

# US-Israel-Iran agree to 2-WEEK CEASEFIRE

US President Trump pulls back from his threat to wipe out Iranian civilisation just 90 minutes before end of his own deadline

Iran proposed a 'workable' 10-point plan that could help end the war, said Trump, but later called the plan 'fraudulent'

Iran's 10 demands for ending the war include total control of the Strait of Hormuz, chokehold that roiled the world economy; withdrawal of US combat forces from the region, lifting of sanctions and release of its frozen assets.

TEHRAN, Apr 8 (Agencies)

IRAN, the United States and Israel reached a two-week ceasefire on Wednesday as US President Donald Trump pulled back from his threats to destroy



Activists protest at Lafayette Park near the White House in Washington on Tuesday. (AP/PTI)

Iranian "civilisation."

But questions emerged over what appeared to be duelling proposals to halt the region-wide war and reopen the vital Strait of Hormuz, with Iran insisting it would charge tolls

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to passing ships and continue to enrich uranium.

The decision came 90 minutes before the self-imposed 8 pm FSI deadline set by Trump for Iran to reach a deal, after backchannel diplomacy involving Pakistan.

Trump, in a post on Truth

## HOURS AFTER CEASEFIRE ANNOUNCEMENT

**UAE responds to incoming Iranian missile barrage**

DUBAI, Apr 8 (AP)

THE United Arab Emirates said on Wednesday afternoon that its air defences were firing at an incoming Iranian missile barrage.

Missile alerts were issued in the United Arab Emirates, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Kuwait after the ceasefire announcement.

The firing from both the sides came hours after Iran, the US and Israel reached a two-week ceasefire in the war.

Social on Tuesday (local time), said he would "suspend" an escalation of attacks for two weeks if Iran agrees to open the key shipping route.

In a social media post, he said talks with Pakistan led to what

**Oil refinery on Iran's Laan island attacked**

TEHRAN, Apr 8 (AP)

AN OIL refinery on Iran's Laan Island came under attack on Wednesday hours after a ceasefire in the war was announced, Iranian television reported.

The report said that fire-fighters were working to contain the blaze but no one had been hurt. It did not say who launched the attack. Even before the news strikes were reported, much about the deal was unclear as the sides presented vastly different visions.

he called a "double-sided ceasefire."

"The reason for doing so is that we have already met and exceeded all Military objectives, and are very far along with a

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**Iran closes the Strait of Hormuz**

TEHRAN, Apr 8 (Agencies)

IRAN on Wednesday closed the Strait of Hormuz in response to Israeli attacks on Lebanon, Iranian state media reported.

"Aggression towards Lebanon is aggression towards Iran," Gen. Sayad Majid Mousavi, Iran's Revolutionary Guard aerospace commander, wrote on X. He warned that Iranian forces were preparing a "heavy response" without revealing details.

The US demanded that Iran immediately reopen the Strait of Hormuz. White House said that Trump is opposed to tolls for ship passage through the Strait. While Iran could not match the sophistication of US and Israeli weaponry or their dominance in the air, its ability to control the Strait of Hormuz proved a tremendous strategic advantage.

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday warned against any country supplying military weapons to Iran, stating that he would impose a 50 per cent tariff on all goods exported to the US. Trump stated that the measure will be "effective immediately", noting that there will be no "exclusions or exemptions."

Trump also said that the US will work with Iran to "dig up and remove" its enriched uranium that was buried under joint US-Israeli strikes last summer.

## 112 killed as Israel strikes Beirut No truce deal with Lebanon: Trump

BEIRUT, Apr 8 (AP)

ISRAELI strikes hit several commercial and residential areas in central Beirut without warning on Wednesday, hours after a ceasefire was announced in the US-Israeli war with Iran. Lebanon said at least 112 people were killed and hundreds were wounded in what was one of the deadliest days in the latest Israel-Hezbollah war.

US President Donald Trump told PBS News Hour that Lebanon was not included in the deal because of the Lebanese militant Hezbollah group. When asked about Israel's latest strikes, he said, "That's a

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## Delegations from Iran, US to meet in Pak on Friday

ISLAMABAD, Apr 8 (ANI)

A MAJOR diplomatic engagement between the United States and Iran is set to take place in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Friday, April 10, 2026, where both sides will hold direct talks aimed at

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## India welcomes ceasefire, hopes for lasting peace

NEW DELHI, Apr 8 (PTI)

INDIA on Wednesday welcomed a two-week ceasefire between the US and Iran and called for "de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy" to ensure lasting peace in West Asia.

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Smoke rises following several Israeli airstrikes in Beirut, Lebanon on Wednesday. (AP/PTI)

# Truce deal is not end of war: Netanyahu

## 'Enriched uranium to leave Iran through agreement or force'

■ By Harinder Mishra  
JERUSALEM, Apr 8 (PTI)

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday said the two-week ceasefire in the fight against Iran was "not the end of the war" but a "stop on the way", as he vowed to achieve all war objectives, including the issue of Tehran's enriched uranium.

The US and Iran earlier agreed on a conditional two-week ceasefire that included the opening of the Strait of Hormuz for shipping.

"If we had not launched Operation Gideon's Sword and Operation Lion's Roar against Iran, it would have long ago had nuclear weapons and thousands of missiles to destroy Israel and threaten the existence of us all," Netanyahu said in a video statement to the press.

"We have set the terror regime

back years. The enriched material will leave Iran through agreement or through renewed combat. Israel and the US see eye to eye on this issue," Netanyahu said. Emphasising that Israel "is ready to return to fighting at any time", the Israeli Prime Minister warned that "the finger is on the trigger". Amid attacks from the Opposition charging Netanyahu failed to achieve the objectives of the war and was pushed by the US to agree to a ceasefire, the Israeli premier countered saying that Washington did not "surprise us" but rather coordinated the move with Israel.

"The temporary ceasefire came in coordination with Israel. The Americans did not surprise us at the last minute," Netanyahu said. Netanyahu said that Israel

still has more goals to achieve, including the issue of Iran's enriched uranium, which the prime minister said would either be accomplished through "diplomacy or through force".

"This is not the end of the war but a stop on the way to achieving all the goals," he said.

He also claimed that Israel destroyed not only Iran's missiles but also its ability to manufacture them. "The Iranians only fired what they had left in stock," he said. The Israeli leader also tried to convey that the strong partnership with the US was intact. "You guys are great," Netanyahu claimed Trump told him. "I can reassure you, Trump and I talk every day, and we smile at each other when we hear the assessments that our relations are not good," the Israeli leader said.



The Israeli premier also vowed to continue the military operation in Lebanon against Hezbollah, claiming to have dealt a big blow to the Shi'ite faction in today's offensive.

Several commercial and residential areas in central Beirut were hit by Israeli strikes on Wednesday, hours after the ceasefire was announced with reports of more than 100 people being killed.

The US and Israel jointly attacked Iran on February 28, killing Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and several top commanders.

The retaliation by the Islamic Republic extended the war to the entire Gulf region. Iran's chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway through which a fifth of global oil passes, had halted shipping and sent global oil prices soaring.

# N Korea fires missiles toward sea

SEOUL, Apr 8 (AP)

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NORTH Korea fired several short-range ballistic missiles toward the sea on Wednesday in its second launch event in two days, South Korea's military said, hours after a senior North Korean official released crude insults against Seoul's hopes for warmer relations. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missiles lifted off from North Korea's eastern coastal Wonsan area and flew about 240 kilometers (150 miles) each in a direction toward the North's eastern waters. It said South Korea maintains a readiness to repel any provocations by North Korea under a solid military alliance with the United States.

Seoul later said North Korea fired an additional ballistic missile toward its eastern waters without giving further details.

# India sends 250 MT foodgrains to Seychelles

VICTORIA, Apr 8 (ANI)

THE official spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal announced that India sent 250 MT foodgrains sent to Seychelles.



The move comes under the USD 175 million Special Economic Package committed to Seychelles. In a post on X, he said on Tuesday, “Dispatched- A consignment of 250 MT food-

grains sent to Seychelles. More to follow under the USD 175 million Special Economic Package committed to Seychelles.”

President Herminie acknowledged India’s steadfast support for the development and security needs and aspirations of Seychelles through lines of credit, grants, capacity building and high-impact community development projects (HICDP). Prime Minister Modi reaffirmed India’s commitment to remaining a pivotal and reliable partner in Seychelles’ national development agenda, with particular focus on sustainability, defence and maritime security, capacity building, resilience and inclusive growth.

The commitment was given when President of Seychelles Patrick Herminie visited India from February 5-10 at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

# India and Bangladesh discuss strengthening bilateral ties

NEW DELHI, Apr 8 (IANS)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar held a meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart Khalilur Rahman and his delegation in New Delhi on Wednesday, discussing bilateral ties, regional and global developments.

“Pleased to host FM Khalilur Rahman of Bangladesh and his delegation this afternoon. We discussed strengthening our bilateral relationship in its various facets. Also exchanged views on regional and global developments. Agreed to remain in close touch,” EAM Jaishankar posted on X.

Khalilur Rahman arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday on a “goodwill visit” that Dhaka emphasised is expected to play an “important foundation” for elevating the areas of cooperation between both countries to more

productive and sustainable levels in the future.

According to the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry, Rahman will participate in the Indian Ocean Conference scheduled to be held in Mauritius on April 10-12, 2026 and, en route, is making a stopover in New Delhi.

**JAISHANKAR ON MAURITIUS, UAE VISIT FROM TODAY:** EXTERNAL Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar will visit Mauritius and UAE from April 9-12, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Wednesday. During his visit to Mauritius, EAM Jaishankar will attend the 9th Indian Ocean Conference and meet Mauritius leadership to review the entire spectrum of bilateral ties.

“He will also deliver the keynote address at the 9th Indian Ocean Conference,” read a statement.



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# Cabinet clears draft bill for amendments to Women Reservation Act

NEW DELHI, Apr 8 (PTI)

THE Union Cabinet is learnt to have cleared on Wednesday the draft bill for amendments to the Women's Reservation Act that will ensure an increase in the number of Lok Sabha seats to 816 with 273 reserved for women, and its implementation in the 2029 general elections.

Sources privy to the development said that a meeting of the Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the draft bill for the amendments to the law, Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, more commonly known as the Women's Reservation Act.

The Government has extended the budget session of Parliament and a special three-day sitting will be held from April 16 to 18, where the amendment bill is expected to be passed.

The provision to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies was brought by amending the Constitution in 2023, but it would have come into effect after the completion of the delimitation exercise on the basis of the 2027 Census. Therefore, it was expected to come into force only in 2034 if the present law remains as it is.

According to the broad contours available, the number of Lok Sabha seats would be increased from the present 543 to 816, with 273 seats reserved for women. The reservation will also be done on a "vertical basis" with seats allocated for SCs and STs.

The redrawing of the constituencies will be done on the basis of the 2011 census rather than the proposed 2027 census.

Once approved by Parliament, the proposed laws will come into force on March 31, 2029 and will help reserve seats in the next Lok Sabha elections and assembly elections in Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Andhra Pradesh.

## Rs 40,000 cr for Kamala, Kalai-II hydro projects

THE Union Cabinet approved investments totalling Rs 40,150 crore for the construction of two major hydropower projects in Arunachal Pradesh, as the Government accelerates development of renewable energy and regional infrastructure.

The Kamala Hydro Electric Project (1,720 MW) will be built across Kamle, Kra Daadi, and Kurung Kumey districts through a joint venture between State-owned NHPC Ltd and the State Government, with a planned completion period of eight years.

## Jaipur Metro Project Phase-2 costing over Rs 13,000 cr

THE Union Cabinet approved the Jaipur Metro Project Phase-2, a 41-km corridor comprising 36 stations, at a total project cost of over Rs 13,000 crore, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. The project will be implemented by the Rajasthan Metro Rail Corporation Limited (RMRCL), a 50:50 joint venture of the Government of India and the Government of Rajasthan.

## 12 pc hike in P&K fertiliser subsidy to Rs 41,534 cr for Kharif 2026

THE Government on Wednesday approved 12 per cent hike in subsidy for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilisers for Kharif 2026 season to Rs 41,534 crore in order to insulate farmers from rising global prices amid the West Asia conflict. The subsidy for P&K fertilisers for Kharif 2025 season was Rs 37,216 crore.

# China-mediated Pakistan-Afghan dialogue concludes without agreement

■ **By K J M Varma**  
BEIJING, Apr 8 (PTI)

THE week-long China-mediated talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan to end fighting concluded without an agreement, with Beijing maintaining that Islamabad and Kabul have agreed to explore a “comprehensive solution” to resolve their differences.

Representatives from China, Afghanistan and Pakistan held informal talks from April 1 to 7 in Urumqi, the provincial capital of China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Chinese

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Wednesday.

The China-facilitated talks were the first major diplomatic engagement between the two neighbours since Pakistan launched Operation Ghazab lil-Haq in late February to target alleged terrorist hideouts in Afghanistan.

Pakistan accuses the Taliban-led Afghan Government of sheltering the members of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) militant groups, which are carrying out insurgency in Pakistan with recurring attacks

in several provinces. Mao said officials from the three sides had candid and pragmatic discussions in a good atmosphere, following a problem-focused, result-oriented, and action-driven approach.

The three sides stressed that dialogue and consultation are the viable and effective way to resolve complex international disputes, including that of Pakistan and Afghanistan, she said. They agreed to explore a comprehensive solution to address issues in Afghanistan-Pakistan relations, identifying both core and priority concerns, Mao said.