



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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عائشہؓ نے کہا کہ حسان بن ثابتؓ نے
مشرکین کی جھوٹے نبی کی اہانت چاہی تو نبی
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President Zardari congratulates Nizar Amidi on election as President of Iraq

President Asif Ali Zardari has congratulated Mr Nizar Amidi on his election as President of the Republic of Iraq, conveying his best wishes for his success in the new role. In his message, the President expressed confidence that under President Amidi's leadership, Iraq would continue its efforts towards stability, progress and national cohesion.



AJK PM reaffirms government's resolve of expanding development projects across the state

AJK PM Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has reaffirmed his govt's commitment to address public concerns besides expanding development projects across the region, particularly in remote areas of the state. "Dedicated party workers are the true strength of the PPP, whose central mission is the welfare and prosperity of the common man," the PM said, while speaking to a delegation.

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shutdown

RAWALPINDI: General Bus Stand of Pirwadhai gives deserted look. The city under a complete shutdown of markets, businesses, and commercial outlets until at least Sunday, April 12, 2026, due to security arrangements for the US-Iran talks in Islamabad, paralyzed the daily life of twin cities.



Photo: Online

JD Vance leaves as Islamabad Talks between US, Iran conclude

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Vice President of the United States of America JD Vance departed here on Sunday, wrapping up his visit to Pakistan as the Islamabad Talks between the United States and Iran concluded.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar and Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir saw the US Vice President off at the airport.

JD Vance was part of the high-level US delegation, also comprising Special Envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner which participated in the Islamabad Talks which the Deputy Prime Minister Dar said were "intense and constructive" and



continued through 24 hours.

During the visit, JD Vance and other US delegation members also held a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who commended the commitment of both delegations to engage constructively.

Addressing a press conference prior to his departure, JD Vance appreciated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir, saying that they were "incredible hosts".

Iranian delegation leaves after attending talks in Islamabad

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: The Iranian delegation Sunday left after attending talks in Islamabad.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi bid farewell to the Iranian delegation.

The Iranian delegation included Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

Iranian spokesperson Baqaei lauds GoP, leadership for hosting Talks



ISLAMABAD: Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman, Esmail Baqaei, on Sunday, thanked the government and people of Pakistan and its leadership, including Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

"We thank them for their kind hospitality and are confident that contacts between Iran, Pakistan, and our other friends in the region will continue," he was quoted as saying by Tasnim News Agency and other Iranian news outlets at the conclusion of Islamabad Talks.

Trump says US-Iran talks yield progress on 'most points' but no nuclear agreement

AFP

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump on Sunday ordered a US naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz in response to Iran's "unyielding" refusal to give up its nuclear ambitions during peace talks in Islamabad.

While acknowledging that the marathon negotiations in Pakistan had gone "well" and "most points were agreed to," Trump said Tehran had refused to concede on the issue of its nuclear program.



"Effective immediately, the United States Navy, the Finest in the World, will begin the process of BLOCKADING any and all

Ships trying to enter, or leave, the Strait of Hormuz," Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

"Any Iranian who fires at us, or at peaceful vessels, will be BLOWN TO HELL!"

He described the Pakistani leadership as "extraordinary", adding that they had thanked him for what he claimed was his role in preventing a potential war with India that could have cost millions of lives.

"I have been fully debriefed by Vice President JD Vance, Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, and Jared

Kushner, on the meeting that took place in Islamabad through the kind and very competent leadership of Field Marshal Asim Munir, and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, of Pakistan. They are very extraordinary men, and continuously thank me for saving 30 to 50 million lives in what would have been a horrendous War with India. I always appreciate hearing that — The amount of Humanity spoken of is incomprehensible," said the US president.

Continue on Page 7

Pakistan's efforts for US-Iran peace talks hailed

City Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq has hailed Pakistan's proactive and sincere diplomatic efforts in bringing the US and Iran to negotiating table in Islamabad, terming it a highly commendable initiative aimed at defusing escalating tensions in the Middle East.

Presiding over the council's meeting here Sunday, he added Pakistan's timely efforts have helped create a rare opportunity for dialogue at a critical juncture when the region was heading towards further instability. Pakistan's continued engagement will lead to meaningful outcomes, paving the way for lasting peace, restoration of investor confidence, and economic revival across the region.

PFC chief emphasised that such efforts not only enhance Pakistan's global diplomatic standing but also contribute significantly to regional peace, which is vital for economic stability and uninterrupted trade flows.

Prolonged conflict in the Middle East directly impacts global energy markets and supply chains, adversely affecting developing economies like Pakistan. Therefore, de-escalation through dialogue is in the broader interest of international business and commerce.

Imperative that parties continue to uphold ceasefire commitment: Dar says after US-Iran talks

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Sunday announcing the end of Islamabad Talks between the United States of America and Iran said that it was imperative that the parties continued to uphold their commitment to ceasefire.

"We hope that the two sides continue with the positive spirit to achieve durable peace and prosperity for the entire region and beyond. It is imperative that the parties continue to uphold their commitment to ceasefire," the deputy prime minister, briefing the media here on the conclusion of the peace talks.

Dar told the media that he, along with the Chief of Defence Forces and Army Chief Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir helped mediate several rounds of "intense and constructive" negotiations between the two sides that continued through the last 24 hours and ended on Sunday morning.

He reaffirmed that Pakistan had been and would continue to play its role to facilitate engagement and dialogue between Iran and the United States in the days to come.



Dar thanked both the countries for responding to the call made by the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for an immediate ceasefire in the region as well as for accepting Prime Minister's invitation for holding peace talks in Islamabad.

He said that the US delegation headed by the US Vice President J D Vance and the Iran's headed by the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, arrived on Saturday here to participate in Islamabad Talks.

"On behalf of Pakistan, I would like to express gratitude to the two sides for appreciating Pakistan's efforts to help achieve the ceasefire and its mediatory role," Dar added.

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AJK PM Rathore meets Senior PPP leader, discusses Kashmir struggle and elections

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore called on former Prime Minister Azad Kashmir People's Party Azad Kashmir senior leader Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan at his residence. The meeting discussed the current political situation, upcoming elections and matters of mutual interest in detail. On this occasion, both the leaders expressed pride in Pakistan's responsible and constructive role and mediation and said that they salute Pakistan's political and military leadership for the position it has gained in the world. They said that the Kashmiri people will continue their struggle until they achieve their right to self-determination. Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore said that Pakistan has always played a positive role in promoting peace, and Kashmiris are proud of the role Pakistan played in reducing the recent tension. A strong Pakistan is the guarantor of Kashmir's freedom. Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has said that the Pakistan People's Party will win the



upcoming elections based on its performance. He said that the government has taken practical steps for the welfare of the people, which are yielding positive results. The Prime Minister expressed his determination that the party will enter the fray in the upcoming elections with full preparation and public support and will achieve success.

Attock administration reviews arrangements for Baisakhi celebrations

By Raaza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza, along with District Police Officer (DPO) Attock Sardar Mavarhan Khan, reviewed arrangements on Saturday for the upcoming Sikh religious festival of Baisakhi. The event will also mark the 327th birth anniversary of the Khalsa at Gurdwara Panja Sahib.

More than 2,800 Sikh pilgrims from India are expected to arrive at Gurdwara Panja Sahib on Sunday (April 12) to participate in the celebrations. Officials reviewed arrangements for boarding, lodging, transportation, and security.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stated that all arrangements, including security, transport, and accommodation, have been finalized to ensure that pilgrims can perform their religious obligations in a peaceful and dignified environment.

He added that the large number of Sikh pilgrims from India and other parts of the world reflects the religious significance of Panja Sahib and Pakistan's commitment to promoting religious tourism and inter-faith harmony.

According to the schedule, pilgrims will first participate in the main Baisakhi rituals at Panja Sahib. On April 15, they will travel to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, followed by a visit to Gurdwara Rohri Sahib on April 17.

The pilgrims will then proceed to Lahore on April 18, where they will stay at Gurdwara Dera Sahib before returning to India via the Wagah Border on April 19 after completing their religious visit.

Human service is the best way to fulfill the rights of the people: Rizwana Tabassum Durrani



By Iram Asim

MULTAN: Renowned social figure, poet, senior broadcaster, and author of several books, founder of Rashida Begum Welfare Organization and founder of Inner Wheel Club District 340 Rizwana Tabassum Durrani has said that human service is actually the best way to fulfill the rights of the people. Regarding her welfare activities, she said that human service is the best way to fulfill the rights of the people. Under this objective, we have installed hundreds of taps and hand pumps so that the residents of backward areas can get clean drinking water. During the sudden disaster of the flood, our organization and all the Clubs of Inner Wheel District 340 did a lot of work and more than 300 hand pumps were installed in Taunsa Sharif and more than 121 in different districts of Sindh for the rehabilitation of the victims.

South Punjab Steadfast in Support of Imran Khan's Ideology, Says PTI Secretary

By Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The message of the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Imran Khan, has reached every household and the brave people of South Punjab are steadfastly standing with Imran Khan's ideology. The night of oppression and oppression is about to end soon and the victory of truth will come. These views were expressed by Central Information Secretary, South Punjab Region, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Barrister Sara Ali Syed in a statement. She said that the country is currently passing through the most critical juncture in history where the violation of the constitution and contempt for the public mandate have become a norm. The PTI's narrative is not just a political stance but an expression of the aspirations of 250 million people. Our struggle will continue until the rule of law and true freedom are achieved, and we will not bow down to any unconstitutional measure. The current government's poor economic policies and the storm of inflation have broken the backs of the farmers, laborers and poor class of the region. PTI will continue to raise its voice at every forum as a protector of public rights. The continuation of democracy in the country is possible only through transparent elections and an independent judiciary.



Life becoming normal

ISLAMABAD: People buying daily commodities from Sunday Bazaar G-11 in the Federal Capital. The life in city became normal which was paralyzed due to US-Iran talks.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Muslim Conference: The Unmatched Historical Voice of Kashmiris

Bureau Report.

ISLAMGARH/MIRPUR: President All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference District Mirpur Chaudhry Shaukat Ali, Central Coordination Secretary Muslim Conference UK Chaudhry Ashfaq Ali have said in a joint statement that the Muslim

Conference is the largest, historical and popular political party of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, which was founded to protect the rights of Kashmiris and raise their voice.

The role that the Muslim Conference has played in the development and prosperity of the people of Azad Kashmir has not been matched by



any other political force.

The Muslim Conference has always given priority to public problems and taken practical steps to solve them.

The role of the Muslim Conference has always been important and prominent in solving the problems of the people across the state and providing them with their fundamental rights.

Fake encounters carried out under the protective umbrella of AFSPA

Summary executions, carried out with impunity under the shield of AFSPA, are nothing short of a 'killable' lot—treated as expendable by elements within the security apparatus who hunt them down at will, at times to gain gallantry awards, advance their careers, or distort the dominant narrative on Kashmir.

The cold-blooded murder of a Kashmiri youth, Rashid Mughal, in Ganderbal area has reignited a fresh debate over the impunity with which Indian forces have operated in the region for decades. His killing has refreshed painful memories of the 2021 fake encounter in which three civilians were abducted by the army and killed in a staged encounter. Following their deaths, weapons and ammunition were planted on the bodies to portray them as armed militants.

On March 31, the Indian Army, in a statement to the media, claimed that a 'militant' was killed during a cordon-and-search operation conducted jointly by 02 Assam Rifles, 24 Rashtriya Rifles, CRPF's 49 Battalion, and the J&K

Police in Ganderbal, in North Kashmir's Arhama forest. The Army also claimed to have recovered an AK-56 rifle, three magazines, 67 live rounds, and 58 empty cartridges from the encounter site.

The Army's claim has been categorically rejected by the family, saying Mughal—a part-time computer operator—had no links, whatsoever, with militants. The Mughal's image circulating on social media—showing him in brand-new combat shoes, a vest with an ammunition pouch, and a new weapon—has further deepened suspicion. While on the other hand, the burst of fire, which damaged one side of his skull and left him unrecognisable, indicates that he was shot at point-blank range. Meanwhile, his brother told the media that the clothes Mughal was wearing at the time of his abduction were not the same, highlighting glaring inconsistencies in the official account and the authenticity of the encounter itself. Media reports, along with the family's account, amply demonstrate that the incident may have been staged—seemingly to fit the scheme of things the BJP has long employed to malign Kashmiris.

The controversy has prompted the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir to order an inquiry into the

matter. However, past experience offers little hope for justices as previous inquiries into similar incidents have repeatedly failed to deliver meaningful accountability, as convictions of army personnel remain exceedingly rare.

Critics see such killings as part of a broader pattern of "fake encounters," where ordinary citizens are picked up, subjected to enforced disappearances, tortured, and killed in extrajudicial killings by the forces' personnel, particularly during operations, midnight raids, and then branded as militants to justify security actions.

Historically, these incidents have often been used by New Delhi to portray the Kashmiris' ongoing resistance movement in negative light and shape public perception.

A trail of false-flag operations/fake encounters

One of the most infamous cases is the Chattisingpora massacre of 2000, where 35 civilians were killed brutally. While the authorities initially blamed "militants", eyewitness accounts and human rights investigations pointed

to the involvement of Indian Army personnel.

The Patheral killings involved five civilians who were declared "militants" responsible for a prior CRPF attack in Tral. Autopsies and local testimonies,

however, contradicted the official version, suggesting the victims were innocent.

In 1994, a number of civilians were killed in Handwara in alleged encounters. Similarly, in the Machil (2010) fake encounter, civilians were killed and later branded as militants. In 2013, a case was registered against army and police personnel regarding a 1998 incident in which 19 people, including women and children, were killed, in a fake encounter.

In July 2020, three Kashmiri laborers, one of whom to be a minor, were killed by Indian military personnel in a fake encounter in Shopian. In December 2023, three more civilians were killed in custody following their detention by the Indian Army in Poonch.

Last year's false-flag operation in Pahalgam, is also frequently cited within

this broader context of information/disinformation warfare, which the Indian government has used as a tool to advance its domestic and foreign policy objectives. The incident eventually led to dangerous escalation, bringing the two countries to the brink of confrontation with unimaginable consequences, despite the fact that questions persisted over the Indian claims of any foreign involvement in the attack.

Beyond the political and strategic ramifications, these incidents have devastating consequences for Kashmiri society. Families of victims are left grappling with grief, fear, and trauma, often facing harassment and intimidation when they speak out.

When the line between combatants and non-combatants is dangerously blurred, trust in the institutions meant to protect them begins to erode, leaving vulnerable communities in a state of constant anxiety.

When actions become mere hogwash the inquiry processes, initiated from time to time have repeatedly failed to deliver justice and hold perpetrators accountable. Despite nearly 150 magisterial inquiries into disputed killings since 1990, and 107 between 2008 and 2018 alone, none have led to prosecution, raising serious questions about the

effectiveness of these mechanisms. Sadly, these unfinished probes and hollow inquiries have led to nowhere. These deceptive tactics, which are a part of structural forms of violence, have been used by the occupation authorities as a tool to buy time, manage headlines and hoodwink the international community.

Multiple cases documented by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and local organizations have raised serious concerns over fake and stage-managed encounters that have claimed thousands of lives. The absence of effective accountability mechanisms, coupled with legal provisions granting broad protections to security forces, has made it difficult to bring perpetrators to justice.

Tailpiece: The heart-wrenching violence, including the gruesome killing of Kashmiri youth in fake encounters and false-flag operations, is likely to persist unless legal frameworks such as the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) and other anti-terrorism laws granting broad immunity to security forces are repealed or substantially reformed.

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Analysis Nissar Ahmed Thakur



SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:15 am
Zohr	12:09 pm
Asr	4:46 pm
Maghrib	6:36 pm
Isha	8:03 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
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

Maryam Nawaz Sharif directs completion of drainage projects before June

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has set a deadline to complete all drainage projects before June and has directed that work be carried out round the clock. She instructed authorities to ensure the completion of sewerage and rainwater drainage projects prior to the monsoon season.

Drainage projects are currently underway in Sargodha, Dera Ghazi Khan, Gujrat, Okara, Jhang, Multan, Sialkot, Jhelum, Hafizabad, Sahiwal, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Sheikhpura, Nankana Sahib, and Rawalpindi.

It was briefed that for 15 cities, a total of 2,265 kilometers of sewerage lines and 189 kilometers of rainwater drainage pipelines will be laid. In Phase One, 86 disposal stations and



9 underground storage tanks will be constructed. Upon completion of the sewerage and drainage projects, 752 kilometers of roads will also be developed.

In a special meeting chaired by the

Chief Minister, the design of WASA complexes for 15 cities was approved. The complexes will also include hostel facilities for officers.

It was further informed that ongoing projects are being moni-

tored in real-time through a WASA dashboard and mobile application. Instructions were also issued for WASA to initiate a large-scale desilting campaign of drains before the monsoon season.

Life is Back

ISLAMABAD: Traffic resumes on Srinagar Highway in the Federal Capital after life in twin cities became normal which was paralyzed due to US-Iran talks.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Legendary singer Asha Bhosle passes away after illness



India just lost a voice that never really aged.

Asha Bhosle, one of the most versatile and enduring playback singers in Indian music history, has passed away at 92, according to Press Trust of India.

She had been admitted to Breach Candy Hospital in South Mumbai after a chest infection and exhaustion over the weekend. By Sunday, the music had quietly stopped.

Her last rites will take place at Shivaji Park Crematorium at 4pm, while fans can pay their respects at her residence from 11am onwards – and there will be many.

Because how do you sum up a voice that did everything?

From the 1940s struggle days to ruling the charts in the 50s and 60s, Bhosle did not just sing songs – she shapeshifted with them. Big break? Think Naya Daur. Then came a golden run with composers like O. P. Nayyar, S. D. Burman, and R. D. Burman.

Cabaret? She nailed it. Ghazals? Effortless. Pop, bhajans, classical – she treated genres like outfit changes.

Her voice became inseparable from screen icon Helen, adding swagger to some of Bollywood's most unforgettable performances.

And when it came to depth, albums like Umrao Jan and Ijazat proved she could slow things down and still hit just as hard – earning National Awards along the way.

Even decades later, she stayed relevant (Rangeela, Lagaan – no big deal).

Thousands of songs, 20+ languages. Honours like the Padma Vibhushan and Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

Also Bhosle did not just leave behind music. She left behind moods.

Pakistani food export delegation heads to Riyadh amidst regional food crisis

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: A high-level Pakistani delegation of food exporters, led by Coordinator to the Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif Ur Rehman, Sunday left for Riyadh to assess meeting the Kingdom's food requirements on top priority besides promoting collaboration for enhanced bilateral cooperation.

Prior to his departure, he said this visit comes at a crucial time, as the ongoing Middle East crisis has heightened concerns over food security and supply chain stability across the region. He hoped that the visit is poised to pave the way for increased exports, joint ventures, and long-term agreements, reinforcing economic cooperation and mutual trust between the two brotherly countries during challenging times. He said during their visit, they will hold series of meetings with Saudi officials, importers, and key stakeholders to better understand immediate and long-term food needs. The objective is to ensure timely and priority-based fulfillment of requirements while strengthening trade ties.



Pakistan, being an agrarian economy, is well-positioned to support Saudi

Arabia in ensuring food security through reliable and high-quality exports. He highlighted the importance of building sustainable partnerships, improving logistics, and facilitating smoother trade mechanisms.

Islamabad Emerges as Key Diplomatic Hub Amid Visit of U. S. Senator J. D. Vance

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The visit of U. S. Senator J. D. Vance to Pakistan is being viewed as a significant diplomatic development that could mark a potentially historic moment for future engagement between the United States and Iran. At a time of heightened tensions and uncertainty in the Middle East, this visit goes beyond routine diplomacy and signals a genuine opportunity for meaningful progress through the "Islamabad Dialogue."

According to strategic affairs analyst Dr. Hussain Thebo, this milestone has been made possible through the coordinated efforts and strategic vision of Pakistan's



civil and military leadership, including Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Their unified approach has positioned Pakistan

as a balanced, responsible, and credible mediator on the global stage.

By facilitating dialogue between Washington and Tehran, Pakistan is not only contributing to regional stability but also reinforcing its diplomatic relevance internationally. The presence of Senator J. D. Vance underscores the seriousness of the initiative and reflects a willingness on the part of the United States to engage in constructive dialogue aimed at de-escalation.

Dr. Thebo noted that Senator Vance's broader political stance—particularly his cautious approach toward prolonged military interventions—adds further significance to his visit. His emphasis on strategic restraint aligns with

efforts to reduce tensions and pursue sustainable diplomatic solutions. As a prominent political figure and potential future leader, his support for such initiatives may help advance long-term peace and stability.

Islamabad's role as the host city also carries symbolic and strategic importance. Moving such discussions beyond traditional Western venues reflects a shift toward more inclusive diplomacy, which may help build trust among regional stakeholders, particularly Iran.

The potential outcomes of the Islamabad Dialogue extend beyond politics. Positive developments could ease pressure on global trade routes, stabilize energy markets, and reduce the

Efforts of MPA Mumtaz Ali Chandio, Construction Work to Begin Soon

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: A major development has emerged for the residents of Naushahro Feroze, as the first installment of a Rs. 175 million development scheme for the District Hospital has been released.

According to sources, this progress has been made possible through the efforts of Pakistan Peoples Party MPA Mumtaz Ali Chandio, aimed at improving healthcare facilities in the district.

Officials stated that following the release of funds, construction work on the Naushahro Feroze District Hospital is expected to begin soon, which will help provide modern and quality medical facilities to the local population.

Local residents and social circles have welcomed the initiative and expressed hope that the completion of this project will significantly improve the healthcare sector in the district.

Punjab Police Remained on High Alert During Christian Worship Prayer

Bureau Report

LAHORE: On the instructions of Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem, Punjab Police performed security duties while remaining on high alert during Christian worship prayer programs in churches across the province, including Lahore. Earlier, IG Punjab had issued directives to RPOs and DPOs to enhance security of churches. He said that supervisory officers should personally check the security arrangements of churches and important locations. He directed that additional police personnel and snipers be deployed at sensitive churches, while teams of Dolphin Squad, PRU and Elite Force should ensure effective patrolling around churches.

IG Punjab directed that deployed police officers and personnel should remain highly alert and keep a strict watch on miscreant elements. Search and sweep operations should also be continued around churches, Christian localities and sensitive locations.

Abdul Kareem said that religious scholars, the Christian community and members of peace committees should promote interfaith harmony.

24-hour gas shutdown disastrous for industries

Bureau Report

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad SITE Association of Trade and Industry (HSATI) Chairman Zubair Ghangra has expressed strong reservations over the decision to suspend gas supply to industries across Sindh for 24 hours from April 12 to April 13, saying that this step has been taken at a time when industries are already forced to continue their production with limited gas pressure and uncertain supply. He said that when the industrial wheel is already being run with limited gas supply for six days a week, a complete shutdown for another 24 hours will prove to be the worst for industries, which is in no way tolerable. He said that due to this sudden shutdown, not only industrial production will be severely affected but also timely fulfillment of export orders will be at risk, which may damage Pakistan's reputation in the global market.



risk of broader conflict. For Pakistan, this presents an opportunity to strengthen international partnerships, enhance economic prospects, and reinforce its image as a proponent of peace and stability.

While significant challenges remain—particularly the deep-rooted mistrust between the United States and Iran—diplomacy often begins with small but

meaningful steps. Supported by Pakistan's leadership and institutions, this initiative represents an important move toward constructive engagement.

The visit of Senator J. D. Vance to Islamabad stands as a hopeful and strategic development, with the potential to pave the way for tangible progress and a more stable, cooperative regional order.

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USA-Iran Talks Collapse, Illusions Remain

As the dust settles over Islamabad, the much-anticipated direct negotiations between the United States and Iran have ended not with a breakthrough, but with a pause—one that exposes the deep structural fault lines of this conflict. After an intense 21-hour uninterrupted diplomatic marathon, the talks concluded without agreement, confirming that despite urgency, pressure, and global attention, the gap between the two adversaries remains wide and unresolved.

The United States delegation, led by JD Vance, acknowledged the deadlock with unusual clarity. Despite what he described as “intensive” and “substantive” discussions, Iran “chose not to accept” American terms. This was not a procedural delay or technical pause—it was a strategic failure to reconcile competing visions of the post-war order. The talks did not collapse abruptly; they exhausted themselves, which in many ways is even more revealing.

What makes this outcome more striking is the contradiction at the highest level of American leadership. Even as negotiations were ongoing—and indeed as they stretched deep into the night—Donald Trump maintained that the United States had already won the war. His assertion that “we win regardless” now stands in sharp contrast to the reality of failed negotiations. If victory had truly been secured, diplomacy would have been a formality. Instead, it has become a necessity—one that has, so far, failed to deliver results.

At the center of this deadlock lies the Strait of Hormuz, the most critical strategic chokepoint in the world. Control over this narrow waterway—

once responsible for nearly 20% of global energy flows—remains the primary point of contention. The United States insists on restoring full navigational freedom and removing Iranian leverage, while Iran views control over the strait as its most powerful bargaining chip.

This tension was dramatically illustrated during the talks themselves. Washington announced that two U. S. Navy destroyers had entered the strait to begin mine-clearing operations, signaling an attempt to project authority and normalize passage. Iran, however, rejected this narrative, asserting that any movement in the waterway falls under its control and that its forces had challenged the U. S. presence. Regardless of which version is accepted, the strategic conclusion is unavoidable: the United States cannot exercise uncontested control over the Strait of Hormuz. This reality not only weakened Washington’s negotiating position but also injected additional mistrust into an already fragile diplomatic process.

Another major factor shaping the outcome of the talks was the rigidity of core demands on both sides. The United States insisted on a binding commitment that Iran would not develop nuclear weapons—a position that remains non-negotiable in Washington. Iran, on the other hand, presented equally firm red lines: a ceasefire in Lebanon, reparations for war damage, lifting of sanctions, release of frozen assets, and recognition of its sovereign rights under international frameworks. These positions were not merely negotiating stances; they were

strategic doctrines, leaving little room for compromise within a single round of talks.

Compounding this complexity is the evolving regional dynamic—particularly the role of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Early in the conflict, the United States explored leveraging Kurdish groups operating in and around Iran as proxy forces. This approach, however, was swiftly blocked by Turkey. Viewing Kurdish factions as extensions of the PKK insurgency, Ankara issued strong warnings that any U. S. support for such groups would directly threaten Turkish national security.

President Erdoğan leveraged Turkey’s NATO position and his direct engagement with President Trump to force a policy reversal. The United States ultimately stepped back from arming Iranian Kurdish groups and offered assurances to Turkey. This episode is crucial—it demonstrates that even in wartime, U. S. strategic options are constrained by alliance politics, and that regional actors like Turkey can decisively shape the trajectory of conflict.

Equally telling was the hesitation among Kurdish groups themselves, many of whom feared becoming disposable instruments in a larger geopolitical struggle. Their reluctance further undermined Washington’s proxy strategy, leaving it with fewer tools to exert pressure on Iran.

Meanwhile, the economic narrative surrounding the war has taken an unusually blunt turn. President Trump

has openly framed the disruption of the Strait of Hormuz as beneficial to the United States, arguing that it forces global markets to turn toward American oil and gas. In this interpretation, the war becomes a commercial advantage, a mechanism for redirecting global energy dependence.

This perspective has sparked widespread criticism. It suggests that geopolitical conflict is being evaluated not in terms of stability or human cost, but through the lens of economic gain. Thousands have been killed, infrastructure has been devastated, and entire populations have been displaced. To frame such destruction as economically advantageous raises profound moral and strategic questions about the nature of modern warfare.

At the same time, Israel’s continued military operations in Lebanon against Hezbollah played a significant role in the failure of the talks. Iran insisted that any ceasefire must extend to Lebanon, while Israel—under Benjamin Netanyahu—refused to halt its campaign. This divergence created an additional layer of conflict that the Islamabad negotiations could not bridge.

Public sentiment across the region and beyond is also shifting. In Israel, protests are growing against what many see as endless war without clear strategic benefit. In the United States, both traditional and digital media are increasingly questioning the rationale behind continued military engagement and the broader influence shaping American foreign policy decisions.

Despite suffering significant damage, Iran has emerged from the conflict with enhanced strategic leverage. Its control

Continued on Page 7

Iran Proposes Ten-Point Ceasefire After US-Zionist Aggression; Trump Agrees

Following forty days of military aggression by the United States and the Zionist regime—characterized by armed attacks on residential areas and civilian infrastructure—and after an exchange of numerous messages mediated by the brotherly nation of Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran announced a ten-point proposal for a ceasefire. President Trump accepted these terms as the basis for two-week ceasefire negotiations.

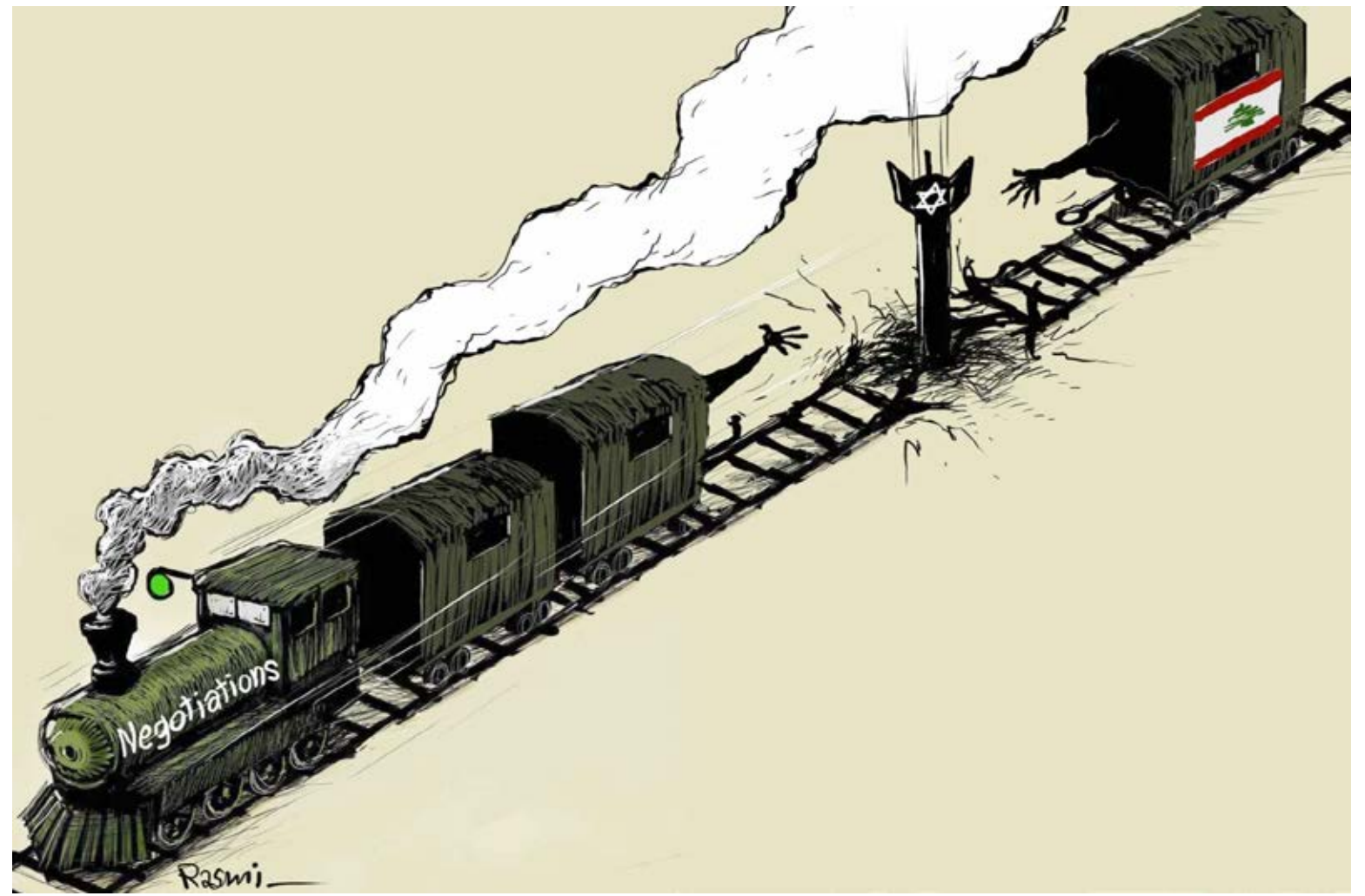
Mr. Trump, who withdrew during his first term from the JCPOA—the result of twenty months of negotiations—attempted in his second term to impose excessive and irrational demands on Iran through bilateral talks. The imposition of the 12-day war in June 2025 by the Zionist regime and the U. S. was the direct result of the Iranian people’s resistance against these demands.

Following that conflict, the Trump administration again requested negotiations regarding Iran’s nuclear program, with Oman playing the role of mediator. Unfortunately, despite the progress made in those talks, the Zionist regime and the U. S. attacked Iran on February 28, 2026. On the first day of this aggression, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution and several high-ranking political and military officials were martyred at their residence. According to the testimony of the Omani Foreign Minister, that round of negotiations had reached favorable results and could have led to an agreement.

The child-killing, apartheid Zionist regime and the United States failed to achieve any of their objectives in this war. By attacking the Minab school, they martyred approximately 170 children, committing a clear war crime. Furthermore, they targeted 620 educational places, including universities and historical sites, as well as vital infrastructure such as hospitals, bridges, and power plants. They openly threatened to return Iran—a country with over 5,000 years of civilization—to the “Stone Age.”

Based on Article 51 of the UN Charter, the Islamic Republic of Iran defended its territorial integrity firmly. In this powerful resistance and decisive response, Iran targeted objectives deep within the occupied territories, as well as U. S. military bases and interests in the region, shattering the concept of “absolute security” for Israel.

The Islamic Republic has never initiated any war. However, in the years following the Islamic Revolution, it has endured three military aggressions. The people of Iran have defended their territorial integrity with all their might against the aggressions of Saddam, the Zionist regime, and the U. S.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awsat)

Nobel Prize-Recognition or Flattery? Drawing the Line in Honoring the Field Marshal

It is a matter of profound national and strategic importance to carefully, rigorously, and without emotional excess, differentiate between two concepts that are often deliberately confused in public discourse: genuine recognition of meritorious service and the hollow, often self-serving act of flattery. This distinction becomes even more critical when the subject of discussion is the highest military office of a nuclear-armed, geopolitically pivotal nation like Pakistan—the office of the Field Marshal. Recently, while navigating the vast and often unregulated landscape of digital opinion, I came across a piece of writing on a website that made a rather dismissive and, in my considered view, intellectually lazy argument. The writer of that piece asserted that any discussion, written or verbal, regarding the nomination of Pakistan’s current Field Marshal, Syed Asim Munir, for the Nobel Peace Prize constitutes nothing more than a cheap form of flattery. This argument, upon closer inspection, collapses under the weight of its own flawed premises and a glaring failure to acknowledge the tangible, measurable, and globally recognized achievements of the Field Marshal. I do not agree with this argument, and it is essential to dismantle it not through rhetoric but through a methodical presentation of facts, contexts, and logical reasoning. To equate recognition with flattery is to insult the very concept of meritocracy and to blind oneself to the reality of Pakistan’s recent strategic and diplomatic history.



Abdul Basit Alvi

First and foremost, it is absolutely imperative to understand and enumerate the remarkable, often unprecedented services rendered by Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, not merely for the domestic stability of Pakistan but for the broader architecture of global peace. One cannot begin any serious discussion of his suitability for a peace prize without first establishing the factual basis of his contributions. The most prominent among these, and a subject that has been analyzed in military and political circles worldwide, is his conduct during the military engagement referred to in strategic discourse as the Marka Huq against India. This was not a conventional war; it was a high-stakes, volatile confrontation between two nuclear-armed neighbors, a scenario that has historically terrified global powers due to the catastrophic potential of escalation. What distinguished Field Marshal Munir’s leadership in this crisis was not brute force but surgical precision, extraordinary restraint, and a clear adherence to a modern ethic of warfare that prioritizes the minimization of non-combatant suffering. Under his direct command and strategic vision, the Pakistan Armed Forces focused their operations exclusively on identified Indian military assets—command centers, forward logistics bases, and artillery emplacements—while going to extraordinary lengths to avoid civilian casualties. This is not a minor detail; it is a paradigm shift in South Asian conflict dynamics. Historically, conventional wars between India and Pakistan have resulted in significant collateral damage, including the bombing of civilian neighbor-

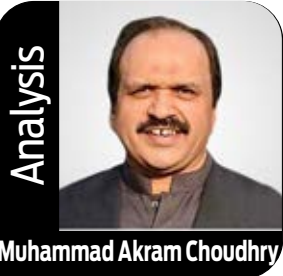
hoods and infrastructure. Field Marshal Munir broke that cycle. He imposed a doctrine of targeted engagement that saved hundreds, if not thousands, of innocent lives on both sides of the border. The international community, including neutral military observers, noted this with quiet but genuine admiration. To call recognition of this fact flattery is to deny the reality of those saved lives.

Furthermore, the Field Marshal’s role in responding to a direct diplomatic overture from the American president cannot be overstated. When Donald Trump called for an immediate ceasefire in a different but related theater of tension, Field Marshal Munir did not hesitate. He welcomed the call, and more importantly, he acted upon it with speed and sincerity. This act of leadership was not ignored. Donald Trump, a figure not known for distributing unearned praise, explicitly acknowledged that the Field Marshal’s acceptance of the ceasefire terms had, in his words, “saved millions of lives.” Regardless of one’s political opinion of Trump as a personality, his acknowledgment carries weight in international diplomatic circles because it reflects a moment of genuine crisis averted. The alternative to that ceasefire was a protracted, bloody engagement that could have drawn in multiple regional powers, leading to a humanitarian catastrophe of unimaginable proportions. Field Marshal Munir chose peace over pride, dialogue over destruction. That is not flattery; that is a documented historical fact. To dismiss this as mere flattery is to argue that saving millions of lives is a trivial matter unworthy of the world’s highest peace honor—a position that is morally indefensible.

Continued on Page 7

Beyond the Apology: Institutional Chaos and Diplomatic Fallout in Islamabad - I

Diplomacy is often described as the art of the possible, but in truth it is more exacting than that. It is the art of restraint, of knowing not only what to say, but when to say it, and, perhaps most importantly, when to remain silent. When a country steps forward to mediate between warring parties, this restraint is no longer optional; it becomes the very foundation upon which the credibility of that mediation rests. Against this demanding standard, the recent conduct of Pakistan’s defence minister, Khawaja Asif, represents not merely a lapse in judgment, but a profound failure of statecraft.



Muhammad Akram Choudhry

At a time when Pakistan had painstakingly carved out a role for itself as a neutral facilitator, bringing America and Iran to the brink of dialogue after weeks of sustained and delicate diplomatic engagement, the minister chose to publish a strongly worded denunciation of not just of Israel—the principal aggressor of the recent conflict—but also of those who occupied the Palestinian land to inhabit European Jews. The timing of this intervention is as perplexing as it is troubling. If the minister’s remarks were rooted in principle, if they were meant to signal a clear and unwavering opposition to aggression, then one must ask, with some urgency, why was this position not articulated when the events in question first unfolded on February 28? Why did this moral clarity emerge only after a ceasefire had been announced, after the diplomatic groundwork had been laid, and after Pakistan had assumed the mantle of a mediator?

In public life, timing is not a secondary consideration; it is often the clearest indicator of intent. A statement issued in the immediate aftermath of an

event carries the force of conviction. It signals that the speaker is willing to bear the costs of taking a stand when it matters most. By contrast, a statement delivered weeks later, at a moment of acute diplomatic sensitivity, invites a different interpretation. It suggests calculation rather than courage, opportunism rather than principle. The question, therefore, is unavoidable. Was this an expression of genuine concern, or a gesture calibrated for domestic consumption?

The answer may lie, in part, in the reaction that followed. While some voices within Pakistan were quick to applaud the minister’s remarks, celebrating them as bold, even heroic, the response beyond its borders was far less forgiving. The entity targeted in the tweet, though not formally a participant in the talks, occupies a position of considerable influence in relation to the United States. Israel’s official response was swift and forceful, condemning what it described as “blatant antisemitic blood libels” from a government claiming to mediate peace. In a single stroke, the perception of neutrality that Pakistan had worked so hard to cultivate was called into question.

What happened next adds another layer of complexity. The tweet was subsequently deleted. However, it remains unclear whether this was the minister’s own decision or the result of direction from higher authorities within the government. In all likelihood, such a move reflects intervention from above, an attempt at damage control once the implications of the statement became evident. Yet the absence of clarity on this point only deepens the sense of institutional disarray. A government that seeks to mediate international conflict cannot afford ambiguity in its own internal coherence.

To be continued

Islamabad Marks the 65th Anniversary of the First Human Spaceflight!



On April 12, the Russian Embassy in Pakistan organized a wreath-laying ceremony at the monument to Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin in Fatima, Jinnah Park of Islamabad.

The ceremony was attended by Ambassador Albert P. Khorev, Additional Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Ayesha Ali, Ambassadors of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, Russian Defense Attaché Colonel Vadim Fenchenko, Russian Trade Representative Denis Nevzorov, as well as officials from the CDA and SUPARCO.

The event was also attended by Embassy staff, Russian community and Pakistani academia.

In his remarks, Albert P. Khorev emphasized that Yuri Gagarin's flight ushered in a new chapter in human history – the era of the Universe exploration. It became a powerful symbol of humanity's determination to reach new heights in intellectual and technological advancement,

to overcome any obstacle on the path toward the most ambitious and noble goals. The Ambassador also noted that the successful launch of the Vostok-1 spacecraft was made possible by the selfless and tireless efforts of millions of Soviet citizens – the brotherly peoples of the former Soviet republics – who devoted their lives to serving their Motherland. Victory in the space race was forged through the collective endeavor of Soviet statesmen, scientists, and workers. Additional Foreign Secretary Ayesha Ali, on behalf of



the Government of Pakistan, thanked the Russian Embassy for organizing the event and highlighted the steadily developing bilateral dialogue between Moscow and Islamabad.

Ayesha Ali noted: "Pakistan attaches great importance to its multifaceted relations with Russia. Over the years, our two countries have steadily expanded cooperation in diverse fields, including energy, regional connectivity, education and cultural exchanges. Shared commemorations do not only honor historic milestones, but also strengthen the bonds of friendship and mutual respect between Pakistan and Russia."

The Russian Embassy in Pakistan expresses its gratitude to the International Charitable Public Foundation "Dialogue of Cultures – United World" and the St. Petersburg International Mercantile Exchange for providing the bust of Yuri Gagarin and supporting the construction of the monument.



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Misbah Qaisar Voices Hope for Peace, Praises Pakistan's Role in US-Iran Dialogue

Bureau Report

LONDON: Former Chairperson of the Overseas Pakistanis Commission (OPC) North UK, Misbah Qaisar, has expressed optimism over ongoing diplomatic efforts between the United States and Iran, calling the latest round of talks a "positive step toward lasting peace."

In her statement, Misbah said that constructive engagement between the two countries signals a willingness to resolve longstanding issues through dialogue. She welcomed remarks by U. S. Vice President JD Vance following the first round of discussions, particularly his emphasis on preventing nuclear proliferation and maintaining a clear and firm U. S. stance.

Misbah noted that such clarity, combined with continued negotiations, creates a strong foundation for a potential breakthrough in the final round of talks. "The focus on ensuring that no nuclear weapons



are developed is vital for global security, and dialogue remains the only viable path forward," she said.

Highlighting Pakistan's constructive role, Misbah described the country's involvement as a matter of national pride. She emphasized that Pakistan has consistently supported peaceful conflict resolution and remains committed to facilitating dialogue where possible.

She also acknowledged the efforts of Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, Felid Marshal Syed Asim Munir, for his role in encouraging diplomatic engagement and contributing to regional stability. According to Qaisar, such leadership reflects Pakistan's broader commitment to global peace initiatives.

Misbah concluded by expressing hope that continued negotiations will lead to a mutually acceptable agreement, benefiting not only the United States and Iran but also contributing to wider international peace and stability.

Farhan Farani Named Among Top 20 in Power 100 British Asians List 2026

Bureau Report

LONDON: Prominent solicitor and business leader Farhan Farani has been ranked among the Top 20 in the Power 100 British Asians List 2026, a prestigious annual ranking celebrating the achievements of Britain's most influential figures of Asian heritage.

The list will be officially unveiled at the British Asian Who's Who Awards 2026, set to take place on 30 May at the renowned The Savoy Hotel. The event recognises excellence across sectors including business, law, academia, sport, media, and community leadership, highlighting the growing impact of British Asian professionals nationwide. Farani, Managing Director of Farani Taylor Solicitors, has been acknowledged for both his professional success and his wider contributions to society. Under his leadership, the firm has expanded into a high-volume, client-focused legal platform, serving more than 100,000 clients across the UK.

Speaking on his philosophy, Farani said: "Success in law is not just about winning cases, it's about building trust at scale, solving complex problems, and creating a legacy that outlives you." His leadership has been marked by



a modern and accessible approach to legal services, challenging traditional norms within the sector. By prioritising responsiveness and commercial awareness, he has positioned the firm as a trusted partner for individuals and businesses navigating complex legal issues.

Farani's journey from modest beginnings to leading a nationally recognised firm reflects resilience and strategic vision. His work has particularly focused on improving access to legal services for underserved and diverse communities, extending his impact beyond conventional business success. In addition to his legal career, Farani

is known for his role as a community advocate, supporting initiatives that promote inclusion, collaboration, and social mobility. His recognition in this year's list underscores a broader shift towards a new generation of British Asian leaders redefining leadership across industries. The Power 100 British Asians List 2026 is expected to showcase individuals who are not only excelling in their respective fields but are also driving meaningful social change. For Farani, the accolade represents both a milestone and a continuation of his work in shaping a more inclusive and forward-thinking professional landscape.

Pakistan Showcases Higher Education Excellence at EURIE 2026

Muhammad Murtaza Noor

Pakistan has made a strong and impactful mark at the Eurasia Higher Education Summit (EURIE) 2026, held from 7-9 April in Istanbul, Türkiye, through a high-level academic delegation and the establishment of a dedicated Pakistan Pavilion, largest Pavilion in the expo. The country's dynamic participation highlighted its growing academic strength, global outlook, and commitment to international collaboration in higher education.

A 45-member Pakistani delegation, led by Chaudhry Abdul Rehman under the platform of the Association of Private Sector Universities of Pakistan, represented the country at one of the world's leading academic forums. The delegation comprised Chairmen Boards of Governors, Presidents, Vice Chancellors, and senior academic leaders from 17 prominent universities and key organizations, reflecting a unified and strategic national presence on the global stage.

Participating institutions included Superior University, University of Lahore, University of Faisalabad, University of Sialkot, Lahore Leads University, Iqra University, Riphah International University, Preston University, City University, CECOS University, Institute of Business Management, and GIFT University. Key organizations such as OIC-COMSTECH, Sindh Higher Education Commission, Bahria University, and University of South Asia were also part of the delegation, contributing significantly to policy dialogue and international outreach.



stan's participation was the Pakistan Pavilion, which emerged as the largest pavilion at the summit and attracted significant international attention. The pavilion showcased Pakistan's higher education potential, research excellence, and innovation ecosystem while serving as a vibrant hub for academic exchange and global engagement. Delegations and university leaders from across regions actively interacted at the pavilion, engaging in meaningful discussions on partnerships and signing a number of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), making it a focal point of collaboration

throughout the event. The summit, which brought together participants from 61 countries and over 380 universities, provided Pakistan with a powerful platform to present its academic vision, achievements, and future aspirations. A defining moment of the event was the keynote address by Sumaira Rehman, Rector of Superior University and Commission Member of the Higher Education Commission Pakistan. As the sole female keynote speaker at the inauguration session, she delivered a compelling and thought-provoking address that resonated strongly with the inter-

national audience. Emphasizing that "Pakistan has a compelling story to tell," she highlighted the importance of transforming higher education beyond technical skill development to nurturing ethical, responsible, and purpose-driven leaders. She introduced the concept of "Leading with Character," advocating for a values-based education system that integrates academic excellence with moral and social responsibility. Her address was widely appreciated and positioned Pakistan as an emerging thought leader in global education discourse.

Further strengthening Paki-



stan-Türkiye academic relations, a high-level meeting was held between the Pakistani delegation and Erol Özvar, President of the Council of Higher Education Turkey. The discussions focused on enhancing collaboration through joint research initiatives, faculty and student exchange programs, and technology transfer. Pakistani universities were also invited to participate in Türkiye's "500 Research Projects Initiative," opening new

avenues for institutional partnerships and innovation-driven cooperation.

In addition to summit engagements, the delegation also visited the Secretariat of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, where they held a highly productive meeting with Secretary General Sohail Mahmood. During the meeting, the Secretary General briefed the delegation on the organisation's background, key objectives, functions,

and priority areas. The discussions further focused on strengthening collaboration in the higher education sector, particularly by fostering deeper academic partnerships and promoting knowledge exchange among universities across member countries.

The delegation also visited leading universities in Türkiye and participated in high-level receptions hosted by APSUP and EURIE organizers. These engagements are expected to pave the way for long-term collaboration in higher education, research, innovation, and student mobility.

Pakistan's impactful presence at EURIE 2026 reflects its growing commitment to internationalization, academic excellence, and global engagement. Through strategic partnerships and a unified national approach, the country continues to position itself as a progressive and collaborative player in the global higher education landscape.

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 highlights reform priorities at Harvard discussion on Pakistan's economic agenda

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, participated in a high-level panel discussion at Harvard University on "Pakistan's Economic Agenda: Stability, Reform and What Comes Next," held as part of the Pakistan Conference 2026.

The session was moderated by Dr. Reza Baqir, former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, and featured distinguished panelists including Professor Atif Mian of Princeton University and Nobel Laureate Professor Daron Acemoglu of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The discussion brought together leading economists, policymakers, and members of the Pakistani diaspora to deliberate on Pakistan's economic outlook, reform priorities, and long-term growth trajectory.

In his remarks, the Finance Minister described the ongoing Middle East conflict as one of the most significant supply shocks the global economy has witnessed in recent years, requiring careful and calibrated policy management. He highlighted that



Pakistan's immediate priority over the past several weeks had been to ensure uninter-

rupted energy supplies across critical sectors, despite limited strategic reserves, through coordinated efforts across key ministries and institutions.

He noted that the government initially introduced a blanket subsidy to cushion the public from rising energy costs, which has since transitioned into full price transmission supported by targeted subsidies, in line with available fiscal space. The Finance Minister emphasized that Pakistan has managed the situation relatively well compared to many countries, avoiding severe supply disruptions or law and order challenges.

On the external front, Senator Aurangzeb underscored the government's strong debt management, noting that the recent Eurobond repayment was a "non-event," and expressed confidence in Pakistan's ability to meet upcoming external obligations in a timely manner.

The discussion provided an important platform for engagement with global thought leaders and stakeholders, reflecting Pakistan's commitment to transparency, reform, and constructive dialogue on its economic future.

Restart

ISLAMABAD: A metro bus on the way at metro track after the closed metro bus service open for public after US-Iran peace talks, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Businessmen Panel Pakistan Reorganizes Central Cabinet, Announces Key Appointments



PESHAWAR: The Core Committee of Businessmen Panel Pakistan has approved the reorganization of the central cabinet. Under the new organizational structure, former FPCCI President Sultan Chawla has been appointed Patron-in-Chief, former FPCCI President Mian Anjum Nisar as Chairman, former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali as Central Secretary General, while Khawaja Shahzaib Akram and Nasir Hayat Maggo have been elected as Senior Vice Chairmen.

Participants of the Core Committee meeting, along with all BMP office bearers

and the business community, appreciated the role of the federal government and Pakistan's armed forces in the current national and international situation and paid rich tribute in strong words. They also reaffirmed their commitment to utilize all their capabilities for resolving the issues faced by the country and especially the business community.

In this regard, an important meeting of Businessmen Panel Pakistan was held yesterday at the office of Senior Vice Chairman Khawaja Shahzaib Akram, attended by all core committee members.

Iftikhar Malik commends Pakistan for holding peace talks

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday urged the entire global community to support and strengthen peace-oriented sincere efforts of Pakistan to ensure sustainable solutions to ongoing conflicts between US-Iran in the Middle East.

In a statement here today he said for the first time in history, diplomatic efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharef and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir have received widespread global recognition for their constructive role in helping defuse tensions between two countries.

Pakistan, through proactive engagement and sincere dialogue, has demonstrated its commitment to regional and international peace bringing either side on dialogue table. Pakistan's leadership has effectively utilized diplomatic channels to encourage restraint and promote negotiations among conflicting parties. He added that such efforts have not only enhanced Pakistan's global image but also



reinforced its position as a responsible and peace-loving nation. The Pakistan balanced foreign policy and consistent advocacy for dialogue over confrontation have been appreciated by the international community especially in the wake

of Middle East US-Israel war on Iran. He said Pakistan's initiatives have contributed to reducing the risk of escalation in a highly volatile region, paving the way for meaningful discussions and long-term stability.

Tech Save Billions: Dehydration Key to Curbing Pakistan's Food Waste

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Convener Federation of Commerce and Industry regional committee on food shahid Imran Sunday said Pakistan can save billions of rupees agricultural produce wastage annually by adopting modern preservation techniques particularly dehydration technology.

Talking here today to a delegation of progressive farmers led by Chaudhary Muhammad Afzal Gujjar, he said modern technology can play a key role in enhancing value addition extending shelf life and creating new market opportunities for farmers and entrepreneurs. He highlighted the urgent need to minimise crops

losses in the agriculture sector pointing out that a significant quantity of vegetables and fruits like tomatoes, peas, mango, onions, strawberries bananas and citrus were being wasted ranging from 20 to 40 percent every year due to their perishable nature. He said it's matter of great concern that county is wasting major chunks of agricultural produce which can be converted into value addition by adopting modern technology meeting international standards and earning foreign exchange.

Leader of the delegation Ch Muhammad Afzal Gujjar from Sheikhupura underscored the importance of strengthening the domestic supply chain of agricultural goods to reduce their wastage.

Land trade with Central Asian States through Iran will play a positive role: Rehan Naseem Bharara

FAISALABAD: The Pakistan-Iran corridor has been officially launched. The first export consignment of this series has been sent to Tashkent.



This was said by former President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Rehan Naseem Bharara while talking to the media after the customs announcement.

He added that the first export consignment of Pakistani products through the Iran Transit Corridor has been sent from Karachi to Tashkent.

Customs officials say that the export consignment will enter Iran from the Ramdan border and reach the Central Asian states. The first consignment of frozen meat has been sent through the new trade route. Rehan Naseem Bharara added that the new corridor will be very favorable for Pakistani traders and the economy of Pakistan.

Vietnam extends fuel tax suspension until end of June

HANOI: Vietnam has decided to extend the suspension of taxes on fuels until the end of June from April 15 to stabilise the domestic market, the country's parliamentary office said on Sunday, as the Iran war continues to disrupt supplies.

The National Assembly, the country's lawmaking body, has passed a resolution on the suspension of environmental protection and special consumption taxes on fuels, the parliamentary office said in a statement. The tax suspension has been in place since late March.

The finance ministry last month said the suspension of the taxes would reduce revenue going into state coffers by 7.2 trillion dong (\$273.40 million) a month.

Furniture Council CEO Applauds Pakistan's Diplomatic Push for US-Iran Talks

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq Sunday hailed Pakistan's proactive and sincere diplomatic efforts in bringing the United States and Iran to the negotiating table in Islamabad, terming it a highly commendable initiative aimed at defusing escalating tensions in the Middle East.

Presiding over here today a board of directors meeting he said Pakistan's timely intervention has helped create a rare opportunity for dialogue at a critical juncture when the region was heading towards further instability. Pakistan's continued engagement will lead to meaningful outcomes, paving the way for lasting peace, restoration of investor confidence, and economic revival across the region.

He said Islamabad's role as a neutral and



credible mediator has been instrumental in facilitating a fragile ceasefire and initiating high-level talks between the two sides and emphasised that such efforts not only enhance Pakistan's global diplomatic standing but also contribute significantly to regional peace, which is vital for economic stability and un-

interrupted trade flows. Prolonged conflict in the Middle East directly impacts global energy markets and supply chains, adversely affecting developing economies like Pakistan. Therefore, de-escalation through dialogue is in the broader interest of international business and commerce.

Sports Board Punjab forms historic Cricket Team, trials showcase grassroots talent

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muhammad Ali said that Sports Board Punjab's cricket team is being formed for the first time in history and the participation of players from far-flung areas in SBP Grade-II trials is the proof of their passion for cricket.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muhammad Ali expressed these views while talking to media on the second day of SBP Grade-II cricket trials at the SBP Cricket academy outside Punjab Stadium on Sunday.

Deputy Director Zahoor Ahmed, Assistant Director M Waseem, M Sajid and other officials were also present on this occasion.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muhammad Ali was the chief guest at the trials. He watched the trials proceedings with keen interest. The SBP Grade-II cricket trials were supervised by former Test cricketer Aizaz Cheema and SBP coaches. More than 200 players from all over the country participated in the trials.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muhammad Ali said that

the enthusiasm of the young cricket players is quite exceptional. "Pakistan has been blessed with plenty of cricketers talent which is a good omen for the bright future of this game in our country".

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muhammad Ali said that SBP Grade-II cricket trials are being conducted purely on merit.

"The selection committee has been directed that there will be no compromise on transparency in the selection process".

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muhammad Ali said that Sports Board Punjab is providing best facilities to all participating young cricketers, selection panel and other associated officials during the organization of 2-day cricket trials.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muhammad Ali said that Sports Board Punjab is striving hard for the development of sports across all parts of the province.

"The selected players of Sports Board Punjab Grade-II cricket team will be awarded monthly scholarships".



PSL Pakistan Super League Cricket Championship Edition 11 Played at National Stadium Karachi

Hyderabad Kingsmen defeated the strong Islamabad United by 6 wickets

Asim Tanveer

KARACHI: Hyderabad Kingsmen cricket team defeated the strong Islamabad United cricket team by 6 wickets in the Pakistan Super League match yesterday. Hyderabad Kingsmen's second victory in 24 hours in the important match of the 11th edition of the Pakistan Super League, defeating Islamabad, leaving Qalandars behind. Cricket breaking news is that new excitement within 24 hours in PSL 11. This league starts from March 26, 2026 and it has been 17 days till today, April 12, 2026. This was the 21st PSL match and the team that was in negative news for 16 days, was surrounded by failure and was not prominent anywhere on this platform in any way, has won two matches in 24 hours and has left a team like Lahore Qalandars behind where it has created a sensation. This is the most surprising thing. First, let's talk about the match. Then we will talk about the PSL table and then we will review if the Hyderabad Kingsman derby continues like this, who will be out.



Who will go ahead.

Hyderabad Kingsmen played a match against Islamabad United today. Like the Quetta Gladiators match yesterday, the toss fell in favor of Marnus Labuschagne, who decided to bowl first today, like yesterday. Islamabad United captain Shadab Khan was not available. Chris Lynn captained him in his place. Islamabad United had a very good start. It was not disappointing in any way. The reason for this is that an opening stand of 56 runs in less



than 6 overs and one out to 87 in less than 10 overs is the basis of any big score but what happened after that.

What happened after that was that four wickets fell between 87 runs and 113 runs. Still, there was no big loss. The important thing was that the Hyderabad Kingsmen bowlers were bowling very carefully. Thus, they forced the strong United team to be limited to 153 runs for 9 wickets in 20 overs. Among the prominent

batsmen were Devon Conway who scored 45 runs off 31 balls. He hit 7 fours and Sameer Minhas scored 22 runs off 13 balls and Mark Chapman was very good. He played an innings of 42 off 30 balls. Apart from them, no player could give a good performance and five, six, two. This was their score. Asif Mahmood bowled brilliantly for Hyderabad Kingsmen, bowling only two overs and giving away 18 runs, dismissing 4 players. Mohammad Ali gave away 26



runs in four overs and dismissed two. Haneen Shah was bowled for 44 runs in four overs today without getting any wickets. Saim Ayub also had to give away 29 runs in four overs without getting any wickets. Glenn Maxwell bowled well today. He took a valuable wicket by giving away only 21 runs in four overs.

In reply, like in the previous match, Kingsmen once again made a confident opening stand. Moaz Sadaqat laid the foundation of 50 runs in 4.5 overs with Marnus Labuschagne. Moaz Sadaqat made 30 off 16 balls and



was caught by Faheem Ashraf off the ball of Green. Captain Marnus Labuschagne was in a different mood today. He batted cautiously at first and then responsibly. Saim Ayub joined him and took the total to 91 in 11 overs. Now 63 runs off 54 balls was no big deal. Both of them took the score above 100 in 12 overs to 102 runs for one wicket. When Saim Ayub went to 35 on a total of 110, then Usman Khan took 1 and Kaushal Perera took 2, and suddenly the score went from 110 runs to 115 runs for 4 wickets. Here Glenn Maxwell came and joined his compatriot Labuschagne and the United's happiness was shattered. Both of them

completed the target for their team in 18.1 overs for 4 wickets, giving them a 6-wicket win. Labuschagne returned unbeaten on 61 off 53 balls and Maxwell on 21 off 9 balls. Faheem Ashraf took 2 wickets for 33 runs and Chris Green took 2 wickets for 19 runs. They are ahead of Qalandars due to their improved net run rate.

PSL 11 Points Table

Peshawar Zalmi 9 points in 5 matches, 1st position
Multan Sultans, 8 points in 5 matches, 2nd position
Islamabad United, 7 points in 6 matches, 3rd position
Karachi Kings, 6 points in 5 matches, 4th position
Quetta Gladiators 4 points in 5 matches, 5th position
Hyderabad Kings 4 points in 6 matches, 6th position
Lahore Qalandars, 4 points in 5 matches, 7th position
Rawalpindi, 0 points in 5 matches, 8th position
Next match of PSL 11
Monday, April 13, 22nd match of PSL 11. Multan Sultans vs. Peshawar Zalmi. Karachi

Trump says US-Iran talks yield...

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"In many ways, the points that were agreed to are better than us continuing our Military Operations to conclusion, but all of those points don't matter compared to allowing Nuclear Power to be in the hands of such volatile, difficult, unpredictable people," said Trump in the Truth Social post.

US Vice President JD Vance left Pakistan without a deal after weekend talks with a team led by Iran's parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf — the highest-level meeting

between the two sides since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Tehran's delegation also included Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

"We leave here with a very simple proposal, a method of understanding that is our final and best offer. We'll see if the Iranians accept it," Vance told reporters.

In two lengthy posts on Truth Social, Trump slammed Iran for promising to open the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway through which a fifth of the world's crude oil passes, and "knowingly" failing to deliver.

"They say they put mines in the water, even though all of their Navy, and most of their 'mine droppers,' have been completely blown up. They may have done so, but what ship owner would want to take the chance?" Trump said.

Iran had effectively blocked the Strait of Hormuz for weeks, since the United States and Israel launched a bombing campaign against the Islamic Republic more than six weeks ago.

On Saturday, the US military announced that two US warships had transited the strait at the start of a mine clearance operation.

Latest developments in Middle East War

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Vance leaves without deal

US Vice President JD Vance departed Pakistan aboard Air Force Two soon after saying that talks with Iran failed to reach an agreement after he put forward a "final and best offer".

"The simple fact is that we need to see an affirmative commitment that they will not seek a nuclear weapon and will not seek the tools that would enable them to quickly achieve a nuclear weapon," he told reporters in Islamabad, on the main sticking point for talks moving ahead.

UK disappointed

UK health minister Wes Streeting said it was "disappointing" that negotiations between the United States and Iran in Islamabad had stalled, and criticised Trump's "incendiary" rhetoric during the conflict.

"It's obviously disappointing that we haven't yet seen a breakthrough in negotiations and an end to this war in Iran that is a sustainable one," Streeting told Sky News.

Key Saudi pipeline back

Saudi Arabia's energy ministry said that its key east-west oil pipe-

line and other facilities had been restored following attacks by Iran on infrastructure across the Gulf.

Tehran downplays no-deal finish

Iran's foreign ministry said no one had held any expectation that talks with the United States could have reached an agreement within one session after the negotiations in Islamabad stalled.

"Naturally, from the beginning, we should not have expected to reach an agreement in a single session. No one had such an expectation," ministry spokesperson Esmacel Baqaei said, according to state broadcaster IRIB.

Talks end 'disappointing' Australia

"The priority now must be to continue the ceasefire and return to negotiations," Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said in a statement, adding it was "disappointing that the Islamabad talks between the United States and Iran have ended without agreement".

Pakistan urges US, Iran

Pakistan's foreign minister insisted that Washington and Tehran must uphold a ceasefire agreement, after marathon talks between the two sides to end the war in the Middle East ended without a deal.

USA-Iran Talks Collapse, Illusions Remain

Continued from Page 4

over the Strait of Hormuz remains intact, and its negotiating position has hardened rather than weakened. Moreover, Iran's exploration of alternative financial systems—bypassing the U. S. dollar and traditional banking channels—poses a longer-term challenge to American economic dominance.

The broader Middle East is also undergoing a quiet transformation. Gulf states are reassessing their reliance on U. S. security guarantees, while regional powers like Turkey are asserting greater independence. These shifts point toward a more multipolar regional order, where American influence, while still significant, is no longer uncontested.

Amid this complexity, Pakistan's role as mediator stands out as a rare diplomatic success. By bringing the United States and Iran to the same table, Islamabad demonstrated its capacity to act as a bridge between adversaries. The involvement of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and military leadership underscores Pakistan's growing importance in global diplomacy.

The uninterrupted 21-hour negotiation itself remains a critical takeaway. It reflects a shared recognition of the stakes and a willingness to engage deeply. However, the failure to reach agreement highlights the depth of mistrust and

the rigidity of strategic positions on both sides. The talks did not fail due to lack of effort—they failed because the foundations for compromise are not yet in place.

What happens next remains uncertain. There are indications that talks may resume, suggesting that diplomacy is not entirely dead. But the pause in negotiations also signals that any future progress will require significant shifts in position—something neither side appears ready to undertake immediately.

In this context, President Trump's declaration of victory appears less like a reflection of reality and more like a political narrative aimed at shaping perception. It may also signal an underlying recognition that the limits of military power have been reached.

In the final analysis, the events in Islamabad reveal a sobering truth. This is not a conflict that can be resolved through force alone. It is a war defined by interdependence—of energy, alliances, economics, and diplomacy. The collapse of talks does not mark the end of the process, but it does expose the illusion at its core.

Victory has been declared—but no outcome has been secured.

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

Nobel Prize-Recognition or Flattery? Drawing the Line...

Continued from Page 4

Moving beyond the India-centric conflict, the Field Marshal's role in curbing terrorism within Pakistan itself has been nothing short of transformative. For decades, Pakistan has been a primary victim of global terrorism, suffering tens of thousands of casualties in a relentless war against extremist groups. The previous phases of this war, while courageous, were often reactive and suffered from intelligence gaps and a lack of unified command. Under Field Marshal Munir's leadership, the counter-terrorism paradigm shifted decisively toward intelligence-based, precision operations that dismantled terrorist networks from their core. He introduced new operational coordination between the military's intelligence branches and civilian law enforcement, effectively decimating the ability of militant groups to conduct large-scale, high-casualty attacks within Pakistan's urban centers. The reduction in terrorist incidents, the restoration of public safety in previously

no-go areas like parts of Balochistan and the former tribal districts, and the renewed confidence of foreign investors are all tangible outcomes of his strategy. This is not flattery; it is the result of painstaking, dangerous, and often unrecognized work done by soldiers under his command. To praise this achievement is to encourage the continuation of policies that save Pakistani lives every single day.

The most significant example of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's peacemaking role is his intervention during the United States-Iran confrontation, a crisis that threatened to destabilize the Gulf region, disrupt global oil supplies, and escalate into a war with consequences greater than any conflict since 1945. With tensions already at the level of exchanged airstrikes and no diplomatic exit in sight, he stepped into a space beyond his formal military responsibilities, which are centered on defending national territory and commanding armed forces rather than conducting international diplomacy. His involvement became possible due to the trust he

had built through earlier restraint in conflict situations, commitment to minimizing civilian casualties, and participation in ceasefire-related efforts, which led both Washington and Tehran to view him as a credible intermediary. This trust enabled him to engage in sustained, high-intensity diplomacy at the request of the situation, during which Pakistan's Prime Minister officially confirmed his extraordinary effort, describing sleepless nights, continuous coordination, back-channel communications, and persistent engagement aimed at preventing escalation, ultimately contributing to the de-escalation process and the movement toward talks, with the implication that dismissing this account would require rejecting official testimony without evidence.

The claim that a Nobel Peace Prize discussion for him amounts to flattery is considered fundamentally incorrect because the prize is awarded based on measurable contributions to peace and conflict reduction regardless of whether the individual is

military or civilian, as reflected in historical recipients such as Dwight D. Eisenhower and Henry Kissinger. By these standards, his eligibility is linked to outcomes including preventing wider US-Iran escalation, supporting ceasefire implementation credited with saving millions of lives, enforcing strict civilian casualty avoidance in India-related conflict, and strengthening internal stability in Pakistan through counterterrorism efforts. The Nobel framework is not based on titles but on impact, and his role is further reinforced by acknowledgment from Pakistan's Prime Minister and international actors including Donald Trump, Iran, the United Nations, and European foreign ministries, all reflecting observable results rather than empty praise. On this basis, nomination is framed as recognition of verified achievement that saved lives, reduced terrorism, and prevented war, while rejection of such recognition is seen as denial of established historical outcomes rather than objective assessment.

Condolences

TANDO ALLAHYAR: President Asif Ali Zardari visited the village of Rais Ghulam Qadir Marri to offer condolences on the passing of PPP leader Haji Ghulam Qadir Marri.



Photo: PID

Pakistan-Iran transit corridor opened as first export shipment departs

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday formally launched the Pakistan-Iran transit corridor, marking a significant step towards enhancing regional trade connectivity, as the first export consignment was dispatched from Karachi to Tashkent.

According to the TV channel, the inaugural shipment, consisting of frozen meat, departed from Karachi as part of the newly established route, which is expected to provide exporters with a more efficient and reliable land-based alternative for reaching Central Asian markets.

An opening ceremony was



held in Karachi to mark the occasion, attended by customs officials and representatives of logistics companies. Participants described the initiative as a key development

in strengthening trade links between Pakistan, Iran and Central Asia.

Under the new arrangement, goods will be transported through Iran using

TIR trucks, allowing smoother cross-border movement and reducing delays typically associated with traditional routes. Officials said the corridor would serve as a practical

alternative for exporters seeking faster and more cost-effective delivery options.

The introduction of this route is expected to significantly reduce transit time and boost commercial activity by improving access to regional markets.

Authorities believe the corridor will open new opportunities for Pakistani exporters while contributing to broader economic cooperation in the region.

The successful dispatch of the first consignment is being seen as an important milestone, signalling Pakistan's intent to expand its trade network and strengthen economic ties with neighbouring countries.

Latest developments in Middle East War

AFP

Putin ready to mediate

Russian President Vladimir Putin told his Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian he was ready to help mediate efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East, the Kremlin said.

"Vladimir Putin emphasised his readiness to further facilitate the search for a political and diplomatic settlement to the conflict, and to mediate efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East," the Kremlin said.

US team leaves after failed talks

The entire US negotiating team has left the failed Iran talks in Islamabad, a US official, leaving nobody in the Pakistani capital to pursue back-channel discussions.



There had been speculation that some of the team, which included chief negotiators Steve Witkoff and President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner,

might stay behind to pursue further discussions.

Iran says no trust

Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who took part in peace talks with the United States

in Islamabad this weekend, said that Washington was "unable" to win Tehran's trust during the discussions.

"My colleagues... put forward constructive initiatives but ultimately the other side was unable to gain the trust of the Iranian delegation in this round of negotiations," Ghalibaf said in a post on X.

US attempting to 'dictate' terms

Iran's former foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who led his country's delegation at 2015 nuclear talks, blamed the failure of negotiations on US attempts to "dictate" its terms.

"No negotiations — at least with Iran — will succeed based on 'our/your terms,'" said Zarif, one of the architects of the nuclear deal with the United States and other world powers, which was abandoned in 2018 by US President Donald Trump.

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Pakistan gains int'l recognition after bringing US, Iran to talks: Abbasi

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Sunday said Pakistan had earned international recognition as a responsible state committed to promoting sustainable peace after successfully bringing the Islamic Republic of

Iran and the United States to the negotiating table.

He said Pakistan's diplomatic efforts had helped create conditions for a ceasefire and direct engagement between the two sides, a development widely viewed as a significant contribution to regional stability.

Speaking to media after inaugurating an upgraded Safari Train rake at the Rawalpindi Railway Station, the minister credited the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for strengthening Pakistan's role as a facilitator of dialogue.

Abbasi termed the engagement between the United States and Iran a positive step and said Pakistan's contribution to the process was a matter of national pride.

Wani lauds Pakistan for its unmatched role in promoting peace in West Asia

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, National Conference leader Nasir Aslam Wani praised Pakistan for its key role in easing tensions in West Asia. He highlighted that while India's relations with Israel limited its own ability to take similar actions, Pakistan's efforts in fostering peace and dialogue in the region were noteworthy and commendable.

According to Kashmir Media Service report on Sunday, Nasir Aslam Wani, speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function in Srinagar, said Islamabad has done a "great job" during the recent conflict by helping prevent escalation between Iran and the United States.

"First of all, we should have done it because it was a role expected of our country. We were considered a non-aligned country, but now we have been left behind. Our

relationship with Israel has become a reason for us not to take this step," he said.

Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, emphasized the importance of efforts aimed at averting a larger conflict, particularly in the context of West Asia. He expressed optimism over the initiatives taken to prevent the escalation of tensions, noting that such actions were crucial in maintaining regional peace.

Islamabad police seal Red Zone for non-official vehicles



City Desk

Islamabad police on Sunday issued a traffic advisory, announcing road closures and diversions in the Red Zone, where entry has been restricted to official vehicles only. According to a police spokesperson, traffic from Kashmir Chowk towards Serena Chowk and Srinagar Highway will remain closed. Commuters coming from Bhara Kahu have been advised to use Club Road via Kashmir Chowk to enter the city.

Similarly, motorists traveling from Murree Road can access Bhara Kahu through Club Road and Kashmir Chowk.

Srinagar Highway will remain

closed from Seventh Avenue Bridge to Serena Chowk, while both sides of the road from Zero Point to the Seventh Avenue flyover will remain open for traffic.

The advisory said commuters can use the Seventh Avenue intersection to access sectors G-6, G-7, and Chand Tara Chowk.

Meanwhile, Faisal Avenue and Margalla Road will remain open for traffic, along with routes from Nawaz Chowk to F-7 Markaz and from Khayaban Chowk towards the Blue Area.

Nazimuddin Road towards F-6 and F-7, as well as Fazl-e-Haq Road towards G-6 and G-7, will also remain open, the advisory added.

First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari urges public cooperation as nationwide polio campaign

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari has called on families and communities across Pakistan to fully cooperate with the upcoming nationwide polio vaccination campaign, set to begin on 13 April, and ensure that every child is protected from the disease.

The campaign aims to vaccinate over 45 million children under the age of five across all provinces and regions as part of the ongoing national effort to eradicate polio.

Pakistan, she noted, stands at a critical juncture in its fight against the virus. Years of sustained effort have brought the country closer to eradication, with the coming phase representing the final stretch where reaching every child is essential.



From 13 to 19 April, frontline health workers will conduct door-to-door visits, covering urban centres as well as remote communities. In addition to administering polio drops, children will also receive Vitamin A supplementation to support immunity and healthy growth.

No gas in afternoon: Sui Gas Company announces new schedule for Lahore



News Desk

LAHORE: The gas crisis in Lahore has intensified as the Sui Northern Gas Company has decided to provide gas to consumers with pressure for a total of six hours in 24 hours.

According to sources, the gas will be provided three hours in the morning and three hours in the evening, but gas will not be provided in the afternoon.

Due to the crisis, a schedule was made for the supply of gas with pressure in the morning and evening

only.

Due to the gas shortage in the system, the company is facing difficulties in supplying gas three times.

Gas with pressure will be provided during breakfast and cooking hours at night.

Due to the gas shortage in the Sui Northern system, it became impossible to supply gas even at two times.

In the current situation, the import of LNG was affected, which led to the crisis, and due to the crisis, gas could not be supplied to the consumers with pressure.