and faceless trials for high-risk terrorism cases to ensure the safety of judges, prosecutors, and witnesses.

law, and eased pressure on public resources.

Historic Anti-Narcotics Operations

The department also launched one of the province's largest anti-poppo campaigns.

Using drone technology, field verification, and coordinated enforcement, thousands of acres of illegal poppy cultivation were identified and destroyed.

Parallel operations against illegal tobacco cultivation and trade resulted in record seizures, helping curb tax evasion and dismantle illicit markets.

Administrative Restructuring

Major administrative reforms included the merger of the Levies Force into the Police Department and the integration of Civil Defence into the Special Branch, improving institutional coordination and operational efficiency.

Towards a Safer Balochistan

Officials describe the past year as the beginning of a broader transformation in Balochistan's security and governance landscape. While acknowledging that significant challenges remain, the Home Department believes the reforms have laid the foundation for stronger institutions, modern policing, improved criminal justice, and sustainable peace.

The transition from legislation to institution building reflects a long-term vision of creating a safer, more stable, and more prosperous Balochistan through effective governance, modern laws, and consistent implementation.



Balochistan: Qila Saifullah Hailstorm Destroys 7M Fruit Trees, 18,000 Farmers Hit

Atta Kakar:

A devastating hailstorm accompanied by powerful winds has caused widespread destruction across Qila Saifullah district in Balochistan, damaging more than 7 million fruit trees and affecting nearly 18,000 farmers and landowners.

The storm struck on April 18, severely impacting one of the province's most important horticultural regions and leaving thousands of rural families facing major economic uncertainty.

The disaster caused extensive damage to orchards, agricultural land, and seasonal crops, particularly apple, apricot, and grape farms that form the backbone of the local economy.

Farmers say years of hard work and investment were wiped out within minutes as hail and strong winds tore through villages and farming areas across the district. Local growers have described the situation as catastrophic, warning that many families may



struggle to survive financially without immediate government assistance.

Farmers say the primary source of income for

a large portion of Qila Saifullah's population, and the destruction of fruit orchards is expected to have long-term economic consequences for the region.

Residents and farming communities have expressed frustration over delays in relief and compensation efforts.

Many affected farmers claim that official assessment and rehabilitation measures have been slow despite the scale of destruction.

Calls are growing for the provincial and federal governments to announce emergency compensation packages, interest-free agricultural loans, and

recovery support for affected communities. Farmers and local representatives are also demanding restoration of damaged irrigation systems and

the introduction of crop insurance mechanisms to help rural communities recover from climate-related disasters.

They argue that without urgent intervention, the crisis could deepen poverty and unemployment across the district.

The Qila Saifullah hailstorm has once again highlighted the vulnerability of Balochistan's agriculture sector to extreme weather events.

Experts warn that climate-related disasters, including hailstorms, droughts, and flash floods, are becoming increasingly frequent in the province.

Placing additional pressure on farmers already struggling with limited infrastructure and rising production costs.

Analysts say stronger disaster management systems, climate-resilient agricultural policies, and faster

emergency response mechanisms are essential to protect rural livelihoods and ensure long-term stability in Balochistan's farming sector.

DPRO/PRO No.1049/25-08-2026

PM forms high-level committee to steer Pak-Iran gas pipeline out of arbitration impasse, NA told

NEWS DESK: Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaz Malik told the Senate on Tuesday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had constituted a high-level committee to work out a mutually acceptable solution to the long-stalled Pak-Iran gas pipeline project, balancing Pakistan's potential financial liability arising from arbitration with its future energy requirements.

Responding to a calling attention notice moved by Senator Ishaq Mahmood, the minister said the committee was examining the legal, financial and energy dimensions of the project to determine a way forward in Pakistan's national interest.

He said Iran was a "brotherly country" and the leadership of the two countries remained engaged in efforts to reach an amicable settlement acceptable to both sides.

Malik said Iran had already made substantial physical progress on its side of the project, bringing gas from the South Pars field to a major Iranian city near the Pakistan border.

The minister said the matter had gone into arbitration in Paris, making it necessary for Pakistan to assess the potential financial liability associated with the project carefully.

He said the government wanted to avoid further complications arising from litigation and was therefore pursuing a negotiated settlement.

"The committee is looking at the potential liability facing Pakistan, the implications of litigation and the country's future energy requirements," Malik said, adding that these factors would help determine the way forward on the project.

Responding to concerns over gas-related issues in Balochistan, the petroleum minister said the premier had directed him to engage with provincial stakeholders.

He said another high-level committee, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, was examining Balochistan's gas-related problems, including technical and payment issues.

On August 14, Pakistan called on Iran to slash the price of gas by half for it to be supplied through the Iran-Pakistan (IP) pipeline project.

It also asked it to lower the gas volume after different sectors in the country showed lack of interest in buying energy supplies at higher prices. At present, the

push ahead with the project if US President Donald Trump gives a waiver to Iran.

The Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, also known as the Peace Pipeline, was conceived to bring Iranian natural gas to Pakistan to help meet the country's growing

energy needs. Iran has already built part of the pipeline inside its territory, while Pakistan failed to complete the project by December 2014. The project has remained stalled for more than a decade, with Pakistan unable to complete its portion of the pipeline. US sanctions on Iran, financing difficulties and broader geopolitical concerns have also been major obstacles.

In 2024, Iran had filed an international arbitration case in Paris over project delays.

local distribution companies are providing gas to fertiliser plants and domestic consumers at Rs1,500, or \$5.7, per million British thermal units (mmBtu) and Rs1,000, or \$3.57, per mmBtu, respectively. Power producers have expressed their inability to pay imported gas at a price of over Rs2,000/mmBtu, which in dollar terms stands at \$7.14. The government has established it as a commercially sustainable market benchmark for the IP gas pipeline.

Moreover, authorities said they would

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Govt fails to maintain quorum as PPP stays away from National Assembly

NEWS DESK: The ruling PML-N on Monday suffered an embarrassing setback in the National Assembly as the lower house was adjourned within minutes for lack of quorum after its estranged ally, the PPP, stayed away from the proceedings over the alleged rigging in the recently-held Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) elections.

The government failed to muster the required number of 84 lawmakers in the 336-member house, forcing the chair to adjourn the session without taking up any agenda item when quorum was pointed out by an opposition member from the PTI.

"No PPP, no quorum, simple," posted PPP's Sharmila Farooqi on her official social media account on X soon after the adjournment of the sitting.

Later, Ms Farooqi told Dawn PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari had already declared the party would "no more cooperate with PML-N on quorum and legislation" in the parliament till their grievances over the alleged rigging and mismanagement in the AJK polls were addressed.

Sharmila says "no PPP, no quorum, simple". Even those party MNAs who were present at the start of the Question Hour left the chamber immediately after seeing only 20 to 25 PML-N members on treasury benches, she

said, adding that the PPP had been completing the quorum in the assembly previously.

Ms Farooqi made it clear that the strategy would not change until their concerns over the alleged rigging in the recently-held Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) elections were addressed. She, however, did not elaborate any specific demand when asked as to what

steps the party wanted the PML-N to take in order to allay their concerns when the election process had already been completed.

When Speaker Ayaz Sadiq earlier announced the opening of the Question Hour, PTI's Ishaq Afridi pointed out lack of quorum.

His action came when the speaker refused him the floor to speak on a point of order.

The speaker ordered a headcount and suspended the proceedings till the completion of the quorum. Some 35 minutes later, Deputy

Speaker Ghulam Mustafa Shah was seen in the chair when the house resumed its proceedings.

He adjourned the sitting till Tuesday after finding the house still not in order due to lack of quorum.

While the PPP had supported the government in the passage of

over the brutal murder of Hina Javed in Rawalpindi and referred the matter to the relevant house committee.

Mr Sadiq disclosed that Hina Javed had been posted in the National Assembly by the National IT Board on attachment from December 2019 till June this year after which she re-



turned to her parent department. He said that though such matters generally fell under provincial jurisdiction, the case was of particular concern since she had served at the NA.

He said the manner in which Hina Javed was murdered, and the violence against women, were matters of serious concern for everyone.

He appreciated the Women Parliamentary Caucus for taking up the matter and said the NA would provide full support in monitoring the case and extending whatever assistance was required.

the two security-related bills last week, Mr Bhutto-Zardari, in the presence of PM Shehbaz Sharif, had objected to the manner with which the government had been doing legislation.

After developing differences with PML-N over the issue of AJK elections, a PPP delegation headed by Mr Bhutto-Zardari called on opposition leaders and sought their cooperation on the legislation in the parliament and its committees.

Hina Javed's murder at the outset of the sitting, the NA speaker expressed his concerns

FM Dar discusses bilateral ties, regional developments in call with Turkish counterpart

NEWS DESK: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar discussed bilateral ties and regional developments during a telephone conversation with his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said on Tuesday.

According to a statement issued by the MoFA, the discussions focused on bilateral relations, regional developments and other matters of mutual interest.

The two ministers also discussed the upcoming meeting of the Regional Four (R4) For-

under the R-4 framework, which was launched earlier this year to intensify consultations on regional crises, particularly the conflict involving the United States and Iran and broader efforts to promote regional stability.

The grouping has held several meetings since March, with its fourth ministerial meeting taking place in Cairo in June.

The latest meeting of the four foreign ministers was held in Amman on August 5 on the sidelines of a ministerial meeting in Jerusalem.

Dar, Saudi Foreign Min-

ister Mohsin Naqvi said on Tuesday that "significant progress" had been made in talks with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to end the conflict in the region during his recent visit to Tehran alongside the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir.

Significant progress was made, and the meeting concluded on a highly positive note. We remain hopeful that this momentum will help pave the way for further progress and lasting peace in the region," Naqvi said in a post on X.

The statement came after CDF Munir and Naqvi concluded their day-long visit to Tehran on Monday, where they pushed for breaking the stalemate in the ongoing US-Iran conflict, reopening the Strait of Hormuz and finding a negotiated settlement to end the conflict and wider regional instability.

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Regional Four to meet later this month. Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Egypt are set to hold another round of high-level consultations in Istanbul later this month, as Islamabad steps up diplomatic co-ordination with key regional powers following the signing of a landmark defence agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.

Turkish FM invited Dar to Istanbul for a meeting of the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Türkiye, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. The invitation was extended during a telephone conversation on August 19.

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Pims says its CT machine 'remains functional' following reports of failure to conduct Imran's heart scan

NEWS DESK: Following reports that jailed PTI founder Imran Khan could not undergo a heart scan during a visit to the hospital last week, the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) said on Tuesday that its CT machine "remains functional and continues to support diagnostic services".

When Imran was brought to PIMS last week for an eye procedure and other diagnostic examinations, doctors recommended a CT coronary angiography (CTA), but hospital staff reportedly said the facility was unavailable.

After undergoing other tests, he was subsequently shifted back to Adala Jail without the CTA, which can help detect coronary blockages and assess the risk of a heart attack. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also took notice of the non-functional CTA facility at PIMS and constituted an inquiry committee to determine the facts.

Sources had earlier

told Dawn that the Cardiac Centre's conventional angiography facility at PIMS was different from a CTA. While conventional angiography involved inserting a catheter into a blood vessel, a CTA was performed using a CT scanner.

In the statement issued on Tuesday, the PIMS administration said, "[The] CT machine, instead of being non-functional and continuing to support diagnostic services," it

said. A senior doctor at PIMS, who wished not to be named, told Dawn that around a dozen CTAs had been conducted before the statement was released.

After reports regarding the failure to conduct the test had emerged, the PTI had reiterated its demand to move Imran to Shifa International Hospital in Islamabad, but no decision was reached.

"Even the government's own doctors considered this diagnostic test necessary," he said. "Yet, when Imran was taken to PIMS, the procedure was not performed. Hospital officials claimed that the required facility was unavailable, despite the presence of a functional CT scanner in the radiology department capable of conducting the test," he alleged.

preme Court had also directed on August 18. PTI Information Secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram also cited details submitted to the court, saying a medical board constituted by the government had examined Imran on August 10 while a PIMS cardiologist emerged, the PTI had recommended the test for him on August 1 due to fluctuating blood pressure, palpitations, headache, restlessness and the potential risk of cardiac complications arising from his age and prolonged isolation.

"Even the government's own doctors considered this diagnostic test necessary," he said. "Yet, when Imran was taken to PIMS, the procedure was not performed. Hospital officials claimed that the required facility was unavailable, despite the presence of a functional CT scanner in the radiology department capable of conducting the test," he alleged.

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