



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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## Nawaz Sharif welcomes US-Iran ceasefire, calls it step towards global stability

President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) (PML-N), Nawaz Sharif, has expressed hope that the recent US-Iran ceasefire will prove to be a meaningful step towards global stability. In a statement shared on social media platform X, Nawaz Sharif praised Pakistan's leadership for its diplomatic efforts in helping avert a major international crisis.



## Pakistani-American political group congratulates Pakistan's leadership on mediating US-Iran truce

A prominent Pakistani-American political group has congratulated Pakistan's leadership for brokering a ceasefire between United States and Iran, hoping that it would pave the way to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. "As Pakistani-Americans, we take immense pride in this achievement," the American-Pakistan Public Affairs Committee (APPAC) said in a statement on Tuesday.

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## Standing ovations

ISLAMABAD: In recognition of his untiring efforts to achieve peace in the region, Federal Cabinet gives standing ovation to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif as he enters the meeting room for a cabinet meeting on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

## UN chief hails two-week Pakistan-mediated ceasefire between US, Iran

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has welcomed the announcement of a two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran, describing it as a positive step toward de-escalating tensions in the Middle East.

The UN chief "calls on all the parties to the current conflict in the Middle East to comply with their obligations under international law and to abide by the terms of the ceasefire in order to pave the way toward a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region," his Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said in a statement issued at UN Headquarters in New York, praising Pakistan's efforts towards peace in the region.

The statement came after US President Donald Trump announced Tuesday that



he agreed "to suspend the bombing and attack of Iran for a period of two weeks."

Guterres emphasized that an immediate end to hostilities is critical to protecting civilian lives and alleviating human suffering amid the ongoing crisis, stemming from US-Israeli war on Iran.

He also expressed appreciation for the mediation efforts led by Pakistan and other nations working to facilitate the ceasefire agreement, according to Dujarric.

"The Secretary-General's Personal Envoy Jean Arnault is in the region to support efforts toward lasting peace," he added.

## On Pakistan's request, Donald Trump announces two-week ceasefire with Iran

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: United States President Donald J. Trump on Wednesday announced to suspend the "bombing and attacks" on Iran for two weeks, describing it as a double-sided ceasefire, just a couple of hours after a request from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

"Based on conversations with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir, of Pakistan, and wherein they requested that I hold off the destructive force being sent tonight to Iran, and subject to the Islamic Republic of Iran agreeing to the complete, immediate, and safe opening of the Strait of Hormuz, I agree to suspend the bombing and attack of Iran for a period of two weeks," Trump announced on his social media platform Truth Social.

Earlier on his X timeline, Prime Minister Shehbaz had requested President Trump to extend the deadline for two weeks to allow diplomacy to



Photo: File

run its course, and also Iran to open Strait of Hormuz for a corresponding period as a goodwill gesture.

The diplomatic efforts had intensified as Trump had set an 8pm ET deadline for April 8 and warned of bombing on Iranian infrastructure no agreement reached. Just hours before the deadline, Trump had renewed his threat to Iran, saying "a whole civilisation will die tonight."

"This will be a double-sided ceasefire," President Trump stated.

He said that the US had already met and exceeded all military objectives and was very far along with a definitive agreement concerning long-term peace with Iran and peace in the Middle East.

## Islamabad set for Iran-US talks; Vance's participation uncertain

Naveed Ahmad Khan

Islamabad is preparing for high-stakes direct talks between Iran and the United States, scheduled for Friday, April 10, following a two-week ceasefire brokered through Pakistan's diplomatic efforts.

Officials said extraordinary security measures are being put in place across the federal capital, with heightened surveillance in

sensitive areas and law enforcement agencies placed on high alert.

The district administration has declared April 9 and 10 as local holidays to facilitate security arrangements.

Residents have been advised to limit unnecessary movement, while essential services will remain operational.

US President Donald Trump indicated in an interview with the

New York Post that Vice President JD Vance may not attend the negotiations, casting uncertainty over the composition of the American delegation.

He said the negotiating team would include Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, but Vance's presence was not guaranteed.

On the Iranian side, state media reported that Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf is expected to repre-

sent Tehran.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif earlier announced the breakthrough, stating that both sides had agreed to an immediate ceasefire and were invited to Islamabad to negotiate a final agreement.

He expressed hope that the talks would pave the way for lasting peace in the region.

The ceasefire came just ahead of a deadline set by Washington

for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global energy route.

Trump later said the US had achieved its military objectives and was "very close" to a long-term deal.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi welcomed Pakistan's mediation, saying Tehran would halt defensive operations if attacks ceased.

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Photo: File

## Shehbaz, Pezeshkian speak in first call since US-Iran ceasefire

next steps after the ceasefire. According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, Shehbaz Sharif congratulated the Iranian leadership on agreeing to the ceasefire, praising its wisdom and foresight in de-escalating tensions.

During the conversation, the prime minister's offer to host talks between Iran and the United States in Islamabad later this

week was formally accepted by the Iranian side. President Pezeshkian also confirmed that Iran would send a delegation to participate in the negotiations.

The Iranian president appreciated Pakistan's efforts in facilitating the ceasefire and acknowledged the role played by Islamabad in promoting regional peace.

He also conveyed his best wishes for the people of Pakistan.

Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed respect for Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei and welcomed the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, praising Iran's leadership for its decision.

Both sides also welcomed the start of negotiations aimed at achieving sustainable peace and expressed hope that the talks would yield positive results.

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian held their first telephonic conversation

following the ceasefire between the United States and Iran, sources said on Wednesday.

The two leaders spoke for around 45 minutes, discussing the evolving regional situation and the

## Afghanistan, Pakistan agree to avoid escalation: China

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to avoid any escalation in their armed conflict, during talks hosted by China in recent days, Beijing said Wednesday.

The neighbours and one-time allies have been locked in violent confrontation over claims from Islamabad that Afghanistan is harbouring militants responsible for cross-border attacks, which the Taliban government denies. Hostilities escalated sharply at

the end of February, when Pakistani airstrikes were followed by an Afghan ground offensive, with Islamabad declaring an "open war".

"Representatives from China, Afghanistan and Pakistan held a week of informal meetings in Urumqi, Xinjiang, from April 1 to 7," Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said on Wednesday.

The three delegations "engaged in frank and pragmatic discussions in a positive atmosphere", she said at a regular news

conference in Beijing.

According to the spokeswoman, Afghanistan and Pakistan stated "their commitment to resolving their differences as soon as possible and realising a return to normalcy in bilateral relations, agreeing not to take any actions that would escalate or complicate the situation".

Diplomats from Pakistan and Afghanistan had already reported the China-hosted talks last week, but Beijing had not confirmed them.

A truce implemented during



the Eid al-Fitr holiday, which marks the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, concluded on March 24.

The land border between

Pakistan and Afghanistan has been almost completely closed during the fighting, resulting in significant economic consequences.

## JUI postpones Friday protests after Naqvi-Fazl meeting

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday visited the residence of Maulana Fazlur Rehman in Islamabad, where both leaders held detailed talks on the country's political landscape and evolving international developments.

The meeting was attended by senior JUI-F figures, including Maulana Attar-Rehman, Allama Rashid Mahmood Soomro, Maulana Atta-ul-Haq Darvesh, Malik Sikandar Advocate, and Mufti Abrar.

During the discussion, Maulana Fazlur Rehman appreciated Pakistan's diplomatic efforts aimed at easing tensions in the Gulf region and



facilitating a ceasefire.

According to sources, the interior minister urged the JUI-F chief to postpone the party's protest demonstrations scheduled for Friday. The request followed similar appeals by leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) (PML-N), who also sought a delay in nationwide protests and a planned rally in Mardan on April 12.

Initially, Maulana Fazlur Rehman said the matter would be decided after internal party consultations.

# Rathore praises Pakistan's global diplomatic stature, cites Iran-Iraq success

**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has described Pakistan's successful mediation in the Iran-Iraq conflict as a historic development. He made these remarks while speaking to a delegation of the Paigam-e-Aman Committee that called on him under the leadership of prominent religious scholar Maulana Tahir Ashrafi.

The AJK premier stated that the international community was increasingly recognizing Pakistan's role as a credible and trusted mediator, with its name being spoken with honor and respect around the world. He paid tribute to the efforts of Pakistan's military and political leadership including the President, the Prime Minister, and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for their exemplary role in promoting peace, stability, through effective diplomacy.

Highlighting the internal harmony of Azad Kashmir, he said the region stands as a shining example of religious coexistence.



He reiterated that the people of Indian occupied Kashmir have consistently rejected Indian rule and remain deeply connected to Pakistan, stating that this everlasting bond between the people was unbreakable.

Terming Kashmiris' ongoing freedom movement as a movement for the completion of Pakistan, the PM expressed confidence that the movement would eventually reach its logical

conclusion. Referring to Pakistan's historic victory in Mark e Haq and its rising stature at the global stage, the Prime Minister noted that these developments have boosted the morale of the Kashmiri people.

He said that adding Kashmiri people's resilience and struggle have gained global recognition. The delegation included Maulana Tahir Ashrafi, Maulana Raghob Naeemi, Maulana

Zubair Fahim, Maulana Yousaf Kashmiri, Dr. Muhammad Asif Khan Qadri, Rajesh Kumar, Ramesh Singh Arora, and others. Senior officials from the AJK government were also present. PM Rathore particularly appreciated the participation of representatives from Sikh and Hindu communities, describing their presence as a symbol of unity and a promising future for the region.

## PM Sharif Launches Free Transport Service for Kashmiris in Muzaffarabad



**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has started providing free transport service for the Kashmiri people. On Wednesday, Chief Secretary Azad Jammu and Kashmir Khushal Khan inaugurated the free transport service in the capital Muzaffarabad. On this occasion, Commissioner Muzaffarabad Division Badar Munir, Deputy Commissioner Munir Ahmed Qureshi, Assistant Commissioner Hammad Bashir, transport owners and a large number of citizens were also present. In the first phase of providing free transport service, Suzuki service running on various routes has been made completely free for the people. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary Azad Kashmir Khushal Khan said that due to the increase in the prices of petroleum products in the context of the global situation, public transport has been made free for the citizens of Azad Kashmir like the rest of the country. This has been started today. The process of registration of transport is underway. The Government of Pakistan is providing subsidy in this regard so that the people can get convenience. He said that the administration, police and other relevant institutions should ensure the provision of free service. Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Muzaffarabad Division Badar Munir said that the administration has started free public transport service on various routes today.

## Neelum River Rescue: Alto Car Recovered, Search Continues for Missing Driver

**Bureau Report**

NEELUM: Rescue operation of District Disaster Management Authority Neelum. The District Disaster Management Authority Neelum team recovered the accident-hit Alto car from the Neelum River. According to In-charge District Disaster Management Authority Neelum Muhammad Akhtar Ayub, the rescue operation lasted more than 05 hours, in which the local population, as well as the police and the Pakistan Army, cooperated fully. As a result of the accident, 03 people were injured and were shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital, Athmuqam, for medical assistance during the rescue. As a result of the accident, the driver was swept away in the Neelum River, who is still missing. A search operation is underway to find the body. Chairman District Disaster Management Authority/Deputy Commissioner Chaudhry Iqbal Hassan and Superintendent of Police Raja Muhammad Bashir visited the injured in the Dawarian vehicle accident one by one and gave instructions to the staff of the District Headquarters Hospital for the treatment of the injured and also consoled the injured.



## Saghar Praises Pakistan for Brokering US-Iran Truce, Calls It Historic Achievement

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Acting President of the Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party, Mehmood Ahmed Saghar, has appreciated Pakistan's role in brokering a ceasefire between the United States and Iran.

Terming it a great diplomatic achievement for Pakistan, Saghar said that the tireless efforts made by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir helped avert a catastrophic war that could have unleashed destruction across the Middle East and Gulf states.

"Despite facing a myriad of challenges, Pakistan achieved what many believed was unachievable," he said, adding that the country's historic role in stopping war in the region has not only saved millions of lives but also prevented regional collapse.

He hoped that the 14-day truce would lead to a permanent settlement of all disputes between the warring parties.

The DFP leader also expressed optimism that peace efforts in the Middle East would eventually contribute to resolving other global disputes, including the long-standing Kashmir issue, which he said was the main cause and consequence of continued unrest and instability in South Asia.

## AJK PM Vows Priority Focus on Public Welfare, Especially Health and Education

**Special Correspondent.**

MUZAFFARABAD:

The Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has reaffirmed his government's commitment to prioritizing public welfare, particularly in the sectors of health and education. He made these assertions during a meeting with Minister for Housing and Physical Planning Chaudhry Yasir Sultan and Minister for Finance Chaudhry Muhammad Akhlaq who called on him here today. Emphasizing that the safety of human life is paramount, the prime minister stated that long-standing issues faced by the people of Mirpur would be addressed on a priority basis. He also assured that shortages of staff and infrastructure in Divisional Hospital Mirpur and the Kashmir Institute of Cardiology would be urgently addressed. The budget for emergency medical services, he said would be increased in line with population needs to ensure timely and effective healthcare delivery. During the meeting, the Minister for Housing and Physical Planning highlighted the issues faced by Mirpur Divisional Hospital, the Kashmir Institute of Cardiology, and rehabilitation of sub-families. In response, the Prime Minister assured that all concerns would be addressed on a priority basis. Reiterating his commitment, the Prime Minister stated that resolving the problems of Mirpur's residents remains a top priority. The PM told the minister that he would soon visit Mirpur personally to review the situation.



## Security arrangements

ISLAMABAD: Containers placed around Red-Zone area ahead of negotiations between the United States and Iran to end the war on Friday, in the Federal Capital. After U.S. Iran ceasefire a statement from Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's office said on Wednesday the Prime Minister called on the Iranian and U.S. delegations to travel to Islamabad on Friday to hold talks aimed at reaching a final agreement.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Peace delegates meet AJK Chief Secretary to discuss regional harmony

**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: A delegation of the National Peace Message Committee led by Maulana Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi met with Chief Secretary Azad Kashmir Khushal Khan. Inspector General of Police Azad Kashmir Captain (R) Liaquat Ali, Secretary Services and General Administration Chaudhry Imtiaz were also present on this occasion. On this occasion, Chief Secretary Azad Kashmir Khushal Khan said that Azad Kashmir is a peaceful region where there is a best example of sectarian unity and inter-faith harmony, which we witnessed during Muharram-ul-Haram. The delegation included Coordinator



National Peace Message Committee Maulana Tahir Ashrafi, Maulana Raghob Naeemi, Maulana Zubair Fahim, Maulana Yousaf Kashmiri, Dr.

Muhammad Asif Akbar Qadri, Maulana Ziaullah Shah Bukhari, Allama Arif Hussain Wahidi, Maulana Zahid Mansoor, Mufti Abdul Rahim, Allama Tauqeer Abbas, Mufti Usman, Rajesh Kumar, Ramesh Singh Arora and others. Chief Secretary Azad Kashmir Khushal Khan also answered the questions of the members of the delegation. Inspector General of Police Azad Kashmir Captain (ret'd) Liaquat Ali Malik, while briefing the delegation on the overall law and order situation in Azad Kashmir, said that in the name of religion, the peace of the region will not be allowed to be jeopardized and the law will not be taken into hands. Action will be taken against the violators as per the law.

## AJK Chief Election Commissioner directs impartiality in refugee electoral roll preparation

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner Azad Jammu and Kashmir Justice (ret'd) Ghulam Mustafa Mughal addressed the Provincial Election Commissioners, Regional Election Commissioners, District Election Commissioners and Appellate Authorities via video link at the central office of the Election Commission of Pakistan regarding the preparation of electoral rolls in the constituencies of refugees residing in Pakistan.

Member Election Commission Syed Nazir-ul-Hassan Gilani, Secretary Election Commission Raja



Muhammad Shakeel Khan, Special Secretary Election Commission of Pakistan and other officers were also present on the occasion.

The Chief Election Commissioner Azad Kashmir answered the ques-

tions of the registration officers posted for the constituencies of refugees residing in Pakistan regarding the preparation of electoral rolls and provided detailed guidance in this regard.

Addressing the registration officers, Justice (ret'd) Ghulam Mustafa Mughal said that clean, transparent and accurate electoral rolls are the basis of fair elections, holding free, fair and transparent elections is the top priority of the Election Commission.

He directed that the registration officers should ensure complete impartiality and transparency in the preparation of electoral rolls. He expressed his determination that with the cooperation of all registration officers, comprehensive and reliable voter lists will be compiled for the refugee constituencies, which will ensure transparency in the upcoming general elections 2026.

# Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif welcomes the ceasefire between the United States and Iran

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif welcomed the ceasefire between the United States and Iran and stated that she congratulates Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for their sincere and unparalleled efforts toward global peace. She further added that Allah Almighty has chosen Pakistan for the establishment of peace, and no amount of gratitude



Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif further said that Pakistan's sincere and

historic efforts for peace in the region and the world have made the impossible possible. She added that the leadership of the United States, Iran, and all Islamic countries deserve congratulations, whose efforts have brought peace to billions of people. She stated that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir have saved the world from a third world war. She remarked that Pakistan,

emerging after the "Battle for Truth," has become a central force for peace in the world. The Chief Minister expressed hope that Pakistan's sincere efforts will lead to lasting peace and that conflicts will be resolved through dialogue. She concluded that in the history of global peace, the names of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir will be written in golden words.

# Pakistani Christian Community Welcomes Middle East Ceasefire

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani Christian community has extended heartfelt congratulations to the global community on the recent ceasefire in the Middle East, terming it a significant and positive step towards lasting peace in the region. Senior Christian leader and Chairman of the Glory of God Foundation, Naveed Gill, stated that since the creation of Pakistan, the Christian community has always stood shoulder to shoulder with the nation and will continue to do so in the future. He emphasized that Pakistan's effective diplomacy and strategic military engagement have played a vital role in facilitating the ceasefire, elevating the country's stature on the global stage.

He further noted that the trend "Islam-

abad Talks" topping social media platform X reflects widespread international recognition of Pakistan's efforts. Users across the world have praised Pakistan's political and military leadership, calling the country an ambassador of peace. Naveed Gill added that global leaders have also acknowledged and appreciated Pakistan's constructive role as a mediator, which is a matter of national pride. He expressed hope that Pakistan will continue to contribute positively towards peace and stability in the region and beyond. He concluded by reaffirming that the Pakistani nation, particularly the Christian community, remains united for the country's progress, security, and promotion of a positive global image, and will always stand by the nation in challenging times.



# Bakhtawari Praises Sharif, Munir for Bridging Iran-US Tensions

ISLAMABAD: Patron-in-Chief of the Azerbaijan Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry and former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari stated that Pakistan's effective and timely diplomatic efforts, which led to a two-week temporary pause in regional tensions, represent a positive and encouraging step towards global peace. He expressed optimism that the expected Iran-US talks in Islamabad will play a key role in establishing lasting peace in the region. In his statement, he said that Prime Minister Mian Shehbaz

Sharif's prudent strategy and timely decisions were instrumental in achieving this important development, while Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's support in line with national policy, strategic foresight, and efforts for regional stability are also highly commendable. He added that strong coordination between the political and military leadership has further strengthened Pakistan's image as a responsible, effective, and peace-loving state on the global stage. Ahsan Bakhtawari noted that the willingness shown by US President Donald Trump and the leadership of Iran to agree on a temporary cease-

fire is a positive sign that reflects the importance of diplomatic dialogue. He emphasized that Pakistan's credibility and trust at the international level are increasing, and the country is emerging as an effective mediator capable of serving as a bridge between major global powers. He further stated that the easing of tensions has already begun to produce positive effects in global markets. The development has raised hopes for the normalization of trade routes, particularly stability in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital global passage for energy supply and international trade. The ceasefire is

expected to support the restoration of supply chains, promote trade and investment opportunities, and benefit Pakistan's business community as well as the global economy. He expressed hope that this two-week temporary ceasefire will serve as a foundation for a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire, and that the expected Iran-US negotiations in Islamabad will move forward with positive outcomes. He urged all parties to continue diplomatic engagement to ensure sustainable peace so that the region can progress towards stability, development, and prosperity.

# Investing in ECD Secures the Nation's Future: Dr. Siddiqui

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui stated that early childhood education and upbringing form the foundation of national development. According to him, quality education and positive nurturing during early years play a fundamental role in shaping children's personalities, cognitive development and future success. He further said that investment in this sector is in fact a guarantee of a strong and prosperous future with long-term positive impacts. He expressed these views

while addressing the closing ceremony of the 5th International Conference on "Early Childhood Development" held at Allama Iqbal Open University. On this occasion, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission, Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar said that early education is the foundation of a child's life and the stronger and higher-quality this foundation is the more confidently children will succeed in later stages of education. He added that the first ten years of life are extremely important for children's cognitive, social and emotional development, therefore providing quality education and posi-

tive upbringing during this period is essential. The Federal Minister and the HEC Chairman congratulated the organizers, especially the Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood on this important initiative. Director of the Pakistan Alliance for Early Childhood Development, Dr. Naem Zafar presented a comprehensive overview report of the conference. The Vice Chancellor of the Open University, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood presented the conference recommendations while Chairman of Rupani Foundation, Nasruddin Rupani, delivered the welcome note.

**What inspired you to start AE Power back in 2012?**

I went back to Pakistan in 2011. At that time, I think Pakistan was facing a huge crisis, especially an energy crisis. When I got back, all of my friends or classmates were asking me, "Why are you not connecting with the world, connecting with us? What's happening? Every time you're just blaming us, saying there's no power, there's no grid. So what is the issue? We are living in the 21st century, and you're talking about things like not having power. That means you must be living somewhere in Africa or some other country that doesn't have any power." I told them, "I'm telling you the truth, we do not have that much power." Because in those days when I came back, there was mostly 15 to 16 hours of load shedding in Pakistan. So when I returned in 2011, I bought a diesel generator for my home. Honestly speaking, at midnight when the grid was off, I had to wake up just to turn on my generator. Sometimes the kick or the self-start wasn't working well. During that time, I badly injured my elbow while trying to kick-start the generator. That's when I sat down and accepted the challenge from my friends and told them, "Look, I'm telling you the truth, I'm not lying." The reason for starting the solar journey came from the real situation of load shedding in Pakistan. Before that, I had no aim to stay in Pakistan permanently. But at that time, I decided I must stay in Pakistan, I must work for these people, because these are our studies and we had learned a lot about that. With new technology and new vision, we could do much, much more for the Pakistani market. So I started my solar business in 2012 with the name AE Power. That was the aim or the main concern that gave me the courage, that I must do something for this country, I must do something for our people. That was the beginning of the renewable energy business in 2012.

THE PULSE OF PROGRESS, POWERED BY AE  
**RANA ABBAS**  
CEO - AE POWER

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**WHY AE SOLAR?**

# of installation:

**1500+**

# of MW:

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Established Since:

**2012**

LOCAL BANK PARTNERS:  
MEEZAN ISLAMIC, ALFALAH ISLAMIC, HABIB METROPOLITAN  
ASKARI ISLAMIC, MCB, JS BANK, HBFC

**Overview**

AE Solar was founded in 2012 by Mr. Rana Abbas, who recognized the need for reliable and sustainable energy solutions in Pakistan. Since then, the company has grown to become a leading importer and distributor of solar products in the country, serving thousands of customers across various industries.

AE Solar is a leading renewable energy trading company that specializes in the import and distribution of high quality solar products in Pakistan. With a turnover of over 10 billion in the last year, AE Solar is committed to providing innovative and sustainable energy solutions to homes and businesses across the country.

**A Strategic Fusion for Sustainable Energy**

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almass Ayoub Sabir**  
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**  
 Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**  
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**  
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Khurram Jaffrani**  
 (jaffrani@adpluse.pk)  
**Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**  
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)  
 Bureau Chief Lahore:  
**Head Office:** AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.  
 spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com  
**Phone:** +92 51 2227123,  
**WhatsApp** +92 346 5008408  
**Karachi office:** A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,  
 Karachi Phone: 021-33399390  
 Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com  
**Lahore Office:** 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town.  
 spokesmanlahore@gmail.com  
 Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

# Pakistan's Diplomacy Redefines the Iran War

The world stood on the edge of an unimaginable catastrophe on April 7, when Donald J. Trump issued a chilling ultimatum—warning that an entire civilization, rooted in over 5,000 years of history and home to more than 90 million people, could be reduced to ashes within hours. The threat was not merely rhetorical; it carried the weight of military capability that could have ignited a chain reaction of destruction across the Middle East and beyond. The potential consequences were staggering: regional collapse, global economic paralysis, mass displacement, and a humanitarian disaster of historic proportions.

Yet, at the very brink of this abyss, diplomacy intervened—not from the traditional centers of global power, but from an unexpected quarter. The leadership of Pakistan, spearheaded by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir, emerged as a decisive force that altered the course of events. Through persistent engagement, strategic persuasion, and calibrated diplomacy, they succeeded in securing a two-week ceasefire—an outcome that many had deemed impossible just hours earlier.

This intervention was not merely symbolic; it was transformative. It demonstrated that even in a world dominated by military alliances and power politics, thoughtful diplomacy could still prevail. Convincing a leader like Trump—known for his unpredictability and reliance on a narrow circle of trusted advisors, including Benjamin Netanyahu—required not only courage but exceptional diplomatic finesse. Pakistan's leadership managed to introduce a

moment of reflection into a rapidly escalating crisis, effectively pulling the world back from the brink.

At the same time, Iran's role in this confrontation cannot be overlooked. Despite facing sustained military pressure from both the United States and Israel since the escalation began on February 28, Iran demonstrated a remarkable capacity for resilience. Its ability to defend its territory, maintain operational coherence, and respond strategically underscored its position as a formidable regional power. Tehran's actions were not limited to defense; they included calibrated offensive measures that signaled its capability to impose costs on its adversaries while avoiding uncontrolled escalation.

Iran's proposed 10-point peace plan became a critical turning point in this unfolding crisis. While not fully aligned with U.S. expectations, it nonetheless provided a framework for dialogue. Key elements included the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz under coordinated oversight, the lifting of sanctions, the release of frozen assets, and the establishment of secure transit protocols. Though some demands—such as compensation payments and complete U.S. military withdrawal from the region—were seen as unlikely to be accepted, the proposal itself created diplomatic space where none previously existed.

This initiative allowed the United States to recalibrate its position. By agreeing to a two-week ceasefire, Trump effectively created a face-saving exit

from a conflict that had grown increasingly complex and costly. What was initially projected as a swift and decisive campaign had instead evolved into a protracted confrontation with no clear endgame. The ceasefire provided Washington with an opportunity to step back without appearing to concede defeat—a crucial consideration in both domestic and international political contexts.

For the broader Middle East, the implications were profound. Regional states, many of which had found themselves caught between competing pressures, were granted a reprieve. Their infrastructure—already strained by strikes on energy facilities, transport networks, and desalination plants—now had a chance to recover. Economically, the stabilization of the Strait of Hormuz, through which a significant portion of global oil supply flows, helped ease immediate fears of a global energy crisis.

Israel, however, faces a different set of lessons. The assumption that it could operate as the unchallenged military authority in the region has been fundamentally questioned. Iran's response demonstrated that it possesses not only the will but also the capability to counter Israeli and allied actions across multiple domains—military, strategic, and diplomatic. The conflict has revealed that the balance of power in the Middle East is more complex than previously assumed.

Moreover, the discourse surrounding extreme military options—including discussions in some policy circles about the potential use of tactical nuclear

weapons—highlighted the dangerous trajectory the conflict had taken. Such considerations underscored the urgency of diplomatic intervention and reinforced the importance of restraint. The ceasefire, therefore, was not just a pause in hostilities; it was a critical interruption of a path that could have led to irreversible consequences.

Pakistan's role in achieving this outcome marks a significant moment in its diplomatic history. Traditionally viewed through a regional lens, Pakistan has now demonstrated its capacity to influence global events. By facilitating dialogue between adversaries and advocating for de-escalation, it positioned itself as a credible mediator in one of the most volatile conflicts of the modern era. This achievement reflects not only political will but also a deep understanding of geopolitical dynamics.

Iran, on its part, emerges from this phase of the conflict with renewed confidence. Its ability to withstand coordinated pressure from two powerful adversaries and still engage in diplomacy reinforces its image as a resilient and sovereign state. The narrative of capitulation has been replaced with one of endurance and strategic patience.

For the United States, the ceasefire offers an opportunity for introspection. The conflict highlighted the limitations of military solutions in addressing complex geopolitical challenges. It also exposed the risks associated with being drawn into regional disputes that do not directly threaten core national interests. By stepping back, Washington can reassess its approach and potentially realign its strategy toward more sustainable forms of engagement.

*Continued on Page 7*



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## President Welcomes Cease-Fire in Gulf Conflict

President Asif Ali Zardari has welcomed the ceasefire reached this morning between the United States and Iran, terming it a timely step that offers space for dialogue, restraint and a more stable regional environment.

The President said that Pakistan had consistently worked, in good faith, for de-escalation. "We did it for the region and in the greater good of humanity at large, when the world was perilously close to a grave disaster," he remarked, adding that peace remains essential for security, economic stability and the well-being of people across interconnected regions.

He said Pakistan is proud to have led with wisdom, resolve and a steadfast commitment to peace, and expressed appreciation for the leadership of Iran and the United States for stepping back from the brink and choosing dialogue over devastation. He also commended the tireless efforts of the leadership in Washington, Tehran and Islamabad and Gulf countries especially Saudi Arabia in creating the space for de-escalation and diplomacy to prevail.

The President also commended the relentless efforts of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, COAS & Chief of Defence Forces, and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar for their initiative, leadership and sustained diplomatic engagement that contributed to advancing Pakistan's efforts for de-escalation and peace.

The President appreciated all concerned for demonstrating pragmatism, flexibility and statesmanship in reaching this understanding, noting that such outcomes require political will and a willingness to priorities engagement over confrontation.

He also acknowledged and thanked brotherly countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Qatar, Egypt and other GCC countries for their support and constructive role in encouraging calm and dialogue during a difficult period.

He further noted that prayers and goodwill from people across the world, reflected a shared human desire for peace. "This collective voice matters and should continue to guide leaders towards responsible choices," he said.

The President emphasized that the ceasefire offers a critical opening for the region to breathe, recover and turn away from the shadow of a wider war.

He reaffirmed that the ceasefire should now be consolidated through sustained dialogue, confidence-building and a clear commitment to peaceful resolution, reiterating Pakistan's support for all efforts that advance peace, stability and mutual respect.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashfaq Al-Awzat)

## Mahrang Baloch's Solitary Confinement

Mahrang Baloch's article in The Guardian is a deliberate manipulation aimed at generating sympathy for a cause that has caused death, misery, and underdevelopment in Balochistan. She writes of extreme isolation, mental and physical decline, and emotional suffering, highlighting resilience through books, routines, and political conviction. Yet her ability to write and publish such an article from a Pakistani jail contradicts claims of solitary confinement, which by definition denies prisoners meaningful access to communication, writing materials, or platforms for political expression. Pakistani law forbids prisoners from engaging in political activities, making her access to international publication a sign of privilege rather than repression. Observers in Balochistan recognize that her detention was comfortable, exposing a fundamental inconsistency in her account, and her depiction of suffering is undermined by the liberties she enjoyed while claiming to be a victim of extreme isolation.

Her writings attempt to present her imprisonment as emblematic of a struggle against human rights abuses, enforced disappearances, and state oppression, asserting that her movement is entirely peaceful. This collapses under scrutiny, as she is aligned with the Baloch Liberation Army, a proscribed terrorist organization responsible for bombings, ambushes, and attacks on civilians and development projects. By failing to condemn these attacks and labeling the perpetrators as freedom fighters, she provides moral cover for terrorism, disregarding the rights of ordinary civilians, commuters, and children. Incidents of alleged enforced disappearances often involved armed insurgents or convicts, and the Pakistani state has the right and duty to detain and prosecute threats to national security. The refusal to condemn attacks like the Jaffer Express massacre, while criticizing

the state, effectively encourages further violence. Meanwhile, counterterrorism efforts by Pakistan's law enforcement have improved security, reopened schools, and restored markets, providing ordinary citizens safety and stability that her account ignores, while the sacrifices of soldiers and police defending civilians go unmentioned, exposing her portrayal of Balochistan as a fantasy of peaceful repression rather than the reality of ongoing conflict and gradual improvement.

The people of Balochistan are not the passive, manipulated masses that Mahrang Baloch's article suggests. They are thinking, discerning citizens who have watched the trajectory of their province with their own eyes. And increasingly, they are drawing their own conclusions, conclusions that run directly counter to the narrative she is trying to sell. Many sensible Baloch are beginning to think that if solitary confinement of the kind Mahrang Baloch claims to have endured is what it takes to bring peace, then perhaps such measures are not as bad as the foreign human rights industry makes them out to be. This is not a celebration of torture; it is a recognition of a simple trade-off. A society that tolerates a certain level of militant violence is a society that will never develop, never attract investment, and never provide its children with a future. A society that firmly and consistently applies its laws to those who would destroy it from within is a society that can eventually move past violence and into prosperity. The people of Balochistan have seen the alternative to state action. They have lived through the years when the insurgency was at its peak, and they have no desire to return to those dark days. They understand that the rights of the many cannot be held hostage by the grievances of the few, and that a so-called activist who refuses to condemn the murder of civilians is not an activist at all but an accessory after the fact. This growing sentiment of solidarity with Pakistan and its armed forces is not the result of coercion or propaganda.

It is the organic result of lived experience. When a father sees his daughter able to attend university without fear of a bomb blast, he credits the security forces. When a businessman sees a new road being built that connects his town to the national grid, he credits the federal government. When a tribal elder sees that the young men of his community are no longer being lured into militancy by foreign-funded propaganda, he credits the collective efforts of a nation that has refused to give up on its most troubled province.

The article by Mahrang Baloch in The Guardian, for all its literary flourishes and emotional appeals, is destined to fail in its primary objective. It cannot and will not sow the seeds of division and hate in Pakistan in general or in Balochistan specifically, because the ground upon which those seeds would need to fall is no longer fertile. The people have seen too much, endured too much, and learned too much to be misled by a narrative that collapses under the slightest scrutiny. They know that writing an article from jail is not evidence of oppression but evidence of privilege. They know that refusing to condemn terrorism is not a sign of moral consistency but a sign of moral bankruptcy. They know that the improvement in their daily lives is not an illusion but a hard-won achievement bought with the blood of Pakistani soldiers and the perseverance of Pakistani civilians. Mahrang Baloch may have succeeded in gaining a platform in the Western media, where ignorance of Balochistan's complexities is deep and the appetite for anti-state narratives is insatiable. But she has not succeeded in convincing the people she claims to speak for. They have rejected her lies, they have rejected her sympathizers, and they have chosen instead the difficult, slow, and often imperfect path of national solidarity, economic development, and a future in which Baloch children can dream not of guns and martyrdom, but of schools, careers, and a peaceful life within the embrace of a united Pakistan. The article is a lie, a failed attempt, and a historical footnote. The resilience of Balochistan and its people, and their unbreakable bond with the rest of Pakistan, is the only truth that will endure.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

## Rising Conflicts Threaten Global Stability

In today's interconnected world the rise of conflicts poses a significant threat to global stability. These conflicts can arise from various sources, including political tensions, territorial disputes, economic competition and sectarian violence, among others. As these conflicts escalate, they have the potential to disrupt regional and international peace, undermine economic development exacerbate human suffering. Therefore, it is crucial to understand the root causes of these conflicts, their impact on global stability to address and mitigate these rising threats.

Conflicts stem from various factors, including political, economic, social, and environmental issues. Political disputes over power, control, and governance often result in unrest and violence within and between countries. Economic disparities, such as unequal distribution of resources and lack of opportunities, can also fuel conflicts as marginalized groups seek to address their grievances.

Social divisions based on ethnicity, religion or ideology contribute to tension and animosity, leading to violence. Environmental factors like competition over scarce resources, climate change impacts, and natural disasters can exacerbate existing conflicts or trigger new ones.

One of the primary drivers of rising conflicts threatening global stability is geopolitical competition among major powers. In recent years, geopolitical tensions between the United States, China, and Russia have intensified, leading to rivalries in various regions such as the South China

Sea, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East.

These power struggles not only increase the risk of military confrontation but also contribute to the erosion of international norms and institutions, such as the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. Furthermore, the proliferation of advanced military technologies, including cyber warfare and hypersonic missiles, has raised the stakes in these competitions, making conflicts more dangerous and unpredictable.

Another source of conflict that jeopardizes global stability is the resurgence of ethno-nationalism and identity politics. Across different parts of the world, ethnic, religious, and tribal divisions have fueled violent conflicts, leading to mass displacement, human rights abuses, and humanitarian crises. The rise of populist leaders who exploit these divisions for political gain further exacerbates these tensions, undermining social cohesion and fostering extremism. In countries like Myanmar, Syria and Nigeria ethnic and religious conflicts have resulted in widespread violence and humanitarian suffering posing challenges to regional and international security.

The escalation of conflicts has far-reaching implications for global stability. Regional conflicts can spill over borders, threatening neighboring countries and creating ripple effects across entire regions. International peace and security are compromised when conflicts escalate, leading to diplomatic tensions, peacekeeping interventions, and humanitarian crises. The disruption of economic activities due to conflicts hampers

*Continued on Page 7*



Analysis

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

# Chairman Senate highlights Pakistan's diplomatic role, tourism potential at PTM 2026

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Wednesday said that Pakistan is in the limelight owing to its proactive and effective diplomacy in recent regional crises and the Iran-US standoff, which has further strengthened the country's standing at the international level.

Addressing the National Tourism Dialogue held in connection with the Pakistan Travel Mart 2026, he said Pakistan has played a constructive and responsible role in global affairs, contributing to regional peace and stability through sustained diplomatic engagement.

The Chairman Senate highlighted that tourism holds immense potential to drive Pakistan's economic growth, enhance its global image, and promote national cohesion.

He also commended Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan for his dedicated efforts in organizing the dialogue and advancing



the tourism agenda in the country.

He remarked that the theme of PTM 2026, "Shaping the Future of Travel: Innovation, Sustainability, and Global Connectivity," reflects Pakistan's commitment to aligning with emerging global tourism trends.

Praising the public-private partnership model of PTM, he described it as a successful example of collabora-

tion between the government and the private sector, which is essential for fostering sustainable growth, innovation, and investment in the tourism industry.

He warmly welcomed international delegates from Azerbaijan, Malaysia, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and other countries, as well as repre-

sentatives of global tourism organizations. He noted that increasing international participation is a testament to growing global confidence in Pakistan's tourism potential.

He congratulated the organizers, partners, and participants on the successful convening of Pakistan Travel Mart 2026 and reaffirmed his commitment, as Chairman Senate, to fully support legislative and policy initiatives aimed at promoting tourism and positioning Pakistan prominently on the global tourism map.

Mr. Aftab Ur Rehman Rana, Managing Director, PTDC, stated that PTDC remains committed to promoting Pakistan's tourism through strategic initiatives and international engagement, adding that PTM 2026 created valuable opportunities

On this occasion, Member of the Provincial Assembly Punjab Syed Ali Haider Gillani and Adviser to the Chairman Senate and Ambassador to ISC, Misbah Khar were also present.

Message from WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Hanan Balkhy on World Health Day



World Health Day 2026 calls on all of us to stand with science. Science is the cornerstone of everything we do in health. It helps us understand diseases, develop vaccines and treatments and deliver care more efficiently and affordably – making services equitable and accessible. It enables better evidence-based decisions and helps protect communities from the growing health risks linked to conflict and climate change. This year's theme – "Together for health. Stand with science" – reminds us that evidence alone is not enough. We need trust, cooperation and sustained investment to turn knowledge into action. Across our Region, health workers and scientists are working every day, often in difficult conditions, to save lives and strengthen systems, supported by

WHO's global network of over 800 collaborating centres. On this World Health Day, let's stand with science for a healthier, safer future for all.

Pakistan's Educational Diplomacy Reaches Historic New Heights at EURIE 2026, Istanbul



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan marked a significant milestone in global academic engagement at the Eurasia Higher Education Summit (EURIE) 2026 held in Istanbul, where the country emerged as a confident and forward-looking voice in international higher education.

The summit, one of the world's leading academic gatherings, brought together representatives from 61 countries, including more than 380 universities and higher education institutions, alongside ministers, policymakers, and academic leaders. Against this global backdrop, Pakistan's presence stood out for its clarity of vision and strategic engagement.

A high-powered delegation led by the Association of Private Sector Universities of Pakistan comprised 42 members representing 17 leading universities, along with participation from the OIC-COMSTTECH. This coordinated representation reflected Pakistan's growing confidence and collective strength in the higher education sector.

A defining highlight of the summit was the keynote address delivered by Prof. Dr. Sumaira Rehman, Rector of Superior University and Commission Member of the Higher Education Commission Pakistan. As the sole female keynote speaker at the inauguration, she presented a compelling narrative of Pakistan's academic progress and global outlook.

Her message "Pakistan has a compelling story to tell", resonated strongly with the international audience. She emphasized that while technical competence remains important, the future of higher education must prioritize the development of ethical, responsible leaders. Highlighting Pakistan's innovative approach, she introduced the "Leading with Character" framework, advocating for a values-based education system that integrates moral responsibility with academic excellence.

Her address was widely appreciated for its depth and originality, positioning Pakistan as a thought leader in shaping future global education discourse.

Following the keynote, a high-level meeting was held between the Pakistani delegation and Prof. Dr. Erol Özvar, President of the Council of Higher Education (YÖK). The discussions focused on strengthening Pakistan-Türkiye cooperation through educational diplomacy and expanding collaboration in research, innovation, and mobility programs.

Both sides explored opportunities for joint research initiatives, faculty and student exchanges, and technology transfer. Prof. Dr. Özvar also invited Pakistani institutions to participate in Türkiye's 500 Research Projects Initiative, opening new avenues for deeper academic collaboration.

The engagement further included an invitation extended by APSUP leadership for a high-level visit to Pakistan, signalling continued momentum in bilateral academic relations.

Pakistan's participation also gained recognition from broader international leadership. Senior representatives from Arab and Eurasian academic organizations appreciated the country's constructive role and expressed interest in building long-term partnerships with Pakistani institutions.

# Hamdard Shura Karachi Addresses Global Woes and Mental Well-being

Bureau Report

KARACHI: A meeting of Hamdard Shura Karachi was held at Hamdard Corporate Head Office, Bahria Town Tower, Tariq Road, Karachi, under the chairmanship of the Speaker Hamdard Shura, Lt. Gen. (R) Moinuddin Haider. The meeting was hosted by Ms. Sadia Rashid (Hilal-e-Imtiaz), President of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan, and was attended by a large number of distinguished members.

Addressing the meeting, Lt. Gen. (R) Moinuddin Haider stated that the ongoing global war situation has affected Pakistan just like the rest of the world. There has been an extraordinary increase in petroleum and gas prices, resulting in rising inflation, and in some countries even leading to fuel rationing. Despite these challenges, Pakistan has managed the situation with prudence and effective strategy.

Prof. Dr. Raza ur Rahman, Dean, Faculty of Health and medical sciences



HU & Eminent Psychiatrist spoke on human psychology and mental health. He stated that the quality of a person's life is determined by their actions and behavior. Individuals who contribute positively and create ease for others achieve a sense of fulfillment and generativity, while those who merely

pass time fall into despair.

Dr. Raza added that a positive mental attitude enables individuals to overcome challenges, whereas prolonged stress adversely affects decision-making and overall quality of life. He stressed the importance of promoting awareness about mental

health in society.

Senior journalist Mubasher Mir, while expressing his views, stated that media and social media play a highly significant role in today's era. However, the spread of unverified information and fake news is increasing anxiety and mental stress in society. He emphasized the need for responsible journalism and the provision of authentic information, and also urged government institutions to ensure timely and accurate communication systems to curb misinformation.

Distinguished participants of the meeting included Col. (R) Mukhtar Ahmed Butt, Commodore (R) Sadeed Anwar Malik, Prof. Dr. Khalida Ghaur, Senator Abdul Haseeb Khan, Prof. Dr. Iqbal Khalid, Justice Zia Pervaz, Iqbal Hassan Rizvi, Anwar H. Siddiqui, Rizwan Ahmed, Syed Muzaffer Ejaz, Mubashir Mir, Dr. Imran Amin (Vice Chancellor, Hamdard University), Brig. (R) Dr. Riiazul Haq, and Zafar Iqbal.

# Pakistan's Peace Doctrine

At a time when global tensions have kept the world on edge, Pakistan has emerged as a significant voice for peace and stability. The country's troika leadership, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, and Field Marshal Asim Munir has drawn widespread recognition for its proactive and effective diplomacy. Their coordinated efforts have not only elevated Pakistan's standing on the international stage but have also contributed meaningfully toward de-escalation and the pursuit of peace.

In recent months, the international community has witnessed a surge in conflicts that threatened to spiral into wider regional or even global crises. Amid this uncertainty, Pakistan adopted a balanced and pragmatic approach, leveraging its diplomatic channels to engage with key stakeholders. The leadership demonstrated

maturity and foresight by prioritizing dialogue over confrontation, advocating restraint, and emphasizing peaceful resolution of disputes.

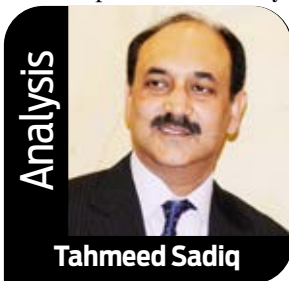
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's political leadership has been instrumental in shaping Pakistan's diplomatic tone. By maintaining active engagement with world leaders and international organizations, he has reinforced Pakistan's commitment to peace and cooperation. Meanwhile, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister played a pivotal role in executing this vision on the diplomatic front holding crucial discussions, building consensus, and presenting Pakistan as a credible mediator.

Complementing these efforts, Field Marshal Asim Munir's strategic

insight ensured that Pakistan's security perspective remained aligned with its diplomatic objectives. His leadership underscored the importance of stability, not just within Pakistan but across the broader region. This civil-military harmony strengthened

Pakistan's ability to present a unified and coherent stance to the world.

What makes this achievement particularly noteworthy is the perception it has created globally. Pakistan is increasingly being seen not merely as a participant in international affairs, but as a responsible actor capable of influencing outcomes positively. The "drumbeat" of praise echoing around the world reflects this shift, a recognition of Pakistan's constructive role in diffusing tensions and preventing further escalation.



Analysis

Tahmeed Sadiq

## The Hour of Diplomacy

# Pakistan's Historic Hand in Turning War into a Ceasefire

In a world trembling under the shadow of conflict, where tensions between Iran and the United States threatened to spiral into a catastrophic war, a remarkable chapter has been written – not by the powerful, but by the responsible. That chapter belongs to Pakistan.

Against all odds, and in a geopolitical environment filled with mistrust, Pakistan stepped forward as a credible and courageous mediator. Through relentless diplomatic engagement, quiet negotiations, and firm commitment to peace, Pakistan played a decisive role in securing a two-week ceasefire between Iran and the United States – a breakthrough that has given the world a moment to breathe.

This is not merely a diplomatic success. It is a statement – a declaration that Pakistan is no longer just a participant in global affairs, but a leader

shaping them.

At the heart of this success stands the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose measured diplomacy and steady resolve ensured that Pakistan's voice was heard and respected on the global stage. His commitment to dialogue over destruction, and diplomacy over division, reflects a statesman who understands that true leadership lies in preventing war, not merely managing it.

Equally pivotal was the role of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, whose deep experience in international relations and tireless engagement with global stakeholders strengthened Pakistan's credibility as a mediator. His strategic diplomacy ensured that Pakistan remained a bridge – not a battleground – between conflicting powers.

On the security and strategic front,

the leadership of Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Asim Munir, added immense weight to Pakistan's position. His role in ensuring internal stability, strategic clarity, and a unified national front was instrumental. In moments where the world needed assurance, Pakistan stood firm – disciplined, composed, and ready to contribute to global peace.

This collective effort reflects a rare harmony between civilian leadership and military leadership – a unity that transformed Pakistan into a voice of reason in one of the most volatile global crises of recent times.

Global powers, international media, and diplomatic circles are now acknowl-

edging Pakistan's constructive role. Perhaps most notably, even India – often a rival on the geopolitical stage – has expressed appreciation for Pakistan's mediation. This acknowledgment is not just symbolic; it represents a shift in perception. It signals that Pakistan's diplomatic credibility is rising beyond regional rivalries into global recognition.

Firstly, Pakistan has repositioned itself as a peace broker in a deeply polarized world. Nations in conflict may now look toward Islamabad not as a peripheral player, but as a potential mediator capable of bridging divides.

Secondly, this moment enhances Pakistan's diplomatic capital. In inter-

national forums such as the United Nations and beyond, Pakistan's voice will carry greater weight, backed by its proven ability to facilitate dialogue in high-stakes conflicts.

Thirdly, the economic and strategic implications are equally significant. Stability in the Middle East directly impacts global energy markets, and Pakistan's role in easing tensions contributes to regional and global economic stability. This opens doors for stronger international partnerships, trade opportunities, and investment prospects.

But perhaps the most powerful outcome is intangible – the restoration of national pride. For a nation often portrayed through the lens of challenges, this achievement paints a different picture: a Pakistan that is capable, responsible, and indispensable.

The world is talking about Pakistan

– not for conflict, but for peace. Not for division, but for unity. Not for instability, but for leadership.

History will remember this moment not just as a ceasefire, but as a turning point – when Pakistan stepped forward and the world stepped back from the brink.

In an era where leadership is often measured by power, Pakistan has demonstrated that true power lies in the ability to prevent war, to heal divisions, and to create space for dialogue where silence of peace replaces the roar of conflict.

This is Pakistan's moment. And if this path continues, the world may well see Pakistan not just as a nation among many – but as a guiding force for peace in the 21st century.

The writer is Senior Politician and Currently Serve as a Member National Assembly



Analysis

Ijaz ul Haq

**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
165,811.00	151,673.45	
Day's High	Day's Low	
165,924.13	162,956.76	
Index Value	Change	
44,931,399,145	+14137.55	
Percentage	Time	
+9.32%	7 Apr, 2026 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
10,608.88	+260.09	
Percentage	Time	
+2.51%	8 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
47,821.23	+1,236.77	
Percentage	Time	
+2.65%	8 Apr, 1:14 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
56,308.42	+2,878.86	
Percentage	Time	
+5.39%	8 Apr, 3:45 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Australian Dollar	195.05	198.10
Australian Dollar	194.1	201.29
Bahrain Dinar	726.15	741.01
Canadian Dollar	199.46	208.84
China Yuan	36.45	37.55
Danish Krone	43.25	43.65
Euro	321.65	326.05
Hong Kong Dollar	35.06	36.06
Indian Rupee	2.03	2.27
Japanese Yen	1.7210	1.8199
Kuwaiti Dinar	877.00	888.35
Malaysian Ringgit	65.25	66.45
New Zealand \$	157.14	162.25
Norwegians Krone	27.65	27.95
Omani Riyal	720.85	731.90
Qatari Riyal	71.21	72.50
Saudi Riyal	74.5	75.7
Singapore Dollar	215.07	220.50
Swedish Korona	30.20	30.50
Swiss Franc	355	358.85
Thai Bhat	8	8.15
U.A.E Dirham	76.2	77.3
UK Pound Sterling	375.23	380.74
US Dollar	279.00	280.10

**Press Conference**

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan talking to media after a meeting at FPCCI to discuss the situation after Iran-US ceasefire.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

**Chery Master Pakistan to Launch Tiggo 7 PHEV on April 10**



**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Chery Master Pakistan is all set to launch its C-segment 5-seater plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV), the Tiggo 7, in Pakistan on April 10, as the company expands its locally assembled new energy vehicle portfolio, building Pakistan's largest CKD PHEV lineup, and intensifies competition in the SUV

market. The company said the Tiggo 7 PHEV will be offered as a locally assembled (CKD) model from the outset, with deliveries targeted within June 2026, subject to booking volumes. The launch comes at a time of rising fuel prices in Pakistan, with the company positioning the Tiggo 7 PHEV as a technologically advanced and cost-efficient mobility solution. It said the vehicle can reduce fuel costs by over 70% compared to conventional petrol SUVs when used in pure electric mode for daily driving, while also contributing to lower fuel imports and reduced dependence on imported energy.

**Mian Zahid Hussain Welcomes US-Israel-Iran Ceasefire**

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Mian Zahid Hussain, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum & All Karachi Industrial Alliance, Chairman National Business Group Pakistan, Chairman Policy Advisory Board FPCCI, and Former Provincial Minister Information Technology, has hailed the announcement of a two-week ceasefire between the United States, Israel, and Iran as a landmark victory for global stability and a testament to the effective mediation of Pakistan's leadership. Speaking to the business community today, he expressed profound relief that the 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time deadline for a

major military escalation was averted following intensive diplomatic efforts by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Field Marshal Asim Munir, and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar. He emphasized that the "Islamabad Talks," scheduled to begin this Friday, April 10, 2026, offer a historic opportunity to transition from a two-week pause to a permanent and sustainable peace agreement. He also noted that similar to its role as a bridge between the US and China in 1971, Pakistan has once again emerged as a peacekeeper between the US and Iran, contributing to global peace and prosperity, which has immortalized the names of Prime Minister Mian Shabaz Sharif, Field Marshal Asim

Munir, and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar in the annals of world history. Mian Zahid Hussain noted that the impact of the ceasefire on global markets was immediate and dramatic. Following the agreement to reopen the Strait of Hormuz—through which 20% of the world's oil and LNG flows—international oil prices have plunged. Brent crude, which had spiked toward \$110 per barrel, dropped 15% to approximately \$93, while US stock market futures surged by over 1.5% and Pakistan stock market surged with 12,000 points. He remarked that this de-escalation has saved the global economy from a projected 1 percentage point loss in GDP growth and



prevented a "dark age" scenario that threatened to cripple international energy security and supply chains.

**SECP Approves IPO of Wahdat Poultry Farm Limited**

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has approved the issuance and publication of the prospectus for the Initial Public Offering (IPO) of Wahdat Poultry Farm Limited.

The offering comprises 50,000,000 (50 Million) new ordinary shares along with an offer for sale of 3,102,350 shares of Wahdat Poultry Farms, representing 15.84% of the company's post-IPO paid-up capital.

It underscores the resilience of Pakistan's capital markets, with the Pakistan Stock Exchange continuing to attract new IPOs despite ongoing economic chal-

lenges and unrest in the region. Wahdat Poultry Farm Limited is a vertically integrated poultry business engaged in the production, grading, packaging, and nationwide distribution of eggs under its brand "Farm Fresh Eggs," with an established presence in both domestic and export markets. The IPO will be conducted through the book building method, where 70% of the shares will be offered to institutional investors and high-net-worth individuals, while the remaining 30% will be available to retail investors. This approval shows strong IPO market activity, with this being the 8th IPO in FY 2025-26 and reflecting growing confidence in capital markets for raising funds.

**JICA and Children's Hospital Multan Sign Key Agreement to Enhance Pediatric Healthcare in South Punjab**

**Special Correspondent**

MULTAN: A consultant signing ceremony for a major development project supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was held at the Children's Hospital Multan, marking a significant milestone in efforts to improve child healthcare services in South Punjab. The agreement between JICA and the Children's Complex Multan was formally signed under the supervision of Dean Professor Dr. Kashif Chishti.

The project, titled "Improvement of Pediatric Healthcare Facilities in South Punjab," includes the construction of a new building aimed at expanding and modernizing healthcare services for children. The ceremony was attended by Commissioner Multan Division Aamir Karim Khan as the chief guest, while Deputy Commissioner Multan Muhammad Nauman Siddique participated

as the guest of honor. Medical Superintendent Dr. Kamran, along with senior faculty members including Professor Waqar Imran and Professor Sohail Arshad, as well as doctors and nursing staff, were also present on the occasion. The JICA delegation included Japanese consultants Mr. Teradayoshi Tsumoto (Team Leader), Mr. Kohei Nishikawa, and Mr. Minoru Yamashita, who attended the ceremony. Under this initiative, practical steps will now be taken to enhance pediatric healthcare services in South Punjab, ensuring the provision of modern medical facilities at the Children's Complex Multan. The ceremony concluded with the formal signing of the agreement, followed by a cake-cutting event attended by Commissioner Multan, the Dean, Deputy Commissioner, and members of the JICA team.

**Honoured to receive The Leader Ship Award on the occasion of historical International Women day from LCCI President Faheem-Ur-Rehman Saigol. Says by Nina Khan (Mashriqi) great humanitarian, Social Worker and Businesswomen National and International scale**



Nina Khan ( Mashriqi), a British Pakistani Humanitarian, Social Worker, and Businesswomen was recently invited to attend the ceremony of The International Women Day held at the Lahore Chambers of Commerce International, hosted by Faheem-Ur-Saigol, President (LCCI) and Firdous Nisar supported by the LCCI board members and various regional dignitaries including the Consul General of Turkiya, Mohammad Aimon, Salma Sadia Taimoor, Parlimani Secretary Women Development Punjab, Yaseen Joya, Consul General (Sri Lanka), SVP LCCI Tanveer Ahmed Sheikh and VP LCCI Khurram Lodhi.

At the ceremony Nina Khan received the prestigious Leadership Award from LCCI President Faheem-Ur-Saigol. The awards were also distributed among the other deserving ladies. On this occasion renowned Social Worker and British National Nina Raniya Mashriqi thanked the LCCI President Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol and other



distinguished guests. Nina Khan thanked the host and the guests present at this prestigious award ceremony acknowledged she was delighted to be the recipient of best Leadership Award on this historical International Women Day. Nina Khan has received a number of International and British awards primarily for her contributions and achievements in Humanitarian and Business Operations including being the proud recipient of the "Outstanding Business Excellence" Award (South East Asia), in Dhaka -2022

Also she is the recipient of the "100 Top Powerful Women Award" in South East Asia held in Dhaka/Bangladesh by the Bangladesh High Commissioner—attended by 500 guests in the prestigious 5 Star Pan Pacific Hotel. Other Awards to her credit include The British Excellence Award—

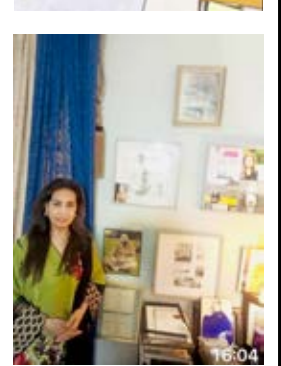


Influential Woman Award—By UK Press Association 2024 and many numerous other awards by recognised celebrities and organisations for her dedication to humanity and mankind.

Nina Khan, a remarkable woman was honored with the award for her outstanding contributions for both humanitarian work and Business Excellence at the International Women's Day celebration.

Nina Khan Mashriqi's dedication to uplifting communities is truly commendable, exemplifies the spirit of generosity and collaboration embodied by this year's theme. Numerous Women have been recognised globally for their tireless efforts in promoting gender equality, education and community development and community well being and inspiring motivating and working towards creating a more just equitable and supportive world.

Nina Khan Mashriqi who is the grand daughter of the world renowned Islamic Scholar and Mathematician Allama Mashriqi has recently returned to Pakistan to pursue her vision of reviving and preserving the legacy of her grandfather. In UK under the organisation all Pakistani Physician and Surgeon Association UK she was awarded The Outstanding Excellence Award for the "Restoration Of



Vision project in UK-June 2025

Where under her leadership she helped raised funds to carry out 3500 eye cataract operations primarily in remote villages in Pakistan over a 6/7 year period.

Nina Khan was the first woman in UK to raise in excess of £100,000 for Palestine in 2023 having hosted and organised an 800 seated dinner event where funds raised were distributed equally between four renowned charities working in Gaza at the time including registered charities such as Smile Aid, Doctors Worldwide and Limbs4Gaza project.

Currently she is involved in many charitable and welfare projects primarily in Pakistan such as Sarwar Shahida Trust and AM Foundation related to improving, upgrading & uplifting healthcare, education, and alleviation of poverty.

**Young Leadership — Tehsildar Chaudhry Shaban Gujjar**

**Muhammad Anwer Chohan**

The land of Gujrat district has always been a haven for talented and capable individuals, but from time to time, some personalities stand out due to their hard work, ability and character and become a new ray of hope. Chaudhry Shaban Gujjar, who was recently posted in Tehsil Kharian, is also among these emerging names.

Despite belonging to a landowning family, he made education, hard work and professional integrity his motto instead of being content with traditional identity. Proudly attaching the identity of "Gujjar" to his name is actually a sign of attachment to his roots and confidence in his identity—and this confidence is also reflected in his character.

It is not uncommon to make a mark in a sensitive and public affairs-related department like the Revenue Department in a short period of time. While serving as Tehsildar in areas like Kharian, Danga and Kotla, Chaudhry Shaban Gujjar not only handled administrative matters well but also earned the trust of the people with his calm demeanor, patience and deep understanding of matters.

Taking charge as Tehsildar in Kharian is an important stage in his career. This is a place where not only powers but also responsibilities increase. Public expectations, pressure of problems and the test of decisions on merit—all these make up the real identity of an officer.

The warm welcome he received from the people of Kharian is a manifestation of the fact that people are waiting for a talented and honest leadership. Today's conscious citizen does not only look at the position but also gives importance to attitude, justice and action. If this standard is maintained, an officer not only lives up to his position but also makes a place in the hearts of the people.



PSL Pakistan Super League Cricket Championship Edition 11

# Peshawar Zalmi Defeated Hyderabad Kings by 4 wickets after a thrilling match

Asim Tanveer

KARACHI: Peshawar Zalmi defeated Hyderabad Kings by 4 wickets after a thrilling match. Fourth defeat in search of a win, Hyderabad Kings were helpless against Peshawar Zalmi even after coming close to victory. As soon as HBL Pakistan Super League 11 started in Karachi, new thrills were seen. First the spinners shone, then the pacers started moving their balls in the air. Hyderabad Kings were spun by 2 spinners of Peshawar Zalmi in such a way that the team flopped badly and failed to play the full overs. Then Peshawar Zalmi had to sweat despite the small target, because the pacers of the unsuccessful team did not make the match thrilling but put it in their pocket. The 14 runs required in the last over of the innings were difficult, but Iftikhar Ahmed became the all-rounder. He took the match back. With the loss of Hyderabad's wicket, this was the fourth consecutive failure in PSL 11. Iftikhar Ahmed was the main character.

PSL 11 started for the first time at the National Bank Arena after a one-day break. This was the first match of this season in Karachi and the 15th match of PSL 11. Before the toss, Peshawar Zalmi and Hyderabad Kings captains Babar Azam and Marnus Labuschagne released a dove, a symbol of peace, from the pitch, in view of the progress of regional peace. The dove flew away. Hopes for peace remain. Babar Azam won the toss and invited Hyderabad Kings to bat first.

Kingsmen had a disastrous start, when old-age spinner Iftikhar Ahmed proved to be a young weapon for them. The first 4 wickets fell for a meager score of 34 in 5 overs. Moaz Sadaqat 17, Saim Ayub 14, Sharjeel Khan 2, Usman Khan sat in the pavilion with zero and Iftikhar Ahmed took all four wickets, 3 of them in a single over. It was the 5th over of the innings, when Hyderabad lost 3 wickets for 1 run. Captain Marnus Labuschagne and Kaushal Perera had rescued their team from this disastrous situation, when both of them scored 81 runs in the next 9 overs at an average of 9 to take the total to 114 for 4 in 14 overs. There was hope that at least 60 runs would be scored in the last 6 overs, but from here another spinner Sufyan Muqim worked



his magic. He Labushin was caught on 27. Irfan Khan was sent to the wicketkeeper on 9 and set-batter Kushal Perera on 58. The last 5 wickets could add 9 runs. The team did not even play a full over and was dismissed for 145 runs in 18.2 overs. Iftikhar Ahmed took 4 wickets for 21 and Sufyan Muqim took 4 wickets for 32 runs. Amir Jamal took one wicket and one player was run out.

In reply, the target was modest for Peshawar Zalmi but the pitch was also mysterious. That is why they started cautiously. Although opener Muhammad Haris could make 11, Babar Azam was stopped by Kushal Mendis. The duo took the score to 66, here Mendis made 27 off 23 balls. Mitchell Bracewell came in and played comfortably. Zalmi's score was 86 in 12 overs.

Hyderabad Kingsmen first caught Mitchell Bracewell for a total of 104 and then took the wicket of captain Babar Azam for a score of 116, but the target was very close. Bracewell was 25 and Babar Azam made 43 off 37 balls. He hit 6 fours. Zalmi's 5th loss was at 125 when Farhan Yousuf made 15. The sensation spread when Zalmi's sixth wicket fell at 125, Abdul Samad



was caught by the keeper for 1. Now 21 runs were left off 17 balls. Haneen Shah made the 81st over of the innings so that he also took a wicket and gave away only 2 runs. Thus, Peshawar Zalmi now needed 19 runs off 12 balls. The next over of Mohammad Ali was also good. There were 14 runs in the last over and Haneen Shah's bowlers were Iftikhar Ahmed and Aamir Jamal on the pitch. In the initial 3 balls 6 runs scored. Now 8 runs were left. Here Iftikhar Ahmed hit a six and said that

old is gold. Now 2 runs were left on 2 balls. Then 1 run was left on the last over. Match tie, super over or Kings' fourth defeat. Amir Jamal took a single and defeated Peshawar Zalmi by 4 wickets. The target was completed on the last ball for 6 wickets. Iftikhar 15 and Amir Jamal returned unbeaten on 6. Saim Ayub took 2 wickets for 19 runs. This is Peshawar's second win in the third match. One match was also inconclusive. Thus, it has 5 points and is in fourth position on the table.



The unsuccessful team is in 8th and last place with zero points in 4 matches

## Senate body passes important government bills

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Inter-Provincial Coordination met at Parliament House, Islamabad, under the Chairmanship of Senator Dilawar Khan, on Tuesday to deliberate on key legislative bills and policy matters concerning tourism, institutional coordination and budgetary oversight.

Senator Rubina Khalid also attended the meeting. The Committee passed three important government bills referred by the House on January 16, 2026. These included the Pakistan Hotels and Restaurants (Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Travel Agencies (Amendment) Bill, 2026, and the Pakistan



Tourist Guides (Amendment) Bill, 2026. The legislation aim to strengthen regulatory frameworks and streamline governance in the tourism and hospitality sector.

During the deliberations on the proposed amend-

ments, the Chairman Committee raised questions regarding the nature and scope of the legislative changes. It was briefed that the amendments appeared similar in nature and highlighted that, following the 18th Constitutional Amend-

ment, the subject stands devolved to the provinces. He emphasized that the amendments propose regulation only to the extent of federal jurisdiction, underlining the need to ensure constitutional compliance and clarity in regulatory authority.

It was briefed that according to the Supreme Courts judgement/order in Mustafa Impex case, instead of words "Government of Pakistan" the specific authorities are inserted in each bill. The Chairman further pointed out that the proposed amendments seek to enhance deterrence by significantly increasing penalties. He noted that fines/penalties are being revised aim to ensure stricter compliance within the sector.

## Y. J. Sports moved into Final of Wing 999 Inter Departmental Cricket League Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Due to some good batting by Ahad Ali 58, Asad ul Haq 54, Deadly Bowling by Waleed Ahmed 4/30 and slow left arm spinner Israr Ahmed 4/43 Y. J. Sports moved into Final after beating Medicam Group of Companies by 47 runs in the first Semi Final played here on Tuesday at KCCA Stadium.

Scores in Brief: Y. J. Sports beat Medicam Group of Companies by 47 runs at KCCA Stadium. Y. J. Sports 235/7 in 40 overs. Ahad Ali 58 5x4, Asad ul Haq 54 4x4 1x6, Danish Rafiq 38, Muhammad Azan 33, Haris Ali Khan 23. Ali Butt (ob) 2/21, Afnan Khan (sla) 2/35, Naimat ullah Khan (sla) 2/40, Hamza Qureshi (sla) 2/54.

In reply Medicam Group of Companies 188 all out in 38 overs. Ali Butt 45



1x4 2x6, Fahad Ansari 26, Asad Ullah Khan 20. Waleed Ahmed (ob) Khan 23, Taha Mehmood 22, Naimat ullah Khan 20. Waleed Ahmed (ob) 4/30, Israr Ahmed (sla) 4/43.

## Rising Conflicts Threaten Global Stability

Continued from Page 4

development efforts, impedes trade relations, and harms livelihoods.

Economic competition and resource scarcity also play a significant role in driving conflicts that threaten global stability. As countries for access to natural resources, markets, and strategic assets, economic rivalries can escalate into trade wars, sanctions, and even military conflicts. The increasing competition for energy resources, such as oil and gas, has heightened tensions in regions like the Middle East and East Asia. More-

over economic disparities within and between countries can fuel social unrest and political instability, leading to protests, riots and civil wars that disrupt global supply chains.

The impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and food insecurity can exacerbate existing and trigger conflicts over scarce resources. The war pandemic has highlighted the interconnectedness of global security and the need for coordinated responses to prevent the spread. Continue to pose threats to peace and security, with extremist groups

exploiting grievances.

In light of these challenges, it is imperative for nations to prioritize conflict prevention mediation, and resolution as key pillars of global stability. Domestic efforts, dialogue, and cooperation are essential conflicts before they escalate and threaten peace and security. International organizations, such as the United Nations play a crucial in facilitating dialogue and fostering standing between conflicting parties.

The writer is Post-Doctorate (Peace Education), International Islamic University Islamabad

## Islamabad set for Iran-US talks

Continued from Page 1

He added that the two-week negotiation window could be extended by mutual consent.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council said maritime transit through the Strait of Hormuz would continue in coordination with Iranian forces during this period. The talks are expected to cover Iran's nuclear programme and the possible lifting of decades-old US sanctions.

The White House confirmed preparations are underway in Washington.

Pakistan's mediation has drawn international praise, as the conflict — ongoing since late February — has threatened global energy supplies and economic stability.

With senior delegations set to arrive, global attention is now focused on Islamabad, where the negotiations could shape the trajectory of regional peace and economic recovery.

## Pakistan's Diplomacy...

Continued from Page 4

The coming two weeks will be critical. The negotiations set to take place in Islamabad carry the weight of global expectations. Success will require not only political commitment but also a willingness to compromise on all sides. The stakes are immense, but so too is the opportunity—to transform a moment of crisis into a foundation for lasting peace.

In the final analysis, what transpired on April 7 will be remembered not for the destruction that nearly occurred, but for the diplomacy that prevented it. It is a reminder that even in an era defined by conflict and competition, the power of dialogue remains indispensable. The efforts of Pakistan's leadership, combined with Iran's strategic resilience and the United States' eventual recalibration, have together created a window—however narrow—for peace to prevail.

Whether this window leads to a durable resolution or closes under renewed tensions will depend on the choices made in the days ahead. But for now, humanity has been granted a pause—and with it, a chance to choose a different path.

The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attaché to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living Macomb, Michigan

## Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gillam, Deputy Chairman Senate, Senator Syedaal Khan and Dr. Dan Stoenescu, Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan Along with other ambassadors inaugurating photo exhibition of Pak-Romania relations at Parliament House on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

# Western leaders welcome US-Iran ceasefire, thank Pakistan for mediation efforts

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Western countries including Germany, France, Netherlands, Italy, the United Kingdom, Canada, Denmark and Spain, along with the European Council and European Commission, on Wednesday welcomed the two-week ceasefire agreed between the United States and Iran.

In a joint statement, the leaders including Emmanuel Macron, Giorgia Meloni, Friedrich Merz, Keir Starmer, Mark Carney, Mette Frederiksen, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Pedro Sánchez, Ursula von der Leyen and António Costa also thanked Pakistan and all the partners involved for mediating this important agreement.



Sharing the development on his X account, the Foreign Office spokesperson highlighted the joint statement

and noted that the leaders had welcomed the ceasefire and acknowledged Pakistan's facilitation role in achieving the

understanding between Washington and Tehran.

The joint statement emphasized that the goal should now

be to negotiate a swift and lasting end to the conflict through diplomatic means within the coming days, stressing that progress toward a substantive negotiated settlement would be crucial to protect civilians in Iran and ensure stability in the wider region.

It further underlined that a diplomatic resolution could help avert a severe global energy crisis and called upon all sides to fully implement the ceasefire, including in Lebanon.

The leaders also reaffirmed their governments' commitment to contributing to efforts aimed at ensuring freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, describing maritime security as essential for regional and global stability.

# President Erdogan felicitates PM Shehbaz on Pakistan's peace initiative in Gulf region

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday received a telephone call from President of Türkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who conveyed heartfelt felicitations on Pakistan's historic peace initiative aimed at ending hostilities in the Gulf region and promoting regional stability.

During their warm and cordial conversation, President Erdogan commended the prime minister's bold and sagacious leadership in pursuing diplomatic efforts to help bring an end to the devastating conflict in the Gulf, which has caused immense human suffering and widespread destruction of infra-



structure, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

The Turkish president support for Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's sincere

and tireless efforts to restore peace and stability in the region, appreciating Pakistan's constructive role in promoting dialogue and reconciliation.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed profound gratitude to President Erdogan for his encouragement and endorsement of Pakistan's peace initiatives, reiterating that Islamabad remained firmly committed to supporting efforts aimed at ensuring peace and stability in the region and beyond.

The two leaders also reaffirmed their shared resolve to continue working closely for regional harmony and strengthening the longstanding brotherly ties between Pakistan and Türkiye.

## Fuel prices may drop sharply as global oil slides after ceasefire

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Petroleum prices in Pakistan are expected to fall sharply following a steep decline in global crude oil prices after the ceasefire in the region.

Industry sources said international oil prices have dropped by nearly 15%, opening the door for significant relief to consumers.

Petrol prices could be reduced by Rs60 to Rs70 per litre, while diesel may see a cut of up to Rs110 per litre.

The government has begun a detailed review of petroleum pricing, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif issuing directives to assess the potential reduction.

Officials said consultations are ongoing, and the final decision on price cuts will be taken by the prime minister after reviewing all factors.

The expected reduction comes as easing regional tensions stabilise energy markets, offering potential relief to inflation-hit consumers.

# Khawaja Asif hails Pakistan's diplomatic, strategic achievements

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Wednesday praised Pakistan's recent accomplishments on the international stage, describing them as a "new identity" for the nation and commending the country's leadership for playing a constructive role in promoting peace and stability.

Speaking in the National Assembly, he said, "The victories we have achieved, both on the battlefield and diplomatically, have given Pakistan a renewed global standing. Our leadership, under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, has demonstrated the ability to mediate and maintain peace anywhere in the world."

He described Pakistan's accomplishments as a moment of unparalleled pride and recognition in the country's history, surpassing previous individual or bilateral achievements.

He added that Pakistan's successes were being widely acknowledged across the globe.

"From European nations to Muslim



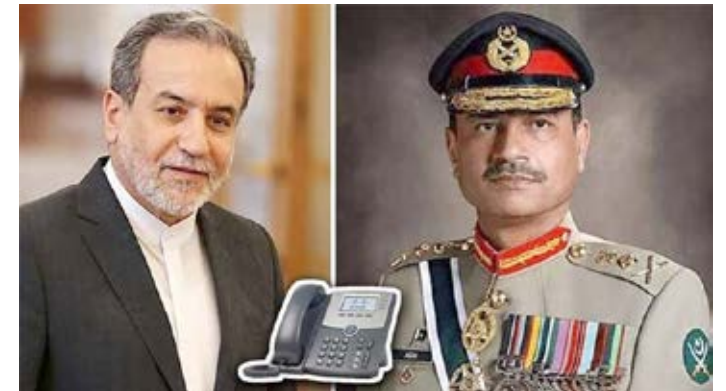
countries, and across our region and beyond, Pakistan's leadership under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir is receiving widespread praise. This level of coordination and understanding between our leadership and institutions is unprecedented in our history," he said.

Khawaja Asif highlighted that these achievements have set a historic benchmark for the nation. "The dividends of this leadership vision are

visible today. Even the US President has repeatedly endorsed Pakistan's successes, acknowledging our superiority in conflict with India and the country's diplomatic standing," he added.

He stressed that these accomplishments would leave a lasting legacy for future generations, emphasising that Pakistan's resilience—as despite internal challenges such as operations against the Taliban—reflects the nation's strength and unity.

# Iranian foreign minister calls Field Marshal Asim Munir, praises Pakistan's role in regional peace



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Field Marshal Asim Munir received a phone call from Abbas Araghchi on Wednesday, in which the Iranian official commended Pakistan's efforts to promote peace and stability in the region.

According to the Iranian embassy, Araghchi appreciated Pakistan's continuous and effective role in facilitating a ceasefire and de-escalating tensions in the Middle East.

The call follows the intervention of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Munir, which led former U.S. President Donald Trump to extend the deadline for a major military strike on Iran by two weeks.

Iran, accepting Pakistan's proposal, agreed to a temporary ceasefire, with Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei ordering all military units to halt operations. Officials clarified that the halt is temporary and does not mark a permanent end to hostilities.

# Nation proud of leadership's role in facilitating Iran-US ceasefire: Aleem Khan



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan on Wednesday lauded Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir for a "historic achievement" in facilitating a ceasefire between the United States and Iran.

In a message posted on social media platform X, he said that by the grace of Almighty Allah, the entire nation felt proud of this significant moment, adding that Pakistan had played a responsible and commendable role in advancing peace with

prudence and wisdom.

Congratulating the political and military leadership, Abdul Aleem Khan said the development had enhanced the country's dignity and stature internationally. He termed the initiation of dialogue between the United States and Iran a positive development and a good omen for regional stability.

He further stated that the world was recognizing Pakistan as a responsible and peace-loving nation and expressed hope that the upcoming Friday talks would yield further positive and encouraging developments.

# PTI cancels rally after talks with govt amid security concerns

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has cancelled its planned rally in Liaquat Bagh after successful talks with the government, citing security concerns.

The decision followed a meeting at Parliament House between government allies and opposition leaders, including Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, opposition figures Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and Junaid Akbar Khan, as well as senior political figures Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Naveed Qamar and Amin-ul-Haque.

Opposition Leader in the Senate Raja Nasir Abbas confirmed the post-

ponement, saying the rally scheduled for Thursday had been called off at the government's request.

Earlier, the Rawalpindi District Administration had denied PTI permission to hold the gathering, citing law and order concerns. Officials said public safety could not be guaranteed due to prevailing security threats.

Authorities also noted that Section 144 remains in force in Rawalpindi, restricting public gatherings, while logistical and financial constraints made it difficult to ensure adequate security arrangements.

The cancellation comes amid heightened political and security sensitivities in the country.

# ITP bans entry of heavy traffic in capital, issues advisory

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) issued a traffic advisory announcing a ban on entry of heavy traffic in the federal capital with immediate effect. An ITP official told APP on Wednesday that owners of heavy vehicles were urged to cooperate with police and comply with the restriction

to ensure smooth traffic flow and security arrangements.

He said citizens and transporters could obtain further information by calling the traffic helpline 1915 or by following Islamabad Police social media pages and the ITP WhatsApp channel.