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Detailed News On Page-08

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Detailed News On Page-08



Sajid Sadpara Summits highest World mountain

Detailed News On Page-06



After pulling off ceasefire

Trump vows to resolve Kashmir dispute amicably

The US leader praised the “strong and unwaveringly powerful” leadership of India and Pakistan for reaching a ceasefire, saying their legacy is greatly enhanced by their brave actions



CENTRELINE REPORT

WASHINGTON: Buoyed by his feat in securing India-Pakistan ceasefire, US President Donald Trump Sunday pledged to “increase trade substantially” with the two South Asian neighbours and find a solution to the long-running Kashmir dispute. In a post on Truth Social, the US leader praised the “strong and unwaveringly powerful” leadership of India and Pakistan for reaching a ceasefire, saying their legacy is greatly enhanced by their brave actions. “I will work with you both to see if, after a ‘thousand years,’ a solution can be arrived at concerning Kashmir. God Bless the leadership of India and Pakistan on a job well done!!!” After four days of intense military exchange, India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire along the Line of Control in the disputed

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Pakistan welcomes Trump's statement

FARRUKH SHEHZAD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday welcomed the statement by the United States (US) President Donald J. Trump regarding Pakistan-India relations and appreciated his willingness to support efforts aimed at the resolution of the longstanding Jammu and Kashmir dispute that has serious implications for peace and security in South Asia and beyond. “We acknowledge with appreciation the constructive role played by the United States, alongside other friendly states, in supporting the recent ceasefire understanding between Pakistan and India; a step towards de-escalation and regional stability,” the Foreign Office said in a statement issued here. Earlier, President Donald J. Trump wrote on his Truth Social wall, a social media platform say-

ing: “I am very proud of the strong and unwaveringly powerful leadership of India and Pakistan for having the strength, wisdom, and fortitude to fully know and understand that it was time to stop the current aggression that could have lead to the death and destruction of so many, and so much. Millions of good and innocent people could have died! Your legacy is greatly enhanced by your brave actions. I am proud that the USA was able to help you arrive at this historic and heroic decision.” Pakistan remains committed to engaging with the United States and the international community in efforts to promote peace, security, and prosperity in the region. “We also look forward to deepening our multifaceted partnership with the United States, particularly in the areas of trade, investment, and economic cooperation,” the Foreign Office statement added.

Palestine welcomes the ceasefire agreement

DNA

RAMALLAH: The State of Palestine has expressed its strong support for the ceasefire agreement reached between India and Pakistan, welcoming this significant development as a positive step towards enhancing security and stability in the region. The State of Palestine emphasized the importance of resolving disputes through diplomatic means, dialogue, and adherence to the principles of good neighborliness. It further underscored that such agreements contribute to strengthening regional and international peace and security. The State of Palestine also commended the efforts of both India and Pakistan in

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MOSCOW: Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani is being received upon his arrival at Moscow, Russia, by Vladimir Chizhov, Head of the Group for Cooperation between the Federation Council of the Russian Federation and the Senate of Pakistan. – APP

Mediation

China ready to play role in Pakistan-India permanent ceasefire

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks during a phone call with Mohammad Ishaq Dar, deputy prime minister and foreign minister

Attaf, Dar discuss subcontinent tensions



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, National Community Abroad, and African Affairs, Mr. Ahmed Attaf, received a phone call this afternoon from Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar. On this occasion, the Pakistani Minister briefed his Algerian counterpart on the latest developments in the Indian subcontinent, particularly the circumstances surrounding the ceasefire agreement between Pakistan and India, with the aim of calming the situation and avoiding any escalation that could jeopardize security and stability in both countries and the region. For his part, the Minister of State expressed Algeria's welcome of this agreement, praising the mediation efforts made to achieve it by emphasizing diplomacy and dialogue over the logic of tension and conflict. Mr. Ahmed Attaf also emphasized Algeria's hope that this step will be consolidated and strengthened in the coming days, enabling it to open new horizons toward establishing the foundations for a lasting, just, and final peace between the two neighboring countries, serving the interests of their peoples and enhancing security and stability in the entire region.

DNA

BEIJING: China hopes for and supports an early ceasefire between Pakistan and India, and is willing to continue playing a constructive role in this regard, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said. Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks during a phone call with Mohammad Ishaq Dar, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. As a neighbor of both Pakistan and India, China is concerned about the escalation of their conflict, Wang said, expressing sympathies over the civilian casualties in Pakistan. Noting that China supports Pakistan in safeguarding its national sovereignty and dignity, Wang expressed confidence that Pakistan will respond to the current situation with calm, and make decisions in line with its fundamental and long-term interests.

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Nation celebrates success of powerful operation against Indian strikes

PM Shehbaz says 'Operation Bunyan-um- Marsoos' gave effective, befitting response to enemy's aggression

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced to observe 'Youme-Tashakkur' on the country's befitting response to Indian aggression and on the success of 'Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos'. The day will be observed to offer gratitude to Allah Almighty,

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India caught off guard by Pak hardware: UK expert

“The Indians might have been surprised by the hardware that the Pakistanis brought to bear,” says Professor Clarke

NEWS DESK

LONDON: In an interview with British news outlet, Professor Clarke stated that India would likely view Pakistan's display of strength as a sign of risk-taking. “The Indians might have been surprised by the hardware that the Pakistanis brought to bear,” he said, “because as we're now discovering they've used quite a lot of their Chinese-based technology, and the attention at the moment is focused on the J-10

fighter.” Clarke added that it appeared one of Pakistan's J-10 jets may have downed a Rafale, one of the French-made fighter aircraft in India's arsenal. “And undoubtedly,” he continued, “the Pakistanis have used their HQ-9, anti-aircraft missiles, which again may have been rather effective.” “So I think the Indians might have been surprised by the technical abilities that Pakistan seems to have absorbed with their Chinese equipment, but they

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Briefs

Asif says

‘Pak response leaves India's arrogance in dust’

ISLAMABAD: Defense Minister Khawaja Asif on Sunday congratulated the nation on befitting response to India's aggression. In an interview with a private news channel, the defense minister stated that the Pakistan's strong response has left them disappointed and their arrogant posture humbled, “reduced to nothing but dust”. Khawaja Asif stated that India's policymakers have been compelled to reassess their policies in light of Pakistan's strong response. When asked about potential talks, he emphasized that Pakistan would prioritize three major concerns including Indus Water, Kashmir and terrorism which need to resolve and ensure peace in the region.

Pak, China, Afghanistan commit to stronger ties

Participants of meeting vowed to strengthening cooperation across number of other areas as well, says Sadiq

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Pakistan, China and Afghanistan committed to stronger economic ties in a trilateral meeting hosted by the Afghan interim Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Kabul, The News reported on Sunday. Pakistan's Special Representative for Afghanistan Mohammad Sadiq said the trilateral conference on Saturday concentrated on the region's economic and security prospects. Participants of the meeting committed to strengthening cooperation across a number of other areas as well, Sadiq added.

DG ISPR SAYS

Pakistan armed forces fulfilled their promises

Says it was demonstration of only a few of our capabilities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Addressing a press briefing, DG ISPR Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said the presser was aimed to apprise the nation on the conduct and conclusion of 'Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos' — a military campaign launched in response to Indian aggression that began on the night of May 6 and 7, resulting in the loss of civilian lives, including women and children. He noted that Pakistan had pledged justice and retribution for the reprehensible Indian military strikes and brutal civilian casualties. “Pakistan armed forces have fulfilled the promise that made to our people.” THE Director General of the Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) emphasized that Pakistan exercised considerable restraint and professionalism during its response to Indian aggression. He clarified that only a limited portion of Pakistan's military capabilities were employed, showcasing the country's desire to avoid escalation and maintain regional peace.

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Indian opposition seeks joint session on 'Operation Sindoor'

DNA

INDIA'S main opposition leader Rahul Gandhi urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to convene a special session of parliament immediately on Pahalgam attack, “Operation Sindoor” and ceasefire. Congress MP and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi wrote to PM Modi and reiterated the unanimous request of the opposition to convene a special session of the parliament. In the letter, Rahul noted “it is crucial for the people and their representatives to discuss” the above-mentioned issues,

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Middle class surge, youth: Pakistan's quiet revolution

Ambassador of Hungary Béla Fazekas reflects on his tenure in Pakistan

EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: In a rare and insightful interview after nearly five years, Hungary's Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Béla Fazekas, sat down with Centreline, Daily Islamabad POST, and Diplomatic News Agency (DNA) to share reflections on his diplomatic journey, Pakistan's transformation, and the evolving bilateral ties between Hungary and Pakistan. Ambassador Fazekas is currently serving his second term in Islamabad, which is set to conclude in June 2025.

Witness to a Nation's Transformation Reflecting on his nearly decade-long association with Pakistan, Ambassador Fazekas described his experience as deeply personal and transformative. “You not only witness the history of this country but become a part of it,” he said. “Pakistan became a part of me—its challenges and values have left a mark on my personality. I've become more



open and aware of issues I once took for granted—like climate resilience, women's empowerment, and mercy in the Shakespearean sense.” **Changing Perceptions and Rising Potential** Since his first posting in 2005, the Ambassador has seen tremendous change. “You cannot step into the same river twice, and similarly, you cannot



arrive twice in the same country,” he remarked. “The most visible shift has been the rise of an affluent middle class, which is now driving a burgeoning service sector. Simultaneously, a connected and aware youth—empowered by social media—is forging bonds with their global peers.” However, he lamented that outdated stereotypes still cloud foreign percep-



tions of Pakistan. “These perceptions often linger even after their truths fade. But the reality I've experienced is vastly different,” he said, recalling how Pakistan was once viewed as a non-family duty station. “I came here with my family and two young children—they loved it. They still return to visit and cherish their time here.” He highlighted the global recognition

brought by Pakistani athletes as a powerful force for changing perceptions. “When Arshad Nadeem won the silver medal in Budapest at the 2023 World Athletics Championship, he made Pakistan proud. And when he clinched gold at the Paris Olympics a year later, he reshaped global associations with Pakistan more effectively than any diplomat could.” **The Heart of Pakistan: Culture, Values, and Hospitality** Ambassador Fazekas praised the moral fabric of Pakistani society. “There's a deep-rooted cultural principle to help those in need. Unlike some other countries in the Global South, I've never heard of anyone dying of hunger in Pakistan. Perhaps it's linked to the Islamic principle of almsgiving, but whatever the reason, it adds to the deep respect I hold for the people here.” On hospitality, he was equally appreciative. “Guests are treated with genuine warmth and respect. I've experienced this consistently—more often than in any other country I've served in.”

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CM orders high-level inquiry into irregularities in ETEA test

A high-level inquiry has been ordered, and a formal letter has been sent from the Chief Minister's Secretariat to the Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Initial reports revealed that several individuals were arrested from a private guest house during the test

DNA

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, on Sunday has taken serious notice of alleged irregularities in Educational Testing and Evaluation Agency (ETEA) screening test held in Bannu on May 10. A high-level inquiry has been ordered, and a formal letter has been sent from the Chief Minister's Secretariat to the Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Initial reports revealed that several individuals were arrested from a private guest house during the test. Authorities recovered test papers, bubble sheets, laptops, and scanning machines from their possession. These arrests occurred while the ETEA test was in progress, raising serious concerns about the transparency and supervision of the examination process. The chief minister condemned the incident as a severe violation of merit and transparency. He has instructed the Chief Secre-

tary to conduct a comprehensive and timely investigation. A senior officer or a group of officers will be appointed to thoroughly probe the incident, identify those responsible and recommend disciplinary action. In his directive, CM Gandapur emphasized that the inquiry must not only examine the immediate facts of the incident but also assess potential systemic weaknesses within ETEA. Any individual or institution found involved or negligent should face appropriate legal and administrative action. The Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education has also been directed to reassess examination arrangements across all districts and ensure coordinated supervision by deploying officers to work closely with local administrations and ETEA. The chief minister has further ordered that the inquiry report be submitted within 15 days. Reiterating his government's commitment, he affirmed that there will be no compromise on the principles of merit, transparency, and accountability. It is pertinent to mention

that authorities arrested at least ten people on Sunday for allegedly solving teacher recruitment exam papers at the hujra of provincial minister Pakhtunyar. Acting on Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Fahim's orders, the teams of district Administration, along with police, raided the hujra situated in Mirakhel Police Station jurisdiction. The operation uncovered that the ETEA-conducted education department exam papers were being solved there. Recovered items included today's exam papers, answer sheets, a laptop, a computer, and a printer. All those arrested have been turned over to the local police for legal proceedings, and ETEA has been notified for further action. The move underscores efforts to ensure a fair and merit-based recruitment process. The raiding team also recovered today's exam papers, answer sheets, a laptop, a computer, and a printer at the scene. ETEA has been informed about the raid. This move was seen as crucial for maintaining fairness in the teacher recruitment process.



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police holding Thanksgiving Day Rally to express solidarity with Pakistan Armed Forces.

Jinnah Square underpass nearing completion: Naqvi

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Jinnah Square Murree Road underpass project and reviewed the progress of the ongoing development work. The walls on both sides of the underpass have been completed, while work on the roof has now been started. It is worth mentioning that the underpass will be inaugurated on May 22. During the inspection, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi directed that 100 per cent of the work should be completed within the current month. He expressed satisfaction over the pace and quality of development work despite recent rainfall.

The Interior Minister also instructed for the development of green areas and beautiful landscaping around the project. He also inspected the under construction bridge near the underpass as well. He also directed immediate action for the removal of encroachments on the Expressway. He stated that transforming Islamabad into a world-class city in terms of traffic management and public facilities is the top priority. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa, while briefing on the project, said that 75% of the development work has been completed. Out of the four slip roads, three have been completed, and traffic has been restored for public convenience. It was further highlighted during the briefing that despite rains and weather conditions, the development work will be completed on time.

Pak stresses shared responsibility to protect migratory birds

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan marked World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2025 with a call for collective action to safeguard migratory birds, emphasizing their critical role in maintaining ecosystems, supporting agriculture, and signaling environmental changes. Muhammad Saleem Shaikh, spokesperson for the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, stated that over two-thirds of Pakistan's 668 bird species are migratory, making their conservation a national and international priority. This year's theme, "Shared Spaces: Creating Bird-Friendly

Cities and Communities," highlights the need for urban planning that protects birds from threats like habitat loss, light pollution, and collisions with buildings. "Pakistan serves as a crucial stopover and breeding ground for migratory birds," Shaikh said. "Their conservation is not just an ecological duty but also a commitment under global agreements like the UN Convention on Migratory Species." He outlined risks such as rapid urbanization, glass buildings, and illegal hunting, urging measures like bird-safe architecture, reduced light pollution, wetland preservation, and native

vegetation planting. Migratory birds, he noted, are vital for pollination, pest control, and indicating environmental health. Pakistan is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), and Shaikh stressed the importance of collaboration among policymakers, researchers, and communities. "Environmental protection is a shared responsibility," he said. "We must build cities that balance progress and nature." The ministry reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable urban development and public awareness to reverse declining bird populations.—APP

Ceasefire termed as opportunity for regional peace

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik on Sunday welcomed the Pakistan-India ceasefire, highlighting its potential to foster lasting stability in a region that is home to nearly one-fifth of the world's population. In a statement issued here, he described the ceasefire as a pivotal opportunity to rebuild trust between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. "Sustainable peace is the bedrock of prosperity," he said, urging both countries to prioritize dialogue and regional collaboration over confrontation. Iftikhar Malik linked the easing of hostilities to economic revival, stating that reduced tensions could unlock avenues for cross-border trade, foreign investment, and large-scale regional connectivity projects that have long been hindered by instability. "A peaceful environment attracts global investors," he remarked, emphasizing that South Asia's immense GDP potential has been undercut by decades of conflict. Expressing optimism, he noted that the ceasefire could reignite multilateral cooperation and transform South Asia into a hub of innovation and inclusive growth. "Peace is not only a political imperative but also an economic necessity," he added. "A durable peace sends a strong global message that dialogue, not conflict, is the path forward." He also called on all SAARC member states to support this positive development and renew their commitment to reviving the regional economic agenda through cooperation and shared progress.—APP

Call for setting up KP regional languages academy

DNA

PESHAWAR: Literary circles have supported the proposal for establishing an academy for the development of all languages spoken in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially endangered ones, and urged the provincial government to implement and fund the scheme. The suggestion has been made by the Gandhara Hindko Board, a Peshawar-based literary and cultural organization, which has asked the KP government to set up and fund a representative academy for all native languages of the province titled "Gandhara Hindko and KP Endangered Languages Academy Peshawar". It is worth mentioning that the board, which has been engaged in the promotion of the Hindko language since 1993, has won the KP government trust by successfully running the Gandhara Hindko Academy for seven years (2015-2022) in collaboration with the Higher Education Department under public-private

partnership.

The board has now suggested that the KP government establish an academy for the development of all languages of the province, with particular attention to those under threat of extinction. Poets, writers, and researchers have endorsed the proposal, citing the board's effective track record through the Gandhara Hindko Academy, which published literature in 11 Pakistani languages by partnering with the government. "I fully support the idea of 'Gandhara Hindko and KP Endangered Languages Academy, Peshawar,'" a noted Urdu and Hindko writer Prof Aurangzeb Hussam Hur, said, hoping that the proposed academy would protect and promote the endangered languages of KP. "Prof Dr Faizi, a senior writer from Chitral, said: 'I am pleased to learn that the Hindko Board, building on the Hindko Academy experience, wants an academy for endangered languages. If the proposal is implemented, all languages will have the opportunity to flourish under one roof alongside

Hindko. This will be a successful experiment. It will encourage speakers of diverse languages to contribute to the preservation and development of their heritage, promote literature and culture, and enhance linguistic unity. I suggest that, in addition to the KP government, the federal government and UNESCO should also be approached for funding.'" a Torwali-Kohistani lexicographer and linguist from Bahrain in Swat, is also among the supporters of the proposed academy. "The idea of establishing a joint academy representing all language communities in KP is excellent. Collective and collaborative efforts—supported by government and scholarly bodies—are essential. As a native researcher and linguist of Torwali-Kohistani, I fully support this idea, as it can save endangered languages from extinction," he said, a scholar of the DAMELI language from Chitral, praised the Hindko Board for embracing Dameli and providing its speakers a platform at regional, national, and international conferences.

Thousands of laptops distributed among KP students: Babar

PESHAWAR: Prime Minister's Youth Program Coordinator for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Babar Saleem Khan on Sunday said that under the Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme, the deserving and talented youth across the country were being provided with laptops in a transparent and non-political manner. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has strictly directed that the distribution process remain above political bias and fully transparent. Speaking at a certificate distribution ceremony for students completing a digital media course organized by the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), Babar Saleem Khan highlighted that thousands of laptops have already been distributed to students in Peshawar and other parts of KP. The event was hosted at China Window, the Chinese cultural and information center in Peshawar. Addressing the students, he said that the Prime Minister's Youth Program was committed not only to enhancing the capabilities of youth across Pakistan but also to providing them with high-quality technical training. In addition to scholarships, he said efforts are being made to create employment opportunities for the younger generation. Babar Saleem Khan further announced the launch of the "Digital Youth Hub" under the leadership of Chairman PM Youth program Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan. This hub, a practical manifestation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision, is designed to offer Pakistani youth direct access to education, skills development, and job opportunities. He described the Digital Youth Hub as a modern, AI-based one-window platform offering scholarships, digital skill training, career guidance.—APP

India's Tactical Mistake - Counter-strike of the Pakistani Falcons



TANVEER HUSSAIN

The May 2025 Pakistan-India Clash is a Significant Event in Many Respects. Since East Pakistan incident 1971 and Kargil conflict 1999, ordinary Pakistanis harbored deep anger and resentment toward India. In addition, Indian state terrorism in Occupied Kashmir, the demolition of the Babri Mosque, and the massacres of Muslims in Gujarat and several other cities, along with discriminatory policies, had intensified public hatred against the extremist Indian rulers. Although the Pakistan Army achieved considerable success along the Afghan border after

the 1980s, civilians longed to see their falcons (pilots) fighting their eternal enemy, India. They wished to avenge the loss of East Pakistan. School curricula emphasized the 1965 war and the heroic actions of the Pakistani armed forces. Religious parties also often spoke of "Ghazwa-e-Hind" (a prophesied battle) and raising the green crescent flag over the Red Fort. Thus, a large-scale war with India culminating in Pakistan's victory remained a longstanding dream of the average Pakistani citizen. Eventually, that long-awaited day arrived. Influenced by the Hindutva ideology, the Indian Prime Minister made a reckless decision that cost India dearly. Narendra Modi's foolishness not only brought shame to his country before the global community but also gave Pakistanis a golden opportunity to prove themselves on the battlefield. The people of Pakistan had waited fifty years to witness such a moment. On the night of May 6-7, India violated Pakistani airspace and launched missile attacks on six Pakistani cities. These attacks targeted civilian populations and mosques.

In swift retaliation, Pakistan inflicted irreparable damage on India. The Pakistani response was immediate and intense—far beyond what India had anticipated. Pakistan downed five Indian fighter jets using JF-17 Thunder jets, including the advanced Rafale jets purchased from France. On May 9, India once again attacked Pakistani airbases using drones and missiles. That night, Pakistan deployed its proud JF-17 Thunder jets, which used their supersonic missiles to completely destroy India's S-400 air defense system, worth \$1.5 billion and bought from Russia. This was the most devastating and irreversible loss in India's history. Pakistan also jammed India's satellite systems, asserting dominance over Indian airspace. Subsequently, Pakistan unleashed a barrage of Al-Fatah missiles. These missiles are known for their speed, stealth, and mid-flight maneuvering, and wherever they strike, they cause immense devastation. The Al-Fatah missiles crippled India's defense systems. Among other targets, they

destroyed the storage facilities of India's most advanced BrahMos missiles. Additionally, airbases and airfields in Adampur, Udhampur, Bhatinda, Suratgarh, Akhnoor, Mamun, Jammu, Sirsa, and Barnala were decimated. Pakistan also obliterated India's intelligence center in Rajouri, which had long been a hub for terrorist activities against Pakistan. India, seeking revenge for this crushing defeat, ordered a major air operation. However, the fear of Pakistan's JF-17 and J-10 aircraft and their advanced missile systems prevented Indian forces from entering Pakistani airspace. Eventually, the U.S. President stepped in to mediate a ceasefire. Pakistan had always preferred peace and dialogue, but India, under pressure from extremist Hindu organizations like Shiv Sena and RSS, often avoided talks. This time, however, India's arrogance was shattered by a major defeat. With none of their attacks succeeding against Pakistan, they were forced to accept President Trump's ceasefire offer to save face.

From the very beginning of India's attack, Pakistan, through its effective diplomatic strategy, succeeded in garnering global support. Pakistan made a clear declaration that it would fully cooperate with any investigation on any forum regarding India's allegations. The United States, China, Europe, and Arab countries—all supported Pakistan's stance. This was the result of Pakistan's vigorous diplomatic efforts, due to which not only did the U.S. reject India's position, but even India's former ally Russia showed a notably cold attitude toward the Indian Prime Minister. This war greatly benefited Pakistan by bringing the Kashmir issue back into the international spotlight. The U.S. President offered his services to help resolve the Kashmir dispute. Whether he is sincere in this offer is another debate, but thanks to this proposal, Kashmir once again captured the attention of diplomats and global media. This too marked another significant defeat for India.

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

MAY

May 03/Poland National Day

May 06/Bulgaria Armed Forces Day

May 06/UAE Armed Forces Day

May 07/ Kazakhstan Armed Forces Day

May 08/Czech Republic National Day

May 09/European Union National Day

May 17/Norway Constitution Day

May 21/Hungary Armed Forced Day

May 22/Yemen Republic Re-unification Day(National Day)

May 24/Eritrea National Day

May 25/Lebanon Liberation and Resistance Day


May 25/Argentina National Day

May 25/Jordan Independence Day

May 28 /Azerbaijan Republic Day

May 28/Ethiopia National Day

May 31/Brunei Armed Forces Day



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



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Water Tank

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Neglected dreams: G-14/1 still awaits development

Plot owners have now appealed to the Supreme Court of Pakistan and relevant authorities to take urgent suo motu notice of the matter. They argue that the issue should be treated not merely as a matter of development but one of justice and equity. After paying full dues and fulfilling all requirements, they deserve timely possession – or at the very least, a concrete timeline and action plan

DNA

ISLAMABAD : Sector G-14, a residential sector of Islamabad announced in 2004 under the Capital Development Authority (CDA), remains a symbol of chronic administrative neglect and failed urban planning. Of its four sub-sectors – G-14/1, G-14/2, G-14/3, and G-14/4 – only the latter three have seen partial development over the past two decades. G-14/1, however, continues to remain in limbo, largely due to illegal encroachments and a persistent lack of political will to address the issue. The sector, meant to accommodate federal government employees through the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA), was a beacon of hope for thousands of allottees. Many invested their life savings with the dream of owning a home in Islamabad. Two decades later, that dream remains unfulfilled for many – and tragically, several allottees have passed away while waiting for possession of their plots in G-14/1. The key obstacle in the development of G-14/1 has been the failure to vacate the illegally occupied land. Despite repeated efforts, FGEHA and CDA have failed to remove the encroachments and initiate development. The presence of unauthorized constructions – often built with the implicit support of local influential groups – has not only stalled progress but also made legal allottees suffer in silence. During the tenure of Prime Minister Imran Khan, an anti-encroachment operation was finally launched with high hopes. Bulldozers rolled into the area, and initial action signaled a shift towards reclaiming the long-stalled land. However, the operation was abruptly halted, allegedly due to political pressure. Sector G-14/1 fell within the constituency of former minister Asad Umar, and residents claim that political interference led to the discontinuation of the operation. This decision dashed hopes and reinforced the perception that ordinary citizens’ rights are secondary to political expediency. Unfortunately, the current government has done little to change the status quo. While plots in G-14/2, 3, and 4 have seen infrastructure development – including roads, sewerage systems, and partial possession – the complete silence over G-14/1 continues to frustrate the affected families. The absence of accountability within the FGEHA and a lack of commitment by elected representatives have left residents feeling abandoned. For many plot owners, this issue is more than just an administrative delay – it’s a matter of human rights. Every citizen has the right to shelter, and for many government servants who have retired and waited for years, it’s a violation of dignity to be denied what is rightfully theirs. The mental anguish, financial burden, and emotional distress suffered by these families cannot be overstated. Plot owners have now appealed to the Supreme Court of Pakistan and relevant authorities to take urgent suo motu notice of the matter. They argue that the issue should be treated not merely as a matter of development but one of justice and equity. After paying full dues and fulfilling all requirements, they deserve timely possession – or at the very least, a concrete timeline and action plan. Civil society activists also point out that Islamabad, as the federal capital, should set an example in transparency, rule of law, and planned urban growth. The continued failure to develop G-14/1 tarnishes this image. When powerful land grabbers can stall state-backed development for over 20 years, it sends a damaging message to investors and citizens alike. Plot holders have also demanded that if FGEHA cannot resolve the matter, the land be taken over by the CDA for expedited action, or that they be offered alternative plots in already developed sectors. At the very least, the state owes these citizens clarity and assurance. The plight of G-14/1 must not be allowed to become another forgotten file in the corridors of bureaucracy. It is a litmus test for the government’s sincerity in addressing citizens’ concerns. For the many families still holding on to hope, the time for action is now. Bureaucratic red tape, political maneuvering, and institutional apathy have stolen two decades from their lives – they can’t afford to wait any longer.

Jinnah Square Murree Road underpass nearing completion



MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Jinnah Square Murree Road underpass project and reviewed the progress of the ongoing development work. The walls on both sides of the underpass have been completed, while work on the roof has now been started. It is worth mentioning that the underpass will be inaugurated on May 22. During the inspection, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi directed that 100 per cent of the work should be completed within the current month. He expressed satisfaction over the pace and quality of development work despite recent rainfall. The Interior Minister also instructed for the development of green areas and beautiful landscaping around the project. He also inspected the under construction bridge near the underpass as well. He also directed immediate action for the removal of encroachments on the Expressway. He stated that transforming Islamabad into a world-class city in terms of traffic management and public facilities is the top priority. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa, while briefing on the project, said that 75% of the development work has been completed. Out of the four slip roads, three have been completed, and traffic has been restored for public convenience. It was further highlighted during the briefing that despite rains and weather conditions, the development work will be completed on time. The Federal Secretary for Interior, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, and other officials were also present on the occasion.

Pak sovereign nation, not to tolerate attacks on integrity

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani on Sunday reaffirmed that Pakistan is a sovereign and independent nation that will never tolerate any aggression against its independence, dignity, or territorial integrity. In a statement issued here, Bilal Kayani congratulated the nation and its leadership, emphasizing that the country has once again demonstrated its unity, resilience and strength in the face of external threats. “The world has witnessed that our aspiration for peace must not be mistaken for weakness,” he added. Commenting on recent Indian aggression, Bilal Kayani said Pakistan was fortunate to have decisive leadership at a critical moment. He paid tribute to former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and the broader political leadership whose guidance, he said, contributed significantly to Pakistan’s success. He also extended special praise to Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Babar Sidhu and Naval Chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf, noting that the nation proudly salutes their leadership and service. Highlighting the role of the Pakistan Army, Bilal Kayani said General Asim Munir’s determination and bravery effectively neutralized the enemy’s aggression. “Our armed forces demonstrated outstanding professionalism, courage and dedication, asserting clear superiority even in conventional warfare,” he said. “Alhamdulillah, Pakistan has emerged victorious – a success made possible by the grace of Almighty Allah and the unity of our people, which remains our greatest strength,” he added. Bilal Kayani said the country’s leadership, citizens and media each played historic roles in defending national interests. “As a nation, we had already overcome the psychological battle long before the first strike,” he remarked. He reiterated that Pakistan, as a responsible state, stood firmly on the side of truth. “That moral clarity led to our triumph on military, diplomatic and ethical fronts – all by the will of Allah,” he added.–DNA

ANF recovers 122 kg of drugs worth Rs 162.4 m

RAWALPINDI: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), conducting four operations across the country, recovered as many as 122 kg of drugs worth more than Rs 162.4 million and arrested five suspects, including a Nigerian, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Sunday. He informed that 40 capsules containing 760 grams of cocaine were recovered from the stomach of a Nigerian at Allama Iqbal International Airport, Lahore. In another operation, 6 kg of hashish was recovered from a vehicle in Sector G-9, Islamabad and two suspects were arrested. Similarly, 5.250 kg of hashish was recovered from a rickshaw near Chughi No-26, Islamabad and two suspects were nabbed. As much as 110 kg of heroin was recovered near Shanglona Check post in Loralai area of Qila Saifulah. Cases have been registered against the arrested accused under the Narcotics Control Act, and further investigations are underway. –APP

Heartfelt congratulations to the people of Pakistan

In recent days, our defence has become our uniting flame, A testament to the strength that bears our nation’s name.

With sleepless nights and tireless might, Our guardians stood firm restoring hope, restoring light.

Their wisdom deep, their vision wide, They’ve led us with unwavering pride– Not just in arms, but with resolve so grand, They’ve steadied the course of this beloved land.

Let us salute General Syed Asim Munir, And every soul who stood sincere. You’ve made each heart beat bold and loud– You’ve made every Pakistani proud.

Forever may you shine, O land of grace, Pakistan Hamisha Zindabad–forever in the highest place.

Imran Ghaznavi

Citizens celebrate brave military heroes’ successful operation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Celebrations are sweeping across Pakistan after Operation Bunnan al-Marsoos successfully targeted Indian military installations, securing a crucial ceasefire, with people rejoicing, beating drums and sharing sweets while Sikh and AJK communities pay heartfelt tributes to the armed forces on social media. Nationwide cheers erupted as citizens from AJK to Islamabad celebrated the successful operation against India, saluting the bravery and sacrifices of the military heroes who played a pivotal role in achieving this monumental victory, marking a historic moment of unity and pride for the nation, said a report aired by PTV news channel. The report added that citizens took to social media platforms to pay heartfelt tributes to the armed forces and government, while streets were filled with jubilant crowds celebrating the victory, showcasing overwhelming public enthusiasm and national pride. Government officials lauded the armed forces’ bravery, saying their professionalism and strategic prowess earned the nation’s admiration. “Today, we celebrate the unwavering dedication of our military,” a senior official remarked, as sweets were distributed among the gathering to commemorate the successful operation. “We have never seen such enthusiasm in the city. People are buying flags, banners and sweets to celebrate the victory. Business has been booming since the news broke out,” said a local shopkeeper, beaming with joy. “The online reaction is a mix of humor and patriotism, with memes and hashtags going viral. While some are poking fun at the situation others are showcasing national pride. As an IT expert, I have seen how quickly online trends can spread and shape public discourse,” said a renowned IT professional.

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Briefs

Overseas Pakistanis show solidarity

ISLAMABAD: Overseas Pakistanis on Sunday expressed heartfelt gratitude to the nation and extended their appreciation to the armed forces for their bravery and successful operation against Indian aggression, showcasing unity and patriotism across the globe.

Speaking on PTV News, the overseas Pakistanis have praised the armed forces' professionalism and hailed their role in protecting the nation's integrity and sovereignty. Hassan Dar, a London-based overseas Pakistani and Muslim League N supporter, expressed admiration for the government and armed forces, terming them 'Shaheen' a symbol of strength and resilience. According to Rashid Hashmi, an overseas Pakistani, the Air Force's bravery in 2025 will be etched in history, inspiring future generations to recount these heroic tales to their children. Rashid Hashmi further appreciated Nawaz Sharif's visionary leadership of PML-N and commended the armed forces for their unwavering dedication to national security. "The Army Chief was hailed as 'Sipa Salar' by Rashid Hashmi, who praised his exceptional military acumen and dedication to national security. He humorously remarked that the Indian forces were not only defeated but also made to cry, showcasing the Pakistani military's prowess. From London, another Kashmiri resident vehemently condemned India's atrocities in IIOJK and praised the Pakistani army for its support and solidarity with the Kashmiri people.

"Pakistan's army is a beacon of hope for Kashmiris struggling against Indian occupation," said another overseas. "Pakistan's armed forces are a symbol of resistance against Indian aggression in IIOJK," he added.—APP

Sherry congratulates nation
DNA

ISLAMABAD: PPP Senator Sherry Rehman congratulated the nation on Saturday, commending the recent ceasefire agreement between Pakistan and India and expressing gratitude for the supportive role of neighbouring countries, valuing their diplomatic contributions in fostering peace and stability amidst global challenges. Senator Sherry stated in an interview with a private news channel that Pakistan's robust relationships with Western and Islamic countries have dispelled notions of diplomatic isolation. She expressed appreciation for the supportive roles played by countries such as China, the US, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and others, highlighting their valuable contributions to Pakistan's diplomatic efforts. She commended the Pakistan Armed Forces for their capabilities and contributions, highlighting the country's overall strength and resilience, adding, their military capabilities are unmatched, showcasing the nation's strength and security.

Defeated enemy may use deception to regain public support

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Business leader and former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Sunday that Pakistan has effectively dismantled India's perceived military superiority through a robust retaliatory response to aggression. He said that within hours, India's war arrogance, demonstrated by its aggressive military posturing, was buried, and Prime Minister Modi was forced to surrender, an event being celebrated across the Muslim world. Shahid Rasheed Butt praised the Pakistani armed forces for exposing the true face of Modi's extremist government, calling their success a matter of

Encroachments plague Islamabad's G-8 Sector

Car showrooms and workshops—meant to operate in designated commercial zones—are now occupying residential areas, polluting the environment and endangering public safety. In some places, even main road lanes are reduced to single-lane usage due to rampant double-parking

By DNA NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Once known for its peaceful environment and spacious roads, Sector G-8 in the federal capital has become a hotbed of encroachments, making life miserable for its residents. The unchecked sprawl of illegal car showrooms, makeshift shops, and unauthorized workshops has overtaken footpaths and roads, leaving pedestrians with no choice but to walk on the streets—often at the risk of their safety.

Footpaths, meant for pedestrians, are now occupied by commercial setups, while the streets remain choked with double-parked vehi-

cles. Residents have long complained about the lack of parking space near their homes and the worsening traffic situation, but their appeals have largely fallen on deaf ears.

Despite occasional operations conducted by the Capital Development Authority (CDA), illegal structures quickly return. According to local sources and eyewitness accounts, a well-established nexus between encroachers and certain officials within the civic body allows this cycle to continue. Allegations of bribery and deliberate inaction are common, with reports suggesting that some CDA enforcement officers warn businesses ahead of scheduled

operations.

The Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) also faces criticism for turning a blind eye to growing traffic violations and unauthorized vehicle displays by car dealers. The lack of proactive enforcement has emboldened these illegal outfits to expand further.

In stark contrast, the Punjab government has carried out effective anti-encroachment operations in cities like Lahore, Faisalabad, and Rawalpindi. Hundreds of kanals of public land have been reclaimed, and authorities have ensured the encroachments do not reappear. Continuous monitoring, community engagement, and penalties for repeat violators have been

key to Punjab's success – a model that Islamabad has yet to emulate. As the capital city, Islamabad should reflect disciplined urban planning and efficient governance. However, the G-8 sector stands as a glaring example of administrative failure, where short-term financial interests overshadow long-term civic responsibility.

Car showrooms and workshops—meant to operate in designated commercial zones—are now occupying residential areas, polluting the environment and endangering public safety. In some places, even main road lanes are reduced to single-lane usage due to rampant double-parking.

To address this crisis, residents demand a sustained anti-encroachment drive backed by strong political will and administrative transparency. They call for the formation of a dedicated task force empowered to seal repeat violators and equipped with digital tools for public oversight. Collaboration between CDA, ITP, and local communities is essential to restore civic order. The current state of G-8 is not just a local issue but a reflection of a broader systemic decay in urban governance. If Islamabad is to reclaim its image as a model city, decisive and consistent action against encroachments is urgently needed.

PO arrested injured after crossfire with Police

ISLAMABAD: A proclaimed offender wanted in a murder case opened fire on a police team during a raid in the jurisdiction of Shalimar Police station on Sunday, resulting in a brief exchange of gunfire that ended with the arrest of the suspect in an injured condition. An official told media that the police raiding party carried out an operation in the Sinyari village to apprehend the proclaimed offender, Khurram Shehzad, who was wanted in a murder case registered at Shalimar Police Station. He said that as soon as the police reached the location, Khurram, along with his accomplices, opened straight fire on the police party. He said the officers remained safe due to wearing bulletproof jackets and following safety protocols during the raid.



ISLAMABAD: S M Tanveer, Patron in Chief UBG and his team at RPCCI addresses a big gathering of the business community at FPCCI Regional Office Lahore to pay tribute to Pak Armed Forces of Pakistan for a brilliant response to India and embraced victory. Well done General Syed Asim Munir.DNA

FPCCI, Business community expresses solidarity with armed forces

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori visited the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) where he was welcomed by FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh. On this occasion, Atif Ikram Sheikh stated that the FPCCI is the representative organization of all chambers and that Pakistan's business community stands firmly with the Armed Forces of Pakistan. He further added that the Armed Forces of Pakistan have always made the country's defense invincible and the current operation has been named "Bunyan-e-Marsous" by the Chief of Army Staff. Atif Ikram Sheikh emphasized that Pakistan has only shown India a trailer so far and paid tribute to the excellent strategy of the Chief of Army Staff, Air Chief Marshal, and Chief of Naval Staff. He assured that Pakistan's

business community is ready for all kinds of cooperation, including physical and financial support.

Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, while talking to the media, said that the Pakistani business community and overseas business community also need to respond to India. He appreciated the passion shown by Atif Ikram Sheikh and stated that India is currently being aggressive, and Pakistan has responded strongly. He alleged that India had been carrying out terrorism in Pakistan for many years through Afghanistan, but India knows that our forces are highly capable. He further added that India attacked under the cover of darkness because it could not face our brave forces, but despite that, the Armed Forces of Pakistan gave a befitting reply to India. Kamran Tessori expressed his determination to work with the business community to rid Pakistan of debt

and said that it is also the responsibility of the business community to come forward. He lamented that today our forces are fighting with a budget of only \$11 billion, while India's defense budget is more than \$80 billion. He said that industrialists and traders can take Pakistan out of debt, and he will also meet the Chief of Army Staff to give him suggestions for economic improvement. The Sindh Governor recalled that Pakistan had offered an impartial inquiry into the Pahalgam incident, but India responded with a missile attack. He said that the Indian army attacked by using the May 9 incident as a pretext, but today all political parties are on the same page, which is the stability of Pakistan. Giving historical examples, he said that today we have either the path of Bahadur Shah Zafar or Tipu Sultan, and we need to increase our financial reserves by selling our foreign assets.

He proudly stated that our forces have given a strong response. Kamran Tessori said that the business community has given a clear message to India today, and economic proposals are necessary for freedom from the clutches of the IMF. He emphasized that this is not just the fight of the Armed Forces of Pakistan but the fight of all of Pakistan. He gave a clear message to India that if it talks with love, it will receive love, but if it shows aggression, its aggression will be met with a strong response. In a humorous tone, he said that earlier they offered tea, and now, being from Karachi, he would also offer paan (betel leaf). The Sindh Governor congratulated the Pakistani media for accurate reporting and said that the Indian media made a fool of itself worldwide through fake news, while the Pakistani media showed the truth, and the Indian media was showing a Bollywood film.

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Saudi Arabia ensures top-tier facilities

ISLAMABAD: Makkah Coordinator Zulfiqar Khan assured on Saturday that comprehensive measures are being taken to provide exemplary services, facilitating a profoundly meaningful Hajj pilgrimage. Coordinator Zulfiqar Khan shared his perspectives with Radio Pakistan guaranteed all-encompassing amenities for prospective pilgrims, encompassing wholesome meals, quality medical care and streamlined navigation to Arafat, Muzdalifah and Jamarat. Pilgrims' comfort is a top priority, he stressed, with camps featuring full air-conditioning and versatile sofa-beds that cater to both sitting and sleeping needs. Elevated storage racks have also been installed to accommodate luggage securely. To improve wayfinding, Zulfiqar Khan recommended introducing street numbering in the camps and incorporating route guidance features into the existing QR code system. Building on past practices, the Coordinator emphasized that the new Mashair mana ement strategy has led to a more elaborate and detailed training program for welfare staff. This program includes scenario-based orientation on key areas such as Mina, Arafat, Muzdalifah, Jamarat, and transportation management, he added.—DNA

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Ceasefire at last – it must hold for good

THE Pakistan-India conflict reached an extremely dangerous juncture, with both nuclear-armed nations launching direct strikes that have pushed the region to the brink of catastrophe. Following India's unprovoked attacks that left over two dozen Pakistani civilians dead, Pakistan responded with precision strikes on May 10, targeting military installations across the border. While both sides claim to have "settled scores," the reality is that nothing has been resolved – and both countries now stand at the edge of an abyss. Thanks to the friendly countries and especially the United States that a ceasefire was announced on May 10, 2025 though for few days but at least it brought an end to human miseries on both sides. Reports confirm that both nations targeted each other's air bases, and tragically, civilians on both sides paid the heaviest price. Homes have been destroyed, lives lost, and fear now grips entire regions along the border. The spiral of violence has not brought victory to either side – only sorrow and further instability. It is in this moment of high emotion and even higher stakes that leaders on both sides must pause and reflect: how much more suffering must be endured before reason prevails? The time has come to abandon the rhetoric of vengeance and choose the path of diplomacy. In a significant and timely gesture, Prince Rahim Aga Khan offered to mediate between Pakistan and India. His neutrality, global respect, and commitment to peace make him a suitable figure to help break the deadlock. We must also understand that third parties – especially global powers – often have little real interest in peace. Their arms industries flourish during times of war. The longer such crises persist, the greater their profits. Therefore, it is foolish to assume that external actors will solve our problems. History has shown us that our pain is merely a bargaining chip in global power politics. It is only Pakistan and India that must take the responsibility to resolve their differences – whether through direct talks, back-channel diplomacy, or international mediation. Our futures are interlinked, and our past is filled with missed opportunities. We must not allow this to become another chapter of tragedy. It is time for statesmanship, not brinkmanship. For talks, not tanks. For reconciliation, not retaliation. Wars do not create heroes anymore; they only create widows, orphans, and ruined cities. The leaders of Pakistan and India must now rise above their domestic political compulsions and nationalist pressures to prioritize the greater good – regional peace and the well-being of their people. Let this be the moment when we choose to build a future where peace, not war, defines South Asia. The world is watching. But more importantly, our future generations are watching – and waiting.

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Pakistan must rethink its economic priorities

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a release of one billion dollars for Pakistan, a move that has been welcomed by the government as a much-needed boost to a faltering economy. But amidst official optimism and public relief, the uncomfortable truth remains: this is not a moment to celebrate, but one for serious introspection. At best, the IMF disbursement is a band-aid over a gaping economic wound. Yes, it may help stabilize the rupee temporarily, ease balance of payments concerns, and signal some international confidence. But we must ask: what are we really celebrating? This is borrowed money, not earned capital. Pakistan's foreign reserves remain heavily reliant on external deposits and loans – whether from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, or the IMF. In contrast, neighboring India has built a robust foreign exchange reserve base of over \$640 billion as of 2024, most of which is sourced from strong exports, remittances, and a diversified economy. Pakistan, on the other hand, barely scrapes together reserves that can cover a few weeks of imports. This situation is not just dire – it is humiliating. As a nation, we have become accustomed to rejoicing over bailouts, celebrating loans as if they were achievements. It reflects a deeper malaise in our political and economic culture. Borrowing is not inherently shameful – every country does it. But perpetual reliance on external help, with no signs of internal structural reform or self-reliance, certainly is. It is high time we changed course. Pakistan must prioritize increasing its exports by investing in value-added industries, supporting small and medium enterprises, and improving trade facilitation. Simultaneously, we need to curb unnecessary imports, especially luxury goods that drain precious foreign exchange. A comprehensive strategy for import substitution is long overdue. This economic stagnation is particularly dangerous given the current geopolitical tensions, especially with India. A war-ridden country cannot afford to have an economy this fragile. Economic strength is as much a tool of national defense as military capability. Instead of investing in sustainable growth, innovation, and education, we are stuck in a cycle of political instability, administrative incompetence, and short-term fixes. To reverse this trend, we must accept some hard truths. Political instability is poison for economic development. Investors – both foreign and domestic – shy away from uncertainty. The constant infighting, polarization, and frequent changes in policy direction deter long-term investment and destroy any chance of continuity in economic planning. A national consensus on economic priorities, shielded from political fluctuations, is essential. The release of one billion dollars may keep Pakistan afloat for a while, but unless we address the root causes of our economic fragility, we will continue to lurch from one bailout to the next. Let this not be a moment of celebration, but a wake-up call. We must change our mindset, our policies, and most importantly, our priorities – from surviving on loans to thriving through self-reliance.

India's miscalculation and Pakistan's strategic victory

Qamar Bashir



A far smaller and economically constrained Pakistan demonstrated not only military and technological parity with India, but also surpassed its rival in strategic planning, diplomatic agility, and psychological warfare. What began as an act of hubris by New Delhi ended in national humiliation, with Islamabad emerging stronger and more respected on the global stage. India's offensive—initiated under the assumption of swift success and limited backlash—turned into a monumental miscalculation.

IN a defining moment of South Asian military history, the May 2025 conflict marked a dramatic shift in the regional power balance. A far smaller and economically constrained Pakistan demonstrated not only military and technological parity with India, but also surpassed its rival in strategic planning, diplomatic agility, and psychological warfare. What began as an act of hubris by New Delhi ended in national humiliation, with Islamabad emerging stronger and more respected on the global stage. India's offensive—initiated under the assumption of swift success and limited backlash—turned into a monumental miscalculation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, buoyed by inflated domestic support and a self-image of regional dominance, underestimated Pakistan's preparedness and resolve. He hoped to win quick political dividends through a show of force, especially ahead of crucial elections. But Pakistan did not respond as expected. Instead of reacting impulsively, Islamabad bided its time. It waited for international consensus to identify India as the aggressor. This restraint, seen as both wise and mature, allowed Pakistan to garner global sympathy while preparing a precise and proportionate response. When the counterstrike came, it was devastating – not in scale, but in effect. Pakistan's military response was measured, disciplined, and surgically executed, exposing India's vulnerabilities without breaching international law or targeting civilians. Pakistan's advanced capabilities—especially in electronic warfare, missile guidance, and air defense—were not just noticed by India, but also by Washington. The United States, viewing India as a strategic ally and regional counterweight to China, was jolted by intelligence reports detailing the scope and sophistication of Pakistan's retaliation plans. The potential damage to India, had Pakistan fully unleashed its military might, was deemed catastrophic. President Donald Trump convened his strategic team, led by Vice President JD Vance, with Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Chief of Staff Susie Wiles. Real-time intelligence painted a grim picture: Pakistan's counteroffensive was not only imminent, but could severely cripple India's command-and-control infrastructure, disrupt key economic hubs, and dismantle its air defense shield. JD Vance was dispatched to urgently communicate this intelligence to Prime Minister Modi. The message was blunt: any further escalation would result in irreversible consequences. The strategic calculus shifted instantly. Modi, once intoxicated with power and emboldened by false notions of invincibility, was brought to his

senses. The once defiant leader now faced the reality of defeat, and with surprising haste, he accepted a ceasefire—grasping at the lifeline extended by U.S. diplomacy. Pakistan's military response was not merely reactive – it was the product of years of strategic planning and technological upgrades. The Pakistan Air Force (PAF), often underestimated, proved formidable. It not only neutralized Indian air incursions but used advanced jamming techniques to cripple enemy communications, rendering even India's most prized Rafales jets vulnerable. In the fiercest aerial dogfights witnessed in South Asia, five Indian aircraft – including three Rafales – were shot down. The weapon of choice: China-made PL-15 air-to-air missiles, deployed by JF-17 Thunder jets. The event sent shockwaves through global defense communities. How could lower-cost fighters and less-funded forces dismantle India's French-made fleet? The answer lay in pilot skill, tactical discipline, and superior command integration – all areas where Pakistan excelled. But it wasn't just the air force. Pakistan's missile defense systems intercepted multiple Indian drones and neutralized misfired projectiles that tragically landed within Indian territory – specifically in illegally occupied Kashmir and Indian East Punjab – causing civilian casualties and infrastructure damage. These errors highlighted India's lack of coordination and systemic flaws within its military hierarchy. India's narrative – that Pakistan was the perpetual sponsor of cross-border terrorism – fell flat. The international community, increasingly skeptical of India's claims, demanded verifiable evidence, which never materialized. The UN and European Union called for restraint and transparency. India's allies grew uncomfortable with its unilateralism and recklessness. Even U.S. officials, while committed to India strategically, privately acknowledged that New Delhi had acted without a clear objective and had exposed its military and diplomatic inadequacies. The global perception shifted: Pakistan was no longer the underdog or the provocateur. It was a disciplined, sovereign state defending itself with dignity and proportionality. The economic cost to India was immense. Independent estimates suggest losses exceeding \$2-3 billion during the short-lived but intense confrontation. These losses stemmed from destroyed aircraft, disrupt-

ed operations, investor panic, and infrastructural damage. Insurance premiums soared. Stock markets dipped. Foreign direct investment froze. The confidence of global investors in India's stability took a hit. India's much-touted status as a future superpower faltered. It became clear that GDP growth figures and defense budgets mean little without crisis management skills and strategic prudence. Modi's gamble backfired not just militarily, but economically and politically. The psychological toll on India was profound. A country that regularly projected power found itself licking wounds, explaining failures, and managing embarrassment. The downing of Rafales – symbolic of India's air dominance narrative – was especially damaging. The Indian public, initially fed a diet of patriotic fervor, began asking hard questions: Why were we so ill-prepared? Why did we misread Pakistan? Why did our technology fail? Modi, the self-styled strongman, is now engaged in damage control. Once boasting of surgical strikes, he now faces accusations of recklessness. His leadership during the crisis is being questioned, not only by the opposition but by his own allies. The BJP's political capital is eroding as its strategic misadventure unfolds. Pakistan, on the other hand, emerged with its head high. It didn't seek war but proved it wouldn't be cowed by one. Its leadership – both civilian and military – acted with restraint and precision. The world took note. This wasn't just a military victory. It was a political and psychological triumph. It reminded regional powers and the global community alike that smaller nations with grit, unity, and strategic clarity can defend their sovereignty against larger, more arrogant foes. India's defeat in this episode is a case study in the dangers of arrogance, miscalculation, and overconfidence. Military might unaccompanied by strategy is hollow. Economic power without responsibility is dangerous. And political bluster without foresight is self-destructive. Pakistan's victory was not just on the battlefield – it was in the realm of perception, restraint, and national dignity. It turned India's misadventure into an inflection point, one that redefined the subcontinent's strategic calculus. India lost more than jets, missiles, and billions. It lost its narrative. Its aura of invincibility. Its diplomatic edge. Pakistan, in contrast, gained more than a ceasefire. It gained respect, reinforced deterrence, and reminded the world that real power lies in resolve, not rhetoric.

Pakistan's response to Indian aggression

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



Despite these blatant provocations, Pakistan upheld its principled stance rooted in international law, Islamic ethics of warfare, and national dignity. Yet, when India violated all diplomatic boundaries and attempted to strike the Pakistani airbase—a clear act of aggression—the equation changed completely. Pakistan, forced into action, responded not in fury but with clarity, precision, and determination.

FOR several days leading up to May 7, 2025, the Indian government and its military apparatus appeared hell-bent on provoking Pakistan into war. Incendiary rhetoric, covert operations near the Line of Control (LoC), and misleading media campaigns were all calculated to test Pakistan's resolve. While a less responsible nation may have reacted hastily, Pakistan's political and military leadership exhibited remarkable restraint. They kept the nation calm, analyzed the evolving situation thoroughly, and chose not to be dragged into a conflict prematurely. However, even during this period of Pakistani composure, India resorted to egregious violations—launching cross-border incursions, targeting unarmed civilians, and using religious sites, particularly mosques, in urban centers as shields for its covert activities. Despite these blatant provocations, Pakistan upheld its principled stance rooted in international law, Islamic ethics of warfare, and national dignity. Yet, when India violated all diplomatic boundaries and attempted to strike the Pakistani airbase—a clear act of aggression—the equation changed completely. Pakistan, forced into action, responded not in fury but with clarity, precision, and determination. The world bore witness to a disciplined and strategic retaliation. Pakistan's armed forces launched a carefully calibrated counteroffensive, avoiding civilian areas and focusing only on military installations, especially those that were directly used for attacks on Pakistani territory. In accordance with Islamic teachings of warfare, the Pakistan Air Force, led by its seasoned pilots and guided by real-time intelligence, crossed into enemy territory with surgical precision. The Quran says, "And fight in the way of Allah those who fight you but do not transgress. Indeed, Allah does not like transgressors." (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:190). This principle was adhered to strictly. There was no bombardment of civilian structures, no targeting of innocent lives—only defense, and that too with honor. The counter-strikes targeted Indian forward-operating bases in different places in India, from where hostile drones and long-range artillery had originated. Radar systems, fuel depots, and an advanced surveillance outpost were among the installations damaged in Pakistan's response avoiding civilian places. One

senior retired NATO officer remarked in a global forum, "This was the most disciplined and ethical use of air power in a regional conflict I have seen in decades." Pakistan's forces demonstrated not just military might, but moral clarity. As our beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "Do not kill any child, any woman, or any elder or sick person" (Sunan Abu Dawood). This guidance resonated throughout the planning and execution of Pakistan's military response. The operational success was matched by a sophisticated diplomatic stance. In the wake of Pakistan's response, the international community began to re-evaluate its position. Initially, many powerful nations had taken a neutral tone, dismissing the situation as a bilateral conflict that required no external involvement. However, after India's failed strike and Pakistan's proportionate and precise retaliation, concern rippled across international capitals. The United States, which had earlier refrained from taking sides, acknowledged Pakistan's responsible military conduct and called for immediate de-escalation. European Union diplomats, especially from France and Germany, appreciated Pakistan's commitment to international norms and echoed concerns about India's reckless military adventurism. Middle Eastern nations, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar, privately and publicly praised Pakistan's discipline and dignity under pressure. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held a special session to condemn attacks on religious sites and civilian populations by Indian forces and affirmed full solidarity with Pakistan. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, in a televised address, called Pakistan's action a model of ethical military conduct and urged the world to hold aggressors accountable. It became increasingly clear that Pakistan had won not only the tactical battle but also the diplomatic and moral argument on the global stage. The transformation in international sentiment—from indifference to recognition—underscored the credibility of Pakistan's leadership and the professionalism of its armed forces. Within Pakistan, national unity surged

like never before. From the streets of Karachi to the mountains of Gilgit, the people stood behind their armed forces. General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff, emerged as a figure of unshakable resolve and strategic vision. His conduct, calm under pressure, and inspiring leadership during these critical hours will be remembered as a defining moment in Pakistan's history. Indeed, many across the country have begun referring to him as "Khalid bin Walid II," a title reserved only for those who lead with faith, courage, and brilliance. The analogy is fitting. Like the great companion of the Prophet (PBUH), General Munir led from the front, ensured minimal collateral damage, and preserved the honor of the Ummah. India, in contrast, faced internal embarrassment. Social media in India was rife with questions about their intelligence failures and the exaggerated claims their media had earlier propagated. The Indian opposition in Parliament questioned the motives of the Modi government, especially after international backlash. In major Western and Middle Eastern capitals, Pakistan was praised for its maturity and military professionalism. While the skies have now fallen silent, the question remains: Will India learn from its miscalculation or continue to march toward instability? Time will reveal the answer. However, one thing is certain—Pakistan is ready for peace, but not afraid of war. The nation stands united, its armed forces remain vigilant, and its leadership has shown that Pakistan will never bow to aggression. As the Quran reminds us, "Indeed, Allah defends those who have believed. Indeed, Allah does not like every treacherous traitor." (Surah Al-Hajj, 22:38). This divine assurance strengthens the belief of every Pakistani today. We are a peace-loving nation, but we will never tolerate oppression or betrayal. Let this moment serve as a lesson for those who mistake Pakistan's patience for weakness. We are a nation forged in sacrifice, guided by faith, and defended by warriors whose strength is matched only by their integrity.

Briefs

Trump vows to resolve Kashmir dispute amicably

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Kashmir region and the International Border on Saturday. "I am very proud of the strong and unwaveringly powerful leadership of India and Pakistan for having the strength, wisdom, and fortitude to fully know and understand that it was time to stop the current aggression that could have (led) to the death and destruction of so many, and so much," he said. "Millions of good and innocent people could have died! Your legacy is greatly enhanced by your brave actions. I am proud that the USA was able to help you arrive at this historic and heroic decision," Trump said. He went on to say that even though this has not been discussed, he is going to "increase trade substantially with both of these great Nations." Trump on Saturday announced that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and immediate" ceasefire after a "long night" of talks mediated by Washington. Tensions between India and Pakistan soared dramatically this week after India announced "Operation Sindoor" late Tuesday night, claiming it struck "terrorist infrastructure" at nine locations in Pakistan. The Pakistani military said 31 people were killed in the Indian missile attacks and cross-border firing in the Pakistan-administered Kashmir. At least 16 people were killed along the Line of Control in the disputed Kashmir regions, according to officials. Pakistan Air Force immediately swung into action and hit back hard, downing five Indian aircraft, including the advanced Rafale, as Pakistani Shaheens established air superiority. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Saturday said that over the past 48 hours, Vice President J D Vance and he engaged with senior Indian and Pakistani officials, "including Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Shehbaz Sharif, External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, and National Security Advisors Ajit Doval and Lt. General Asim Malik." "I am pleased to announce the Governments of India and Pakistan have agreed to an immediate ceasefire and to start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site," Rubio said. Vance had also expressed gratitude to the leaders of India and Pakistan for their "hard work and willingness to engage in this ceasefire." "Great work from the President's team, especially Secretary Rubio. And my gratitude to the leaders of India and Pakistan for their hard work and willingness to engage in this ceasefire," Vance said in a post on X.

Pak armed forces fulfilled its promises

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"Our response was calibrated and proportionate," said the DG ISPR. "We deliberately targeted only military installations to send a clear message: Pakistan has the capability and the will to respond, but it does not desire war." He noted that even Indian military officials had acknowledged that the Pakistani strikes hit military targets and avoided civilian casualties. This, he said, demonstrated Pakistan's commitment to international norms and responsible conduct during conflict. The DG ISPR further revealed that it was India that ultimately sought a ceasefire, recognizing the intensity and precision of Pakistan's response. He underlined that Pakistan's military did not wish for further escalation but was fully prepared to respond to any aggression. Pakistani Air Force (PAF) officials described the technical and tactical aspects of the aerial engagements, highlighting the high level of preparedness and professionalism displayed by PAF pilots. They shared declassified footage of operation to demonstrate how targets were carefully chosen and successfully hit without crossing Line of Control (LoC).

Middle class surge, youth: Pakistan's quiet revolution

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Strengthening Hungary-Pakistan Ties Highlighting key milestones in bilateral relations, Ambassador Fazekas emphasized the role of "soft power diplomacy" and people-to-people connections. "My greatest discovery was learning that our ties with this region go far beyond our 60 years of diplomatic relations, which we'll celebrate in 2025." He spoke of uncovering forgotten Hungarian contributions to the subcontinent, particularly in Lahore. "Hungarian professors, doctors, and orientalist left intellectual footprints here in the 19th and early 20th centuries. For instance, the University of the Punjab owes much of its early foundation to Hungarian academics, something even current students are unaware of." embassy's cultural initiatives—such as the publication of a Punjabi-language collection of poems by Hun-



garian national poet Sándor Petőfi—have resonated strongly with the younger generation. Ambassador Fazekas noted several "first ever" events during his tenure. "We hosted the first-ever visit of a Hungarian foreign minister to Pakistan and later, the first-ever Pakistani foreign minister to Hungary. Today, these exchanges are so frequent, they've become 'business as usual.'" Looking Ahead Ambassador Fazekas prepares to conclude his term in 2025, his words reflect a deep appreciation for Pakistan and optimism about the future of bilateral ties. "The roots are strong, the potential is vast, and with continued engagement—especially through cultural diplomacy and youth connections—I believe Hungary-Pakistan relations will only grow stronger in the years to come."

Remaining PSL matches likely to be played in Rawalpindi: sources

PSL administration working on plan to gather all teams in Islamabad after Pak-India ceasefire, say sources

DNA

LAHORE: After the formal announcement of ceasefire between Pakistan and India on Saturday, the Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchises have been asked to keep foreign players in Dubai, signalling the resumption of the league, sources told Geo News. The sources revealed that the PSL administration contacted the franchises following the announcement of the Pakistan-India truce. The franchises have also asked the local players to prepare for the upcoming matches, was learnt that the PSL administration started working on a plan to gather all teams in Islamabad,

and the remaining matches are likely to be played at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. A day ago, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced the indefinite postponement of the remaining eight matches of the PSL Season 10 in light of the deteriorating regional security situation. The decision followed a significant spike in hostilities along the Line of Control (LoC), including the incursion of 78 Indian drones and the firing of surface-to-surface missiles, which the PCB termed as "reckless aggression" from India. The PCB expressed full solidarity with the families of martyrs and security personnel, and thanked all stakeholders — franchises, players, sponsors, broad-

casters, and fans — for their continued support during the tournament. The board also acknowledged the emotional toll on players, particularly foreign cricketers, and respected the concerns of their families seeking their safe return home. The latest escalation in the decades-old Pakistan-India rivalry began on May 7 when at least 31 civilians were killed in an unprovoked Indian cross-border attack. In retaliation, Pakistan downed its five fighter jets, including three Rafale, and dozens of drones. The postponement came when the PSL 10 was in its final stage, with only eight matches remaining. After 27 matches, Quetta Gladiators, already qualified for the playoffs, lead the points table with

six wins, two losses and one no result from nine matches. Karachi Kings are in second place with 10 points, having secured five wins and three losses in eight matches. Defending champions Islamabad United sit in third position, also with 10 points, following five wins and four losses from nine games. Lahore Qalandars are in fourth place with nine points, having secured four wins, four losses, and one no-result. Peshawar Zalmi are in fifth position with eight points from four wins in nine matches. Multan Sultans have been eliminated from playoff contention after securing only one win and suffering eight defeats in their nine matches.

Governor KP supports PM's call for 'Youm-e-Tashakur' in honor of armed forces

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday fully endorsed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's announcement to observe a "Day of Gratitude" (Youm-e-Tashakur) in recognition of the bravery of the nation's armed forces and the success of "Operation Bunyan Marsoos", calling it a timely and unifying step for the country. In his message, Governor Kundi lauded Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for his courageous and visionary defense of Pakistan on international media platforms during the Pak-India conflict. He said that Bilawal's articulate and bold representation projected a strong image of Pakistan and conveyed a clear message to the world: that despite political differences, the Pakistani nation stands united on matters of national defense and the principled stance on Kashmir. He termed this unity as a practical demonstration of "Bunyan Marsoos" a solid wall of collective strength. He added that the Day of Gratitude is an acknowledgment of the valor and professional excellence displayed by Pakistan's armed forces in decisively responding to enemy aggression and safeguarding the nation. "The entire nation salutes these heroic soldiers and veterans who made no compromise on the sanctity of the motherland," he said. Governor Kundi also highlighted the unwavering support of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saying that they proudly honour their brave sons on this day. He said that KP residents, whether at home or abroad, bow their heads in prayer, take pride in their armed forces, and continue to pray for the peace, stability, and progress of Pakistan. —APP

Zalmi Foundation announces PKR 50m in honor of Pakistan's Air Defenders

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of Peshawar Zalmi and Zalmi Foundation, Javed Afridi, has announced a heartfelt tribute of PKR 50 million to the valiant Air Defenders of the country. This tribute comes in light of the recent events that posed a serious threat to national security and public safety. In a situation that could have resulted in significant damage and loss of life, the swift, precise, and heroic response of Pakistan's Air Defenders ensured that no harm was done and no lives were compromised, said a press release issued here Sunday. "Their unwavering courage, dedication, and sacrifice are the heartbeat of our national pride. Today, we honour them not just with words, but through meaningful action," said Javed Afridi. This contribution is more than a gesture, it is a powerful symbol of national solidarity and deep respect for the heroes who shield our skies with unshakable resolve. It reflects the Zalmi Foundation's enduring mission to stand beside those who serve the nation with honour. —DNA

Mother's Day observed in Gujrat

GUJRA :Like other parts of the globe, International Mother's Day was observed here on Sunday. In this connection, the district population welfare department organized a special session to mark the day. The vital role of mothers in building healthy families and progressive societies was underscored during the session which was chaired by District Population Welfare Officer (DPWO) Umer Farooq and attended by other staff. Mr Farooq stressed the importance of empowering mothers through better access to education, healthcare, and awareness of reproductive rights. He said that strong and informed mothers were essential for a developed and healthy society. The session concluded with a reaffirmation of commitment to maternal welfare. —APP

India caught off guard by Pakistan hardware...

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won't have been surprised by the bellicosity of [Gen Asim] Munir because they rather expected that," he further added. He also said that partly, India's response has been to try to, as it were, teach (Gen) Munir a lesson that they really are prepared to do whatever it takes, and indeed they've deployed a carrier battle group of their Western fleet. "It's sitting only 300 miles off Karachi, which is a sort of threat to go in for a more general war, unless the Pakistanis found a way of backing down from this position. Unfortunately, the international community has given them a line that they can both top out at." He said both sides have agreed to a ceasefire which has been pushed so hard and, to its credit, by the Trump administration and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. However, he said, they (the US administration) were rather late in getting on this, as this thing had been going on since Tuesday but now it seems their words have made a difference. US President Donald Trump said on Saturday that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire" after a fourth day of strikes and counter-strikes against each other's military installations.

China ready to play role in Pak...

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He emphasized that once a ceasefire is reached, it must be jointly upheld to prevent the recurrence of conflicts, adding that a lasting ceasefire serves the interests of both sides, contributes to regional peace and stability, and meets the common expectations of the international community. Standing at the forefront of the international fight against terrorism, Pakistan has made important contributions to counterterrorism efforts, said Wang, voicing China's support for Pakistan in maintaining its firm stance against terrorism. Amid the ongoing tensions, Wang expressed confidence that Pakistan will take effective measures to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens and institutions in the country. On his part, Dar said that Pakistan is willing to achieve a ceasefire with India, and will stay alert and respond to any actions that violate its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Nation celebrates success of powerful...

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pay tribute to the exceptional valour of the armed forces and appreciate the unity of the entire nation. According to a statement issued by the Media Wing of the Prime Minister's Office, the PM said the 'Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos' gave an effective and befitting response to the enemy's aggression, adding that the country proved its superiority at every front. He said that despite India's aggression, Pakistan maintained its defence with resilience and demonstrated full readiness to deal with the situation. The premier urged the nation and the Ulema (religious scholars) to offer collective prayers and Nawafil across the country as an expression of gratitude to Allah Almighty.

Indian opposition seeks joint...

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the Hindustan Times reported. "This will also be an opportunity to demonstrate our collective resolve to meet the challenges ahead," he added.

Palestine welcomes...

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reaching this agreement, expressing hope that it will pave the way for further constructive dialogue and cooperation, ultimately contributing to a just and lasting peace.

T-Wolves grab 2-1 NBA playoff series lead as Celtics get key win

Golden State kept the T-Wolves without a basket for the last 6:29 of the second quarter and closed the half on a 13-1 run, but Edwards lifted the T-Wolves onto his shoulders and carried them to the finish with a dazzling second-half surge

SAN FRANCISCO :Anthony Edwards scored 36 points and rallied the Minnesota Timberwolves for a 102-97 victory over Golden State on Saturday to seize the lead in their NBA playoff series. The Warriors, missing star guard Stephen Curry with a left hamstring strain, dominated defensively before the T-Wolves battled back in the fourth quarter behind Edwards and Julius Randle, who had a triple double with 24 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds. Asked about the keys to

a fightback triumph, Edwards said, "Playing as a team, getting stops on the defensive end and limiting those guys to one shot." The Timberwolves took a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven Western Conference second-round playoff series with game four on Monday at San Francisco. "You can't ever get too comfortable," Edwards said. "This is a championship DNA team. This is what they do so we've got to be ready at all times." Edwards had eight points

in the first half but scored 28 points in the second half, 13 in the fourth quarter, and made 10 of his last 16 shots. "I stunk in the first half," Edwards said. "But you know, that happens. Shots are going to fall. Shots are not going to fall sometimes. But as long as you trust the work, keep shooting it and shoot with confidence, you'll be all right." He praised Randle's first playoff triple double. "He's big time. He has come through in every game for us in the play-

offs," Edwards said. "The way he's finding people (with passes) and getting us open looks, I can't ask for nothing better." In Saturday's only other NBA game, defending champion Boston routed New York 115-93 at Madison Square Garden to pull within 2-1 in their Eastern Conference second-round series with game five Monday in New York. Celtics had squandered 20-point leads in two home playoff losses to the Knicks with woeful three-point shooting but Boston hit 20-of-40 from

beyond the arc and held firm to the finish to blow out New York, knowing no NBA team down 0-3 had rallied to win a series. "We understood the magnitude of this game," Boston's Jayson Tatum said. "We needed this one. Didn't like the way we felt after last game so just coming out here with the right mindset, just trying to put it all together." San Francisco, the Warriors led 42-40 at half-time without making a three-pointer — their first playoff first half since

2007 without a hoop from beyond the arc. Butler, who had 18 first-half points, scored six and Kuminga added five in an 11-0 run that gave the Warriors their first lead at 23-21 early in the second quarter. Golden State kept the T-Wolves without a basket for the last 6:29 of the second quarter and closed the half on a 13-1 run, but Edwards lifted the T-Wolves onto his shoulders and carried them to the finish with a dazzling second-half surge. —DNA

Briefs

Strong industry-academia linkages must for growth

LAHORE: Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Chairman Brig. (R) Muhammad Sajid Khokhar Saturday underscored the urgent need for strong linkages between industry and academia to ensure the development of a skilled workforce aligned with industry needs.

He was speaking here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) where LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman and Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry also spoke on the occasion while Executive Committee Members Engineer Iftikhar Ahmad, Syed Hassan Raza and Abdul Majeed were also present. TEVTA Chairman said that the authority is operating 388 institutions where over 160 courses ranging from three months to four years in duration are being offered. Agreeing with the points raised by LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, he assured that they will be duly considered. He said that TEVTA is working to improve the quality of teachers, training equipment, and materials. He further informed the participants that the curriculum is being updated in consultation with industry stakeholders. He added that special focus is being placed on the fields of information technology, construction and hospitality. Such courses are being designed in line with overseas employment opportunities to ensure trainees face no difficulty in securing jobs abroad. He said that five language courses have been introduced to enhance students' international communication skills. LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad expressed his full support in uplifting the current standard of technical and vocational training in collaboration with TEVTA.—APP

Columbia varsity ends semester in turmoil under Trump pressure

NEW YORK :Biliana, an international student at New York's Columbia University, is studying for exams but fears being arrested by immigration police. Columbia professors meanwhile are scrambling to save research funding in the crosshairs of President Donald Trump's administration. An atmosphere of crisis hovers over campus as the semester winds down, as the White House accuses the prestigious university and other Ivy League schools of anti-Semitism and "woke" liberal ideology. Several hundred foreign students nationwide have been threatened with the cancellation of their visas, while others have been targeted – and a few arrested, including at Columbia – over everything from participation in pro-Palestinian protests to traffic violations.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Russian artists perform cultural dances during an event held in the Capital the other day. – DNA

Israeli strikes on Gaza kill 10 people, mostly women, kids

Hamas' attacks on October 7, 2023 killed 1,200 people and 251 were taken hostage back to Gaza, according to Israel. Israel's campaign has killed more than 52,000 Palestinians, mostly civilians, according to Hamas-run health authorities. "I am not sure whether all of Israel's strategic goals can be achieved in this way (through a military campaign) and whether this will serve Israel's security in the long term," Wadephul said. "That is why we are appealing for a return to serious negotiations on a ceasefire"

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip: Israeli strikes overnight and into Sunday killed 10 people in the Gaza Strip, mostly women and children, according to local health officials.

Two of the strikes hit tents in the southern city of Khan Younis, each killing two children and their parents. Other strikes killed a child and a man riding a bicycle, according to Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies from all the strikes. Israel has sealed Gaza off from all imports, including food, medicine and emergency shelter, for over 10 weeks in what it says is a pressure tactic aimed at forcing Hamas to release hostages. Israel resumed its offensive in March, shattering a ceasefire that had

facilitated the release of more than 30 hostages.

Aid groups say food supplies are running low and hunger is widespread. The Israeli military says it only targets militants and tries to avoid harming civilians. It blames Hamas for civilian deaths in the 19-month-old war because the militants are embedded in densely populated areas. There was no immediate Israeli comment on the latest strikes. US President Donald Trump, whose administration has voiced full support for Israel's actions, is set to visit Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates this week in a regional tour that will not include Israel. The war began when Hamas-led

militants attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking 251 hostage. Fifty-nine hostages are still inside Gaza, around a third of them believed to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals.

Israel's offensive has killed over 52,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were combatants or civilians. The offensive has destroyed vast areas of the territory and displaced some 90 percent of its population of around 2 million. Meanwhile, The conflict in Gaza cannot be solved by mil-

itary means and a political solution must be found to end the war permanently, German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul said in Jerusalem on Sunday "I do not believe that this conflict can be permanently resolved by military means," Wadephul said. "Nevertheless, it is urgently necessary that Hamas is disarmed and that it can no longer have military control over Gaza." He said that Germany would do whatever it takes to guarantee Israel's security, but this does not mean that his country cannot criticize Israel's course of action, adding that this "must not lead to antisemitism." Hamas' attacks on October 7, 2023 killed 1,200 people and 251 were taken hostage back

to Gaza, according to Israel. Israel's campaign has killed more than 52,000 Palestinians, mostly civilians, according to Hamas-run health authorities. "I am not sure whether all of Israel's strategic goals can be achieved in this way (through a military campaign) and whether this will serve Israel's security in the long term," Wadephul said. "That is why we are appealing for a return to serious negotiations on a ceasefire." Wadephul repeated that the return of hostages is the German government's priority. He also said it was clear that Gaza is part of the Palestinian territory. "We need a political solution for the reconstruction of Gaza without Hamas," Wadephul said.—Agencies

Jordan hospital treats war casualties from across ME

AMMAN:Shahd Tahrawi was wounded in an Israeli strike on Gaza, Hossam Abd al-Rahman suffered burns in an explosion in Iraq and bombardment in Yemen has left Mohammed Zakaria in need of multiple surgeries. They all met at the charitable Al-Mowasah hospital in the Jordanian capital Amman, which treats some of the many civilians wounded in conflicts across the Middle East. "I feel sad when I look around me in this place" seeing "people like me, innocent, simple civilians" whose lives have been blighted by the horrors of war, said Abd al-Rahman, a 21-year-old Iraqi patient. "They are victims of war, burned by its fires... but had no part in igniting them," he told AFP. He is waiting for his ninth operation at the Amman hospital, to treat third-degree burns to his face, neck, abdomen, back and hand he suffered in an accident with unexploded ordnance in his native city of Samarra, north of Baghdad. "I was a child when I was burned 10 years ago," he said. "My life was completely destroyed, and my future was lost. I left school even though my dream was to become a pilot one day."

Abd al-Rahman, who had 17 surgeries in Iraq before arriving at the hospital in Jordan, said that through "all these painful operations", he hopes to "regain some of my appearance and life as a normal human being".—APP

Israeli soldier's body found after 43 years

JERUSALEM: The Israeli army said Sunday it had repatriated the body of a soldier missing for more than four decades, after locating the remains in the "heart of Syria" during a special operation with the Mossad intelligence agency. Tzvika Feldman was one of three Israeli soldiers who went missing during the 1982 battle of Sultan Yacoub against Syrian forces in eastern Lebanon. One of the soldiers was returned to Israel six years ago, and with Feldman now brought home, Israeli leaders said efforts would continue to recover the third. "In a special operation led by the IDF (military) and Mossad, the body of Sgt. First Class Tzvika Feldman was found in the heart of Syria and brought back to Israel," the army said in a statement. In a separate statement, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the efforts to locate Feldman's remains, noting that the search for him and his comrades – Zachariah Baumel and Yehuda Katz – had been ongoing for decades.—APP

Gaza war casts shadow over Cannes film festival

PARIS:Israel may ban international media from entering Gaza, but the war in the Palestinian territory will feature at the Cannes film festival this year, including in a documentary whose protagonist was killed in an Israeli strike. Hassouna, a 25-year-old Gazan photojournalist, is the main character in Iranian filmmaker Sepideh Farsi's documentary "Put Your Soul on Your Hand and Walk". An Israeli air strike killed Hassouna along with 10 relatives in her family home in Gaza on April 16, a day after she learnt the film had been selected for one of the festival's sidebar sections. Only her mother survived. The documentary is likely to draw attention at a festival where the conflict was already present last year, including when actor Cate Blanchett caused a stir on the red carpet with a dress that many saw as a nod to the Palestinian flag. Cannes 2024 came more than six months after Palestinian militant group Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, triggering a devastating Israeli military campaign in Gaza in retaliation. In the year since, the death toll in the besieged coastal territory has soared, with US President Donald Trump calling for the resettlement of Gazans so the United States can turn it into "the Riviera of the Middle East". After a two-month aid blockade, Israel has announced an expanded offensive that will displace "most" Gaza residents, drawing international condemnation.—APP

Secy Gen of UBG (FPCCI) Bakhtawari organizes thanksgiving gathering

Vice President ICCI Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry and others notable businessmen said that General Asim Munir raised the nation's head with pride and united the people

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On the invitation of UBG (FPCCI) Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, the business community of Islamabad held a thanksgiving gathering and cut a victory cake. On this occasion, presidents and heads of various trader organizations of Islamabad also participated and expressed solidarity with the Pakistan Armed Forces and Army Chief General Asim Munir They said that

General Asim Munir raised the nation's head with pride and united the people. Among the notable attendees were ICCI Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, G-11 Markaz President Naem Akhtar Awan, D-12 Markaz President Zargham Shah, E-11 President Ifitikhar Abbasi, General Secretary of the Traders Action Committee Khalid Chaudhry, I-8 President Waheed Cheema, F-10 Group Leader Tahir Abbasi, Blue Area Group Leader Yousaf Rajput, INT Center G-10 Pres-

ident Zafar Iqbal Gujar, G-7 Markaz President Altaf Hussain Shah, Steel Market President Irfan Chaudhry, General Secretary of Aabpara Market Akhtar Hussain Abbasi, President of Jamiat-ul-Quraish Khurshid Qureshi, ICCI Executive Member Roohail Anwar Butt, and former ICCI President Nisar Mirza. Speaking on the occasion, Zafar Bakhtawari said that the Pakistan Army thwarted the evil intentions and malicious designs of the enemy. "We salute and pay tribute to the Pakistan Armed Forces. We also salute the courage and bravery of Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, who made the entire nation proud. The divisions within the nation have ended, and now the country stands united. While the leadership played its role in this victory, special tribute must be paid to the heads of the armed forces, particularly Army Chief General Asim Munir." He added, "We will also not forget Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan and will show the world that the Pakistani nation remembers and honors its benefactors." Other speakers also addressed the audience and congratulated the "Shaheens" (falcons) for humiliating India's arrogance.



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Briefs**Kyiv says
Russia
launched
more than
100 drones
at Ukraine**

KYIV: Kyiv on Sunday said that Moscow had launched more than 100 drones into Ukraine at night, shortly after a Russian 72-hour ceasefire had ended at midnight. Kyiv had not reported any drone attacks since Thursday, when the Russian ceasefire came into effect, although it did accuse Moscow of violating the truce hundreds of times. Russia also accused Ukraine of not observing the ceasefire. "On the night of May 11 (from 2:00 am on May 11), the enemy attacked with 108 Shahed attack drones and various types of imitator drones," Kyiv's air force said, adding that it had downed 60 of them. The attacks came as Russian President Vladimir Putin ignored a European-proposed 30-day ceasefire, backed by the US, instead offering direct talks with Kyiv later this month. Speaking in the early hours of Sunday at the Kremlin, Putin proposed talks with Kyiv in Istanbul on May 15. "We do not exclude that during these talks we will be able to agree on some new ceasefire," Putin said in the Kremlin address. — APP

**Iran, US
to hold 4th
round of talks**

MUSCAT: Iran and the United States are set to attend a fourth round of talks over Tehran's nuclear programme on Sunday, as US officials have voiced increasing opposition to Iranian enrichment. The negotiations, mediated by Oman and held in its capital Muscat, follow earlier rounds that began nearly a month ago, marking the highest-level contact between the two foes since Washington withdrew from a landmark nuclear deal in 2018, during President Donald Trump's first term. Both sides have reported progress after previous talks, but there have been some delays and disagreements over Iran's right to enrich uranium, which Tehran says is "non-negotiable" but a US envoy has called a "red line". Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said ahead of Sunday's meeting that "the negotiations are progressing and, naturally. — APP

Putin proposes Ukraine talks but quiet on ceasefire

"We propose to start (negotiations) without delay on Thursday May 15 in Istanbul," Putin said, adding that he would talk to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan soon to ask his help to facilitate the talks

KYIV: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday proposed direct negotiations to end the conflict in Ukraine in the coming days but did not address a 30-day ceasefire proposal drawn up hours earlier by European allies of Kyiv, reportedly with US backing. Speaking at the Kremlin in the early hours of Sunday, Putin proposed direct talks with Ukraine in Istanbul on May 15 — hours after Kyiv and the leaders of France, Germany, Britain and Poland had called for an unconditional 30-day ceasefire to start Monday. "We propose to the Kyiv authorities to resume the talks that they broke off in 2022, and, I emphasise, without any preconditions," Putin said. Russian and Ukrainian negotiators held direct talks in Istanbul in the first weeks of the conflict, but failed to agree to halt the fighting, which has been raging ever since. "We propose to start (negotiations) without delay on Thursday May 15 in Istanbul," Putin said, adding that he would talk to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan soon to ask his help to facilitate the talks. Putin said he was "committed to serious negotiations with Ukraine" and that he wanted talks to "eliminate the root causes of the conflict and to establish a long-lasting peace". Russia's references to the "root causes" of the conflict typically refer to alleged grievances with Kyiv and the West that Moscow has put forward as justification for launching the offensive in February 2022. They include pledges to "de-Nazify"

Ukraine ready for Russia truce talks, Zelensky says

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Sunday he expects Moscow to commit to a 30-day ceasefire, adding that Kyiv was "ready" to meet Russia for direct truce talks. Zelensky said so after Russia's Vladimir Putin called on Kyiv to meet in Istanbul for talks on May 15 at a nighttime press conference in the Kremlin — but did not commit to a ceasefire. On a visit to Kyiv on Saturday the leaders of France, the UK, Germany and Poland pressured Russia — with US President Donald Trump's support — to commit to an unconditional ceasefire in Ukraine starting from Monday. Russia's invasion has dragged on for more than three years and killed thousands of people. — Agencies

Ukraine, protect Russian speakers in the country's east, push back against NATO expansion and stop Ukraine's westward geopolitical drift. Kyiv and the West have rejected all of them, saying Russia's offensive is nothing more than an imperial-style land grab. "We do not exclude that during these talks we will be able to agree on some new ceasefire," Putin said. But he also accused Ukraine's Western backers of wanting to "continue war with Russia" and — without mentioning the specific Ukraine-European proposal for a 30-day ceasefire — slammed European "ultimatums" and "anti-Russian rhetoric". The address in the Kremlin, attended by AFP, came hours after French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Polish Prime



Minister Donald Tusk gathered in Kyiv in a symbolic show of support for Ukraine. Together with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, they pressed Russia on Saturday to accept a 30-day unconditional ceasefire starting Monday, threatening Moscow with new sanctions if it did not comply. The United States and other countries back the proposal, they said. "We have just now... decided to support a ceasefire which will begin next Monday, without any preconditions," Macron told a press conference. The leaders also held a video conference with their counterparts from about 20 other member countries of the "coalition of the willing" supporting Ukraine. "In the event of a violation of this ceasefire, we have agreed that massive sanctions will be prepared and coordinated between Eu-

European Leaders in Kyiv

KYIV: The leaders of France, Britain, Germany and Poland visited Ukraine on Saturday for talks with President Volodymyr Zelensky, vowing to ratchet up pressure on Russia until it agreed a ceasefire in the three-year war. The four countries, part of an alliance Britain and France call "the coalition of the willing", said in a joint statement they were "ready to support peace talks as soon as possible".

The Kremlin has shown no signs of halting its invasion of Ukraine, despite US President Donald Trump pushing for a ceasefire. Moscow warned earlier there could be no truce unless the West halted arms deliveries to Kyiv. Russian President Vladimir Putin rejected a 30-day truce proposed by Washington and Kyiv in March, instead declaring two brief pauses in fighting that Ukraine has accused Moscow of violating. On his way to Kyiv, French President Emmanuel Macron said that, once a 30-day ceasefire was in place, there could be "direct talks between Ukraine and Russia". — APP

Leo XIV inherits Vatican money troubles

ROME: Along with the spiritual leadership of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics, Pope Leo XIV now inherits oversight of the Vatican's shoddy finances — and his predecessor's efforts to clean them up. The dire state of the Holy See's accounts was among the topics cardinals tasked with choosing a successor to Pope Francis discussed ahead of the conclave, according to the Vatican. Their pick, American Robert Francis Prevost — now Leo XIV — is likely to continue Francis's push to bring some order, said the chairman of the Vatican's bank, known as the Institute for Works of Religion (IOR). — Agencies

Over 150 flights cancelled despite airspace reopening

Major foreign carriers have cancelled around 125 inbound and outbound flights

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Despite the full restoration of Pakistan's airspace following the halt in Pakistan-India fighting on Saturday, flight operations in the country remained heavily disrupted across the country, with more than 150 flights cancelled amid lingering uncertainty and logistical hurdles. According to aviation sources, dozens of flights remained in limbo. On Sunday alone, 45 flights from Karachi (including 39 international), 38 from Lahore (including 32 international), 40 from Islamabad (including 36 international), 11 from Peshawar, 10 from Multan, and 6 from Sialkot were cancelled, as per the official flight schedule. In contrast, over 25 flights operated from Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Multan, Faisalabad, and Quetta. Major foreign carriers have cancelled around 125 inbound and outbound flights, causing widespread disruption for international travellers. Many flights between Karachi and Lahore or Islamabad are being rerouted via Quetta due to the closure of the Rahim Yar Khan flight corridor. According to a Notam issued by

aviation authorities, Rahim Yar Khan's air route will remain closed until 5am on May 18. Flights from Gulf countries to cities like Lahore, Multan, and Faisalabad are now facing longer durations due to detours. The airport was partially damaged in an Indian airstrike on Friday. Meanwhile, efforts to sustain the ongoing Hajj operations are being made by various airlines, which are working to ensure continuity despite operational challenges at major airports. The Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) had announced on Saturday that the country's airspace had been fully reopened for all categories of flights. The announcement followed US President Donald Trump's declaration that India and Pakistan had agreed to a ceasefire after Pakistan's military response to Indian aggression. Trump said that Pakistan and India had agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire" after a fourth day of strikes and counter-strikes against each other's military installations. Pakistan's foreign minister also said both countries had agreed to a ceasefire "with immediate effect" and India's foreign ministry said it would start at 5pm Indian time (1130 GMT).

PDM warns citizens of heat-related illnesses

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PDM Punjab advised citizens to take precautionary measures on Saturday, especially during peak afternoon hours to avoid heat-related illnesses, urging vulnerable segments including the elderly and children to stay hydrated, limiting unnecessary sun exposure. PDM Punjab Spokesperson talking to a private news channel said the Pakistan Meteorological Department predicted Lahore and other areas of city would experience hot and dry conditions in the coming days, with overall hot days expected and little chance of rainfall as a dry weather pattern settles over Punjab. He urged citizens to take precautions, citing the Pakistan Meteorological Department's forecast of extremely hot days ahead. This weather shift exacerbates existing dry conditions in parts of Punjab, sparking concerns over deteriorating air quality and potential public health issues, he said. The department cautioned that a prolonged dry period is forecasted for the next 48 to 72 hours, with temperatures likely to escalate further and a negligible chance of precipitation, resulting in heightened heat stress, he added. Residents are advised to stay hydrated, avoid outdoor activities during peak heat hours and take necessary precautions to protect themselves from heat-related illnesses, official mentioned. The heatwave warning has been issued as a precautionary measure to ensure public safety and minimize health risks, he noted.

Work on the CPEC project to be expedited

Ahsan Iqbal chairs progress review meeting of CPEC

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday chaired a progress review meeting of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The meeting was attended by officials from Ministry of Communications, Economic Affairs Division, Board of Investment, National Electric Power Regulatory

Authority, National Highways Authority, Quetta Electric Supply Company, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, and Gwadar Development Authority. Officials from all provincial governments attended the meeting online, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Planning and Development. Key issues discussed during the meeting were formation of agricultural technology working groups to spearhead innovation and cooperation in agro sciences.



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