



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
عائشہ رضی اللہ عنہا نے کہا کہ میں نے اپنے رب سے کہا کہ اللہ تعالیٰ نے تم کو بھی نہیں توڑتے تھے، یہاں تک کہ اللہ تعالیٰ نے تم کو ظاہر و باطن اس وقت نہیں سے کہا کہ اب اگر میں کوئی قسم کھاؤں گا اور اس کے سوا کوئی چیز بھلائی کی ہو گی تو میں وہی کام کروں گا جس میں تمہارا نام اور اپنی قسم کا لفظ دوسے دنوں تک (تجارت، حدیث نمبر 6621)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Vance says 'ball is in Iran's court'

With the US blockade of Iranian ports now coming into effect after weekend talks in Islamabad failed to reach a peace deal, Vice-President JD Vance has said "the ball is in Iran's court" and urged Tehran to be flexible to Washington's demands. Vance's remarks came after his whirlwind trip to Pakistan for face-to-face Pakistan-mediated negotiations with Iranian officials – talks that reports suggested produced.



Foreign funding case: charge sheet ready, hearing set for April 21

A banking court of Islamabad on Tuesday heard the foreign funding case against the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and others, where the prosecutor informed the court that the charge sheet has been completed and will be submitted within one or two days. The court adjourned the main hearing until April 21 and extended interim bail for two accused until the same date.

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Meeting

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

UN chief praises Pakistan's role in Iran-US peace talks



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar held a telephone conversation with UN Secretary-General António Guterres, discussing efforts to promote peace in the region.

According to a spokesperson, the UN chief appreciated Pakistan's constructive role in facilitating the Islamabad talks and praised Dar's diplomatic efforts. He also reiterated the United Nations' full support for Pakistan's ongoing initiatives.

Dar, on the occasion, reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to advancing dialogue and diplomacy for regional peace and stability.

Likewise, Ishaq Dar also spoke with his counterpart Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan over the phone.

The two leaders discussed ongoing US-Iran negotiations and exchanged views on possible developments and next steps in the coming days.

In the next two days the US-Iran peace talks could be resumed once again in Islamabad, as the US President Donald Trump said in a statement. The Iran talks "could happen in next two days," the president told in interview with the New York Post.

He indicated that Pakistan's role and its military leadership have been instrumental in facilitating the potential talks.

PM briefs President on US-Iran talks, next diplomatic push

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday briefed President Asif Ali Zardari on the ongoing dialogue between the United States and Iran, outlining progress made through Pakistan's mediation efforts.

During a meeting in Islamabad, the prime minister provided a detailed update on various stages of the talks and key developments so far.

He also informed the president about his upcoming visits to Saudi Arabia and Türkiye aimed at advancing diplomatic efforts to promote regional peace.

President Zardari reviewed the evolving security and diplomatic situation, warning that the crisis carries far-reaching implications for regional stability as well as the global economy and political landscape.

He commended Pakistan's role in facilitating dialogue between Washington and Tehran, calling it a significant diplomatic achievement.

The president also praised

the coordinated efforts of the government, including Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, and other state institutions in enabling the high-level engagement.

Highlighting Pakistan's diplomatic legacy, President Zardari said the country has once again

demonstrated its commitment to global peace by providing a platform for critical negotiations.

He urged the government to maintain proactive engagement with the United States, Iran and other key regional and international stakeholders to sustain momentum in the peace process and ensure long-term stability.

Mohsin Naqvi directs Pakistan Coast Guards to suppress smuggling mafia

News Desk

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi Tuesday directed Pakistan Coast Guards to continue vigorous operations for anti-drug and anti-smuggling. Chairing a meeting during his visit to Pakistan Coast Guard Headquarters in Karachi, Mohsin Naqvi said that all energies are being spent to suppress the smuggling mafia.

Coast Guards is a force that performs its duties simultaneously on land and at sea, he said.

Mohsin Naqvi said Pakistan Coast Guards have an important role not only in peacetime but also in any difficult and warlike situation.

"Government will ensure the provision of all possible support and resources to make Pakistan Coast Guards more active and stronger."

Earlier, DG Pakistan Coast Guards General Jawad Riaz welcomed Interior Minister upon



his arrival.

Mohsin Naqvi also visited the Martyrs' Memorial at the Pakistan Coast Guards Headquarters and laid flowers and offered Fateha.

Mohsin Naqvi paid tribute to the martyrs

of the Pakistan Coast Guards in powerful words and said that the martyrs of the Pakistan Coast Guards made eternal sacrifices to protect the coastal areas and the great sacrifices of the martyrs will always be remembered.

DPM/FM Dar, Romanian FM stress upon peaceful resolution of conflicts

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Romanian Foreign Minister Oana-Silvia Toiu, Tuesday exchanged views on regional and global issues, agreeing on the importance of continued dialogue and diplomacy for the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

The DPM/FM received a telephone call from the Romanian foreign minister, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

Foreign Minister Toiu appreciated Pakistan's role in facilitating the Islamabad talks.

Both leaders welcomed the positive momentum in Pakistan-Romania relations and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen cooperation.

EU HRVP calls Dar; lauds Pakistan role in facilitating US-Iran talks



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday received a phone call from High Representative of the European Union Kaja Kallas.

During the conversation, DPM Dar appreciated the regular and close contact between Pakistan and the EU during the ongoing regional situation. He shared the developments about the

recently held Islamabad Talks.

Kaja Kallas commended Pakistan's constructive role for facilitating the US-Iran direct negotiations in Pakistan.

Both sides emphasized the need for continued dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the conflict.

The two leaders positively assessed the growing cooperation between Pakistan and the EU and agreed to maintain close contact on all issues of mutual interest.

Pakistan striving to promote peace in region: Engr Amir Muqam

Bureau Report

CHARSADDA: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam on Tuesday said that Pakistan was not only working to promote peace in the region but also playing a positive role in the ongoing important diplomatic process between the United States and Iran.

He said that our armed forces and nation possess the full capability to face every challenge, and that under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, the laptop scheme is being implemented across the country without discrimination.

Muqam expressed these views while addressing, as chief guest, a ceremony held at Bacha Khan University Charsadda, where laptops were distributed among students under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme on merit.

He said that he felt immense pleasure in being among the participants at this prestigious ceremony at Bacha Khan University.

He added that this important event reflects Pakistan's bright future, as laptops are being distributed among talented students who have earned this recognition through their hard work, ability, and dedication.

Second round of US-Iran talks in Islamabad likely Thursday: Report

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Talks between the United States and Iran on a possible second round of negotiations are still under discussion, with officials indicating that a meeting could take place as early as Thursday, a media report said on Tuesday.

Two US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter, said key details — including the venue, timing and composition of delega-

tions — have yet to be finalised, according to Arab News.

Separately, Reuters said negotiating teams from the US and Iran could return to Pakistan later this week to resume negotiations to end the war in the Gulf.

There was no immediate confirmation from US officials about the plans, which the Iranian and Pakistani officials discussed on condition of anonymity.

A source who has been involved in the talks said a proposal had been sent to

Washington and Tehran for the delegations to return to Islamabad to resume discussions.

No date had yet been decided, but both countries could return as early as the end of this week.

An official at the Iranian embassy in Islamabad said, "The coming rounds of talks can come sometime later this week or earlier next week. But nothing is finalised as of now."

Earlier, a senior Iranian source told

Reuters: "No firm date has been set, with the delegations keeping Friday through Sunday open."

A senior Pakistani official said Islamabad had reached out to Iran, "and we got a positive response that they will be open to a second round of talks".

The official and a second Pakistani source said Islamabad was communicating with both sides about the timing of the next round, and the meeting would be likely to take place over the coming weekend.

Pakistan Ministers Champion Religious Freedom, Claim Tolerance Surpasses India at Baisakhi Festival

By Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Hasan Abdal: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf and Punjab Minister for Minority Affairs Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora have said that Pakistan is a peaceful country and is actively promoting peace across the world.

Addressing the concluding ceremony of the Baisakhi Festival at Gurdwara Panja Sahib, they expressed hope that global peace efforts would succeed and bring lasting harmony worldwide.

More than 5,000 pilgrims from Pakistan and abroad participated in the Baisakhi celebrations, including 2,230 Sikh pilgrims from India, who formed a significant part of the gathering.



ering.

Provincial Minister Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora welcomed Sikh pilgrims from India and other countries, noting

that Pakistan had issued 2,840 visas to Indian pilgrims, most of whom successfully arrived. He highlighted Pakistan's commitment to peace, love,

brotherhood, and interfaith harmony, adding that the respect extended to the Sikh community in Pakistan is unparalleled.

Speaking to the media, Federal Minister Sardar Muhammad Yousaf said that excellent arrangements had been made for pilgrims by the Evacuee Trust Property Board. He revealed that a proposal is under consideration to install a chairlift to facilitate elderly pilgrims in accessing multi-storey buildings and the hill of Baba Wali Kandhari (Hazrat Sakhi Zinda Pir).

He further stated that efforts are underway to restore historic gurdwaras and temples to their original condition, adding that Pakistan is increasingly being recognized internationally as a messenger of peace.

Rathore Outlines Key Government Priorities: Facilities, Roads, Health, Education

By Bureau Report

MUZZAFFARABAD: The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal Muntaz Rathore, has said that the present government was utilizing all resources for the immediate and effective solution of the problems faced by the people. He said this while speaking to various public delegations that called on him here today. "Provision of basic facilities, construction and repair of roads, and improvement in health and education sectors remain the present government's key priorities," the PM said. Reiterating his commitment to continue the mission of public welfare, he said that the PPP government's people-friendly policies and balanced approach to tackle issues of public interest would have far-reaching positive effects on the region's political landscape. On the occasion, Prime Minister Rathore keenly listened to their grievances and assured his full support in addressing them.

Massive Turnout at PPP Workers' Convention in Abbottabad's Bakot Circle



City Desk

ABBOTTABAD: A grand workers convention was held in the outskirts of Circle Bakot under the auspices of Pakistan Peoples Party District Abbottabad, in which a large number of women, including officials of the Women's Department, Youth PSF organizations of Hazrah Division, workers, and the people of the area, participated in the convention. Shaukat Javed Mir, Central Deputy Secretary for Information of Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir, candidate for Assembly Constituency 7, Leepa Valley, and spokesperson for the Azad Kashmir government, attended the convention on the special invitation of host Sarad Manzoor Abbasi. When Shaukat Javed Mir reached the venue, he was warmly welcomed with the slogans of Jai Bhutto, Jai Benazir, Prime Minister Bilawal Bhutto, the beating of drums, garlands around his neck, and bouquets. The venue was decorated with party flags and pictures of leaders. The enthusiasm of the participants was visible, due to which the slogans of Jai Bhutto, Jai Awam continued to echo from the highest mountain.

Addressing the convention, Spokesperson for the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Shaukat Javed Mir said that the PPP and the Bhutto family shed the blood of four generations and the lives of countless ideological followers on Pakistan for the invincible defense, independence of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, supremacy of the constitution, stability of democracy, national dignity, and public interests.

Govt Committed to Promoting Religious Tourism: Sardar Muhammad Yousaf

By Raza Naqvi



ATTOCK: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousaf has said that the government is taking practical steps to promote religious tourism across the country.

Speaking to the media after the Bhog ceremony held during the Baisakhi celebrations at Gurdwara Panja Sahib in Hassan Abdal, the minister stated that multiple initiatives are underway to facilitate pilgrims and improve religious sites.

He said that these initiatives include the renovation and restoration of gurdwaras, along with the provision of modern facilities for visiting pilgrims. More than 40 gurdwaras across Punjab will be restored and reopened for worship, including those located in Rawalpindi and Jhelum.

The minister further announced that new residential facilities for pilgrims will be constructed in Nankana Sahib. Additionally, an elevator will be installed in Hassan Abdal to assist elderly pilgrims in accessing accommodation with ease.

Calling on the Indian government, he urged that Sikh pilgrims should be granted permission to visit Kartarpur Corridor.

On Hajj arrangements, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf said that all necessary preparations for the upcoming pilgrimage season have been finalized, expressing hope that Pakistani pilgrims will be able to perform Hajj this year with improved.

AJK Director PR outlines vision for dynamic, digital-first information dissemination

By Bureau Report

MUZZAFFARABAD: The newly appointed Director Public Relations, Azad Jammu and Kashmir State, Tariq Jamil Durrani has said that our priority is an effective and dynamic system where the dissemination of information is immediate and authentic, effective publicity of government initiatives and the positive image of the state should be highlighted. We need to make our voice effective through modern tools, digital platforms and creative content. Digital media, social media platforms, online journalism, video content and real-time information sharing have completely changed the way of communication. He expressed these views while addressing the departmental officers and staff after assuming charge. Deputy Director Ms. Qurat-ul-Ain Shabbir, Information Officers Raja Muhammad Sohail Khan, Syed Asif Hussain Naqvi, Muhammad Hanif Khawaja, Raja Abdul Basit, Sardar Shamim Anjum Aziz, Syed Asif Ali Naqvi, Sajid Nazir, Faheem Kayani were also present on the occasion. The Director Public Relations said that in the digital era, media and technology have given the world a new pace, new thinking and new trends. Training programs for skill development will be started in the Information Department, so that it can be aligned with the requirements of digital communication and media management. The Director Public Relations said that all possible steps will also be taken for the development of media in Azad Kashmir.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: CEO of Marss Group, Adnan Sarwar Cheema and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hamid Asghar Khan, called on Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Ceasefire holds despite Strait of Hormuz blockade, Masood Khan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Masood Khan, former ambassador to the United States, China and the United Nations, and former president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday described that Pakistan's diplomatic initiative continues to anchor fragile peace efforts as a temporary ceasefire between the United States and Iran holds, despite escalating tensions following the announcement of a naval blockade in the Strait of Hormuz.

The development marks a critical

juncture in ongoing efforts to avert a wider regional conflict and restore stability.

Speaking to national media, former ambassador Masood Khan underscored that while the blockade introduces serious risks, the continuation of the ceasefire signals that diplomatic channels remain open. He noted that negotiations, though temporarily paused, have not collapsed and may resume, potentially again in Islamabad, reflecting confidence in Pakistan's role as a credible mediator.

Khan highlighted that recent talks were conducted in a construc-



tive atmosphere, with both sides demonstrating flexibility on key issues, particularly regarding nuclear arrangements. However, critical

sticking points persist, including access to enriched uranium stockpiles and broader regional concerns linked to maritime security and Lebanon. Despite these hurdles, both Washington and Tehran issued positive statements, indicating proximity to a potential understanding.

On the nuclear question, emerging proposals—such as the possible transfer of enriched uranium to Russia—have been described as a "ray of hope," provided all parties agree. At the same time, concerns over verification mechanisms and sovereignty remain central to negotiations.

PPP leadership convenes in Karachi to finalize Azad Kashmir election strategy

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: A high-level organizational meeting was held in Karachi under the chairmanship of Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Central President for Women's Wing of Pakistan Peoples Party, Ms. Faryal Talpur. The meeting was attended by Acting President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Faisal Muntaz Rathore, Peoples Party Azad Kashmir President Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, Sardar Muhammad Yaqub Khan, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, Chaudhry Muhammad Riaz, Most Senior Minister Mian Abdul Waheed, Minister for Forests Sardar Javed Ayub and DG Political Affairs Aamir Zeeshan Jaral.

The meeting considered the election strategy of the Peoples Party Azad Jammu and Kashmir regarding the upcoming elections. All the leaders



gave their suggestions and many issues were discussed in detail. In the meeting, the PSF Azad Jammu and Kashmir was given a one-year extension. Ms. Faryal Talpur directed that all the subordinate organizations of the PPP Azad Jammu and Kashmir should be

immediately completed and the report should be sent to the central secretariat. Addressing the meeting, she said that according to the thoughts of Shaheed Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir, the PPP will participate in the upcoming elections in a full and enthu-

siastic manner. She said that the PPP is the symbol of the federation and the center of hopes of the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. You all should work hard and dedicatedly with unity and unity to make the party successful in the upcoming elections.

Punjab CM announces Rs3,500 per maund wheat procurement

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has announced the immediate commencement of wheat procurement at Rs3,500 per maund and the provision of free gunny bags worth Rs6 billion for farmers across the province. Registered farmers will be provided 10 bags of gunny sacks per acre from the purchase centers.



Chairing a special meeting to review wheat procurement, gunny bags distribution and the Green Tractor Scheme, the chief minister directed that procurement from farmers be started without delay. It was decided in principle that wheat would be purchased on a priority basis from farmers holding Kissan Cards.

She further ordered that payments to farmers must be ensured within 72 hours of procurement at the fixed rate of Rs3,500 per maund. Strategic management committees will be established at provincial and divisional levels to monitor the procurement process.

The meeting was informed that 88 per cent of farmers have expressed confidence in the provincial government's agricultural initiatives. The CM also announced the launch of the "Work with Punjab Government" programme,

under which agriculture graduates and others will be offered internship opportunities.

Officials briefed the meeting that a record Rs100 billion in loans has been disbursed through the Kissan Card, with a recovery rate of 99pc, while nine lakh farmers have been registered under the scheme. The chief minister directed authorities to continue the registration process.

It was further shared that under the Green Tractor Scheme, a target of 30,000 tractors had been set, out of which 20,000 have already been delivered to farmers. The scheme, along with agricultural mechanisation, is contributing to the growth of the local industry, with local manufacturers in Daska actively engaged in producing harvesters.

Collective Efforts Vital to Eradicate Polio in TT Singh: Population Officer Ch Naeem

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: District Health and Population Officer Toba Tek Singh Chaudhry Muhammad Naeem while talking about the anti-polio campaign said that protecting every child from the crippling disease of polio is a collective responsibility of all of us. He stated that, in accordance with the directives of the Punjab government, all available resources are being utilized to ensure the success of the ongoing polio campaign across the district. He further said that frontline health workers and security personnel are working day and night, going door to door



to administer polio drops to children.

He emphasized that Pakistan can only become a polio-free country with the cooperation of the public. Chaudhry Muhammad Naeem urged parents to ensure that all children under five years of age are vaccinated with polio drops to protect them from lifelong disability. The District Population Welfare Officer also highlighted that, like other districts of Punjab, the staff of the Population Welfare Department in Toba Tek Singh is actively participating in the campaign alongside the Health Department. He added that field staff are visiting homes to raise awareness among parents about the risks of polio and the importance of vaccination.

St Patrick's Day

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja and Ambassador of Ireland to Pakistan, Mary O'Neill cutting the cake in connection with St Patrick's Day, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

ABHI Microfinance Bank, EFU Life partner to expand access to Insurance solutions

KARACHI: ABHI Microfinance Bank Limited has entered into a strategic agreement with EFU Life Assurance Ltd. to offer life insurance solutions to its customer base, aiming to expand access to financial protection and long-term security across Pakistan.



The collaboration establishes a framework under which EFU Life's insurance products will be distributed through ABHI Microfinance Bank's platform, enabling customers to access insurance coverage alongside their existing financial services. The initiative is designed to support greater financial inclusion by inte-

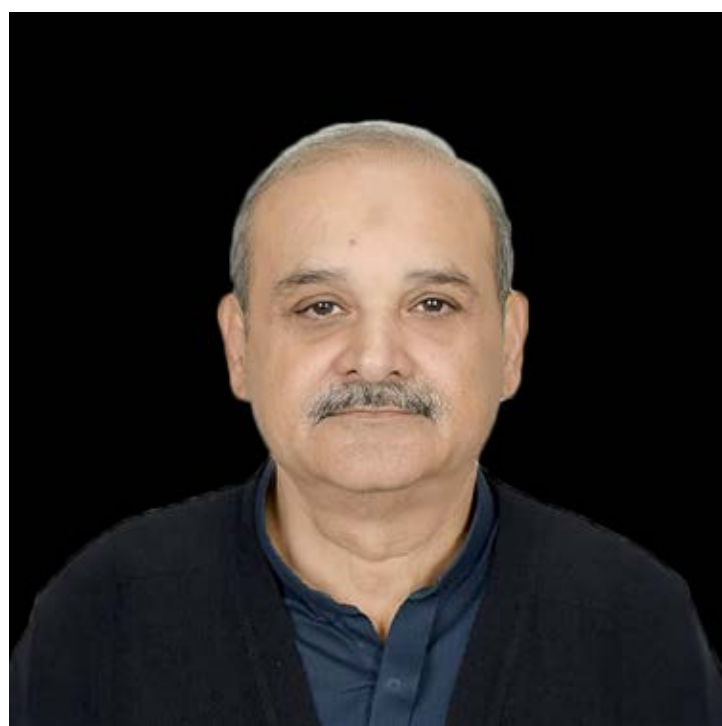
grating protection solutions into everyday banking.

Through this partnership, customers will be able to benefit from a range of life insurance offerings, helping them manage financial risks and plan for the

future. The agreement also outlines mechanisms for product distribution, customer onboarding, and service delivery, ensuring that insurance solutions are accessible, transparent, and aligned with regulatory requirements.

Both organizations will work closely to ensure effective implementation, including staff training, customer awareness initiatives, and ongoing operational coordination. The collaboration also emphasizes adherence to regulatory standards, data protection protocols, and responsible sales practices to safeguard customer interests.

The Interview of Mian Adil Mehmood, Chairman, Adil Group of Companies, Lahore



Mian Adil Mehmood
Chairman Adil Group of Companies



Mahnoor Adil
CEO and Founder
Solectra by SMS Solar

that every unit of sunlight is effectively converted into usable energy. Through smart energy management systems, we minimize wastage, and with integrated storage solutions, we make sure power remains available even during outages. This allows our customers to significantly reduce their electricity bills while also contributing to a more sustainable future.

Q5: Which major projects or organizations have partnered with Solectra so far?

We have had the opportunity to work with several well-respected organizations. Our portfolio includes Lahore American School, Chughtai Lab, Nishat Farm House, Arshad Corporation in Faisalabad, Saleem Memorial Hospital, Hassan Flour Mills, Zia Cold Storage, LESCO, Pakistan Railways and Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Multan, among others. The feedback we've received has been extremely encouraging and reinforces our commitment to quality and reliability.

Muhammad Ikhwan Younas
Director Finance
SOLECTRA by SM Solar Pvt Ltd

Q6: Can you elaborate on the equipment you use and what sets it apart?

We believe in doing things right the first time, which is why we focus on quality and reliability. We use premium-grade solar panels and high-performance inverters under our own brand. In addition, our Solectra lithium-ion battery solutions provide seamless backup by storing energy during the day. This ensures uninterrupted power even during outages or peak hours, allowing our customers to operate without disruption.

Q7: Do your services cover small homes as well as large factories?

Yes, we cater to both. We design large-scale solutions for factories and warehouses with high energy demands, while also offering affordable and efficient systems for homes. We understand the financial pressure many households are facing, so we made our residential solutions more accessible. We also support small businesses with systems that can

scale as they grow. In simple terms, if you are looking to reduce your energy costs, we can help.

Q8: Maintenance is often a concern for customers. How does Solectra address this?

We see our work as a long-term partnership, not a one-time installation. We provide regular inspections, performance monitoring, and ongoing support to ensure systems continue to perform at their best. From the initial consultation to installation and a year of complimentary after-sales service, we aim to make the entire experience smooth and worry-free for our customers.

Q9: What is the long-term vision for Solectra and its customers?

Our vision is to make solar energy accessible and affordable for everyone. We want to help people reduce their dependence on the traditional power grid and move towards more stable and predict-



Shahruxh Adil
Director
Solectra by SMS Solar

able energy costs. At the same time, we are committed to contributing to a more sustainable future. With a one-time investment and systems backed by up to 25 years of warranty, we aim to give our customers both financial confidence and long-term peace of mind.

Q1: When did Solectra officially begin its operations?

Solectra, a venture of SM Solar Pvt. Ltd., commenced operations in July 2022. Operating under the well-established Adil Group, the company entered the renewable energy sector with a credible foundation and a clear mission; to make solar energy accessible and financially rewarding for both households and businesses across Pakistan.

Q2: Do you believe that switching to clean energy has a tangible impact on an individual's finances?

Absolutely. One of Solectra's core

objectives is to help individuals and businesses reduce their energy expenditure and retain more of their income. Transitioning to solar significantly cuts reliance on expensive grid electricity, delivering immediate reductions in monthly utility bills. Combined with government incentives and long-term energy independence, solar power stands today as one of the most effective and financially sound investments a household or business can make.

Q3: Who are the key individuals leading Solectra?

Solectra is led by a committed and experienced leadership team. Mahnoor Adil serves as Chief Executive Officer, bringing strategic vision and purpose to the company's direction, while Shahruxh Adil serves as Director. Financial operations are overseen by Muhammad Ikhwan Younas as Chief Financial Officer, with Zahir Hussain Shah, Head of Sales at Adil Group of Companies, contributing his extensive industry experience. Together, they represent a blend of trust, expertise, and forward-thinking leadership.

Q4: What drives the cost savings customers experience with Solectra?

At the heart of it is efficiency. We ensure



Syed Zahir Hussain
Group Head of Sales
SOLECTRA by SM Solar Pvt Ltd

Info@solectra.co
solectra.co

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Trump's Clash with the Pope and the Hormuz Blockade

The fragile pause that briefly held back the flames of a widening Middle East war is now collapsing under the weight of mistrust, unilateral action, and ideological confrontation. What began as a geopolitical conflict between the United States and Iran has rapidly evolved into something far more dangerous—a multidimensional crisis blending military escalation, economic coercion, and increasingly, religious polarization.

At the heart of this renewed escalation lies a bold and controversial decision by Donald Trump: the imposition of a naval blockade targeting Iran's maritime access through the Strait of Hormuz. This narrow corridor, through which nearly 20% of the world's oil supply flows, is not merely a regional passage—it is the lifeline of the global energy system. Any disruption here reverberates instantly across economies, markets, and political alliances.

Yet, beyond its economic implications, the blockade raises profound legal and moral questions. Under established principles of international maritime law, a blockade is considered an act of war, typically justified only within a declared armed conflict and subject to strict conditions. The United States, however, is not a coastal state in the Persian Gulf. It lies thousands of miles away, raising immediate concerns about jurisdiction and legality. Experts have already questioned whether such a move violates the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which guarantees freedom of navigation in international waters.

From Iran's perspective, the situation appears even more provocative. As a coastal state bordering the Strait, Tehran argues that it holds legitimate security interests in regulating nearby waters, particularly when facing direct military threats. Iranian officials maintain that any attempt by external powers to control or blockade the Strait constitutes an infringement on their sovereignty and a violation of international norms. This legal ambiguity is precisely what makes the current situation so volatile—each side claims legitimacy, while the risk of confrontation escalates.

Compounding this already tense environment is a dramatic shift in the narrative—from geopolitical rivalry to ideological confrontation. In an unexpected and deeply symbolic clash, Pope Francis has openly challenged the moral justification of the war. Representing over 2.4 billion Christians worldwide, the Pope has reiterated a long-standing doctrine: that war, especially one targeting civilians, is fundamentally incompatible with the teachings of the Gospel. His call for peace, diplomacy, and humanitarian restraint stands in stark contrast to the rhetoric emerging from Washington.

President Trump, however, has framed the conflict in existential terms, asserting that military action is necessary to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons—a claim that continues to dominate U.S. strategic thinking. In his public statements, he has gone further,

suggesting divine endorsement of his actions, thereby transforming a policy dispute into a theological confrontation. The result is a dangerous convergence of faith and force, where opposing worldviews are no longer confined to policy debates but are amplified through religious narratives.

This escalation is further complicated by shifting alliances and growing dissent within the Western bloc itself. The United Kingdom, under Keir Starmer, has notably distanced itself from the U.S. blockade. While London supports freedom of navigation, it has refused to participate in direct military enforcement, instead advocating for a diplomatic resolution. This divergence signals a broader fracture within NATO, as European nations increasingly question the strategic direction and unilateralism of American policy.

France and other European actors have similarly called for restraint, emphasizing negotiation over confrontation. The proposed international summit on Hormuz reflects this growing consensus: that the crisis cannot be resolved through military means alone. Yet, these diplomatic efforts face an uphill battle against the momentum of escalation.

Meanwhile, the humanitarian toll continues to mount. In the broader regional conflict, particularly involving Benjamin Netanyahu, thousands of civilians have reportedly been killed, and over a million displaced. The International

Criminal Court has intensified scrutiny, with arrest warrants and investigations pointing to alleged war crimes, including targeting civilians and imposing collective punishment. These developments further complicate the moral standing of the conflict and amplify global outrage.

Critics within the United States itself are raising alarms. Questions about strategic clarity, long-term objectives, and the coherence of policy decisions are increasingly being voiced across political lines. Some lawmakers have even suggested reviewing the president's decision-making processes, citing inconsistencies and abrupt shifts that have contributed to the current crisis.

Yet, perhaps the most dangerous dimension of this unfolding scenario is the risk of direct confrontation at sea. A naval blockade is not a passive measure—it requires enforcement, interception, and, potentially, the use of force. Iranian fast boats, drones, and missile systems are well-positioned to challenge any such attempt. A single miscalculation—a warning shot, a misidentified vessel, or an accidental collision—could ignite a full-scale conflict.

And this is precisely the paradox at the core of the crisis. The blockade, intended as a tool of pressure, may instead become the trigger for escalation. The very act of attempting to control the Strait could provoke the response it seeks to prevent.

Reading between the lines, however, a different narrative begins to emerge. Despite the rhetoric, there are clear indications that major powers, including segments within the United States, are

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President praises Pakistan's role and efforts during the Iran-US dialogue

President Asif Ali Zardari appreciated the untiring efforts by Pakistan in hosting a dialogue between United States and Iran, in a meeting held with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at Awan-e-Sadr today.

The president discussed the prevailing security and diplomatic situation in the region, saying that the situation has a far reaching impact not only on the region but also on the global security, economy and politics at large.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister took the President into confidence on all aspects of the dialogue between Iran and the United States. Prime Minister provided a detailed briefing on the various stages of the dialogue and the progress achieved through Pakistan's mediation. He also apprised the President on his upcoming visit to KSA and Türkiye for further engagement to promote the peace efforts.

President Zardari praised the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister, the Chief of Defence Forces and all state institutions for their untiring efforts in making this diplomatic initiative a great success. He noted that the seamless coordination between all stakeholders was instrumental in facilitating this high-level engagement.

The President highlighted the historic role Pakistan has played in promoting global peace and regional stability. He remarked that by providing a platform for such a critical dialogue, Pakistan has reaffirmed its position as a responsible and pivotal state in the international community and proved its peace making credentials to the world once more.

President Zardari said that the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister should remain proactively engaged with the United States and Iran, as well as major regional and global powers, to ensure the sustainability of the peace process and regional harmony.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar and Federal Minister, Senator Rana Sanaulah, while the President was assisted by former Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Senate Parliamentary leader of PPP Senator Sherry Rehman and former Chairman Senate Nayyar Bukhari.



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

Integration of Curriculum with Social Impact and Community Engagement alongside Academic Achievement

Education is not merely the acquisition of academic knowledge; it is a transformative force that shapes individuals and societies. In today's rapidly changing world, educational institutions are expected to produce not only academically competent graduates but also socially responsible citizens. For a developing country like Pakistan, where challenges such as poverty, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and civic disengagement persist, integrating curriculum with social impact and community engagement has become essential. Education must move beyond examination halls and connect learning with real-life issues.

Traditionally, curricula have focused on academic achievement measured through examinations and grades. While academic excellence remains important, an overemphasis on rote learning often creates a gap between knowledge and practice. Students may excel in theory but struggle to apply their learning in real-life situations. True education lies in linking classroom knowledge with practical experience, enabling learners to understand and address real-world challenges.

Integrating curriculum with social impact involves designing learning experiences that encourage students to engage with community issues. Subjects should not be taught in isolation from societal realities. Environmental studies can include activities such as tree plantation and waste management campaigns. Social sciences can involve field visits, surveys, and

interaction with community groups. Business education can promote small-scale entrepreneurial projects that benefit local economies. Such approaches make education more relevant and meaningful.

Community engagement also nurtures empathy and social awareness. When students interact with underprivileged communities, they gain insight into social inequalities and cultural diversity. These experiences foster compassion, tolerance, and respect—qualities necessary for building a cohesive society.

Students begin to understand that education is not only a personal achievement but also a responsibility toward society.

In Pakistan, the importance of socially engaged education is particularly evident. Rapid urbanization, population growth, and economic disparities demand citizens who are aware and socially responsible. Educational institutions can play a transformative role by aligning academic programs with community needs. Service-learning, which combines classroom instruction with community service, offers an effective model for achieving this integration.

Through service-learning, students participate in activities such as literacy campaigns, health awareness drives, environmental conservation projects, and rural development initiatives. These experiences enhance communication, teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving skills while reinforcing academic concepts. For instance, medical students working in community health camps gain prac-

tical exposure to public health issues, while engineering students involved in low-cost housing projects learn to apply technical knowledge to real-life problems.

Community engagement also strengthens partnerships between educational institutions and local organizations. Collaboration with non-governmental organizations, local governments, and community groups enables institutions to design programs that address real challenges. These partnerships create mutual benefits: communities gain access to innovative ideas and youthful energy, while students gain valuable experiential learning opportunities.

Moreover, integrating social impact within the curriculum promotes active citizenship. Students learn democratic values, civic responsibilities, and ethical conduct through direct engagement with society. This encourages them to become proactive contributors rather than passive observers. In Pakistan, where youth form a large segment of the population, such engagement can become a powerful driver of social change.

Teachers play a central role in integrating curriculum with social impact. They guide students in identifying community issues, designing projects, and reflecting on their experiences. This requires adopting interdisciplinary approaches that connect academic knowledge with practical application. Such teaching demands creativity, flexibility, and a commitment to holistic education.

Assessment systems must also evolve. Evaluating students solely through written examinations discourages innovation and practical engagement. Educational institutions should

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Wars Steal the Future

The ancient world was deeply engaged in wars and battles, which were often believed to be fought not only for the glory of individuals but also for that of the nation. Such conflicts were frequently justified as necessary for mobilizing and uniting the people of a country. While these claims may appear valid on the surface, many wars—even in ancient times—were driven by hidden motives. These included the desire to seize land, exploit resources, and gain control over the labor, wealth, and material assets of conquered territories. In many cases, rulers waged wars to expand their domains and consolidate their power. These conflicts inevitably brought death, destruction, and bloodshed, costing countless lives and dismantling established social, economic, and political structures. Over time, wars have been romanticized, producing narratives of heroes and warriors, yet such glorification often obscures the devastating human cost of conflict. As history progressed, warfare became increasingly sophisticated and far more destructive. This is evident in global conflicts such as World War I and World War II, as well as numerous smaller wars driven by regionalism, imperialism, capitalism, and ideological struggles such as the clash between capitalism and communism. Despite their scale and intensity, wars have ultimately failed to resolve the fundamental problems of humanity.

It has long been believed that wars bring destruction not only to men but also, and often more severely, to women and children. However, it must now be added that the youth of a country are among the most affected by conflicts and wars. War destroys infrastructure, including employment opportunities, manufacturing sectors, and production facilities; conse-

quently, jobs become scarce, placing immense strain on a country's employment ratio. This resulting rise in unemployment exerts significant pressure on the psychological, physical, and mental well-being of young people, especially those currently pursuing education in universities, colleges, and professional institutions. They often feel deeply distracted and disillusioned, as they foresee a bleak future unless systems are rehabilitated and restored. Although wars have occurred throughout human history, bringing similar patterns of destruction, their impact today feels more intense. This is largely because many people now depend on daily earnings for survival, spending what they earn on a day-to-day basis. When war disrupts economic systems, everything envisioned in the name of democracy and prosperity collapses, placing enormous strain not only on the economy but also on the youth. One may argue that war creates new professions and employment opportunities in reconstruction and rehabilitation. However, such benefits are largely confined to elite or capitalist classes, who accumulate greater profits in times of crisis as Orwell argued that War

against a foreign country only happens when the moneyed classes think they are going to profit from it. The burden, meanwhile, falls disproportionately on young people from lower and middle classes, who suffer due to inflation, shortages of supplies, reduced production, and economic instability caused by rising import bills.

Moreover, wars rarely resolve underlying problems. Historically, powerful states or groups have initiated wars to gain territory, resources, or assert dominance. In the process, countless innocent people who played no role in causing the conflict, are killed, without satisfying the ambitions of those who wage war. This

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Multan Set for Massive Rs80 Billion Overhaul to End Urban Flooding

Quratulain Asim

MULTAN: The Punjab government has launched a sweeping sewerage and drainage overhaul across Multan Division, with projects exceeding Rs80 billion aimed at delivering a long-term solution to persistent urban flooding and sanitation challenges.

The initiative, directed by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, was reviewed at a high-level meeting chaired by Provincial Housing Minister Bilal Yasin, where officials presented progress updates and implementation timelines under the Punjab Development Programme (PDP).

Speaking at the meeting, the minister said the plan focuses on introducing a modern, integrated sewerage system to upgrade outdated infrastructure and improve overall urban sanitation across the division.

Commissioner Multan Amir Karim Khan said the initiative reflects record-level funding for the division and is part of a broader strategy to improve essential urban services. He added that close monitoring mechanisms have been put in place at the tehsil level to ensure transparency and timely completion.



According to the briefing, projects worth Rs25.8 billion are currently underway in Multan city alone. These include the laying of 232 kilometres of RCC sewer pipelines and 16 kilometres of HDPE force mains, along with the installation of 88 pumps, 41 generators and 40 transformers. In addition, modern machinery such as dewatering units, winch machines and excavators is being introduced to improve response capacity and ensure sustainable drainage management. Senior officials, including RPO Usman Gondal, Deputy Commissioner Noman Siddique and CPO Sadiq Dogar, as well as political representatives, attended the meeting.

Alibaba Enters Pakistan's Fintech Space as SECP Grants BNPL License

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), has granted a license to KOKO TECH PAKISTAN (PRIVATE) LIMITED (KTPL) to operate a Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) business in Pakistan. KTPL is ultimately owned by Alibaba.com Holdings. The entry of Alibaba-backed KTPL marks a significant milestone for Pakistan's digital financial ecosystem.

One of world's leading e-commerce and technology companies, Alibaba's move into Pakistan reflects growing international confidence in the country's large consumer base, expanding digital economy, and untapped financial services market.

With its advanced AI-driven credit assessment systems and globally tested digital infrastructure, KTPL is expected to introduce innovative, data-driven

lending solutions in the BNPL space. This will enhance access to consumer financing, particularly for young users, freelancers, and small businesses that remain underserved by traditional banking channels.

The development also represents a direct inflow of foreign investment into Pakistan's financial sector. Backed by Alibaba's global expertise and capital strength, KTPL is well-positioned to support SMEs, boost e-commerce

activity, and accelerate the shift towards a more inclusive, technology-led financial system.

The SECP Chairman, Dr Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, said that the entry of Alibaba Group will boost competition and innovation.

Dr Sidhu noted that Pakistan is an attractive destination for international investment, supported by its large population, growing digital adoption, and an improving regulatory framework.

inDrive Pakistan Records Strongest-Ever Eid as Intercity Rides Jump 1.5x, Deliveries Surge 1.6x

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: inDrive, a global mobility and urban services platform, has reported its most successful Eid-ul-Fitr performance to date in Pakistan. The 2026 festive period saw record-breaking activity across all major verticals. Establishing the platform's role as an essential service provider during the nation's highest demand holiday season.

According to the latest data, inDrive witnessed a 1.5x increase in intercity rides during Eid week compared to the same period in 2025. This significant year-on-year growth highlights a strengthening trend of travellers choosing inDrive's peer-to-peer (P2P) model for long-distance journeys home, with carpooling emerging as a key growth driver as more people opt for this safe, affordable, and cost-effective way to

travel across cities.

The platform also achieved historic milestones in its logistics and q-commerce sectors. Deliveries grew by a remarkable 1.6x compared to previous periods. The peak leading up to the holidays saw the platform's highest single-day delivery fulfilment in Pakistan, with activity peaking towards the end of Ramadan and during Eid holidays.

"This year's performance is proof of

the immense trust our Pakistani users place in our service," said Awaiz Saeed, Country Manager, inDrive Pakistan. "Achieving our highest-ever deliveries during the 2026 Eid period demonstrates the scalability of our SuperApp model. We are immensely proud to have supported a record number of passengers and shoppers, and will continue to ensure that our drivers and couriers benefit from the highest earning opportunities to date."

Bilal Yasin Chairs Multan Meeting, Stresses Friendly Policing and Public Trust

Punjab Housing Minister Bilal Yasin on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting in Multan to review the law and order situation, stressing the need to further strengthen public trust through effective "friendly policing."

During the meeting, the minister directed authorities to establish an effective feedback mechanism to obtain public opinion regarding policing and to ensure indiscriminate and strict action against officers involved in corruption or misconduct. He stated that courteous behavior and adherence to ethical standards are essential for building public confidence, adding that special training programmes should be launched to improve the professional capacity of police personnel.

Emphasizing proactive policing, Bilal Yasin also ordered a special campaign to promote community-friendly policing. He further said that the intelligence-sharing system should be made more effective to ensure timely identification of anti-state elements and protest groups, enabling preemptive action against potential security threats. Reducing the gap between citizens and law enforcement agencies was also highlighted as a key priority.

During the briefing, Usman Akram Gondal informed the meeting that the regional policing system comprising four districts, 14 tehsils, and 391 union councils—was functioning effectively. He said the overall security situation was stable and no specific threat had currently been identified, although

surveillance of sleeper cells was ongoing and regular combing operations were being conducted.

"However, the RPO could not provide a clear explanation regarding the establishment of an effective public feedback system, nor did he elaborate on mechanisms for accountability or strict action against corrupt or abusive officers."

The performance of the Multan police region can only be considered truly commendable when officers rise above personal interests and loyalties and play a meaningful role in ensuring discipline within their subordinate staff. At present, however, such conditions are rarely observed. Public perception has deepened that personnel stationed at police stations often fail to treat citizens with dignity and respect, while undue influence is given to police-linked intermediaries.

Citizens say that reporting crime has itself become a risk. Last month, a citizen who reported illegal petrol sales allegedly faced serious repercussions when a security official at Shah Shams police station reportedly leaked confidential information, leading to an attack on the informant's residence by multiple individuals. Although police responded promptly and brought the situation under control, the incident exposed systemic weaknesses.

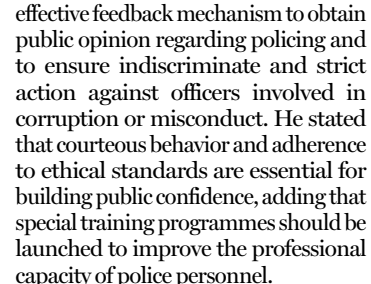
Public opinion further alleges that certain security personnel are involved

in corruption and provide protection to illegal activities such as gambling dens, brothels, and illicit fuel trade. Questions are also being raised about the prolonged and repeated postings of some officials at the same police stations.

The response of the 15 emergency service is also frequently described as unsatisfactory, with citizens often being redirected to police stations instead of receiving immediate assistance. Serious concerns have also been raised about the investigation system, where some officers are accused of tampering with case records and weakening evidence, thereby undermining the course of justice. Moreover, allegations have emerged that certain police personnel themselves have been involved in crimes such as theft, fraud, and kidnapping, severely damaging public trust.

It is imperative that law enforcers uphold integrity above financial or personal interests, as a system compromised by corruption cannot ensure the supremacy of law in society.

There also appears to be a lack of a clear and effective mechanism for the posting of Station House Officers (SHOs) in Multan region police stations. Public circles allege that professional competence and integrity are not given due importance in such appointments. In several cases, officers reportedly appointed as SHOs face



Analysis Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

Spotify Brings Creators Together for a Night of Padel, Music and Community in Karachi

News Desk

KARACHI: Spotify brought together creators and tastemakers in Karachi for an intimate padel experience, celebrating the growing intersection of sport, music, and community in the city.

Hosted at House of Padel, the evening welcomed a curated group of guests including Ayla Adnan, Hajra Yamin, Arshanistan, alongside other notable names from across Karachi. Designed as a social, high-energy gathering, the event reflected how shared interests like sport and music are increasingly shaping how communities connect and spend time together.

Hosted by Aqsa Manzoor, the night featured a live DJ set by Disguise in Hoodie, with music playing a central role in setting the tone on and off the court. Spotify's "Padel Fever" playlist was highlighted throughout the evening, bringing a curated soundtrack to the experience and enhancing the rhythm of the game.

Renowned Sindhi Folk Poet Yousif Wado Dies in Thatta

Kamran Khamiso Khawaja

THATTA: Eminent Sindhi poet Yousif Wado passed away after a prolonged illness. According to close relatives of the seasoned poet, he had been battling lung cancer for a long time and breathed his last at his residence in Gharo city, district Thatta, on Tuesday afternoon. Wado was born in Udero Lal village near Gorabari town of district Thatta in 1955, and he was the third among his seven siblings.

He was a carpenter by profession but had a significant command over the Sindhi language, following which he entered the arena of folk poetry.

He was well aware of the pain and challenges being confronted by people living in underprivileged areas of Sindhi, and he depicted these realities through his poetry. In 1977, he settled in Gharo town and started trying his hand at lyrical poetry.

He rose to fame during the early 1990s when the esteemed Sindhi folk singer, late Fozia Somro, sang his poetry, followed by Samina Kanwal, Taj Mastani, Suraiya Sumro, Allah Dino Khaskeli, Maheboob Khaskeli, Allah Dino Junjo, among others, who also sang his poetry and earned him widespread recognition across Sindh. He and his younger brother, Ali Muhammad Uderai, were known as poets of the masses, as they used colloquial Sindhi language in their poetry.

Israel's Actions Threaten South Asia Peace, Warns Sardar Attique



Bureau Report

DHIRKOT/RAWALPINDI: President of the Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that Field Marshal General Asim Munir played an important role in extinguishing the flames of the Third World War in Pakistan.

A week ago, the spark of the Third World War was very close to flaring up, but Pakistan has stopped the Third World War by trying to play the role of a mediator.

There is still a hundred percent possibility of the Third World War breaking out. He expressed these views while talking to various delegations.

He said that Israel's stubbornness and anti-Muslim policies can put the peace of South Asia including the Middle East at stake and the survival of humanity in the world after a world war is in danger. The forces hostile to Pakistan are definitely trying their best to ensure that the talks between Pakistan, Iran and the United States fail, but this effort of Pakistan is to protect billions of human lives.

United We Stand - Divided We Fall

The ongoing tensions involving Iran, the United States, and Israel have once again driven the Middle East into instability, creating consequences that extend across the Muslim world and beyond. What began as a strategic military confrontation has quickly escalated into a wider regional crisis, disrupting global trade, threatening vital energy supplies, and, most

importantly, costing countless innocent lives. In such a fragile and uncertain environment, the timeless principle "united we stand, divided we fall" has become more relevant than ever for Muslim nations.

This conflict reflects not only military aggression but also the deep-rooted divisions within the Muslim world. While some countries strongly condemn the violence, others remain silent or adopt neutral positions influenced by political and strategic interests. This fragmented response weakens the collective voice of Muslim nations, reducing their ability to influence global decisions and protect regional stability.

History has repeatedly demonstrated that disunity invites external intervention. Political, economic, and ideological fragmentation has often left the Muslim world vulnerable to foreign influence and manipulation. The current crisis is no exception. Without a coordinated and unified stance, external powers are able to shape narratives and dictate the course of events.

However, unity does not mean complete uniformity in political systems or national interests. Instead, it requires a shared commitment to core values such as sovereignty, justice, peace, and cooperation. Institutions created to promote unity have often fallen short due to internal disagreements, highlighting the urgent need for stronger collaboration and decisive leadership.

The economic impact of the conflict further emphasizes the importance of solidarity. Disruptions in key trade routes and energy corridors have affected many economies, especially those dependent on oil. Through coordinated economic policies and stronger trade alliances, Muslim nations could reduce vulnerability and build greater resilience.

At the humanitarian level, unity is equally critical. War destroys infrastructure, displaces families, and creates long-term suffering. A collective response could provide effective relief and demonstrate compassion and shared responsibility among nations.

Moreover, unity can act as a powerful deterrent. A strong and cohesive bloc can apply diplomatic pressure to reduce tensions, promote peace, and discourage external interference. It sends a message of strength that is difficult to ignore or divide.

In conclusion, the current conflict is not just a test of military power but a test of unity. Division leads to weakness and vulnerability, while unity offers strength, stability, and hope for peace. The choice is clear: together, Muslim nations can shape their future; divided, they risk losing control of it.

The writer is worked in Banking sector for the last 26 years. Currently residing in Birmingham United Kingdom and working as Compliance Consultant for remittance companies.



Analysis Tahmeed Sadiq

PS Pakistan Super League Cricket Championship Edition 11

Pakistan Cricket Board imposes two-year ban in Pakistan Super League on Zimbabwean cricketer Blessing Muzarabani

Asim Tanveer

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has today reaffirmed its commitment to the highest standards of professional conduct and the sanctity of contractual agreements within the HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL).

Following a thorough disciplinary review, the PCB has announced that Zimbabwean cricketer Blessing Muzarabani is declared ineligible to participate in the next two (2) editions of the HBL PSL, effective immediately.

This decision stems from a fundamental failure to honor agreed-upon commitments, an action that undermines the professional framework of the league.

The PCB maintains that professional cricket operates on the bedrock of trust and the certainty of agreements. In this instance, despite a clear offer and an unequivocal acceptance of essential terms, the player chose to disregard these obligations in favor of a conflicting arrangement.

The PCB underscores that once essential terms—including remuneration and structure—are agreed upon through written correspondence, a binding obligation is formed. The attempt to move away from such commitments without valid cause is a violation of contractual obligations and principles of good faith that govern global professional sports.

In a statement regarding the sanctions, the PSL emphasized that the integrity of the HBL PSL depends on the consistent and ethical behavior of all participants:

“Professionalism in franchise-based leagues requires participants to act with transparency and consistency. Entering into a conflicting engagement while a prior binding agreement subsists represents a departure from the expected standards of the game. Such conduct, if left unaddressed, erodes the reliability of dealings and the confidence that franchises, regulators, and stakeholders place in professional engagements.”

The sanction serves as a necessary measure to safeguard the professional environment of the PSL. The PSL

remains dedicated to ensuring that the league remains a platform where contractual certainty is respected and where the actions of all players and agents reflect the prestige of the tournament.

While the PSL acknowledges the complexities of modern cricket schedules, it will not compromise on the ethical framework that ensures fairness to the franchises and the integrity of the league's recruitment processes.

The two-year ban reflects the gravity of the breach.



UAF Celebrates Featherweight Boxing Champion Alishba Kamal with Ceremony and Free Education

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: A ceremony was held at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, in honor of UAF student, Alishba Kamal who was declared National Boxing Champion of 2026 in the Featherweight category.

The ceremony was presided over by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, while Dean Agriculture Dr. Ghulam Murtaza, winner Alishba Kamal, Chairman Sports Board Dr. Haroon Zaman, Director Sports Muhammad Atif Bhatti, Coach Rizwan Khan and others also spoke on the occasion.

This championship was organized under the auspices of the Pakistan Boxing Federation and the Pakistan Army, in which Alishba Kamal, the student of sixth-semester student of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the University



of Agriculture won the gold medal in the said category.

Dr. Zulfiqar Ali said that Alishba Kamal's success is a shining example of hard work and sportsmanship that encourages young to move forward with confidence and dedication to fulfill their

dreams. He said that we have to bring the younger generation into the field of sports. He said that UAF is taking all possible steps to attract students from Asar to Maghreb prayers to the playgrounds. He also mentioned the steps taken in Australia to promote sports

among the younger generation. The Vice Chancellor announced free education for Alishba on this achievement.

Dr. Ghulam Murtaza said that Alishba Kamal's success would encourage other students to actively participate in sports and achieve a prominent position at the national and international levels.

Alishba Kamal said that her success is the result of the prayers of her teachers and parents, that gave her courage, hard-working and quest and she achieved this unique honor.

Chairman Sports Board Dr. Haroon Zaman, while appreciating Alishba's determination, said that such successes are a reflection of the fact that the university is providing a conducive environment for the promotion of sports along with educational activities. He said that the second largest women's sports complex in the country is established at the UAF.

Stokes says talk of McCullum rift 'massive overstatement'

Sports Desk

England captain Ben Stokes has dismissed suggestions of a collapse in his relationship with coach Brendon McCullum, although he says the way they work together will “look a little bit different” this season.

Stokes and McCullum, a former New Zealand captain, have been in a close alliance since joining forces in 2022.

But there appeared to be a difference in their respective approaches as England slumped to a woeful 4-1 series Ashes loss in Australia.

As all-rounder Stokes opted for a more grinding, disciplined approach, as the series wore on, while McCullum continued to stand by his mantra of

ultra-aggressive ‘Bazball’ cricket.

Both men backed each other in public at the end of the series and Stokes reiterated that position following media reports a post-Ashes review had revealed tensions between the duo.

“Saying we weren't aligned, I think, is a massive overstatement,” Stokes said in an in-house interview with the England and Wales Cricket Board published Tuesday.

“When you're in a position of leadership along with someone else, if anyone thinks that you're always going to agree on everything, then it's just impossible.”

England are back in Test action in June, against New Zealand, before taking on Pakistan at home as well. Stokes said there would be a change in

how he worked with McCullum as the team look to return to winning ways ahead of the 2027 Ashes in England.

“I'm very confident in mine and Brendon's ability to be able to work together, because we've done it for such a long period of time now, but work together in a slightly different way,” he said.

“The main point of me and Brendon is our alignment towards winning things and making this team as good as they can be. That's always been the thing since we started. It might just look a little bit different now to how that operates — on the back of four years working together.”

“Hopefully we'll still be together at the end of 2027, winning what we want to win.”



Stokes is currently recovering from a facial injury after being struck by a stray ball in pre-season training but is expected to lead England in the first Test against New Zealand at Lord's on June 4.

But Brydon Carse could miss that match after withdrawing Tuesday from the Indian Premier League because of an injury to his right hand.

Carse, 30, was the only ever-present England quick bowler during the Ashes.

But he was struck on his bowling hand while batting in the nets for Sunrisers Hyderabad before this year's edition of the IPL got underway.

Wars Steal the Future

Continued from Page 4

reality is evident in the contemporary world, where conflicts in Ukraine, Palestine, and Iran, among others, continue without meaningful resolution. Smaller-scale conflicts across parts of Africa further reinforce this pattern of perpetual instability. In such conditions, educational activities are disrupted, prices of essential commodities rise, and production declines as resources are diverted toward

war efforts. Frustration, psychological distress, and social instability increase, while literary, humanitarian, and social development activities decline. Entire nations become consumed by conflict, often taking decades to recover. While some capitalist states may benefit economically through reconstruction efforts, these gains come at the cost of increased debt burdens on war-affected countries, which must repay loans and profits to external investors.

Ultimately, war leads to widespread destruction with little to no meaningful gain. Resources are depleted, prosperity is shattered, and both sides, when viewed critically, achieve nothing of lasting value. Wars are therefore not solutions but catalysts for further problems, particularly for young people. Many young people seek to migrate from conflict zones, yet increasingly restrictive immigration policies in Europe and North America make this diffi-

cult, leaving them trapped in deteriorating conditions. It is therefore imperative that wars not be used to resolve conflicts between nations. Instead, dialogue, rational discourse, and diplomatic negotiations must be prioritized. History demonstrates that solutions achieved through dialogue are more sustainable, whereas those imposed through conflict often perpetuate further instability. Indeed, many of the world's ongoing crises today are the

direct consequence of wars that created more problems than they resolved.

The writer is currently working as Professor of English at University of Southern Punjab, Multan, and has recently been working as principal of GGCCCL Multan. He was formerly, a professor and chair of the English department, along with additional responsibility of the Registrar at Emerson University Multan, Pakistan.

Integration of Curriculum with Social Impact and Community Engagement alongside Academic Achievement

Continued from Page 4

incorporate project-based assessments, reflective assignments, and community service records into their evaluation frameworks. Recognizing social contributions motivates students to participate actively in community development.

To address these challenges, policymakers must prioritize curriculum reforms that embed social responsibility within educational objectives. Institutions should be provided with resources and

incentives to promote community-based projects. Partnerships with civil society organizations and local governments must be strengthened to create sustainable engagement opportunities. Teacher training programs should also emphasize experiential learning and community collaboration.

Parental awareness is equally important. Many parents focus primarily on academic results and may consider community engagement a distraction. Educa-

tional institutions need to highlight the long-term benefits of such activities, including improved employability, leadership skills, and personal development.

Globally, education systems are increasingly adopting experiential learning models that combine academic excellence with civic responsibility. Pakistan must follow this trend to ensure its educational system meets contemporary needs. Importantly, integrating social impact into the curriculum does not weaken

academic achievement; rather, it enhances it by promoting deeper understanding, critical thinking, and creativity.

Community engagement also gives students a sense of purpose. When learners see the positive impact of their efforts, they develop confidence and motivation. Education becomes meaningful and inspiring rather than merely a pathway to employment.

In conclusion, integrating curriculum with social impact and community engagement is essential for holistic educa-

tion. Academic success alone is not sufficient to prepare students for the complexities of modern society. Education must produce individuals who are not only knowledgeable but also socially responsible. For Pakistan, adopting this integrated approach can strengthen national development, empower youth, and create a more inclusive and sustainable future.

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Multan Sultans grant three-day break ahead of Karachi Kings clash

Sports Desk

Multan Sultans have granted a three-day break to both local and overseas players during the ongoing Pakistan Super League season 11, 24NewsHD TV reported on Tuesday.

According to team officials, the franchise management allowed foreign players to travel to Dubai for a short break, with key names including Steve Smith, Ashton Turner, and Peter Siddle departing the country.

Local players have also dispersed to their respective hometowns during the break, sources added.

The squad is scheduled to regroup on April 16 as preparations resume for their next fixture.

Multan Sultans are set to face Karachi Kings on April 19 in a key league encounter.



PHF unveils new coaching panels for national hockey teams

Sports Desk

The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has announced new management and coaching panels for the national senior, junior, and under-18 teams, following approval from the PHF ad hoc president, reported 24NewsHD TV channel on Tuesday.

According to the federation, Olympian Manzoor-ul-Hassan has been appointed as the head coach of the national senior team. The senior team's coaching panel also includes Khawaja Junaid, Wasim Ahmed, and Shakeel Abbasi.

For the junior team, Ayaz Mahmood has been named head coach. He will be assisted by Sameer Hussain, Azfar Yaqoob, and Imran Butt as part of the coaching staff.

Meanwhile, Qamar Ibrahim has been appointed head coach of the under-18 team. The youth side's coaching panel comprises Rehan Butt, Yasir Islam, and Umar Bhatta. The PHF said the appointments aim to strengthen the national hockey structure and improve performance across all levels of the game.

Pakistan off to flying start in ITF Asia U-12 Team Competition

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan made an emphatic start to their campaign in the ITF Asia 12 & Under Team Competition - South Asia 2026, defeating Maldives 3-0 in their opening match, the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) said on Tuesday.

According to a press release issued by the PTF, the Pakistan boys' team, placed in Group B alongside Maldives and hosts Nepal, displayed complete dominance in both singles and doubles encounters.

In the singles matches, Muhammad Faizan delivered a flawless performance, overpowering Ahmed Shaahaan 6-0, 6-0, while Muhammad Aayan registered an equally commanding victory against Rayn Mohamed by the same margin.

Pakistan continued their supremacy in the doubles fixture, where the pair of Muhammad Faizan and Muhammad Ibraheem Hussain Gill comfortably defeated Jibril Jabbar and Rayn Mohamed 6-0, 6-1 to seal the tie without conceding a set.

Trump's Clash with the Pope and the Hormuz Blockade

Continued from Page 4

increasingly inclined toward a diplomatic resolution. The reluctance of key allies to engage militarily, the push for international summits, and the growing domestic criticism all point toward an underlying recognition: that war is neither sustainable nor desirable.

The path forward, therefore, lies not in dominance but in dialogue. Recognizing Iran as a legitimate regional actor, rather than an adversary to be subdued, could open the door to meaningful negotiations. A balanced approach—one that addresses security concerns while respecting sovereignty—offers the only viable route to de-escalation.

In the end, the Strait of Hormuz is more than a waterway; it is a symbol of interconnectedness in

an increasingly fragmented world. Attempting to control it through force risks not only economic disruption but also a broader unraveling of international order. The challenge before global leadership is not merely to secure passage through these waters, but to navigate the far more complex currents of power, principle, and peace.

The choice is stark: continue down the path of confrontation, where law is contested and faith is weaponized—or step back, recalibrate, and pursue a future where diplomacy prevails over destruction.

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

Productive meeting

WASHINGTON, D.C.: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a productive meeting with Ambassador Karan Bhatia, Vice President and Global Head of Government Affairs and Public Policy at Google, on the sidelines of the World Bank-IMF Spring Meetings 2026.



Photo: PID

Aurangzeb leads strategic talks at IMF, World Bank to boost trade, investment

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a series of high-level meetings at the IMF and the World Bank aimed at boosting trade, investment, and financial stability and highlighting Pakistan's reform progress, digital transformation and global partnerships.

The finance minister, who commenced his engage-

ments at the IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings 2026, held a productive discussion with United States Trade Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer and explored avenues to enhance bilateral trade and investment, including improving market access, said a news release.

They expressed satisfaction with the steady progress in ongoing trade negotiations and reaffirmed their shared commitment to achieving

mutually beneficial outcomes and deepening economic cooperation.

Subsequently, Senator Aurangzeb met with World Bank Managing Director (Operations) Anna Bjerde, where he appreciated the institution's longstanding support to Pakistan's reform and development agenda. The discussion focused on Pakistan's response to the economic implications of the ongoing Middle East conflict, particu-

larly its first- and second-order effects.

Both sides emphasized the importance of strengthening social protection mechanisms to safeguard vulnerable populations. Progress under the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) was also reviewed, with acknowledgment of key achievements alongside the need for sustained efforts.

He underscored the importance of a coordinated federal-provincial strategy to

address Pakistan's demographic challenges and requested the World Bank's support in developing a comprehensive Master Plan.

In a separate meeting with Jonathan Greenstein, Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs, the minister highlighted Pakistan's successful Staff-Level Agreement (SLA) with the IMF, reiterating the government's firm commitment to its reform agenda.

DPM meets senior diplomats of Turkiye, Egypt & Saudi Arabia, calls for quadrilateral cooperative framework

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday met with Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkiye, Musa Kulalikaya, Assistant Foreign Minister of Egypt, Ambassador Nazih El Naggari, and Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, Prince Dr Abdullah bin Khalid bin Saud Al-Kabeer Al Saud who were here for

the inaugural Senior Officials' Meeting of the four countries.

He called for devising a cooperative framework among the four countries, focusing on the shared goals of peace, prosperity and economic development.

The DPM/FM appreciated the close, brotherly relations and convergence of views on important regional and global matters among the four brotherly countries, a DPM's Office news release said.

Power Division announces 2.25 hours daily load-shedding during peak hours

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Power Division has announced that around 2.25 hours of daily load-shedding will be carried out during peak hours as part of its relief strategy.

A spokesperson for the Power Division said in a statement on Tuesday that the government is facing its biggest challenge in managing rising electricity demand during peak hours.

He said load-shedding will be carried out daily between 5pm and 1am, and distribution companies (DISCOs) have been directed to share outage schedules with consumers.

The spokesperson added that the government will take all possible steps to provide relief to the public.

He said the timely closure of commercial

markets at the federal and provincial levels could help reduce electricity demand, and lowering demand would also help limit any possible increase in electricity prices.

According to the spokesperson, reduced use of expensive fuels could help prevent further pressure on electricity tariffs.

He said consumers were provided Rs46 billion in relief between July and February, and despite rising fuel costs, electricity rates had fallen by 71 paise per unit.

The spokesperson said cost-effective energy sources were being utilised efficiently, while improvements in transmission and administrative systems had reduced losses.

He added that electricity generation remained stable despite challenging global conditions, and the country was currently able to produce power according to demand.

GT Road Upgrade: Minister Orders Motorway Standards for Major Highway

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan presided over a high-level meeting of the National Highway Authority Punjab Region to review ongoing and proposed infrastructure projects. During the meeting, several key decisions were approved.

In the meeting, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan stated that the Federal Government aims to bring the GT Road at par with Motorway standards. He noted that since the GT Road generates significant revenue it is imperative to provide commuters with world-class facilities. He directed NHA officials to implement modern measures to regulate the heavy traffic pressure on National Highways. The meeting reviewed the redesigning of the N-5 Highway from Lahore to



Phoolnagar. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan issued orders for the phased improvement of the GT Road directing that after Phoolnagar, the stretch up to Okara and Sahiwal should be upgraded. He emphasized that all U-turns must meet international standards to prevent traffic congestion.

Emphasizing the safety of children, women and the elderly people, Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan directed the construction of overhead bridges for pedestrians and motorcyclists. It was also decided to install barriers to prevent citizens from crossing roads at dangerous points. Federal Minister instructed that

Government land should be utilized wherever possible during the land acquisition process to minimize costs. He advised the NHA to adopt a policy of acquiring minimum private land to ensure savings. Focusing on aesthetics, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan directed the renovation of the GT Road including the creation of green areas and the installation of modern lighting, as well. The meeting also discussed the establishment of new toll plazas, service areas, and U-turns. During the session, a construction advisory group from the private sector presented recommendations for improvement of the GT Road which the Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan appreciated. Federal Secretary for Communications, Chairman NHA and senior officials briefed the Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan on various strategic projects.

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Governor Sindh calls on PM; praises PM's efforts for regional peace



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Governor of Sindh Nihal Hashmi, Tuesday, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

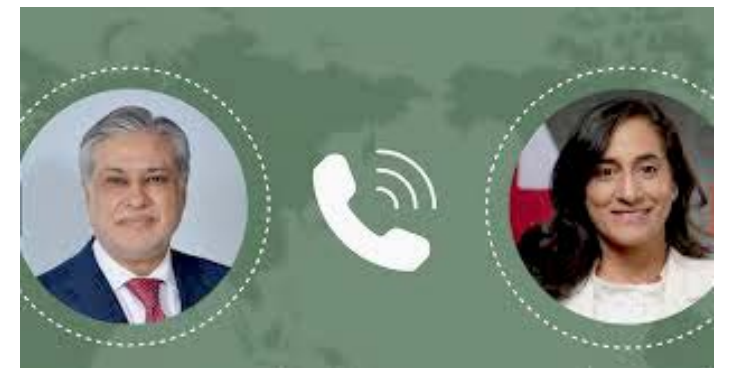
During the meeting, the governor appreciated the prime minister's efforts regarding the ceasefire

between the United States and Iran, as well as his ongoing initiatives for the regional peace, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

He also conveyed his best wishes to the prime minister.

Governor Hashmi briefed the prime minister on different matters related to the province.

Pakistan, Canada FMs discuss recent developments, US-Iran talks



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar spoke with Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand to exchange views on recent developments, including the US-Iran negotiations held during the Islamabad Talks.

During the telephonic conver-

sation on Monday night, Foreign Minister Anand appreciated Pakistan's role in facilitating the dialogue.

Underscoring the importance of all parties adhering to a ceasefire, DPM Dar reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to continuing its support for dialogue and diplomacy.

Both foreign ministers agreed to remain in close contact.

Privatisation Commission approves Discos sell-off, reports progress on Roosevelt Hotel deal

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Board of the Privatisation Commission, chaired by Muhammad Ali, on Tuesday approved key decisions regarding the privatisation of major power distribution companies and the Roosevelt Hotel in New York.

According to an official announcement, the board gave approval for the privatisation of Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO), Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPSCO) and Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO). The recommendations have been forwarded to the Cabinet Committee

for further consideration.

The board also decided to expedite the privatisation process of these distribution companies (DISCOs), with plans to invite investors in the near future. Officials believe that privatisation will help improve the electricity system and attract much-needed investment into the sector.

In a separate development, progress was reported on the privatisation of the Roosevelt Hotel. A consortium led by Citibank has been selected as the financial adviser for the transaction. Additionally, a committee has been formed to finalise the agreement related to the hotel's privatisation.

Amb. Qureshi, Turkish Amb. exchange views on regional situation

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Pakistan to the European Union, Belgium Luxembourg and NATO, Belgium Luxembourg and NATO, Ambassador Qureshi and Ambassador of Turkiye for a courtesy call at the Chancery, Pakistan Embassy in Belgium posted on X.

During the meeting, they also discussed Pakistan-Turkiye bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction with the longstanding ties between the two countries.

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