

EAM Jaishankar meets UAE President in Abu Dhabi

NEW DELHI, Apr 12 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday met President of the United Arab Emirates Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and discussed the West Asia crisis and its economic impact.

Jaishankar was on a two-day visit to the Gulf nation from Saturday.

“Conveyed warm greetings of Prime Minister @narendramodi and our gratitude for ensuring well-being of the Indian community during the West Asia conflict,” the External Affairs Minister said on social media after the meeting in Abu Dhabi.

Jaishankar also said he thanked Al Nahyan for his guidance on further strengthening the India-UAE comprehensive strategic partnership.

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India rejects China renaming places in Arunachal

Says move could impact process to normalise ties

NEW DELHI, Apr 12 (PTI)

India on Sunday said China's move to assign "fictitious names" to Indian territory to manufacture "baseless narratives" cannot alter the reality but could impact ongoing efforts to normalise bilateral ties.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said New Delhi "categorically rejects" any "mischievous attempts" by the Chinese side to assign such names to places which

form part of the Indian territory.

India had reacted sharply when China resorted to renaming certain places in Arunachal Pradesh in May last year as well as in April 2024.

"India categorically rejects any mischievous attempts by the Chinese side to assign fictitious names to places which form part of the territory of India," Jaiswal said.

"Such attempts by China at introducing false claims and manufacturing baseless narratives cannot alter

the undeniable reality that these places and territories, including Arunachal Pradesh, were, are, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India," he said.

Jaiswal said these actions by the Chinese side "detract from ongoing efforts to stabilise and normalise India-China bilateral ties".

"China should refrain from actions which inject negativity into relations and undermine efforts to create a better understanding," he said.

Jaiswal was responding to a media query on the issue.

China, Iran weaponised global economy to beat US at its own game: Report

■ **By Sagar Kulkarni**
WASHINGTON, Apr 12 (PTI)

CHINA and Iran have weaponised the global economy to corner the US by squeezing global supply chains, leveraging commercial links to make strategic gains, according to a report in 'The Washington Post'.

The report cited China limiting rare earth minerals exports to the US last year and the recent closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran that led to a rise in oil prices across the world as examples of adversaries beating Washington at its own game of economic warfare.

"Washington once enjoyed a near-monopoly over this type of economic warfare, punishing wayward nations by barring them from using the dollar

or enjoying access to Silicon Valley's most advanced technologies," the report said.

The US Treasury Department had performed no pre-war analysis of the conflict's potential energy market consequences, the report said, quoting Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon, the senior Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee.

Sriprakash Kothari, nominated to become assistant treasury secretary for economic policy, told committee staffers "that not only did he not perform any work related to energy markets leading up to the war, but that he wasn't aware of anyone at Treasury who did," Wyden said in an April 9 letter to Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.

According to the Post, commercial

linkages have emerged as potential pressure points on the global economy, as was witnessed during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war and the turbulence that hit the US-China relations.

In response, the United States, China and Europe are all moving to bolster their economic defences by investing in domestic production of essential goods, the report said.

"The global economy was designed for the benign environment of the 1990s, when we assumed that China and Russia would be our friends. But we're living in a period of intensifying geopolitical competition," said Edward Fishman, author of "Chokepoints," a history of the US approach to economic warfare.

CASH-STRAPPED PAK TO GET \$5 bn Saudi, Qatar support

■ **By Sajjad Hussain**

ISLAMABAD, Apr 12 (PTI)

CASH-STRAPPED Pakistan is set to receive USD 5 billion in financial support from Saudi Arabia and Qatar, providing a critical buffer for its fragile external position, according to a media report on Sunday.

The expected inflows come at a crucial juncture as Islamabad prepares to repay USD 3.5 billion to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) this month and faces pressure on its foreign exchange reserves, the 'Dawn' newspaper said.

To avert pressure on Pakistan's weak foreign reserves, Saudi Arabia and Qatar will provide USD 5 billion in financial assistance, the report said, quoting sources in the Finance Ministry.

The development coincides with Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb's visit to Washington to attend the IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings and advance Pakistan's economic diplomacy. Aurangzeb will participate in the meetings sched-

uled from April 13 to 18, where he is expected to hold engagements with senior officials of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Policymakers view these interactions as part of a broader strategic outreach, with indications that traditional factors such as strict programme conditionalities or reliance on third-party guarantors, including the UAE, may carry less weight in the current context.

The IMF has stipulated that Pakistan's three key bilateral creditors -- Saudi Arabia, China and the UAE -- must maintain their cash deposits with the country until the completion of the ongoing three-year programme. It seems the UAE will be replaced by Qatar, the Dawn report said.

Ahead of his departure, Aurangzeb met Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Jadaan in Islamabad, who also called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, reflecting continued support at a time when Pakistan has announced plans to clear its UAE debt.

US, Iranian delegations leave Pakistan without peace deal

Both sides attempting to hold each other responsible for the collapse of the negotiations.

ISLAMABAD, Apr 12 (PTI)

THE US and Iran failed to reach a peace deal at their historic 21-hour talks in Pakistan, leaving the fate of a tenuous two-week ceasefire in doubt, with both sides attempting to hold each other responsible for the collapse of the negotiations.

Vice President JD Vance, who led the US delegation at the negotiations in Islamabad, said the Iranian side did not accept Washington's terms for ending the war even as the US presented its "final and best offer". He indicated that Tehran's reluctance to abandon its nuclear programme was one of the key sticking points.

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, the head of the Iranian team, said it is for the US to decide whether it can "earn our trust or not".

The Iranian foreign ministry, without elaborating, said the US side resorted to "excessive" and "illegal demands".

The failure to reach an agreement has dimmed the prospect of reopening the Strait of Hormuz to stabilise the global energy market. It is unclear whether the US



Vice President JD Vance, right, speaks during a news conference after meeting with representatives from Pakistan and Iran as Jared Kushner, left, and Steve Witkoff, Special Envoy for Peace Missions listen, on Sunday in Islamabad, Pakistan. (AP/PTI)

will resume military operations against Iran. "We have been at it now for 21 hours. We've had a number of substantive discussions with the Iranians, that's the good news," Vance said at a press conference before departing from the Pakistani capital.

"The bad news is that we have not reached an agreement and I think that's bad news for Iran much more than it's bad news for the United States of America."

"But the simple fact is that we need to see an affirmative commitment that they will not seek a nuclear weapon and they will not seek the tools that would enable them to quickly achieve a nuclear weapon," he said.

To a question on Iran's nuclear

Trump announces immediate blockade of Strait of Hormuz

By Sagar Kulkarni

WASHINGTON, Apr 12 (PTI)

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Sunday announced that the US Navy would immediately begin a blockade on ships from entering or leaving the Strait of Hormuz, hours after the peace talks with Tehran failed on the issue of nuclear weapons.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said he has directed the US Navy to seek and interdict every vessel in International

Waters that has paid a toll to Iran.

"No one who pays an illegal toll will have safe passage on the high seas," the US President said, claiming that other countries will be involved in this blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial narrow waterway used to transport a fifth of the global oil supplies.

"They want money and, more importantly, they want Nuclear. Additionally and, at

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