



President Zardari facilitates President of Myanmar on assumption of office



Eyes of the world firmly fixed on Pakistan: Masood Khan



Deputy Chairman Senate praises leadership for ceasefire efforts

Founded By: (Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

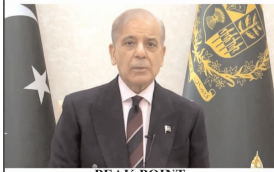
Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com Website: www.peakpoint.pk

Executive Group Editor Arif Mehmood Khan



Saturday 11 April 2026 Shawwal 22, 1447 A.HVOI No: 06 Issue No. 66 Pages 4 Rs. 20

PM Shehbaz cuts petrol price by Rs12, diesel by Rs135 per litre



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday announced a cut of Rs12 in petrol price and Rs135 in diesel rate, citing reduction in global oil prices.

In a televised address, the prime minister said the new fuel prices will take effect from

April 11. The Petroleum Division issued a notification reducing petrol prices by Rs11.83 and diesel by Rs134.81 per litre, setting new rates at Rs366.58 and Rs385.54, respectively.

The price of kerosene has been reduced by Rs17.33 per litre to Rs450.15, while light diesel oil has been cut by Rs25.31 to Rs369.72. Citing a slight decline in global oil prices, the prime minister said he rejected a proposal to divert fuel price relief towards government expenditure and insisted that the full benefit be passed on to the public. He reiterated that providing relief to farmers and reducing input costs remained a key priority of his government, particularly at a time when agricultural productivity and affordability were under pressure.



Pak-Army Troops patrolling in capital city to ensure security ahead of the United States and Iran possible negotiations in Pakistan's capital, in Islamabad.

Pakistan Navy rescues 18 crew members after distress call in Arabian Sea

PEAK POINT



KARACHI: The Pakistan Navy on Friday rescued 18 crew members of a merchant vessel after receiving a distress call in the North Arabian Sea. According to a statement issued by the navy, "In a

swift humanitarian operation, Pakistan Navy successfully rescued and evacuated 18 crew members including nationals of China, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Vietnam and Indonesia, following a distress call from Merchant Vessel (MV) Gold Autumn, operating in North Arabian Sea at 200 Nautical Miles (approximately 370 kilometres) off Pakistan's coast." The statement said that upon receiving the emergency alert, the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) activated its Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) and promptly initiated response protocols. "Accordingly, Pakistan Navy Ship Hunain, patrolling in assigned area, was immediately tasked to provide assistance to MV Gold Autumn," it added. It further said that the PNS Hunain undertook the search and rescue operation, demonstrating "professionalism and operational expertise." "Pakistan Navy Ship's team, comprising of specialists, provided medical assistance, supported in fire-fighting, conducted damage assessment of the vessel.

Khamenei says Iran does not want war but 'criminal aggressors' won't go unpunished

PEAK POINT



TEHRAN: Iran's new supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei said in his latest written message that his nation did not want war with the United States and Israel, but would protect its rights as a nation, state television reported Thursday.

"We did not seek war and we do not want it," he said in the message read out on state TV, weeks after his father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was martyred on February 28, the first day of the war.

"But we will not renounce our legitimate rights under any circumstances, and in this respect, we consider the entire resistance front as a whole," he added, in an apparent reference to Lebanon where Israel is fighting with Tehran's ally Hezbollah.

"All must know that, by Almighty God's will, we definitely won't allow the criminal aggressors who attacked our country to go unpunished." Iran this week agreed to a fragile two-week ceasefire with the United States that could lead to peace negotiations after threats of annihilation from US President Donald Trump.

The supreme leader also urged the country's southern neighbours to carefully observe ongoing regional developments, describing them as a "miracle" and calling for a clear and informed stance. He said that Iran will move the management of the strategic Strait of Hormuz into a new phase.

China will not tolerate independence for Taiwan, Xi tells island's opposition leader

PEAK POINT



CHINA: China will "absolutely not tolerate" independence for Taiwan, which is the chief culprit in undermining peace in the Taiwan Strait, President Xi

Jinping told the island's opposition leader on Friday.

Cheng Li-wun, chairwoman of Taiwan's largest opposition party, the Kuomintang (KMT), is in China on what she has called a peace mission to reduce tensions at a time when Beijing has stepped up military pressure against the island it claims as its territory.

Meeting in the Great Hall of the People, Xi told Cheng that today's world is not entirely at peace, and peace is precious. "Compatriots on both sides of the strait are all Chinese - people of one family who want peace, development, exchange, and cooperation," he said, in comments carried by Taiwan television stations.

Both sides of the strait belong to "one China", Xi added, according to a separate state media read out. "When the family is harmonious, all things will prosper," he said.

Asian Development Bank upgrades Pakistan's economic growth rate to 3.5pc

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday upgraded Pakistan's economic growth rate to 3.5 per cent for the current fiscal year, but warned of downside risk from global economic uncertainty amid the Middle East crisis. "Pakistan is expected to sustain its economic performance in the medium term, with real gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast at 3.5pc in FY2026 and 4.5pc in FY2027, from 3.1pc in FY2025, as manufacturing recovers and investment increases.

Vance heads to Islamabad, says Trump gave him 'some pretty clear guidelines' on Iran talks

PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: US Vice President JD Vance left for Islamabad on Friday to lead an American delegation that would hold talks with Iranian representatives.

The talks take place during a two-week halt in the US-Israeli war on Iran, which began with the former launching attacks on the latter on February 28.

Pakistan, which has positioned itself as a central facilitator for talks between the two sides and an appeal by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif earlier this week led to a pause in the fighting, with negotiations scheduled for Saturday.

Before leaving for Pakistan, Vance told reporters at Joint Base Andrews that he was

looking forward to the upcoming negotiations

going to find that negotiating team is not



with Iran and that he expected the talks in Islamabad to be positive. He also said US President Donald Trump gave him "some pretty clear guidelines" on negotiations. Vance further stated: "As the US president said, if the Iranians are willing to negotiate in good faith, we're certainly willing to extend the open hand. If they're going to try to play us, then they're

that receptive."

Earlier, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said airlines have been instructed to allow visa-free boarding for individuals travelling to the country in connection with the US-Iran talks in Islamabad.

In a post shared on X, Dar shared an official

directive and said, "Airlines are requested to permit boarding to all such individuals without visa. Immigration authorities in Pakistan will issue them visa on arrival".

Dar extended his welcome to "all delegates, including journalists from participating nations, travelling in relation to Islamabad Talks 2026".

Later, Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi clarified in a post on X that Pakistan had extended visa-free travel to delegates and journalists from participating nations of Islamabad Talks 2026, i.e., Iran and the US.

"This facility, extended for the duration of the talks, does not cover third-country nationals," he said.

Pakistan allows visa-free boarding, offers visa on arrival for Islamabad Talks delegates

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday said airlines have been instructed to allow visa-free boarding for individuals travelling to the country in connection with the US-Iran talks in Islamabad. Foreign delegations from Iran and the US are expected in Islamabad this weekend for talks aimed at ending the US-Israeli war on Iran, following a two-week Pakistan-brokered ceasefire. In a post shared on X, Dar shared an official directive and said, "Airlines are requested to permit boarding to all such individuals without visa. Immigration authorities in Pakistan will issue them visa on arrival". Dar extended his welcome to "all delegates, including journalists.



SPORTS



PSL 11: All-round Shakeel leads Quetta Gladiators to thumping victory over Rawalpindiz



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Rilee Rossouw's anchoring half-century, supported by a disciplined bowling display, powered Quetta Gladiators to a commanding 61-run win over Rawalpindi in the 18th match of the Pakistan Super League at the National Bank Stadium on Friday.

Set to chase a daunting 184-run target, Pindiz's batting unit faltered and could yield 121 before getting booked in 17.3 overs.

Emerging all-rounder Saad Masood waged a lone battle for the Pindiz and remained their top-scorer with a brisk 19-ball 31, followed by experienced middle-

order batter Daryl Mitchell, who made a cautious 30 off 32 deliveries. Besides them, only Yasir Khan and Abdullah Fazal could amass double figures, making 22 and 20, respectively. Usman Tariq, Jahandad Khan and captain Saud Shakeel jointly led the Gladiators' bowling charge with two wickets each, while Kashif Bhatti and Abrar Ahmed chipped in with one scalp apiece. Put into bat first, the previous edition's runners-up accumulated 182/6 in their 20 overs, setting a daunting target for the debutants to taste their maiden victory in the ongoing eight-team tournament.

The Gladiators, however, got off to a shaky start to their innings as they lost debutant opener Sam Harper (eight) on the first delivery of the fourth over with just 22 runs on the board. Following the early setback, Rossouw joined captain Saud Shakeel in the middle, and the duo batted sensibly to stabilise the innings with an anchoring 87-run partnership for the second wicket. Mubasir Khan, who was slotted into the Pindiz's lineup as a partial replacement of pacer Naseem Shah, broke the crucial partnership in the 15th over by dismissing Rossouw, who remained their top-scorer with a 42-ball 53,

studded with six fours and a six. Saud followed suit in the next over, falling victim to Ben Sears, and walked back after scoring an important 42 off 39 deliveries, comprising three fours. Experienced Mohammad Amir inflicted two more blows to the Gladiators' batting expedition by dismissing Khawaja Nafay and Bevon Jacobs in his successive overs and thus brought the total down to 156/6 in 16.2 overs. But middle-order batter Hasan Nawaz added valuable runs to the Gladiators' total at the backend with a blazing 39 off just 16 deliveries, studded with five sixes.

M Ibn, Raheel and Sana win titles at Sher-e-Punjab National Junior Squash



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Muhammad Ibn (Sindh), Raheel Victor (Sindh) and Sana Bahadur (Army) clinches the boys U-9 and U013 and women titles respectively in the Sher-e-Punjab National Junior Squash Championship 2026 that concluded in grand fashion at the Punjab Squash Complex on Thursday. Organised with the support of Lahore Development Authority, the championship attracted around 250 players from across Pakistan, competing in various categories including U-9, U-13 and women's events. In the U-9 final, Muhammad Ibn edged past Muhammad Bin Naseem in a gripping five-game battle, winning 3-2 in a 51-minute contest.

The U-13 title was claimed in dominant fashion by Raheel Victor (Sindh), who outclassed Mustafa Khan 3-0 in a swift 21-minute match. In the women's category, Sana Bahadur (Army) delivered a commanding performance to defeat Damia Khan 3-0 and secure the championship. The closing ceremony was attended by prominent dignitaries, with Noor-ul-Amin Mengal gracing the occasion as chief guest.

He was joined by senior officials and representatives from key civic institutions, reflecting strong institutional support for sports development.

Zimbabwe women set for historic maiden tour of Pakistan



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Zimbabwe women will make their first-ever tour of Pakistan this week, with a six-match white-ball series scheduled to run from April 29 to May 15 in Karachi.

The tour features three ODIs and three T20Is at the National Bank Stadium, marking a significant milestone in bilateral cricket between the two sides.

The ODI series, set for May 3, 6 and 9, forms part of the ICC Women's Championship 2025-2029, with Zimbabwe continuing their campaign after making their debut in the competition against New Zealand last month. Zimbabwe women's national cricket team endured a difficult start to the championship, losing all three ODIs and T20Is in their home series against New Zealand by comprehensive margins. The T20I leg of the Pakistan tour will be played on May 12, 14 and 15. It will be the first time the Zimbabwe women's national cricket team

and Pakistan women's national cricket team meet in the shortest format of the game.

Overall, the two sides have faced each other only once in international cricket, during the 2021 World Cup Qualifier, where Pakistan registered a 114-run victory.

Pakistan, meanwhile, has played three matches in the Women's Championship so far. They lost their recent series 1-2 to South Africa and currently sit fifth on the points table of the ICC Women's Championship. The series is expected to provide both teams with crucial preparation and exposure as they continue their build-up to the upcoming global tournaments.

Tennis legend Borg to visit Pakistan



Saad Habib takes commanding lead at 4th Rumanza Golf Championship

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Rising golf talent Saad Habib Malik delivered an exceptional performance at the 4th Rumanza Golf Championship, currently underway at the prestigious Rumanza Golf Course in Multan.

Designed by legendary golfer Nick Faldo, the Rumanza course is widely regarded as one of the most challenging in the region. Its demanding undulations, deceptive contours, and strategically placed hazards test even the most seasoned professionals. However, players of Saad's caliber have demonstrated the ability to adapt with skill, strategy, and composure.

Saad Habib showcased remarkable consistency and precision over the first two rounds. He returned a brilliant gross score of 69 in the opening round, followed by an even more impressive 68

in the second. With a combined score of 137, seven under par, he has surged to the top of the leaderboard, establishing a clear lead over a competitive field.

His success has been built on accurate ball striking,

remainder of the championship.

In the chasing pack, Abdul Moez Khan stands as his closest rival with an aggregate score of 145, trailing by eight strokes. Close behind, Abdullah Anwar Raja



intelligent course management, and calm, confident putting on the greens, qualities that underline his growing reputation as one of the country's most promising golfers. Speaking through his performance, Saad Habib Malik appears highly focused and optimistic about maintaining his lead through the

and Nouman Ilyas, the latter widely recognised as a national-level player of considerable merit, are tied at 146. As the tournament progresses, all eyes remain on Saad Habib to see if he can sustain his outstanding form and secure a well-deserved victory at one of Pakistan's premier golfing events.

Bayern seize advantage over Real in CL as Arsenal edge Sporting





CDA unveils digital parking system and revenue sharing plans for Islamabad

NADEEM TANOLI
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad's Municipal Corporation (MCI) has unveiled plans for a comprehensive overhaul of the city's parking system, with a focus on automation, accountability, and a revenue sharing model aimed at improving transparency and efficiency. The Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA) under MCI is set to implement a fully automated, auditable parking management system at several sites across Islamabad. The initiative was discussed in detail during the National

Assembly Question Answer session, where questions were raised regarding the development and operations of paid parking sites in the city. Currently, 17 parking sites are under the control of the CDA and MCI, and the government has now introduced a request for proposal (RFP) document that outlines a plan for managing and operating these sites. The proposal emphasizes using modern technology to streamline parking operations. This includes a centralized system for real time tracking of vehicle entry and exit, as well as a mobile app

for booking and payments, to ensure that the process remains efficient and transparent. The sites are divided into two clusters, with bidders given the option to submit proposals for one or both. Cluster I includes locations such as Kohsar Market (F-6), multi level car parking in F-7 Markaz, and parking near Centaurus Mall, among others. Cluster II consists of sites such as Fatima Jinnah Park F-9 and Lake View Park, along with several others located in prime areas of the city. A key part of the plan is the introduction of a revenue-sharing model,

under which 100% of the revenue generated from parking fees will be deposited into MCI's designated account, with the contractor's share disbursed after deductions. The approved parking rates vary by vehicle type, with fees set at Rs. 100 for cars, Rs. 50 for motorcycles, and Rs. 200 for buses or vans. Special rates apply for overnight parking and stall holders at weekly bazaars. The parking management system will be powered by a digital solution, which includes the use of RFID/NFC readers for entry and exit automation,

along with full HD surveillance cameras that will be monitored centrally. This will ensure a secure environment and allow for real time monitoring of occupancy and revenue status. Bidders must meet stringent eligibility criteria, including experience in similar projects, technical expertise in digital parking systems, and a solid financial standing. The contract, initially set for three years, may be extended based on performance. A performance guarantee and earnest money deposit are required as part of the bidding process. In addition to

the operational and technological aspects, the project also highlights the contractor's responsibilities for infrastructure development, including the installation of necessary utilities and maintenance, with penalties for any downtime or violations. Contractors will also be required to provide insurance for both property and third party liabilities. This initiative aims to streamline parking operations across Islamabad, reduce illegal parking activities, and improve the overall parking experience for residents and visitors.

ICT Police tighten security, launch grand combing operations across capital

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police enhanced security across the federal capital and conducted large-scale grand combing and search operations in multiple areas.

An official told APP on Friday that the operations were carried out in the jurisdictions of Secretariat, Bhara Kahu, Khanna, Shams Colony, and Sumbal police stations under the supervision of zonal SPs.

He said lady police offi-



also participated in the operations to ensure effective checking. During the operations, a total of 901 individuals and 323 households were

checked.

The official said 74 shops and 26 hotels were also inspected during the search.

He said 180 motorcycles and 73 vehicles were examined during the drive.

The official said 26 suspicious individuals along with 13 motorcycles were shifted to relevant police stations for further verification.

He said a drug peddler was also arrested and 285 grams of ice (crystal meth) were recovered from his possession.

He said special checking

points had been established at entry and exit routes of the city to further strengthen security.

All patrolling units and special squads were actively performing duties across the city, he added.

Senior officers remained present in the field, reviewing security arrangements and ensuring effective implementation of measures. The official urged citizens to cooperate with police during checks and report any suspicious activity immediately.

Opinion & Editorial

Arif Mehmood Khan
Arif Mehmood
DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD
Arif Mehmood Khan
Group Editor: 0333-5366814
Samra Athar Kakakhel
Resident Editor
Nadim Tanoli
Joint Editor: Mob-0301-777874
Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
www.peakpoint.pk

Impartial appointments

The IMF's insistence that the head of the accountability watchdog should be a non-controversial person, and one who enjoys the confidence of the opposition too, is spot on. The government's nod under compulsion, however, is a telling tale of its indispensable reliance on the international lender. The point is that it would have been more sensible and politically correct if we had not left behind such issues to be exploited and pin-pointed by donors and extra-territorial forces, by keeping our record on governance, reforms and self-appraisal in an undisputed format. The fact that every government wants to regulate national institutions as per its exigent priorities has left a bad taste in governance, besides leading to public outcry and lack of confidence in such institutions. While the incumbent NAB chairman is on an extension by virtue of a contested amendment, and the fairness of the very institution has also come under question repeatedly, it is high time necessary course-correction was undertaken. A staggering Rs5.1 trillion that was recovered by NAB but could not be cross-verified in national treasure had raised eyebrows, and caused intervention from donor agencies. Similarly, the complaints from civil society and opposition political parties against NAB's alleged partiality are also serious issues that can only be addressed through an impartial figure at the helm.

A Historic School in Bannu that needs immediate attention

By Abdul Salam Betab
Bannu is currently ahead in the field of education. In exams across the province, the students of Bannu consistently outperform others. Similarly, in sports, players from Bannu have proven their excellence, and in almost all major sports, they dominate. Although there are challenges and difficulties, it cannot be denied that the people of Bannu possess immense talent. This was stated by District Education Officer (Male), Abdul Malik, while speaking informally with local media during his visit to the historic Government Primary School Fatima Khel in Bannu. It is indeed true that the people of Bannu are not lacking in talent. In every field of life—whether education, sports, arts, literature, or culture—they have demonstrated their abilities. For example, in tent pegging, Khan Wajahatullah Khan brought international recognition to Pakistan and earned the title of "Golden Boy." Similarly, Qazi Mohib, Rashid Junior, Brigadier Hameedi, and Murad Jahan have won national and international titles. However, it is also a reality that children here do not have access to the same opportunities as those in other districts. A clear



Government Primary School Fatima Khel, which holds historical significance. Construction of the school building began in 1901 and was completed in 1906. Initially, education was provided informally, but before the partition of India, in 1928, it was officially granted government status. Located in a rural area, this school served as a center of education for both Hindus and Muslims. Dozens of renowned doctors from Bannu, including heart specialist Dr. Qazi Shahabuddin, received their early education here, sitting on mats. Likewise, Dr. Qazi Fayyazuddin, Dr. Qazi Niazuddin, Dr. Rafiuddin, Director Ghayasuddin, Principal Nahiuddin, former DEO Shiraz Khan, Professor Noor Dar, and many other notable individuals began their educational journey at this institution. Interestingly, many headmasters and teachers studied at this school, later returned as teachers, and eventually retired from there. Records from earlier times are still in the

school's record room. However, it is deeply unfortunate that this historic school has not received the attention it deserves. Currently, the number of students exceeds 900, which is a record for a primary school. Yet, for these 900+ students, there are only nine old-style classrooms—meaning roughly 100 students per classroom. Ironically, even the head teacher does not have a proper office and manages administrative work by placing chairs in the veranda. Two of the classrooms are in extremely dilapidated condition and are being temporarily supported to prevent collapse. The PC-1 (development plan) for this historic school has been prepared twice, but it has not moved forward. Records of the education office show that there are dozens of schools in Bannu where millions have been spent, yet they have little to no student enrollment. In contrast, this school has such a large number of students that perhaps no other school in the province has comparable enrollment. It is therefore essential that the education department and the active district administration of Bannu give special attention to this school and take necessary steps to secure the future of its students.

Political recalibrations in South Asia

Syed Mohammad Ali
Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal are experiencing dramatic political transitions, each ushering in genuinely new governing orders rather than the familiar 'old wine in new bottles' reshuffles. These shifts carry consequences not only domestically but across the broader South Asian region. Sri Lanka's transition, the earliest of the three, was driven by systemic economic collapse that persisted despite heavy borrowing from China. The election of a reformist government emerging from the mass protest movement marked a decisive break from the dynastic politics of the Rajapaksa era. While India and multilateral agencies provided crucial financial and humanitarian assistance during the crisis, this goodwill has not translated into policy alignment. Colombo's new leadership emphasises sovereignty, transparency and a break from dependency politics, yet the country still struggles to restore economic stability without imposing further hardship on its population. In Bangladesh, the fall of Sheikh Hasina's long-dominant government has ended one of India's most predictable regional relationships. For years, New Delhi relied on elite-level trust, close security cooperation and policy continuity under Hasina's increasingly authoritarian regime. That era has now ended. The post-Hasina landscape is defined less by hostility toward India than by uncertainty. An interim administration, focused on restoring legitimacy and preparing competitive elections, viewed India's support for Hasina skeptically. Beyond banning the Awami League from contesting February's general elections, the interim setup courted Pakistan to counter-balance India's criticism. The newly elected Bangladesh Nationalist Party is now cautiously trying to mend ties with India, yet bilateral relations remain vulnerable to nationalist narratives, and anti-Hindutva sentiment championed by the Jamaat-i-Islami, now a prominent opposition force.
Courtesy Tribune

‘World doesn’t have a plan B’: Bilawal stresses need for US-Iran talks to lead to peaceful resolution of conflict



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Former foreign minister and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the world does not have a “plan B” if the US-Iran talks fail to yield the desired results and emphasised the need for the negotiations to lead to a peaceful resolution to the Middle East war.

Bilawal shared these thoughts in an interview with Sky News, where he was asked ahead of the talks

scheduled in Islamabad for Saturday, “don’t result in a formal treaty” during the two-week ceasefire between the US and Iran, “do you have a plan B to prevent a return to full-scale hostilities”.

In his response, Bilawal said: “I think the international community doesn’t have a plan B. Our Plan A needs to be achieving a peaceful resolution to this conflict and a more permanent peace. I think the way this

conflict has played out has proven that a war of this nature, a war of this scale, is not an option.”

He continued: “It’s up to us, up to the disputing parties, up to all countries, to push all sides to agree to that peace so that we don’t get drawn into potentially broader conflict than what we have seen over the course of last month.”

His remarks come a day before Islamabad is to host peace talks between the delegations of Washington and Tehran, after Pakistan brokered a temporary ceasefire between the two warring parties.

During the interview, Bilawal said all eyes were on the visiting delegations arriving in Islamabad.

“Pakistan, London, New York and many other countries in the Middle East have been affected by this war,” he said, adding, “We can measure the toll of this conflict not only in the loss of human lives but the economic cost that is borne by the people in my country and in yours.

Eyes of the world firmly fixed on Pakistan: Masood Khan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Former ambassador to United States, China and United Nations, and former president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Masood Khan here on Friday has hailed Pakistan’s diplomatic efforts as a historic breakthrough, stating that the country has set a new global benchmark in peacemaking by facilitating direct engagement between the United States and Iran during one of the most dangerous conflicts in recent history.

In an op-ed titled “Pakistan’s mediation: A catalyst for peace” written by Ambassador Masood Khan and published by Al Jazeera Arabic, he described the moment as unprecedented and noted that the eyes of the world are now firmly fixed on Pakistan.

“I do not recall any such responsibility being entrusted to a country in the history of diplomacy,” he remarked, emphasizing that Pakistan’s swift and sustained engagement from the very onset of the conflict transformed what seemed an impossible task into a

tangible achievement.

He commended the leadership of Pakistan, including the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, for their coordinated and tireless efforts. Through intensive shuttle diplomacy and continuous high-level contacts across global capitals, Pakistan succeeded in creating the conditions necessary for a ceasefire and, crucially, for direct, face-to-face negotiations between Washington and Tehran—an outcome not witnessed at this level in decades.

Ambassador Khan highlighted three major successes: the establishment of a ceasefire framework, Islamabad’s emergence as a trusted venue for dialogue, and the facilitation of direct engagement between the two adversaries.

He noted that this development marks a significant departure from past indirect negotiations, opening a new pathway for substantive diplomacy.



LAHORE: Nasir Mushtaq Pardhan, Additional Secretary Shrines along with Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora welcoming Sikh devotees on arrival at Wagah Border here on Friday.

President Zardari facilitates President of Myanmar on assumption of office

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday extended felicitations to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, on his election to the office, expressing confidence in the continued growth of bilateral relations between the two countries.

In his letter, the President conveyed warm greetings on the assumption of office by President Min Aung Hlaing.

Highlighting the cordial relations between Pakistan and Myanmar, the President noted that the two countries are bound by shared historical and civilisational ties.

He expressed the confidence that, under President Min Aung Hlaing’s leadership, bilateral cooperation would continue to expand, creating new opportunities for mutually beneficial partnership in areas of common interest.

Nawaz Sharif highlights Pakistan’s rising role as global peace advocate

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Nawaz Sharif has said that Pakistan has carved out a distinct place on the global stage as a voice for peace and stability.

In a meeting with Sindh Governor Syed Nihal Hashmi, he welcomed the ceasefire between Iran and the United States, calling it a positive step toward global harmony. He noted that Pakistan, as a responsible nation, played a constructive role in encouraging peaceful outcomes.

Nawaz Sharif praised the diplomatic contributions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, and Chief of Army Staff Syed Asim Munir, saying their efforts led to notable progress on the international front.

He stressed that Pakistan has consistently supported peace initiatives in the region and wel-



comed dialogue between Iran and the United States as the best path forward. According to him, lasting solutions to global disputes can only be achieved through negotiations rather than conflict. He added that Pakistan’s recent diplomatic efforts have enhanced its international reputation and could contribute significantly to regional stability. He also called on the global community to seize this opportunity to advance peace efforts. Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif commended the leadership for their dedicated role in easing tensions.

Governor KP urges adherence to Constitution

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday said that the Constitution of 1973 reflects the true spirit of democratic foundations, federal unity, and public sovereignty in Pakistan.

In his message on April 10, observed as Constitution Day, he termed the unanimous adoption of the Constitution on April 10, 1973, a historic milestone that provided the nation with a collective framework for governance. The Governor paid tribute to Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, saying that giving the country a consensus Constitution was his remarkable achievement. He said the 1973 Constitution is not merely a legal document but a living covenant that unites the nation



on the principles of justice, equality, and rule of law. Kundi also lauded the struggle and sacrifices of Benazir Bhutto for the restoration of democracy and the Constitution, adding that her efforts played a key role in strengthening constitutional institutions. The Governor appreciated the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari, saying the 18th Constitutional Amendment restored the Constitution in its true spirit and strengthened parliament.

Deputy Chairman Senate praises leadership for ceasefire efforts

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Syedda Khan Nasir on Friday praised Pakistan’s political and military leadership for their role in helping facilitate a ceasefire between the United States and Iran, calling it an important diplomatic achievement.

In a statement, he commended the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, saying their active diplomacy helped prevent a major global crisis and reduce tensions at the international level. He described the development as a major diplomatic success that has further improved Pakistan’s



positive image in the world. The Deputy Chairman Senate said the appreciation from the international community, including leaders of the Muslim world, shows Pakistan’s growing role as a responsible country committed to peace, stability and dialogue. He added that the nation fully supported its leadership and stands united behind efforts taken in the national interest.

Government moves to ensure fertilizer stability for food security, agricultural growth

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD, Apr 09 (APP): Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting of the Fertilizer Review Committee to comprehensively review the supply, demand situation of urea and other key fertilizers in the country.

The meeting paid special focus on the ongoing Rabi season, Kharif 2026 projections, and preparedness for Rabi 2026-27, said a news release.

The meeting was attended

by senior federal and provincial officials, along with representatives of leading fertilizer companies including FFC, Engro Fertilizer, Fatima Fertilizer, and Agritech.

The meeting was informed that the urea situation during the Rabi season remained largely stable and well-managed.

The opening inventory stood at approximately 11.5 lac tonnes, while domestic production reached around 32.32 lac tonnes, bringing total availability to 43.8 lac tonnes.

Offtake remained steady at 35.63 lac tonnes, with no

signs of panic buying, reflecting market stability and effective supply chain management.

The closing stock is estimated at around 8 lac tonnes, which will serve as the opening inventory for the upcoming Kharif season. A buffer stock of approximately 5 lac tonnes was maintained; however, concerns were raised regarding its adequacy during peak demand months, particularly December and January. It was also noted that Agritech faced gas supply constraints, which impacted optimal production levels. Looking ahead to

Kharif 2026, the meeting reviewed the overall fertilizer supply, demand outlook and discussed necessary measures to ensure smooth availability during the season.

The Federal Minister directed all stakeholders to take proactive and practical steps to enhance production efficiency and maintain adequate availability in the market.

Emphasis was placed on ensuring uninterrupted operations of fertilizer plants, particularly through consistent gas supply, so that supply pressures can be effectively managed and market stability

sustained.

The meeting also undertook detailed scenario planning for the upcoming Rabi 2026-27 season. Various production and supply scenarios were discussed, particularly in relation to the operational status of key plants such as FFC (Port Qasim), Fatima Fertilizer, and Agritech.

It was observed that delayed operations or shutdowns during the Kharif period could lead to significant pressure on buffer stocks during the peak Rabi months of December, January, and February. Conversely, early and full operationalization of

all plants, especially from May or July onwards, would substantially improve availability and ensure a more comfortable supply position.

The Minister directed the committee to present a consolidated and realistic scenario assuming all plants become operational from July 1, along with projected production gains over the subsequent months.

It was noted that Port Qasim alone could contribute an additional 2 to 2.5 lac tonnes over a six-month period.

The meeting further noted that urea demand.