



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا ہے کہ جو شخص میری امت کے ستر بار اہلسنت (اچھے کاموں) میں سے کسی ایک کو اپنی امت میں تکمیل (تعمیر) سے پہلے اس طرح غل غل ہوں گے کہ بعض بعض کو پکڑے ہوئے ہوں گے اور اس طرح ان میں سے کچھ بچنے سے بچتے ہیں اور غل غل ہو جائیں گے اور ان کے چہرے پودھوں کی طرح پھولنے لگیں گے۔
(بخاری: صفحہ نمبر 6543)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Pakistan receives \$1bn Saudi boost to reserves

State Bank of Pakistan said it had received an additional \$1 billion from Saudi Arabia's finance ministry, marking the second tranche of a recently agreed \$3 billion deposit package between the two countries.



Pakistan-India airspace ban enters second year, losses mount for Indian carriers

Pakistan and India have completed one year of reciprocal airspace restrictions, with Islamabad extending its ban on Indian aircraft for another month. According to a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) issued by the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) on Tuesday, Indian aircraft will remain barred from using Pakistani airspace until May 24.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Ziqa'ad 4, Wednesday, April 22, 2026

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman

Daily Spokesman Vol: 20, Issue: 5

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Called on

ISLAMABAD: U. S. Chargé d'Affaires Natalie A. Baker called on Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Discussions covered recent regional developments.



Photo: Online

Pakistan Navy successfully test-fires Taimoor air-launched cruise missile



Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Navy has successfully conducted the test of its indigenously developed air-to-surface cruise missile "Taimoor."

According to ISPR, the successful missile firing demonstrated Pakistan Navy's precision targeting at sea and operational readiness.

The missile, launched from the air towards a sea target, accurately hit its designated objective with high precision.

This successful test reaffirms the Pakistan Navy's capability to detect and neutralize targets at extended ranges in maritime domains.

The demonstration of the

Taimoor cruise missile marks a significant addition to the country's defence capabilities.

Pakistan Navy remains committed to safeguarding national maritime interests and defending territorial waters.

The successful firing of the air-to-surface missile has further strengthened the integrated and multi-dimensional defence capabilities of the armed forces.

President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir, Air Chief Zabeer Ahmed Baber Sidhu and Naval Chief Naveed Ashraf congratulated scientists and engineers on achieving this milestone.

Pakistan awaits Iran response as ceasefire deadline nears

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is still awaiting a formal response from Iran on whether it will send a delegation for a second round of talks with the United States, as a fragile ceasefire between the two sides nears expiry.

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that confirmation from Tehran remains pending, calling it "critical" with

only hours left before the truce ends.

"Formal response from Iranian side about confirmation of delegation to attend Islamabad Peace Talks is still awaited," he said in a post on X.

The minister noted that the ceasefire is set to expire at 4:50 a.m. on April 22, prompting an intensification of diplomatic efforts. He added that Pakistan, acting as a mediator, is in contact

with Iran and continues to push for its participation in the negotiations.

Islamabad has positioned itself as a facilitator to bring both sides to the table, aiming to ease regional tensions and pave the way for a lasting settlement.

Separately, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has urged both Washington and Tehran to consider extending the ceasefire to allow

space for dialogue.

During a meeting with US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie A. Baker in Islamabad, Dar reiterated that negotiations and diplomacy remain the only viable path to resolving conflicts and ensuring long-term stability.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan, he stressed the need for direct engagement between the United States and Iran and called for serious

steps to de-escalate tensions.

The US side appreciated Pakistan's constructive role in promoting peace and facilitating dialogue, the statement added.

Pakistan has completed preparations to host the negotiations in Islamabad, but uncertainty persists over the arrival of high-level delegations. Media reports suggest the Iranian side may still participate, with officials expressing cautious optimism.

Aurangzeb, EU Ambassador discuss economic cooperation, investment outlook

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Tuesday underscored Pakistan's steady return to macroeconomic stability and renewed engagement with international capital markets, highlighting growing investor confidence and the government's commitment to a structured and forward-looking economic reform agenda.

The minister was talking to Ambassador of the European

Union to Pakistan, Raimundas Karoblis, who called on him here, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

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

This milestone reflects improving economic fundamentals and signals a positive trajectory for Pakistan's global financial integration, he said.



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

During the meeting, the EU Ambassador extended an invitation to the Finance Minister to participate in the High-Level EU-Pakistan Business Forum scheduled to be held on April 28, 2026, Continued on Page 7

Nawaz Sharif praises PM Shehbaz, CDF Asim Munir for boosting Pakistan's global standing

Saif ur Rehman

GILGIT-BALTISTAN: Former prime minister and president of the Pakistan Muslim League (N), Nawaz Sharif, said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, and Army Chief Syed Asim Munir have played a historic role in enhancing Pakistan's global reputation.

Addressing a high-level meeting of the Gilgit-Baltistan

parliamentary board, Nawaz Sharif said his party has consistently fulfilled its responsibilities in both political and defense domains. He credited the leadership's efforts for improving the international perception of the Pakistani passport.

He said the Pakistan Muslim League (N) has delivered development projects in Gilgit-Baltistan, including a road project worth Rs60 billion that significantly reduced travel time and

distances. He added that the prime minister is giving special attention to the region's development.

The former premier emphasized that such projects are not favors but the rightful entitlement of the people. "We have not relied on rhetoric; we have demonstrated performance through practical work," he said, calling for collective efforts to drive national progress.

He added that Punjab and the

federal government are leading in development, noting that Gilgit-Baltistan is as important to him as Punjab, Sindh, and Balochistan. He reiterated that his party believes in tangible action across all sectors.

Nawaz Sharif assured that any funding gaps for Gilgit-Baltistan would be addressed, stating he would personally ensure allocation of resources in coordination with the prime minister.

Referring to infrastructure, he

said projects such as the Lowari Tunnel were essential, noting that travel time in some areas has been reduced from 24 hours to 10 hours.

He added that major development initiatives are underway in Islamabad and Punjab, suggesting other provinces should adopt similar models. He also encouraged local governments to generate their own revenue alongside federal support.

Federal Secretariat to remain closed as Red Zone restrictions enforced

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Division has announced that the Federal Secretariat and all government offices located in the Red Zone will remain closed on April 22, according to an official notification issued on Tuesday.

The directive applies to offices of all federal ministries and divisions situated within the high-security Red Zone, where access has been restricted due to prevailing administrative and security conditions.

Under the notification, officers and staff of these ministries and divisions have been instructed to work from home for the day to ensure continuity



of government operations.

However, employees have also been directed to remain at their designated stations and stay available on short notice. The Cabinet Division emphasized that all officers and staff must be prepared to report to their offices immediately if required.

The move is aimed at maintaining operational readiness while ensuring the safety and security of government personnel during the temporary closure of the Red Zone.

Envoy conveys China's appreciation for Pakistan's role in facilitating Iran-US talks

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong on Tuesday called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar and discussed the latest regional developments.

During the meeting, ambassador Zaidong conveyed China's full support for and appreciation of Pakistan's continued efforts to facilitate engagement between U. S. and Iran for sustained peace and stability in the region and beyond, according to a press statement issued by the Foreign Office spokesperson.



The deputy prime minister/foreign minister reaffirmed the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, underscored the strength of bilateral ties, and emphasized the importance of sustained high-level exchanges between the two countries.

AJK PM launches PPP Women's Wing membership drive, emphasizing party's legacy

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Prime Minister Azad Kashmir and Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore on Tuesday launched the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) AJK Women's Wing membership campaign, marking the start of the campaign by filling out the membership form alongside party leaders.

Speaking at a convention held at the Central Press Club, prime minister Rathore said the PPP has a legacy of sacrifice and has consistently prioritised national interest.

He praised President Asif Ali Zardari for steering the country towards stability during challenging times. He said his government took charge amid political uncertainty but succeeded in restoring public confidence and strengthening the system,



while initiating development work and addressing public issues.

Highlighting women's role, he said the PPP has given unmatched representation to women, noting that

Benazir Bhutto was the first woman prime minister of the Muslim world. He said the membership campaign aims to mobilise women at the grassroots level.

Speaking on the occasion, senator Rubina Khalid said the PPP's leadership had elevated Pakistan's global standing.

Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme, Senator Rubina Khalid, said the PPP has consistently served the country under the Bhutto ideology. She urged women to take the party message to every household. Women's Wing President Shaheen Kausar Dar said the campaign would be expanded across AJK.

The convention through a unanimously adopted resolution presented by Information Secretary Zobia Khurshid also condemned Indian actions in occupied Kashmir and urged the international community to play its much needed role to help resolve the lingering dispute in line with the UNSC resolutions.

AJK PM hails BISP as premier poverty alleviation tool after office inauguration

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has hailed Benazir Income Support Program as the country's premier poverty alleviation program that plays key role in improving lives of the poor and needy. He expressed these views while talking to the media shortly after inaugurating the BISP office at the Prime Minister's House, in Muzaffarabad today. He said that the office has been set up for the convenience of women. He said that it had been Benazir Bhutto-Shaheed's vision that the government should provide stipends to the poor and needy women so that they can live a dignified life. Describing the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) as a party of the masses, he said it has consistently championed the cause of the poor and marginalized. He stated that the Prime Minister does not need such an expansive residence. "There could be no better use of this space than setting up this office here, where our mothers, sisters, and daughters can be served with dignity," he remarked.

AJK PPP Women demand accelerated women's empowerment, praise Zardari, Shehbaz, and Munir

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Azad Kashmir Women's Wing, while reaffirming confidence in party leadership, has demanded the government to advance women's empowerment in line with the vision of shaheed Benazir Bhutto. In a unanimously adopted resolution moved by Information Secretary Ms. Zobia Khurshid, during its conversation held here today tribute to President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff Syed Asim Munir for their "prudent and proactive role" in promoting peace amid the evolving Middle East situation. The participants of the convention noted that Pakistan's diplomatic efforts had brought pride to the nation. The meeting stressed national unity to counter external threats and uphold the country's sovereignty. The meeting through a separate resolution denounced the unlawful convictions of Syeda Asiya Andrabi, Fehmida Sufi and Nahida Nasreen under India's UAPA describing the cases against the Kashmiri women activists as "baseless and politically motivated." The convention urged the international community to play its due role to help the Kashmiri people secure their right to self-determination. Participants, on the occasion, welcomed the appointment of Ms. Shaheen Kausar Dar as PPP AJK president, expressing confidence in her leadership.

PSCA's another milestone: Virtual Centre for Child Safety reunites abducted child with family after 29 years

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Virtual Centre for Child Safety of the Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) has achieved another significant milestone by reuniting Fauzia, who was abducted at the age of 10, with her family after 29 years. According to PSCA's spokesperson, Fauzia was abducted from Karachi in 1997 and remained missing for decades. Following her abduction, she was moved across different areas, resulting in loss of her identity over the passage of time.

The spokesperson stated that Safe City "Mera Pyara" team launched a dedicated search campaign on the social media using her childhood photograph. During this campaign, her brother, Momin Khan, currently residing in Saudi Arabia, recognized her through a social media post. The spokesperson further added that the Safe City "Mera Pyara" team conducted initial verification of identity documents provided by both families. Subsequently, a conference call was arranged by Safe City which resulted in enabling siblings to recognize each other.

The spokesperson added that Punjab Safe Cities Authority remains committed to leveraging modern technology to ensure public safety along with providing due facilitation in terms of recovery of missing persons and reuniting with their family members.

Rescue 1122 Attock ready to provide Emergency

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: On the special instructions of Secretary Emergency Services Dr. Rizwan Naseer, a dry mock exercise was conducted under the leadership of District Emergency Officer Dr. Mian Muhammad Ashfaq and supervision of Assistant Commissioner Arif Qureshi to prepare for flood and urban flooding situations.

Various departments, including Health, Civil Defense, Livestock, Tehsil Municipal Administration, and District Council, actively participated in the exercise. Rescue 1122 established an Incident Command Post, Medical Camp, Logistics Camp, and Repair Camp to simulate flood response operations.

Assistant Commissioner Arif Qureshi visited and reviewed the camps set up by different departments. On this occasion, District Emergency Officer Dr. Mian Ashfaq provided a detailed briefing on Rescue 1122's preparedness to handle flood emergencies.

The Assistant Commissioner stated that all departments are fully alert to effectively respond to any emergency situation. The district administration is committed to ensuring the availability of all necessary resources in view of potential flood threats.

He appreciated the conduct of this exercise, stating that its purpose is to improve coordination among departments and strengthen strategies for effective emergency response. He also expressed satisfaction over the preparedness of Rescue 1122 and other participating departments.

Iqbal infused spirit of selfhood, awakening among subcontinent's Muslims: Wajiha

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Wajiha Qamar here on Tuesday paid rich Tribute to the Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

In her message on Iqbal day she said, the 'Poet of the East' infused a spirit of selfhood, awakening and freedom among the Muslims of the subcontinent through his profound philosophy and vision.

She said Iqbal's thoughts continue to serve as a vital source of educational, intellectual and national guidance, particularly for the youth. She urged young people to adopt knowledge, character and self-confidence as guiding principles and play their role in the development of the country. The government was striving to introduce reforms in the education sector to familiarize students with Iqbal's philosophy and to help nurture responsible and confident citizens, she added.

She reiterated the commitment to promote Iqbal's concept of selfhood and the ideology of Pakistan for building a strong, stable and prosperous nation.

Attention to concerned authority

KARACHI: A man and a woman walk across an improvised bridge placed above a drain on Tuesday ahead of World Earth Day, which urges local action and increased awareness to understand and respect the environment.



Photo: Online

Plantation drive and science exhibition held at Government College for Women Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The Government Graduate College for Women Attock organized a vibrant event promoting environmental awareness alongside academic and creative excellence. The event featured a plantation drive and a science exhibition under the "One Person, One Plant" initiative led by Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

The plantation drive was inaugurated by chief guest Sheikh Aftab Ahmed, accompanied by Principal Dr. Sobia Ishrat. Together, they planted

saplings on the college campus. Students and faculty members actively participated, demonstrating a strong commitment to environmental protection and sustainability.

In his address, the chief guest highlighted the importance of tree plantation in tackling climate change, deforestation, and pollution. He encouraged students to adopt eco-friendly practices and described plantation as a long-term investment for future generations.

The event also included a dynamic

science exhibition where students presented innovative projects in physics, chemistry, biology, and environmental science. The exhibition reflected students' creativity, analytical thinking, and practical skills. The chief guest visited various stalls and appreciated the participants' efforts and confidence.

A Home Economics stall added further appeal to the event, showcasing culinary items and handmade products prepared by students, highlighting their practical learning and entrepre-

neurial potential.

During the visit, the chief guest interacted with students, listened to their concerns, and motivated them to strive for academic excellence. The event concluded with the distribution of certificates to outstanding students in recognition of their achievements.

Overall, the activities at the college emphasized the integration of education with environmental responsibility and skill development, inspiring students to contribute to a sustainable and progressive society.

Crackdown on Multan Avenue raises questions over citywide encroachment enforcement

Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: The decision by Commissioner Multan, Aamir Karim Khan, to launch a large-scale crackdown against illegal constructions and encroachments on Multan Avenue has been widely seen as a positive step. However, it has also sparked an important question: will similar action be taken across the entire city, or remain limited to a single road?

The reality on the ground presents a troubling picture. A significant portion of Multan's roads, streets, and markets are currently under the grip of encroachment mafias. Footpaths have virtually disappeared, green belts have been damaged, and service roads are routinely occupied by illegal parking and unauthorized structures. In such a scenario, the activation of the entire divisional machinery for just one corridor Multan Avenue, has raised serious concerns among resi-



dents. During the official meeting, authorities emphasized that strict action would be taken without discrimination against those violating building

plan approvals, setback regulations, and commercialization laws. The Multan Development Authority (MDA) and District Council were directed to compile comprehensive

records. Immediate removal of illegal ramps, unauthorized access points, and encroachments along service roads was also ordered.

Despite these directives, ground realities suggest otherwise. The very departments and officials responsible for eliminating encroachments are often part of such high-level meetings, yet tangible progress remains minimal. This persistent gap between policy and implementation has led citizens to label the operation as a case of "selective enforcement."

If the government is genuinely committed to safeguarding multi-billion-rupee infrastructure projects, the policy must extend beyond Multan Avenue. A uniform and indiscriminate crackdown across all roads, streets, and green belts of the city is essential. Only consistent and citywide enforcement can ensure real justice; otherwise, focusing on selected areas risks further eroding public trust.



Islamabad

30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:02 am
Zohr 12:07 pm
Asr 4:49 pm
Maghrib 6:43 pm
Isha 8:12 pm

EMERGENCY

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

VC GCWUF Inaugurates Solo Art Exhibition "Yaadon ka Silsila" by Dr. Tuba Najam

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen (T. I.) inaugurated the solo art exhibition "Yaadon ka Silsila" by Dr. Tuba Najam, Head of the Department of Art & Design, at Government College Women University Faisalabad.

The Vice Chancellor appreciated the faculty's creative efforts, stating that such platforms play a key role in students' intellectual growth and contribute to faculty development through innovation, professional expression, and mentorship.

Dr. Tuba Najam shared that the exhibition reflects a creative preservation of memories, expressing emotions and experiences through art. Curated by Zain Manzoor, the exhibition will continue till tomorrow.

Gillani hails potential US-Iran talks as Pakistan's diplomatic triumph

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman Senate of

Pakistan and Senior Vice Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani Said



Possible ceasefire and paving the way for direct talks between the US and Iran is a great diplomatic and historical success for Pakistan.

Pakistan Peoples Party Delegation met with Chairman Public Accounts Committee Punjab Syed Ali Haider Gilani at Gillani House along with a delegation led by Senior Vice President of PPP South Punjab Khawaja Rizwan Alam, which included City Pres-

ident Malik Naseem Hussain Labar, District General Secretary Rao Sajid Ali, City General Secretary AD Khan Baloch, PYO South Punjab President Syed Arif Shah, PLF South Punjab President Sheikh Ghiyasul Haq Advocate, City Secretary Information Khawaja Imran, District Secretary Information Chaudhry Yasin, Senior Vice Presidents City Mian Manzoor Qadri and Sajid Khan Baloch.

On this occasion, the expected visit of Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to South Punjab, consultations on party organizational matters and the current national and political situation were discussed. On this occasion, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani said Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will soon come to Multan on a visit to South Punjab and will also meet with the local lead-

ership and office bearers of the party and will also visit different districts of South Punjab.

Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani further said that the tireless work, ideological commitment and loyalty to democratic values of the Pakistan Peoples Party officials and workers are commendable and a source of pride. In the current political and economic situation, the people are facing inflation and unemployment.

Golra Sharif also closed

ISLAMABAD: A police van ride past the shrine of Golra Sharif. Due to closure of public transport in Federal Capital the majority of pilgrims not able to attend the urs.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Successfully Conducted Two-Day Educational Workshop at Women University Multan

Iram Asim

MULTAN: Syeda Anum Zehra Spokeswomen Of Women University Multan Said A two-day educational workshop in collaboration with the Department of Political Science and International Relations of Women University and CAPS College concluded.

The aim of the workshop was to develop the academic, analytical and professional skills of female students. According to the spokesperson, on the first day of the workshop, renowned instructor Ali Danish gave the first session on English essay writing, in which he highlighted the importance of writing techniques, effective structure of essays and critical thinking for competitive examinations.

The workshop began on the second day under the supervision of Dr. Asma Akbar, Chairperson, Department of Political Science and International Relations.

In the first session, Ali Danish provided



practical guidance on English writing skills, with special emphasis on structure, clarity, coherence and critical thinking.

The second session was titled "Pakistan-China Friendship: 75 Years" in which

Iman Tariq gave a briefing and shed detailed light on the historical evolution of Pakistan-China relations, strategic importance, economic cooperation, regional connectivity and common development.

Fake Police Officer Arrested in Khanna Police Station Area

Special Correspondent

MULTAN: A woman impersonating a police officer was arrested in the jurisdiction of Khanna Police Station near Lohay Wala Pull, Dhoke Kala Khan.

According to details, the suspect was found sitting at a bus stop near Lohay Wala Bridge, dressed in a traffic police uniform and posing as a Lady Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI). The nameplate on her uniform carried a sacred name, raising initial suspicion.

On-duty traffic officials, Head Constable Nighat (Belt No. 713) and Head Constable Samina Zahoor (No. 7378), questioned the woman about her deployment. She claimed she was assigned to duty at that point and identified herself as a member of the police force.

Sub-Inspector Ghulam Yaseen also arrived at the scene and conducted further inquiry. Upon verification, it was revealed that the woman, identified as Iqra Bibi, a resident of Abbottabad, was not affiliated with the traffic police and had no official duty at the location.

Authorities confirmed that the suspect was wearing a fake uniform and impersonating a police officer. She was taken into custody and handed over to Khanna Police Station under the supervision of SP Rural, SP Saddar, and DSP Naeem for further legal proceedings.



Media Roundtable held at Aga Khan University

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Ahead of Earth Day 2026, the Aga Khan University (AKU) convened a media roundtable, bringing together journalists, environmental stakeholders, and experts to address the growing threat of climate change to coastal ecosystems, with a particular focus on the city's mangrove forests.

The session featured a screening of "A Forest in Peril", a documentary produced by architect and environmentalist Tariq Alexander Qaiser. The film examines the vulnerability and resilience of mangrove ecosystems on Bundal Island, underscoring their role as a critical natural defense against coastal erosion, rising sea levels and extreme weather events.

"The loss of mangroves is not just an environmental issue; it is a human one," said Tariq Alexander Qaiser. These ecosystems protect communities, sustain livelihoods, and maintain ecological balance. Their degradation exposes both nature and people to far greater risks.

VRW is a joint initiative of the Aga Khan Development Network agencies, including Aga Khan University, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, Aga Khan Foundation, and the University of Central Asia, and is made possible with the generous donation and support by Ross Beaty, the Jenabai Hussainali Shariff Family, the Sitka Foundation, Gulshan Kassamali Jiwa Family, and the Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan Fund for the Environment.



Teachers Honoured at IGCSE & A Level Faculty Gala in Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a distinguished evening dedicated to celebrating the true architects of the future, Dr. Faisal Mushtaq, Chairman & CEO of The Millennium Education Group, hosted a grand dinner in honour of IGCSE and A Level faculty at Islamabad says a press release. The event was organized as a special gesture of recognition and appreciation for teachers, acknowledging their unwavering dedication, exceptional contributions, and continued support in delivering academic excellence.

Addressing a distinguished gathering of leading educators, Dr. Faisal Mushtaq emphasized that teaching is not merely a profession, but a powerful force for peace, progress, and transformation. He highlighted the pivotal role teachers play in nurturing critical thinking, empathy, and global perspectives among students.



"Our teachers are the silent revolutionaries," he remarked. "By

honouring them, we reaffirm our belief that education remains the

most powerful tool to shape a better world. At The Millennium Educa-

tion Group, we deeply value the role of teachers whose influence extends

far beyond the classroom, contributing to a more peaceful and enlightened society."

The evening also celebrated the outstanding academic achievements of The Millennium Education Group, which consistently delivers exceptional results in IGCSE and A Level examinations year after year.

This continued success stands as a testament to the professionalism, commitment, and passion of its faculty, who remain the cornerstone of the institution's academic excellence.

The elegant setting of the Islamabad Club resonated with a spirit of appreciation and unity as faculty members were acknowledged for their dedication, excellence, and lasting impact on students' lives. The event reflected Dr. Faisal Mushtaq's vision of education as a meaningful mission, one rooted in purpose, guided by values, and committed to building a sustainable future.

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US-Iran Talks Near Collapse

The global order is often described as rules-based, yet moments of crisis reveal how unevenly those rules are applied—and how fragile the system becomes when power, rather than consistency, defines legitimacy. The unfolding confrontation between the United States and Iran has brought that contradiction into sharp focus. What is justified as deterrence for some is condemned as provocation for others. That tension, long embedded in geopolitics, is now colliding with economic reality in ways that are shaking the foundations of the global system.

What began as a regional war has evolved into a systemic shock. At the center of this disruption lies the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow maritime corridor through which nearly 20 million barrels of oil pass each day—roughly a quarter of global seaborne supply—along with a critical share of liquefied natural gas. Even partial disruption to this artery has sent tremors across energy markets, tightened supply, and amplified uncertainty worldwide.

The economic consequences are already visible. Oil prices have moved into the \$90–\$95 per barrel range, placing nearly \$2 billion in daily energy flows at risk. Even a temporary interruption translates into tens of billions of dollars in strain; if prolonged, the damage compounds into the hundreds of billions. Analysts warn that a sustained escalation could shave as much as one percentage point from global growth—equivalent to a loss of \$1 trillion to \$1.8 trillion annually.

Yet energy is only the entry point. The deeper crisis lies in how rapidly disrup-

tion spreads through interconnected systems. Asia, the region most dependent on Middle Eastern energy imports, has become the first major zone of impact. Across the Asia-Pacific, economies are experiencing cascading breakdowns—faster and more unpredictable than the shocks seen in previous global crises.

Air travel has been among the earliest casualties. Airlines across Asia are cutting routes as jet fuel prices rise sharply and supply becomes uncertain. Smaller carriers are reducing operations drastically to remain solvent, while larger airlines are recalibrating networks under mounting cost pressure. Passenger flows are weakening, tourism is contracting, and entire service economies—from hotels to transport—are under strain.

The disruption extends into manufacturing, the backbone of Asia's growth. Energy-intensive industries are scaling back production as fuel and gas supplies tighten. Supply chains are under stress, and shortages of key inputs—from petrochemicals to industrial gases—are beginning to ripple across sectors, from textiles to electronics.

What is emerging is a pattern of cascading scarcity. Petrochemical shortages disrupt plastics and packaging. Fertilizer constraints threaten agricultural output. Transport disruptions increase costs across supply chains. Each bottleneck reinforces the next, creating a cycle that becomes progressively harder to contain.

At the human level, the consequences

are severe. The United Nations Development Programme estimates that the Asia-Pacific region could suffer losses between \$97 billion and \$299 billion, with as many as 8.8 million people at risk of falling into poverty. For millions already living on narrow margins, rising food prices combined with declining incomes are proving destabilizing.

Farmers are leaving crops unharvested because transportation costs exceed returns. Workers are returning to rural areas as factories slow or shut down. Small businesses are struggling to survive as consumer demand weakens. What begins as an energy shock is rapidly transforming into a broader economic and social crisis.

Against this backdrop, diplomacy—centered in Islamabad—remains deeply uncertain. Pakistan has positioned itself as a facilitator for a second round of talks, with preparations reportedly centered around high-security zones in the capital. Yet the diplomatic choreography is already faltering before it fully begins.

On the American side, uncertainty surrounds even the basic question of participation. The expected delegation—linked to senior figures within the administration—has not yet definitively departed the United States. Reports suggest that key officials remain on standby rather than en route, reflecting hesitation and unresolved internal calculations. The absence of a confirmed airborne delegation at this critical moment signals a lack of urgency that

is difficult to reconcile with the gravity of the crisis.

On the Iranian side, the position is equally, if not more, guarded. Tehran has conveyed mixed signals—on one hand keeping the diplomatic channel nominally open, and on the other expressing strong reservations over what it views as coercive pressure, including maritime seizures and escalating rhetoric. Indications from Iranian officials suggest that participation in the second round is conditional, uncertain, and potentially subject to withdrawal if the current trajectory continues.

This dual hesitation has created what can only be described as a vacuum of commitment. The talks are planned, the venue is prepared, but the actors themselves appear unconvinced. It is this gap—between planning and participation—that has led many observers to a stark conclusion: the second round risks collapsing before it even formally begins.

Compounding this uncertainty is a strategic narrative emerging from Washington. President Donald Trump has repeatedly framed the disruption in Middle Eastern energy flows not only as a threat but also as an opportunity. He has stated that large numbers of empty oil tankers are moving toward the United States to be filled with American oil and gas, suggesting a redirection of global energy demand. In parallel, U.S. exports have surged, reinforcing the perception that the United States could expand its role as a primary supplier to global markets.

This introduces a complex and troubling dimension. If the crisis is simultaneously viewed as a strategic opening for

Continued on Page 7

Pakistan calls for correcting historic injustice by enhancing Africa's representation in reformed UNSC

The African Model for the Council reform is a unified proposal endorsed by all 55 African Union (AU) member states. It demands two permanent seats (with equal rights/veto power) and five non-permanent seats for Africa to correct historical injustices.

The Security Council is currently composed of five permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — and 10 non-permanent members elected to serve for two years.

Full-scale negotiations to reform the Security Council began in the General Assembly in February 2009 on five key areas — the categories of membership, the question of veto, regional representation, size of an enlarged Security Council, and working methods of the council and its relationship with the General Assembly.

While there is broad agreement among member states that the Security Council requires expansion to improve representation and legitimacy, especially for the Global South, sharp differences remain on the size, composition, and powers of an expanded Council.

In his remarks, Ambassador Asim Ahmad said Pakistan stands ready to work with Africa and all partners for a just, democratic, and representative Council truly reflective of the UN Charter's promise and responsive to the current realities.

Pakistan, he said, agrees that Africa's demand, set out in the "Ezulwini Consensus" and Sirte Declaration for equitable representation of the region of Africa, stressing that it is entirely different from the demand of four States — India, Brazil, Germany and Japan — who are seeking permanent membership of the Security Council for individual States.

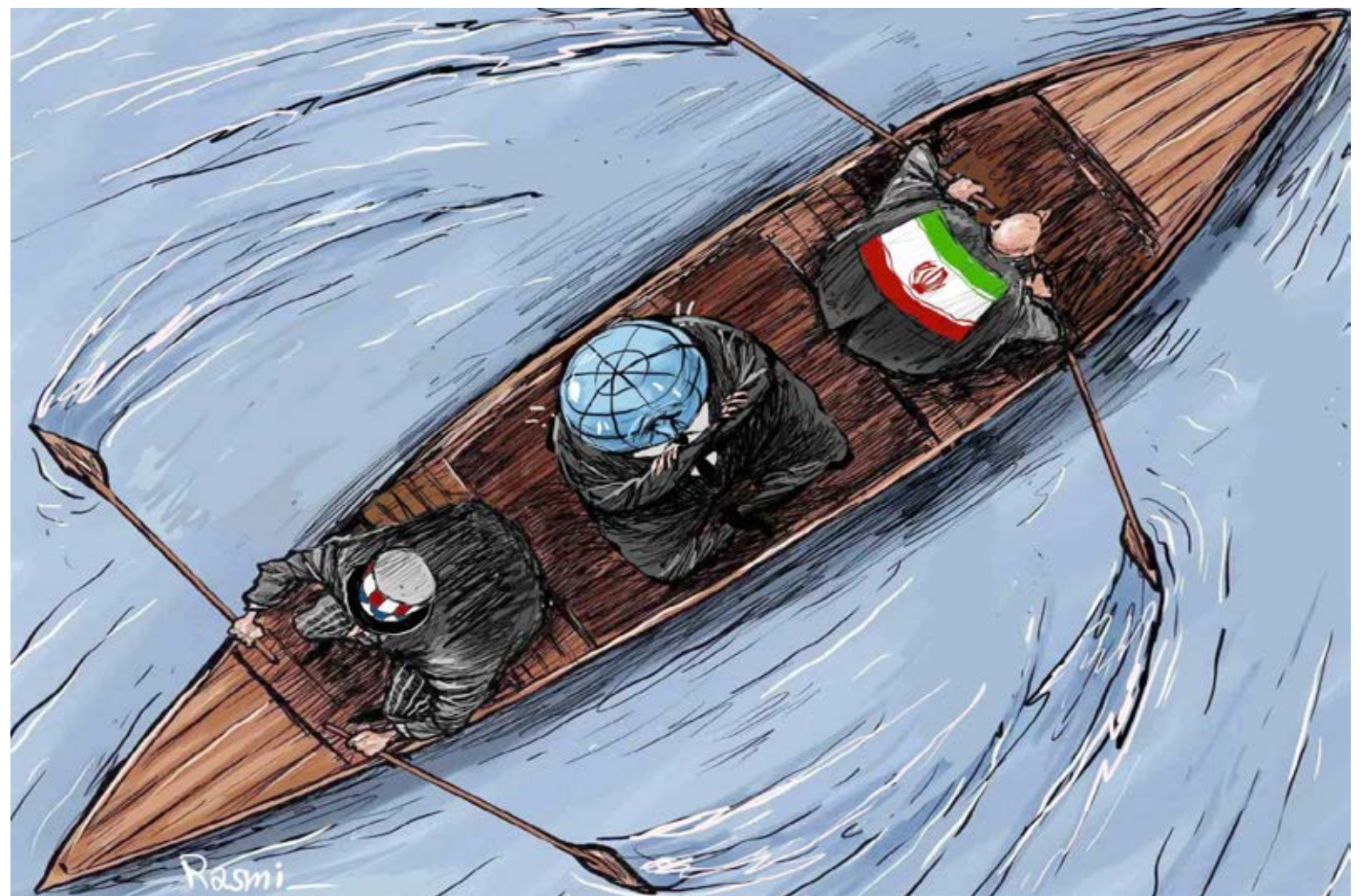
The African call is "not a pursuit of privilege but a desire for justice and equity," the Pakistani envoy added.

At the same time, Ambassador Asim Ahmad reminded the delegates that Pakistan, which along with Italy leads the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group, opposes the creation of new permanent seats, as Islamabad seek to democratize the Council through reform that promotes the aspirations of all member states. "We believe that additional elected members will enhance regional representation and ownership, thereby, imparting more legitimacy to the Council."

The UfC and African positions, he said, are compatible in many ways, most notably on regional representation, rotation and consensus.

"UfC proposal has the flexibility to respond to the African desire for stronger and continuing representation on the Council based on regional consensus," Ambassador Asim Ahmad said, adding it could also ensure representation of all the African sub-regions.

Similarly, he added, Africa's demand for veto is for and on behalf of the entire African region, not for one or two states. While Pakistan stand for for the abolition or severe restriction of the veto power, mechanisms could be developed to provide Africa with the collective ability to protect its interests and positions as a region, even where there would be no extension of veto in a reformed Council.



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

Agreement between Iran and the United States?

Reports of a possible agreement between Iran and the United States are emerging at a time when the Middle East has been gripped for years by persistent tensions, proxy conflicts, economic sanctions, and diplomatic strain. According to circulating information, the parties have reportedly agreed in principle on a broad framework, and an extraordinary announcement may be made within the next twenty-four to forty-eight hours. If this proves true and if Islamabad is chosen as the venue for such a historic development it would be a surprising and remarkable event not only for Pakistan but for global politics as a whole. In this scenario, the potential presence of major world leaders is being discussed, including former U. S. President Donald Trump, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres. If these leaders were to appear together on one stage, it would mark a unique moment in diplomatic history.

The background of this proposed agreement is closely linked to Iran's internal and external circumstances. For a long time, Iran has faced economic sanctions, regional conflicts, and internal political differences. Within Iran's system, differing perspec-

tives have existed between parliamentary politicians and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps regarding strategy. On one side, political leader have sought a lasting solution to stabilize the economy, while on the other, certain military circles have maintained a harder stance. This internal divergence has influenced Iran's decision-making process. The organizational structure of the Revolutionary Guard where provincial commanders possess significant autonomy has ensured that resistance could continue even if central leadership were targeted. While this strategy has enabled Iran to maintain its position under pressure, it has also created coordination challenges.

In this context, Pakistan's military leadership is said to have played an important role. Reports suggest that the Field Marshal held multiple high-level meetings in Tehran, including discussions with senior military officials. The purpose of these meetings was reportedly to narrow internal gaps and prepare a unified approach toward a possible agreement. Diplomatic efforts of this nature are usually conducted quietly, and if Pakistan indeed helped build trust between the parties, it would represent a significant diplomatic achievement. It has also been suggested that assurances were sought from external actors that no military action would be undertaken during negotiations, in order to

preserve the atmosphere for dialogue.

The broader regional environment is also tied to this potential agreement. The Strait of Hormuz one of the world's most critical energy transit routes has long been at the center of geopolitical tensions. If Iran and the United States reduce hostilities and reach consensus on maritime security, global markets could experience greater stability. Similarly, any reduction in tensions between Lebanon and Israel, or a ceasefire arrangement, could influence the regional balance of power. However, it must be acknowledged that regional conflicts are deeply rooted, and no single agreement can instantly resolve all issues.

American domestic politics cannot be separated from these developments. If U. S. leadership announces a major agreement, it would likely seek to present it as a diplomatic success, especially in a pre-election environment. The involvement of figures such as Jared Kushner and the U. S. Special Representative for the Middle East could also become a subject of debate. Within the United States, some circles may argue that Washington adopted a softer position in negotiations, while others may portray it as a strategic diplomatic victory.

For Pakistan, hosting such an agreement could represent a "golden opportunity." Reports of heightened security arrangements in Islamabad, the mobilization of additional police forces, and preparations in major hotels are being viewed in this light. If approximately ten heads of state or leaders of

Continued on Page 7



Muhammad Asif

Sustainable Development Begins with Health, Education, and Agriculture

Every nation stands firmly on certain pillars that guarantee its stability, growth, and dignity among the community of nations. For Pakistan, three sectors form the real backbone of national survival and development: Education, Health, and Agriculture. If Pakistan genuinely seeks prosperity, social stability, and economic independence, there must be no compromise on these three fundamental areas.

Education must always remain the top national priority. A nation that closes its schools and colleges closes the doors to its own future. If educational institutions are frequently shut down due to administrative issues, security concerns, political unrest, or even seasonal challenges. Each closure means thousands of students losing precious learning time, which eventually weakens the intellectual foundation of the country. Nations that progressed in the modern world, such as South Korea, Finland, and Singapore, did so because they treated education as sacred and uninterrupted. Pakistan must adopt a similar mindset where no school, college, or university is closed except in the most extreme circumstances. Education is not merely about degrees; it is about shaping responsible citizens, producing skilled professionals, and building a knowledgeable society capable of solving its own problems. Investment in teachers, modern curricula, research facilities, and digital learning must become a national mission rather than an occasional policy slogan.

Health is another pillar that directly affects the strength and productivity of any nation. A sick population cannot contribute effectively to economic development or social progress. In Pakistan, millions of citizens still struggle to access basic healthcare services. Hospitals in many areas lack essential equipment, medicines, and trained staff. Rural populations often travel long distances just to receive basic treatment. The situation becomes even more alarming when counterfeit or low-quality medicines enter the market, putting innocent lives at risk. There must be strict regulations to ensure the originality and quality of medicines. It is a fundamental human right. The government must strengthen public hospitals, expand health insurance programs, and ensure that poor citizens receive full

medical support without humiliation or financial burden. A compassionate healthcare system reflects the moral strength of a nation.

Agriculture, the third pillar, feeds the country and sustains a large portion of the population. Pakistan is blessed with fertile land, diverse climates, and hardworking farmers. Yet the agricultural sector faces numerous challenges, including water shortages, rising costs of fertilizers, outdated farming techniques, and a lack of access to modern machinery. Farmers and landlords who cultivate the land must receive proper facilitation, financial support, and technical guidance. Easy access to agricultural loans, improved irrigation systems, and research-based farming practices can dramatically increase productivity. When farmers succeed, the entire nation benefits through food security, export growth, and rural employment. Ignoring agriculture is equivalent to weakening the economic roots of the country.

When education, health, and agriculture are neglected simultaneously, the consequences become severe. An uneducated population struggles to innovate, a sick population struggles to work, and a weak agricultural sector struggles to feed the nation. These three pillars are interconnected; strengthening one naturally supports the others. Educated farmers can adopt modern agricultural practices, healthy citizens can contribute more effectively to economic activity, and strong agricultural revenues can finance better schools and hospitals.

Pakistan stands at a critical moment where policy priorities must be reconsidered with sincerity and long-term vision. Governments may change, policies may evolve, but the commitment to education, health, and agriculture must remain constant and unwavering. These sectors should not be treated like the neglected in national planning. Instead, they must be recognized as the three guardians of national prosperity. If Pakistan ensures uninterrupted education, accessible healthcare for all, and full support for its farmers, the nation can move confidently toward a future of stability, progress, and dignity. The strength of any country is not measured only by its infrastructure, etc., but by the well-being, knowledge, and productivity of its people. Strengthening these three pillars will ultimately strengthen Pakistan itself.



Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Rahu

Dr Rashid Riaz Honoured by Royal Humane Society for Lifesaving Excellence

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

HEREFORD: Dr Rashid Riaz of Hereford County Hospital has been awarded a Certificate of Commendation by the Royal Humane Society in recognition of his outstanding clinical professionalism, calm leadership under pressure, and dedication to saving lives.

The prestigious honour was unanimously approved by the Society's Award Committee, which praised Dr Riaz for his exemplary actions and exceptional contribution to the highest standards of medical practice.

The committee specifically highlighted his composed decision-making, clinical expertise, and unwavering commitment to patient care in challenging circumstances.

The award ceremony took place at Hereford Town Hall in the Oak Room on 20 April 2026. Dr Riaz received the certificate from Deputy Lieutenant and Vice Lord-Lieutenant Nat Hone in the presence of invited guests, colleagues, and supporters.

Speaking after receiving the honour, Dr Riaz expressed gratitude to King Charles III for the Society's patronage



and to Princess Alexandra for her continued leadership and recognition

of lifesaving service.

He also thanked Deputy Lieutenant Nat Hone, Herefordshire Council, Wye Valley NHS Trust, his family, and colleagues at Hereford County Hospital for their ongoing encouragement and support. Dr Riaz dedicated the award to NHS workers across the United Kingdom, praising their tireless commitment to patients and communities. "This award is not just mine—it belongs to the NHS workers who are on their feet day and night, serving humanity with compassion, strength, and selflessness. They stand beside patients in their most difficult moments, offering care, hope, and dignity without pause." He added that he is proud to serve within the NHS and to work alongside colleagues whose dedication reflects the very best of the medical profession.

Founded in 1774, the Royal Humane Society is one of the United Kingdom's oldest charities, recognising acts of bravery and lifesaving intervention. Its Certificate of Commendation is presented to individuals who demonstrate exceptional courage, skill, and humanity in preserving life.

AlHuda CIBE, AIID Partner to Boost Islamic Finance in Africa

Spokesman Report

DUBAI, UAE: AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (AlHuda CIBE), a globally recognized advisory and capacity-building institution in Islamic finance, has entered into a strategic partnership with Agency for Inclusive Innovations Development (AIID) Limited to accelerate the adoption of Islamic finance and promote financial inclusion across Africa, with an initial focus on key emerging markets including Kenya.



The partnership aims to address the growing demand for Shariah-compliant financial solutions and capacity-building initiatives in underserved markets. Through this collaboration, both organizations will jointly deliver advisory services, conduct feasibility studies, offer professional training programs, and support the development of innovative Islamic financial products tailored to local needs.

By leveraging their combined expertise, institutional networks, and regional experience, AlHuda CIBE and AIID seek to strengthen industry development, foster research-driven innovation, and enhance access to ethical and sustainable financial services for financial institutions, regulators, SMEs, and communities across Africa.

Mr. Muhammad Zubair Mughal, Chief Executive Officer of AlHuda CIBE, stated: "We are pleased to establish this strategic collaboration with AIID. This partnership reflects our commitment to expanding Islamic finance globally by building local capacity, promoting knowledge exchange, and supporting the development of market-driven, Shariah-compliant financial solutions tailored to Africa's diverse economic landscape."

Dr. Hassan Bashir, Executive Director of AIID Limited, commented: "This partnership marks a significant step toward strengthening financial inclusion across Africa. By combining our regional expertise with AlHuda CIBE's global leadership in Islamic finance, we aim to equip institutions with the tools, knowledge, and solutions needed to implement impactful, inclusive financial systems."

Zong & PAA Redefine Travel Connectivity with Pakistan's First 5G Facilitation & Sales Kiosk at Islamabad International Airport

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong, Pakistan's leading technology service enterprise, has set a new industry benchmark by launching the country's first dedicated 5G Customer Facilitation & Sales Kiosk at Islamabad International Airport. This milestone has been achieved through the collaborative efforts of Zong and the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) and forms part of a key initiative to modernize indoor airport facilities and introduce 5G-ready solutions for passengers.

As mobility and digital reliance converge, airports have become high-intensity connectivity zones where instant access to digital services is no longer optional; it is essential. This initiative underscores Zong's leadership in next-generation connectivity and marks a strategic step in embedding 5G into Pakistan's most critical transit ecosystems.

Commenting on the initiative, Faheem Durrani, Head of Sales and Distribution, Zong, said, "Airports are critical digital touchpoints where immediate and reliable connectivity is essential. This initiative enables travelers to seamlessly integrate into Pakistan's digital ecosystem from the moment they arrive. By strengthening our presence at key transit hubs, we are delivering connectivity where demand is most immediate and impactful."

The realization of this 5G-ready ecosystem is a testament to the seamless collaboration between the Zong and the Pakistan Airports Authority, especially Director General PAA, Deputy Director General PAA (Airports) HQPAA, and Director Commercial & Estate HQPAA for their institutional support, along with the Airport Manager—COO and Senior Joint Director Commercial of Islamabad International Airport for their critical on-ground facilitation

Livoltek Strengthens Market Leadership at Solar Pakistan 2026 with Advanced IP66 Inverters

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Livoltek, a global leader in smart solar and energy storage solutions and a key subsidiary of Hexing Group, successfully concluded its participation at Solar Pakistan 2026, held from April 17 to 19 at Expo Center Lahore. The event served as a strong platform for Livoltek to reinforce its commitment to delivering innovative, high-performance, and reliable energy solutions tailored to Pakistan's rapidly evolving energy landscape. With rising electricity costs, frequent power outages, and increasing demand for sustainable alternatives, Livoltek's advanced portfolio attracted significant attention from industry stakeholders, partners, and customers.

At the forefront of Livoltek's showcase was its advanced IP66 inverter series, which



emerged as a major highlight for visitors seeking robust and high-efficiency outdoor solutions. Designed to perform in Pakistan's demanding environmental conditions, the IP66 series (6kW-12kW) delivers exceptional efficiency of up to 98.5%, ensuring optimal energy generation and system stability. Its rugged, dustproof, and waterproof design, combined with intel-

ligent MPPT technology and compact structure, makes it an ideal solution for both residential and commercial installations, reinforcing Livoltek's leadership in durable and high-performance solar technologies.

A key attraction at the event was Livoltek's Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), designed

to deliver intelligent, scalable, and high-return energy storage solutions. Featuring an advanced all-in-one integrated design, the system combines high-capacity LFP battery modules, high-performance PCS, intelligent energy management system (iEMS), and BMS within a single compact cabinet, enabling simplified deployment and reduced installation time. With capacity configurations such as 125kW/261kWh, the system delivers up to 99% conversion efficiency, ensuring optimal energy utilization and lower levelized cost of energy (LCOE). Built with liquid cooling technology and supporting over 8000 life cycles, the BESS offers enhanced thermal management, extended battery life, and superior performance stability. Its modular architecture allows MWh-level scalability through

parallel expansion, while advanced features such as peak shaving, demand management, virtual power plant (VPP) capability, and 24/7 real-time monitoring through smart energy platforms make it a powerful solution for commercial and industrial applications seeking energy independence and cost optimization.

Commenting on the successful participation, Mr. Max Ma, Director Sales at Livoltek, stated: "Solar Pakistan 2026 has provided us with an excellent platform to engage with customers and industry stakeholders at a time when Pakistan is rapidly moving towards energy independence and electrification. Our IP66 inverter series, advanced BESS solutions, high-capacity battery systems, and EV charging technologies are designed to meet the evolving needs of the market.

Same Platform, Different Shell: What Really Sets the Tiggo 7 PHEV Apart from Jaecoo J7?

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan's fast-evolving SUV market is beginning to see a new layer of competition — not just between brands, but within the same global automotive groups.

A case in point is the comparison emerging between the Chery Tiggo 7 PHEV and the Jaecoo J7 two different brands under the umbrella of Chery, a Chinese automobile giant.

At first glance, the two vehicles appear to target similar buyers — modern SUV customers looking for electrification, performance, and technology.

But a closer look reveals a more

nuanced reality as both vehicles are built on closely related platforms, share core engineering, and deliver near-identical hybrid performance — yet are priced differently in the Pakistani market, almost 1 million rupees difference.

The Tiggo 7 PHEV enters as a C-segment plug-in hybrid built on Chery's latest Super Hybrid architecture. It combines a 1.5TGDI engine with an 18.3 kWh battery and a dedicated hybrid transmission, producing strong power output and delivering up to 90 km of pure electric range and a combined range of around 1,200 km.

These are numbers that place

it firmly among the most capable electrified SUVs currently available locally.

The Jaecoo J7, meanwhile, is part of Chery's newer sub-brand strategy aimed at more design-led and lifestyle-oriented positioning. While it introduces a distinct exterior identity — more rugged, upright, and off-road inspired — its underlying engineering DNA remains closely aligned with Chery's existing hybrid platforms.

This is not unusual in the global auto industry. Shared platforms across different brands — often referred to as "badge engineering" — are common practice.

In Pakistan, however, where price sensitivity remains a key



factor, such comparisons are beginning to influence buying decisions more directly.

With an estimated price gap of close to Rs 1 million between the two, the Tiggo 7 PHEV positions

itself as a high-value proposition — offering comparable hybrid technology, performance output, and core features at a more accessible entry point.

For many buyers, especially

those transitioning from conventional petrol SUVs, this difference is not marginal — it materially impacts affordability and ownership economics.

Beyond pricing, the Tiggo7 also aligns closely with current market realities. With fuel prices remaining elevated and unpredictable, plug-in hybrid vehicles offer a practical middle ground — enabling daily commutes on electric power while retaining the flexibility of a combustion engine for longer journeys.

Industry observers note that as more global brands introduce sub-brands and overlapping product lines, consumer awareness around platforms, power-

trains, and real-world value is increasing. Buyers are no longer evaluating vehicles purely on exterior styling or badge perception, but increasingly on underlying engineering and cost efficiency.

In that context, the Tiggo 7 PHEV's positioning becomes clearer. It is not merely competing on features or design — it is competing on value for technology.

As Pakistan's hybrid segment expands, such intra-group comparisons are likely to become more common. And, for consumers, the key question may no longer be which vehicle looks different — but which one delivers more for what they pay.

PIDE Calls on Pakistan to Seize the Maritime Moment as Gulf Conflict Opens a Historic Window for Port Transformation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has released a new policy brief highlighting a rare and time-sensitive opportunity for Pakistan to reposition its ports as competitive regional and global trade hubs amid ongoing disruptions in Gulf shipping routes. Authored by Dr. Nadia Hassan, Assistant Professor at PIDE, the brief titled Capitalizing on Conflict: Reimagining the Ports of Pakistan Amid Gulf War argues that while Pakistan is already benefiting from diverted cargo flows, the real challenge lies in converting these temporary gains into sustained economic advantage through urgent and coordinated reforms.

With nearly one-fifth of global trade passing through the Strait of Hormuz, recent tensions and its closure in March

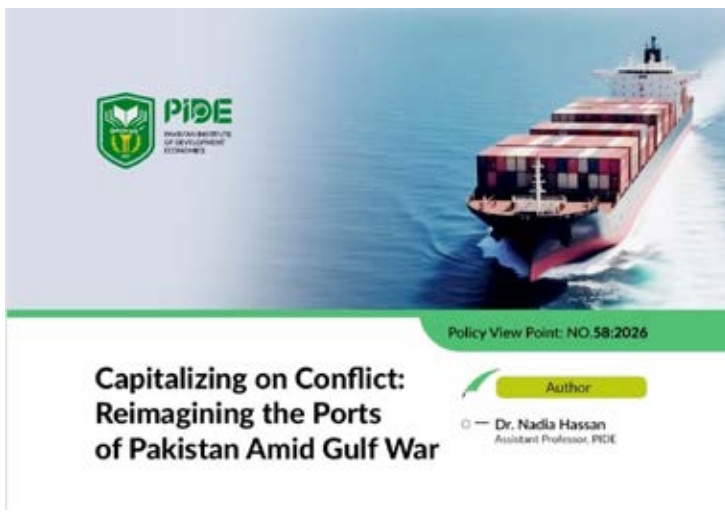
2026 triggered a major rerouting of international shipping away from traditional hubs such as Dubai's Jebel Ali and Oman's Salalah. Pakistan's ports — Karachi Port, Port Qasim, and Gwadar — located outside the direct conflict zone yet in close proximity to emerging shipping lanes, have emerged as viable alternatives, placing the country at the center of a rapidly shifting maritime landscape.

The scale of this shift has been significant. Karachi Port alone handled approximately 11,000 transshipment containers and recorded 133 vessel calls in March, surpassing its total transshipment activity for the previous year. Port Qasim absorbed nearly 25 percent of redirected cargo and processed over 4,000 TEUs in a single day, registering an extraordinary 2,302 percent increase in transshipment activity.

Gwadar Port, though still developing, marked its entry into the regional transshipment network by berthing its first vessel, signaling strong long-term potential as a deep-sea hub at the mouth of the Persian Gulf.

Despite these encouraging trends, PIDE cautions that the current gains reflect a temporary window rather than a structural transformation. Karachi's urban congestion and limited expansion capacity, Port Qasim's upstream constraints, and Gwadar's underdeveloped ecosystem all pose serious challenges to sustaining this momentum. Without timely policy action, Pakistan risks losing this opportunity as quickly as it emerged.

A comparative analysis with leading regional ports underscores the gap. Jebel Ali handles approximately 15.5 million TEUs annually compared to



Karachi's 2.65 million, while its Port

stands at 775 against Karachi's 310 and Port Qasim's 131. Vessel turnaround

times at Salalah range between 10 to 20 hours, whereas Pakistan's ports report inconsistent performance. Similarly, Pakistan's ports operate with only 5 to 6 ship-to-shore cranes compared to 27 to 29 in leading hubs, and berth occupancy ratios remain below the global optimal range of 50 to 70 percent.

The brief emphasizes that these shortcomings are not merely infrastructural but also institutional and operational. Successful ports like Jebel Ali integrate logistics, industrial zones, and free trade ecosystems to enhance efficiency and reduce costs, while Pakistan's ports function largely as isolated nodes with weak hinterland connectivity and limited digitalization. Although Pakistan enjoys a cost advantage in labor, this is offset by high port charges, procedural delays, and a semi-skilled workforce.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
173,155.79	172,196.70
Day's High	Day's Low
175,298.11	172,837.79
Index Value	Change
40,201,220,094	+959.09
Percentage	Time
+0.56%	21 Apr, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,498.09	-110.99
Percentage	Time
-1.05%	21 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
49,234.66	-207.90
Percentage	Time
-0.42%	21 Apr, 1:33 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
59,349.17	+524.28
Percentage	Time
+0.89%	21 Apr, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Australian Dollar	195.05	198.10
Australian Dollar	198.20	204.50
Bahrain Dinar	725.70	740.55
Canadian Dollar	203.09	207.82
China Yuan	37.45	38.55
Danish Krone	43.25	43.65
Euro	327.62	332.27
Hong Kong Dollar	35.03	35.75
Indian Rupee	2.15	2.35
Japanese Yen	1.7387	1.8386
Kuwaiti Dinar	876.45	886.52
Malaysian Ringgit	65.30	66.75
New Zealand \$	163.35	165.10
Norwegians Krone	27.6	27.9
Omani Riyal	720.35	731.34
Qatari Riyal	71.21	72.65
Saudi Riyal	74.45	75.45
Singapore Dollar	217.83	223.35
Swedish Korona	30.25	30.55
Swiss Franc	355.87	358.95
Thai Bhat	8.25	8.45
U.A.E Dirham	75.90	76.75
UK Pound Sterling	376.15	383.36
US Dollar	279.05	280

PTCL Group back into profits with Rs. 3.1 billion bottom-line in Q1 2026

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), the country's leading telecom and ICT services provider, has announced its consolidated financial results for the quarter ended March 31, 2026. PTCL Group sustained strong growth momentum, further strengthening its position as Pakistan's leading integrated telecom and ICT services provider.

During the period, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has formally approved the proposed amalgamation of Pak Telecom Mobile Limited and Telenor Pakistan (Private) Limited. The proposed amalgamation shall be implemented through a scheme of arrangement in accordance with applicable laws. The change of control of Telenor Pakistan was formally completed on December 31, 2025, bringing Telenor Pakistan and its infrastructure under PTCL's full ownership. Building on this, PTCL progressed integration planning during Q1 2026. This consolidation is set to create a stronger, more efficient telecom platform with enhanced nationwide coverage, improved service quality, and a significantly expanded customer base, positioning PTCL as one of the leading players in Pakistan's evolving digital and connectivity landscape.



Effective 1st January 2026, financial results of Telenor Pakistan have been consolidated in PTCL Group.

As part of its transformation journey, PTCL Group achieved a major milestone in Q1 2026 by securing a significant share of spectrum in Pakistan's landmark 5G auction, positioning it at the forefront of next-generation connectivity.

The acquisition of high-capacity spectrum in globally recognized 3.5 GHz and 2.6 GHz bands enables PTCL Group to deliver ultra-fast speeds, low latency, and advanced digital services across consumer and enterprise segments. Importantly, this spectrum will be leveraged across the combined Ufone and Telenor Pakistan footprint following their

ongoing integration, creating the largest spectrum portfolio in the country serving more than 72 Million customers. This positions PTCL Group to accelerate nationwide 5G rollout, enhance network efficiency, and unlock new digital use cases across industries, reinforcing its leadership in enabling Pakistan's digital future.

Daily wagers in problems

ISLAMABAD: Daily wage laborers waiting for work at roadside in Peshawar Mor area Federal Capital. US-Iran conflict has severely impacted Pakistan's economy, with daily wage workers and the informal labor sector facing the brunt of the crisis.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Fatima Fertilizer and Multan Sultans Celebrate Title Sponsorship with a Grand Meet & Greet in Karachi

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Fatima Fertilizer Company Limited, Title Sponsor of the Multan Sultans in the Pakistan Super League (PSL), hosted an exclusive Meet & Greet event at Mövenpick Hotel, Karachi, bringing together the entire Multan Sultans Team, company dealers, and the farming community in a memorable evening that celebrated cricket, community, and an eight-year partnership built on shared identity and pride. Eight seasons in, this partnership continues to thrive with each passing year — reflecting a shared vision, strong collaboration, and a deep-rooted connection to the communities both organisations proudly serve.

"This partnership is a source of immense pride for everyone at Fatima Fertilizer. We have been with the Multan Sultans since the very beginning — through every season, every milestone, and every victory. Eight years on, this is not just a sponsorship; it is a bond rooted



in the soil of South Punjab and a shared love for cricket. We know how deeply Pakistanis love this game, and we are honoured to stand alongside the Sultans as they continue to inspire millions across the country." — Ms. Rabel Sadozai, Director Marketing & Sales, Fatima Fertilizer Company Limited.

Just Seamless Connectivity with NOTE 60 Pro

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: It's one of those days where everything hits at once—and somehow, you're expected to keep up.

You wake up to a flood of notifications. Messages, missed calls, comments on your latest post—it's all happening now. There's no time to slow down, no space for delays.

And you don't. With the Infinix Note 60 Pro in your hand—powered by the Snapdragon 7s Gen 4—your day moves as fast as you do.

You're on the move, but



your content doesn't wait. That video you edited late last night? It's uploading smoothly while you get ready. No buffering, no retries—just seamless 5G connectivity doing its thing. By the time you step out, it's already live, and your audience is right there with you, reacting in real time.

In between everything, you switch effortlessly. A quick video call that feels crystal clear. Files shared in seconds. Scrolling, posting, replying—it all flows without interruption.

The Snapdragon 7s Gen 4 keeps everything stable and responsive, while the NOTE 60 Pro ensures you stay connected without missing a beat.



Mian Zahid Hussain met with Honorable Governor Sindh Syed Nihal Hashmi to discuss challenges and opportunities for the business community.

SECP Enforces UBO Disclosure to Strengthen Transparency

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has directed all companies to ensure timely submission of Ultimate Beneficial Ownership (UBO) information through Form-19 on its eFile portal.

Section 123A of the Companies Act, 2017, requires all companies to file Form-19 declaring Ultimate Beneficial Ownership along with their annual return.

Disclosure of UBO information is essential to ensure corporate transparency, prevent misuse of corporate structures, and strengthen Pakistan's framework for combating money laundering and illicit financial flows.

UBO refers to the natural person(s) who ultimately own or control a company, whether directly or indirectly. This includes individuals who exercise significant influence or control over the company, even if they are not formally listed as shareholders or directors.

The SECP has observed that a number of companies have yet to comply with this

mandatory requirement and has advised them to complete the filing without delay.

Companies can file Form-19 through the SECP's eFile portal by logging into their company account, selecting the relevant filing option, and providing details of ultimate beneficial owners. The form requires accurate disclosure of ownership structure, shareholding or control percentages, and particulars of beneficial owners.

Companies are also required to maintain an internal register of beneficial owners and ensure that such information is updated annually or whenever changes occur.

Non-submission of Form-19 is a violation of Section 123A of the Act and may result in penalties of up to Rs. 1 million on directors, officers, or other responsible persons, and up to Rs. 10 million on the company.

The SECP has urged all companies to ensure compliance within the stipulated timeline and warned that legal proceedings will be initiated against those failing to file Form-19 by April 30, 2026.

PCDMA, CCPIT Sign MoU to Strengthen Pakistan-China Trade Cooperation

Commerce Desk

KARACH: A prominent delegation of the Pakistan Chemicals & Dyes Merchants Association (PCDMA), led by Chairman Salim Valimuhammad, engaged in high-level talks with leading Chinese industrial figures during the InterDye 2026 exhibition in Shanghai, aimed at strengthening bilateral trade and industrial cooperation.

According to a press statement, the delegation also attended the Conference on "Trade Chemical Technology Innovation and

International Trade Cooperation". PCDMA Chairman Salim Valimuhammad, former chairman Mahmood Salam and member Abdul Rahim Khatri were among the keynote speakers besides Chinese speakers. Their presentations highlighted the scope of Pakistan's dyestuffs industry, offering insights that captivated the audience and enhanced PCDMA's image on the international stage. The conference was also attended by former vice chairman Nadeem Aftab, former president of Lahore office Kashif Raza, and Dr Mushtaq.

ASA Microfinance Bank and Turaco Join Forces to Bring Affordable Insurance to Underserved Communities



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: ASA Microfinance Bank (Pakistan) Ltd. and Turaco Agency Ltd. (T/A Turaco) have signed a strategic partnership to introduce embedded insurance solutions for microfinance customers across Pakistan. The agreement marks a significant step toward expanding access to financial protection for underserved communities by integrating affordable insurance directly into ASA Pakistan's lending journey. The signing ceremony was attended by senior leadership from both organizations.

Under the partnership, Turaco will enable insurance coverage to be seamlessly embedded within ASA Pakistan's loan products, allowing borrowers to access protection against unforeseen risks such as illness, accidents, or loss.

"This partnership reflects our continued commitment to supporting our customers beyond access to credit," said Naazir Minhaj, President & CEO, ASA Microfinance Bank (Pakistan) Ltd. "As an institution operating in Pakistan since 2008, we have seen firsthand the challenges our customers face. Integrating insurance into our offerings allows us to better support their financial journeys."

Ted Pantone, Co-Founder and CEO of Turaco, added that the collaboration represents an important step in expanding access to insurance in underserved segments. "Turaco is focused on making insurance simple, affordable, and accessible.

Punjab gears up to promote sports culture in rural areas: minister

LAHORE: Special healthy programmes are being started for the promotion of sports in rural areas and besides this, regular sports calendar is also being introduced at the school and college level to organise future sports events in disciplined manner.

Punjab Minister for Sports Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said this while talking to MPAs Raja Sagheer, Mansoor Azam and Mian Munir, who called on him at his office at the National Hockey Stadium on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the promotion of sports in different constituencies and the relevant problems were discussed in detail.

Talking to visiting MPAs, Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that sports fields are being activated in the government schools to attract the youth towards healthy activities. "The sports complexes equipped with modern facilities are being established in every constituency, while 1,000 schools have been targeted for sports activities in collaboration with the Education and Sports Department".

He further said that an integrated strategy is being adopted to locate fresh sports potential from every constituency. "Scholarships are being provided to the best performing athletes on monthly basis. Besides this, the government job opportunities will also be provided to them so that they can focus on their game with full dedication".

The provincial sports minister expressed his commitment that special attention is being paid to the rehabilitation of sports grounds and the construc-



tion of new grounds and the sports infrastructure in Punjab is being developed on modern lines. "The aim of the government is to attract the youth towards positive and

healthy activities to ensure the establishment of a healthy society".

He further said that the talented athletes are being identified from the

grassroots level through talent hunt programme to prepare a pool of potential athletes who will serve different national teams in future.

PS Pakistan Super League Cricket Championship Edition

Multan Sultans Defeated Rawalpindi by six wickets and Qualified for the Semi-Final

Asim Tanveer

KARACHI/LAHORE: Multan Sultans defeated Rawalpindi Cricket Team by 6 wickets in the Pakistan Super League match. Another team out of the playoffs, Multan Sultans' ticket confirmed. In the Pakistan Super League 11, the 2 matches played after a one-day break have eliminated one team from the playoff race, while another team has cleared the play-off position. Quetta Gladiators are out of the competition after their sixth defeat in the 9th match. Lahore Qalandars' hopes have been revived and Multan Sultans have become the second team to enter the playoffs after Peshawar with 12 points in 8 matches. Not only this, it is also important to highlight that Rawalpindi Pindi has suffered its 8th consecutive defeat.

PSL 11 is in an interesting phase in the final stages. Multan Sultans also defeated Rawalpindi by 6 wickets. This is Rawalpindi's eighth consecutive defeat. With this success, Multan Sultans have now reached the PSL 11 playoffs with 12 points from 8 matches.

Rawalpindi won the toss of the match played at the National Stadium Karachi in the evening on Tuesday and decided to bat first. The Pindi team could not play very fast in the entire overs. The wickets remained in hand, but the score could only be 166 for four wickets. It was not that the conditions were bad. Only three of their players were out for 121 runs. But there was no big increase. Shahzeb Khan was dismissed. Muhammad Rizwan made 26 today, but he played 29 balls for it. Yasir Khan could only score four runs today. Daryl Mitchell played an innings of 58 not out, but he played 46 balls. He hit two sixes and three fours. Sam Pilling was dismissed for 29 runs off 20 balls. Diane Forster played an unbeaten innings of 37 runs off 15 balls. Three sixes and three fours were hit. Due to this, the score reached 166. No bowler could take two wickets from Multan Sultans. Mohammad Imran took a wicket for nine runs. Hatter Siddle got one out for 39 runs. Arfat Minhas took one wicket for 37 runs and Mohammad Wasim took



27 runs. One win.

In reply, Multan Sultans started cautiously considering the nature of the pitch. They got 29 runs in 3.3 overs. Sahibzada Farhan made 20 off 17 balls. When Josh Phillip came in, Steven Smith, who was cautious at first, played fast and set the score, but after 10.4 overs, when the score was 98, Josh Phillip returned to the pavilion for 17. Rawalpindi took a big wicket with an increase of 2 runs when Smith scored a brilliant 56 runs off Saad Masood's ball and was caught by Billings. He hit 3 sixes and 5 fours. He played 31 balls. Shan Masood and captain Ashton Turner took the score forward very comfortably. When Shan Masood was dismissed for 20 off 22 balls on a score of 157, his team was 10 runs away from the target in 11 balls. He and Turner made a good partnership of 57 runs off 40 balls for the fourth wicket. Multan Sultans reached the target They won the match

by 6 wickets in 18.4 overs for 4 wickets. Turner was unbeaten on 37 runs. This was the 8th consecutive defeat for the Pindi. Abbas Afridi took 2 wickets for 28 runs.

Earlier, the 30th match of PSL 11 was played at Gaddafi Stadium Lahore. This is the second time this year that the ground has been decorated in Lahore. The host Lahore Qalandars team defeated Quetta Gladiators by 9 runs after a tough competition, eliminating them from the play-off race and reviving their hopes. The winning team batted first and scored 197 runs for the third wicket. Opener Fakhar Zaman had a brilliant century. He was dismissed for 103 runs off 51 balls. He hit 6 sixes and 11 fours. Apart from them, Cherith Asalanka scored 31 off 24 balls. No other player could score more than 20 runs. At one point they were 160 for two and had played for about 15 overs. Khalil Ahmed took 2 wickets for 38 runs. In reply, Quetta Gladiators came into the

match at one point when Shamil Hussain faced 31 balls for 53 runs. Riley Rossouw had scored 62 runs off 29 balls. He hit five sixes and five fours, but as soon as he was dismissed, the team could not cope and reached 188 for seven in 20 overs. Hart Rauf took two wickets for 28 runs in four overs. No other bowler could get two players out.

PSL 11 Points Table

Peshawar Zalmi 8 matches-15 points
Multan Sultans 8 matches-12 points
Islamabad United, 7 matches 9 points
Lahore Qalandars 8 matches 8 points
Quetta Gladiators 6 matches 6 points
Hyderabad Kings 7 matches 6 points
Karachi Kings 7 matches 6 points
Rawalpindi 8 matches 0 points

PS Double Header Day

Wednesday 22nd April Karachi Kings vs Peshawar Zalmi. Lahore. Noon
Wednesday Hyderabad Kings vs Multan Sultans. Karachi. Evening

Karachi Table Tennis Championship Enters Final Stage Across U19

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The Karachi Table Tennis Championship, organized by Ali Shan Table Tennis Club, is currently in progress at the Sindh Sports Board Complex, Nazimabad. Matches held yesterday



featured men's and women's team events, along with U19 and men's singles competitions, delivering an exciting display of skill and competition.

In the women's team events, Sindh Sports Board Club secured a 3-1 victory over Young Star Club, with standout performances from Hareem Anwar and Ayesha. In another fixture, Islamia Club convincingly defeated Young Star Club 3-0, led by impressive performances from Hooriya Yaseen, Sarah Danish, and Laiba.

The men's team events saw Ali Shan Club dominate Khokhar Club with a comfortable 3-0 win, thanks to strong performances by Salman Raza, Muhammad Abbas, and Arslan Alvi. Other notable results included Times Club defeating Hussainabad Club 3-0, Islamia Club edging past OISSA Club 3-2 in a closely contested match, Sindh Sports Board Club overcoming Hussainabad Club 3-0, GIFY Club beating Young Star Club 3-0, and FSC Club defeating Khokhar Club 3-0.

In the men's singles category, Aahil Tharani, Salman Raza, Arham Bin Farrukh, and Muhammad Abbas advanced to the semifinals. Their quarterfinal victories included Aahil Tharani defeating Ayaz Khan 3-2, Salman Raza overcoming Arslan Alvi 3-1, Arham Bin Farrukh beating Ahsan Raza 3-1, and Muhammad Abbas defeating Rayan Abbas 3-1.

The Boys U19 singles semifinals saw Arham Bin Farrukh defeat Rayan Abbas to reach the final, while Muhammad Abbas secured his spot by defeating Muhammad Saim. In the Girls U19 category, Sarah Danish and Anabiya Siddiqui progressed to the final after defeating Maheen Asif and Abrish Fatima, respectively.

In the women's singles event, Hareem Anwar will face Sarah Danish in the final. Sarah Danish earned her place by defeating Anabiya Siddiqui in the semifinal, while Hareem Anwar overcame Ayesha Zafar.

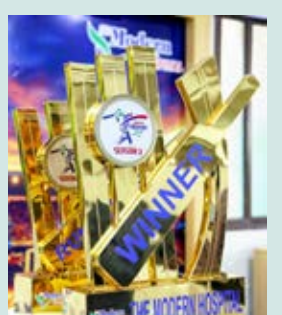
In the veterans men's singles category, Faisal Saqib and Zafar Khan advanced to the final. Faisal Saqib defeated Saqib Naeem in his semifinal, while Zafar Khan triumphed over Tazeem-ur-Rehman.

Overall, the championship has reached a thrilling stage, with Arham Bin Farrukh, Muhammad Abbas, Anabiya Siddiqui, and Sarah Danish qualifying for the U19 finals, Hareem Anwar set to compete against Sarah Danish in the women's singles final, and Faisal Saqib facing Zafar Khan in the veterans men's singles final.

Modern Premier League Season 3 Kicks Off Tomorrow in Karachi

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The Modern Premier League (MPL) Season 3 will commence on 22 April at the UBL Sports Complex, bringing together 24 teams from leading hospitals for a five-day sporting event continuing through 26 April. The tournament aims to promote teamwork, wellness, and professional engagement through healthy inter-hospital competition. Defending champions Bahria International will return to protect their title in what promises to be an exciting season.



Sports Manager of The Modern Hospital, Mr. Taleeqe ul Karim, highlighting MPL's growing role as a platform for collaboration and fitness among healthcare professionals. Mr. Mirza Zoheed from Public Relations provided a detailed briefing on tournament rules, match format, eligibility criteria, and discipline guidelines to ensure smooth conduct of the competition. The winning team will receive a cash prize of Rs. 300,000, while the runner-up will be awarded Rs. 150,000.

A key highlight of the MPL 2026 by Director Operations Dr. Sohail Abbasi regarding an open collaboration initiative, inviting hospitals to partner with The Modern Hospital to facilitate patient services through mutual MoUs. The event also featured the official trophy reveal, tournament structure announcement, and future expansion plans, as organizers expressed appreciation to sponsors and partners and formally declared Modern Premier League Season 3 open.

Aurangzeb, EU Ambassador discuss economic cooperation, investment outlook

Continued from Page 1

In Islamabad, which the Minister accepted.

Senator Aurangzeb is also expected to deliver the keynote address at the opening plenary session on the theme "Pakistan Rising: Incentives, Reforms, and the Next Investment Frontier". The Finance Minister appre-

ciated the European Union's efforts in bringing together a large number of international and domestic business representatives, noting that such initiatives provide a valuable platform to showcase Pakistan's improving business climate and investment potential, while fostering meaningful business-to-business engagement.

Agreement between Iran and the United States?

Continued from Page 4

equivalent rank were to visit Pakistan, it could be compared to the landmark 1974 Islamic Summit Conference, when Pakistan stood at the center of global diplomacy. Such a development could strengthen Pakistan's international image, boost investment prospects, and enhance its strategic role in the region.

At the same time, caution and realism are essential. In international politics, information often circulates based on speculation, and drawing firm conclusions before an official announcement can be

premature. The details of any agreement's guarantees, the nature of sanctions relief, and regional security arrangements would be highly complex. Likewise, figures regarding wartime losses that circulate in the media require independent verification, as information during conflict is often contradictory or exaggerated.

If an agreement is ultimately concluded, it could have several consequences. Iran might receive relief from economic sanctions, supporting its economy and potentially stabilizing global oil markets. For the United States, it would

represent a diplomatic achievement framed as a step toward regional stability. The involvement of countries such as Saudi Arabia and Türkiye could signal a new regional balance of power. The presence of the United Nations would lend the agreement greater international legitimacy.

Ultimately, if Islamabad hosts this historic moment, it could mark a milestone in Pakistan's foreign policy. However, lasting success will depend not merely on a ceremony or announcement, but on effective implementation, adherence to commitments, and concrete steps

toward sustainable peace. In global politics, continuity and outcomes matter more than declarations. If history truly changes course this time, it will be remembered not only as a diplomatic success but as a moment of hope for millions seeking peace and stability. For Pakistan, the opportunity lies in playing a responsible, balanced, and wise role so that any "surprise announcement" becomes not just a headline, but a durable reality.

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US-Iran Talks Near Collapse

Continued from Page 4

economic gain, the incentives for rapid de-escalation may weaken. Even the perception of such an alignment between conflict and commercial advantage risks eroding trust and complicating already fragile negotiations.

The risk, therefore, is no longer simply that talks may fail, but that they may never meaningfully commence. Without a credible diplomatic start, escalation becomes the default trajectory.

Iran has already signaled that continued pressure could lead to broader retaliation, including potential targeting of regional energy infrastructure. Such actions would dramatically expand the scale of disruption and deepen the global crisis.

The broader lesson is unmistakable.

Global stability cannot rest on selective principles or assumptions of insulation. It depends on cooperation, consistency, and recognition of shared vulnerability.

The forces now in motion—scarcity, uncertainty, and interdependence—are reshaping the global landscape.

At this critical juncture, the world stands between two uncertain paths: a fragile and hesitant diplomacy that may yet falter, or a return to the flames of war with consequences that could reverberate far beyond the immediate conflict.

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

High-level meeting

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



Photo: Online

PM approves streamlining of P3A system to expedite PPP development projects

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday gave in-principle approval to further streamline the Public-Private Partnership Authority (P3A) and its related system to accelerate development projects through PPP in the country.

Chairing a high-level meeting to expedite pace of

development projects through Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in the country, the prime minister directed that the capacity of relevant ministries and departments should be improved for initiating development projects through PPP.

It was decided in the meeting that, in order to align the performance of P3A with modern requirements and to

speed up development projects under PPP, the authority will function under the Privatization Division.

The prime minister further instructed that development projects under PPP should be included in the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of ministries and departments.

He stated that the PPP system was being made more transparent and efficient

through P3A.

The meeting was briefed on comparative PPP models being implemented in various countries at regional and global levels. The participants were also briefed on the structure of the proposed new system. Under the new system, the Cabinet Committee on Privatization and the Privatization Division will oversee P3A.

The prime minister directed

that progress on the implementation of the newly approved system should be accelerated.

The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers Dr. Musadik Malik, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Ahsan Iqbal, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ahad Khan Cheema, Adviser to the Prime Minister Muhammad Ali, Minister of State Bilal Azhar Kayani, and other senior officials.

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

Commerce Desk

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

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

The meeting was also attended by Nawabzada Mir Muhammad Zarain Khan Magsi, Parliamentary Secre-



tary for Tourism and Culture, Balochistan, along with representatives from textile, leather, and trade sectors.

The Minister emphasized

that Pakistan has a strong foundation for export-led growth, particularly in sectors such as textiles, leather, and value-added recycled prod-

ucts.

He noted that hubs like Karachi offer natural advantages due to port connectivity, skilled labor, and an estab-

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

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

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

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

Indian CDS admits worst defeat in Operation Sindoor

News Desk

NEW DELHI:- India's Chief of Defence Staff has acknowledged challenges faced during Operation Sindoor, as he spoke about the need to prepare for future scenarios.

Observers noted that the Indian CDS appeared less confident during his remarks, reflecting the pressures following the operation.

Indian Chief of Defence

Staff General Anil Chauhan, while addressing the situation, said that upcoming challenges would be different and emphasized the need to move forward and prepare for future operations rather than focusing on the past.

He attributed operational shortcomings partly to technological factors and highlighted the importance of adopting modern technology as a key solution.

He also stressed improving

tri-services coordination, which analysts see as an important step toward enhancing operational effectiveness.

Experts believe that the reference to future operations indicates an attempt to shift focus from past challenges, while also under-

lining the need for institutional improvements.

According to analysts, relying on technological explanations alone may not fully address performance gaps, and stronger coordination among India's army, navy, and air force is essential for better outcomes in future

operations.

Experts further noted that India faces increasing international pressure, and such statements reflect efforts to project readiness. They added that any future escalation would be met with a firm and effective response from Pakistan.



DPM/FM Dar, Saudi FM stress upon dialogue, engagement for lasting peace



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Tuesday, discussed the latest regional developments and emphasized the importance of dialogue and engagement for achiev-

ing lasting peace and stability.

The DPM/FM spoke with the Saudi foreign minister, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

The Saudi foreign minister reiterated the Kingdom's support for Pakistan's continued efforts in this regard.

The two leaders agreed to remain in close contact.

Pakistan, Egypt FMs discuss latest regional developments



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday spoke with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty

to discuss the latest regional developments.

Both leaders emphasized the importance of dialogue and engagement for peace and stability.

The two foreign ministers also agreed to remain in close contact.

Federal Constitutional Court suspends proceedings amid Red Zone closure

AFP

The Federal Constitutional Court has announced that all court proceedings will remain suspended on Wednesday due to the closure of the Red Zone, according to an official notification.

The notification stated that the decision was taken in light of security and administrative concerns

linked to restricted access in the high-security area, where key government institutions are located.

As a result, the cause list scheduled for the day has been cancelled, and no hearings will take place.

In addition, court staff have been instructed to work from home to ensure continuity of essential administrative functions despite the suspension of physical operations.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif Directs to Launch Public Awareness Campaign to Prevent Deadly Diseases in Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired a special meeting of the Health & Population Department to discuss the importance of preventing spread of deadly disease in order to ensure better health condition of people in the province.

She directed the authorities concerned to launch 'Chief Minister Punjab Disease Prevention Program,' a province-wide public awareness campaign to prevent the outbreak of deadly diseases like diabetes, TB, AIDS, and hepatitis in Punjab.

She also directed them to ensure implementation of SOPs in government hospitals to check the onslaught of epidemic and contagious diseases. She said that this awareness campaign is aimed at

educating people on the prevention and treatment of deadly diseases, and vowed to lead the campaign herself for better results.

Chief Minister Punjab directed the Healthcare Commission to monitor the implementation of health SOPs in private hospitals and clinics, besides taking legal action against quack clinics across the province.

She underscored that it is essential to raise public awareness and consciousness about preventing deadly diseases. She added that awareness of early symptoms is necessary to prevent deadly and epidemic diseases, as it is important not only to treat a patient but also to give him hope of life. Earlier, Secretary Health & Population Department, Nadia Saqib gave a detailed briefing on the project.