

DAILY MIRROR

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Dar says US-Iran held constructive talks, urges commitment to ceasefire

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said on Sunday that comprehensive and constructive talks were held between Iran and the United States, stressing that both sides should remain committed to a ceasefire.

Addressing a press briefing in Islamabad, Dar expressed hope that both countries would move forward with a positive approach to ensure lasting peace and prosperity in the region and beyond. He added that both sides responded positively to the request made by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

He emphasized the importance of

maintaining the ceasefire commitment and thanked the delegations from Iran and the United States for participating in the dialogue.

Dar reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue to play a facilitative role in the negotiation process.

Providing further details, he said the US delegation was led by Vice President JD Vance, while the Iranian delegation was headed by Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf. Multiple rounds of comprehensive and constructive discussions were held between the two sides.

Dar added that he, along with senior officials including Field Marshal Asim Munir, assisted in facilitating the negotiations.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar Announcing the end of Islamabad Talks.

Ahsan Iqbal urges India to acknowledge Pakistan's efforts for regional peace

NEWS DESK

NAROWAL: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said India should be grateful to Pakistan for its efforts for regional peace by brokering a ceasefire between Iran and the US in order to save the world from destruction.

Addressing a ceremony here on Saturday, he said world has kept eyes on peace talks ongoing in Pakistan.

He said US-Israel war on Iran put the entire region at risk of destruction and engulfed the entire world economy, which caused inflation, adding with the conflict, poverty and inflation had increased throughout the world, including Pakistan.

The federal minister said Allah Almighty has honoured Pakistan to end the war.

"Delegates from the United States and Iran are present in Islamabad to hold

peace talks," the minister said.

Ahsan Iqbal said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated Field Marshal Asim Munir, whose successful efforts earned Pakistan respect that has made 'our friends proud.'

He said, "If our neighbours look from the borders, they will see smoke rising. At this point, they are burning like coal and turning to ashes.

They do not know if this war had not stopped, millions of people within India would have suffered from hunger, poverty and unemployment."

The federal minister said that instead of being jealous of what Pakistan is doing today, India should be grateful to Pakistan.

"Pakistan has saved the world from destruction and

has also saved India. Allah Almighty is blessing Pakistan with honour under the PML-N government."



Balochistan Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau Visits Injured Victims of Hazarganji Firing Incident at Civil Hospital in Quetta

Balochistan leadership condemn Hazarganji firing incident in Quetta

APP

QUETTA: The Hazarganji firing incident in Quetta has drawn strong condemnation from Balochistan's leadership, with the Chief Minister, Governor, and provincial ministers vowing strict action against those responsible.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti took immediate notice of the attack, directing the Home Department and Inspector General of Police to submit a detailed report. He denounced the incident as a cowardly act, expressing deep sorrow and sympathy with the affected families.

Sarfraz Bugti ordered law enforcement agencies to ensure that those involved are swiftly brought to justice, stressing that "peace enemies cannot be allowed to play with innocent lives." He also instructed officials to provide the injured with urgent and quality medical care.

Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail issued a statement condemn-

ing the attack, describing it as an attempt by terrorist elements to sabotage peace and spread fear. He urged citizens to cooperate with government efforts to maintain law and order and directed authorities to ensure immediate medical treatment for the injured. The Governor expressed solidarity with the bereaved families.

Provincial Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau also strongly condemned the incident, declaring that "those involved cannot escape the grip of law."

He visited the injured at Civil Hospital's Trauma Center, met their families and community elders, and assured them of full government support. Langau emphasized that the killing of innocent civilians is unacceptable and ordered security forces to intensify efforts to apprehend the perpetrators.

Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar has also condemned the attack, expressing grief over the loss of lives.

Trump hails Pakistan leadership following 21-hour long Islamabad talks between US and Iran

Donald Trump praises Pakistan's leadership, including PM Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir, after extended Islamabad talks with Iran while reaffirming his stance on the Strait of Hormuz

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has strongly praised Pakistan's leadership, commending Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir for their role in facilitating high-level negotiations between the United States and Iran in Islamabad, as diplomatic engagement continued over a prolonged 21-hour session.

Trump highlighted Pakistan's efforts in hosting and mediating the discussions, describing the civil-military leaders as "kind", "very competent" and instrumental in enabling structured dialogue between both delegations. He noted that the talks were conducted in a highly coordinated format involving expert-level exchanges, written proposals and multiple rounds of direct engagement.

The US President's remarks came alongside his renewed focus on maritime security in the Gulf region, including his earlier announcement regarding the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical energy transit routes.

Pakistan role

According to Trump's statement, he was fully briefed on the Islamabad discussions by senior US officials following the extended negotiations, which involved detailed deliberations on Iran's nuclear programme, sanctions, frozen assets and broader regional security arrangements.

US Vice President JD Vance, who led the American delegation, also acknowledged Pakistan's contribution, stating that Islamabad had played an "amazing" role in attempting to bridge differences between Washington and Tehran. He emphasised that Pakistan's facilitation efforts were central to keeping dialogue structured throughout the extensive sessions.

Iran's delegation, led by Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, similarly expressed appreciation for Pakistan's hosting of the talks, referring to Islamabad as a "friendly and brotherly country" that supported sustained diplomatic engagement.

The Islamabad talks spanned more than 21 hours, beginning on Saturday afternoon and continuing into Sunday morning, with both sides engaging in multiple rounds of structured negotiations.

At least two members of Quetta's Hazara community killed in firing incident

NEWS DESK

QUETTA: At least two people from the provincial capital's Hazara community were killed and another three injured after unknown assailants opened fire on them on Sunday.

Senior police officer Muhammad Khair Sumalani told Dawn that the men came under attack while they were travelling back to Hazara Town from the Hazarganji vegetable market.

"Unidentified armed men riding motorcycles opened fire at their vehicle, killing two people on the spot and injuring three," he said.

The senior police official said that the incident appeared to be a "targeted killing", adding that the police and Frontier Corps personnel rushed to the site soon after the incident.

Civil Hospital Spokesperson Wasim Bag told Dawn that the hospital had received two bodies and three injured persons.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, and police have launched a search operation.

The Hazara community blocked the Western Bypass to protest the incident, disrupting traffic. Administration and police were negotiating with the protesters.

Separately, in a post on X, Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti took notice of the incident, terming it a "cowardly and reprehensible act".

DPM stresses importance of continued dialogue, diplomacy

DPM vows to support diplomatic efforts for regional peace

APP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar spoke with Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty on telephone today.

The Foreign Minister briefed his Egyptian counterpart on the Islamabad Talks and Pakistan's continued efforts in facilitating engagement between the parties.

Ishaq Dar emphasized that it is imperative for all the parties to uphold their commitment to the ceasefire.

The Deputy Prime Minister also reiterated the need for continued dialogue and diplomacy to achieve peace and stability in

the region and beyond.

Therefor, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a telephonic conversation with Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan today.

Speaking on the occasion, Ishaq Dar shared the developments regarding the Islamabad Talks with the Saudi Foreign Minister. He stressed the importance of all parties adhering to their ceasefire commitments.

Underscoring Pakistan's role in facilitating the dialogue, he reaffirmed the resolve to continue supporting all diplomatic efforts and sustain dialogue to promote peace and stability in the region and beyond.



DG KHAN: Chief Minister Balochistan Sardar Sarfraz Bugti visited Dera Ghazi Khan to condole the death of senior politician and former Punjab governor Sardar Zulfikar Ali Khan Khosa.

Ghalibaf says US failed to earn Iran's trust despite 'goodwill, forward-looking initiatives'

Foreign ministry spokesperson says talks reached agreement on several points, but views differed on 2 important issues

NEWS DESK

TEHRAN: Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf on Sunday said the US failed to earn Iran's trust despite its goodwill and forward-looking initiatives during the latest round of talks in Islamabad.

The US and Iran failed to reach an agreement to end their war despite 21-hour marathon talks that concluded on Sunday in Islamabad, jeopardising a fragile ceasefire. Each side blamed the other for the failure of the 21-hour negotiations to end fighting that has killed thousands and sent global oil prices soaring since it began over six weeks ago.

"Before the negotiations, I emphasised that we have the necessary good faith and will, but due to the experiences of the two previous wars, we have no trust in the opposing side. My colleagues on the Iranian delegation, Minaab168, raised forward-looking initiatives, but the opposing side ultimately failed to gain the trust of the Iranian delegation in this round of negotiations," he said in a post on X.

"America has understood our logic and principles, and now it's time for it to decide whether it can earn our trust or not," he said.

Ghalibaf said Iran considered all forms of diplomacy alongside military struggle as tools to uphold the nation's rights, and "we will not for a moment cease our efforts to consolidate the achievements of the forty days of Iran's national defence."

The Iranian speaker said his country was "a body with 90

million souls," referring to all the heroic people of Iran who, following the advice of the supreme leader and by taking to the streets, supported their children and sent the delegation off with their blessings.

Ghalibaf added, "For this, I am grateful, and to my colleagues in these intense 21-hour negotiations, I say: well done, and may God strengthen you."

He also extended his appreciation to Pakistan for facilitating the negotiations. "I am also grateful for the efforts of our friendly and brotherly country, Pakistan, in facilitating the process of these negotiations, and I send my regards to the people of Pakistan," said Ghalibaf.

Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said that the US-Iran talks reached an agreement on several points, but views differed on two important issues, and it did not lead to an agreement. He added that talks conducted in an atmosphere of mistrust, it is natural that we shouldn't have expected to reach an agreement in just one session.

In a separate post on X earlier, he said, "In the past 24 hours, discussions were held on various dimensions of the main negotiation topics, including the Strait of Hormuz, the nuclear issue, war reparations, the lifting of sanctions, and the complete end to the war against Iran and in the region."

He stated that the success of the diplomatic process depended on the seriousness and good faith of the opposing side, refraining from excessive demands and unlawful requests, and the acceptance of Iran's legitimate rights and interests.

He also expressed appreciation to Pakistan and its people for hosting the negotiations and their benevolent efforts in advancing the process.

Baghaei added, "We have not forgotten and will not forget the experiences of America's breaches of promise and malicious acts, just as we will not forgive the heinous crimes committed by them and the Zionist regime during the course of the second and third imposed wars."

He emphasised that the intensive negotiations, which began on Saturday with Pakistan's benevolent efforts and mediation, had continued without interruption.

"The Iranian negotiators are employing all their capabilities, experience, and knowledge to safeguard Iran's rights and interests. The heavy loss of our great elders, dear ones, and fellow countrymen has made our resolve to pursue the Iranian nation's interests and rights firmer than ever before," he said.

Baghaei concluded that nothing can or should deter them from pursuing their great historical mission toward their beloved homeland and noble Iranian civilisation.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to utilise all tools, including diplomacy, to secure national interests and protect the country's well-being," he said.

A day earlier, US and Iranian delegations arrived in Pakistan for conclusive talks following a two-week immediate ceasefire "everywhere, including Lebanon," announced by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who later invited delegations from both countries to Islamabad.

President Zardari Condoles Death of PPP Leader Haji Ghulam Qadir Mari

APP

TANDO ALLAHYAR: President Asif Ali Zardari visited the village Rais Ghulam Qadir Mari near Tando Allahyar to offer condolences on the passing of senior Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader late Haji Ghulam Qadir Mari.

The President expressed his sympathies with the deceased's brothers Ismail Khan Mari, Kambhu Khan Mari and Darya Khan Mari, and offered Fataha while praying for the departed soul.

On the occasion, provincial ministers Haji Ali Hassan Zardari and Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah along with other senior officials, notable member of the Mari community Dr Fateh Muhammad Mari and Suhail Talpur were also present on the occasion.

Balochistan CM condoles Zulfikar Khosa's death

APP

DG KHAN: Chief Minister Balochistan Sardar Sarfraz Bugti visited Dera Ghazi Khan to condole the death of senior politician and former Punjab governor Sardar Zulfikar Ali Khan Khosa.

At Khosa House, he met the deceased's sons Sardar Hissamuddin Khosa, Sardar Saifuddin Khosa, and former Punjab chief minister Sardar Dost Muhammad Khosa and expressed heartfelt sympathy.

Fataha was also offered for the departed soul.

Speaking to the media, Bugti said his visit was solely to offer condolences and that he would not make any political statements on the occasion.

He described Khosa as a wise, principled, and dignified leader who rendered valuable services for the country and democracy.

He said, Zulfikar Khosa's political and social contributions would always be remembered, adding that his death had created a void which could not be filled.

Pakistan sends military force, fighter jets to Saudi Arabia

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has sent a military force and fighter jets to Saudi Arabia to boost security under a joint defence cooperation agreement between the two countries, the Saudi defence ministry said.

The Saudi ministry, in a statement, wrote that a military force and fighter jets from Pakistan had arrived at the King Abdulaziz Air Base in its eastern province.

It added that the Pakistani deployment was aimed at "strengthening the joint defence cooperation agreement signed between the two brotherly countries".

"The Pakistani force consists of fighter and support aircraft belonging to the Pakistani Air Force, with the aim of enhancing joint military coordination, raising the level of operational readiness between the armed forces of the two countries," it continued.

The planes were sent after Iranian strikes hit key energy infrastructure and killed a Saudi national, three sources, including a senior Pakistani government official, told Reuters.

They were "not there to attack anyone", said the Pakistani official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

An Iranian strike on Saudi Arabia's sprawling Jubail petrochemicals complex on Monday had raised concerns in Pakistan that the kingdom might retaliate, potentially jeopardising the Iran peace talks, the three sources said.

The Pakistani deployment was aimed at reassuring Riyadh that Islamabad would help defend the kingdom from any further attacks, the sources said.

The Saudi government media office and Pakistan's military did not respond to requests for comment.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have long shared a multifaceted relationship rooted in strategic military cooperation, mutual economic interests, and shared Islamic heritage. These ties have encompassed economic assistance and energy supplies, with Riyadh being a significant source of financial aid and oil for Islamabad.

In September of last year, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman signed a "Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement" in Riyadh, pledging that any attack on either nation would be treated as an act of aggression against both.

Aseefa Bhutto urges public cooperation in polio campaign

APP

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari Sunday called on families and communities across Pakistan to fully cooperate with the upcoming nationwide polio vaccination campaign, set to begin on 13 April, and ensure that every child is protected from the disease.

The campaign aims to vaccinate over 45 million children under the age of five across all provinces and regions as part of the ongoing national effort to eradicate polio.

Pakistan, she noted, stands at a critical juncture in its fight against the virus. Years of sustained effort have brought the country closer to eradication, with the coming phase representing the final stretch where reaching every child is essential.

From 13 to 19 April, frontline health workers will conduct door-to-door visits, covering urban centres as well as remote communities. In addition to administering polio drops, children will also receive Vitamin A supplementation to support immunity and healthy growth.

The First Lady highlighted measurable progress. In 2025, 31 cases of polio were reported nationwide, while in 2026 only one case has been recorded so far. She cautioned, however, that the threat persists. As long as the virus exists anywhere, it remains a risk everywhere. She stressed the need for consistency, urging parents and caregivers to ensure their children receive vaccination in every campaign, alongside routine immunisation.

The campaign will be conducted in coordination with Afghanistan, reflecting a shared commitment to interrupt cross-border transmission and close remaining gaps.

Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari also acknowledged the contribution of frontline workers, whose continued efforts remain central to reaching every household.

She called for collective resolve, emphasising that ending polio is now within reach and depends on the participation of parents, families, communities and institutions alike. No child, she underscored, can be left behind.



Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi inaugurates upgraded Safari Train in Rawalpindi, highlighting major reforms, tourism-focused rail services, and Pakistan's growing role in regional diplomacy.

Credit for successful diplomacy goes to President, Prime Minister and military leadership: Punjab Governor

INP

Sahiwal: Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider has said that the credit for successful diplomacy goes to the Prime Minister, military leadership and the President.

Speaking to the media upon his arrival at the residence of District President of the People's Party Zaki Chaudhry in Sahiwal, Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider said that the United States and Iran came to the negotiating table due to Pakistan's diplomacy.

He said that Pakistan's peace efforts are being appreciated world-

wide, and the credit for successful diplomacy goes to the President, Prime Minister, and military leadership. There has been a deadlock in the US-Iran talks, but the process is ongoing.

The Punjab Governor said that in the past, the United States also attacked Iran during negotiations, and Israel always leads the United States to disperse.

Sardar Saleem Haider said that the history of the PPP has always been about bringing workers forward. The governor is a constitutional position. I will continue to serve the people according to the

constitution. The position of governor is not permanent, it keeps coming and going. Becoming a governor is a result of the leadership's trust.

He said that the PPP's performance in the upcoming elections will improve. I am telling you three years ago and Bilawal will become Prime Minister. The Governor of Punjab further said that there is a proposal to abolish the semester system in universities. I wrote a letter to all universities asking them to abolish the semester system, to prepare university papers outside and to check them outside.

Governor Kundi assures support to tobacco growers

APP

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tobacco Action Committee called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi here on Sunday and discussed the challenges faced by tobacco growers in the province.

The delegation, comprising Bland Khan Tarakai, Irshad Khan and other office-bearers, informed the Governor that farmers in Charsadda, Mardan, Swabi, Nowshera, Buner and Mansehra were facing severe difficulties due to excessive taxation and low prices of tobacco.

They said that instead of resolving their issues, government policies were aggravating their problems, adding that taxes were being increased every year.

The delegation maintained that despite contributing over Rs 3.25 billion to the provincial economy, the current policies were forcing farmers to abandon tobacco cultivation.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi expressed full solidarity with the growers and acknowledged tobacco as an important crop of the province. He assured the delegation of his complete support and said that efforts would be made to encourage farmers, citing the recent organization of a farmers' award in the province.

Governor Meets Bangladesh High Commissioner

APP

KARACHI: Governor of Sindh Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi has said that promoting education and cultural exchange programmes between Pakistan and Bangladesh is in the mutual interest of both countries.

He noted that the cuisines, culture, and traditions of the two nations share strong similarities.

He expressed these views during a meeting with Bangladesh High Commissioner Muhammad Iqbal Hossain Khan at the Governor House.

Deputy High Commissioner Muhammad Saqib Sadaqat was also present on the occasion. The High Commissioner congratulated Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi on assuming office as Governor Sindh. The Governor said further that Pakistan's surgical instruments, footballs, and leather products are in high demand across global markets.

CM Sohail Afridi visits Afghan holding camp in Landi Kotal

INP

KHYBER: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi visited Landi Kotal Afghan holding camp and reviewed arrangements.

The CM expressed satisfaction over facilities and arrangements at the camp and said Afghan refugees were being sent in a dignified manner.

Speaking to the media, Sohail Afridi said Afghan refugees remain 'our guests and we will ensure their return with honour and dignity.'

Sohail Afridi said the provincial government is making every effort to provide all facilities to the refugees.

The performance of the Khyber district administration is commendable for the excellent arrangements made in the holding camp.

Mother of Niaz Hussain Laghari passes away Condolences from prominent social and religious figures continue

PRESS RELEASE

CHAMBAR: The mother of renowned social and religious figure and Secretary of the Religious Affairs Committee of Roza-e-Athar Masoomah-e-Sindh, Agham Kot, Niaz Hussain Laghari, passed away.

Her funeral prayers were offered in Village Ghazi Abad Bhirah near Chambar, followed by burial in the ancestral graveyard.

A large number of people from political, social, journalistic, religious and various other walks of life attended the funeral and

burial rites.

Following the burial, condolences continued to pour in for Niaz Hussain Laghari on the demise of his mother. Among those who expressed their sympathies and offered

Fateha were members of the Karachi Editors Club including Mubasher Mir and Syed Manzar Naqvi, along with Zawar Abdul Sattar Dars, Brigadier Syed Karrar Hussain and others.

They prayed for the departed soul and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.



QUETTA: A traffic police official giving fine tick to a rickshaw on violation of rules.



QUETTA: Chief Engineer Metropolitan Corporation Ishaq Mengal offering Fatihah on the death of former provincial minister Sardar Nisar Ali Hazara's wife.



Pakistan ready for Mauritania clash after record-breaking win, says Nadia Khan

SPORTS DESK

ABIDJAN: Pakistan's record-breaking 8-0 victory over the Turks and Caicos Islands in their FIFA Series opener on Thursday has sent confidence soaring through the squad, said newly-crowned all-time leading goalscorer Nadia Khan, as head coach Adeel Rizki warned against complacency ahead of their next fixture against Mauritania.

Pakistan made a sizzling start to their campaign at the Stade Alassane Ouattara, with Zahmena Malik opening the scoring in the 10th minute.

Aqsa Mushtaq doubled the lead just two minutes later before Layla Banaras made it 3-0 with a weaving run and smart finish past the half-hour mark.

Mariam Mahmood expertly volleyed in a cross at the back post in the 38th minute to send Pakistan into the break-ak with a four-goal cushion.

The second half brought more of the same. Nadia planted a perfect header from a left-wing cross in the 56th minute, which made her the record goal scorer.

Aqsa scored a pearler in the 76th, Banaras netted her second with a perfectly placed shot from outside the box and Isra Khan completed the scoring in the 81st minute.

The victory surpassed Pakistan's previous best of 7-0 against the Maldives in September 2022 and marked a historic start to the team's first-ever FIFA event.

The 25-year-old Nadia described the achievement as



BOLOGNA: Aston Villa's Ollie Watkins (second L) scores past Bologna goalkeeper Federico Ravaglia during their Europa League quarter-final first leg at Stadio Renato Dall'Ara.

Watkins propels Villa towards Europa League semis

SPORTS DESK

BOLOGNA: Ollie Watkins scored twice as Aston Villa beat Bologna 3-1 in their Europa League quarter-final, first leg, while Nottingham Forest held FC Porto 1-1 thanks to a comical own goal from Martin Fernandes.

Freiburg also have one foot in the last four after beating Celta Vigo 3-0.

Villa boss Unai Emery is aiming to win the competition for a fifth time and the favourites rode their luck to emerge victorious in Italy.

"It could've been different," said Watkins. "We got lucky."

Bologna made a bright start to their first European quarter-final in 27 years.

An Ezri Kansa own goal was ruled out by a VAR review for a marginal offside against Santiago Castro before Lewis Ferguson hit the bar.

But the Coppa Italia winners were undone by some awful set-piece defending to allow Villa two of their goals.

Kansa headed into an unguarded net just before the break after Federico Ravaglia flapped at a corner.

Watkins quickly doubled the visitors' advantage after half-time with a cool finish after Emi Buendia won possession deep in Bologna territory.

Federico Bernardeschi hit the post and Jonathan Rowe was denied by a brilliant Emi Martinez save.

Rowe's stunning finish in the 90th minute looked to have given Bologna a foothold in the tie.

But Watkins was left completely unmarked to tap in from a corner deep into stoppage time and further his case for inclusion in England's World Cup squad.

"Back end of the season I'm raring to go," added

Watkins. "I'm excited for the next few games. I'm hungry."

Villa will face the winners of the tie between Porto and Forest should they progress to the semi-finals.

An all-English affair in the last four is on the cards after Forest were handed a gift by Fernandes.

Porto capitalised on a strong start when William Gomes turned in at the far post.

But the lead lasted barely two minutes before Fernandes found his own net from just inside the Porto half as he overhit a pass back to goalkeeper Diogo Costa.

Forest striker Igor Jesus had a goal ruled out in the second half, but the visitors were happier with the draw that leaves the tie up for grabs next week at the City Ground.

Meanwhile, the best European run in Freiburg's history looks set to continue after Celta were blown away by the Bundesliga side.

Vincenzo Grifo's curling effort gave the home side the perfect start on 10 minutes.

Niklas Beste doubled Freiburg's lead at the end of a fine team move and Matthias Ginter headed in 12 minutes from time to secure a commanding first leg lead.

On Wednesday, Braga and Real Betis drew 1-1 in the other quarter-final first leg.

Mateta inspires palace

In Thursday's Conference League first leg fixture, Jean-Philippe Mateta inspired Crystal Palace to a 3-0 win over Fiorentina.

Mateta converted from the penalty spot after 24 minutes after Evann Guessand was fouled by Fiorentina defender Dodo. The French striker also had a role in Palace's second goal seven minutes later as Tyrick Mitchell finished off after Mateta's close-range effort had been blocked by Fiorentina goalkeeper David de Gea.

Zalmi thrash hapless Qalandars to go top

By Maqsood Khalid

KARACHI: Maintaining their impressive run in the HBL Pakistan Super League, Peshawar Zalmi thrashed Lahore Qalandars by 76 runs here at the National Bank Stadium on Saturday to climb to the top of the table and extend their winning streak.

Chasing 174, former champions Qalandars collapsed dramatically to 97 all out in 17 overs, their batting order unraveling against a disciplined Zalmi attack.

The defeat leaves Qalandars languishing in sixth place after completing half their league-stage matches, while Zalmi, unbeaten in several outings, now sit atop the PSL standings with momentum firmly on their side.

Zalmi's innings was built around a commanding second-wicket partnership between Kusal Mendis and captain Babar Azam.

After Mohammad Haris gifted his wicket early for 18 off 10 balls — toe-ending a cross-bat shot to mid-on off Shaheen Shah Afridi — Mendis walked in and immediately looked at ease.

The Sri Lankan wicket-keeper/batter, fresh from a strong previous outing, played with confidence on a surface that offered grip and occasional slow bounce.

Mendis reached his second successive half-century with a massive six off Usama Mir, finishing with a fluent 74 off 48 balls, studded with five boundaries and four sixes.

His knock featured elegant drives, powerful heaves over mid-wicket and clever lap scoops. Babar, meanwhile, played the perfect anchor, rotating the strike intelligently and providing stability during the middle overs.

The pair added 109 runs for the second wicket before Babar mistimed one to long-on for 43 off 40 balls.

"Next to me was Babar. He batted really well and he gave me a lot of confidence," Mendis said after the match. "I played my normal game in powerplay. The reason is Babar — I know he has played so many matches in Pakistan, he knows the conditions very well, that's why I played my normal game. He supported me a lot."

Zalmi reached 150 for three in the 17th over, but Qalandars fought back strongly in death overs.

Shaheen, leading from the front with the ball, claimed three wickets for 22 in four overs. He removed Haris early, then accounted for Mendis in the 17th over with a well-directed delivery that the batter holed out to long-on.



LAHORE Qalandars captain Shaheen Shah Afridi is cleaned up by Peshawar Zalmi spinner Sufiyan Muqem during the National Bank Stadium match at the National Bank Stadium.



overwhelming in a video message released by the Pakistan Football Federation.

"It's an amazing feeling initially, I don't think it sunk in until after the match," Nadia who plays for English outfit Blackburn Rovers, said. "It was just an overwhelming feeling and it is so amazing to do it with the national team. I am proud of myself and the overall performance."

"It boosts our confidence so much, the scoreline meant so much to us," the forward added. "This scoreline is something else." She said the atmosphere following the final whistle was electric, with the team bus turning into a celebration of their hard work.

"The team bus was an experience in itself," she said. "We were whistling and laughing, enjoying ourselves and the moment we worked so hard for. It was amazing. I want to be in that moment again. They need that again." Looking ahead to Pakis-tan's next match against Mau-ritania on Sunday, Nadia said the team was working tirelessly and eager to take the pitch.

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High hopes

THE world's eyes are focused on Islamabad. Pakistan, through its deft diplomacy, has managed to stave off a devastating escalation between the US and Iran, and today, it will host the adversaries to see if the two-week truce it has helped broker can be transformed into a longer-term peace. There is immense uncertainty, largely because of the huge wall of mistrust between Washington and Tehran; but there is also hope that negotiations can prevent a relapse into more violence and greater pain for the global economy.

A security blanket has been placed over the federal capital as well as Rawalpindi on account of the sensitivity of the talks and the high-profile participants — with the US sending Vice-President J.D. Vance and Iran represented by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to explore how hostilities can be ended.

By bringing the US and Iran together under one roof to talk peace, Pakistan has managed to pull off a major diplomatic coup. But that may well be the 'easy' part; obtaining meaningful results from the parleys will neither be tension-free nor quick. At best, we can expect the US and Iran to agree to pursue the talks; at worst, the diplomatic exercise can go south, especially if there is lack of consensus on the key points of the agenda, and if Israel continues its brutal assault on Lebanon. The Iranians' mistrust of America is considerable.

This is because the US has twice used negotiations as a ruse to wage war on Iran. It is hoped that this time, matters turn out differently. Already, there have been attempts to derail the negotiations, primarily by Israel, which is averse to seeing peace in the Middle East. The Iranian deputy foreign minister said his country was ready to respond to "ceasefire violations" before Pakistan stepped in and attempted to calm matters. There will be several such diplomatic minefields to navigate before a lasting peace is achieved.

On some of the points Iran has proposed, the US may be willing to play ball. This could include partial or total lifting of sanctions and compensation for war damages. However, Iranian demands to expel the American military from the region, and Tehran's nuclear programme, may be harder to agree on. Yet every effort should be made to reach a peaceful settlement.

There has been enough war and bloodshed, and a permanent end to hostilities must be found. The sobering conclusion to the events of the past month is that military ambitions aimed at effecting regime change and bringing a country to its knees can backfire, with colossal repercussions for an entire region. In this case, Iran has successfully defended itself and should be approached with respect. Only then can a just agreement be reached under the tenets of international law.

By Murad Moosa Khan

Myth of the chemical cure

FOR decades, a simple and reassuring idea has shaped how mental illness is understood and treated globally — that conditions such as depression, anxiety and schizophrenia are caused by "chemical imbalances" in the brain, and that psychiatric drugs work by "correcting these imbalances". This narrative has become deeply embedded in public consciousness, medical training and health policy. Yet, as Joanna Moncrieff, psychiatrist and researcher argues in her book *Chemically Imbalanced: The Making and Unmaking of the Serotonin Myth*, this explanation is more assumption than fact.

Psychiatric medications can alter mental states and some people experience relief while taking them. Moncrieff's challenge is more fundamental. She questions the claim that these drugs treat underlying biological abnormalities in the same way insulin treats diabetes. She argues that psychiatric medications produce altered physical and mental states like sedation, emotional blunting and stimulation, which may dampen distress but do not correct any underlying chemical imbalance.

The chemical imbalance theory has been powerful because of its simplicity in selling the message to the public. It reassures patients that their suffering is not a personal failure and gives doctors a simple scientific rationale for treatment. In poorly developed health systems, medications are a useful response to distress.

Moncrieff urges us to ask: what exactly are these drugs doing, and what are we promising when we prescribe them? According to Moncrieff, decades of research have failed to demonstrate consistent chemical abnormalities that psychiatric drugs correct. For example, the idea that depression is caused by low serotonin levels has not been reliably supported by empirical evidence. Nevertheless, antidepressants are often described to patients as "correcting a chemical imbalance".

Are we offering treatment, or are we managing distress in the most convenient way?

What antidepressants do clearly produce are altered states: emotional numbing, reduced intensity of feel-

ing, and sometimes increased agitation, especially early in treatment. Antipsychotics, similarly, reduce psychotic experiences largely through sedation and suppression of activity of another neurotransmitter, dopamine, while also producing significant physical effects such as weight gain, metabolic problems and movement disorders.

This does not mean these drugs never help. It means their effects are better understood as psychoactive rather than curative. They may reduce distress in the short term, but they also impose costs that are frequently under-acknowledged — particularly in low-resource settings where monitoring is limited.

Furthermore, any account of the 'chemical cure' narrative must also recognise the role of the pharmaceutical industry in shaping it. The idea that psychiatric drugs correct chemical imbalances was not simply a scientific discovery but was actively promoted alongside new medications. Fluoxetine introduced in the late 1980s was marketed as correcting a serotonin deficiency in depression, a marketing ploy rather than based on scientific evidence that proved highly persuasive. This narrative helped brands make millions in profit and changed the public's attitudes towards psychiatric drugs.

For countries like Pakistan, where mental health systems are very poorly developed, this argument has particular relevance. There are fewer than one psychiatrist per half a million people and psychiatric drugs are sometimes the only form of mental healthcare. They are routinely prescribed in outpatient clinics, often after very brief consultations, reinforcing a model of care that prioritises medications as an answer to deal with distress caused by poor social conditions. While there are no generics, several cheap 'me too' brands manufactured locally, are readily available. In Pakistan, these are over- and inappropriately prescribed by physicians and psychiatrists alike, reaping huge profits for the drug industry. It is not uncommon to find a patient with mental health problems on several psychotropic medications, sometimes more than one of the same class! Patients remain on these drugs for years, experience side effects that go unrecognised, or

struggle with withdrawal when attempting to stop.

The important question is this: are we offering treatment, or are we managing distress in the most convenient way? As Moncrieff notes drugs may have a place particularly in acute crisis situations but they should not be presented as correcting an underlying defect or as the default response to social suffering.

For Pakistan, it means addressing the social determinants of mental health that is creating such high levels of distress in our population. It also has crucial implications in the training of doctors to inquire about social factors in patients' presentations as well as decisions about whether, when and how to use medication. In Pakistan, hardly any patient walks out of a psychiatric clinic without a prescription!

Critiquing the chemical cure myth does not require rejecting psychiatric medication altogether. Moncrieff herself emphasises choice, transparency and proportionality. It means resisting the temptation to medicalise problems that are fundamentally social. No pill can resolve gender violence, economic injustice or political oppression — ills that beset Pakistani society. Treating these realities as chemical disorders obscures responsibility and silencing legitimate anger and grief.

At its core, *Chemically Imbalanced* is a call for intellectual honesty. It asks us to abandon comforting simplifications and to acknowledge that mental distress does not fit neatly into biomedical categories. We can choose a path that values medication as one tool, not the main or the only tool, among many and use it carefully. Or we can continue to mislead patients and ourselves about the 'chemical cure'.

As Pakistan struggles to address its mental health crisis, we need to ask ourselves about the overreliance on the biomedical approach to deal with this crisis.

The solution will not come from prescribing more pills but recognising that distress is as much a social and politically driven issue as it is a medical one. Only by moving beyond the myth of the chemical cure can we begin to build a mental health system that truly serves the people it is meant to help.

By Maqsood Khalid

"The Hero Behind Thousands of Heartbeats: "Serving Humanity with Excellence: The Legacy of Professor Dr. Ahmed Noman"

Professor Dr. Ahmed Noman: A Beacon of Hope in Cardiac Care. In the noble field of medicine, where compassion meets expertise, certain individuals rise above the rest through their unwavering dedication to humanity. Professor Dr. Ahmed Noman stands as one such remarkable figure—a name that deserves to be written in golden words for his outstanding contributions to cardiac care and his selfless service to patients.

As a distinguished medical professional and former senior figure at the Punjab Institute of Cardiology, Dr. Ahmed Noman has devoted his life to saving hearts—both literally and metaphorically. His role as a leader in the department has not only elevated the standards of treatment but has also inspired countless young doctors to follow in his footsteps. His commitment to excellence and patient-centered care has made him a pillar of strength within the medical community.

Dr. Ahmed Noman's achievements in

cardiology are a reflection of his deep knowledge, tireless work ethic, and compassionate nature. Over the years, he has treated a vast number of cardiac patients, offering them not just medical care but hope and reassurance during their most vulnerable moments. His expertise in diagnosing and managing complex heart conditions has saved countless lives, making him a true hero in the field.

What truly sets Dr. Ahmed Noman apart is his humanitarian spirit. He believes that healthcare is a fundamental right, not a privilege. His services at the Punjab Institute of Cardiology have consistently reflected this belief, as he has worked tirelessly to ensure that patients from all walks of life receive the best possible care. His efforts have significantly improved the quality of cardiac services in the region, benefiting thousands of families.

Beyond his clinical work, Dr. Ahmed Noman has also contributed to the advancement of medical knowledge



through teaching and mentorship. As a professor, he has guided and trained many aspiring doctors, instilling in them the values of integrity, dedication, and compassion. His influence extends far beyond the hospital walls, shaping the future of healthcare in the country. In a world where true heroes often go unnoticed, Professor Dr. Ahmed Noman shines as a symbol of hope, resilience, and service.

His life's work is a testament to what can be achieved when skill is combined with sincerity and a genuine desire to serve humanity. It is only fitting that we honor and appreciate such a personality whose contributions continue to save lives and inspire generations.

Professor Dr. Ahmed Noman is not just a doctor—he is a guardian of hearts, a mentor to many, and a true hero in the medical profession.

DAILY MIRROR

Turkiye brands Netanyahu 'Hitler of our times' as flotilla case sparks sharp war of words

MONITORINT DESK

TURKEY: Turkiye's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has responded to the Israeli Prime Minister's post on X, calling him the 'Hitler of our times'.

This exchange has stemmed as a result of Turkiye's levying charges against Israel's military and political leadership for the naval interception of the October 2025 "Sumud" Gaza flotilla, seeking up to 4,596 years in prison as punishment, as per Turkish media.

The statement refers to the arrest warrant sent out by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in November 2024 for 'war crimes and crimes against humanity'.

The foreign ministry said, "Netanyahu's current objective is to undermine ongoing peace negotiations and continue his expansionist policies in the region. Failing this, he risks being tried in his own country and is likely to be sentenced to imprisonment."

"The fact that our President has been targeted by Israeli officials with baseless, brazen, and false allegations is a result of the discomfort caused by the

truths we have consistently voiced on every platform," Turkish MFA said.

This was in response to Netanyahu and the Israeli defence minister's lashing out at Turkiye's indictment.

According to Anadolu Agency, Istanbul's Chief Public Prosecutor's Office prepared an indictment against 35 suspects, including Netanyahu, over an armed intervention against the Global Sumud Flotilla carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza last year.

The indictment seeks aggravated life sentences as well as prison terms ranging from 1,102 years and 9 months to 4,596 years for each suspect on charges, including

"crimes against humanity," "genocide," "deprivation of liberty," "torture," "damage to property," "qualified looting," and "obstructing, hijacking or detaining transportation vehicles."

Netanyahu responded by saying that Israel would 'continue to fight against Iran's terrorist regime and its proxies, in contrast to Erdogan who aids them and even slaughters his Kurdish citizens.'

Israel Defence Minister Katz called Erdogan a 'paper tiger' at his 'failure'

to 'respond to the missiles fired from Iran onto Turkish soil, is now resorting to antisemitism and announcing sham trials in Turkiye against Israel's political and military leadership.'

According to the indictment, activists aboard the Global Sumud Flotilla were en route to Gaza via sea vessels to deliver humanitarian aid when Israeli naval forces carried out an attack in international waters.

It said that following the attack, an ex officio investigation was launched by the prosecutor's office within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Article 15 of Turkiye's Criminal Procedure Code, and Articles 12 and 13 of the Turkish Penal Code regarding jurisdiction.

In September 2025, Israeli forces stopped the Global Sumud Flotilla in what organisers described as an unlawful intervention, boarded it, detained volunteers, and took them to Israel.

Amongst the detained were climate activist Greta Thunberg, European Parliament member Rima Hassan, and Al Jazeera journalist Oman Faiaid, amongst other activists of varying nationalities.



TANDO ALLAH YAR: President Asif Ali Zardari offer condolences on the passing of PPP leader Haji Ghulam Qadir Marri at village Rais Ghulam Qadir Marri.

President Zardari congratulates Nizar Amidi on election as President of Iraq

APP

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari, Sunday, congratulated Nizar Amidi on his election as President of the Republic of Iraq, conveying his best wishes for his success in the new role.

"In his message, the President expressed confidence that under President Amidi's leadership, Iraq would continue its efforts towards stability, progress and national cohesion."

The president reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to further strengthen its fraternal relations with Iraq and enhance cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

President Zardari also conveyed his good wishes for the continued prosperity and well-being of the people of Iraq.

World urges more US-Iran talks as Pakistan vows to facilitate dialogue

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: World figures urged the United States and Iran to keep negotiating after marathon Washington-Tehran talks in Islamabad ended on Sunday without a deal to end the war in the Middle East.

The entire US negotiating team has left the failed Iran talks in Islamabad, a US official, leaving nobody in the Pakistani capital to pursue back-channel discussions.

There had been speculation that some of the team, which included chief negotiators Steve Witkoff and President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, might stay behind to pursue further discussions.

Iran's former foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who led his country's delegation at 2015 nuclear talks, blamed the failure of negotiations on US attempts to "dictate" its terms.

"No negotiations -- at least with Iran - will succeed based on 'our/your terms'," said Zarif, one of the architects of the nuclear deal with the United States and other world powers, which was abandoned in 2018 by US President Donald Trump.

US Vice President JD Vance departed Pakistan aboard Air Force Two soon after saying that talks with Iran failed to reach an agreement after he put forward

a "final and best offer".

"The simple fact is that we need to see an affirmative commitment that they will not seek a nuclear weapon and will not seek the tools that would enable them to quickly achieve a nuclear weapon," he told reporters in Islamabad, on the main sticking point for talks moving ahead.

Iran says no trust - Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who took part in peace talks with the United States in Islamabad this weekend, said that Washington was "unable" to win Tehran's trust during the discussions.

"My colleagues in the Iranian delegation... put forward constructive initiatives but ultimately the other side was unable to gain the trust of the Iranian delegation in this round of negotiations," Ghalibaf said in a post on X.

- Pakistan urges ceasefire - "It is imperative that the parties continue to uphold their commitment to cease fire," said Pakistan's foreign minister Ishaq Dar, whose government hosted the talks and acted as a mediator.

"Pakistan has been and will continue to play its role to facilitate engagement and dialogue between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America in the days to come," he said in a brief statement broadcast by state media.

Israel says Iran War costs top \$11 billion

MONITORING DESK

Israel said it has spent more than \$11 billion on its ongoing conflict with Iran, with the bulk of the outlay directed toward defence, on Sunday.

According to an initial estimate, the Israeli Ministry of Finance said total government expenditure linked to the war has reached 35 billion shekels (approximately \$11.52 billion).

Of that amount, around 22 billion shekels have been allocated to defence-related spending, covering military operations and protective measures, it added.

The report described the figure as an early estimate, noting that the costs have already been incorporated into Israel's 2026 national budget.

Balochistan Government Initiates Development Plan for Rakhni Bazaar

APP

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has approved a comprehensive development and beautification project for Rakhni Bazaar, aimed at boosting economic activity, modernizing trade infrastructure, and providing improved facilities to the public.

Following approval by the provincial cabinet, the Services and General Administration Department has issued a formal notification, directing immediate implementation so that the benefits reach citizens without delay.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the upgradation of Rakhni Bazaar would give new momentum to the local economy, expand business opportunities, and provide traders with a safe, organized, and convenient environment.

In a post on social media platform X,

he emphasized that the project would not only strengthen commercial activity but also generate new employment opportunities.

Sarfraz Bugti reaffirmed that the provincial government was committed to enhancing urban facilities, strengthening infrastructure, and pursuing a vision of sustainable development.

He noted that providing modern amenities aligned with contemporary needs and ensuring systematic urban growth would remain top priorities.

The Chief Minister added that the upgradation of Rakhni Bazaar would enhance the overall beauty of the area, improve

civic management, and significantly raise the standard of living for residents, marking an important step toward the vision of a prosperous and developed Balochistan.

IPP leadership to meet on Tuesday to finalize by-election strategy

APP

ISLAMABAD: The central leadership of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) would meet in Islamabad on Tuesday to deliberate on the upcoming by-elections in Punjab constituency PP-83 Noor Porthal and other key political and organizational matters.

The meeting would be chaired by IPP President and Federal Minister, Abdul Aleem Khan, who has already initiated consultations with senior party leaders regarding the by-election on the vacant seat, said a press release issued on Sunday.

In this regard, IPP Member National Assembly, Gul Asghar Khan Baghoor from the constituency gave a detailed briefing to the Party President and the political situation of the constituency, previous election results and future strategy were discussed.

It is pertinent to mention that IPP candidate Ehsanullah Khan had secured around 30,000 votes in the 2024 general elections from PP-83, reflecting a significant support base in the area.

The meeting would be attended by Punjab President Rana Nazir Ahmed Khan, North Punjab President and Federal Parliamentary Secretary Engineer Gul Asghar Khan Baghoor. While Central General Secretary Mian Khalid Mahmood and General Secretary Punjab & MPA Shoaib Siddiquee along with other senior leaders would also be participating in this meeting.

Important decisions regarding participation in the by-elections would be expected in this consultative meeting.

Protests against Netanyahu intensify in Israel, protesters demand peace

MONITORING DESK

Tel Aviv: Anti-war protests have intensified across the country following the ceasefire with Iran in Israel, with thousands of people taking to the streets in various cities, including Tel Aviv, demanding peace.

According to foreign media, thousands of people participated in the large protest in Tel Aviv's Habima Square, while the police permit had set a limit of only 1,000 people. The protesters chanted slogans against the government's war policies and the ongoing military operations in Lebanon and the region.

Protesters held banners that read: "The occupation of southern Lebanon would be a disastrous decision and that until peace is established, real security in Israel is impossible." The protesters called on the government to immediately end its war policy and pursue a diplomatic solution.

This is the sixth consecutive week of anti-war protests in Israel, according to reports. This time the protests have spread to other cities in the country, such as Jerusalem, Haifa and Beersheba, where citizens have participated in large numbers.

The protesters said that the ongoing tensions and military operations in the region are endangering the lives of civilians,

so the government should immediately move towards peace talks.

Our justice system has become a rotting corpse: Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman

NEWS DESK

Lahore: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman said that our justice system has become a rotting corpse.

Addressing officials of the Lahore High Court Bar Association, Lahore Bar, Pakistan Tax Bar Association and Pakistan International Business Forum in the provincial capital Mansoura, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman said that the country cannot move forward without the supremacy of the constitution and law.

He said that arbitrary amendments have tarnished the image of the constitution, not just the judiciary

but the entire justice system has been destroyed, the rich buy justice and the poor spend their entire lives fighting the courts for justice.

The Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami said that the legal community should rise up with the mission of restoring the constitution. The independence of the judiciary and the restoration of the constitution are

the main points of Jamaat-e-Islami's Change the System movement. Our justice system has become a rotting corpse.

Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman said that those who tamper with the constitution are appointed to high positions, mafias have seized power,

there is no system of accountability, taxes are paid by the poor, farmers and salaried classes, and no one is asking the capitalists and landlords.

He said that more than 25,000 FBR employees are sitting in offices with their hands folded, no government can cope with difficult situations without the support of the people, and crores of rupees are being collected from motorcycle-riding laborers and students every day in the form of petrol levy.

The Jamaat-e-Islami chief further said that the people are joining our Badal-e-Nizam movement in droves. Lawyers should support the Jamaat-e-Islami movement for the protection of the constitution and the supremacy of law.



QUETTA: Member of Hazara community stage sit-in on Hazar Ganji road during a protest against killing of their community members in Hazar Ganji area.



QUETTA: Children participating in Education Camping Rally 2026 organized by Pashtunkhwa Students Organization (PSO), to encourage the parents to enrolled their children in schools.

Results of Talks are Expected to Promote Global Peace: Marriyum Aurangzeb

APP

LAHORE: Senior Minister Punjab and leader of the Muslim League (N) Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday the results of Islamabad talks were expected to promote stability in the region and global peace.

She thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Field Marshal Asim Munir and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, while terming the talks as an important and decisive moment in the history.

She said that Pakistan had proven that diplomacy was a continuous process, not just an event, the results of talks were expected to promote stability in the region and global peace.

She said that talks in Islamabad were

a moment of pride at the national level, Pakistan's seriousness, perseverance and dignity were demonstrated, the country had further strengthened its reputation and trust at the global level.

She said the future was safe in the hands of capable and far-sighted leadership.

In the last four days, an example of high-quality arrangements for international guests was set,

and Pakistan's hospitality and professional capabilities were recognized at the global level.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said that Pakistan had established itself as a neutral and reliable peace negotiator, the rise of diplomacy was a rich manifestation of world-class hosting.

AC coaches, new seats and a better environment for families have been introduced in the Safari Train: Muhammad Hanif Abbasi

APP

Rawalpindi: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi said that AC coaches, new seats and a better environment for families have been introduced in the Safari Train. This train has been converted into a recreational tourism model, short stays and activities have also been arranged at different stations. He expressed these views while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the upgraded rack of the Safari Train at Rawalpindi Station. He said that the Safari Train is providing facilities for passengers to have a break at every station and long stays and lunch at places like Attock Khurd, which has led to a significant increase in the number of people wishing to travel and an improvement in public confidence.

The Federal Minister said that steps are being taken to mobilize railway officers in the field and improve their performance, railway workers are serving in difficult conditions and are playing an important role in restoring the system. He also acknowledged that train operations continue despite the poor conditions on the Karachi-Rohri track. He said that comprehensive reforms are underway to improve the mechanical, brake and locomotive systems of the railways,

and a new system is being introduced to address the problems of lack of maintenance of locomotives after a long period.

The Federal Minister said that the target of completing the railway upgradation program by December 2026 has been set, while the major railway upgrade and infrastructure project is expected to start in the first week of September. Progress is underway on the railway infrastructure project worth about two billion dollars. He said that work has been accelerated on the project to reduce the travel time from Lahore to Karachi by five hours, the track upgradation project in Lahore division is underway at a cost of about Rs 250 billion, the project to run DMU trains on nine routes is moving forward with the cooperation of the Punjab government. The Federal Minister said that partnership and joint venture model have been introduced in railway projects with provincial governments.

Under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, rapid and practical progress is being seen in railway projects. He said that with the cooperation of the Sindh government, the upgradation and development work of Rohri Junction is being started, and a plan is underway to build this junction on modern lines after 150 years.