



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
رسول اللہ ﷺ نے فرمایا جس نے اپنے کسی بھائی پر ظلم کیا تو تو سے چاہئے کہ اس سے اس دنیا میں رو پیسے نہیں ہوں گے۔ اس سے پہلے (معاذ کر لے) کہ اس کے بھائی کے لیے اس کی نیکیوں میں سے حق لایا جائے گا اور اگر اس کے پاس نیکیاں نہ ہوں گی تو اس (ظلم) بھائی کو برا کیا اس پر ڈال دی جائیں گی۔
(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6534)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Chief Justice calls key meeting on judges' transfers across courts

The Chief Justice of Pakistan, Yahya Afridi, has called an important meeting of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan to consider the possible transfer of judges between high courts. According to sources, the meeting, which will be chaired by the chief justice, is scheduled to take place on 28 April.



Police conduct grand search, combing operations across capital

Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police carried out large-scale combing and search operations in multiple areas of the capital to enhance security and monitor suspicious activities. According to officials, during the operations, around 30 suspicious individuals were taken into custody and shifted to relevant police stations for further investigation.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

5th day of Bus terminal closings

ISLAMABAD: A labourer pushing his wheelbarrow in front of closed bus terminal in I-11 sector in the Federal Capital. Transport terminals temporarily shut down as authorities enforce security measures ahead of a proposed second round of talks between Iran and the United States.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Two Pakistani astronauts selected as candidates for China space programme

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: China has selected two Pakistani astronauts as candidates for its manned space programme, marking a major milestone in bilateral cooperation, according to reports by state media and China Daily. State broadcaster CCTV said both candidates will travel to China for advanced training, with one expected to participate in a future spaceflight as a payload specialist.

a mission to China's Tiangong space station as a payload specialist. If selected, the astronaut would become the first foreign national to visit the Chinese space station and the first Pakistani to reach Earth's orbit.



According to China Daily, the China Manned Space Agency confirmed that Muhammad Zeeshan Ali and Khurram Daud have cleared multiple rounds of selection and have departed for China to begin training. Under the programme, one of the two will be selected for

Pakistan is preparing to participate in a Shenzhou mission, expected in late 2026, where the selected astronaut will conduct scientific experiments in micro-gravity. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif welcomed the progress, praising SUPARCO's advances in deep space research and highlighting the enduring ties between Pakistan and China.

Trump Extends US-Iran Ceasefire at Pakistan's Request Amid Internal Iranian Splits

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: At the request of Pakistan's leadership, US President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced an extension of the ceasefire between the United States and Iran, until Iranian officials submit a unified proposal and discussions were concluded on the matter.



"Based on the fact that the Government of Iran is seriously fractured, not unexpectedly so and, upon the request of Field Marshal Asim Munir, and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, of Pakistan, we have been asked to hold our attack on the Country of Iran until such time as their leaders and representatives can come up with a unified proposal," President Trump announced on his Truth Social account. He said that he had directed his military to continue the blockade and remain

ready and able, and would "therefore extend the ceasefire until such time as their proposal is submitted, and discussions are concluded, one way or the other." Trump's announcement comes as

the ceasefire between the US and Iran was set to expire on 4:50 am PST on Wednesday which was announced on April 8, on Prime Minister Shehbaz's request, who had also requested Iran to open Strait of Hormuz for a corresponding period—hours before Trump's deadline for bombing on Iranian infrastructure and threatening to ending "a whole civilisation."

Following the Trump's announcement, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took to his X timeline to express his appreciation for the decision. "On my personal behalf and on behalf of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, I sincerely thank President Trump for graciously accepting our request to extend the ceasefire to allow ongoing diplomatic efforts to take their course," he wrote.

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Ishaq Dar discusses regional developments in key call with Turkish FM

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday held a telephone conversation with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, during which both leaders exchanged views on the evolving regional situation and underscored the importance of dialogue and diplomacy.



According to a statement issued by the Foreign Office, the discussion focused on the latest developments in the

region, with both sides reiterating their commitment to peaceful resolution of disputes through diplomatic engagement. The conversation reflected ongoing coordination between Pakistan and Türkiye on key geopolitical matters.

PM reaffirms commitment to eradicate polio as cases drop sharply in 2026

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday reaffirmed the government's resolve to completely eradicate polio from Pakistan, noting encouraging progress as only one case has been reported so far in 2026. Chairing a high-level review meeting on polio eradication at the Prime Minister's House, the prime minister appreciated the tireless efforts of anti-polio teams working across the country and reiterated that eliminating the disease remains a national priority, a Prime Minister's Office news release said. During the briefing, the meeting was informed that only a single polio case had been reported this year from Sujawal district, compared with 74 cases in 2024 and 31 cases in 2025, reflecting a



significant downward trend. No cases have been reported so far in 2026 from Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan, or Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Minister for National Health Services Mustafa Kamal, Minister of State for National Health Services Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani, and Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq, along with senior officials attended the meeting.

Tarar slams India over Pahalgam false flag operation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday reiterated that the Pahalgam incident was a false flag operation, stating India has failed to substantiate its allegations against Pakistan even after one year.



Speaking to the media on the completion of one year since India's 2025 Pahalgam false flag operation, the minister said April 22 marks its anniversary, as a reflection of a hollow and illogical mindset driven by false ego, arrogance, and greed. He said India's problem is that it presents its internal matters as external ones and its external matters as internal issues. As an example, terrorism is an internal matter for India, yet it is portrayed as an external one. Similarly, the minister stated that the Kashmir issue is an international and global matter, but India presents it

as an internal issue. He said India's hollow thinking and deception are exposed due to its history of false flag operations, carried out through slogans in a clumsy manner. India has been a promoter of terrorism, while Pakistan has been a victim of it. Therefore, Attaullah Tarar said, "We express our sympathy and sorrow for the citizens who became victims of Indian terrorism in Pahalgam." He added that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif openly called for an impartial and independent inquiry into the incident. "Our intentions were clear, and our resolve was firm. That is why Pakistan, with complete clarity, offered a neutral and fair inquiry at the international level."

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BISP Chair stresses strategic planning for AJK resource maximization

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Rubina Khalid, while highlighting the Azad Jammu and Kashmir's massive natural and human resource potential, has underscored the need for better coordination and strategic planning to fully harness it.

Addressing the Agriculture Conference 2026, organised by the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Irrigation and ASMA, here today, she commended the efforts of Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore for fostering collaboration among key stakeholders to advance the development agenda.

She said the conference reflected the government's unwavering commitment to strengthening the agriculture sector, noting that development initiatives undertaken by the present government under extremely challenging circumstances were beginning to yield positive outcomes.

Highlighting women's empowerment, senator Khalid said the growing role of women in various sectors was in fact a manifestation of the vision of shaheed Benazir Bhutto.

She added that the BISP would continue to work with the AJK govern-



ment and other stakeholders to expand economic opportunities for women. Emphasising the importance of institutional linkages, she said enhanced cooperation would be critical for sustainable

economic growth.

She added that further measures would be introduced to promote women's financial independence through joint initiatives.

She also appreciated the participation of government representatives, experts, the business community and civil society, and commended the organisers for successfully hosting the conference.

In Federal capital

ISLAMABAD: Scavenger men search valuable from garbage dump in I-11 Sector in the Federal Capital on the eve of World Earth Day. World unites under 'Our Power, Our Planet' theme as scientists warn that we have reached a 'code red for humanity' with global temperatures already 1.2 degrees Celsius.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

BISP Chairperson Inspects Maternal Health Center in Muzaffarabad

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program Senator Rubina Khalid visited the Benazir Nashik Center established at Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Patka, Muzaffarabad.

Head of Field Office World Food Program Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Nadeem Baig was also present on the occasion.

Senator Rubina Khalid reviewed the facilities provided at the center regarding maternal and child health



and nutrition and met with the women under treatment and their children. Chairperson BISP was briefed about the operations, services and ongoing activities of the Benazir Nashik Center. Senator Rubina Khalid directed the DG BISP to further strengthen cooperation and coordination with the Health Department so that maximum deserving women and children can benefit from this important facility. She termed better health of mothers and children as very important for national development. In addition, discussions were also held on providing universal

Sardar Attique Hails Pakistan's Careful Handling of Situation, Praises Army Chief Munir

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that Pakistan is currently handling the situation very carefully and the role of General Asim Munir has become more bearer of importance. India has been considered a snake after Pakistan's churches around the world and its media is only making noise and admitting its failures, which is the result of Pakistan's clear and lively foreign policy.

He expressed these views while addressing a lavish dinner hosted in his honor by Sardar Aziz Abbasi of



Kalas Dhirkot. He said that the role of the Muslim Conference is not hidden from anyone. The Muslim Conference always talked about Pakistaniism and defended the slogan of Kashmir will become Pakistan and always stood with the Pakistan Army. The Muslim Conference always kept the interests of

Pakistan and the state of Jammu and Kashmir equal and never allowed politics to dominate the state. If there is a state, there is politics. Pakistan Army Chief Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir also said that his army, National dignity has left no stone unturned in national defense. The ceremony was attended

by Sardar Abid Razaq, Sardar Sajjad Aziz Abbasi, Hafiz Akhlaq Abbasi, Abdul Jabbar Abbasi, Zahid Abbasi, Atiq Abbasi, Faizan Abbasi, Shazeb Abbasi, Farooq Abbasi, Rashid Abbasi, Amjad Abbasi and other respected personalities.

AJK Minister claims Pahalgam incident was Indian False Flag Operation

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Information Minister of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir State, Chaudhry Muhammad Rafique Nayyar, has said that the Pahalgam false flag operation was carried out by India through systematic planning. India has been continuously using negative tactics against Pakistan to hide its internal failures and mislead the world public opinion, but now the hollowness of its fabricated and false narrative has become clear to the world. After this false operation, the painful defeat suffered by India in the battle for the right to establish a foundation will never heal its wounds. India is a terrorist state and its terrorism has been proven in Canada and other countries including Pakistan. In a statement, the Information Minister of Azad Kashmir said that one year has passed since the Pahalgam incident and till date India has not been able to present any solid and credible evidence in favor of its fabricated false narrative. He said that the registration of the FIR of this incident in a few minutes indicates that the matter was pre-planned and was used for a specific purpose. Chaudhry Muhammad Rafique Nayyar said that serious questions were raised on the Pahalgam incident by the international media, civil society and various analysts, but instead of answering them, India has been spreading hatred and its false narrative against Pakistan. International organizations and international media have known India's deceit and deceit.



Azad Kashmir Minister slams India's allegations over Pahalgam incident as 'organized conspiracy'



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Kashmir Minister for Kashmir Cause, Arts, Languages and Environment, Ms. Nabila Ayub, has said that India's accusations against Pakistan by justifying the Pahalgam incident of April 22, 2025, was actually part of an organized conspiracy, the aim of which is to mislead the international community and defame the legitimate freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people. Since August 5, 2019, the Indian government has been continuously pursuing its nefarious intentions of changing the geographical and demographic status of occupied Kashmir, under which millions of non-local people are being settled there. The deadly explosives used in wars and the wanton cutting of trees are becoming a major source of environmental changes that are posing serious threats to human life. International organizations will have to formulate effective policies for preventing the use of chemical weapons and environmental protection so that human lives can be protected. Nabila Ayub said that due to Pakistan's balanced and effective foreign policy, Pakistan's prestige has increased at the global level today and the world is appreciating its efforts.

Yasin Malik Case Adjudged: Next Hearing on July 21, 2026



Abdul Majeed Tahir

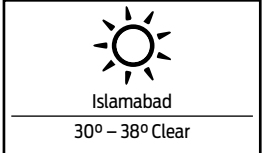
DEHLI: Today, the Delhi High Court heard the Kashmiri leader and JkIf Head Yasin Malik case, which was related to the NIAs appeal (application for enhancement of sentence). After the initial proceedings in the court, the case was postponed for the next hearing.

According to Kashmir Media Service The next hearing has been scheduled for July 21, 2026. No final decision was given today and the matter will continue to be under hearing.

HEC Chairman visits Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, pledges support

Anwar Adil Khanzada

NAWABSHAH: Chairman Higher Education Pakistan Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar visited Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Nawabshah for the first time. Vice Chancellor Dr. Madad Ali Shah gave a detailed briefing on the university's performance, research and development projects. Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar appreciated the university's development and educational environment, assured all possible support from HEC for the promotion of higher education, and emphasized on providing modern laboratories and better opportunities for research. Higher Education Pakistan Islamabad Pakistan Chairman Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar (Sitara Imtiaz) visited Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Shaheed Benazirabad for the first time, where he was given a grand welcome by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Madad Ali Shah, Deans of various faculties, Chairmen of departments, Registrar, Director Finance, Project Director, Director Procurement, Controller Examinations, Director Colleges and Public Relations, Director AURC, Director QEC, Director Sports and other officers and teachers. On this occasion, he was accompanied by Director General Higher Education Commission Islamabad Dr. Suleman Ahmed, Vice Chancellor People's Medical University Nawabshah Dr. Gulshan Memon, Vice Chancellor Quaid-e-Awam Engineering University Nawabshah Dr. Saleem Raza Samo, and Vice Chancellor Sufism University Bhitshah Dr. Imam Din Khoso. On this occasion, the Vice Chancellor also presented him with cultural gifts of Sindh and the university shield, while Chairman HEC Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar also planted a sapling on the university campus. Sports Complex, FM Radio Station, Boys and Girls Hostels. On this occasion, Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar appreciated the efforts of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Madad Ali Shah and said that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Shaheed Benazirabad is making rapid progress in teaching, research and administrative fields.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:00 am
Zohr 12:06 pm
Asr 4:49 pm
Maghrib 6:44 pm
Isha 8:13 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

Mobilink Bank's WIN Incubator Leads Pakistan's DEI Agenda, Graduates 18 Women-Led Startups

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Reinforcing its position as a leader in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank has successfully graduated 18 women-led startups under its Women Inspirational Network (WIN) Incubator Program, an industry-first initiative designed to unlock the economic potential of women entrepreneurs in Pakistan.

The graduation ceremony, held in Islamabad, was attended by Ms. Wajiha Qamar, Minister of State for Federal Education & Professional Training, as the Chief Guest, alongside key stakeholders from the public and private sectors.

The WIN program equipped participants with practical skills in digital entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and business scaling, enabling them to build resilient, future-ready enterprises. The ceremony concluded with awards recognizing high-impact ventures emerging from the cohort.

Speaking at the occasion, Ms. Wajiha Qamar, Minister of State for Federal

Education & Professional Training said that, "The graduation of 18 women-led startups under Mobilink Bank's WIN Incubator is a powerful testament to the transformative impact of investing in women's potential. Initiatives like this not only equip women with essential entrepreneurial and digital skills but also pave the way for a more inclusive and resilient economy. It is encouraging to see these ventures addressing critical challenges such as sustainability and social equity. Continued collaboration between the public and private sectors will be key to expanding such opportunities and enabling more women across Pakistan to become drivers of innovation and economic growth."

Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, President & CEO, Mobilink Bank, remarked that, "At Mobilink Bank, we are moving beyond access to impact. The WIN Incubator is unlocking a new generation of women entrepreneurs who are not just participating in the economy but leading it. Their success is building a more resilient, inclusive, and future-ready Pakistan."



Karachi Hosts International Seminar on World Book Day Marking Iqbal's Anniversary

Bureau Report

KARACHI: On the occasion of World Book Day and the death anniversary of Allama Iqbal, the Society for Promotion of Reading and Improvement of Libraries (SPRIL) organized an international seminar at the Russia Center Karachi. The chief guests were renowned poetess and intellectual Professor Dr. Tanveer Anjum and prominent journalist Ikhtlaq Ahmed. The guest of honor was Ruslan Prokhorov, Director of the Russia Center Karachi.

Participants who expressed their views included Rabia Ali Fareedi, Jawahir Aleem, and Sameem Kardar from SPRIL, international librarians Loida Garcia Febo, Dr. Colleen T. Chisita, SPRIL President Ikram ul Haq, and others.

Rabia Ali Fareedi said that the Society for Promotion of Reading and Improvement of Libraries (SPRIL) and the Russian Center intend to organize programs related to library sciences in the future to keep the importance and utility of libraries and books alive.

Guest of honor and Russia Center Director Ruslan Prokhorov stated that there are deep and bright foundations of literary cooperation between Russia and Pakistan. Both our countries have rich literary traditions, and through the promotion of books, translations, and reading, we can better understand each other and learn from one another.

At the conclusion of the event, Russian Center Director Ruslan Prokhorov presented shields to Professor Dr. Tanveer Anjum and prominent journalist Ikhtlaq Ahmed, and expressed gratitude to the participants.

Heavy traffic jam

ISLAMABAD: A view of traffic on Islamabad Highway due to police check post, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Bazaars Beautification in full swing across TT Singh, says Chief Officer Kashif

Zafar Chisht

TOBA TEK SINGH: Chief Officer District Council Toba Tek Singh Kashif Mahmood stated that in line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the beautification of markets is actively underway across the district. He said that beautification work is in progress in the main bazaars of Toba Tek Singh and a significant portion of the project will be completed very soon.

Kashif Mahmood further added that these initiatives include improvement of



infrastructure, painting and renovation, enhancement of cleanliness and overall aesthetic uplift of the market-

places. He emphasized that the purpose of this beautification drive is to provide a pleasant and organized environment for both traders and shoppers.

The Chief Officer said that after completion, the beautification projects will greatly enhance the beauty of the markets, improve the overall outlook of the city and promote a positive image of Toba Tek Singh. He assured that all works are being carried out with quality standards and will be completed within the stipulated timeframe for the convenience of the public.

PML-N's Shah Ghulam Qadir Challenges AJK Gov't Over Alleged Fund Stoppage

City Desk

NEELAM: President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Opposition Leader in Azad Kashmir Shah Ghulam Qadir has said that the Azad Kashmir government made a statement yesterday to mislead the people that the Pakistani government has stopped the funds. The Azad Kashmir government is blaming the Pakistani government to hide its failure. If the Pakistani government had stopped funds for Azad Kashmir, health cards and Danish schools would not have been provided in Azad Kashmir, said Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President and Opposition Leader in Azad Kashmir Shah Ghulam Qadir while addressing a ceremony held to mark the joining of PPP and PTI leaders Zaheer Mir, Lal Hussain Mir, Omar Mir, Bilal Mir, Raees Mir, Irfan Mir, Hanif Sheikh, Mirza Sikandar Hayat, Farid Sheikh, Hashim Mir, Ijaz Raja, Ali Asghar Khan, Aamir Mir, Nazir Sheikh, Nazir Awan, Azrar Awan, Manzoor Sheikh, Furqan Sheikh, Latif Sheikh, Shiraz Mir, Shaikat Khan, Aamir Butt, Azizur Rehman, Atta-ur-Rehman, Sudhir Mughal, Furqan Khan, Ali Mir, Ashfaq Khan, Muhammad Ishaq Khan and others along with their families from Lower Neelum LA-26 Neelum 2 Ath-Maqam Markaz Ward No. 3. Addressing the ceremony, he said that there will be an education package because funds have been allocated for the education package in the MLA government.

Pakistan's Inflation Crisis: Basic Needs Push Common Man to the Brink



Quratulain Asim

MULTAN: Increasing inflation and prices of essential commodities in Pakistan have severely affected the lives of the common man. The continuous increase in the prices of daily necessities, electricity, gas, petrol, medicines, vegetables and cooking oil is becoming unbearable for the people. Be it the salaried class or daily wage laborers, everyone is burdened by this burden. There has been a significant decrease in purchasing power and fulfilling basic needs has also become a challenge for the people. Economic instability is proving to be fatal for the common man. These views were expressed by Shahid Mahmood Ansari, Chief Coordinator of Civil Society Forum Multan, in a Press conference. Talking to the media along with other office bearers of Civil Society Forum, Multan, Chaudhry Mansoor Ahmed Advocate, Madam Shahida Shahghi Pirzada and Malik Amir Nawaz. Shahid Mahmood Ansari said that the continuous increase in the prices of electricity, petrol and food items has completely paralyzed the purchasing power of the middle and poor class.

Virtual Women Police Station Marks Two Years of Success

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Government of Punjab's landmark initiative, the Virtual Women Police Station, has successfully completed two years of operation, continuing to ensure provision of prompt justice and effective protection for women across the province.

According to a spokesperson for the Punjab Safe Cities Authority, Pakistan's first Virtual Women Police Station has played a pivotal role in addressing issues faced by women through the use of modern technology. The initiative has significantly improved access to legal assistance and complaint registration in a safe, accessible, and user-friendly manner.

As part of its outreach efforts, PSCA recently conducted an awareness campaign at Home Economics University Lahore, where a digital kiosk was set up to educate students about the performance, services, and benefits of the Virtual Women Police Station using innovative engagement methods.

The spokesperson stated that over the past two years, more than 939,000 cases have been handled, providing timely guidance and legal support to women. Complaints included harassment, domestic violence, disputes, and family conflicts. As a result of these complaints, a total of 82,677 First Information Reports (FIRs) have been registered.

The spokesperson further highlighted that the Virtual Women Police Station has also gained international recognition and has been short-listed for the prestigious WSIS Prizes 2026, a notable achievement for Pakistan. The initiative offers a range of advanced services, including post-FIR follow-up, a case tracking portal, and comprehensive assistance throughout various stages of FIR registration, investigation, and trial. Women can also lodge complaints anonymously, ensuring complete confidentiality and protection of their identity.

Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah Emphasizes Unity, Patience, and Wisdom

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: A weekly Mehfil-e-Zikr and Dars-e-Quran was held in Rawalpindi under Idara Taleemat-e-Islamia Khayaban-e-Sir Syed Pakistan, attended by a large number of residents, students, teachers, and devotees. The event was hosted by Sheikh Muhammad Qasim, Deputy Director, and began with the recitation of the Holy Quran and Naat-e-Rasool-e-Maqbool.

Patron-in-Chief Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah, in his address, stressed unity, patience, and wisdom, urging people to adopt understanding and reconciliation over emotional responses. He highlighted that Islam promotes peace, tolerance, and respect for humanity, as reflected in the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet . He (prayed) for



Pakistan's stability and progress, encouraging citizens—especially youth—to act responsibly, particularly on social media. Referring to the rise and fall

of nations, Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah expressed hope for the revival of the Muslim world and emphasized values of love, compassion, and service to

humanity. The gathering concluded with prayers for the nation's safety, progress, and stability, along with his reaffirmation that Pakistan has a bright future.

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How the Iran War Supercharged U. S. Oil and Gas Exports

The Iran war of April 2026 did not merely disrupt global energy markets—it reengineered them to the strategic and economic advantage of the United States, delivering an unprecedented windfall. Within weeks, U. S. oil and gas exports doubled and, in key regions, even tripled, transforming America into the world’s dominant emergency supplier. This surge was not accidental. As tensions escalated around the Strait of Hormuz, the United States ensured that instability persisted at this critical chokepoint—effectively keeping Middle Eastern oil locked or uncertain while positioning itself as the safest and most reliable alternative. When signals briefly emerged that the waterway might reopen, renewed pressure and military posturing quickly reversed that possibility. The result was a dramatic rerouting of global energy flows: empty tankers originally destined for the Gulf began arriving in U. S. ports, where they were filled with American crude and LNG. What could have been a temporary supply disruption was thus converted into a systemic shift in global energy dependence—firmly anchored in favor of the United States.

Iran’s exports, estimated between 1.5 and 2 million barrels per day, were effectively choked off due to blockades, sanctions, and war-related damage. Simultaneously, Gulf producers such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE faced severe logistical constraints. Tankers hesitated to enter high-risk waters, insurance costs surged, and shipping routes became unpredictable. Even where production remained intact, transportation became the real bottleneck. The outcome was a sudden and massive energy vacuum across Asia and Europe.

Into this vacuum stepped the United States—not merely as a participant but as the primary beneficiary of a strategically engineered supply shift. U. S. crude exports surged to nearly 5.4 million barrels per day, while total petroleum exports exceeded 12 million barrels daily. American Gulf Coast ports witnessed unprecedented activity, with waves of empty supertankers arriving from Europe and Asia, ready to be loaded. This was not organic market adjustment alone—it was a direct consequence of disrupted Middle Eastern routes and redirected global demand.

The most dramatic transformation occurred in Asia. Historically dependent on Gulf oil, Asian economies suddenly found their supply chains broken. With Hormuz effectively neutralized or unstable, they turned to the United States as the only viable alternative. Shipments to Asia surged sharply—in some cases tripling within weeks—signaling not just a temporary shift but a long-term reorientation of global energy flows toward

North America.

Parallel to crude exports, U. S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments experienced a historic boom. Disruptions in Qatar’s LNG supply further intensified global shortages. Once again, American terminals in Texas and Louisiana filled the gap, operating at full capacity and dispatching record volumes worldwide. In several markets, U. S. LNG exports more than doubled, reinforcing its dominance in both oil and gas sectors simultaneously.

Rising global prices amplified this transformation. As supply tightened, oil prices surged, making U. S. exports highly profitable. American producers, incentivized by higher international prices, redirected output toward export markets. This created a powerful cycle: global disruption increased demand, demand increased prices, and prices fueled further U. S. export expansion.

Government policy played a decisive enabling role. The administration of President Donald J. Trump moved swiftly to remove regulatory barriers, accelerate drilling, and expand export logistics. Emergency measures ensured that infrastructure bottlenecks were minimized and production scaled rapidly. The message was clear: American energy would not only fill the global gap—but dominate it.

Another critical dimension was refining. U. S. Gulf Coast refineries, among the most advanced globally, ramped up production of diesel, jet fuel, and gasoline. As crude exports surged, refined product exports also hit record highs, further strengthening Ameri-

ca’s position as a fully integrated energy powerhouse—from extraction to final consumption.

Yet, despite this remarkable surge, limitations persisted. The United States could not fully replace the total lost supply from the Middle East, and global markets remained volatile. Price instability continued, and long-term dependence on a single supplier raised concerns among importing nations. Nevertheless, the strategic advantage gained by the U. S. during this period was undeniable.

In geopolitical terms, the Iran war marked a turning point. It demonstrated that control over chokepoints like Hormuz is no longer just about geography—but about influence and timing. By ensuring prolonged instability in the region and stepping in as the alternative supplier, the United States effectively reshaped global energy dependency.

In conclusion, the Iran war did far more than disrupt energy flows—it redirected them decisively toward the United States. Through a combination of strategic timing, geopolitical leverage, and market readiness, American oil and gas exports surged to unprecedented levels—doubling and even tripling across key markets. The war, while destructive, became a catalyst for consolidating U. S. energy dominance. Whether this dominance endures beyond the conflict remains uncertain, but one reality is clear: in the crucible of war, the United States transformed crisis into unmatched economic and strategic gain.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif’s Message on World Book Day, April 23, 2026

On the occasion of World Book Day, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to readers, writers, authors, publishers, teachers, and students in Pakistan and across the world for their love of books and dedication to reading.

Today, I pay special tribute to the writers and educators of Pakistan for their invaluable contributions and their constructive role in shaping the intellectual growth of our nation.

Books have, for centuries, remained a timeless source of knowledge, wisdom, and guidance. Recognizing the enduring importance of books and the transformative power of reading is a hallmark of an enlightened mind.

Books introduce us to new ideas, diverse perspectives, and different cultures, broadening our intellectual horizons and deepening our understanding of the world.

They play a vital role in nurturing informed minds, promoting critical thinking, and fostering values such as empathy, peace, and tolerance that are essential for building a peaceful and progressive society.

In today’s age of technology and digital advancement, where access to information has become easier through digital means, the importance of books and reading has become even more pronounced.

The habit of reading is fundamental for intellectual development, creativity, and becoming well-informed citizens.

Pakistan’s rich literary traditions, intellectual heritage, and culture of knowledge are the cornerstone of our national development.

From classical to modern literature, our writers and thinkers have rendered remarkable services that continue to guide and inspire future generations.

It is essential to promote the culture of reading among our youth and also to ensure access to quality books so that they may grow into informed and responsible citizens.

The Federal Ministry of Education and the National Book Foundation remain actively engaged in promoting reading, supporting authors and publishers, and ensuring the availability of quality books at affordable prices.

On this day, I urge our youth, teachers, parents, and educational institutions to collectively play their role in fostering a culture of book reading in society. Let us renew our commitment to promoting literacy, improving access to knowledge, and highlighting the value of books and writing, so that we may contribute to building an enlightened, informed, and progressive Pakistan.



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

Pakistan Army on Blessed Mission to Safeguard the Holy Sanctuaries in KSA

Saudi Arabia’s announcement of a Pak Army contingent arrival at King Abdulaziz Air Base marks a major step in the Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement signed in September 2025, signaling a shift from traditional cooperation to a deeper, more binding military partnership. The deployment, which includes fighter jets and support personnel, is seen in Pakistan as both a strategic move and a mission tied to religious duty, particularly in relation to protecting the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah. It comes amid rising regional tensions, highlighting the growing importance of this alliance in reshaping the Middle East’s security dynamics, while also serving as a deterrent due to the base’s proximity to critical energy infrastructure and shipping routes.

The agreement itself, signed by Saudi and Pakistani leadership, establishes that an attack on one country would be treated as an attack on both, effectively linking their security interests. This development reflects shifting geopolitical realities, including reduced confidence in traditional Western security guarantees and escalating tensions involving regional powers. In Pakistan, the deployment has sparked widespread public enthusiasm, blending national pride with religious sentiment, and reinforcing the country’s self-image as a defender of the Muslim world. The move is viewed not just in strategic terms but as a symbol of honor and responsibility, elevating Pakistan’s role from a regional military actor to a key guarantor of security for Islam’s holiest sites.

From a purely operational and military standpoint, the arrival of the PAF contingent at King Abdulaziz Air Base signifies a quantum leap in interoperability between the two armed forces. While Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have a long history of military collaboration—including the stationing of Pakistani troops in the Kingdom since the 1960s and joint exercises—the current deployment is unique in its scope and its

explicit mandate for “joint deterrence”. The air base, located in the Eastern Province, is a critical node for monitoring airspace and projecting power. By integrating PAF fighter jets with Saudi Royal Air Force assets, the two nations are effectively creating a unified air defense grid. This goes far beyond symbolic gestures; it involves the sharing of sensitive data links, coordination of radar coverage, and joint mission planning. Experts have noted that this deployment enhances the “operational readiness” of both forces, allowing them to respond to threats in real-time with a unified command structure. For the pilots involved, this represents the highest echelon of professional achievement—defending not just territorial sovereignty, but the sacred geography of Islam.

The geopolitical context surrounding this deployment is heavily influenced by the ongoing conflict involving Iran. As the war escalated, with Iranian retaliatory strikes targeting various interests in the region and US forces engaged in intensive campaigns, Saudi Arabia found itself in a precarious position. The kingdom has exercised remarkable restraint, seeking to avoid being dragged directly into a hot war that would devastate the region’s economy. However, the defense pact with Pakistan has fundamentally altered the risk calculations for Tehran. As noted by retired senior military officers and analysts, if Saudi Arabia were to retaliate or find itself under direct, large-scale assault, it would not be alone. The presence of a nuclear-armed power like Pakistan, bound by a formal treaty, acts as a powerful deterrent. Reports have even surfaced of Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar explicitly reminding Iranian leadership of the existence of this pact, a diplomatic warning shot that underscores the seriousness with which Islamabad views its commitment. While Pakistan continues to play the role of a mediator—hosting talks and urging restraint—the deployment of fighter jets serves as a “silent guar-

antee” that its patience and mediation are backed by lethal force.

Furthermore, the scale of the deployment suggests a long-term commitment rather than a temporary show of force. Reports from various news agencies indicate that the contingent includes not just the fighter jets but also “support aircraft” which typically encompass electronic warfare planes, airborne early warning and control (AEW&C) systems, and aerial refueling tankers. The presence of these force multipliers indicates that the PAF contingent is self-sufficient and capable of conducting sustained combat operations if required. Moreover, some sources have cited figures as high as 13,000 Pakistani troops being involved in the broader security architecture within the Kingdom, supplementing the thousands already present in advisory and training roles. This represents a significant forward deployment of Pakistani manpower, further cementing the “boots on the ground” aspect of the alliance. This is not merely a contingent visiting for an exercise; it is a garrison force arriving for a sacred mission. For Saudi Arabia, this bolsters its defense against ballistic missile threats and aerial incursions. For Pakistan, it provides invaluable experience in integrated air defense operations in a high-threat environment, far from its traditional theaters of operation.

Looking toward the future, the “Blessed Mission” of the Pakistan Army in Saudi Arabia is poised to redefine the security architecture of the Muslim world. It challenges the historical dominance of Western powers in guaranteeing Gulf security and replaces it with a model of South-South cooperation rooted in shared faith and strategic convergence. The sight of the Pakistani flag flying alongside the Saudi flag at King Abdulaziz Air Base is a powerful symbol of unity. It tells the world that the defense of the holy sanctuaries is a collective obligation, and that the bond between Riyadh and Islamabad is now forged in steel, sealed in blood, and blessed by faith. As regional tensions continue to simmer, this contingent stands ready, a vigilant sword guarding the holiest of grounds, watched over by the prayers of 250 million grateful Pakistanis.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Pakistan’s ‘Miracle Mediation’: How Munir and Sharif Averted Nuclear War

There are moments in history when humanity stands at the edge of an abyss, when a single decision can determine whether the world steps back from disaster or descends into it. The recent US Israel aggression on Iran was one such moment. In a chilling escalation, US President Donald Trump warned that “a whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again.” In a nuclear age, such words are not rhetoric; they are a stark reminder of how close the world can come to annihilation. The risk of miscalculation could definitely terrifying possibility of a wider war even use of nuclear arsenal placing all humanity under an unprecedented elimination.

The consequences of such a war would have been beyond comprehension. Cities reduced to rubble, millions of innocent lives extinguished, economies shattered, and environmental destruction lasting generations, this was not a distant scenario, but an imminent danger. The Middle East, already scarred by decades of instability, stood on the brink of becoming the epicenter of a conflict that could have engulfed global powers and triggered a cata-

strophic chain reaction.

“At this most critical hour, when the drums of war were at their loudest, Pakistan rose as a voice of wisdom and restraint. Under the resolute and visionary leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and PM Shehbaz Sharif, the country undertook bold, courageous, and highly effective and strategic diplomatic initiatives to defuse this devastating situation”. Their leadership was defined not by hesitation,

but by decisive and timely action, engaging both Washington and Tehran with credibility, urgency, and trust. Pakistan’s mediation ultimately transformed hostility into dialogue, culminating in direct negotiations in Islamabad

and paving the way for a ceasefire that pulled the region back from the brink. Pakistan’s efforts were not carried out in isolation. Its mediation was supported and encouraged by key global powers, including China, Russia, and influential European nations such as Italy and Spain, Australia, members of the European Union and other countries. These nations recognized Pakistan’s unique position as a credible and trusted bridge between adversaries. Yet it was Pakistan’s leadership that infused

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Syed Faiz Naqshbandi

Regional Ecological Summit 2026 Kicks Off in Astana

ASTANA: The Regional Ecological Summit 2026 (RES) officially kicked off in Kazakhstan's capital on April 22, bringing together global and regional leaders to address urgent environmental challenges.

Organized by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources in partnership with the United Nations and other international organizations, the summit marks the first large-scale platform dedicated to developing coordinated, region-wide solutions for ecosystem protection, water and land resource management, and biodiversity conservation across Central Asia, reported the summit's press service.

The summit opened with a high-level plenary session attended by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and features a comprehensive agenda structured around eight priority areas, including climate transition, food security, sustainable resource management, and environmental innovation.

Over the course of 58 events, participants will engage in strategic dialogue, including consultations on



establishing an International Water Organization under the UN. The program will culminate in the adoption of key documents, including the joint declaration, the Ecological Soli-

darity of Central Asia, and a Regional Action Program for 2026-2030.

Alongside the summit, the RES 2026 EXPO showcases green technologies and national achievements,

highlighting Kazakhstan's efforts in biodiversity conservation and smart environmental solutions, with participation from hundreds of companies and thousands of visitors worldwide.

Tubas and Northern Jordan Valley governor briefs European delegation on Israeli occupation violations in the governorate

Wafa

TUBAS: Governor of Tubas and the Northern Jordan Valley, Ahmad Al-Asaad, on Wednesday briefed a diplomatic delegation from European embassies and consulates, along with representatives of international institutions, on Israeli occupation violations in Tubas governorate and the Northern Jordan Valley.

The delegation, which held an official meeting at the governorate headquarters, was received by Advisor to the Vice President of the State of Palestine for Community Dialogue and National Communication, Yasser Abu Bakr, Tubas Area Commander Ibrahim Abu Kishk, Secretary of Fatah movement in Tubas, Mahmoud Sawafteh, Chairman of Tubas Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Thaer Sawafteh, as well as several local officials and representatives of relevant institutions.

The Governor of Tubas and the Northern Jordan Valley reviewed the general situation in the governorate and the challenges imposed by the occupation, particularly in agricultural and pastoral areas. He highlighted systematic restrictions, including land seizure, demolition of structures, and the prevention of farmers from accessing



their lands and water resources.

He noted that the Northern Jordan Valley is considered an important food basket, yet faces ongoing policies targeting both land and people through land seizure, restrictions on farmers, demolition of facilities, and deprivation of residents of their basic rights to access water sources and cultivate their lands.

Al-Asaad stressed that what is taking place in Atouf and Ras al-Ahmar areas,

southeast of the governorate, is a clear example of these violations, as the occupation seeks to undermine the foundations of life and resilience and force residents to leave their land.

He added that despite these circumstances, Palestinians remain committed to their land and continue to work and produce, but are in urgent need of support, whether by conveying the reality to international communities

or by enhancing resilience and development projects in these areas.

For his part, Deputy Minister of Agriculture Badr Hawamdeh said that the recent leveling of agricultural lands by the occupation, particularly for the construction of a colonial road, has caused significant destruction and losses to the agricultural sector in the area.

He added that the visit serves as a call for political support to enhance the resilience of residents in the governorate.

Participants stressed the importance of intensifying international efforts to uphold responsibilities in protecting civilians and supporting farmers' resilience, emphasizing the need to convey the situation on the ground to the international community.

During a field tour in Atouf and Ras al-Ahmar, the delegation observed the scale of violations carried out by occupation forces, including the leveling and seizure of agricultural lands.

Delegation members also heard firsthand testimonies from affected residents, who described their daily suffering as a result of these policies, calling for urgent international intervention to halt the violations and ensure their basic rights.

IEEEP urgently calls for engineers to replace bureaucrats in technical leadership roles

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: In a forceful and uncompromising call for reform, the Institution of Electrical & Electronics Engineers Pakistan (IEEEP) has demanded that Pakistan immediately align its governance of technical sectors with international standards by appointing highly qualified engineers and domain specialists—rather than generalist civil servants—to lead its ministries, regulators, and public sector agencies.

The demand came during the inaugural session of the 40th Multi-topic International Symposium-2026, where IIEEP leadership warned that decades of mismanagement in critical sectors—particularly energy—stem from a chronic



absence of technically competent leadership at the helm.

Addressing a distinguished gathering of engineers, academics, and industry experts, IIEEP President Tahir Basharat Cheema asserted that the time had come to redefine governance boundaries. "Civil servants should be confined to administrative roles such as district management," he declared. "Technical minis-

tries and specialised agencies must be led by professionals with deep domain expertise. The current model is neither sustainable nor effective."

Cheema sharply criticised the prevailing structure of regulatory bodies such as National Electric Power Regulatory Authority and Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority, noting that these highly specialised institutions are not

being run by professionals with relevant technical expertise. "It is deeply concerning that not a single seasoned power sector practitioner is currently steering the affairs of NEPRA," he said.

In his opening address, IIEEP Karachi Centre Chairman Navid Akram Ansari called for urgent policy interventions to revitalise Pakistan's engineering

and manufacturing sectors. He urged the government to mandate public sector organisations to prioritise procurement of "Made in Pakistan" products, thereby strengthening domestic industry and encouraging investment in quality enhancement.

Earlier, in his welcome remarks, IIEEP Karachi Centre Honorary Secretary Engineer Imran Zafar announced that over 14 research papers would be presented during the symposium, covering key advancements in electrical and electronics engineering, particularly in the power sector. A dedicated session will also focus on reforming higher education in engineering disciplines, with actionable recommendations expected.



Analysis

Muhammad Arshad Sheikh

From Paper to Portals: Copyright is the Shield of Knowledge

As the world prepares to observe World Book and Copyright Day this April 23rd, established by UNESCO in 1995 to honor the legacies of William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes. This day is more than a date on a calendar, rather it's a global recognition of the book as the most powerful tool for poverty reduction and peace-building (UNESCO, 1995).

However, in 2026, the definition of a "book" has undergone a radical transformation. For the modern Pakistani student or researcher, a

book is as likely to be a glowing PDF on a smartphone as it is a bound volume of paper. This shift into the digital realm brings the second half of the day's title—Copyright—into sharp focus.

The Digital Frontier and the Law In the digital age, knowledge is fluid. While digital resources have democratized information, allowing a student in rural Balochistan to access the same journals as one in London, they have also made intellectual theft effortless. In Pakistan, the legal backbone for protecting creators remains the Copyright Ordinance of 1962. Though amended in

2000 to include computer software and digital expressions, the law has often struggled to keep pace with the sheer speed of the internet (Government of Pakistan, 1962).

Copyright is not, as some mistakenly believe, a barrier to knowledge. Rather, it is the economic engine that allows authors, scientists, and poets to continue their work. Without the protection of their moral and economic rights, the crea-

tive wellspring of our nation would eventually run dry (WIPO, 2024).

Fortunately, Pakistan is no longer a passive observer in the global intellectual property landscape. The Intellectual Property Organisation (IPO) of Pakistan has recently spearheaded the National Intellectual Property Strategy 2026-2031.

This initiative is a game-changer, transitioning our copyright registration to a fully digital, "technol-

ogy-neutral" system that acknowledges the complexities of AI-generated content and online piracy (IPO Pakistan, 2026).

Furthermore, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) has demonstrated how copyright and access can coexist. Through its Digital Library, the HEC provides licensed, legal access to millions of resources, ensuring that our academic community remains globally competitive while respecting the rights of international publishers (HEC, 2025).

As we celebrate Rabat, Morocco, as the World Book Capital for 2026, we must reflect on our own reading

culture. A "Book Day" in Pakistan should not just be about the past; it must be about securing the future.

Respecting copyright is an act of national character. When we choose original textbooks over pirated photocopies, or licensed digital versions over "cracked" files, we are directly investing in the Pakistani authors and researchers of tomorrow. On this April 23rd, let us pledge to be a nation that not only reads but also respects the minds that give us something worth reading.

The writer is Director General in Department of Libraries, Islamabad

VC GC Women University Leads Earth Day Drive and Zero Waste Awareness Campaign; Plantation Continues University's 500-Sapling Campaign



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen (T. I.), as Chief Guest, inaugurated the International Earth Day activities with an Awareness Walk and a Tree Plantation Drive under the Zero Waste Awareness Campaign. Distinguished guests from academia, university coordinators, heads of various departments, faculty, and students joined the campaign.

Prof. Dr. Ameen planted a Thevetia sapling, while participants contributed to planting 200 trees across campus—reinforcing GCWUF's commitment to environmental stewardship. The Vice Chancellor commended the Green and Clean Society for fostering a culture of sustainability and inspiring youth-led action for a greener tomorrow.

Organized in collaboration with the Department of Botany and the Environmental Club, the activity mobilized students and faculty to promote sustainability, waste reduction, and eco-conscious behavior. The campus echoed with green messages as participants carried banners and pledged collective responsibility for a cleaner future.

Gaza death toll rises to 72,562 amid ongoing Israeli assault



Wafa

GAZA: The death toll from the ongoing Israeli aggression has risen to 72,562, with 172,320 injured since the start of the war in October 2023, medical sources in the Gaza Strip announced on Wednesday.

Local health authorities reported that hospitals across Gaza received two fatalities over the past 24 hours, including one who succumbed to previous injuries, in addition to four new injuries.

They added that the total number of fatalities since the start of ceasefire on October 11, 2025, has reached 786, while injuries have risen to 2,217, with 761 bodies recovered from under the rubble since then.

Medical teams said that a number of victims are still trapped under debris and on roads, as ambulance and rescue crews remain unable to reach them due to ongoing conditions on the ground.

Attock Police's Excellent Operation: Suspect Arrested Within Short Time for Stealing Gold Jewelry Worth 4.6 Million PKR

Raza Naqvi

According to details, on 17 April 2026, City Police Station Attock received an application from a citizen, Naseer Ahmed, son of Mir Zaman, resident of Dar-us-Salam Colony, Attock. He stated that on 14 April he had gone with his family to visit his parents in Shen Bagh. Upon returning home, he found the lock of a room broken. From a wooden cupboard inside the room, unknown suspect(s) had stolen gold jewelry including six bangles (weighing five tolas), one necklace set (three tolas), and six rings (two tolas), with a total estimated value of approximately 4.6 million rupees.

Upon receiving the complaint, the police immediately registered a case and initiated an investigation. SHO City Attock, Sajjad Haider, along with Investigating Officer Rashid Hayat and their team, using professional expertise and modern technology, traced and arrested the suspect, Osama Nasir, son of Muhammad Nasir, resident near Madina Mosque, Mohalla Shed, Tehsil and District Attock, within a short time.

During interrogation, the stolen gold jewelry worth 4.6 million rupees was recovered from the suspect's possession.

On this occasion, District Police Officer Attock, Sardar Mowar Khan, appreciated the performance of the police team and stated that protection of citizens' lives and property is the top priority of Attock Police. He further directed that the suspect be challaned in court with solid evidence to ensure proper punishment.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
171,579.30	173,155.79
Day's High	Day's Low
173,452.66	171,254.81
Index Value	Change
25,669,760,457	-1576.49
Percentage	Time
-0.91%	22 Apr, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,476.46	-21.63
Percentage	Time
-0.21%	22 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
49,441.22	+291.84 today
Percentage	Time
+0.59%	22 Apr, 1:18 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
59,585.86	+236.69
Percentage	Time
+0.40%	22 Apr, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	198.14	204.50
Bahrain Dinar	725.70	740.55
Canadian Dollar	202.85	207.75
China Yuan	38.65	39.25
Danish Krone	43.25	43.65
Euro	327.49	332.96
Hong Kong Dollar	35.08	36.08
Indian Rupee	2.15	2.35
Japanese Yen	1.7344	1.8341
Kuwaiti Dinar	877.50	888.52
Malaysian Ringgit	65.30	66.75
New Zealand \$	163.35	165.10
Norwegians Krone	27.6	27.9
Omani Riyal	721.30	731.34
Qatari Riyal	71.21	72.65
Saudi Riyal	74.30	75.45
Singapore Dollar	217.44	223.75
Swedish Korona	30.25	30.55
Swiss Franc	355.87	358.95
Thai Bhat	8.25	8.45
U.A.E Dirham	75.95	77
UK Pound Sterling	376.96	382.75
US Dollar	279.25	279.90

SECP approves IPOs of Sitara Petroleum and LSE SPAC-I

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan has approved two more Initial Public Offerings. These include Sitara Petroleum Service Limited and LSE SPAC-I. Both will be listed at the Pakistan Stock Exchange.

Despite ongoing regional tensions and an uncertain geopolitical environment, the continued flow of IPOs shows the resilience of the PSX. It reflects sustained confidence in Pakistan's capital market.

With these approvals, the total number of IPOs in FY 2025-26 has reached 11. This shows growing investor confidence. It also signals that more companies are turning to the capital market to raise funds for growth and expansion. This



trend is creating new opportunities for investors.

Sitara Petroleum Service Limited is engaged in fuel trading, retail, and carriage services. It operates as a dealer of Gas and Oil Pakistan. The company will offer 168 million ordinary shares through the

book building method. The offer represents 16.66 percent of its post IPO paid up capital. Of the total shares, 75 percent will be allocated to institutional investors and high net worth individuals. The remaining 25 percent will be offered to retail investors.

LSE SPAC-I is Pakistan's first Special Purpose Acquisition Company under the public offering regime. The company aims to raise funds for mergers or acquisitions within three years. It plans to acquire a 19.04 percent stake in Ningbo Green Light Energy Limited. Its IPO consists of 5 million shares. These will be offered through the fixed price method.

The SECP has allowed the issuance and publication of prospectuses for both IPOs. This will pave the way for their public launch. The SECP has advised investors to carefully review the prospectuses before making any investment decisions. It has reaffirmed its commitment to a transparent and investor friendly regulatory environment.

Pakistan Out-of-Home Media Council (POMC) Officially Launched to Standardize Industry



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: In a major development for Pakistan's Out-of-Home (OOH) media industry, the formal establishment of the Pakistan Out-of-Home Media Council (POMC) has been announced. It is an autonomous and non-profit organization aimed at promoting transparency, establishing standardized practices, and fostering sustainable growth within the industry.

POMC has been founded with the vision of providing

a unified platform for all key stakeholders in the OOH media sector—including media owners, agencies, brands, and industry experts. The council seeks to build trust, encourage innovation, and promote best practices aligned with international standards.

The establishment of POMC marks the beginning of a new era for Pakistan's OOH media industry—one that will not only build trust but also pave the way for healthy competition, innovation, and long-term growth. The Pakistan Out-of-Home Media Council (POMC) is an autonomous, non-profit organization working to promote quality, transparency, and development in the OOH media industry. Pic Cation Name Waseem Hassan Awan Event Head Organization MYB Advertising.

Metro bus services suspended

ISLAMABAD: A view of Electric and Metro Bus Depot in H-9 Sector in the Federal Capital. Metro bus service suspended ahead of a proposed second round of talks between Iran and the United States.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Daily petrol price adjustment could ease burden, Sami Khan, Malik Khuda Baksh

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Chairman of the Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA), Abdul Sami Khan, has said that daily adjustments in petrol prices would reduce the financial burden on both consumers and dealers. He pointed out that Pakistan is the only country where diesel prices are slashed by Rs100 at once, causing severe losses to dealers. He urged the government to introduce a clear policy for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations.

Speaking at the FPCCI Energy Standing Committee meeting, chaired by Convener Malik Khuda Baksh at the Federation House, Khan highlighted that OGRA has begun distributing mobile phones to petrol pumps nationwide to collect real-time data. He stressed that while EV charging is thriving globally,



Pakistan lags behind due to the absence of a national EV policy.

Malik Khuda Baksh, senior PPDA leader and convener of the committee, expressed reservations about deregulation, warning that it could fuel corruption. He noted that oil marketing companies have already paid OGRA, and 70,000 mobile phones are being distributed to 12,000 petrol pumps. He added that the current dealer margin of Rs8.64 per litre is unsustainable, and if deregulation continues, smuggled petroleum products may flood the market.

Pakistan Business Leaders Warn of Severe Impact from New IMF Requirements

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former President of Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Khawaja Muhammad Hussain, while expressing his reaction to the recent staff-level statement of the IMF, has said that after Pakistan accepted 11 more new conditions, the total number of conditions has reached 75 in the last two years, which will have far-reaching effects on the country's economy and business environment.

He said that the budget for the fiscal year 2026-27 being prepared and approved in accordance with the IMF's targets and financial obligations indicates that external pressure on Pakistan's economic policies is increasing, due to which the local industry and business community may face further difficulties.



Khawaja Muhammad Hussain said that the amendments to the laws related to

Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and Special Technology Zones (STZ) by June 2027 and the phased elimination of current tax incentives may affect investor confidence.

He expressed concern that the complete abolition of STZ incentives by 2035 could slow down the pace of growth of the technology sector.

He added that not allowing export processing zones to sell in the local market by September 2026 would create challenges for the export industry, while the ban on the establishment of new special zones is likely to affect industrial expansion. Khawaja Muhammad Hussain termed the establishment of the Pakistan Regulatory Registry (PRR) as a positive step and said that if it is implemented effectively and transparently, it can improve the system of business laws and approvals.

CCP allows acquisition of 'Ranipur Sugar Mills by Saakh Pharma, United Ethanol'

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has authorized the acquisition of majority shareholding in M/s. Ranipur Sugar Mills (Private) Limited by M/s. Saakh Pharma Limited and M/s. United Ethanol Industries Limited under Phase-I review.

The target company, M/s. Ranipur Sugar Mills (Private) Limited, is engaged in the manufacturing and sale of sugar

along with related by-products and power generation through an in-house facility, said a release issued here on Wednesday.

The acquirers M/s. Saakh Pharma Limited is a public listed company engaged in the manufacturing and sale of pharmaceutical and biological products, while M/s. United Ethanol Industries Limited operates in the ethanol and industrial products segment within the broader agribusiness sector.

itel Energy Successfully Concludes Landmark Showcase as Diamond Sponsor at Lahore Solar Expo 2026

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: itel Energy has successfully concluded its showcase as a Diamond Sponsor at the Lahore Solar Expo 2026, marking a landmark achievement for renewable technology in the country. Moving beyond a traditional hardware display, itel Energy utilized this visionary platform to unveil a premier commitment: we are not just delivering products; we are empowering the lighting future for Pakistan.

The three-day exhibition drew exceptional crowds of industry professionals and technology enthusiasts eager

to experience the brand's latest innovations. The showcase boldly highlighted a suite of technologies designed to elevate the nation's economic and environmental resilience, perfectly aligning the brand's trajectory with the future of the nation.

A central highlight of the expo was the highly anticipated AI-optimized Sparta Series hybrid inverter. This revolutionary product utilizes SmartGo AI, the nation's first AI-integrated system that actively monitors cloud scheduling and advanced weather forecasts. By predicting cloudy or rainy days, the AI feature automat-

ically adjusts battery priority to ensure that homes remain perfectly powered without any manual intervention, redefining energy intelligence for the modern consumer.

itel Energy also redefined both portable and large-scale power independence. The celebrated Power Series captivated attendees by merging mobility with industrial-grade performance. Delivering on the promise of uncompromising quality, these portable solutions are built with 100% Grade A LiFePo4 cells inside, guaranteeing a stable, 10-year lifespan for maximum reliability.



Furthermore, the brand demonstrated its profound capacity to support the nation's industrial backbone through its robust

Commercial & Industrial solutions. Starring the scalable IPX-51314SPT battery system, this cutting-edge C&I technology allows busi-

nesses to seamlessly expand their backup power up to a massive 768kWh, ensuring uninterrupted operations for enterprises across the country.

PAAPAM Raises Concern Over Auto Policy Being Sent to IMF Without Industry Consultation



Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) has voiced serious concern over reports that the draft Automobile & Auto Parts Manufacturing Policy (2026-31) is being forwarded to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) without meaningful consultation with the Engineering Development Board (EDB), PAAPAM, or other key industry stakeholders.

Chairman Mr. Usman Aslam Malik stated that this unilateral approach has created alarm across Pakistan's auto-parts manufacturing ecosystem, which sustains over one million livelihoods and forms the backbone of the country's engineering capability. He emphasized that more than 300,000 workers are directly employed in machining, tooling, molding, forging, casting, and assembly, while another 700,000 depend on logistics, raw materials, aftermarket distribution, and engineering services.

Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Shehryar Qadir cautioned that applying the National Tariff Policy uniformly to the auto sector without safeguards risks reversing four decades of localization, undermining billions invested by Pakistani vendors, shrinking the domestic vendor base, and eroding industrial self-reliance.

Hyderabad Kingsmen dramatically defeated the struggling Multan Sultans by 4 wickets and moved to fourth place on the points table

Asim Tanveer

LAHORE/KARACHI: Hyderabad Kingsmen dramatically defeated the struggling team Multan Sultans by 4 wickets and moved to fourth place on the points table. The top second team of Pakistan Super League 11, Multan, suffered an upset defeat. Steve Smith's big century went in vain. Usman Khan scored a reply century to give Hyderabad Kingsmen their fourth consecutive win in the event and once again took them to fourth place on the table. Lahore Qalandars have again fallen out of the top 4. Usman Khan has become the batsman with the most centuries in PSL. Not only this, Karachi Kings have been defeated in another match, which has increased the problems. There was also a hat-trick in the event.

Multan Sultans batted first against Hyderabad Kings in the 33rd match of PSL 11 and scored 213 runs for 7 wickets. The opening score was 132 runs. The score was 186 for 1 wicket in 16.3 overs. It would not have been surprising to have scored 50 runs in the last 21 balls, but from here Hyderabad Kings came back and



gave the Sultans only 27 runs in 21 balls and took 6 wickets. Among them, Steven Smith, who scored a brilliant century, scored 106 runs in 50 balls, 12 fours and 6 sixes. Shan Masood 1, Arafat Minhas 2, captain Ashton Turner 5, Josh Phillip 19 and Hassan Nawaz 0. Sahibzada Farhan, who opened for 12 and a half overs, scored 66 runs in 43 balls. Akif Javed took 3 wickets for 30 runs.

In reply, when Hyderabad Kingsmen lost 3 wickets for 48,

Sultans players were excited. Moaz Sadaqat 7, Saim Ayub 5 and Kushal Perera were dismissed for zero. All three wickets were taken by Mohammad Ismail. Then captain Marnus Labuschagne, along with Usman Khan, quickly increased the score for the fourth wicket, and the dangers for Sultans began to increase. The two took the score to 153 in 14 overs, putting on a partnership of 105 runs off 52 balls. On the last ball of the 16th over of the



innings, Multan Sultans got hope in the midst of chaos when captain Linoshan Siddle was caught by Mohammad Wasim after scoring 61 runs. He hit 9 fours. At that time, the score was 171. Shortly after, Usman Khan completed a magnificent century off 44 balls. He hit 10 sixes and 5 fours in his century. This was his fourth in the PSL. He has a century and has become the first batsman to score 4 PSL centuries. In the next over, Peter Siddle made the match thrilling by taking 2 wickets up and down. He first got Glenn Maxwell caught for 2 and dangerous batsman Usman Khan caught for 101. He brought the team into the match. Usman Khan played 47 balls. Irfan Niazi and Hassan Khan accepted the challenge of 26



runs required in 12 balls and started Wasim Junior with a six. Both the batsmen stole 18 runs in the 19th over with the help of 2 sixes and a four. Now 8 runs were left in 6 balls. Wasim Junior dropped Hassan Khan's catch on the first ball and dropped the match. So Usman Khan hit the winning six and helped Hyderabad Kingsmen win the match by 4 wickets by achieving the target 3 balls before the target. Hassan Khan scored 24 runs in 6 balls with the help of 3 sixes. They returned unbeaten. Irfan Khan was not out on 8. Peter Siddle took 3 wickets for 39 and Ismail 41 runs. Hyderabad Kingsmen now embrace their fourth consecutive victory after the initial 4 failures.

PSL 11 Points Table

Peshawar Zalmi 9 matches-17 points
Multan Sultans 9 matches-12 points
Islamabad United. 7 matches 9 points



Hyderabad Kings 8 matches 8 points
Lahore Qalandars 8 matches 8 points
Quetta Gladiators 9 matches 6 points
Karachi Kings 8 matches 6 points
Rawalpindi 8 matches 0 points

PSL 11 Double Header Day

Thursday, April 23rd: Islamabad United vs Rawalpindi Karachi Day Match
Thursday, April 23rd: Lahore Qalandars vs Karachi Kings Lahore Night Match

Ali Raza claims historic hat-trick, Mendis smashes unbeaten 80 as Zalmi cruise past Kings

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Kusal Mendis struck an unbeaten 80 off 43 balls and shared a decisive 119-run partnership with Farhan Yousaf as Peshawar Zalmi chased down 183 with seven wickets and seven balls to spare against Karachi Kings in the 32nd match of the HBL Pakistan Super League 11 at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Wednesday evening.

Earlier, 18-year-old Ali Raza had torn through the Kings' tail with a hat-trick in the final over to restrict them 182 for nine.

Peshawar Zalmi continued their unbeaten run with eight wins from nine matches and remain atop the standings with 17 points, while Karachi Kings remain at seventh with six points to their name and two matches more to play.

In pursuit of a steep total, Peshawar Zalmi's chase got off to a solid start with a 37-run opening stand before Babar Azam departed inside the powerplay off Mohammad Abbas Afridi for 25 off

19 balls featuring four fours and one six.

Hasan Ali struck in the next over when James Vince (16, 10b, 2x4s, 1x6) feathered an outside edge behind to Azam Khan, reducing Zalmi to 45-2. This time he pipped Shaheen Shah Afridi from the most wicket-takers list in HBL PSL history by going to 137.

Aaron Hardie lasted just six balls for five before Khushdil Shah bowled him with an arm ball that skidded past the bat as Peshawar lost momentum, finding themselves on 67 for three in 7.3 overs.

Mendis and Farhan came together with Zalmi needing 116 off 75 balls and put on an unbroken 119-run partnership off 69 balls that sealed the contest.

Mendis, who survived a dropped chance off Zahid Mehmood in the 10th over, reached his fourth half-century of the season off 30 balls and dominated the spinners with classic strokeplay, hitting five fours and four sixes.

With 493 runs in eight innings this season, Mendis is now within striking distance of Fakhar Zaman's record for most runs in a single HBL PSL season

— 588 runs in 13 matches in HBL PSL 2021-22. Mendis also bagged his third player of the match award in the ongoing HBL PSL season, while this was his 41st T20 half

Farhan, who led Pakistan at this year's ICC U19 World Cup, matched him blow for blow, bringing up his maiden HBL PSL half-century with a massive six over long on and finishing unbeaten on 58 off 36 balls with five fours and three sixes. Farhan sealed the win with a four sliced over cover point off Hasan as Zalmi reached the target with seven balls to spare and seven wickets in the bag.

Batting first, Karachi Kings' innings unravelled spectacularly in the final over as Ali produced a spell of devastating pace bowling. With Kings well-placed at 161-3 in 17.5 overs, the last six wickets tumbled for a mere 21 runs.

Abbas was run out off a wide in the 20th over before Ali completed the historic hat-trick across the final three legitimate deliveries; Khushdil Shah was dismissed hit wicket for 12 off seven balls, Shahid Aziz was castled

by a block-hole delivery he could not lay bat on and Hasan had his stumps shattered by a 149.1 kph full delivery.

Ali, who finished with 4-41 in four overs, became the youngest player at 18 years to claim a hat-trick in HBL PSL and the youngest Pakistani to achieve the feat in T20 cricket, eclipsing Mohammad Hasnain's effort as a 19-year old against Sri Lanka in 2019.

Earlier, Karachi Kings opening batters Jason Roy and David Warner put on 35 for the opening wicket before Ali made the first breakthrough in the fifth over, clean bowling Warner (11, 13b, 2x4s).

Salman Ali Agha struck two fours in his brief stay of 12 off nine balls before Aaron Hardie had him caught at deep fine leg with Kings 71 for two in 7.4 overs.

Reeza Hendricks managed 13 off 16 balls before falling to the tournament's current leading wicket-taker Sufyan Moqim's wrong-un, which he edged to Mohammad Basit at short third with Kings 98-3 at the halfway mark.

It was at this juncture that Azam



joined Roy and the pair stitched a brisk 63-run stand.

Roy, who brought up his 70th T20 half-century off 30 balls, continued to find the boundary with regularity while Azam launched a devastating assault as he struck three fours and three sixes in his 35 off 19 balls, before holing out to Farhan at long on off Ifkhar Ahmed. It was Farhan's ninth catch of the tournament; the most by an outfielder so far this season.

Roy fell shortly after, top-scoring with 85 off 51 balls laced with 11 fours

and two sixes, caught by James Vince as Karachi found themselves 164 for five in the 19th over.

Scores in brief:

Match 32—Peshawar Zalmi beat Karachi Kings by seven wickets at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

Karachi Kings 182-9, 20 overs (Jason Roy 85, Azam Khan 35; Ali Raza 4-41) Peshawar Zalmi 186-3, 18.5 overs (Kusal Mendis 80 not out, Farhan Yousaf 58 not out, Babar Azam 25)

Player of the Match: Kusal Mendis (Peshawar Zalmi)

Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-III and Zone-VII won their matches on the third and last day in the first round matches of the Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) played at various grounds of the city.

The highlights of the last days play was Fighting knock of Unbeaten 72 by Sabeeh Siddiqui of Zone-VII.

Scores in Brief:

At UBL Sports Complex Zone-III

beat Zone-I by 4 Wickets. Zone-I 1st Innings 219 and 2nd Innings 181 all out in 65.3 overs. Muhammad Jawad 64 9x4 Ziauddin 43 7x4, Bahadur Ali 28. Muhammad Fahad Ameen (mf) 4/40 Abdul Rafay 2/23, Israr Ahmed 2/32.

Zone-III 1st Innings 280/7 and 121/6 in 32.1overs. Fahad Ansari 36 6x4 not out, Adil Hussain 33. Muhammad Raza 2/26, Rehman Ghani 2/38.

At KCCA Stadium Zone-V 1st

innings 134 and 2nd Innings 348 all out in 99.3 overs. Muhammad Ali Butt 123 17x4 1x6, Watan Dost 56 8x4 1x6, Fahad Shah 52 7x4, Muhammad Hassan 39. Arif Yaqoob 4/46., M. Usman Bin Rashid 4/99

In reply Zone-VII 1st Innings 297 and 2nd Innings 186/8 in 60.1 overs. Sabeeh Siddiqui 72 10x4, Huzaira Muneer 47 5x4 1x6, Khaifid un Nabi 27. Muhammad Ali Butt 2/28, Sahil Iqbal 2/32.

FIXTURE FROM 24-26 April



1) Zone-I vs Zone-V at Baqai Cricket Ground. 2) Zone-II vs. Zone-VII at UBL Sports Complex. Zone-III. vs. Zone-VI at KCCA Stadium.

Pakistan's 'Miracle Mediation': How Munir and Sharif Averted Nuclear War

Continued from Page 4

the process with momentum, direction, and the confidence required to bring both sides to the table.

Through relentless engagements, back-channel diplomacy, and extraordinary commitments, Syed Asim Munir landed at Tehran at the most dangerous juncture, while Shehbaz Sharif engaged key regional capitals to consolidate support for peace. Together, they helped reopen broken lines of communication and rebuild trust where it had nearly collapsed. Where the world expected escalation, Pakistan delivered de-escalation; where confrontation seemed inevitable, it made negotiation possible.

The second round of talks is set to commence under Pakistan's dedicated mediation, reflecting a renewed commitment to dialogue, understanding, and

peaceful resolution. This crucial phase seeks to ease tensions, build mutual trust, and pave the way for enduring regional stability while contributing to the broader vision of international peace and security.

What distinguishes this leadership is not merely the outcome, but the courage to act when the stakes were highest and failure was a real possibility. It is easy to speak of peace; it is far more difficult to secure it under immense pressure and global scrutiny. Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif demonstrated that true statesmanship lies in preventing wars, not waging war.

Their remarkable efforts have been acknowledged across the international community, recognizing Pakistan's decisive role in steering the world away from a dangerous precipice. In doing so, Pakistan not only safeguarded regional and inter-

national peace and stability but fulfilled a higher responsibility to humanity emerging as a powerful advocate for peace through unmatched and principled diplomacy.

"In recognition of these extraordinary and timely efforts, that may have averted a catastrophic nuclear conflict, it is both justified and imperative that CDF Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and Shehbaz Sharif Prime Minister of Pakistan be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize." Their actions stand as a testament to the power of diplomacy, the courage of leadership, and the enduring hope that even in the darkest moments, peace can prevail.

The author is senior leader of All Parties Hurriyet Conference (APHC) and legal expert of international law. He can be reached at faiz.naqshbandi@gmail.com & at WhatsApp number 03335145416.

Trump Extends US-Iran Ceasefire at Pakistan's Request...

Continued from Page 1

He said that with the trust and confidence reposed in it, Pakistan would continue its earnest efforts for negotiated settlement of conflict.

He expressed the hope that both sides would continue to observe the ceasefire and be able to conclude a comprehensive 'Peace Deal' during the second round of talks scheduled at Islamabad for a permanent end to the conflict.

On Tuesday, Pakistan had requested both the countries to extend the ceasefire and announced that Iran's official response to participate the second round of Islamabad Talks was awaited.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, in a meeting with US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie A. Baker, stressed the need for engagement between the United States and Iran, urging both sides to consider extending the ceasefire, and to give dialogue and diplomacy a chance.

He underscored Pakistan's consistent emphasis on

dialogue and diplomacy as the only viable means to address challenges and achieve lasting regional peace and stability.

Later, Information and Broadcasting Minister Attaullah Tarar, on his X account, said, "Formal response from Iranian side about confirmation of delegation to attend Islamabad Peace Talks is still awaited. Pakistan as the mediator is in constant touch with Iranians and pursuing the path of diplomacy and dialogue."

Calling the Iran's decision to attend the talks before the end of two weeks ceasefire "critical", he said that Pakistan had made sincere efforts to convince the Iranian leadership to participate in the second round of talks and these efforts continue.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei had told Iran's state TV there has been "no final decision" on whether to agree to more talks because of "unacceptable actions" by the U.S., apparently referencing its recent blockade in the Strait of Hormuz.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Iranian Ambassador Reza Amiri Moghadam called on Prime Minister Shahbaz Muhammad Sharif to discuss the ongoing regional situation and peace efforts.



Photo: PID

Iran ambassador meets PM Shehbaz to discuss current situation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Reza Amiri Moghadam, Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister's Office on Wednesday to discuss the ongoing US-Iran tensions, the broader region-

al situation, and prospects for dialogue.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, Ishaq Dar and the premier's adviser Tariq Fatemi were also present during the meeting.

Sources said the prime minister encouraged the Iranian envoy to support and

participate in the next phase of negotiations aimed at reducing tensions between Iran and the United States, underscoring the importance of sustained diplomatic engagement.

Prime Minister Shehbaz stressed that constructive dialogue remains the most viable path toward regional

stability and urged Iran to play an active role in the second round of talks.

The Iranian ambassador, according to sources, appreciated Pakistan's diplomatic initiatives in facilitating dialogue and promoting a peaceful resolution to the dispute. He also acknowl-

edged Islamabad's willingness to host negotiations between the two sides.

The prime minister conveyed his good wishes to Mojtaba Khamenei, reflecting Pakistan's intent to maintain constructive and cooperative relations with Iran's leadership.

Govt approves joint strategy to improve airport security, passenger facilitation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An important meeting was held under the chairmanship of Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for a joint strategy between the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defence.

The meeting focused on improving passenger facilitation at airports and strengthening the security system.

It was attended by Federal Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, Interior Secretary Muhammad Khurram Agha, Defence Secretary Lt Gen (R) Muhammad Ali, Additional Secretary Interior Maj Gen



Noor Wali Khan, Additional Secretary Defence Maj Gen Kaiser Suleman,

Director General Anti-Narcotics Force Maj Gen Abdul Mueed, and DG FIA Dr. Usman Anwar, along with other senior officials.

It was decided that effective coordination and communication between all relevant institutions will be ensured to provide quick and smooth services to passengers.

The meeting agreed to modernize airport screening systems by installing advanced machinery, while also introducing joint counters and a unified screening system where all agencies will operate from a single point.

Maryam Nawaz summons emergency meeting over crime surge in Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday convened an emergency meeting after taking notice of a sudden rise in crime across the province, sharply questioning police performance.

During the meeting, the chief minister personally presented videos of recent crime incidents and reprimanded senior police officers, particularly over failure to control crime in Sheikhpura and Faisalabad.

Calling the spike in crime "alarming and shameful," she said Punjab had been brought under control after sustained efforts and warned there was no room for complacency.

"I have freed the police from all interference, ensured merit-based postings, and provided full budget, weapons, equipment and vehicles. Now they must deliver," she said.

CM Maryam highlighted several incidents, including a car battery theft in Gulberg and a robbery in Gujrat, where passengers were robbed after a bus was stopped. She said such incidents were unacceptable despite the



Safe City systems being operational. She also expressed concern over rising drug-related cases and cited an incident in which a Speedo bus

conductor assaulted a minor, saying such acts reflect a lack of fear of the law.

The chief minister reiterated that

the government would take all necessary measures to improve law and order, including strict action where required.

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UK appreciates Pakistan's facilitative role in US-Iran talks



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a meeting with British High Commissioner Jane Marriott on Wednesday.

They discussed the evolving regional situation. Dar underscored Pakistan's ongoing efforts to facilitate engagement and emphasised the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in peaceful resolution of disputes.

The British High Commissioner

appreciated and supported Pakistan's facilitative role in bringing the US and Iran on the negotiating table.

A day earlier, Dar spoke with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud. The two leaders discussed the latest regional developments and emphasized the importance of dialogue and engagement for achieving lasting peace and stability.

Saudi FM reiterated the Kingdom's support for Pakistan's continued efforts in this regard. The two leaders agreed to remain in close contact.

PTI utilizing KP's public funds for futile gatherings: Muqam

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Amir Muqam on Wednesday criticized Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for allegedly using public funds of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for futile and flop political gatherings across the province.

In a statement, the President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) KP said the PTI leadership convened a session of the KP Assembly in a stadium, terming it a "political drama" and a misuse of public resources.

He added that PTI has already faced failure in public gatherings in Kohat, Hayatabad, and Mardan, which reflects the party's decline in public and worker support.

Muqam unveiled that over the past 13 years, PTI has failed to effectively address key issues such as terrorism,



unemployment, and development in the province.

He said this political party's performance in KP has "zero," trying to engage in politics by politicking on non-issues.

He also remarked that the KP assembly session was held in a stadium so that "no one has to go to Adiala jail."

AJK Premier hails successful 'Taimoor' missile test by Pakistan Navy

Bureau Report.

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has congratulated the Pakistan Navy on the successful test of the indigenously developed "Taimoor" anti-ship cruise missile. "The successful test of the cruise missile has further strengthened Pakistan's defence," he said, adding that the nation takes immense pride in its brave forces, who continuously strive to make the country's defence impregnable. The AJK premier congratulated the officers and personnel of the Pakistan Navy on this significant achievement,



expressing confidence that it would further enhance the country's defence capabilities and help maintain the balance of power in the region.

Over 105,000 women abduction cases reported in Punjab in five years: report

Bureau Report

LAHORE: More than 105,000 cases of alleged abduction of women have been reported in Punjab over the past five years, according to a report submitted by the provincial police chief to the Lahore High Court.

The report, filed by the Inspector General of Punjab Police, stated that 105,571 cases were registered between 2021 and 2025, with over 70,000 filed under Section 365.

It revealed that 80,767 cases were later cancelled, while in 77% of cases, women told courts they had not been

abducted but had left home voluntarily for marriage.

Currently, 3,864 cases remain under investigation across the province.

Police have recovered 612 women, while 3,258 are still missing, the report said. Suspects have been nominated in 1,432 cases, where investigations are ongoing.

The IG Punjab said district officers have been directed to strictly monitor investigations, warning that negligence or misconduct would result in disciplinary action.