



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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ہم سے سب سے زیادہ فرمان کی کیا ہے
قائد ہے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے زرا رہن آونی نے
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کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے کہ اللہ تعالیٰ نے
میری امت کی ان باتوں کو معاف کیا ہے
جن کا صرف دل میں وسوسہ گزرے یا دل میں
اس کے کرنے کی خواہش پیدا ہو، مگر اس کے
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US-Iran talks in Islamabad may head to third round

Direct negotiations between the United States and Iran continued late into Saturday in Islamabad after more than five hours of talks, with a third round expected as both sides attempt to find common ground under Pakistan's mediation, Iranian state television reported.



Over 200 arrested at pro-Palestine protest in London

Protesters gather to call for the lifting of the ban on the Palestine Action group during a demonstration in Trafalgar Square in central London on April 11, 2026. Palestine Action was proscribed as a terrorist organisation last July, making it a criminal offence to belong to or support the group, punishable by up to 14 years in prison. The High Court in London in mid-February upheld a challenge to the ban, saying it had interfered with the right to freedom of speech.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Shawwal 23, Sunday, April 12, 2026

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 3550 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

New Era

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with the Iranian delegation led by the Honorable Speaker of the Iranian Consultative Assembly, Mr. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf at Islamabad Talks on Saturday.



Photo: APP

UN chief urges US, Iran to seize talks in Islamabad for de-escalation



News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called on the United States and Iran to engage in good faith as talks mediated by Pakistan are set to begin in Islamabad over the weekend.

The United Nations (UN) chief urged the parties to use the diplomatic opportunity to advance de-escalation and prevent a return to hostilities, his spokesperson told reporters at the regular noon briefing at UN Headquarters in New York on Friday.

Guterres stressed that there was no viable alternative to a peaceful resolution of the conflict, in line with international law and the UN Charter.

His Personal Envoy for the Middle East, Jean Arnault, remained in the region to support ongoing diplomatic efforts, it was pointed out.

PM Shehbaz meets US, Iran delegations amid peace push

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held separate meetings with visiting US and Iranian delegations on Saturday, as Islamabad stepped up efforts to mediate high-stakes talks between the two sides.

Sharif met US Vice President JD Vance, who was accompanied by Washington's special envoy Steve Witkoff and adviser Jared Kushner.

According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, Sharif expressed hope that the diplomatic engagement would serve as a foundation for lasting peace in the region.

Both sides discussed the ongoing diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions and key regional issues.

The meeting was also attended by US special envoy Steve Witkoff and presidential adviser Jared Kushner.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi were also present.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, both sides appreciated the commitment to constructive and positive engagement, with Sharif expressing hope that the ongoing talks would serve as a step toward lasting peace in the region.

The prime minister reiterated Pakistan's willingness to continue facilitating dialogue between the parties to advance durable peace efforts. During the meeting, the two sides also exchanged views on key regional developments and issues of mutual interest.

Comprehensive facilities provided to journalists for coverage of Islamabad peace talks: Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar announced on Saturday that comprehensive facilities were being ensured at the Jinnah Convention Center for seamless coverage of the historic Islamabad peace talks.



The minister, while talking to the media, said that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar had already announced that the journalists from the United States and Iran arriving in Islamabad for coverage of the peace talks would be granted visa-on-arrival.

More than 50 journalists from around the world have arrived in Islamabad, the minister said, adding that journalists from China, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Germany, South Korea and others had already submitted applications for a visa to cover such a significant event.

Welcoming the foreign journalists in Islamabad, he said the government's primary

Pakistan hopes Iran, US will 'engage constructively'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Saturday called for the United States and Iran to "engage constructively" at talks in Islamabad aimed at ending the Middle East war, after both delegations arrived in the Pakistani capital.

Ishaq Dar "expressed the hope that parties would engage constructively, and reiterated Pakistan's desire to continue facilitating the parties towards reaching lasting and durable solution to the conflict."

Earlier, Iran's parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said that previous experiences negotiating with the United States had led to a lack of trust.

"We have good intentions but we do not trust," Iranian state media quoted him as saying. "Our experience in negotiating with the Americans has always been met with failure and broken promises," he added.



Israeli airstrikes hit Gaza camps, causing multiple casualties

Wafa

GAZA: Multiple Palestinians were killed and wounded in Israeli strikes targeting civilian areas in the Gaza Strip. According to Arab media and medical sources, one of the attacks struck Block 9 of the Al-Bureij Refugee Camp in central Gaza, where civilians were reportedly targeted.



Medical officials at Al-Aqsa Hospital said six bodies and seven injured people were brought to the facility following the strike.

Health sources said four of the wounded were in critical condition, raising fears the death toll could rise.

At Al-Awda Hospital, one fatality and two injured individuals were confirmed.

US, Pakistan, Iran holding trilateral face-to-face talks: White House

AFP

The United States, Pakistan and Iran were holding face-to-face trilateral talks in Islamabad on Saturday, the White House said, as top officials met to try and end the war in the Middle East.

A senior White House official said the three sides were holding the direct talks in person, a departure from recent practice where Washington and Tehran held talks only through a mediator while seated in separate rooms.

The US delegation included Vice President JD Vance, US envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, the White House said. It did not say who from the Iranian or Pakistani sides was taking part.

Pakistani forces arrive at Saudi airbase under defence pact



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia's Defence Ministry has said that Pakistani forces, including fighter jets and support aircraft, arrived at a Saudi airbase on Saturday under a bilateral defence agreement between the two countries.

levels, the ministry said.

The defence pact, signed in September, stipulates that any attack on one country would be considered an attack on both.

Pakistan has long provided military support to the kingdom, including training and advisory deployments, while Saudi Arabia has repeatedly stepped in to support Pakistan financially during periods of economic stress.

Saudi Arabia's finance minister Mohammed Al-Jadaan, was in Pakistan on Friday to demonstrate economic support for the country, a source familiar with the situation said.

According to the ministry, the deployment took place at King Abdulaziz Air Base, which was targeted by drone and missile attacks during the recent Iran conflict.

The move is aimed at enhancing joint military coordination and reinforcing security and stability at both regional and international

PM Rathore meets PPP Women's Wing, pledges support for remote areas

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has reaffirmed his government's commitment to addressing public concerns and expanding development projects all across the region, particularly in remote areas of the state.

He made these remarks while speaking to a delegation of the Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir Women's Wing, led by President Shaheen Kausar Dar. "Dedicated party workers are the true strength of the Pakistan Peoples Party, whose central mission is the welfare and prosperity of the common



man," the pm said.

Stressing the importance of grassroots engagement, he called for further strengthening of the party's organizational structure and for providing women with equal leadership opportu-

nities at all levels.

The delegation also included General Secretary Shagufta Noreen Kazmi, former Member of Assembly Kausar Gilani, Information Secretary Zobia Khurshed Raja, and Punjab Zone

President Musarrat Gujjar. During the meeting, the delegation briefed the Prime Minister on the party's organizational matters, workers' activities, and the role of the Women's Wing, particularly in the context of the upcoming elections.

They also highlighted the socio-economic challenges faced by people in various districts and discussed government initiatives concerning fundamental rights, along with future priorities.

The Women's Wing leaders paid tribute to the Prime Minister for his efforts in improving governance, advancing public welfare projects, and promoting overall development in Azad Kashmir.

Kashmir Madrasa Body Slams Minister Over 'Character Assassination' Allegations

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Ittehad-e-Tanzeem Madrasahs Azad Kashmir has condemned the statement of the Minister for Religious Affairs of Azad Kashmir Rafiq Nayyar, calling it a campaign of character assassination against madrasahs.

According to statement issued by the spokesman of Ittehad-e-Tanzeem Madrasahs Azad Kashmir Maulana Syed Adnan Ali Shah, while reacting strongly to an official press release issued by the Azad Kashmir government on Thursday, said that madrasahs are the strongholds of Islam and are assisting the government in increasing the literacy rate in the society, but unfortunately, some unsuspecting people, on the orders of outsiders, are making false allegations against these same madrasahs, which is condemnable. The scholars said that they strongly condemn the alleged murder and rape of a child in Kotli and demand an impartial and transparent investigation and demand strict punishment for the accused involved. If any person related to the madrasah is involved in this, he should be severely punished.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir Medical College Muzaffarabad's excellent academic results

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Mirwaiz Maulana Muhammad Farooq Shaheed Azad Jammu and Kashmir Medical College Muzaffarabad performed brilliantly in the recent annual results, securing an overall score of 98.11 percent, as a result of which the college stood third among all medical colleges of Punjab according to the annual third year results of the University of Health Sciences.

For this excellent achievement, the public, students, and the medical community paid tribute to the leadership of Principal Professor and his entire faculty team.

According to the college spokesperson, this achievement is a matter of pride not only for the students but also its principal Adnan Mehrjuddin and faculty for the academic standard of the college and its reputation across the country.

Principal Professor Dr. Adnan Meraj said "Our success is the result of the hard work of the students, the dedication of the faculty, and the support of the parents. Our aim is to maintain the best academic standards every year and provide world-class medical education to the students."

Hyderabad: Civil Society protests over Fahmida Laghari case



Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Civil society members staged a protest outside the Hyderabad Press Club against the alleged suicide/murder of a medical student, Fahmida Laghari, from Mirpurkhas. A large number of social activists, lawyers, and citizens participated in the demonstration.

The protest was led by Abbas Khoso, Advocate Bhagwandas Bheel, Khalid Baber, Professor Jareel Sangi, Advocate Ameer Haider Baber, Sindhyar Soomro, Asad Azad, Arbab Ibrahim Rahmoon, Imtiaz Gurgji, Sahil Gabol, and others.

Speakers expressed serious concern over the circumstances surrounding Fahmida Laghari's death, stating that the case requires a transparent, independent, and thorough investigation. They claimed that it is not a case of suicide but murder, and demanded the immediate arrest of all those involved.

The protesters urged the government and law enforcement agencies to take the matter seriously, ensure justice for the affected family, and bring the truth to light without any pressure or influence.

They further emphasized the need for strong measures to prevent such incidents in the future, particularly to ensure the safety of students, especially female students.

During the protest, participants carried placards and banners demanding justice and the arrest of the accused. The demonstration remained peaceful, with protesters calling for immediate action.

Civil society leaders warned that if justice is not served in the Fahmida Laghari case, the scope of protests will be expanded.

Husband apprehended for committing domestic violence in Toba Tek Singh

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A swift response by the Punjab Safe Cities Authority's Virtual Women Police Station has led to the arrest of a man accused of subjecting his wife to prolonged domestic violence in Toba Tek Singh. The victim reached out through an emergency Helpline-15 call, prompting immediate action by the relevant authorities.

According to initial reports, the woman had been enduring severe domestic abuse and violence at the hands of her husband for a prolonged period. She further alleged that the suspect attempted to falsely portray her as mentally ill in order to undermine her credibility of being subjected to brutal domestic violence and therefore dismiss her complaints. While the accused initially denied the allegations during preliminary investigation, video evidence provided by the victim substantiated the claims of domestic abuse.

The spokesperson of Punjab Safe Cities Authority stated that upon receiving the distress call, the Virtual Women Police Station promptly dispatched a female police officer to the scene. The officer ensured the victim's safety and facilitated a live video link call with the Safe City officials for real-time coordination and swift action. The case was immediately escalated to the senior authorities, and the victim underwent a medico-legal examination.

The spokesperson apprised that subsequently, a formal case was registered against the accused, who was taken into custody without delay. Further legal proceedings are currently underway.

The spokesperson urged women facing emergencies to call emergency Helpline -15 and press "92" to connect directly with the Virtual Women Police Station representative. Additionally, complaints can be lodged through the Safe City Public Safety App via video call for prompt assistance as well. The spokesperson underscored that the Punjab Safe Cities Authority reaffirms its unwavering commitment to ensuring safety, protection, and timely justice for women through rapid response and effective policing mechanisms in the entire province.

Inter-city transport closed

ISLAMABAD: A family walks past the closed inter-city transport stop at Faizabad area in the Federal Capital. The inter-city bus terminal closed due to security reason as the US Vice President JD Vance and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi gathered in Islamabad on Saturday to hold talks that seek to end their war in the Middle East.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Spokesperson hails Rathore as symbol of public hope during birthday event

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The birthday of the Prime Minister of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir State and Secretary General of the Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore was celebrated with great devotion, respect and ideological enthusiasm in the Azad region. Cakes were cut and sweets were distributed in all the districts and towns of Azad Kashmir, including cities and towns.

The ceremony was presided over by the Central Deputy Secretary for Records of the PPP, Asad Habib Awan. The grand birthday ceremony was attended by senior party leaders Chaudhry Nazir Inqilabi, Shaukat Rathore, Khaksar Abdul Rehman, Sagar Mehtab Abbasi, Holy Prince Zubair Ahmed Saddam Qureshi, and officials and workers in large numbers.

Addressing the ceremony, Spokesperson for the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Shaukat Javed Mir, said that Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has become a symbol



and guarantee of public hopes, state identity and national dignity, just as his father, the respected son of Kashmir Raja Mumtaz Hussain Rathore, won the honor of ruling the hearts of the people with his good conduct and service to the people.

Similarly, during his short term in

office, Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, worked day and night to activate the system and became the center of attention of the nation.

He said that in the general elections, the PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto, Chairperson Mohtarma Faryal Talpur

and the party's central senior leader Chaudhry Riaz will re-establish the government by hoisting the flags of brilliant success under the leadership of Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, and a revolutionary era of construction, development, education, health, and employment will begin

Prize distribution ceremony held by District Elementary Board Kotli

Shaukat Ali Malik

KOTLI: A prestigious prize distribution ceremony was organized by the District Elementary Board Kotli at its office on the occasion of the announcement of annual examination results for Grade 5 and Grade 8. During the event, shields and certificates were awarded to the top 20 position holders from both classes.

The ceremony was attended by Divisional Director Takhliq-uz-Zaman, District Education Officer (Male) Syed Jamsheer Bukhari, District Education Officer (Female) Saeeda Andaleeb, DDS, heads of various educational institutions, teachers, students, and a large number of parents. The atmosphere of the event



was filled with joy, pride, and a strong spirit of academic excellence.

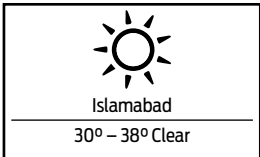
Addressing the ceremony, DDS Takhliq-uz-Zaman congratulated the successful students and said that their achievement was the result of their hard work, guidance from teachers, and prayers of their parents. He emphasized that education is the only path that guarantees the progress and prosperity of nations, urging students to continue their academic journey with dedication and commitment.

District Education Officer Syed Jamsheer Bukhari stated that the outstanding performance of students

at the district level reflects the tireless efforts of teachers, whose role is vital in shaping the future of the nation. He reaffirmed the commitment to utilize all available resources to further improve the standard of education.

District Education Officer (Female) Saeeda Andaleeb highlighted that female students have also shown remarkable performance, proving they are second to none. She urged parents to pay special attention to the education of their children, particularly girls.

At the end of the ceremony, shields and certificates were distributed among the position holder students, while teachers who demonstrated outstanding performance were also appreciated.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:16 am
Zohr 12:09 pm
Asr 4:45 pm
Maghrib 6:36 pm
Isha 8:02 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 92706044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan
Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

BingX Futures Grid Expands to Gold, Silver, and Oil, Bringing Automated Precision to Macro Trading

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: BingX, a leading cryptocurrency exchange and Web3-AI company, today announced the expansion of its futures grid trading feature to include TradFi assets Gold, Silver, and Oil.

This update enhances the range of instruments available within BingX's automated trading tools, enabling users to apply systematic strategies to key macro assets directly on the BingX app.

With the addition of these commodities, BingX continues to strengthen its rapidly growing TradFi suite, currently supporting over 100 TradFi assets.

Fully integrated across the BingX ecosystem, including futures, spot, copy trading, and BingX AI, BingX TradFi provides users with seamless access to commodities, forex, stocks, and indices within a unified trading environment.

Senate Chairman Gilani visits Dera Ghazi Khan for Khosa condolences, hails Pakistan's peace role

Kiran Asim

DERA GHAZI KHAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has said that the negotiations between the world's superpowers America and Iran

will be successful and Pakistan's value in the eyes of the world will increase further. Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khan Khosa was a valuable asset of the country.

He expressed these views while talking to the media on the occasion



of condolence on the death of Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khan Khosa at Khosa House on Saturday.

Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani said that the purpose of my coming to Dera Ghazi Khan is to express condolences to the family of Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khan Khosa on the death of Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khan Khosa. Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khosa was a valuable asset of the country and his sons also played an

important role in the country's politics.

He said that I had a long-standing attachment to Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khosa and I pray that Allah Almighty elevates the ranks of the deceased. Regarding the US-Iran war, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani said that Allah Almighty has given Pakistan a great position and it is playing a key role for peace in the region.

He said that I am hopeful that Pakistan will also face future challenges

effectively and emerge victorious.

Earlier, when Chairman Senate Khosa reached Khosa House, he was welcomed by Sardar Dost Muhammad Khosa, Sardar Hussamuddin Khosa and Sardar Saifuddin Khosa. On this occasion, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani expressed his condolences to the family of Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khan Khosa and prayed for the elevation of the deceased's rank.

In Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Poor children searching for valuables from a garbage container, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Pakistan's Diplomatic Role Praised Amid Expected Iran-US Talks in Islamabad

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: Former Chairperson of the Overseas Pakistanis Commission (OPC) North UK, Misbah Qaisar, has welcomed the anticipated diplomatic developments involving Pakistan, describing them as a significant achievement on the global stage.

In her recent statement, Misbah said that the expected arrival of a high-profile United States delegation in Pakistan would mark a historic moment in the country's diplomatic history. She noted that, for the first time, the U.S. Air Force One aircraft is expected to land in Pakistan, carrying U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance along with his negotiating team.

Such a development will not only elevate Pakistan's global standing but will also be closely watched by the international



community," she said.

Highlighting the broader significance, Misbah stated that Pakistan is currently making headlines worldwide due to its potential role in facilitating Iran-U.S. peace talks in Islamabad. She emphasized that, despite political differences with the government, hosting such high-level negotiations represents a major success for the country.

She further noted that the development has sparked strong reactions in India, with questions being raised about why Pakistan has been chosen as the venue for these sensitive discussions.

Welcoming the visiting delegations, Misbah said Pakistan looks forward to hosting both Iranian and American representatives, expressing hope that the talks would contribute to regional stability and global peace.

RPO Sohail Sukhera urges professionalism, promises support to force at Police Darbar

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Faisalabad Sohail Akhtar Sukhera addressed police officers at the Police Lines, Faisalabad, where a Police Darbar was held to review performance and address departmental matters.

City Police Officer (CPO) Sahibzada Bilal Umar, SSP Investigation, town SPs, SDPOs, SHO's and other police officers were also present on the occasion. The RPO Sohail Sukhera issued immediate directives for the resolution of issues raised by police officers and personnel.

Speaking at the Police Darbar, RPO Sohail Sukhera urged officers to improve their performance and maintain strict departmental discipline while discharging their professional responsibilities with honesty and dedication. He emphasised courteous behaviour towards complainants visiting police stations and directed that official duties be carried out without any pressure or influence.

Highlighting the importance of the rule of law, the RPO Sohail Akhtar stressed that all matters should be handled strictly on merit. He directed officers to continue indiscriminate action against drug peddlers and gamblers and to accelerate efforts for the arrest of proclaimed offenders involved in heinous crimes.

LCCI to Host Grand Launch of Out of Home Media Awards 2026



Tahir Amin Malik

The grand launching ceremony of the "Out of Home Media Awards 2026" will be held on 13th April 2026 at Jinnah Auditorium, Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Lahore. The event will be attended by prominent personalities, experts, business leaders and other key stakeholders associated with the Out of Home Media industry. Details regarding the aims and objectives of the awards, categories and the upcoming main event will also be presented on this occasion.

The event is an important effort to recognize the growth, innovation and excellence of the industry, which aims to pay tribute to those who have rendered outstanding services in the Out of Home Media sector.

The Chairman Out of Home Media Awards (OOH) Ch. Irfan who is the Chairman of Out of Media Awards (OOH) while Waseem Hassan Awan will be event organizer, Waseem Awan said all the arrangements and Faheem-Ur-Rehman Sehgal President Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be the Chief Guest in this Unveiling Award Ceremony and the this Ceremony will be held at (LCCI) on 13th April.

DC Umar Abbas Mela Reviews Arrangements for Anti-Polio Drive

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: A significant meeting of the District Polio Eradication Committee was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Toba Tek Singh Umar Abbas Mela to review in detail the arrangements for the National Anti-Polio Campaign scheduled from April 13 to 16, 2026. Officers from the Health Department and other relevant departments attended the meeting.

On this occasion, District Health Officer (DHO) Toba Tek Singh Dr. Faizan while giving a briefing, informed that a target has been set to administer polio drops to 4,33,838 children across the district.

He further stated that to ensure the success of the campaign, 1,916 mobile teams, 106 fixed teams and 49 transit teams have been constituted, while 355 area in-charges will supervise the performance of field teams.

Targets have also been assigned in different tehsils including Gojra, Toba Tek Singh, Kamalia and Pirmahal. Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela stated that the fight against polio is a national responsibility and access to every child will be ensured at all costs. He made it clear that no negligence or laxity will be tolerated.

PML-Q Ulema and Mashaikh Wing Formalizes Central Office Bearers at Islamabad Ceremony

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The formal ceremony for issuing the notification of the central office bearers of the Ulema and Mashaikh Wing of Pakistan Muslim League was held at the Central Secretariat, Muslim League House Islamabad.

General Secretary Tariq Hassan said that the Pakistan Muslim League (Q) is being activated across the country, and under the guidance of Ulema and Mashaikh, efforts will be made to rid the country of sectarianism and unrest. He also paid tribute to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for their efforts in easing tensions between the United States and Iran.



Chief Organizer Dr. Muhammad Amjad stated that the politics of PML-Q President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain is based on peace, harmony,

and brotherhood. Central Information Secretary Mustafa Malik said that Ulema and Mashaikh should play their full role in making the country

a cradle of peace.

President of the Ulema and Mashaikh Wing, Pir Syed Chiragh-ud-Din Shah, said that he has always worked for unity of the Muslim Ummah, and that Ulema and Mashaikh support the ideology of the Muslim League. Notifications were distributed among the newly elected office bearers, including: President Pir Syed Chiragh-ud-Din Shah, Senior Vice Presidents Al-Haj Muhammad Irshad Abbasi and Hafiz Muhammad Saleheen, Vice President Allama Zahid Kazmi, General Secretary Hafiz Muhammad Iqbal Rizvi, Deputy Secretary Syed Asif Hamdani, Additional Secretary Qari Syed Moeen-ud-Din Shah and Allama Zarshad Elahi, Finance Secretary Haji Abdul Majeed, and others.

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The World Turns to Pakistan to Stop the Iran War

There are moments in history when nations rise not through conquest, but through restraint; not through power projection, but through wisdom, patience, and credibility. Today, Pakistan finds itself at precisely such a moment—standing at the crossroads of global diplomacy, basking in a rare but well-earned limelight, as the world watches its steady hands guide a dangerously fractured geopolitical order toward a fragile peace.

For a country often viewed through the narrow prism of security challenges and economic struggles, this transformation is nothing short of extraordinary. Pakistan has emerged, almost unexpectedly yet decisively, as the linchpin in one of the most volatile confrontations of our time—the near-cataclysmic standoff between the United States and Iran, a confrontation that carried within it the terrifying potential of engulfing the Middle East, and possibly the world, in unprecedented destruction.

This moment did not arrive by accident. It is the culmination of decades of institutional maturity, diplomatic grooming, and a deeply embedded tradition within Pakistan's civil and military leadership to navigate crises with calculated prudence. Those who have served within the corridors of Pakistan's bureaucracy—whether in the Press Information Department, the Presidency, or diplomatic missions abroad—have witnessed

firsthand the slow but steady evolution of a state apparatus capable of rising to extraordinary challenges.

At the center of this unfolding narrative stands Asim Munir, a figure whose ascent was once surrounded by uncertainty and debate, but whose leadership today commands recognition on the global stage. Observers who once sensed in him an independent, resolute, and difficult-to-contain personality have seen those very traits transform into strategic assets. His ability to maneuver within Pakistan's complex political and constitutional framework, while simultaneously engaging global powers with clarity and confidence, has redefined the country's diplomatic posture.

Equally significant is the alignment between Pakistan's civilian leadership and its institutional machinery. Under the stewardship of Shehbaz Sharif, the country has projected a unified voice—measured, composed, and unwavering in its commitment to peace. This harmony between civil and military leadership has been instrumental in elevating Pakistan's credibility at a time when trust deficits dominate international relations.

The crisis itself was of an apocalyptic scale. The threat of annihilation—of an ancient civilization with over five

millennia of history—was not rhetorical exaggeration but a looming possibility. The United States, under Donald J. Trump, had signaled an unprecedented willingness to escalate, while Iran stood equally resolute, prepared to defend its sovereignty at any cost. Between these two immovable positions lay the fate of millions, the stability of global energy routes, and the economic future of nations far removed from the battlefield.

It was within this perilous vacuum that Pakistan stepped forward—not as a partisan actor, but as a credible mediator. Through quiet diplomacy, backchannel engagements, and relentless persuasion, Pakistan facilitated a ceasefire that many had deemed impossible. The reopening of dialogue channels, the de-escalation of military posturing, and the initiation of structured negotiations all bear the imprint of Pakistan's diplomatic intervention.

This intervention has not gone unnoticed. Across capitals—from Washington to Tehran, from Riyadh to European power centers—there is a growing acknowledgment of Pakistan's role as a stabilizing force. The language of international diplomacy, often cautious and understated, has begun to reflect a newfound respect for Pakistan's stra-

tegic maturity and diplomatic acumen. Perhaps the most visible manifestation of this recognition is the unprecedented warmth in high-level engagements. The rapport between Pakistan's leadership and global figures, including President Trump, signals a shift in perception. When a leader of such global influence expresses personal regard for a foreign military commander, it underscores not just individual chemistry but institutional credibility.

Simultaneously, Pakistan's Foreign Office—long regarded as one of the most seasoned diplomatic corps in the region—has risen to the occasion with remarkable finesse. Its officers, shaped by decades of rigorous training and exposure, have demonstrated an ability to balance competing narratives, reconcile divergent interests, and articulate positions that resonate across ideological divides. This institutional strength, often overlooked, is now proving to be Pakistan's greatest asset.

The stakes, however, remain extraordinarily high. The ongoing negotiations between the United States and Iran, hosted on Pakistani soil, represent more than just a bilateral engagement. They are a test of whether diplomacy can prevail over confrontation in an era increasingly defined by zero-sum thinking.

Three possible trajectories emerge from these talks. The first, and most

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

UN demands accountability for violations of rules of war in Mideast

UN agency chiefs on Saturday demanded an end to impunity for widespread international law violations in the Middle East, as casualties pile up six weeks into the war unleashed by US-Israeli strikes on Iran.

In a joint statement, the heads of multiple United Nations agencies said they were "alarmed by the sustained violations of the rules of war and international humanitarian law" in the region.

"Even wars have rules, and these rules must be respected," the statement from the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee said.

The joint statement — penned by UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher along with the heads of the UN agencies for human rights, health, food, refugees and children among others — decried the soaring toll since the Middle East war erupted on February 28.

"In just the last month across the Middle East, thousands of civilians have been killed and injured. Hundreds of thousands have been displaced, many multiple times," it said.

"The numbers continue to rise and essential services are increasingly difficult to access.

"Health workers, hospitals and ambulances have been targeted. Schools have been struck. Civilian infrastructure — including bridges, residential buildings, houses, water facilities and power plants — has been destroyed," it said.

The agency chiefs voiced particular concern about the impact on "women and children and others with specific needs", as well as on global supply chains, "with food and fuel prices on the rise".

At the same time, they highlighted that "our humanitarian colleagues have been caught up in the hostilities".

Just since the beginning of this year, they said, "14 aid workers have been killed or injured in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, eight in Iran and five in Lebanon".

"This is an alarming toll." The agency chiefs said they "strongly condemn all attacks on civilians, including humanitarian and health workers, as well as civilian objects".

"We demand that all parties — whether Member States of the United Nations or armed groups — respect their legal obligation to protect civilians, including humanitarian personnel, and civilian infrastructure," they said.

"All violations must be met with accountability."



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashfaq Al-Awcat)

When People Move, Cities Change

Punjab's public transport network has crossed a historic milestone, with over 1.14 million passengers using free transit services in a single day — the highest daily ridership ever recorded in the province. The figure, logged on April 8, is the clearest signal yet that the Punjab government's decision to eliminate fares across its metro, bus rapid transit and electric bus networks has struck a deep chord with an inflation-weary public.

The initiative covers the Orange Line Metro Train, Lahore Metrobus, Speedo buses and an expanding fleet of electric buses operating across major urban centers. Data from the Punjab Mass Transit Authority shows the public response has far exceeded all initial projections. On April 6, more than 1.03 million passengers used the free service — itself a remarkable figure — before the daily record was broken again on April 8. Between April 4 and April 8, over 4.79 million passengers travelled free of charge and the five-day cumulative total surpassed 6 million journeys, a figure larger than the entire population of several major global cities.

The Orange Line Metro Train emerged as the undisputed backbone of Lahore's urban mobility, carrying over 340,000 passengers on April 6 alone and logging more than 1.52 million trips across five days. The Lahore Metrobus served approximately 850,000 commuters during the same period, while Speedo buses carried over 700,000. Electric buses, a comparatively recent addition to Punjab's transit landscape, drew over 23,500 passengers in Lahore and 40,000 in Rawalpindi — figures that reflect both growing public confidence in sustainable transit and the scale of previously unmet demand. In southern Punjab, the Multan Metrobus served over

82,000 passengers in a single day, with feeder routes absorbing nearly 31,000 more. Across all services, ridership surged 61 percent above normal daily averages — an unambiguous public endorsement of the policy.

Recognising that demand was rapidly outstripping supply, the government moved swiftly to augment the fleet. Thirty-five additional buses were deployed in Multan, 30 in Sialkot and 35 in Gujranwala — cities where transit infrastructure has historically lagged behind rapid urban growth. Officials have indicated that the expansion reflects a lasting institutional commitment rather than a short-term political gesture.

The policy carries significant economic weight. Urban economists have long argued that commuting costs function as a regressive tax, consuming a disproportionately large share of income from low-wage workers. In Pakistan, where a substantial segment of the urban workforce earns at or near minimum wage, daily transport expenses can account for 10 to 20 percent of household income. By eliminating fares, the Punjab government has effectively delivered an unconditional income transfer to those who need it most — one that requires no application, no means test and no bureaucratic intermediation.

There is an equally compelling environmental case. By drawing commuters away from private vehicles and onto mass transit, the initiative directly reduces urban congestion and carbon emissions — two of the defining challenges facing Pakistan's rapidly expanding cities. Governments from Tallinn in Estonia to the entire nation of Luxembourg have experimented with fare-free public transport and the evidence broadly supports its effectiveness in cutting traffic and pollution when paired with genuine network investment. Punjab's simultaneous rollout of electric buses strengthens

this green dimension further, accelerating the province's shift away from diesel-heavy fleets toward cleaner, quieter urban mobility.

At its core, however, this initiative is about something simpler and more fundamental than economics or emissions. Access to reliable transport determines whether a student can reach a university on the other side of the city, whether a woman from a low-income household can pursue employment independently and whether a daily wage worker can afford to show up. Free public transit, in this sense, is not merely a subsidy — it is an infrastructure of opportunity and its absence has long functioned as an invisible wall around economic participation for millions of Punjabis.

The road ahead is rich with possibilities. The surge in ridership presents an exciting opportunity to refine and strengthen service quality, while the long-term financing of free fares opens the door to innovative, sustainable fiscal frameworks. Expanding equitable access to peri-urban and rural communities remains an inspiring frontier — one that the government is well-positioned to pursue with the momentum this initiative has already built. The enthusiasm with which millions of commuters have embraced free transit is itself the strongest possible mandate for continued investment and there is every reason to believe that prudent planning will translate this early triumph into a permanent transformation of urban life.

But the opening statement has been made with unmistakable force. With over 6 million free journeys completed in five days, records broken on consecutive occasions and demand still climbing, Punjab has demonstrated something that policymakers would do well to note — that when governments remove the cost barrier to mobility, people move. And when people move, cities change.

(The writer is a Lahore-based public policy analyst and can be reached at qudratu@gmail.com)



Analysis

Qudrat Ullah

Global Isolation Forces Trump's Desperate Ceasefire Ploy with Iran

It's a shame that Trump is proven to be the Liar, Hypocrite & War Criminal throughout the Iran war. After 6 weeks of war, the US-Israel did a ground operation in Iran to take away their Uranium. Whereas, Iran on intelligence of China, put a trap for them and successfully destroyed many of their planes, helicopters along with many casualties of the commandos.

After such a humiliating defeat in the operation, Trump threatened for a nuclear attack to wipe out the Iranian Civilization. What can be expected from Real Estate Agent, who is installed as the President to enforce the agenda of his Israeli masters. A person is threatening an ancient Persian civilization, whose own country has a history of 2500 years, full of slavery where even the Blacks were given the right of vote just 50 years ago.

He also forgot that Iran isn't alone. The intelligence & weapons of China, Russia & N Korea are on its disposal, who want to sink the supremacy of the US in the Persian Gulf by proxy of Iran. So, to respond to the US-Israeli aggression, Iran set the water & power plants, oil refineries, commercial & military targets in Israel and the Gulf states. Whereas, due to his war crimes and implications in Epstein files, Trump is isolated by his NATO & European allies and even the Arabs, Japan & S Korea don't want to deal with the declared Psychopathic Trump.

Iran NEVER asked for negotiations, as it was deceived twice by the US, which gains time to build up its military might to crush Iran. Also, Iran is now very strong because China, Russia & North Korea are providing strategic intelligence and weapons even allegedly the ICBMS with nuclear warheads to neutralize the US & Israel to control the economy & defense of the world. Even Iran alone with 450 Kgs of 60% enriched

Uranium can destroy Israel and the Gulf states with dirty bombs.

Given such an intelligence, the desperate Trump manipulated Pakistan again for a ceasefire to recover his global disgrace in return of keeping Khan in jail and to continue the unlawful regime in Pakistan. So, PM Shabbaz published on his Tweet/X about the ceasefire to deceive the world. Immediately after this, Trump by Tweet accepted the 10-points of Iran which were actually messaged to Pakistan by Iran 15 days ago. So, it reflects the shameful drama by a war criminal and his supporters.

But the truth can't be denied. So, within 24 hrs, on the alleged dictation of his master Netanyahu, Trump declined the 10-point plan. Also, Netanyahu declared that they would do the ground operation now alone in Iran to take away their Uranium and attacked 100 targets in Lebanon killing around 250

people. It's because Trump is going against Netanyahu's plan of Greater Israel. But how can Trump escape the Epstein-trap of his masters?

It's shameful that due to lack of experience & exposure to the complexity of the state governance, ignorant people around the world quickly trust the sponsored propaganda in the media. It's foolish to believe it without researching and cross verifying the biased media reports.

In reality, the ceasefire drama will fail again soon and this war wouldn't stop unless the dream of Greater Israel is realized. But unfortunately, while Iran is fighting the 2 nuclear powers alone, the American slave Muslim rulers are conspiring against the Ummah by bailing out the US over again to bleed the Muslims around the world.

The writer is Immigration Advisor, Justice of Peace Australia, President Pakistan Mission Intl Ex-President Uni W/Sydney Union. He is reached at ShakilAhmadPKOz@gmail.com



Analysis

Shakil Ahmad

Newham Labour has selected Forhad Hussain as its mayoral candidate for the 7 May 2026 local election

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: The Labour Party in the London Borough of Newham has selected Forhad Hussain as its mayoral candidate, putting forward a lifelong Plaistow resident with deep community roots and a broad professional background.

Located in East London, the London Borough of Newham is one of the capital's most diverse and rapidly developing areas. It is home to major landmarks including London City Airport, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and ExCeL London, and has undergone significant regeneration since the London 2012 Olympics. The borough operates a directly elected mayoral system, meaning local residents vote directly to choose their mayor, giving the role substantial executive authority over housing, regeneration, community safety, and local services.

Hussain, a father of two, grew up in Newham and was educated locally before becoming the first student at Newham Sixth Form College (NewVic) to achieve three A grades. He later studied Aeronautical Engineering at Imperial College London.

His career spans the National Health Service, education, local government, and the charity sector. He currently serves as a Principal Consultant at Arcadis, working on major infrastructure including the Lower Thames Crossing. Alongside his professional work, he is an ECB Level 2 cricket coach, actively supporting grassroots sports in the borough.

Hussain previously served eight years as a Newham councillor and Cabinet Member, where he led on community safety, introduced a zero-tolerance approach to anti-social behaviour, and worked closely with the Metropolitan Police to address crime hotspots. As Chair of Newham's Pension Scheme, he doubled the fund to £1.4 billion and delivered annual savings of £4 million.

After stepping back from politics in



2018 for family reasons, Hussain has returned with a campaign focused on what he describes as "practical delivery." His election campaign centres on five key pledges: enforcing local regulations, improving street cleanliness, fixing parking challenges, giving residents a stronger voice in decision-making, and restoring sound financial management at the council level.

His campaign has also emphasised community engagement, with a focus on listening to residents across neighbourhoods such as Plaistow, Stratford, East Ham, and Canning Town. Supporters say his local upbringing and professional experience position him as a candidate who understands both the challenges and opportunities facing the borough.

Speaking to the Daily spokesman, Hussain thanked residents for their

support and outlined his vision "While my opponents pursue an agenda of division, negativity and chaos, even celebrating when things go wrong, I'm focused on something very different," he said.

If elected, I will be a mayor for everyone in Newham. I am offering a programme that is hopeful, practical, and rooted in the everyday concerns of the people who live here."

He added that his plan is designed not only to address current issues but also to prepare Newham for future challenges, particularly as the borough continues to grow and attract investment.

"This borough gave me every opportunity in life; it made me who I am and I am determined to deliver the stable,



constructive leadership Newham deserves," Hussain said.

With local elections approaching, Newham is expected to be a closely

watched contest, reflecting broader political dynamics across London as parties compete to shape the future of one of the city's most dynamic boroughs.

Tando Bahawal Tragedy Immortalized in New Book "Aman Jando"

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Speakers at the book launch ceremony organized by the Karachi Editors Club shed light on the tragic incident of Tando Bahawal, where ten innocent farmers and laborers were brutally killed in a staged encounter, emphasizing that media exposure and public protest played a decisive role in uncovering the truth.

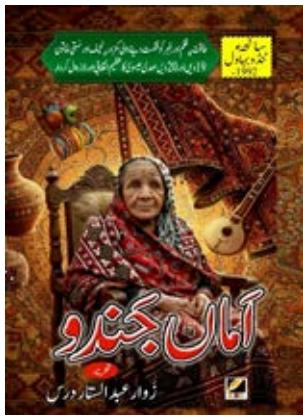
The ceremony marked the unveiling of a historical book titled "Aman Jando", authored by Zawar Abdul Sattar Dars, documenting the events of the Tando Bahawal tragedy. The speakers paid tribute to Aman Jando, describing her as one of the most courageous and revolutionary women of the century.

Addressing the gathering, prominent journalist and News Editor of Daily Kawish, Lala



Muhammad Yaqoob Soomro, along with Zawar Abdul Sattar Dars, Mir Ghulamullah Talpur, Abdul Hakim Khoso, Pir Adil Shah Rashdi, Syed Dost Muhammad Shah Bukhari and others, highlighted that the land

of Sindh has historically symbolized peace, love, brotherhood and tolerance. However, they noted that due to the malicious intentions of feudal lords and vested interests, the region has often witnessed the unjust bloodshed



of poor and helpless people.

Recalling the incident, the speakers stated that on the evening of June 5, 1992, ten innocent villagers from Tando Bahawal were taken into custody from their homes and transported to Jamshoro, where they were mercilessly shot. Nine individuals died on the spot while one was

critically injured. A government press release initially claimed that the deaths occurred during an encounter with dangerous dacoits and terrorists, alleging recovery of a large cache of Indian weapons.

However, 42 hours later, when the bodies were handed over to the families, Aman Jando, a frail yet determined woman, strongly protested before national and international media. Presenting evidence and testimonies, she proved that the victims were neither criminals nor terrorists but poor farmers and laborers who had been unlawfully detained and killed.

Following widespread media coverage and public outrage, authorities initiated an inquiry which declared the encounter completely fake. The earlier official statement was withdrawn and the stance of the protesters was accepted. As a result, a

Major and 13 personnel involved in the incident were dismissed from service and tried under Field General Court Martial. The Major was sentenced to death while the other personnel received life imprisonment.

The speakers emphasized that this unprecedented accountability was made possible due to the relentless struggle of Aman Jando, calling her a symbol of courage and resistance.

They further noted that although the military court had announced the verdict promptly, subsequent legal and political complexities delayed its implementation. A significant legal amendment was introduced allowing court martial decisions to be challenged in civil courts, leading to prolonged delays until September 1996.

In protest against the delay in justice, Aman Jando, along with

her two daughters, attempted self-immolation on September 11, 1996. While Aman Jando survived with injuries, both her daughters succumbed to burns. This extreme act of protest accelerated the process, and eventually, the main convict was executed on October 28, 1996.

The speakers appreciated the efforts of Zawar Abdul Sattar Dars for documenting this historic tragedy, stating that the book has preserved an important chapter of Sindh's history for future generations.

Earlier, the book was formally launched by Aman Jando herself. The event was presided over by Lala Muhammad Yaqoob Soomro, with Abdul Hakim Khoso as the chief guest and Mir Ghulamullah Talpur as the guest of honor. The event arrangements were managed by Syed Dost Muhammad Shah Bukhari.

Faisalabad's Transformation: Visionary Governance and the Rise of a Modern Urban Model

Faisalabad—once characterised by urban congestion, administrative fragmentation, and mounting civic challenges—has undergone a remarkable and structured transformation. Today, it stands not only as Pakistan's industrial nucleus but also as an emerging model of modern governance, environmental renewal, and institutional coordination. This transformation is deeply rooted in visionary leadership, strategic continuity, and a collective administrative effort that has redefined public service delivery.

At the forefront of this change is Commissioner Faisalabad, Raja Jahangir Anwar, whose leadership reflects a rare synthesis of administrative foresight and executive precision. Building upon the strong legacies of former commissioners such as Tahir Hussain and Tasneem Noorani, he has elevated governance standards to a new level—transforming Faisalabad into a city where discipline, transparency, and performance converge.

Unlike conventional administrative approaches, his governance model is holistic and integrated. It brings together infrastructure development, environmental sustainability, sanitation reforms, and digital governance under a unified strategic vision. This has not only

improved service delivery but has also restored public trust in state institutions.

A critical dimension of this transformation is the strength of district-level leadership. In Faisalabad, Deputy Commissioner Nadeem Nasir has played a central role in operationalising policy directives. His firm grip on price control, land administration, and public facilitation has ensured that governance is both responsive and effective. He has also

presented key development schemes before the Planning and Development Board, including proposals related to the Ring Road and urban infrastructure expansion, while leading impactful anti-encroachment operations to restore public spaces and improve city flow.

Across the division, equally capable officers have reinforced this administrative synergy. In Toba Tek Singh, Deputy Commissioner Umer Mehla has demonstrated commendable efficiency in governance delivery and institutional discipline. In Chiniot, Deputy Commissioner Aysha Rizwan has strengthened public service frameworks and administrative outreach, ensuring that development initiatives are both inclusive and accessible. Meanwhile, in Jhang, Deputy Commissioner Ali Akbar has contributed significantly to improving governance structures, particularly in maintaining

law and order and enhancing service delivery mechanisms.

The contribution of development authorities has been pivotal in shaping Faisalabad's urban future. The Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA), under the leadership of Director General Asif Chaudhry, has undertaken landmark initiatives that have redefined urban planning. The DG FDA has successfully inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with FESCO for the provision and sale of plots in FDA City to FESCO employees—an initiative that reflects both institutional collaboration and economic foresight.

Moreover, the DG FDA has led efforts to relocate industrial units outside the city, addressing long-standing environmental and urban congestion issues. This strategic move is expected to significantly improve air quality and urban livability. The introduction of the digitised e-fast system marks another milestone, bringing transparency, efficiency, and accessibility to urban management processes. Additionally, the DG FDA has served as Convener of the Tree Plantation Committee, spearheading large-scale afforestation efforts aimed at enhancing environmental sustainability.

Parallel to infrastructural development, the Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA), under the leadership of Director General Dilawar Khan, has played a transformative role in redefining Faisalabad's visual and environmental identity. Parks, green belts, and public spaces have been revitalised, turning



neglected areas into vibrant community hubs. These efforts have not only improved the city's aesthetics but have also fostered a culture of environmental responsibility among citizens.

One of the most impactful initiatives has been the implementation of the "Suthra Punjab" programme, which has revolutionised sanitation standards across Faisalabad. Under the leadership of Dr Rai Qamar uz Zaman, Chairman of the Care Services Consortium and head of the Suthra Punjab initiative, the Faisalabad Waste Management system has been transformed into a model of efficiency and accountability. Through modern machinery, organised workforce deployment, and structured monitoring systems, cleanliness has been institutionalised rather than treated as an ad hoc responsibility.

This sanitation drive is not merely an administrative achievement; it represents a broader cultural shift. Citizens are increasingly recognising their role in maintaining urban hygiene, while insti-



tutions are ensuring consistent service delivery through modern management practices.

Healthcare and public welfare have also seen meaningful progress. Improved hospital administration, enhanced medical facilities, and a renewed focus on patient care reflect a governance philosophy that places human well-being at its core. This aligns with a broader understanding that sustainable development must prioritise both economic growth and social welfare.

What distinguishes Faisalabad's current trajectory is the seamless integration of leadership, institutions, and community engagement. Commis-

sioner Raja Jahangir Anwar's approach exemplifies how visionary leadership can align diverse administrative units towards a common goal. His ability to inspire, coordinate, and deliver has transformed governance into a dynamic and responsive system.

This transformation is not limited to physical development; it signifies a deeper institutional and cultural renewal. Public confidence has been restored, administrative efficiency has improved, and Faisalabad is increasingly being recognised as a benchmark for urban governance in Pakistan.

As the city continues to evolve, the expectations are naturally higher. However, the strong foundations laid through visionary leadership, institutional coordination, and citizen engagement provide a sustainable pathway forward. Faisalabad is no longer merely the "Manchester of Pakistan"; it is emerging as a symbol of modern governance, environmental consciousness, and inclusive development.

In this journey of transformation, Faisalabad offers a powerful lesson: that with committed leadership, strategic planning, and collective effort, even the most complex urban challenges can be effectively addressed. The city's rise is not just a story of development—it is a testament to the enduring impact of vision, discipline, and public service.

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Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Current | Prev. Close |
| 167,191.37 | 165,517.51 |
| Day's High | Day's Low |
| 168,290.28 | 166,221.33 |
| Index Value | Change |
| 38,180,457,585 | +1673.86 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +1.01% | 10 Apr, 2026 4:30 pm |

| Europe: FTSE 100 Index | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 10,600.53 | -2.95 |
| Percentage | Time |
| -0.028% | 10 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT |

| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 47,915.80 | -270.00 |
| Percentage | Time |
| -0.56% | 10 Apr, 2:09 pm GMT-4 |

| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 56,924.11 | +1,028.79 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +1.84% | 10 Apr, 3:45 pm GMT+9 |

Open Market Forex Rates

| Australian Dollar | 195.05 | 198.10 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|
| Australian Dollar | 194.89 | 201.40 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 729.05 | 739.15 |
| Canadian Dollar | 200.39 | 206.05 |
| China Yuan | 36.45 | 37.55 |
| Danish Krone | 43.25 | 43.65 |
| Euro | 327.06 | 331.05 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 35.20 | 36.20 |
| Indian Rupee | 2.05 | 2.25 |
| Japanese Yen | 1.7375 | 1.8373 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 880.50 | 891.35 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 65.30 | 66.55 |
| New Zealand \$ | 157.14 | 162.25 |
| Norwegians Krone | 27.65 | 27.95 |
| Omani Riyal | 723.70 | 733.90 |
| Qatari Riyal | 71.21 | 72.50 |
| Saudi Riyal | 74.60 | 75.5 |
| Singapore Dollar | 217.70 | 221.50 |
| Swedish Korona | 30.20 | 30.50 |
| Swiss Franc | 355 | 358.85 |
| Thai Bhat | 8 | 8.15 |
| U.A.E Dirham | 76.15 | 77.25 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 375.65 | 380.74 |
| US Dollar | 279 | 280.10 |

Finance Minister departs for WBG-IMF spring meetings

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, here on Saturday departed for the United States to participate in the World Bank Group-IMF Spring Meetings 2026, scheduled to be held in Washington, D. C. from April 13 to 18.

Prior to the formal Spring Meetings, the Finance Minister will visit Boston to attend the Pakistan Conference at Harvard University, where he will engage with leading academics, policymakers, and members of the Pakistani diaspora, and share Pakistan's economic outlook, reform trajectory, and growth prospects.

During his visit, the Finance Minister will represent Pakistan at important events organized by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group, and will participate in a wide range of multilateral and bilateral engagements with global financial leaders, development partners, and policymakers.

On the sidelines of the Spring Meetings, the Finance Minister is scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with senior leadership of international financial institutions, including Ms. Anna Bjerde, Managing Director (Oper-



ations), World Bank Group: Makhtar Diop, Managing Director, International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Tsutomu Yamamoto, Managing Director, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA);

He will also meet senior IMF leadership, including Dan Katz, First Deputy Managing Director, Nigel Clarke, Deputy Managing Director of the IMF and Jihad Azour, Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department at the IMF to discuss Pakistan's macro-

economic outlook, reform progress, and future cooperation.

As part of his engagements with the United States Administration, the Finance Minister will meet senior officials of the U. S. State Department and the U. S. Department of the Treasury, as well as Jamieson Greer, the United States Trade Representative (USTR), to further strengthen bilateral economic cooperation and discuss support for Pakistan's reform agenda.

Container ship MV Sailan docks at Karachi Port: KPT



News Desk

Karachi Port Trust official has said that the container ship MV Sailan, operated by AP Line, has docked at Karachi Port. It is the first container ship to arrive in Pakistan since the recent disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz.

According to sources, the ship has reached Karachi from Jebel Ali, which is being described as an important symbol of the revival of containerized trade. This development is also expected to increase confidence in the maritime transport system.

Officials say that this success is the result of effective cooperation between the port, shipping and logistics related organizations, thanks to which the continuity of cargo operations was maintained. According to experts, the arrival of more ships in the coming days is likely to accelerate trade activities.

Daily wagers

ISLAMABAD: Laborers busy in watching their cell phone for Iran-US talk's update, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

The Bank of Punjab and office of AI sign MoU



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Under the Digital Punjab vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, new avenues of development are being paved through technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

In this regard, an important Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Bank of Punjab and the Office of AI, marking a significant step towards promoting the digital economy in the province.

This collaboration has been realized under the leadership of Advisor to the Chief Minister Punjab on Artificial Intelligence, Ali Dar, reflecting a strong commit-

ment to advancing Punjab in the field of modern technology. According to Ali Dar, this agreement will open a new chapter in the practical application of Artificial Intelligence in Punjab and accelerate the province's digital growth.

He stated that under this initiative, a Punjab AI Data Center and a Financial Data Warehouse will be established at Nawaz Sharif IT City, providing a strong foundation for a robust data infrastructure in the province. He further added that a target has been set to make Punjab the largest AI-enabled province in South Asia by 2029, while positioning it as an active AI hub in the region through a modern data ecosystem.

Pakistan remittances hit \$3.8bn in March but structural risks persist

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's remittance inflows rose to \$3.8 billion in March 2026, marking a 16.5 percent increase from February and the highest monthly inflow so far in FY26, according to data.

However, the figure was still 5.5 percent lower compared to the same month last year.

The monthly increase was largely driven by seasonal factors, as March coincided with Ramadan and preparations for Eid, when overseas workers typically send higher amounts to support family spending.

Despite the short-term boost, concerns remain over Pakistan's external account pressures and the stability of inflows amid regional geopolitical tensions affecting Gulf economies.

On a cumulative basis, remittances during the first nine months of FY26 stood at \$30.3 billion, reflecting an 8.2 percent year-on-year increase.

The trend keeps Pakistan on track to meet its annual target of around \$40 billion, though it would require \$9-10 billion in the final quarter to achieve this goal.



The monthly inflow data showed mixed trends across key corridors. Saudi Arabia remained the largest source of remittances in March, followed by the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

However, year-on-year inflows from all four countries declined during the month.

Over the nine months, the broader picture remained stronger, with inflows

from Saudi Arabia up 3 percent, the UAE up 10 percent, and steady growth from the UK and EU, suggesting underlying resilience in Pakistan's remittance base.

Pakistan's dependence on a narrow group of labour markets remains a key vulnerability. More than \$20 billion annually—around half of total remittances—comes from Gulf countries, with Saudi Arabia contributing roughly a quarter and the UAE about one-fifth.

Tankers exit Gulf via Strait of Hormuz as US-Iran talks begin

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Three supertankers passed through the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, shipping data showed, marking what appeared to be the first vessels to exit the Gulf since the US-Iran ceasefire deal and as peace talks got under way in Pakistan.

Tehran's blockade of the strait, a chokepoint for about 20% of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments, since the start of the Iran war at the end of February, has disrupted global energy supplies and sent oil prices soaring.

The Liberia-flagged Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) Serifos and China-flagged

VLCCs Cospearl Lake and He Rong Hai, entered and exited the "Hormuz Passage trial anchorage" that bypasses Iran's Larak Island on Saturday, LSEG data showed.

Each vessel is capable of carrying 2 million barrels of oil. Serifos, carrying crude loaded from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in early March, is expected to arrive at Malaysia's Malacca port on April 21, data from LSEG and analytics firm Kpler showed.

Cospearl Lake is laden with Iraqi oil and He Rong Hai is carrying Saudi crude, the same data showed.

Both VLCCs are chartered by Unipeck, the



trading arm of Chinese energy giant Sinopec, the data showed.

Sinopec did not immediately respond to a request for comment outside office hours.

Gas supply to Karachi industry will be suspended for 24 hours



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) announced that gas supply to all industrial customers (including captive power plants) will remain suspended on Sunday for 24 hours in a bid to improve gas pressure.

The SSGC stated that the management had decided in order to manage load appropriately between all sectors and to develop healthy line-packs.

"Gas closure from 8:00 am on Sunday, April 12, 2026, till 8:00 am on Monday, April 13, 2026," the SSGC concluded, as saying.

Earlier on April 6, 2026, authorities announced a revised gas supply schedule in various areas of Karachi, with interruptions planned during morning and evening hours.

Reports said gas will be unavailable from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and again from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, nightly, supply will remain suspended from 10:00 pm until 5:30 am.

Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) confirmed ongoing load-shedding across multiple neighborhoods, affecting FB Area, North Nazimabad, Malir, Khokhrapar, Landhi, Orangi Town, and North Karachi.

Other areas such as Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Nazimabad, Garden, and Liaquatabad have also experienced interruptions. Residents reported significant inconvenience during morning hours due to the supply suspension.

PSL Pakistan Super League Cricket Championship Edition 11

Rawalpindi Cricket Team Lost 5th Consecutive Match Due to Poor Performance; Quetta Qalandars also suffered a setback

Asim Tanveer

KARACHI: Rawalpindi Cricket Team Lost 5th Consecutive Match Due to Poor Performance in Pakistan Super League Cricket Championship 11. Quetta Qalandars Also Suffered a Setback.

Rawalpindi is still throwing down its weapons in HBL PSL 11. The Pindiz team, led by Muhammad Rizwan, could not play anywhere. They also lost in Lahore. They also lost in Karachi and half of the PSL journey was completed. Fifth defeat in five matches. After this, reaching the Super Four has become impossible. This is a moment of reflection for the Rawalpindi cricket team. In the PSL match played at the National Bank Arena on Friday, Quetta Gladiators won by runs and won their second match in the event, but this victory gave them the advantage that they surpassed Lahore Qalandars and came in fifth place.

Rawalpindi captain Muhammad Rizwan won the toss of the 18th match of HBL PSL 11 at the National Bank Arena Karachi and decided to bowl first. They were looking for their first victory, but the Gladiators were also eager to get on the winning track with just one win. The Gladiators started cautiously, despite having wickets in hand, they completed their 100 runs in 13.1 overs, although they had 9 wickets left. Sam Harper was the only opener to be dismissed at that time, who went for 8 for



22, but captain Saud Shakeel and Riley Rossouw spent 11 overs one ball for 87 runs for the second wicket. At a score of 109, the Pindiz's second success came from Riley Rossouw, who scored fifty-plus 53 runs and fell victim to Mubashir Khan. He played 42 balls but hit one six and 6 fours. In the 16th over of the innings, captain Saud Shakeel

was dismissed on the slowest 39 balls. He was bowled by Ben Sears for 42. There were only 3 fours. Up to this point, Rawalpindi was satisfied, but what Hassan Nawaz did after that was executioner style. He played an unbeaten innings of 39 runs off just 16 balls. No fours, but 5 sixes were a big deal. However, Kasar Jahandad Khan dismissed him.

He scored 21 not out off 6 balls. 2 fours and 2 sixes. Due to these 2 batters, the Gladiators team managed to score 182 runs for 6 wickets. Ben Sears took 3 wickets for 41 runs and Mohammad Amir took 2 wickets for 31 runs. Rawalpindi was still expected to put up a good fight, but captain Muhammad Rizwan could not get out of the rut of

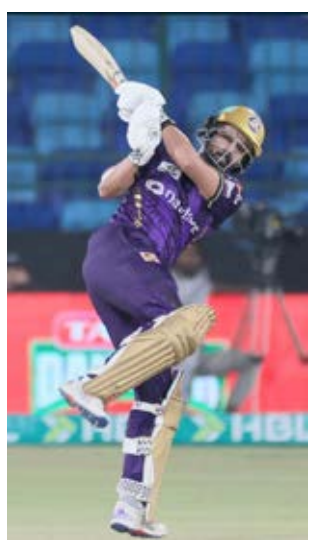


failure and Jahan Dad's first ball was caught by Riley Rossouw for zero. Usman Khawaja, who had flown in from Australia, was run out for 7 runs. Although Yasir Khan scored 22 runs off 14 balls, it was the third loss at 45. Abdullah Fazal and Daryl Mitchell took the score to 77 for the fourth wicket. The loss of 4 wickets in the next 5 runs meant 7 wickets for 82.

The eighth wicket fell to Mubashir Khan for six runs at a score of 104. Saad Masood tried to give some hope and hit two sixes in the 16th over of the innings. 63 runs were too much in the last three overs. At a score of 120, Saad Masood also threw in the towel and walked into the pavilion after scoring 31 runs. Then in 17.3 overs, the entire team returned to the pavilion at a score of 121. Thus, Quetta

Gladiators won by 61 runs. Baht Shakeel took two wickets for four runs in just one over, while Dad Khan took two wickets for just 8 runs in 2.3 overs. Usman Tariq took two wickets for 23 runs.

PSL 11 Points Table
With the win, Quetta Gladiators have earned four points in five matches, due to their better net run rate than Lahore, they have become fifth and Lahore Qalandars are sixth, and Rawalpindi has risen with five failures in five matches and is at the last position. Multan Sultans are still in first position with eight points. Peshawar Zalmi and Islamabad United have seven points each, but Peshawar Zalmi is second and Islamabad is third. Karachi Kings are fourth with six points.
Next matches of PSL 11. Double header day
Saturday, April 11. PSL 19th



match. Lahore Qalandars vs. Peshawar Zalmi in the afternoon. PSL 11's twentieth match. Saturday, April 11, evening. Karachi Kings vs. Hyderabad Kings. Evening

PSL Pakistan Super League Cricket Championship Edition 11

Peshawar Zalmi Commanding Position; And 76-Run Win Against Defending Champions Lahore Qalandar

Asim Tanveer

KARACHI: Peshawar Zalmi continued their unbeaten run in HBL Pakistan Super League 11 with a commanding 76-run win over defending champions Lahore Qalandars in Match 19 at the National Bank Stadium on Saturday.

Kusal Mendis and Babar Azam once again laid the platform with a 109-run second-wicket stand before a clinical bowling effort led by Sufyan Moqim and Michael Bracewell skittled Lahore for 97 in 17 overs. The result lifted Peshawar to nine points from five matches at the top of the standings, while Lahore stayed in the bottom half.

Put in to bat, Peshawar were rocked early when Mohammad Haris fell for 18 off 10 balls in the third over. Babar and Mendis then took charge with a measured rebuild.

Mendis brought up first HBL PSL half-century off 35 deliveries backing up his hundred from the previous game and continued to anchor the innings while Babar rotated the strike.

The captain reached 43 from 40 balls — a knock that took him past 4,000 career runs in HBL PSL — before falling to Usama Mir in the 16th over, caught by Abdullah Shafique.

Mendis followed shortly after, top-scoring with 74 from 48 balls laced with five fours and four sixes, edging Shaheen to Abdullah.

Bracewell struck a quickfire 21 from 10 deliveries with a four and

two sixes before falling to Mustafizur Rahman (4-0-30-2), while Iftikhar Ahmed remained unbeaten on seven to guide Peshawar to 173 for seven.

Shaheen (4-0-22-3) was the pick of the Lahore bowlers, while Ubaid Shah (3-0-29-1) and Usama Mir (4-0-39-1) shared two wickets.

In reply, Lahore's chase never gained traction. Shoriful Islam (4-0-21-3) struck in the second over to remove Mohammad Naeem for one, before Nahid Rana (3-0-15-2) sent back Abdullah (21, 15b, 5x4s) in the sixth.

Bracewell then accounted for Fakhar Zaman (21, 19b, x4s), who was playing his 100th HBL PSL match to become only the third player to reach the milestone, caught by Babar at long-on, to leave the Qalandars 45 for three.

The off-spinner returned to dismiss Haseebullah for three in the ninth over while Sufyan Moqim (4-0-21-3) struck in the very next over to bowl Asif Ali without scoring as the scoreboard read 56 for five.

Bracewell (4-0-18-3) then delivered the decisive blow, removing the



dangerous Sikandar Raza (14, 13b, 2x4s) in the 11th over caught to leave Lahore reeling at 64 for six.

Sufyan bowled Shaheen for five in

the 12th over before Nahid Rana had Usama Mir caught behind by Mendis in the 13th. Sufyan then completed his three-wicket haul by dismissing

Ubaid Shah stumped by Mendis in the next over to reduce Lahore to 75 for nine. A late 22-run partnership between Dumith Wellalage (20, 24b, 3x4s) and Mustafizur offered brief resistance before Aamir Jamal ended the innings in the 17th over, dismissing the latter.

Scores in Brief:

Peshawar Zalmi beat Lahore Qalandars by 76 runs at National Bank Stadium, Karachi

Peshawar Zalmi 173-7, 20 overs (Kusal Mendis 74, Babar Azam 43, Michael Bracewell 21; Shaheen Shah Afridi 3-22, Mustafizur Rahman 2-30)

Lahore Qalandars 97 all out, 17 overs (Abdullah Shafique 21, Fakhar Zaman 21, Dumith Wellalage 20; Michael Bracewell 3-18, Sufyan Moqim 3-21, Nahid Rana 2-15)

Player of the Match: Kusal Mendis (Peshawar Zalmi)

Sports Board's Grade-II cricket trials begin



Tahir Amin Malik

Sports Board Punjab's 2-day cricket trials for the selection of Grade-II cricket team started at the SBP Cricket Academy outside Punjab Stadium on Saturday.

DG Sports Punjab Tariq Qureshi witnessed the trials proceedings minutely along with former Test cricketer Aizaz Cheema and SBP coaches, who supervised the trials process.

Director Sports Chand Perveen, Deputy Director Zahoor Ahmed and other officials were also present on this occasion. On the first day, hundreds of young cricketers from across the country including Balochistan, KP and Waziristan appeared in the trials.

Talking to media, Tariq Qureshi said that the trials are being conducted as per PCB's selection criteria. "After the trials, two teams will be formed of selected players and a couple of practice matches will be organized to assess the match fitness, playing techniques and stamina of cricketers."

He said that the selected players of SBP Grade-II cricket team will be awarded monthly scholarships. "Sports Board Punjab has 90 plus cricket grounds across the province where several cricket events are being organised to engage our youth in healthy sports activities".

The World Turns to Pakistan to Stop the Iran War

Continued from Page 4

desirable, is a negotiated settlement—one that acknowledges mutual concerns, establishes verifiable safeguards, and paves the way for sustained peace. Such an outcome would not only stabilize the region but also reinforce the principle that dialogue, however difficult, remains the most effective tool for conflict resolution.

The second scenario—a breakdown of talks followed by renewed hostilities—would be catastrophic. The resumption of war would not be confined to Iran or Israel; it would engulf the entire Middle East, disrupt global energy supplies, trigger economic shocks, and potentially draw in multiple state and non-state actors. The human and financial costs would be incalculable.

The third, more nuanced possibility lies somewhere in between: a continuation of the ceasefire without immediate

mediate resolution. While less dramatic, this scenario would still represent a diplomatic success, buying time for further engagement and reducing the risk of immediate escalation.

In all these scenarios, Pakistan's role remains pivotal. Its challenge is not merely to host negotiations, but to sustain trust, manage expectations, and prevent provocations that could derail the process. This requires a delicate balance—assertiveness without aggression, neutrality without passivity, and engagement without overreach.

Beyond the immediate crisis, Pakistan's diplomatic resurgence carries broader implications. It signals the emergence of a multipolar approach to conflict resolution, where middle powers can influence outcomes traditionally dominated by superpowers. It also enhances Pakistan's soft power—its ability to shape narratives, build alliances, and command respect without coercion.

This newfound stature is easily translating into tangible benefits. Economic partnerships, particularly in defense and energy sectors, are expanding. Strategic dialogues with key regional players are deepening. And perhaps most importantly, Pakistan is being viewed not as a problem to be managed, but as a partner to be engaged.

Yet, this moment of glory must be approached with humility and foresight. Diplomatic capital, once earned, must be carefully preserved. The expectations placed upon Pakistan are immense, and the margin for error is minimal. Sustaining this trajectory will require continued coherence in policy, investment in institutional capacity, and an unwavering commitment to principles of peace and mutual respect.

As the world watches the unfolding negotiations, one reality becomes increasingly clear: Pakistan has transcended its traditional role in global politics. It is

no longer a peripheral actor reacting to external pressures, but a central player shaping outcomes at the highest level.

If the current efforts succeed—if peace prevails over war—history will record this chapter as a defining moment. It will remember Pakistan as the nation that stood between escalation and equilibrium, between destruction and dialogue. And it will remember the leaders who, against all odds, chose the path of diplomacy over the drums of war.

In this delicate balance of power, where a single misstep could ignite a wider conflagration, Pakistan's steady hand offers a rare source of hope. And for a world weary of conflict, that hope may well be its most valuable contribution.

The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attaché to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Macomb, Michigan

PM Shehbaz meets US, Iran delegations amid peace push

Continued from Page 1

Sources said Pakistan may adopt a shuttle diplomacy approach, engaging separately with both sides to bridge differences and advance proposals.

Iran has maintained firm preconditions for entering formal negotiations, with Ghalibaf reiterating that the United States must first unfreeze Iranian assets.

The demand forms part of Tehran's broader

10-point proposal, which also includes other concessions.

While reports in the Iranian media suggested progress on the issue, the US side has not issued any confirmation in this regard.

The separate engagements in Islamabad underscore Pakistan's key role as a mediator, even as disagreements on key issues continue to cloud the negotiation process.

Welcome

RAWALPINDI: United States Vice President JD Vance along with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir at Nur Khan Airbase.



Photo: Online

DPM, Governor Central Bank Iran underscore importance of peace in region



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Governor of the Central Bank of Iran Dr. Abdolnasser Hemmati called on Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday

on the sidelines of the talks between Iran and the United States.

Both sides emphasised the importance of sustained dialogue and noted that peace and stability in the region remain essential for economic cooperation and shared progress.

Russia urges responsibility as US-Iran talks offer Middle East peace window

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Russia's Foreign Ministry issue the Statement on the developments in the Middle East.

A window of opportunity is emerging to resolve the complex situation in the Persian Gulf region. The majority of countries support this effort, placing their hopes on the success of the negotiations between the United States and Iran, which are set to begin in Islamabad with the mediation of our Pakistani partners.

Regrettably, however,

certain forces are impeding progress toward peace, whether intentionally or not, by creating obstacles along the way. In particular, those who initiated aggression against Iran and now hold it responsible for issues related to shipping in the Strait of Hormuz should not obscure the actual sequence of events, including the fact that this vital waterway operated without disruption until February 28.

At this stage, the core objective is to address the root causes of the destructive conflict in the region, namely



by bringing a complete end to the war initiated by the United States and Israel. Among its consequences are the damage sustained by

the countries of the Arabian Peninsula, as well as military activity in the Lebanese-Israeli border area and missile and air strikes on Lebanon,

which must cease immediately.

In this context, we advocate resolving existing disagreements among the countries of the region through political and diplomatic means. We remain committed to close cooperation with our partners in order to advance constructive peace efforts and ensure the stabilisation of the situation in the Middle East.

We call on all participants in the forthcoming talks in Pakistan to act responsibly and refrain from any steps that could jeopardise this opportunity.

Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz hails leadership for averting 'catastrophic conflict'

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif says every Pakistani feels proud in these historic moments strengthening national unity, in a message on X Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif,

Field Marshal Asim Munir and DPM Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Allah has bestowed upon you an extraordinary honor.

Through your decisive and courageous leadership, a potentially catastrophic conflict was averted, safeguarding countless innocent lives



and steering the world away from disaster.

This is the essence of true statesmanship. Alhamdulillah.

A defining moment that fills every Pakistani with pride,

strengthens our unity, and showcases to the world the strength, dignity, and unwavering spirit of Pakistani nation.

May Allah continue to bless Pakistan and guide us all. Ameen.

Analysts praise Islamabad for steering peace and strengthening middle-power status

APP

ISLAMABAD: Analysts on Saturday praised Pakistan's diplomacy, observing that Islamabad has captured global attention as a center of peace, showcasing its evolution from military prowess to diplomatic finesse and establishing itself as a mature middle power shaping the international system.

Analysts, with various media outlets praising Pakistan's diplomatic rise, noted that the country is capturing the global spotlight and strengthening its middle-power status. They highlighted that Islamabad is delivering results practically and with maturity, demonstrating a rare blend of strategic foresight, diplomatic skill and measured influence on the international stage.

Pakistan is capturing global attention and strengthening its middle-power status. Analysts said, adding, Islamabad is delivering practically and with maturity on the international stage.



Analyst Dr. Jamil Ahmad said Pakistan's diplomacy reflects a sophisticated blend of strategic vision and actionable results, positioning the country as a credible force in global affairs.

Maria Sultan highlighted Islamabad's growing role as a mediator and peace promoter, underlining its ability to influence international agendas responsibly.

Dr. Qamar Cheema noted that Paki-

stan is effectively leveraging its military credibility alongside diplomatic finesse, reinforcing its middle-power identity.

Khalid Qayyum commented that the world is now closely watching Islamabad, recognizing the country's practical and mature approach to international challenges.

Ahmad Waraich added that Pakistan's consistent engagement on global issues demonstrates a rare capacity to

balance national interests with international responsibilities.

They also recommended that Pakistan leverage its strategic position to mediate regional disputes, expand collaborative partnerships and strengthen its influence in shaping global policies.

Analysts noted that Islamabad's proactive engagement provides a unique opportunity to assert its role as a stabilizing and constructive middle power. They further emphasized that sustained and genuine efforts were essential to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace accord.

As both parties are receiving concessions on key points, they are demonstrating greater flexibility in their positions, signaling a positive path toward mutual agreement. Analysts concluded that Pakistan's diplomatic efforts were yielding tangible results, enhancing its global standing despite challenges from India and Israel, while fostering a path toward sustainable peace.

Pakistan emerges as assertive voice for peace, Says Danyal Chaudhry

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry said on Saturday that Pakistan has emerged as a decisive force for peace and stability on the global stage, crediting the country's recent diplomatic and strategic strides to unified leadership and sustained national resilience.

In an official statement issued here, Barrister Danyal Chaudhry said the country's transformation from perceived isolation to growing international relevance reflects "resilience, courage and unity," underscoring Pakistan's evolving role as a respon-

sible and influential regional actor.

He attributed the shift to the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, saying their "strategic foresight and coordinated approach" had steered the country through complex challenges while reinforcing its global standing.

Referring to the successful completion of Operation Banyanum-Marsoos, the parliamentary secretary said the development had sent a clear message about Pakistan's military preparedness and resolve, describing it as a "testament to the nation's determination and strength."

Pakistan Zindabad rally held in D I Khan to support peace efforts in Middle East

Syed Tauqeer Zaidi

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: A "Pakistan Zindabad" rally was organized by Pakistan Markazi Muslim League in Dera Ismail Khan to express support for Pakistan's efforts and achievements in promoting peace and ceasefire in the Middle East.

A large number of people participated in the rally, carrying placards



and banners with slogans such as "Pakistan Zindabad" and "Pakistan Guarantor of Peace and Stability." The participants showed strong enthusiasm and solidarity with the country's peace initiatives.