



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

ام المؤمنین حضرت رضی اللہ عنہما نے جب نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے اس خواب کا ذکر کیا تو آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ عبد اللہ ایک مرد ہے۔ کاش ہدایت میں نماز زیادہ پڑھا کرتا۔ تیری سہیلی نے کہا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے اس فرمان کے بعد وہ رات میں نفل نماز پڑھا کرتے تھے۔ (کنز العمال، حدیث نمبر 7031)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



President Zardari to visit China from April 25 to May 1

During the visit, he will hold meetings with Chinese provincial leadership to discuss Pakistan-China relations, with a focus on economic cooperation and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The visit comes as the two countries mark 75 years of diplomatic relations.



Ayaz congratulates nation on successful launch of EO-3 satellite

Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has congratulated the nation, along with scientists and engineers, on the successful launch of the EO-3 satellite. He said the achievement was a significant milestone in Pakistan's scientific and technological advancement. Ayaz Sadiq commended the dedication, hard work and professional expertise of SUPARCO's scientists who contributed to the development of the satellite.

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Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi met with Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, in Islamabad, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and National Security Adviser General Asim Malik were also present at the meeting.



Photo: ISPR

Araghchi meets Field Marshal Asim Munir, presents Iran's response

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Saturday presented Tehran's formal response to various proposals during a meeting with Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, COAS & CDF in Islamabad. According to Iranian state television, the response is comprehensive in nature and

reflects all key concerns and considerations of the Iranian leadership. Officials said the discussions focused on the situation in the Middle East and related regional developments. Media reports suggest the development comes at a time when Pakistan is actively engaging in diplomatic efforts to revive dialogue between Tehran and Washington.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and National Security Adviser General Asim Malik were also present at the meeting. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Gharibabadi and Iran's Ambassador to Islamabad, Reza Amiri Moghadam, also attended the discussions. Diplomatic sources said that Araghchi is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

later today, after which he is expected to depart Pakistan. Officials said the meetings are part of consultations on developments to revive the US-Iran negotiations to bring to an end the war in the Middle East. The sources added that the Iranian delegation does not plan to extend its stay in Pakistan. They further said that Araghchi will travel onward to Oman and Russia as part of his

diplomatic engagements. The White House has said that US special envoy Steve Witkoff and adviser Jared Kushner are expected to depart for Pakistan on Saturday morning (US time) for potential talks. The visit comes as diplomatic momentum builds around possible efforts to restart negotiations between Tehran and Washington.

Iran FM meets PM, presents Tehran's stance on ceasefire

City Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Saturday, presenting Tehran's position on the recent ceasefire situation and regional developments, officials said. The meeting, held at the Prime Minister House, was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir, along with Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghadam.



According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, the talks focused on bilateral relations, cooperation in various sectors, and regional and global developments. Iranian media reported that Araghchi conveyed messages from Iran's Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, and President Masoud Pezeshkian, reaffirming Tehran's commitment to strengthening comprehen-

sive relations with Pakistan and other neighbouring countries. The Iranian foreign minister emphasised that Pakistan holds a "special place" in Iran's foreign policy and reiterated Tehran's desire to further expand ties between the two countries. He also expressed gratitude to the Government of Pakistan for its role in facilitating discussions aimed at ending conflict, supporting ceasefire efforts, and hosting important diplomatic engagements in Islamabad.

DPM talks to Turkish FM, discusses regional developments



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar spoke with Foreign Minister of Türkiye, Hakan Fidan today, and shared with him developments regarding ongoing diplomatic efforts by

Pakistan. During the conversation, the Deputy Prime Minister emphasized that sustained engagement through dialogue and diplomacy remains the only viable means of promoting peace and stability in the region and beyond.

Ishaq Dar asks media to refrain from speculations on Iran-US talks process

City Desk

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting at the Foreign Office in Islamabad to review the latest developments in the region. DPM Ishaq Dar reiterated that Pakistan is facilitating Iran-US talks for achieving peace and stability in the region and beyond. "Pakistan will continue with its efforts in this regard," he added. The foreign minister also underlined that Pakistan's official policy statements on Iran-US facilitation process are only those issued by official sources. "Unnamed Pakistani officials or sources, whether quoted in print or



social media, do not reflect Pakistan's official position," he elaborated. Ishaq Dar advised print and elec-

tronic media to refrain from speculative reporting and focus on official statements only.

Security forces foil militant attack in Balochistan's Dhadar

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Security forces have foiled an attack by militants belonging to the Fitna Al Hindustan group in the Dhadar area of Kachhi district in Balochistan, an official said on Saturday. According to Balochistan Assistant Interior Babar Yousafzai, several militants belonging to the Indian-sponsored group were killed during the operation in Dhadar. He said that one member of the security forces was martyred in the attack. Babar Yousafzai added that a clearance and search operation has been launched in the area. He reiterated that security forces engaged the militants firmly and eliminated multiple attackers in retaliatory action.

18,000 cops deployed in Islamabad for Iran-US talks

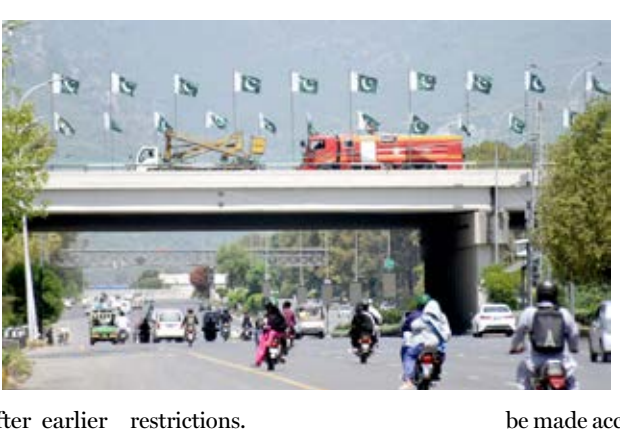
City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The security was heightened across Islamabad after Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi landed for possible peace talks with the US. According to details, more than 18,000 police personnel are performing their duties at different important points of the federal capital. Red Zone is completely closed for all kind of traffic from Koral, while checkpoints are set up on roads leading to the Red Zone and its extension, with police and Rangers deployed at key intersections and outside government buildings, including the Serena Hotel. The Chief Traffic Officer (CTO), Mohammad Sarfraz Virk, said that traffic can be halted at Srinagar Highway at different times. The district administration already banned the entry of all heavy vehicles in Islamabad due to security reasons.

Islamabad lockdown relaxed on interior minister's orders

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Authorities on Saturday reopened Islamabad for all types of traffic on Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's orders, the district administration announced. According to officials, all forms of public and goods transport have now been allowed to enter the federal capital, restoring normal movement across the city after earlier restrictions.



The administration stated that bus stands across Islamabad have been reopened to facilitate commuters. However, the Faizabad Bus Terminal will remain closed until further notice. Authorities did not specify a timeline for reopening the Faizabad terminal, but said the situation is being monitored and decisions will be made accordingly.

Pakistan launches EO-3 satellite in major boost to space programme

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), announces historic achievement with the successful launch of Pakistan's indigenous Electro-Optical Satellite (EO-3) from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center (TSLC), China. Today's launch of EO-3 Satellite is yet another significant milestone; a step forward in Pakistan's journey towards self-reliance and technological excellence. The satellite will provide imaging data to revolutionize urban planning, disaster management, food security and environment protection. The successful launch of EO-3 Satellite will serve as

the edifice for an integrated Earth Observation System to support national priorities across multiple sectors and will contribute towards sustainable socio-economic development. On this historic occasion, Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif appreciated the professional excellence and commitment of SUPARCO's engineers and scientists. He also acknowledged unwavering support of Pakistan's all-weather friend China in the space domain.



Rathore boasts performance-driven campaign ahead of elections

Bureau Report

KOTLI: The Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has said that while his opponents may compete on social media, they cannot match his government's performance on the ground.

He expressed these views while addressing a reception ceremony in Riyan, hosted in his honor by Minister for Higher Education Zafar Iqbal Malik here today.

The prime minister said that the PPP would contest the upcoming elections with full vigour on the basis of its performance.

He added that concrete steps had been taken to strengthen institutions, particularly through reforms in the education sector, where institutions had been upgraded and rationalized under a comprehensive education package.

He appreciated the efforts of his cabinet ministers Zafar Iqbal Malik and Diwan Ali Khan Chughtai for their role in advancing the education reforms. He said that when PPP assumed office, the state was facing serious challenges, but these chal-



lenges were addressed with a clear vision and roadmap.

Highlighting various initiatives, he said the government had mobilized overseas Kashmiris, organized an agriculture conference, and taken practical measures to promote tourism.

He said that public welfare

remained his top priority and urged all stakeholders to avoid point-scoring and work collectively to safeguard people's rights.

Terming the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) as a symbol of the federation, he said the party would continue to pursue the vision of founding leader Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

The ceremony was also attended by president Pakistan People's Party Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, ministers Javed Iqbal Badhanvi, Qasim Majeed, and Chaudhry Akhlaq, as well as party leaders including Waleed Inqilabi, Sardar Aftab Anjum Advocate, Shah Nawaz Malik Advocate, and others.

Rathore Addresses Enthusiastic Crowd in Khoi Ratta After Grand Arrival



City Desk.

KHOI RATTA: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore visited Kotli at the invitation of Azad Kashmir Information Minister Chaudhry Rafique Nayyar, where he was given a historic and unprecedented welcome at Dehari Bagh in Khoi Ratta. Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore also addressed a public meeting held at Dehari Bagh. Thousands of workers and the public were present at the Dehari Bagh ground to welcome the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir. As soon as the Prime Minister reached the meeting place, the atmosphere echoed with slogans, the workers gave him a warm welcome by raising slogans, while the workers also showered flowers on the convoy of the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir. On this occasion, President Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, government ministers Chaudhry Rafiq Nayyar, Javed Iqbal Badhanvi, former candidate for the Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Walid Inqilabi, Azhar Badralvi, Mushtaq Gorsi, Qayyum Qamar and others joined hands on the stage to express solidarity and in their respective speeches called for unity and victory in the upcoming elections. Expressed determination to struggle with unity.

Awareness Session on Health & Population Welfare held in Toba Tek Singh

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: An important awareness session was organized in Toba Tek Singh by the Health and Population Welfare Department, bringing together social influencers, religious scholars and media representatives.

On the special directions of District Health and Population Officer Chaudhary Muhammad Naem, Assistant IEC Officer Mian Abdul Rauf gave a detailed briefing to the participants. He informed attendees about the department's ongoing initiatives aimed at public awareness, family planning, maternal and child health, population welfare and the promotion of public welfare services. He emphasized that religious scholars, social influencers and media representatives play a vital role in delivering accurate information to the public. He stated that influential personalities can help promote positive thinking, healthy families and public awareness within society. Mian Abdul Rauf further said that under the leadership of District Health and Population Officer Mian Muhammad Naem, the department is working effectively for public welfare and well-being. The participating religious scholars, social influencers and media representatives appreciated the department's efforts and assured full cooperation in spreading awareness among the public regarding health, population welfare, and family well-being within their respective spheres of influence.

Auqaf Secretary Urges Youth to Embrace Iqbal's Philosophy for Progressive Society

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Secretary/Chief Administrator Auqaf Punjab, Dr. Ehsan Bhutta, has said that the youth must cultivate a profound awareness and comprehensive understanding of the philosophy of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, as his enduring message continues to provide both intellectual illumination and spiritual guidance for the establishment of a progressive and dynamic society. He added that the poetry of Allama Iqbal serves as a role model for shaping character and inspiring a purposeful life.

He expressed these remarks while addressing the students of Jamia Ashrafia at Iqbal Hall, Badshahi Mosque, during a seminar titled "Role of Madaris Deenia in the Light of Fikar-e-Iqbal" held here yesterday.

The seminar was attended by Naib Mohtamim Jamia Ashrafia Maulana Hafiz Asad Ubaid and Maulana Hafiz Zubair Hassan, along with 50 students of Jamia Ashrafia, Khateeb Badshahi Mosque Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad, Administrator Badshahi Mosque Shahid Hameed Virk, and other officials were also present on the occasion.

Dr. Ehsan Bhutta further stated that religious seminaries play a pivotal role in preserving Islamic values while guiding the younger generation towards constructive and progressive thinking. He emphasized that by adopting the principles of Fikar-e-Iqbal, students can develop a strong sense of identity, responsibility, and leadership, enabling them to contribute effectively to national development.

Naib Mohtamim Jamia Ashrafia Maulana Hafiz Asad Ubaid, Naib Mohtamim Jamia Ashrafia Maulana Hafiz Zubair Hassan and Khateeb Badshahi Mosque Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad underscored the importance of incorporating Iqbal's thought into sermons and academic discourse. He stated that Iqbal's vision integrates spirituality with practical life, encouraging students to become responsible, enlightened, and value-driven citizens.

Advancing Peace and Gender Equality Through Global Engagement

Nazia Naz

In today's rapidly evolving global landscape, the pursuit of peace and gender equality has become more urgent than ever. The upcoming PGE Working Group Debrief and Planning Meeting on May 6, 2026, represents a significant opportunity for civil society actors, policymakers and advocates to come together and reflect on progress while shaping future strategies. Organized under the NGO Committee



on the Status of Women, New York, this initiative highlights the growing recognition that sustainable peace cannot be achieved without gender equality and inclusive participation. It is an honor to be associated with the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women as part of the academic and civil society engagement space.

Handmade traditional baskets

ISLAMABAD: A vendor displaying handmade traditional baskets to be used in fruits gift packing at Fruit and Vegetable Market I-11 in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Faisal Rathore slams opposition, promises development roadmap for AJK

Bureau Report

ABBASPUR/SEHRA.: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore inaugurated the Sehra Police Station.

On this occasion, a salute was presented to the Prime Minister by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Police contingent.

Minister for Higher Education Zafar Iqbal Malik, Sardar Amjad Yousaf, Walid Matloob Inqilabi, Sardar Aftab Anjum, Sardar Abdul Manan Gohar, Abdul Shakoor Siddique and others were also present.

On this occasion, a reception ceremony was organized in honor of the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir by



leader of the PPP Sardar Amjad Yousaf.

Addressing the reception, Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore said that if ten and a half years of all the periods of the Pakistan Peoples Party are removed from the history of Azad Kashmir, no mega project will be seen.

We will form the government again

by winning the elections. He said that Amjad Yousaf has the ability in Abbaspur to protect the rights of the people of his constituency whether he wins or loses the elections.

The Prime Minister said that there is a difference between field and Facebook politics. The Pakistan People's Party is the only party that is in the

field in all constituencies and people from every constituency are joining the Pakistan People's Party.

He said that we have prepared a roadmap in which the development of all sectors has been focused. He said that the Bokra bridge of Mandri will be made ADP and RHC Sehra.

He said that Mumtaz Hussain Rathore's first victory was from the Lower Haveli constituency, I have inherited my love for this constituency, the PPP Prime Minister will come to Sehra again and again. Minister for Higher Education Zafar Iqbal Malik said that this is the first government that is heading towards elections and its convoy is increasing.

MNA PML-N addressing large public gathering village HagiShah

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: It is a matter of great pride for Pakistan that the entire credit for the ongoing efforts by the United States, a global superpower, to achieve reconciliation with Iran goes to Pakistan. The initiatives undertaken by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Field Marshal Asim Munir, and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar have been widely appreciated not only in Pakistan but across the world. India, despite being a major regional power, also faced defeat during the leadership

of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir.

Earlier, Sheikh Aftab Ahmad was escorted from Haji Shah Mor to Bahadarabad in a grand procession comprising more than one hundred vehicles. He was warmly welcomed by supporters, showered with flower petals, and adorned with garlands. The ceremony was organized by Pakistan Muslim League (N) Youth Wing President Farooq Khan Ghaljaj, Yaqoot Ghaljaj, Tariq Khan Ghaljaj, and hundreds of members of their family. Following the unveiling of the

commemorative plaque, Sheikh Aftab Ahmad and Sheikh Ajmal Mahmood were presented with traditional turbans in accordance with tribal customs. Among those present on the occasion were former candidate for the Punjab Assembly Sheikh Salman Sarwar, his son Muad Suleman, former Chairman Khidmat Committee Sheikh Hamid Mahmood, district leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Sheikh Ajmal Mahmood, District President Muhammad Saleem Shehzad, District Information Secretary Dr. Mian Rashid Mushtaq, Tehsil General

Secretary Hassan Abdul Abid Shehzad Malik, City President Hassan Abdul Chaudhry Ashfaq Ahmad, District President Ulema Wing Allama Niaz Ahmad Awan, former Chairman Union Council Shamsabad Malik Saeed Awan, Muhammad Arshad Baig (popularly known as Kaka Baig), Sheikh Ali Mahmood, Sajid Mahmood, Sheikh Zahoor Elahi, Muhammad Talha, former Councillor Sheikh Zahoor Elahi, Sheikh Arif Mahmood, Sheikh Abdul Waheed, Sheikh Hamid Qudoos, Muhammad Nadeem Sarraf, Abdullah Khan, and many others.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:56 am
Zohr	12:06 pm
Asr	4:51 pm
Maghrib	6:46 pm
Isha	8:16 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

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CAA	9281092

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

DEPARTMENTS

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CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3

Maryam Nawaz's Push: Punjab secures deals to boost meat exports with Chinese firm

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Efforts by Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif have begun to yield results, with the province set to export one million livestock. Agreements (MoUs) have been signed with seven entities, including a Chinese global meat company, to boost meat exports from Punjab.

Under the agreements, the Chinese global meat company, in collaboration with PAMCO, will install a boiler unit in Punjab. The facility will enable large-scale preparation of boiled meat for export. Meat companies will import meat from approximately 300,000 animals for export purposes.

A target has been set for the fattening of 300,000 buffaloes and cattle, along with 300,000 sheep and rams, while 100,000 goats and sheep will be reared specifically for export.

Chairing a special video-link meeting, CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz approved key decisions, including doubling the quota for providing free livestock to rural

women. Participants of the meeting were given a detailed briefing, while Provincial Minister for Livestock Ashiq Hussain Kirmani informed the forum about ongoing initiatives in the sector.

In South Punjab, 9,255 animals have already been distributed free of cost among widowed and divorced women across 12 districts. To meet export targets, two million animals will be tagged, while two million semen doses will be provided on subsidy to enhance breeding.

The briefing further noted that no cases of haemorrhagic septicaemia or lumpy skin disease have been reported in livestock since 2022. Even after recent floods, no cases of lumpy skin disease have emerged. The imported vaccine for lumpy skin costs Rs300, whereas an effective locally produced vaccine is available for just Rs30.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that neglect of the livestock sector in the past was deeply regrettable, adding that livestock farming serves as a vital source of economic self-reliance.



Out of reach

ISLAMABAD: A view of fuel station in the Federal Capital. Govt hikes petrol, high-speed diesel prices by Rs26.77 per litre, brings the price of petrol to Rs393.35 per litre, diesel to Rs380.19 per litre.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

World Malaria Day Observed in District Sujawal

Kamran Khamiso Khowaja

SUJAWAL: In connection with World Malaria Day, the District Health Office (DHO) Sujawal in collaboration with NRSP organized an awareness walk to highlight the importance of malaria prevention and control.

The walk commenced from DHQ Hospital Sujawal and concluded at the main road of Sujawal. The event was led by District Health Officer Dr. G. Farooque Chandio and witnessed active participation from health officials, health staff, community members and representatives of various NGOs.

Addressing the participants, Dr. G. Farooque Chandio emphasized that malaria is a curable disease and can be effectively prevented through timely precautions. He stressed the importance of using Insecticide-Treated Nets (ITNs) and encouraged the public to avail free fever testing services at their nearest health facilities.

The awareness walk concluded at the main road, where Dr. Ashfaq Jafrani expressed his gratitude to all participants and reiterated the collective responsibility to combat malaria through awareness and preventive measures.

The event aimed to educate the public and reinforce the commitment of health authorities and partner organizations to eliminate malaria from the region.

Bahria University Health Sciences Campus Karachi Held its 12th Convocation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 12th Convocation Ceremony of Bahria University Health Sciences Campus Karachi (BUHSC) was held on April 25, 2026. The ceremony was graced by distinguished personalities as Chief Guests, including the Honourable Rector Bahria University Vice Admiral Abid Hameed HI (M), and Vice Chancellor Dow University of Health Sciences, Professor Nazli Hussain.

The Rector of Bahria University, Vice Admiral Abid Hameed HI (M), during his address congratulated the graduating students on their



academic achievements. He paid a profound tribute to the parents, acknowledging their unwavering support and sacrifices as the cornerstone of the students' success and urged the graduates to uphold the highest standards of integrity

and commit themselves to lifelong learning and service to humanity.

In her address, the Chief Guest, Professor Nazli Hussain, congratulated the graduates and their families on achieving a significant

milestone. She encouraged the graduates to pursue their careers with curiosity, integrity, and dedication to the noble values instilled by their alma mater.

A total of 145 graduates were conferred degrees in various programmes, including MPhil, MBBS, BDS, DPT, BS Nursing, and MLT. Certificates of merit and medals were also awarded to position holders in recognition of their outstanding academic performance.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Director General BUHSC, Vice Admiral (R) Ather Mukhtar HI (M), presented the convocation souvenirs to the Chief Guests.

Attock police arrested illegal Afghan national

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Attock Police Conduct Search Operation Across the District; 2 Suspects Arrested, 28 Illegal Afghan Residents Shifted to Holding Centre

According to details, as part of an ongoing campaign against criminal elements and suspicious individuals in District Attock, Attock Police carried out search operations in various areas across the district. During the operation, police teams checked a total of 363 individuals and 141 houses.

District Police Officer Attock, Sardar Mowrahan Khan, stated that operations against criminal elements will continue without any discrimination, and maintaining law and order in the district will be ensured at all costs.

Prince Rahim Aga Khan to Visit Pakistan Next Month, Community Sources Confirm

Kamran Khamiso Khowaja

KARACHI: His Highness Prince Rahim Aga Khan, the 50th Spiritual Leader of the Shia Ismaili Muslim community, will undertake his first official visit to Pakistan from May 20 to 26 since succeeding his father as Imam, community sources confirmed on Saturday.



The visit has sent a wave of jubilation across the Ismaili community nationwide, with different events being scheduled to commemorate the arrival of the spiritual leader. According to credible sources, Prince Rahim Aga Khan will meet officials of the Pakistan Government, the KPK Government and the Gilgit-Baltistan Government during his week-long stay. He will also meet his followers residing in the northern areas of the country and hold religious gatherings, for which arrangements have entered the last phase.

Ayaz expresses condolences on demise of Chaudhry Naseem

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of Chaudhry Muhammad Naseem, cousin of Asif Bashir Chaudhry, President of the Rawalpindi-Islamabad Union of Journalists (RIUJ).



In his condolence message, the Speaker extended heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family. He stated that the sudden passing of the deceased is an irreparable loss for the grieving family.

Ayaz Sadiq said that he shares in their sorrow during this difficult time. He prayed that Almighty Allah may grant the departed soul a high place in His eternal mercy and bestow patience and strength upon the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

GB clears way for 5G trials after policy approval

ISLAMABAD: Gilgit-Baltistan has moved closer to next-generation digital connectivity as authorities approved policy directives for the launch of 5G trials in the region, with testing expected to begin shortly.

Sources said the decision follows months of consultations after the nationwide 5G spectrum auction process, initiated in February, did not initially include Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Caretaker Minister for Information Technology in Gilgit-Baltistan, Ghulam Abbas, raised the issue with federal authorities and remained engaged on the matter.

He held meetings with Hafeez ur Rehman, chairman of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, and Federal IT Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja, stressing the need to extend 5G services to the region.

Subsequently, the Gilgit-Baltistan Council Secretariat prepared a summary seeking approval of policy directives for the trials.

The proposal was endorsed by the Ministry of Law and Justice and the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication before being forwarded to the prime minister, who also serves as chairman of the Gilgit-Baltistan Council. The summary was later circulated among council members. According to sources, the council has approved the proposal, which has also been ratified by the Gilgit-Baltistan governor, removing key procedural hurdles for the start of 5G trials.

They said the telecom regulator had already prepared guidelines for testing, and, following formal approval, telecom operators would now be allowed to initiate trials in the region.

The PTA chairman has indicated that a formal 5G spectrum auction in Gilgit-Baltistan would follow the successful completion of trials.

Officials and sector experts said the move is expected to improve digital connectivity, support tourism and facilitate business activity in the mountainous region.

WHO urges partners to prevent malaria resurgence in Pakistan and end malaria in our lifetime

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On World Malaria Day, the World Health Organization (WHO) calls on all partners to intensify the response to prevent a resurgence in Pakistan and stresses that, for the first time, ending malaria in our lifetime is possible. In 2025, Pakistan reduced malaria incidence by 10% compared to 2024, but it still reported 1.8 million cases, as the country has not yet recovered from the surge triggered by the 2022 climate-driven floods - from 399,097 confirmed infections in 2021 to a peak of 2.7 million in 2023.

Progress is at risk due to factors such as climate change, a massive global funding gap of US\$ 5.4 billion and recent cuts in global health aid, which have disrupted health systems, surveillance, and campaigns, demonstrating how quickly hard-fought gains can be reversed.

As part of World Malaria Day celebrations, WHO and partners have launched a global campaign to seize the opportunity to protect lives now and fund a malaria-free future, under the theme "Driven to End Malaria: Now We Can. Now We Must."

In Pakistan, malaria transmission persists mainly in Balochistan, rural Sindh, and some districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).



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Scholarly Expertise in Islam: Why Not Every Issue Is a 'Panadol' Matter

The study of the Holy Qur'an and the Hadith of the Prophet ﷺ is obligatory upon every Muslim man and woman. These are the true sources of guidance, and without them we cannot remain connected to authentic Islam. Islam is not merely a religious identity; it is a complete code of life. To understand this code, a direct relationship with the Qur'an and Sunnah is essential. Every individual, according to their intellectual and educational capacity, can derive guidance from these sacred sources. Some draw moral lessons from clear verses, others learn daily manners from Hadith, and some deepen their faith through reflection. However, it is also a reality that certain religious matters are highly complex, profound, and require scholarly interpretation. Such matters demand extensive knowledge, mastery of the Arabic language, familiarity with principles of jurisprudence, and expertise in thousands of narrations. This level of scholarship is not attainable for everyone.

To understand this, consider a simple example. If someone suffers from a common cold, flu, or mild fever, they may take a Panadol tablet for relief. It is a general and simple treatment that often works for minor ailments. But if the matter involves heart surgery, neurological disorders, or other life-threatening and complicated illnesses, would we attempt to treat ourselves? Certainly not. We immediately consult a qualified and certified specialist who has spent years studying and gaining practical experience. Similarly, while basic teachings of Islam can be understood by most people, complex jurisprudential issues where

multiple evidences must be reconciled or where apparent contradictions in texts must be harmonized require the expertise of highly qualified scholars.

Another important point is that just as different doctors may hold different opinions about the same disease, scholars may also differ in their interpretations of certain religious matters. In medical science, when two experts disagree on a treatment plan, they do not expel one another from the field of medicine. Each presents their view based on research and experience. The same applies to scholarly differences in Islamic jurisprudence. The differences among the great scholars are not signs of division or deviation but reflections of intellectual depth and scholarly effort. In fact, such diversity often provides ease and flexibility for the community. If one opinion seems difficult in certain circumstances, another may offer practical ease, highlighting the mercy within Islamic law.

Some people object by saying that following a particular scholar or school of thought means following a human opinion instead of the Qur'an and Sunnah. In reality, this is a misunderstanding. A reliable and God-fearing scholar derives their conclusions directly from the Qur'an and Sunnah. They do not invent a new religion; rather, they interpret the divine texts according to established principles. Since an ordinary Muslim does not possess the expertise to independently extract rulings from primary sources, they rely on qualified

scholars. Thus, in following a scholar, they are ultimately following the Qur'an and Sunnah.

Just as medical science evolved over time, developing new specialties and structured principles to address emerging issues, Islamic scholarship also developed systematic methodologies. These principles led to the formation of recognized schools of jurisprudence such as Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi'i, Hanbali, and Ja'fari. All of these schools are rooted in the Qur'an and Sunnah, though they may differ in certain methodological approaches, leading to variations in specific rulings. This diversity represents scholarly richness rather than contradiction.

The founders of these schools were towering figures of knowledge and piety. They were not only memorizers of the Qur'an but also masters of vast numbers of Hadith. They dedicated their lives to studying, preserving, and explaining Islamic teachings. History bears witness to their integrity, sincerity, and deep scholarship. Therefore, when a Muslim today follows any of these established schools, they are essentially adhering to the teachings of the Qur'an and Sunnah.

Unfortunately, in our time, there are individuals with limited knowledge who engage in heated debates over complex religious matters. Instead of appreciating scholarly differences, they turn them into sources of conflict and confusion, particularly among young Muslims. In the age of social media, many assume the role of scholars without proper training

or qualification. However, authentic religious knowledge requires years of disciplined study under qualified teachers. We must remain cautious of those who sow division and disrespect toward established scholars.

True success does not lie in winning arguments or proving others wrong. Real success lies in nurturing the fear of Allah in our hearts and cultivating sincere love for the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. When a person possesses God-consciousness and genuine love for the Prophet ﷺ, they naturally adopt moderation, tolerance, and respect. They view differences of opinion as intellectual diversity rather than grounds for hostility. They remain firm in their own practice while respecting others.

Therefore, we should strengthen our connection with the Qur'an and Sunnah, seek knowledge according to our capacity, and consult qualified scholars when matters exceed our understanding. Just as we trust medical experts with our physical health, we should trust scholarly experts with matters concerning our faith and eternal salvation. Differences should not become causes of division but should be understood as a mercy that provides flexibility within the framework of Islam.

If we maintain this balance holding a direct relationship with the Qur'an and Sunnah while benefiting from the guidance of qualified scholars, we can protect ourselves from intellectual confusion and contribute to unity and harmony within the Muslim community. This balanced approach keeps us connected to authentic Islam and leads us toward success in this world and the Hereafter.

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Analysis

Muhammad Asif

International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day

On this day, we mark forty years since the Chernobyl disaster, an event that continues to shape global understanding of nuclear risk and responsibility. The explosion at the plant in 1986 released radiation far beyond its immediate surroundings, affecting millions across what are now Belarus, Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Its consequences have endured well beyond the moment of the accident.

This anniversary compels us to recognise the long reach of radiation. Exposure does not end at the boundary of a facility, nor within a single generation. It spreads across regions and persists over time, affecting public health, the environment and economic life in ways that are often irreversible.

The response that followed also demonstrated the importance of international cooperation. The United Nations system, along with partner organisations, supported affected communities through research, health interventions and recovery programmes, later moving towards a longer-term approach focused on rehabilitation and development. This sustained effort reflects the scale of the challenge and the need for continued vigilance.

The lessons are clear. Nuclear safety cannot be treated as a technical matter alone. It requires consistent discipline, and strong oversight with a clear understanding of the risks involved. Any negligence or hostile action involving nuclear installations can have consequences that extend far beyond the immediate target. Such actions carry the risk of long-term harm to populations that may have no direct connection to the originating event.

For ordinary citizens, these risks translate into tangible disruptions. Agricultural land can become unsafe for cultivation. Food and water supplies may be affected for years. Families may be forced to leave their homes, with lasting effects on education and employment. Health systems must manage conditions that appear gradually and persist over time. These are practical realities that underline the gravity of nuclear incidents.

Mr. Zardari reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of nuclear safety and security. We support international efforts that promote responsible conduct, strengthen safeguards and reduce the risk of such disasters. The experience of Chernobyl remains a serious reminder that the margin for error in this domain is extremely narrow and the cost of failure is borne by generations.



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

Caught In The Crossfire: War Ripple Effect

Midhah Fatima

War without borders will knock Pakistan's door? The escalating tensions between Iran, Israel, and the United States may appear geographically distant from Pakistan. Yet in an interconnected world, distance offers little protection. The coercive intimidation by the US and Israel on Iran poses a global economic and energy crisis and the disruption of the global supply chains. Due to its strategic chokepoint; the Strait of Hormuz and its supremacy in energy Iran, a major regional power in the Middle East, has altered geopolitics during this conflict. This borderless fallout has stealthily infiltrated South Asia's powerhouse, Pakistan, delivering acute economic blows via import shortages and strategic perils along its vulnerable 900km Iranian frontier.

Pakistan's economy is vulnerable to global shocks particularly in energy markets. The country imports roughly 70-80% of its oil, making it highly exposed to price fluctuations. Pakistan imports of oil in 2025 reached approximately \$11.94 billion. In addition petroleum products account for nearly 25-30% of Pakistan total import bill highlighting the scale of dependence. Analysts estimate that an increase of \$10 per barrel in global oil prices can raise Pakistan annual import bill by \$1.5-2 billions of dollars, such a rise would widen the trade deficit, increase inflation and devalue Pakistan currency. Under the \$7 billion programme by IMF the monetary policies remain tight and the economy is under strain, this external shock could significantly destabilize the country's financial stability and bear economic consequences of a war it is not part of.

The conflict has also intensified fears of disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil transit routes. The closure of the strategic chokepoint has brought immediate consequences for Pakistan. Pakistan has seen spiking fuel costs in late March 2026 of approximately 20% and intensification of load shedding, closure of education institutions to conserve energy. This highlights that Paki-

stan's energy security is largely dependent on external stability. When that stability is shaken, the effects are felt at home.

Pakistan's foreign policy in the Middle East is highly complex and is profoundly shaped by economic dependence, strategic partnerships particularly with Saudi Arabia. Around 3.8-4 million Pakistanis live and work in Gulf countries. This represents over 55% of Pakistanis overseas population. Besides imports, the majority of its oil from gulf countries provided deferred payments and financial assistance.

Pakistan faces another critical concern which is remittances. Pakistan receives approximately \$25-30 billion annually from overseas workers, a significant portion of whom are based in Gulf countries. Pakistan receives a record of \$38.3 billion in 2024-25 out of which \$20.89 billion (55%) came from Gulf countries indicating strong dependence on external labor markets. Regional instability could disrupt job markets for overseas Pakistanis, reduce remittance inflows and further strain Pakistan's already fragile economy.

At the same time Pakistan's relationship with Iran is shaped by geography and strategic necessity and longstanding diplomatic ties since the recognition of Pakistan in 1947 as the first country. Pakistan also shares trade relations with Iran with imports worth \$2.42 billion in the year 2025 in the energy sector. Sharing a 909km long border with Pakistan, both countries remain closely linked especially in border regions such as Balochistan which rely on electricity imports from Iran.

Parallel to this Pakistan cannot afford to distance itself from the US amid its towering \$134 billion in 2025 and projected bilateral trade exceeding \$8 billion in 2025. Beyond economics Pakistan is also dependent diplomatically in areas like security cooperation, regional diplomacy and IMF backed stabilization indicating Pakistan systematic dependence on the USA. This triangular dynamic between Iran, Gulf and USA Pakistan is facing difficulty in maintaining neutrality in a highly global polarized world.

The security implications of this conflict is concerning as both countries share a border which will expose Pakistan to potential security spillovers.

Due to this conflict there is a risk of Cross-border tensions and rise in militant activity which would cause terrorism in border regions. There is also the risk of refugee influxes which would increase burden on Pakistan economy as Pakistan already hosts 3 million afghan refugees according to UNHCR. The sectarian tension could also rise due to sectarian polarization within the country. Even without direct involvement, Pakistan is highly vulnerable due to its geographical proximity and strategic alliances.

Public opinion in Pakistan further complicates the internal situation. In an era of information warfare public opinion is rapidly shaped by global events through digital platforms. This has led to heightened political and religious sensitivities triggering protests after Khamenei's death, particularly among the Shia community (estimated at 15-20% of the population). Protesters condemned the United States and Israel, with some accusing the Pakistani government of being too close to Washington D. C. In Karachi, protesters attempted to storm the U. S. Consulate on 1 March 2026. At least 10 people were killed and more than 60 were injured when U. S. Marine security guards opened fire. At least 23 protesters were killed in clashes across the country by early March, with a three-day curfew in Gilgit-Baltistan. Thus, the impact of war is also psychological and societal resulting in increased pressure on policy makers.

The Iran-Israel US conflict reflects a seismic shift in the global order where crises have cascaded across borders leaving no country unscathed. For Pakistan, the imperative is not about picking sides, but its balancing and diplomatic act with Iran on one side and US on other. To address these challenges Pakistan is acting as a mediator between both countries and offered to host negotiations and facilitate dialogue between Tehran and Washington. Pakistan has hosted regional talks in Islamabad with Egypt, Turkey and Saudi Arabia to de-escalate and manage the Strait of Hormuz crisis. Additionally the US has also proposed a 15 point peace plan with Iran via Pakistan. Pakistan is constantly positioning itself as a neutral facilitator, aiming to prevent further regional destabilization.

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US-Iran Peace Pact Puts Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and PM Shehbaz Sharif in Nobel Peace Spotlight

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 create a terrifying possibility of a wider war even using the 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 catastrophic 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 the process with momentum, direction, and the confidence required to bring both sides to the table.

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Syed Faiz Naqshbandi

Trump cancels Witkoff and Kushner trip to Pakistan

AFP

US President Donald Trump announced he had cancelled his envoys' planned trip to Pakistan for peace talks with Iran on Saturday, but said that did not mean an immediate resumption of the US-Israeli war against the Islamic Republic.

Shortly before the announcement, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrapped up his own diplomatic visit to Islamabad after meeting with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, a key figure in the mediation effort, as well as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

The White House had previously said Trump emissaries Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner were headed to the Pakistani capital for an "in-person conversation" with the Iranians that would "hopefully move the ball forward towards a deal".

But Trump told Fox News on Saturday that he had nixed the trip.

"I've told my people a little while ago they were getting ready to leave, and I said, 'Nope, you're not making an 18-hour flight to go there. We have all the cards. They can call us anytime



they want, but you're not going to be making any more 18-hour flights to sit around talking about nothing," Trump said.

Asked by US media outlet Axios whether that meant a resumption of hostilities, Trump said: "No. It doesn't mean that. We haven't thought about

Iran's foreign ministry said Araghchi had left Islamabad and arrived in Muscat on Saturday for meetings with Omani officials. He is also expected to travel on to Russia to discuss efforts to end the war, which the United States and Israel began against Iran

on February 28.

Araghchi described his Pakistan trip as "very fruitful" in a post on X, adding he had shared Iran's position on a "workable framework to permanently end the war".

"Have yet to see if the US is truly serious about diplomacy," he said.

President Abbas casts vote in local elections, reaffirms commitment to democracy

Wafa

RAMALLAH: President Mahmoud Abbas cast his vote in Saturday in the 2026 local elections at the polling station in Al-Mustaqbal Al-Saleh School in Al-Birah.

Following his vote, the President said, "We are very pleased that we are able to practice democracy despite all the difficulties we face locally and internationally, and we are determined to hold the elections on schedule despite everything."

He added, "We are pleased with the conduct of elections. First, student youth elections were held, then local council elections, followed by Fatah movement elections next month, and then the Palestinian National Council elections, all of which will take place



this year." The President further reiterated

that Palestinians remain committed to democratic principles and political

pluralism, asserting their right to an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

"We say to the world that we are democratic, we believe in democracy and pluralism, and we deserve an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital," he said.

The President also addressed the situation in the Gaza Strip, saying it is facing daily war and attempts at separation, stressing that this will not be allowed.

He affirmed that Gaza is an integral part of the State of Palestine and noted that holding elections in Deir Al-Balah aims to reinforce unity between different parts of the country, with hopes for broader elections in Gaza once conditions stabilize.



BELGIUM: Pakistani Ambassador Rrahim Hayat met with Member of the European Parliament, Mr. Ondrej Dostal along with City Councillor, Muhammad Nasir.

EU, International partners welcome holding Palestinian local elections despite challenges



Wafa

RAMALLAH: The European Union and its member states, along with several like-minded countries, welcomed the holding of the Palestinian local elections, which began on Saturday, despite the difficult circumstances.

In a joint position, the countries—including the European Union, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United —said the elections provide Palestinians with an opportunity to elect local councils and renew their democratic legitimacy.

They noted that, at the invitation of the Central Elections Commission, representatives from their diplomatic missions would be present on the ground to monitor the electoral process.

They stressed the importance of holding transparent, credible, and inclusive elections, welcoming this round as an important step towards expanding democracy and strengthening local governance in general, in line with the ongoing reform process.

Every Cloud has a Silver Lining

Tahmeed Sadiq

The intensifying standoff between Iran and USA has cast a long shadow over global peace, shaking economies, disrupting trade routes, and placing millions of lives under uncertainty. Yet, even in the darkest moments of war, the saying "every cloud has a silver lining" reminds us that hope can emerge from crisis and in this case, that hope lies in diplomacy, restraint, and the persistent efforts of countries like Pakistan.

The war has intensified in critical regions such as the Strait of Hormuz, where naval confrontations and blockades have disrupted global oil supplies and heightened international tensions. Despite this escalation, there have been moments of pause, temporary ceasefires and renewed calls for dialogue, that signal a willingness, however fragile, to step back from full-scale destruction. These pauses are not merely tactical, they represent opportunities for peace.

This is where Pakistan's role becomes significant. Acting as a mediator, Pakistan has worked to bring both nations to the negotiating table, even hosting and facilitating dialogue despite deep mistrust between the parties. Its efforts have already contributed to ceasefire arrangements and the initiation of high-level talks, marking a rare instance of engagement between two long-standing adversaries. While challenges remain ranging from disagreements over nuclear policies to demands for lifting economic blockades Pakistan's diplomacy reflects a crucial attempt to replace confrontation with communication.

Recent developments suggest that further talks may still be possible, with mediation efforts continuing despite delays and internal divisions within Iran and strategic calculations by the United States. Even the extension of ceasefires indicates that neither side is entirely closed to negotiation, reinforcing the idea that war, though devastating, can create pressure for eventual compromise.

The silver lining, therefore, lies not in the conflict itself but in the global response to it. The crisis has underscored the importance of dialogue, exposed the limits of military power, and highlighted the role of neutral mediators in shaping outcomes. It has also reminded the international community that peace is not achieved overnight. It is built through persistence, trust-building, and difficult compromises.

While the Iran-US conflict continues to pose serious risks, it also offers a chance for transformation. Pakistan's mediation efforts symbolize hope amid chaos, proving that even in war, pathways to peace can emerge. The cloud of conflict may be dark, but its silver lining lies in the enduring possibility of diplomacy triumphing over destruction.

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Ambassador of Azerbaijan Visits Office of Advisor to CM Punjab on AI

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Mr. Khazar Farhadov, visited the Office of the Advisor to the Chief Minister Punjab on Artificial Intelligence and Special Initiatives, where he met with Advisor Ali Dar. The meeting focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan in key sectors including artificial intelligence (AI), information technology, education, and economy.

Both sides emphasized the growing importance of collaboration in emerging technologies and agreed that initiating joint initiatives in IT and AI is the need of the hour. Advisor Ali Dar highlighted that partnerships in advanced technologies would not only strengthen bilateral relations but also open new avenues of regional development.

During the meeting, discussions were also held on positioning the Central Business District (CBD) Punjab as a potential hub for Pakistan-Azerbaijan business and investment linkages. It was noted that such platforms can play a vital role in



fostering private sector engagement between the two countries.

The two sides also agreed to further strengthen sister city relations between Lahore and Nakhchivan, terming it a foundation for a deeper and more sustainable partnership.

Matters related to the upcoming World Urban Forum (WUF13) to be

held in Baku were also discussed in detail, recognizing it as a significant global platform for urban development and sustainable planning.

Advisor Ali Dar stated that exploring new avenues to enhance bilateral trade volume remains a shared priority. He further emphasized that strengthening institutional

linkages and promoting exchange of delegations would help solidify mutual ties.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cooperation across education, technology, and economic sectors, aiming to build a strong and enduring partnership between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

The Pinnacle of Human Consciousness and the Eternal Path to Conquering the Universe

Since the dawn of creation, when human consciousness first awakened, the most fundamental need it recognized was knowledge. As this knowledge took shape through words and was preserved on paper, the book came into existence—an enduring source of guidance for humanity across centuries. A book is not merely a collection of lifeless pages or ink marks; it is a living reality, a spirit that elevates the human soul to the pathways of the stars.

History bears witness to the fact that societies that valued books rose to dominance, while those that neglected them fell into decline. In today's materialistic age, where technology has tightly gripped human life, the importance of books has grown even further. A book remains the only medium that rescues the mind from noise and distraction, offering inner

peace and intellectual depth.

A powerful piece of writing or a well-structured workbook has the ability to awaken hidden potential within individuals—capabilities they themselves may not even recognize. Reading is not merely the accumulation of information; it is an intellectual exercise that expands the mind and equips it to navigate even the most challenging circumstances.

A common thread among great conquerors, scientists, and thinkers throughout history is their profound love for books. Even in solitude, they were never alone, for they were accompanied by the greatest minds preserved in written form—minds that contributed immensely to the advancement of human knowledge. A single impactful book can transform a life in ways that countless pieces of advice cannot. It instills confidence and reinforces the belief that no

force in the universe can prevent a determined individual from achieving their goals, provided they are armed with knowledge.

Workbooks, in particular, hold immense value as they bridge the gap between theory and practice, cultivating discipline and structure. Just as a plant requires water to grow, the human soul needs reading for its nourishment and development.

Today's younger generation must realize that while social media scrolling may offer temporary information, it cannot provide the depth, maturity, and wisdom gained through reading a substantial book. Books teach patience, foster respect for

diverse perspectives, and bring a sense of composure to one's speech and personality—hallmarks of an educated individual.

On the occasion of World Book Day, we must pledge to restore books to their rightful place in our lives. Even small reading corners in our homes can serve as sanctuaries of knowledge, where future generations can connect with the achievements of their predecessors. Books remain the most powerful medium for transmitting knowledge across generations, and without them, the very concept of human progress becomes unimaginable. When you open a book, you unlock a new world—one free from



Analysis

Aamir Latif



the constraints of time and space. You can converse with ancient Greek philosophers or journey alongside visionary scientists of the future. This is the unique magic possessed by a reader.

Therefore, to give purpose to your life, to transform your dreams into reality, and to earn a respectable place in society, build a strong relationship with books. A person who reads is never truly alone, nor

do they easily succumb to defeat. They treat every failure as a lesson and move forward with greater determination.

This is the essence of the message: the hand that holds a book never begs, and the mind illuminated by knowledge is never consumed by darkness.

The writer is Deputy Chief Librarian, Shifa Tameer e Milat University, Islamabad

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
170,672.04	169,173.37
Day's High	Day's Low
171,641.32	166,380.71
Index Value	Change
29,412,695,457	+1498.67
Percentage	Time
+0.89%	24 Apr, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,379.08	-77.93
Percentage	Time
-0.75%	24 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
49,173.87	-136.45
Percentage	Time
-0.28%	24 Apr, 2:48 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
59,716.18	+575.95
Percentage	Time
+0.97%	24 Apr, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	197.03	201.70
Bahrain Dinar	726.75	736.85
Canadian Dollar	202.16	206.75
China Yuan	39.25	39.75
Danish Krone	43.25	43.65
Euro	325.94	331.41
Hong Kong Dollar	35.05	36.05
Indian Rupee	2.15	2.35
Japanese Yen	1.7342	1.8340
Kuwaiti Dinar	877.45	889.42
Malaysian Ringgit	65.25	66.65
New Zealand \$	161.60	165.25
Norwegians Krone	27.6	27.9
Omani Riyal	721.30	732.45
Qatari Riyal	71.30	72.75
Saudi Riyal	74.40	75.35
Singapore Dollar	216.53	222.75
Swedish Korona	30.25	30.55
Swiss Franc	352.16	358.25
Thai Bhat	8.35	8.55
U.A.E Dirham	75.9	76.95
UK Pound Sterling	375.87	381.25
US Dollar	279.25	279.90

Grand Reception Hosted by Pakistani Business Community in London in Honour of Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: A grand reception was hosted by the Pakistani business community in London in honour of Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, during his official visit to the United Kingdom.

The event was attended by prominent members of the Pakistani diaspora, business leaders, investors, and professionals from diverse sectors. The reception reflected the strong engagement of overseas Pakistanis and their continued commitment to contributing to Pakistan's economic growth and global outreach.

Speaking on the occasion, the Federal Minister appreciated the vital role played by the Pakistani business community abroad in strengthening Pakistan's economic footprint globally. He highlighted the Government's investor-friendly policies and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to facilitating foreign investment, improving ease of doing business, and fostering international partnerships.



The Minister underscored that Pakistan is

actively engaging with global stakeholders to promote investment opportunities, enhance professional standards, and build sustainable economic linkages. During his visit, he has been holding key meetings with international financial leaders and institutions to boost investment cooperation and diaspora engagement.

He further emphasized that overseas Pakistanis are a valuable asset and a bridge between Pakistan and the global business community. Their participation is crucial in attracting investment, promoting trade, and strengthening Pakistan's image internationally.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment from both the Government and the overseas Pakistani business community to work together for economic progress, investment promotion, and national development. The Board of Investment remains committed to facilitating investors, strengthening global partnerships, and positioning Pakistan as a preferred destination for investment.

Dandasa

ISLAMABAD: A vendor selling Dandasa at Fruit and Vegetable Market I-II in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Govt hikes fuel prices by Rs26.77 per litre

The government on Friday announced a steep increase in petroleum prices, raising both petrol and high-speed diesel by Rs26.77 per litre, according to an official notification issued by the Petroleum Division.

Under the revised rates, petrol will now cost Rs393.35 per litre, while diesel has been set at Rs380.19 per litre.

The new prices will come into effect from midnight (April 25) and remain applicable for the coming week.

Officials said the increase reflects rising global oil prices amid regional tensions, forcing the government to pass on the financial burden despite efforts to absorb some of

the impact. Federal Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) Ali Pervaiz Malik said the surge in international oil prices and commitments with global partners necessitated the adjustment.

He noted that the government had attempted to cushion consumers but could no longer sustain the pressure.

The fresh increase is expected to intensify inflationary pressures, particularly in transport and essential commodities.

Authorities warned that higher fuel costs could translate into increased logistics expenses nationwide, adding to the financial strain on consumers.

Reportage Pakistan Announces Launch of Premium Residential Project in Gulberg, Lahore

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Reportage, an internationally recognized real estate developer with a presence in over 20 countries and a portfolio of more than 60 projects globally, has announced the soft launch of its first flagship residential development in Lahore, located in the prime area of Gulberg.

The project marks a significant milestone for the company's expansion into Pakistan, reflecting its long-term commitment to delivering high-quality, internationally benchmarked real estate developments in the region.

Designed as a modern high-rise residential tower, the project will offer a mix of thoughtfully planned one- and two-bedroom apartments, complemented by dedicated parking facilities, contemporary amenities, and efficient space utilization. The development aims to cater to urban residents seeking both comfort and long-term value in one of Lahore's most established neighborhoods.



Speaking at the launch, Muhammad Nofal Mughal, CEO, stated "We are proud to introduce our first project in Lahore after carefully studying the market over the past year. At Reportage Pakistan, our focus is not just on development, but on delivering projects with consistency, quality, and reliability."

RCCI express concerns over supply shortage, price surge in twin cities

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has expressed concern over disruption in the supply of petroleum products, medicines and essential commodities due to the ongoing blockade of heavy transport routes in Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

RCCI President Usman Shaukat in a statement said the suspension of supply chains was already causing shortages of key items and could soon lead to a rise in prices.

"Markets are witnessing reduced availability of essential goods, while inflationary pressure is building due to logistical disruptions," he said in the statement issued on Saturday.

He stressed the need to allow the movement of pharmaceutical vehicles, noting that they carry life-saving medicines, including insulin

and vaccines. "Any delay in their delivery could have serious public health implications," he added.

The chamber warned that continued disruption could also affect fuel supply to key locations, including Islamabad and Peshawar airports.

Traders and goods transporters have urged the district administration to reopen major routes for cargo movement, warning that prolonged blockades would further strain supply chains and push up prices.

Usman Shaukat appealed to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to take immediate notice and ensure restoration of transport routes.

"The business community is concerned. Prompt action is essential to prevent further economic disruption and ensure availability of essential goods, particularly medicines and food items," he said.

Pharmacists Association Raises Concerns Over PMDC Letter, Signals Legal Action

Special Correspondent

MULTAN: The Pakistan Pharmacists Association (PPA) has issued a formal response to a letter from the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC), expressing serious reservations over certain points raised in the communication.

According to PPA Central President Alamgir Rao, the pharmacy profession operates under a clear

legal and regulatory framework. He cited the Pharmacy Act 1967, Drugs Act 1976, and the DRAP Act 2012 as the governing laws under which pharmacists are legally authorized to perform their duties and practice within their defined scope.

He emphasized that, in most countries around the world, pharmacists are granted fundamental professional rights, with their primary role focused on patient care and the safe use of

medicines. He further stated that the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm-D) degree is officially recognized under the law, and both the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and the Pharmacy Council of Pakistan have permitted Pharm-D graduates to use the title "Doctor."

On this basis, he asserted that pharmacists have the legal right to use the title. He urged relevant authorities to ensure that decisions

related to the pharmacy profession are made in accordance with existing laws.

The PPA also hinted at initiating legal proceedings to safeguard the rights of pharmacists. Reaffirming its commitment, the association stated that it remains dedicated to protecting public health and upholding professional responsibilities, while calling on the pharmacist community not to be influenced



by what it termed as baseless propaganda.

ICCI Applauds Peace Diplomacy, Raises Concern Over Twin Cities' Blockade

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Sardar Tahir Mehmood, has expressed strong appreciation for the Government of Pakistan's forward-looking and proactive diplomatic engagement aimed at promoting regional stability. In particular, he commended Pakistan's constructive role in facilitating dialogue between the United States and Iran, noting that such initiatives reinforce the country's emerging position as a credible advocate of peace and economic cooperation. He emphasized that these efforts are instrumental in enhancing investor confidence, strengthening regional harmony, and unlocking sustainable economic opportunities.

While reaffirming ICCI's firm support for the Government, he underscored the urgent need to address pressing domestic challenges affecting the business community. He drew attention to the prolonged closure of key road arteries in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, which has severely disrupted the mobility of goods and critically affected supply chains, particularly those related to fast-moving consumer goods (FMCGs), thereby he has demanded the simplification of the procedure to improve the situation.

President Mehmood acknowledged and appreciated the efforts of the local administration for introducing certain remedial measures, including a special mechanism for the transportation of fast-moving consumer goods. However, he noted that despite these steps, long queues of vehicles and containers can still be witnessed on motorways and adjoining routes, reflecting the persistence of logistical bottlenecks.

He further noted that, over the past several days, containers carrying essential commodities have remained stranded due to restricted access to the federal capital. This situation has adversely impacted distributors, importers, wholesalers, retailers, and traders, resulting in substantial financial losses, supply shortages, and failure to meet market demand.

Lahore Qalandars Defeated Peshawar Zalmi by six Wickets

Pakistan Super League Unbeaten Peshawar Zalmi Defeated For the First Time



Asim Tanveer



Daniel Sims also hit hard.



LAHORE: Pakistan Super League Unbeaten Peshawar Zalmi defeated for the first time Lahore Qalandars defeated Peshawar Zalmi by 6 wickets. Peshawar Zalmi's illusion was shattered. The honor of remaining unbeaten in PSL 11 could not be achieved due to the defeat in the last match. With this win, Lahore Qalandars also eliminated Karachi Kings from PSL 11, with which they had equal 10 points, but due to improved net run rate, Karachi was out of the race. Now there is another obstacle in the way. Hyderabad will not only need a win against Ator Rawalpindi, but also a big margin win to improve their net run rate.

Lahore Qalandars won the toss and announced to bowl first. Peshawar Zalmi's first wicket fell on 16, when James Vince was clean bowled by Shaheen Afridi after scoring 10 runs. The second wicket also fell early, when Kaushal Mendis was caught by Shaheen off the ball of Haris for 7 at the score of 36. It was a big success for Qalandars that the top performer was dismissed early. When Mitchell Bracewell came to support Babar Azam, the problems increased for Lahore Qalandars. Both added 94 runs for the third wicket. On the first ball of the 16th over, Haris Rauf

achieved the third success for Qalandars, when Babar Aatham was dismissed after hitting another half-century. He played an innings of 59 runs off 45 balls with the help of 5 fours and a six. Mitchell Bracewell charged his bat and fell victim to Haris Rauf with just 2 balls to spare at a score of 194. He scored 83 runs in just 45 balls. He hit 6 sixes and 8 fours. Lahore Qalandars scored 199 runs for 4 wickets in 20 overs. Iftikhar Ahmed was out for 27 not out in 14 balls. For Lahore Qalandars, Shaheen took 36 runs and Haris took 2 wickets for 46 runs.

In response, there were many

dramas at the beginning of Lahore Qalandars' innings. The ball was changed twice. At one point, Peshawar Zalmi captain Babar Azam was unhappy with the ball condition and refused to take the changed ball, had a long argument with the umpires, disciplinary action is possible against him. Zalmi's wicket-keeper suffered a major injury to his finger after being hit by his own bowler's ball and was forced to go out. Mohammad Haris took the wicket in his place. Mohammad Naeem made 10 on 21 and Abdullah Shafiq made 25 on a total of 65. The center of hope was Fakhar Zaman, with

whom Asalanka batted well and took the score above 100 in the 11th over. Ali Raza got Zalmi to the third wicket at a score of 118, when he got Asalanka caught by Bracewell. He scored 33 runs off 26 balls. Fakhar Zaman completed his half-century in the 15th over. In the same over of Ali Raza, Sikandar Raza hit 2 sixes and a four to take the score to 147. In the 16th over of the innings, Sikandar Raza took a hit wicket while trying to play a hit to Sufyan Muqim. Their partnership of 42 runs off 20 balls ended with Fakhar. He reached 29 off 11 balls. He hit 3 sixes and 2 fours. Lahore

Qalandars achieved the target for 4 wickets in 19.3 overs and won the match by 6 wickets and brightened their hopes for the playoffs. Fakhar Zaman scored 58 runs off 47 balls and Daniel Simms remained unbeaten on 35 runs off 15 balls. No bowler from Zalmi could be effective.

PSL 11 Points Table
Peshawar Zalmi 10 matches
Points
Multan Sultans 9 matches. 12 points
Islamabad United. 9 matches. 11 points
Lahore Qalandars. 10 points

in 10 matches
Karachi Kings. 10 points in 10 matches, out of the re-
Hyderabad Kings. 8 points in 9 matches
The remaining and final league matches of PSL 11
Sunday. 26 April. Hyderabad Kings vs Rawalpindi. Karachi. Afternoon match
Sunday. 26 April. Multan Sultans vs Islamabad United. Lahore. Evening match
After this, there will be a one-day break. Then the play-off stage will start from Tuesday 28 April.

PSL 11 Pakistan Super League Cricket Championship Edition 11

Karachi Kings Defeated Quetta Gladiators By 9 Wickets and Eliminated Quetta Gladiators From the Pakistan Super League

Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: Karachi Kings Defeated Quetta Gladiators By 9 wickets and Eliminated Quetta Gladiators from the Pakistan Super League. Quetta Gladiators eliminated from the Pakistan Super League. Karachi Kings were left hanging despite the win.

Quetta Gladiators were eliminated from the HBL PSL 11. Yes. In their tenth and final match, they suffered a big defeat by 9 wickets at the hands of Karachi Kings. Thus, Karachi Kings' matches also ended, but their campaign came to an end with 10 points and a net run rate.

Now, for the fourth and last position in the playoffs, they are facing a challenge from the result of the match between Lahore and Peshawar Zalmi and the same goes for the result of the match between Hyderabad Kings and Rawalpindi. In the match of the day on Saturday, in the hot afternoon of Gaddafi Stadium Lahore, Karachi Kings won the toss and made a tough decision to field first and Quetta Gladiators gave them a tough time and



scored 195 runs for 6 wickets in 20 overs. The highlight of the innings was Riley Russo's brilliant innings.

He scored 90 runs off 54 balls. He hit 6 sixes and 8 fours. Apart from them, Saud Shakeel, who was the captain, scored 57 runs off 34 balls.



He hit nine fours. Dinesh Chandimal contributed by scoring 30 runs in 17 overs. Hasan Ali took two wickets for 41 runs and Rizwanullah took 28 runs. Abbas Afridi took two wickets for 22 runs.

In reply, Karachi Kings set two



targets. One was to win the match and the other was to improve their run average. They tried their best. David Warner and Reza Hendricks were the heroes. Although Jason was dismissed for 20 runs, captain David Warner scored 90 runs in 48 balls.

Hendricks hit 4 sixes and 10 fours.

An unbeaten partnership of 141 runs was formed between the two. Karachi Kings achieved the target in 18.3 overs with one wicket.

Now after this match, Karachi Kings has moved up on the points

table. Its net run rate is better than Lahore Qalandar and it will benefit only if Lahore wins over Peshawar Zalmi and Hyderabad also wins. But if both Lahore and Hyderabad lose, then Karachi Kings will reach the playoffs.

Zone-VI beat Zone-III by an innings and 141 runs in Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament

Brilliant Centuries by Huzaifa Munir 119 and Aibaad Khan 110; Deadly Bowling by Najeibur Rehman, Aarish Ali Khan, Bahadur Ali and Wahaj Riaz

KARACHI: In the 2nd day of the 2nd round matches of the Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament Zone-VI defeated Zone-III by an innings and 141 runs before lunch at KCCA Stadium and 2 points.

The highlights of the 2nd day Brilliant Centuries by Huzaifa Munir 119 and Aibaad Khan 110, some good Batting by Muhammad Hassan 83, Muhammad Ali Butt 80. Deadly bowling by Najeibur Rehman 7/38, Bahadur Ali 5/33, Wahaj

Riaz 5/47.

Scores in Brief:

In the first Match at KCCA Stadium Zone-VI beat Zone-III by an innings and 141 runs. Zone-VI first Innings 307/5 in 70 overs. Aibaad Khan 110 15 x4 1x6 not out. M. Arbaz Khan 55, Ghulam Ashraf 53 7x4 notout Adeel Meo 27, Kashif Ali 23. M. Fahad Amin 2/44. Zone-III first Innings 94 and after follow on in 2nd Innings 72 all out in 31.5 overs. Waqas Akbar 23. Aarish Ali Khan (sla) 5/26, M. Tariq Khan 2/23.

In the 2nd Match at UBL Sports Complex Zone-VII 1st Innings 244 and 2nd Innings 271 all out in 55.2 overs. Huzaifa Munir 119 16x4 6x6, Khaifid un Nabi 29, Sabe Siddequi 25, Asif Ali Khan 24. Wahaj Riaz 5/47.

Zone-II 1st Innings 94 all out in 36.2 overs. Ali Hassan 29. Najeibur Rehman (mf) 7/38.

Zone-II chasing 421 runs for Victory.

Zone-II 112/3 in 24 overs. Syed Shaheer Ali 52 9x4 1x6, Ali Hasan 11 both at the crease. Zone-II still 309 runs required for

Victory.

In the 3rd Match at Baqai Ground. Zone-I 252/6. Zone-V 1st Innings 242 all out 69.4 overs. Muhammad Hassan 83 10x4 1x6, Muhammad Ali Butt 80 10, Syed Shah Raza Naqvi 31 not out. Bahadur Ali 5/33, Muhammad Raza 3/60.

Zone-I 2nd Innings 175/6 in 46 overs. Muhammad Raza 44 and Zainuddin 24 both not out, Bahadur Ali 27, Muhammad Ali 2/41. Sahil Iqbal 2/49. Zone-I overall lead 185.

MPL Season 3 Reaches Grand Finale with Closing Ceremony on 26 April in Karachi

KARACHI: The Modern Premier League (MPL) Season 3, an initiative by Modern Premier League Season 3, is set to conclude with its final matches and grand closing ceremony on Sunday, 26 April 2026 at 8:45 PM at UBL Sports Complex, opposite Lucky One Mall, Karachi.

The five-day tournament, which commenced on 22 April, has brought together 24 hospital teams from across the city in a vibrant display of sportsmanship, teamwork, and professional unity. As the competition reaches its decisive stage, the semifinal and

final matches will determine the season's champion, with defending titleholders Bahria International aiming to retain their crown in a highly competitive lineup.

The closing ceremony will celebrate the culmination of MPL Season 3 with prize distribution, acknowledgments, and recognition of outstanding performances. Cash prizes of Rs. 300,000 for the winner and Rs. 150,000 for the runner-up will be awarded, marking another successful edition of MPL in promoting wellness and inter-hospital engagement under the banner of The Modern Hospital.

US-Iran Peace Pact Puts Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and PM Shehbaz Sharif in Nobel Peace Spotlight

Continued from Page 4

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 commit-

ment 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 international peace and stability but fulfilled a higher responsibility to humanity emerging as a powerful advocate for peace through unmatched

and principled diplomacy.

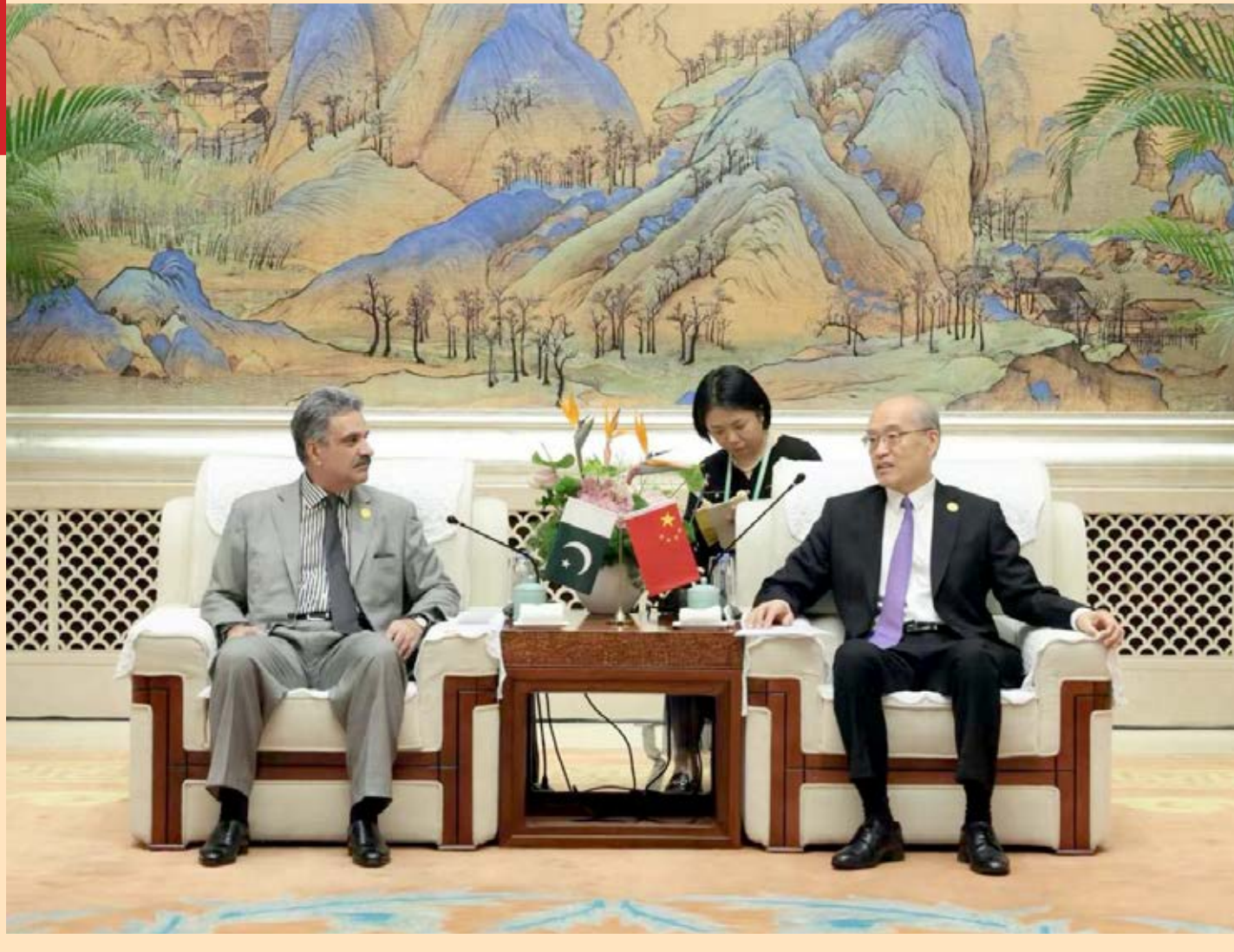
In recognition of these extraordinary and timely efforts, that may have averted a catastrophic nuclear conflict, it is both justified and imperative that CDF Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and Shehbaz Sharif Prime Minister of Pakistan be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.* Their actions stand as a testa-

ment 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 Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and legal expert of international law. He can be reached at faiz.naqshbandi@gmail.com.

Meeting

Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi In a meeting with Chinese counterpart during Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).



SC to strengthen its engagement with Türkiye judiciary: CJP Yahya Afridi

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court of Pakistan has decided to strengthen its engagement with Türkiye as part of its broader vision of a modern, technology-driven and globally integrated judiciary. This partnership has evolved into a purposeful framework of cooperation, focused on institutional development, innovation, and capacity enhancement across all tiers of the justice system.

According to a press release,

this was followed by the reciprocal visit of a distinguished delegation led by the President of the Constitutional Court of Türkiye to Pakistan in April 2026, reinforcing mutual commitment to long-term collaboration.

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Constitutional Court of Türkiye marks a significant step in formalizing this collaboration, providing a structured platform for judicial exchange, technology

integration, and joint capacity-building initiatives.

This engagement is rooted in sustained judicial interaction at the highest level. Participation of a high-level judicial delegation in the 63rd Anniversary of the Constitutional Court of Türkiye (April 2025) laid the groundwork for deeper institutional cooperation.

Over time, this engagement has transitioned from dialogue to practical collaboration, encompassing technical exchanges, training

programmes, and structured exposure visits. A defining feature of this partnership is its dual focus on technological advancement and institutional strengthening, supported by the inclusion of both judicial and technical officers.

Central to this initiative is the deliberate inclusion of top-performing judges from the district judiciary, particularly those serving in challenging and underserved jurisdictions. This approach ensures that international

exposure directly contributes to strengthening the justice system at its foundational level, where public interaction with the judiciary is most immediate.

The collaboration has been further enriched through the participation of distinguished experts from Türkiye in a symposium on the use of Artificial Intelligence in Pakistan's judicial system (May 2025), marking an important milestone in technology-driven judicial reform.

Pakistan's Food Security Minister meets UN Committee on World Food Security to Advance Resilient Food Systems

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, met with the Chairperson of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS), Professor Anas A. Al-Nabulsi, on the sidelines of the High-Level Ministerial Meeting of the 38th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC-38), held at Empire Brunei.

The meeting took place

at a critical juncture for the Asia and Pacific region, where steady economic progress continues alongside persistent challenges of food insecurity, malnutrition, and mounting environmental pressures. Both sides discussed Pakistan's proactive engagement in global efforts to address these challenges and explored avenues to further strengthen collaboration with the Committee on World Food Security.

The two sides emphasized the importance of



strengthening the uptake and implementation of CFS

policy recommendations at the national level. The CFS Chairperson highlighted that meaningful transformation requires inclusive governance, enhanced collaboration across sectors and stakeholders, improved access to sustainable financing, and the integration of evidence-based policymaking. He underscored the role of CFS in bringing together diverse actors and facilitating coherent, voluntary policy guidance tailored to national contexts.

Petition challenging hike in petroleum prices lands in LHC

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Judicial Activism Panel (JAP) filed a joint petition in the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Saturday challenging the recent increase in prices of petroleum and requested to declare the same as null and void. The federal government, Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), and other relevant departments were made parties.

The petition stated that the current hike is the first in history. The petitioner said that petroleum is available at the rate of Rs393.35 per liter.

The petitioner said that the government received Rs1.2 trillion under the head of petroleum development levy (PDL), but no relief was provided to the common man.

The petitioner warned that a Rs26.77 per liter increase in petrol will increase inflation. Petitioner said that petroleum prices are directly attached to transport.

They appealed to the Court to interfere in this issue and declare the increase in petroleum price as null and void to provide relief to the common man.

Mother kills three children in Lahore, blames husband

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A chilling triple murder case in Lahore's Ichhra area has taken a new turn after a mother, who confessed to killing her three young children, accused her husband of coercion and abuse during police interrogation, officials said.

The suspect, identified as Rida, had earlier admitted to slitting the throats of her children — aged five, four, and one-and-a-half years — in what police described as a "cold-blooded" act.

According to investigators, the woman has now revealed details of her domestic life, alleging that her husband forced her to engage in inappropriate phone conversations with unrelated men and demand money from them — a practice she said she strongly resisted.

In her statement, she further claimed that her husband was aware of her contact with a man named Shehryar, and that the couple had



also approached a spiritual healer ("peer") on his insistence.

Rida told police she no longer wished to live with her husband due to his "immoral behaviour" and constant disputes.

However, she feared that in the event of divorce, her children's future would be bleak. She said her family had refused to take responsibility for the children, leaving her feeling they would have no caregiver.

22 Khawarij terrorists killed in joint intelligence operation in Khyber: ISPR



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies killed 22 Khawarij terrorists belonging to India-sponsored Fitna-al-Khawarij in a joint intelligence operation in Khyber District.

"During the conduct of the operation, after intense exchange of fire and skilful engagements by own forces, twenty-two khawarij, belonging to Indian sponsored Fitna-al-Khawarij, were sent to hell. Due to cowardice and fear of getting apprehended alive, Khawarij resorted to indiscriminate firing, which resulted in martyrdom of a ten-year-old innocent child," said a press release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed Indian sponsored Khawarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area.

"Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Kharji found in the area as relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision "Azm e Istehkam" (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign sponsored and supported terrorism from the country and such sacrifice of our innocent civilians further strengthen our resolve," the press release said.

Dar holds talks with Egyptian FM over Middle East situation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held a phone call with Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, during which the two sides discussed the situation in the Middle East on

Saturday.

Officials said only the bid for the April 27-30 delivery window was accepted, while bids for the subsequent periods were rejected.

The offer for the May 1-7 window stood at \$18.54 per MMBtu, and for the May 8-14 window at \$17.99 per MMBtu, but both were not approved by the board.

The decision indicates a selective procurement strategy by PLL amid fluctuating global LNG prices and demand considerations, with the approved cargo aimed at meeting near-term energy requirements.

Pakistan LNG Limited approves spot cargo at \$18.88 per MMBtu



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The board of Pakistan LNG Limited has approved the purchase of one spot liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargo, scheduled to arrive in Pakistan on April 30, officials said.

The cargo was procured from the spot market at a price of \$18.88 per MMBtu, following a bidding process initiated by the company.

PLL had invited bids for three LNG cargoes covering delivery windows from April 27 to May 14. In response, the company received

three offers from suppliers.

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