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Crushing blow made India realise Pak readiness: PM

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Pakistan, Italy vow to cement ties: Ishaq Dar

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Zhao China's first world snooker champion

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Civil, military leaders decide

Pak to respond at time of its own choosing

The NSC calls upon the international community to recognize the gravity of India's unprovoked illegal actions and to hold it accountable for its blatant violations of international norms and laws

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The National Security Committee (NSC) convened under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to deliberate on grave developments stemming from India's recent unprovoked and unlawful aggression. The forum offered Fateha for the innocent civilians martyred in the Indian strikes, extended heartfelt condolences to their families, and wished a speedy recovery to the injured. The NSC strongly condemned the coordinated missile, air, and drone strikes carried out by the Indian Armed Forces during the night of 6/7 May 2025. These attacks targeted multiple locations across Pakistan's sovereign territory — including Sialkot, Shakargarh, Muridke, and Bahawalpur in Punjab, as well as Kotli and Muzafarabad in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. India's unjustified and cowardly actions deliberately targeted civilian areas under the false pretext of non-existent terrorist camps. The result was the tragic martyrdom of innocent men, women, and children, and significant damage to civilian infrastructure, including mosques. These strikes also endangered commercial flights from friendly Gulf countries, risking the lives of thousands of passengers. Particularly egregious was the deliberate targeting of the Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project, in blatant violation of international conventions. The NSC unequivocally denounced these illegal actions as flagrant violations of Pakistan's sovereignty and

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FM Dar briefs envoys on Indian aggression

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Briefs the Islamabad-based Ambassadors on Indian Aggression Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, briefed the Islamabad-based Ambassadors on the Indian strikes in Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir during the intervening night of 6 and 7 May 2025. The DPM/FM strongly condemned the Indian aggression, which not only violated Pakistan's sovereignty but also jeopardized regional peace and stability. He emphasized that the Indian actions were carried out in blatant violation of the UN Charter, international law, and the norms governing the inter-state relations. He rejected the baseless Indian claims of targeting terrorist infrastructure. He maintained that there was no credible evidence linking Pakistan with the Pahalgam Attack. The DPM/FM noted that the Indian leadership had once again used the bogey of terrorism to promote a fictitious narrative of victimhood.

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Dar, Chinese envoy discuss situation after India's attack

The two sides exchanged views on regional security developments

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong Wednesday called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and discussed the current situation following India's aggression against Pakistan. DPM/FM briefed the Chinese Ambassador on the serious situation following India's unprovoked violation of Pakistan's sovereignty and the tragic loss of innocent lives. He underscored Pakistan's firm resolve to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity at all costs. The two sides exchanged views on regional security developments and agreed to maintain close coordination and communication across all relevant areas.

Indian aggression

26 civilians martyred in Indian missile attacks: DG ISPR

He said that heavy Indian shelling along the LoC also claimed five more lives, including a five-year-old child. The Pakistan Armed Forces responded swiftly and effectively, giving a "befitting reply" to the Indian aggression

DNA

RAWALPINDI: At least 26 Pakistani civilians were martyred and 46 sustained injuries after Indian forces fired missiles at six different locations during the night between May 6 and 7, said Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Lt General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry on Wednesday. Addressing a press conference, the DG ISPR said Indian troops also launched cowardly attacks across the Line of Control (LoC), deliberately targeting civilian populations and places of worship. "The attacks took place under the cover of darkness and focused mainly on mosques and residential areas, showing the extremist mindset of the Modi-led government," he said. He said that heavy Indian shelling along the LoC also claimed five more lives, including a five-year-old child. The Pakistan Armed Forces responded swiftly and effectively, giving a "befitting reply" to the Indian aggression. "The targeted areas of Azad Jammu and Kashmir had recently been visited by international media, which had

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Prime Minister speaks with Prime Minister of the State of Qatar

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif received a telephone call from H.E. Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, this afternoon. While thanking Qatar for its solidarity and support to Pakistan at this difficult time, the Prime Minister strongly condemned India's missile strikes targeting six sites in Pakistan, as an unprovoked act of war. He said India's cowardly attack on Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity that had resulted in the death of 26 men, women and children,

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SC allows civilian trials in the military courts

Justices Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Naem Akhtar Afghan dissent from majority decision

CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has reinstated the Pakistan Army Act in its original form and declared its earlier verdict from October 23, 2023, null and void. The apex court delivered the verdict with a 5-2 majority. Justices Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Naem Akhtar Afghan dissented. The court approved the appeals filed by the Ministry of Defence and other parties. It also restored the previously nullified clauses of the Army Act, specifically Sections 2(1)(d)(i), 2(1)(d)(ii), and 59(4). "[...] the Court, by majority (4 to 1), declared that clause (d) of subsection (1) of Section 2 of the Pakistan Army Act, 1952 (in both of its sub clauses (i) & (ii) and subsection (4) of Section 59 of the said Act

are ultra vires the Constitution and of no legal effect," the short order read. It was further declared that the trials of around 103 civilians facing charges and all other persons who are now, or may at any time be, similarly placed in relation to the events arising from and out of May 9 and 10, 2023, shall be tried by Criminal Courts of competent jurisdiction established under the ordinary and or special law of the land. The majority judges included Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Musarrat Hilali, and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi. The Supreme Court said that a detailed judgement will be issued later. Meanwhile, Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi recorded his dissent to the majority judgement and abstained from

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Briefs

Bilawal condemns Indian attack on Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has strongly condemned cowardly and unprovoked attack by India targeting Pakistani soil and civilian areas. In a statement, Bilawal Bhutto declared that Indian aggression will not go unnoticed or unanswered. "India has carried out a cowardly attack targeting Pakistani land and civilian objectives," he said, adding that this act represents a dangerous escalation that must be addressed firmly. He praised the bravery and resolve of Pakistan's armed forces, particularly the Pakistan Air Force, saying that they are responding with full determination and strength. "Any misadventure will be met with a befitting response," he warned.

Italian minister calls on Zardari

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of Interior of Italy, Mr. Matteo Piantedosi, along with his delegation, called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr today and discussed ways to increase bilateral cooperation in various areas of mutual interest. Minister for Interior & Narcotics Control, Senator Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Minister for Overseas Pakistanis, Ch Salik Hussain, Minister of State for Interior, Senator Muhammad Talla Chaudhary, and senior government officials were also present during the meeting. Welcoming the Italian Interior Minister, the President said that Pakistan greatly valued its ties with Italy and remained determined to improve mutually beneficial cooperation in diverse sectors.

Calls for desescalation

India's military strikes in Pakistan regrettable: China

The spokesperson said that India and Pakistan are and will always be neighbors. They're both China's neighbors as well. China opposes all forms of terrorism

US closely monitoring situation between Pakistan and India: Rubio

APP

ISLAMABAD: The United States is closely monitoring the prevailing situation after India carried out airstrikes on five locations in Pakistan, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said. "I am monitoring the situation between India and Pakistan closely," Rubio wrote on his official X timeline. He echoed the sentiments of the US President Donald Trump, who earlier had expressed the hope that the situation would end quickly. "I echo the US President's comments earlier today (Tuesday) that this hopefully ends quickly and will continue to engage both Indian and Pakistani leadership towards a peaceful resolution," he added. On April 30, Secretary Rubio also had a telephonic discussion with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif wherein the latter shared Pakistan's perspective on developments in South Asia, since the Pahalgam incident. Terming India's

DNA

BEIJING: Expressing concerns on the ongoing situation between India and Pakistan, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Wednesday that China finds India's military operation early this morning regrettable. "We are concerned about the ongoing situation," the spokesperson said in a statement issued here following India's military strikes in Pakistan. The spokesperson said that India and Pakistan are and will always be neighbors. They're both China's neighbors as well. China opposes all forms of terrorism. "We urge both sides to act in the larger interest of peace and stability, remain calm, exercise restraint and refrain from taking actions that may further complicate the situation," he added.

escalatory and provocative behavior as deeply disappointing and worrisome, Prime Minister Shehbaz categorically rejected Indian attempts to link Pakistan to the incident and pointed to his call for a transparent, credible, and neutral investigation to bring out the facts. The prime minister had said that it was most regrettable that India had chosen to weaponize water, which was a lifeline for 240 million people of Pakistan, while also stressing that the Indus Waters Treaty had no provision for either side to unilaterally renege from its commitments.

'India admits defeat by raising white flag at LoC'

Information Minister praises Pakistan Air Force (PAF) for its swift and powerful response following Indian missile strikes that targeted civilian areas in Punjab and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. He told reporters that the PAF had shot down five Indian fighter jets and a drone

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday stated that India had effectively admitted defeat by raising the white flag at the Line of Control. Speaking to the media at the Pak-China Friendship Centre in Islamabad, Tarar praised Pakistan Air Force (PAF) for its swift and powerful response following Indian missile strikes that targeted civilian areas in Punjab and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. He told reporters that the PAF had shot down five Indian fighter jets and a drone. Tarar added that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was closely monitoring the situation. The minister emphasized that the entire



Pakistani nation stood united and firmly supported the armed forces. He said the Pakistani Armed Forces had given a tough response to the aggressors. Condemning the Indian attacks, Tarar called the targeting of innocent civilians

Abdullah bin Zayed calls for restraint between India

ABU DHABI: Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, has called on the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to exercise restraint, de-escalate tensions, and avoid further escalation that could threaten regional and international peace. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan stressed the importance of heeding the voices calling for dialogue and mutual understanding to prevent military escalation, strengthen stability in South Asia, and avoid further regional tensions. He reaffirmed that diplomacy and dialogue remain the most effective means of peacefully resolving crises, and achieving the shared aspirations of nations for peace, stability, and prosperity. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan further emphasised that the United Arab Emirates will continue its efforts to support all initiatives aimed at achieving peaceful resolutions to regional and international conflicts and mitigating their humanitarian consequences. — DNA

"highly regrettable." He stressed that Pakistan's forces had only targeted Indi-

an warplanes involved in the aggression. He noted that Indian media itself was ac-

knowledgeing the downing of the aircraft. "The entire nation prayed for the success of the Pakistan Army throughout the night," he added. Tarar reiterated that Pakistan has long been a victim of terrorism, having sacrificed 90,000 lives in its war against terror. He also pointed out that Pakistan had offered an independent investigation into the Pahalgam incident—an offer that was rejected by Indian authorities. This, he argued, clearly revealed India's intent to conceal the truth and pursue malicious agendas. "Pakistan has been a victim of terrorism for years," he said, adding that Indian propaganda was a deliberate attempt to damage Pakistan's image on the international stage. Highlighting the human cost, Tarar stated, "We have lost more than 90,000 lives in the war on terror."

Call for collective action to protection of transgender community

DNA

PESHAWAR:Blue Veins, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department and the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), successfully organized the Provincial Transgender Persons (Health, Protection, and Rights) Summit in Peshawar. The event served as a groundbreaking platform for dialogue, policy discussion, and collaborative action to advance the health, protection, and rights of transgender persons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The summit was hosted by Syed Qasim Ali Shah, Minister for Social Welfare and Women Development, Government of KP. Advocate Ihtesham Khan, Advisor to the Chief Minister on Health, attended as Guest of Honour, alongside key government officials, health professionals, law enforcement representatives, human rights advocates, civil society leaders, academic experts, and members of the transgender community from across the province. Distinguished participants included Mr. Saleem Khan, Director General Health KP, Ms. Aneela Naz, Assistant Inspector General Police (Gender), representatives from NADRA, Education Department, Health Department, religious scholars, academia, and National and Provincial Human Rights Institutions. A large number of transgender persons participated in the event, sharing their lived experiences,

challenges, and recommendations for future reforms. A key highlight of the summit was the formal launch of the research study "Stigma Associated with Transgender Persons Living with HIV" and the "Guidelines for Healthcare Providers", developed by Blue Veins in collaboration with the NCHR. These resources aim to sensitize and train healthcare providers in delivering non-discriminatory, inclusive services to transgender individuals, particularly those living with HIV. The findings and guidelines were presented to the Director General Health and Advisor to the Chief Minister for inclusion in provincial health protocols and training curriculums. Minister Qasim Ali Shah reiterated the government's stance, stating that our government has made clear commitments to safeguarding the rights of transgender persons. Through policy and legislative reform, we aim to eliminate stigma, create equal opportunities, and build a safer, healthier KP for everyone. Advocate Ihtesham Khan, Advisor to CM on Health, added: "Access to quality healthcare is a fundamental right. We are committed to enhancing transgender healthcare services, including HIV treatment and prevention, through dedicated clinics, trained staff, and supportive environments." Tariq Javed, Commissioner of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), remarked: "Transgender rights are a litmus test for our human rights commitments. The NCHR

stands firmly with the transgender community and calls for urgent implementation of comprehensive legal safeguards to protect their dignity and well-being." Transgender leaders Arzu Khan and Farzana Riaz expressed their appreciation. said that this summit was not just symbolic—it was transformative. It gave us a seat at the table, where decisions about our health, lives, and rights are being made. We thank the organizers for this long-overdue recognition. Qamar Naseem, Program Manager at Blue Veins, emphasized the need for collective action. He said improving the lives of transgender persons requires a multisectoral, intersectional approach that addresses healthcare, legal identity, protection, and socioeconomic inclusion. This summit is a call to action for all sectors to coordinate, respond, and reform with urgency and compassion, Qamar added. The summit concluded with a shared resolution to strengthen policy implementation, expand transgender-specific health services, promote anti-discrimination practices, and institutionalize consultation with the transgender community in all relevant government decision-making processes. This landmark summit marks a critical step forward in ensuring the dignity, health, and human rights of transgender persons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and sets the foundation for inclusive, responsive governance moving forward.

Thousands of citizens attend martyrs' funeral prayers

BAHAWALPUR:Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique, along with thousands of citizens, participated in the funeral prayers for those martyred in the recent Indian attack in Bahawalpur. He offered prayers for the safety and security of Pakistan and its people. Prominent officials, including Commissioner Bahawalpur Division, Deputy Commissioner, District Police Officer, and other key personalities, were also present to pay their respects. In his remarks, Khawaja Salman Rafique condemned India's aggressive actions, stating that the Modi government's targeting of Pakistani civilians is a clear violation of international laws. He emphasized that such cowardly acts could not break the resolve of the Pakistani people, who stand united with their government and armed forces in the face of aggression.—APP

O/A Level exams go ahead as per schedule

LAHORE:All examination controlled by the International examining bodies including the British Council will not be affected by the postponement announced by the Punjab government on May 7 (Wednesday) The O/Level examination (Mathematics Syllabus D 22 Paper 22 Calculator) will be held as per schedule. According to an update by the British Council, "We are aware of a cancellation notice in the name of British Council circulating on social media. Please note this is fake and that all exams will be held as per schedule." The Punjab government's Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz Sharif had to adopt safety measures in wake of an unprovoked and blatant act of war by India.—APP

KP govt issues advisory in light of Indian unprovoked aggression

PESHAWAR:Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government has issued comprehensive advisory and emergency preparedness in the light of Indian shameless aggression. "In view of Indian aggression, all field formations, emergency services, line departments, & critical institutions to initiate pre-emptive readiness protocols under the Provincial Contingency Framework" said a statement of KP Home Department here Wednesday. The District Administration (DC Offices) were directed to activate District Emergency Coordination Committees (DECCs) including Police, Health, Local Government, Rescue 1122, Civil Defense, Education, and Media Focal Persons, identify and prepare designated shelters (schools, community halls, mosques) in each tehsil, stock emergency relief kits including rations, drinking water, and bedding. Ensure safe custody of public records, fuel reserves, and other essentials, cancel all leave of all departments and admin staff, NO-ONE

to leave station till further orders. Rescue 1122 / Emergency Services were directed to maintain full operational readiness of all ambulances, fire brigades, and water rescue units, deploy rapid disaster response units to potential high-risk zones and conduct mock drills in coordination with Civil Defense to rehearse protocols. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government directed hospitals & DHQs to fully activate Emergency Response Plans at all hospitals, BHUs, and trauma centers, set in place facilities to mass casualty readiness mode, reinforce supply of antibiotics, surgical kits, burn care material, and blood units, maintain doctor & paramedic emergency rosters round the clock besides cancelled all leaves. It was further directed to keep psychosocial support teams ready for stress trauma management. KP Govt has suspended all non-essential gatherings, sports events, or school functions until further instruction, conduct civil defense awareness sessions in edu-

cational institutions, prepare premises for potential use as relief shelters or field hospitals in emergencies. The civil defense were tasked to activate air raid sirens, warning systems, and civil volunteer networks, rehearse blackout protocols and protection of public from aerial threats and distribute leaflets/posters on sheltering techniques and first aid through local bodies. Police & Law Enforcement Agencies were issued direction to secure communication nodes, fuel stations, grid installations, bridges, and sensitive buildings, enhance patrolling near military and civil aviation areas, supply chain and food & fuel security. DCs tasked to monitor availability of essential food items, issue warning to traders against hoarding or overpricing, coordinate with PSO/Shell/fuel stations to ensure fuel depots are secure and functioning. Volunteer & community mobilization organizations tasked to revive local Village and Neighborhood Committees (VNCs), mobilization of Red Crescent.—DNA

NHA briefs Kundi on key road infrastructure projects

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Highway Authority (NHA), Muhammad Shehryar Sultan, met with the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, at the KP House here on Wednesday to discuss the progress of major road infrastructure projects in the province. During the meeting, the Chairman NHA provided a detailed briefing on several important projects including the Chakdara–Chitral Road, Yarak to Zhob CPEC Route, Ramak–Dera Ghazi Khan N-55 Highway and other developments expected in the upcoming Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for the province. Governor Kundi emphasized the importance of the Chakdara–Chitral Motorway, saying it is a key project for the development of the region. The NHA Chairman confirmed that tenders for the project had been completed and that the project would soon be inaugurated with the cooperation of the Korean Bank. Expressing concern over the deteriorating condition of the CPEC Hakla–Yarak Road, particularly the damaged safety barriers, Governor Kundi stressed the need for immediate repairs. He pointed out that frequent accidents were occurring due to broken fencing, which needs urgent replacement. Chairman Sultan assured that the Prime Minister had already issued special directives in this regard and that necessary repair work would commence soon. The two officials also discussed the addition of modern rest areas along national highways, including locations such as Paniyala and Shah Essa interchanges, to ensure broader public benefit from the CPEC infrastructure. The Governor also called for the early inauguration of the York–Tibbi Qaisrani Road, and highlighted the importance of including the construction of the Naiwela Bypass and Hazara Bridge in upcoming development plans. The Chairman NHA assured the Governor that the PC-1s and progress reports for these projects would be shared with him soon. The meeting underscored the commitment of both federal and provincial leaderships to accelerate infrastructure development in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.—DNA

IRS Regional Dialogue concludes with unwavering national solidarity

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On the final day of the Regional Dialogue' 2025, hosted by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), participants unanimously conveyed a strong message that Pakistan stands united, across all faiths, against all forms of aggression. The event took on added significance in light of India's recent missile attacks on various locations in Pakistan, which resulted in human casualties. Minister of State for Religious Affairs, Mr. Kesoo Mal Kheal Das, vehemently condemned India's illegal aggression, he reaffirmed the unwavering support of Pakistan's minority communities for the armed

forces. "Our minorities stand shoulder to shoulder with our brave army. The white in

Chief General Asim Munir for their decisive response to the Indian attack. "The world



our flag is not ornamental—it is our pride," he said, citing recent nationwide celebrations of Holi, Easter, and other religious festivals as testimony to Pakistan's inclusive ethos. Mr. Das commended Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, and Army

has seen the true face of Modi's Hindutva regime—fascist and driven by Islamophobia," he added, underscoring that Pakistan's strength lies in its pluralistic identity and peaceful intentions. Echoing this sentiment, Punjab's Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Mr.

Ramesh Singh Arora, stated, "We unanimously condemn the brutal Indian aggression. Peace cannot coexist with violence." Highlighting the Kartarpur Corridor as a beacon of interfaith goodwill, he emphasized that Pakistan's Sikh community, along with the global Sikh diaspora, stands united with the nation. Mr. Arora also drew attention to Pakistan's consistent efforts to foster peace, despite provocation. "Recent attacks may seek to provoke war, but Pakistan remains firm in its vision of tolerance, unity, and respect," he concluded, calling on the international community to recognize the destabilizing consequences of unchecked aggression. Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh, Chairman of the Board of In-



ISLAMABAD: CDA workers fixing national flags on flyover at Srinagar Highway in the Federal Capital.

Pakistan's sovereignty to be guarded: Aleem

ISLAMABAD:Reacting strongly to last night's unprovoked attacks by India, President Isteikhame-Pakistan Party and Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Wednesday stated that targeting civilian areas was a blatant assault on Pakistan's sovereignty which would be safe guarded at all costs. He emphasized that the Pakistan Armed Forces delivered a timely and resolute response that thwarted the enemy's intentions, said a press release Abdul Aleem Khan condemned the aggression, calling it a manifestation of the warmongering mindset of the "Butcher of Gujarat" and warned that India would have to face the consequences of its recklessness. Instead of behaving responsibly, enemy has chosen a path that endangers regional peace and stability, he added. In his tweet, Abdul Aleem Khan lauded the Pakistan Armed Forces and Air Force for their courageous and determined retaliation, saying it reflects the sentiments of the entire nation. "India has not only been exposed as weak but also as an ignoble adversary. Pakistan is a peace-loving country but any attack on its sovereignty is absolutely intolerable, he added. President IPP said that the blood of innocent civilians is now a permanent stain on the Indian Government's conscience. "India's obstinacy shows that it only understands the language of force. By targeting Mosques, it has once again exposed its deep-rooted animosity toward Muslims," he said. Abdul Aleem Khan said that Pakistan's Armed Forces have given a fitting reply to India's cowardly attacks and will continue to defend the country with full force.—APP

KP ready to offer any sacrifice for national defense: Gandapur

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur on Wednesday during an emergency provincial cabinet meeting stated that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will not hesitate to make any sacrifice for the defense of Pakistan. He expressed firm belief in the eventual success of Muslims in the Ghazwa-e-Hind. The emergency meeting was convened in response to recent Indian aggression against Pakistan. The session was attended by the Speaker Provincial Assembly, the Opposition Leader, cabinet members, the Chief Secretary, IGP, Ad-

ditional Chief Secretary, and administrative secretaries. At the meeting, prayers were offered for those martyred in the Indian attacks and for the safety and security of the country. Strong condemnation was voiced against India's aggressive actions, particularly targeting civilian areas under the cover of night, which was described as cowardly and a gross violation of international laws. Chief Minister Gandapur emphasized that Pakistan reserves the right to defend itself and will respond forcefully. He paid tribute to Pakistan's security forces for their swift and strong

response to Indian provocations and assured them of complete support from the provincial government and its people. The CM declared, "We want to send a clear message to India: We are fully prepared to defend our country. As Muslims, martyrdom is the highest honor, and we are always ready for it." He also affirmed solidarity with the people of Kashmir and Punjab, promising full support. "Our security forces are our pride, and the 250 million people of Pakistan are a united force for the nation's defense," he said.—DNA

PSW, DRAP conduct training on export module

DNA

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan Single Window (PSW) and the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) jointly organized a significant training session on the export module at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). The session saw strong participation from local exporters, especially from the pharmaceutical sector, said a press release issued here on Wednesday. Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President of ICCI, described the integration of DRAP into the PSW platform as a trans-

formative step. "This integration is not just a digital shift, it is a strategic reform aligned with global trade facilitation goals. He also acknowledged the dedicated efforts of both PSW and DRAP in making this reform a reality. "This platform empowers exporters to navigate regulatory processes more seamlessly and at reduced costs," Qureshi added. "With compliance simplified for over 800 pharmaceutical exporters and more than 400 API importers nationwide, we are entering a new era of efficiency and global alignment." Qureshi highlighted ICCI's continued commit-

ment to supporting its members through this transition. He urged all stakeholders to embrace the PSW system fully, participate in training and capacity-building initiatives, and utilize the exporter helpdesks being established for guidance and support. Zeeshan Nazir Bajar, Director at DRAP, elaborated on the rollout and impact of the DRAP export module under the PSW system, emphasizing its role in streamlining procedures. Ms. Maryam Saeed, Business Analyst at PSW, presented a comprehensive overview of processes related to licensing, drug registration, and export permits.



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 Forces Day

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

May 24/Eritrea National Day

May 25/Lebanon Liberation and Resistance Day

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PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666

Departments

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CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Encroachments in Islamabad: Sector G-8 a case study in urban mismanagement

Footpaths that are meant for pedestrians are now home to illegal car showrooms and workshops. Streets are clogged with double-parked vehicles, leaving no space for residents to park their own cars near their homes. With the pavements overrun by business activity, women, children, and the elderly are forced to walk on roads, putting their safety at constant risk

DNA

ISLAMABAD : Often praised for its serene beauty, clean environment, and well-planned infrastructure, is increasingly losing its charm due to the uncontrolled spread of encroachments. Nowhere is this more evident than in Sector G-8 – once considered a peaceful residential neighborhood – which has now been transformed into a chaotic, congested zone, riddled with unauthorized car showrooms, vendors, and makeshift shops occupying public spaces. Encroachments are not merely an eyesore; they pose serious challenges to law and order, traffic flow, pedestrian movement, and the quality of life for residents. In G-8, the problem has reached alarming levels. Footpaths that are meant for pedestrians are now home to illegal car showrooms and workshops. Streets are clogged with

double-parked vehicles, leaving no space for residents to park their own cars near their homes. With the pavements overrun by business activity, women, children, and the elderly are forced to walk on roads, putting their safety at constant risk. Local residents complain that they have repeatedly raised the issue with the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP), but to no avail. Operations are occasionally conducted by the CDA's enforcement wing – bulldozers are brought in, makeshift structures are razed, and stern warnings are issued. However, within days, the same illegal setups reappear. This recurring cycle has led many to allege that some CDA officials are complicit in this issue. Bribes are reportedly paid under the table, allowing encroachers to resume their activities after a token display of enforcement. This isn't just hearsay. Several

eyewitness accounts and media reports have pointed toward a well-established nexus between some elements within the civic administration and those involved in illegal commercial activities. The absence of lasting enforcement only strengthens this suspicion. Moreover, the traffic police, who should be actively involved in regulating vehicle movement and ensuring parking laws are respected, appear to have turned a blind eye to the problem. In fact, their lack of proactive engagement has been one of the contributing factors to the unchecked growth of encroachments. In contrast, Punjab has recently undertaken a highly effective anti-encroachment drive, particularly in cities like Lahore, Faisalabad, and Rawalpindi. Illegal kiosks, constructions, and roadblocks have been removed, with the authorities reclaiming hundreds of kanals of public land. Importantly, this drive has

shown consistency – something glaringly absent in Islamabad. The Punjab model involved not only removing encroachments but also ensuring they did not return. CCTV monitoring, community reporting mechanisms, and penalties for repeat offenders were key to its success. Citizens of Islamabad are now asking: why can't the same be done in the federal capital? As the seat of the government, Islamabad should set a benchmark for urban cleanliness, orderliness, and rule of law. Unfortunately, the city now reflects a growing neglect, where short-term financial gains are prioritized over long-term civic health. The issue in G-8 is particularly emblematic. Once known for its wide roads and peaceful environment, the sector is now a haven for illegal businesses. Car showrooms – which should be operating from designated commercial areas – have occupied

entire streets. In some cases, the main road lanes are reduced to single lanes due to double-parking. Workshops operate without licenses, flouting safety regulations and emitting fumes and noise pollution in residential areas. This state of affairs calls for an urgent, comprehensive response. Firstly, the CDA needs to take sustained action – not just performative operations. A dedicated anti-encroachment task force should be formed with the authority to seal premises that repeatedly violate city laws. Additionally, CDA must introduce digital transparency to reduce corruption. All enforcement activities should be publicly documented and regularly audited. Secondly, the Islamabad Traffic Police must revamp its enforcement strategy. Illegal parking, misuse of public roads for commercial purposes, and traffic disruptions should carry heavier penalties. Collaboration between

CDA, ITP, and local residents' committees can help identify hotspots and prevent re-encroachments. Thirdly, political will is essential. No operation can succeed unless backed by the top civic leadership and government. Islamabad cannot be allowed to descend into the same urban chaos that plagues other major cities. It must live up to its reputation as a model city, both in planning and in practice. Encroachments are a symptom of deeper administrative decay – corruption, inefficiency, and lack of vision. To restore Islamabad to its former glory, the authorities must act decisively, transparently, and persistently. Sector G-8 should not be the face of Islamabad's urban future – it must become a symbol of reclaiming civic order and enforcing the rule of law. The residents deserve better – and so does the capital of Pakistan.



RAWALPINDI: A view of Government Associate College for Women, closed after the government announced the closure of all educational institutions due to the current situation.

Govt fully supporting start ups to empower youth: Kundi

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has said that the federal government is extending full support to startups across the country, especially in KP, to empower youth and drive economic growth. “We see startups not just as businesses, but as engines of the economy, creators of employment, and drivers of technological advancement,” he said He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony during his visit to the National Incubation Center (NIC) Islamabad on Wednesday. On the occasion, NIC Project Director Syed Ahmed Masood briefed the Governor on the institution’s goals, achievements, and overall performance. Governor Kundi also toured various departments of the center. Commending the role of NIC Islamabad, the Governor said it has become a symbol of innovation, entrepreneurship, and digital development in Pakistan. “NIC Islamabad has played a vital role in enabling Pakistani talent to access global opportunities,” he remarked, adding that such initiatives not only strengthen the local startup ecosystem but also enhance Pakistan’s global reputation. Highlighting the demographic strength of KP, the Governor noted that the province has a significant number of youth from across the country. He emphasized that youth engagement and women empowerment remain among his top priorities. Kundi invited NIC Islamabad’s management to visit KP and stressed the need to create more startup opportunities for the province’s youth, assuring full co-operation from the Governor House. Referring to recent Indian aggression, Kundi strongly condemned the act, calling it a cowardly move under the cover of darkness. He said India misinterpreted Pakistan’s message of peace. “The people of Pakistan, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stand united with our armed forces. We have responded to Indian aggression before and will continue to do so in the future,” he asserted.—DNA

SCBAP lauds Pak Army for befitting response

ISLAMABAD:The Supreme Court Bar Association has called a special meeting of its General Body at the SCP premises on Thursday to review the post Indian aggression situation in a clear violation of international laws. According to press release issued here Wednesday, Secretary SCBAP Salman Mansoor has informed all members of the Association to attend the special meeting of the 27th Cabinet of the SCBA to be held at 12pm on Thursday, at the SCP Building here. In a separate declaration is-

sued here today, the SCBAP has strongly condemned unprovoked Indian attack on unarmed civilian population resulting in death of 26 innocent people. This loss of life of Pakistani citizens can not go unnoticed and a befitting response is due', says the declaration. The Association strongly condemns Indian aggression, suspension of Indus Water Treaty, attacking civilian population and mosques and homes in Pakistan. The Association paid rich tribute to the Armed Forces

of Pakistan for a befitting response to India aggression and targeting successfully military installations, bunkers of Indian Army and shooting down more than five aircrafts of the Indian Air Force. The Association asked the Government of Pakistan that response to any aggression by India must be hard enough so that the enemy can't dare to repeat its mistake in future. The Association stands with Armed Forces, the State and the Government of Pakistan and expresses absolute solidarity in this time of war.

Indian war hysteria threat to regional peace: Senator

ISLAMABAD:Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid has strongly condemned the Indian aggression against Pakistan, stating that such war hysteria from India poses a serious threat to the peace and stability of the region. “The Pakistan Armed Forces reserve the right to respond in every possible way to protect the people of the country,” she said, reaffirming that the entire nation stands united in defense of the homeland. She criticized Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s actions, calling them “madness” and warning that a conflict between two nuclear powers could have disastrous consequences. “Pakistan does not want war but will go to every extent to ensure its security,” Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized. She lauded the Pakistan Air Force for preventing Indian aircraft from violating Pakistan’s airspace.—APP

High alert issued in Islamabad’s hospitals in the wake of Indian attack

ISLAMABAD: A high alert has been declared in all major hospitals across the federal capital. According to hospital sources, all major public hospitals in the federal capital will remain on high alert including Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS)and Federal Government Polyclinic (FGPC) hospital. Authorities have cancelled all staff leaves in response to the current situation. All medical and support personnel have been directed to remain on duty, while staff members currently outside the city have been instructed to report back immediately. Meanwhile,In response to India’s aggression against Pakistan, Islamabad’s hospitals have been placed on high alert, while the district administration has started reviewing emergency preparations in key medical facilities. In this regard, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon visited major public hospitals in the federal capital, including Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Polyclinic and CDA Hospital, to inspect emergency arrangements, said the spokesman of ICT administration here on Wednesday. Following these visits, all non-emergency surgeries in government hospitals have been postponed. Officials said this decision was taken to ensure full readiness in case of any medical emergency related to the regional situation. Meanwhile, dedicated beds have been allocated in each hospital to handle possible emergency cases. The Deputy Commissioner said that staff are being mobilized accordingly and emergency protocols have been activated. Furthermore, all magistrates have also been assigned duties in all major hospitals to support the medical staff and help manage any urgent developments. DC Irfan Memon confirmed that the alert status is active across both public and private hospitals in the capital. The administration said that they were closely monitoring the situation and that all relevant departments have been instructed to stay prepared. This move comes as part of a broader effort by the district administration to ensure rapid medical response and co-ordination in case of any crisis between the two countries.

Ahsan vows to foil India's inimical designs

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday praised the unmatched professionalism of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) demonstrated in response to Indian aggression on the night of May 6 – 7, shattering the adversary’s military pride by downing its five fighter jets. “PAF’s response was timely, effective and courageous,” he said in a statement, vowing to foil all inimical designs of the adversary through exemplary national unity. The minister said Pakistan desired peace, but reserved the right to defend itself if India continued with its nefarious intentions. Ahsan Iqbal said the Pakistan Armed Forces gave a befitting response to Indian aggression, proving that no one could dare cast an evil eye on the country. “The entire nation salutes its brave soldiers, fearless pilots, and every member of the armed forces, whose decisive response to enemy aggression has filled every Pakistani with pride,” he remarked.—APP

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Briefs

PTA conducts QoS surveys for Fixed-Line Broadband

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has successfully conducted Quality of Service (QoS) surveys for fixed-line broadband services across 26 major cities of Pakistan, including Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). According to a news release, these surveys, carried out during the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2024, aimed to assess the performance of Broadband Service Providers (BSPs) and ensure delivery of high-quality internet services to users. The survey findings indicate that most BSPs are meeting key performance indicators (KPIs) such as Network Availability, Network Latency, and Jitter. However, several BSPs showed underperformance in the critical area of Bandwidth Utilization, which can negatively impact user experience, particularly during peak usage hours. PTA has instructed these operators to implement corrective actions to improve their QoS.—APP

PSW, DRAP conduct key training on export module

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi Re-affirms ICCI's Commitment to Supporting Members in Embracing the Digital Trade Ecosystem ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Single Window (PSW) and the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) jointly organized a significant training session on the Export Module at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). The session saw strong participation from local exporters, especially from the pharmaceutical sector. In his keynote address, Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President of ICCI, described the integration of DRAP into the PSW platform as a transformative step. "This integration is not just a digital shift, it is a strategic reform aligned with global trade facilitation goals," he stated. He also acknowledged the dedicated efforts of both PSW and DRAP in making this reform a reality. "This platform empowers exporters to navigate regulatory processes more seamlessly and at reduced costs," Qureshi added. "With compliance simplified for over 800 pharmaceutical exporters and more than 400 API importers nationwide, we are entering a new era of efficiency and global alignment." Qureshi highlighted ICCI's continued commitment to supporting its members through this transition. He urged all stakeholders to embrace the PSW system fully, participate in training and capacity-building initiatives, and utilize the exporter helpdesks being established for guidance and support. Zeeshan Nazir Bajar, Director at DRAP, elaborated on the rollout and impact of the DRAP Export Module under the PSW system, emphasizing its role in streamlining procedures. Ms. Maryam Saeed, Business Analyst at PSW, presented a comprehensive overview of processes related to licensing, drug registration.—APP



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari plants a saplings at the Russian embassy on the occasion of victory day celebrations. Ambassador of the Russian Federation and Defence Attache also seen in the picture. —DNA

Pakistan's defensive strategy triumphs over Indian aggression

The Army Chief's immediate and bold reply was a testament to the readiness and resolve of the armed forces. The coordinated response by Pakistan's Army, Air Force, and Navy, supported by modern technology and top-tier training, forced Indian forces into retreat

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Business leader and former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, stated on Wednesday that India faced humiliation in its cowardly attempt to attack Pakistan, and the world is witnessing Modi's embarrassment. He commended Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir for his intelligent and timely strategy, which kept Pakistan strong during a critical period and won the support of the people. According to Butt, General Munir united the nation and transformed it into a solid wall of resolve, while India was left disgraced. Speaking at an

emergency meeting with the business community, Butt remarked that India's sudden act of aggression harmed efforts for peace and further complicated the region's situation. However, Pakistan's army, with its professionalism, preparedness, and strategy, not only thwarted the attack but also embarrassed India on the global stage. He asserted that India, following its old pattern of stubbornness, tried to provoke Pakistan at the borders but was firmly pushed back. Pakistan's armed forces responded with full strength, delivering a significant blow to India's military ambitions.

Shahid Rasheed Butt emphasized General Asim Munir's extraordinary leadership during this critical moment, stating that his

response was not only defensive but also sent a strong, clear message to the enemy: Pakistan's sovereignty is non-negotiable. The Army Chief's immediate and bold reply was a testament to the readiness and resolve of the armed forces. The coordinated response by Pakistan's Army, Air Force, and Navy, supported by modern technology and top-tier training, forced Indian forces into retreat. India's failed adventure exposed its aggressive intentions to the world. Pakistan's representative at the United Nations strongly condemned India's reckless behavior, labeling it a threat to global peace. Pakistan's strong diplomatic response also made a clear impact. Shahid Rasheed Butt concluded by stating that India's

disgrace has proven that Pakistan is not only a responsible nuclear power but also a nation whose armed forces are fully capable of handling any challenge. Pakistan desires peace but will never compromise on its sovereignty or territorial integrity, he added. He noted that under General Asim Munir's leadership, Pakistan's military repelled the enemy and instilled new energy and unity in the nation. Shahid Rasheed Butt also appreciated the role of Pakistan's friendly nations that stood by the country during this testing time. He noted that China, in particular, reaffirmed its strong strategic partnership with Pakistan by advocating for peace, stability, and respect for sovereignty in the region. The Chinese gov-

ernment condemned aggression and emphasized the importance of resolving disputes through dialogue, a stance that resonated with Pakistan's principled position. He added that Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and several Gulf nations also expressed solidarity with Pakistan and praised its mature handling of the crisis. These nations recognized that Pakistan's response was not only defensive but also essential to safeguard regional peace. Butt stated that the global support Pakistan received demonstrates the strength of its diplomatic ties and its reputation as a responsible nuclear state. He stressed that this internal and external unity sends a clear message to any hostile force that Pakistan is not weak and alone.

Pakistan foils Indian cyber attacks: Shaza

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Wednesday said all relevant institutions, including PTA and technical wings, are fully active and have successfully thwarted recent Indian cyber attacks. In an exclusive talk with a news channel at the Crisis Management centre, she stressed that no cyber attack from India has been allowed to succeed, and Pakistan remains vigilant to prevent any such attempts in the future. Condemning Indian aggression, the minister said India's attack on civilians under the cover of darkness was a cowardly act. India has a history of launching such cowardly strikes, but our forces have always responded in a befitting manner," she stated. Shaza Fatima said that Indian aggression has claimed the lives of civilian innocent women and children, particularly in vulnerable areas. She reaffirmed that Pakistan had responded strongly and would continue to defend its sovereignty against any form of hostility.—APP

Pirzada strongly condemns Indian aggression

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Housing and Works, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada on Wednesday strongly condemned India's cowardly and unprovoked attack on Pakistan, calling it a blatant act of aggression that deserved the utmost condemnation. Talking to the media, the minister stated, "Targeting mosques, places of worship, and innocent civilians is a cowardly act that violates all international norms and humanitarian values." He warned that any attempt to wage war over water resources could endanger the peace and security of the entire region. "A water war will not only affect bilateral relations but will destabilize the whole region," he remarked. Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada assured that Pakistan would give a strong and befitting response to Indian aggression. He expressed full confidence in the capabilities of the Pakistan Armed Forces, stating, "Our military is one of the most professional and capable forces in the world. Our defenders know how to protect their homeland.—APP

Abbasi terms Indian aggression clear act of terrorism

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Hanif Abbasi on Wednesday said that India's unprovoked midnight attack targeting civilians including women, children, and mosques was a clear act of terrorism. Talking to media, outside Parliament House, he strongly condemned India's so called "operation Sindoor" as an act of cowardice and a blatant violation of international law. Abbasi praised Pakistan's defense capabilities and congratulated the Pakistan Air Force on shooting down five Indian warplanes. He also acknowledged the support of countries like China, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, saying that they stood with Pakistan in its time of need. Abbasi emphasized national unity, saying that when it comes to war, Pakistanis stand together regardless of their regional backgrounds. He salut-

ed the Jawans at the Line of Control (LOC) and vowed that Pakistan would not spare Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, promising to take revenge for his actions. Abbasi claimed that the international community was criticizing India's actions and that India had refused to investigate the Pahalgam incident as Pakistan offered for independent and transparent investigation. He also alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in India had increased terrorism and violence against minorities, both domestically and internationally. Abbasi warned that if India were to stop Pakistan's water, Pakistan would take action to protect its interests. He urged the Indian people to save their country from destruction, emphasizing that Pakistan was a responsible nuclear power. The minister said the Pakistan Army, Air Force, Navy, government and people of Pakistan remain united in their determination to defend their country and its sovereignty.

Gilani condemns Indian aggression

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Wednesday strongly condemned India's aggression, calling it a cowardly and shameful act that threatens peace and stability in the region. In a statement, Gilani said India's actions violate international law and basic human rights. He stressed that while Pakistan desires peace, it has the full ability to respond strongly to protect its sovereignty and borders. "The whole nation stands firmly with our brave armed forces," he said, praising the military's long record of defending the country with courage and sacrifice. He warned that aggression from India would be met with a powerful and appropriate response. "The enemy will again be answered with strength and determination," he added. Gilani said Pakistan has the right to respond to Indian provocations to prevent such incidents from happening again.—APP

SAPM condemns Indian aggression

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan on Wednesday strongly condemned the Indian aggression, saying that actions against Pakistan are a violation of international laws. "India's cowardly actions are a threat to regional peace, attack on civilian areas and targeting innocent lives is a clear violation of Pakistan's sovereignty and a serious crime against humanity, said Haroon Akhtar in a statement issued here. He said that the nation stands united with its armed forces, and will give a befitting reply to the enemy. Pakistan's armed forces are responding effectively and promptly to the enemy's aggression and will defeat India on every front. He said Pakistan wants peace, but is fully prepared to respond to any aggression.

NUML organizes solidarity walk to condemn Indian aggression

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD : The National University of Modern Languages (NUML) organized a solidarity walk today to strongly condemn the recent Indian aggression and express unwavering support for the valiant Armed Forces of Pakistan. The event witnessed active participation from University leadership, faculty members, deans, heads of departments, and a large number of students belonging to different parts of the country. The participants walked across the campus and on the road outside, holding placards and chanting slogans in support of the armed forces and national unity. During the walk, participants reaffirmed their resolve to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Pakistan Army and emphasised the nation's collective commitment to safeguarding sovereignty and peace. They

expressed that the entire Pakistani nation is united against any external aggression and remains

proud of the sacrifices and dedication of its armed forces. NUML remains steadfast in pro-

moting patriotism, peace, and solidarity among its students and academic community.



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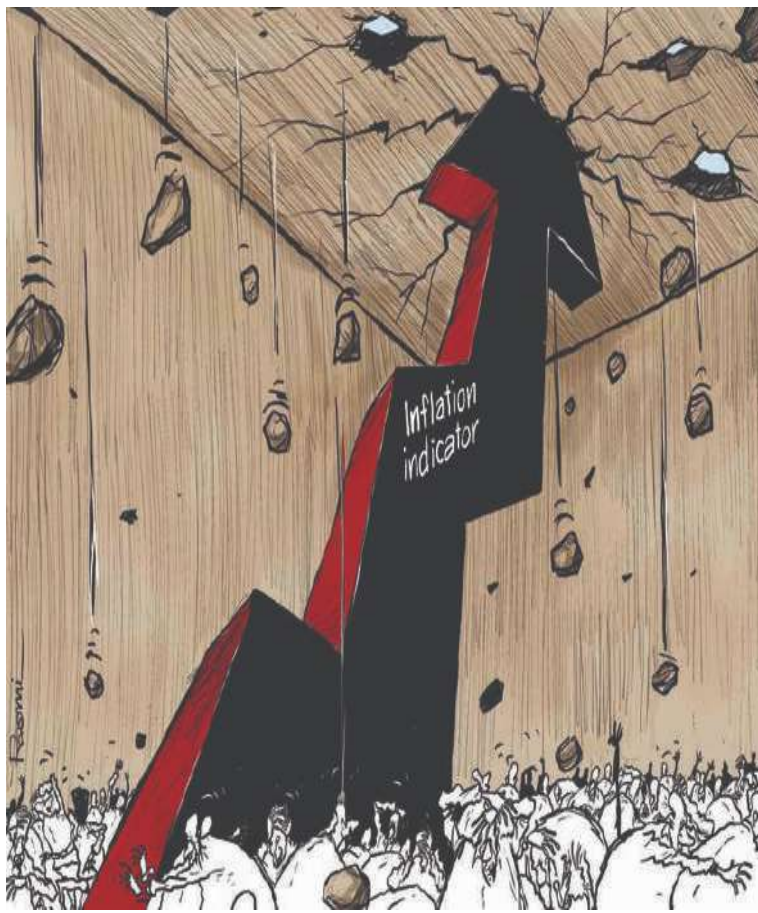
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Pak-India escalation – A costly road to nowhere

THE recent surge in hostilities between India and Pakistan marks a grim chapter in the already fragile relationship between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. India's decision to launch strikes inside Pakistani territory has triggered not only a fierce military and diplomatic response but has also reignited the longstanding tension that both countries have, over decades, failed to permanently defuse. Over 26 Pakistani civilians have tragically lost their lives in what is being described as an unjustified and disproportionate use of force by India. Pakistan's National Security Committee convened an emergency meeting, where the civil-military leadership unanimously resolved to respond to Indian aggression with equal determination. As pressure mounts on Pakistan's armed forces to retaliate in kind, the region teeters on the brink of dangerous escalation. Let it be said unequivocally: the Indian strike inside Pakistani territory was not only a violation of sovereignty but also a reckless act with the potential to destabilize the region. The principle of respecting international borders is the bedrock of peace in South Asia. Any breach of this principle, regardless of the justification claimed, only fuels mistrust, hardens public opinion, and drives the two nations further apart. While Pakistan's measured and calculated military response has sent a clear message that aggression will not go unanswered, this must not become a tit-for-tat contest. The desire for revenge, though understandable in the face of civilian casualties, cannot be the guiding principle of statecraft. It is imperative for leadership on both sides to rise above emotional responses and exercise strategic restraint. The real victims of this hostility are not just those who perish in cross-border violence, but the millions of citizens on both sides who yearn for peace, stability, and economic progress. Both India and Pakistan are developing nations grappling with inflation, unemployment, and social unrest. A full-blown conflict will not only drain precious resources but will also set back decades of developmental gains. Diplomatic channels must be urgently reopened. Regional and international actors, including the United Nations and influential global powers, must press both sides to step back from the brink. There is still time to turn this around – through dialogue, confidence-building measures, and reaffirming past peace agreements. One thing, however, is certain: even if the current tensions de-escalate in the near term, the road to normalization between India and Pakistan will be long and arduous. The breach of trust caused by this recent aggression will not be easily repaired. Yet, for the sake of future generations, it is a road both countries must ultimately walk. Let history not repeat itself as a tragedy. Let the leaders of today act with wisdom so that tomorrow's citizens do not have to pay the price.



Israel's claim to protect Syria's Druze is a smokescreen

ISRAEL will use any excuse to divide and weaken the region. That is the end game, precisely what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu believes is the way to hammer together a new Middle East. The geopolitical fall-out from the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel has provided him and his fellow fanatics with a golden opportunity to accelerate the process whose outcome would be a greater Israel that is the region's uncontested superpower: a "Pax Judaica." Whether it is Iraq, Syria, Lebanon or Libya, Israel's new generation of leaders – ultranationalists aligning themselves with ultra-religious extremists – believe that for Israel to become a regional hegemon, it must destroy the concept of multiethnic and multi-religious nation states. The objective is for Israel, a primarily Jewish state, not to be the exception. For that to happen, it must fragment all nation states that stand in its way and create multiple ethnoreligious statelets in their stead. These statelets can then ally themselves with mighty Israel. In their view, such a scenario can work best in Lebanon and Syria, with their diverse ethnic and religious minorities. The concept of partition and independence has been considered by minority groups in Lebanon, Iraq and Syria at various stages since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. Israel has used minority groups in the region to challenge and upset the existing nation-state structure, leading to or contributing to bloody civil and sectarian wars. It is, therefore, ludicrous and quite cynical for Israel to threaten and attempt to destabilize the new regime in Syria using the pretext of protecting a minority group there – in this case, the Syrian Druze. It has used recent clashes between state security and Druze activists to issue a stern warning to President Ahmad Al-Sharaa and his government. That warning came in the form of an airstrike close to the presidential palace in Damascus last week. Last December, Israel did not need an excuse to send its tanks into the 1974 buffer zone in the Golan Heights, days after the fall of Bashar Assad. Israel was not provoked or attacked, yet its army took over the remainder of the Syrian Golan and ventured deeper into parts of southern Syria, attempting to reach Suwayda, a province that the Druze predominantly inhabit. Netanyahu and his extremist government partners made it clear that Israel was in Syria to stay. Its air force carried out multiple strikes against key Syrian army targets, including airports, air defense batteries and naval bases. Israel's invasion and aggression were deliberate and part of a larger scheme. One does not need to look further for Israel's real motives in Syria than Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, whose Religious Zionist Party is a major partner in the far-right coalition. At a pre-Memorial Day event in the West Bank last week, Smotrich declared that Israel would only stop fighting following the partition of Syria and the displacement of "hundreds of thousands" of Palestinians from Gaza.

India: Derailing Peace

Dr M Ali Hamza



This brings to mind *Fahrenheit 9/11*, Michael Moore's 2004 documentary, which critically dissected the Bush administration's handling of the attacks, media manipulation, and the dubious justifications for war. The film presented compelling evidence to question whether 9/11 was a genuine terror attack or a staged pretext for geopolitical agendas. As India employs similar rhetoric, the world must scrutinize the facts, not just the narrative. Without irrefutable proof, such strikes risk escalating tensions. The lessons of history urge caution: not every "retaliation" is what it seems. Phalgam attack demands immediate scrutiny

SOVEREIGNTY is the supreme authority of a state to govern itself without external interference. The US attacks on Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003 raised debates over sovereignty. In Afghanistan, the US targeted Al-Qaeda after 9/11, with some justification under self-defence: UN Charter Article 51. However, Iraq's invasion was based on disputed claims of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs); later proven false, lacking explicit UN approval, and widely seen as a breach of sovereignty. While Afghanistan's case had limited international acceptance, Iraq's invasion was largely viewed as unlawful under international law, completely violating sovereignty. Both actions sparked controversy over the legitimacy of foreign intervention. In February 2019, India conducted airstrikes on Balakot, Pakistan, claiming to target a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terror camp in retaliation for a suicide attack in Pulwama, Kashmir. Since Pakistan denied the existence of such a camp, the raid was seen as a breach of its sovereignty under international law. While states have the right to self-defence: UN Charter Article 51, the strike lacked conclusive evidence of an imminent threat, making it a unilateral act of aggression. Pakistan condemned it as a violation of its territorial integrity, escalating tensions. The incident highlighted the risks of military actions based on unverified claims and undoubtedly was a breach of sovereignty from Indian side. Yes, in legitimate response to India's Balakot airstrike, Pakistan launched Operation Swift Retort and Pakistan's Air Force struck near Indian military positions in Kashmir, downing an Indian MiG-21 and capturing its pilot; later released as a peace gesture. Pakistan's decision to release captured Indian pilot Abhinandan Varthaman as a peace gesture, drew positive global reactions. UN, US,

UK, EU saw it as a step toward peace. The move briefly lowered tensions but failed to resolve long-standing disputes.

Once again, India has invoked a terror attack in Pahlgam to justify military strikes, targeting three locations in AJK and three in Punjab, Pakistan. In its official briefing, India's language bore a striking resemblance to the US government's rhetoric after 9/11, invoking the "right to respond." But the critical question remains: Respond to what? So far, no concrete evidence has surfaced linking Pakistan to the Pahlgam attack. Instead, emerging details suggest the possibility of a false flag operation orchestrated by Indian authorities. The situation draws disturbing parallels to the aftermath of 9/11, when the US swiftly launched its "War on Terror" based on contested narratives.

This brings to mind *Fahrenheit 9/11*, Michael Moore's 2004 documentary, which critically dissected the Bush administration's handling of the attacks, media manipulation, and the dubious justifications for war. The film presented compelling evidence to question whether 9/11 was a genuine terror attack or a staged pretext for geopolitical agendas. As India employs similar rhetoric, the world must scrutinize the facts, not just the narrative. Without irrefutable proof, such strikes risk escalating tensions. The lessons of history urge caution: not every "retaliation" is what it seems. Phalgam attack demands immediate scrutiny. Pakistan has called for an independent international investigation, a reasonable request if the goal is truth rather than propaganda. Yet India, predictably, shows no interest in a fair inquiry or meaningful collaboration to combat terrorism. This refusal speaks volumes. If New Delhi's claims were credible, why block transparency? True counterterrorism requires cooperation, not unilateral strikes based

on unverified allegations. India's aversion to an impartial probe only fuels suspicions that its narrative, like its bombs, is aimed at political theatrics, not justice.

Pakistan has been a key player in the global fight against terrorism, suffering immense losses. Since 2001, over 80,000 Pakistanis, including civilians and security personnel, have been killed in terrorist attacks. The country has faced over 19,000 terror incidents, including major attacks like the 2007 Karachi bombing: 140+ dead, and the 2014 Peshawar school massacre: 149 killed, mostly children. Launching of Pakistan's military operations Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fasaad dismantled terrorist networks, killing 3,500+ militants and clearing tribal regions. These operations showcased the will to eliminate terrorism. Despite criticism, Pakistan's efforts have reduced terror attacks by 75% since 2014, though challenges like cross-border militancy persist. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly admitted India's role in Bangladesh's 1971 war, effectively acknowledging interventionist policies of his country. In controversial 2016 Independence Day speech, he explicitly cited Balochistan's "human rights violations," signalling support for separatists. His government is effectually helping to amplify voices of Baloch rebels internationally. India's interference extends beyond rhetoric. The exposure of spy Kulbhushan Jadhav; a RAW operative arrested in Balochistan and evidences linking India to the deadly Jaffar Express bombing prove state-sponsored terrorism. Despite these provocations, Pakistan has demonstrated restraint, prioritizing regional stability over escalation, and respected territorial integrity. On the contrary, India's actions persistently undermine regional harmony, fuelling instability and derailing any meaningful progress toward peace.

The spirit remains unshaken

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The enemy's mistake is to assume that the passage of time has dulled our memory or diminished our spirit. They have underestimated the resolve that courses through the veins of every Pakistani, from the rugged mountains of the north to the coasts of the Arabian Sea. This is not just a conflict of arms, but of principles – and we have always stood on the right side of history

INDIA, once again, has resorted to its old and familiar pattern of aggression by attacking civilian populations under the cover of darkness. This cowardly tactic, reminiscent of the night of September 6, 1965, reflects not strength but a deep-rooted fear of facing a determined and united nation head-on. That historic night, India miscalculated Pakistan's resolve and spirit, believing a surprise assault could shatter our defences and will. But instead, what followed was a resounding lesson in courage, patriotism, and unity – a lesson written in the blood and sacrifice of our brave soldiers and the resilience of our people. Today, the same story seems to be repeating itself, albeit in a different context and time. But the essence of Indian hostility remains unchanged; treachery, deceit, and targeting innocents in hopes of breaking the moral fabric of our nation. What the enemy fails to understand, however, is that Pakistan is not a nation to be broken by such tactics. Our strength lies not just in our weaponry, but in our unwavering faith, unity, and deep-rooted love for our homeland. The enemy should remember that there is a big difference between 1965 and 2025. This is a different era – one where Pakistan stands as a nuclear power, equipped with advanced missile technology, modern warplanes, and a robust defence system. Yet even greater than these material strengths is the spirit of faith and martyrdom that burns bright in the hearts of our people – a spirit the enemy utterly lacks. Our technological might is formidable, but it is the unshakable conviction in our cause that truly sets us apart. Every Pakistani today, whether in uniform or not, is a soldier of this land. Our

armed forces stand alert and fearless, but behind them stands an entire nation that shares their courage and conviction. Just as Major Raja Aziz Bhatti laid down his life defending Lahore in 1965, and MM Alam etched his name in history by downing five enemy aircraft in a single sortie, our sons and daughters today are imbued with the same fire and passion. Their spirits are not shaken; they are steeled by history, faith, and an unyielding belief in Pakistan's sovereignty and justice.

The enemy's mistake is to assume that the passage of time has dulled our memory or diminished our spirit. They have underestimated the resolve that courses through the veins of every Pakistani, from the rugged mountains of the north to the coasts of the Arabian Sea. This is not just a conflict of arms, but of principles – and we have always stood on the right side of history. Our cause is just, our intentions clear, and our faith unshaken. We do not desire war, but we will never back down from defending our land, our people, and our honour. God willing, this time too, the response will be such that the cowardly enemy will never forget. Not only will their current aggression be repelled with force and fury, but the lesson we deliver will echo across generations. The future children of those who today raise their hands against Pakistan will be told tales – not of valour, but of the humiliation they inherited because of reckless decisions and misplaced arrogance. Our reply will not only be on the battlefield but will also manifest in the unity of our people, in the strategic brilliance of our commanders, and in the unshakable resolve that binds us as a nation.

We have never been the aggressors. But when provoked, we have shown time and again that the people of Pakistan are second to none in bravery, sacrifice, and love for their motherland. The skies may witness our fighter jets once again scripting legends like MM Alam. The borders may once again echo with the courage of soldiers who hold their ground like Aziz Bhatti. And the cities and villages of Pakistan will stand tall, united in prayer and patriotism, ready to contribute to the cause in every way possible.

This is not merely a matter of national security; it is a matter of national pride. It is about sending a clear message to those who believe they can intimidate us with cowardly actions. Let it be known – we are ready. Ready not just to defend but to respond with such strength and resolve that the very thought of repeating such actions will become a nightmare for the enemy for generations. In times like these, it is not just the weapons or the numbers that matter – it is the spirit of the people. And in Pakistan, that spirit is unbreakable. We draw strength from our martyrs, from our history, and from our faith. We are a nation forged through sacrifice, tested through trials, and made stronger by each challenge we overcome.

The path may not be easy, but our direction is clear. Victory, with God's will, shall be ours – not just in the battlefield, but in the hearts and minds of all those who stand for justice, peace, and sovereignty. And so, we stand today, just as we stood in 1965 – firm, fearless, and faithful. Let the enemy come in the dark if they must. We are the nation that lights up the darkness with the fire of our resolve. We are ready – not just for today, but for every challenge that tomorrow may bring.

Briefs

Pak to respond at time of its own choosing

FROM PAGE 01

territorial integrity, and categorically declared them acts of war under international law. The deliberate targeting of civilians, including women and children, by the Indian military constitutes a heinous war crime and a gross violation of international norms and humanitarian standards. Pakistan has consistently rejected Indian allegations regarding the presence of terrorist camps on its soil. It is worth recalling that following the events of 22 April 2025, Pakistan had extended a sincere offer for a credible, transparent, and neutral investigation — an offer that India regrettably rejected. On 6 May 2025, international media representatives had already inspected the alleged locations of the so-called camps, with further visits planned for 7 May. In a desperate bid to suppress the truth and evade scrutiny, India launched these strikes without a shred of evidence — exposing its morally bankrupt leadership and reckless political motives. This naked aggression by India is intolerable and unacceptable. In its pursuit of delusional ambitions, India has once again set the region on fire. The responsibility for any escalation will lie squarely with New Delhi. In line with the right of self-defence, and consistent with the response framework outlined in the NSC's 22 April statement, the Armed Forces of Pakistan resolutely defended the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity — including Azad Jammu and Kashmir. In the process, Pakistan successfully brought down five Indian fighter aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). Under Article 51 of the UN Charter, Pakistan reserves the right to respond in self-defence — at a time, place, and manner of its choosing — to avenge the loss of innocent lives and to safeguard its sovereignty. The Armed Forces have been fully authorized to take corresponding actions as deemed necessary. Deeply anguished by India's aggression, the Pakistani nation stands united and deeply appreciates the bravery and professionalism of its Armed Forces. Their swift and courageous response in defence of the motherland has inspired confidence and pride among all citizens. The NSC calls upon the international community to recognize the gravity of India's actions and hold it accountable for these blatant violations of international law and humanitarian norms. Pakistan remains committed to peace — but with dignity and honour. It reiterates its unwavering resolve to protect its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the safety of its people.

26 civilians martyred in Indian...

FROM PAGE 01

already exposed the baseless Indian propaganda and claims. Striking these same sites seems like a desperate attempt to justify their false narrative through violence." Stating that the Pakistan Army responded fully to the Indian aggression and destroyed "several" Indian checkpoints and showed footage of a brigade headquarters from where he said India was violating the LoC ceasefire. Other checkpoints hit included Chhatti, Jura and Saria-1, as well as a unit battalion headquarters. The DG ISPR confirmed that the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) shot down five Indian fighter jets and one drone in response to the attempted airstrike. The downed aircraft included three Rafale jets, a MiG-29, a Su-30, and an Israeli-made Heron drone. The PAF, he said, could have shot down more than 10 aircraft but chose to show maturity and strategic restraint. "Not a single Pakistani aircraft crossed into Indian airspace, and none of the Indian jets were allowed to enter ours." He also confirmed that all PAF assets, including fighter jets and installations, are fully safe and operational. The DG ISPR said that Pakistan's response was purely defensive and triggered only after Indian aircraft attempted to violate its airspace.



LONDON: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Privatisation, Muhammad Ali in a breakfast meeting with TTB Partners in London on 7th May, 2025 to discuss investment opportunities in Pakistan. — DNA

Pakistan hockey team camp begins in Islamabad from today

The camp is part of preparations for the FIH Nations Cup, scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from June 15 to June 21. All players have been instructed to report to Camp Commandant Olympian Tahir Zaman by 4 PM

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The second phase of the Senior Hockey Team training camp, organized by the Pakistan Hockey Federation, will begin on May 8 at the Naseer Bunda Hockey Stadium in Islamabad. The camp is part of preparations for the FIH Nations Cup, scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from June 15 to June 21. All players have been instructed to report to Camp Commandant Olympian Tahir Zaman by 4 PM.

The team officials for the camp include:
Head Coach: Olympian Tahir Zaman (National Bank)
Assistant Coach: Olympian Muhammad Usman (PIA)
Assistant Coach: Olympian Zeeshan Ashraf (National Bank)
Assistant Coach: Asif Ahmed Khan (National Bank)
Goalkeeper Coach: Mazhar Abbas (National Bank)
Trainee Coach: Mukhtar Ahmed (PIA)
Physical Trainer: Rana Nasrullah (PSB)
Video Analyst: Nadeem Khan Lodhi (Sialkot)

Team Doctor: Dr. Asad Abbas Shah (Lahore)
Masseur: Muhammad Aslam (WAPDA)
Players selected for the camp:
Goalkeepers:
Abdullah Ishtiaq Khan (Mari Energies)
Muneeb ur Rehman (ZTBL)
Umair Ali (WAPDA)
Muhammad Mohsin (Mari Energies)
Waqar (WAPDA)
Faizan Janjua (Customs)
Deep Defenders:
Muhammad Sufyan Khan (Mari Energies)
Muhammad Abdullah (Mari Energies)
Hamzaduddin Anjum (WAPDA)
Abdul Manan (Air Force)
Imad Shakeel Butt (National Bank)
Rizwan Ali (Air Force)
Faizan (National Bank)
Tazeem-ul-Hasan (WAPDA)
Midfielders:

Moeen Shakeel (WAPDA)
Zakariya Hayat (Navy)
Ghazanfar Ali (Customs)
Moheb Ullah (WAPDA)
Umar Mustafa (Mari Energies)
Muhammad Salman Razaq (WAPDA)
Muhammad Arsalan (Army)
Nadeem Khan (Mari Energies)
Strikers:
Abdul Hannan Shahid (WAPDA)
Abdur Rehman (Air Force)
Afraz (Mari Energies)
Owais Arshad (Mari Energies)
Mohsin Khan (Air Force)
Nohaiz Zahid Malik (National Bank)
Rana Waheed (WAPDA)
Abu Zar (Customs)
Rana Muhammad Waleed (Navy)
Saif Ullah (Navy)
Basharat Ali (Navy)

Egypt voices concern over escalating tensions

ISLAMABAD: The Arab Republic of Egypt on Wednesday expressed deep concern over the recent escalation of hostilities between India and Pakistan, following reports of cross-border shelling that resulted in several casualties and injuries. In an official statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cairo underscored the importance of pursuing all possible efforts to de-escalate the situation and avert further deterioration that could destabilize the South Asian region. "Egypt is following with great concern the recent developments between India and Pakistan, which witnessed an exchange of fire resulting in a number of victims and injuries," the statement said. "It is vital that both sides commit to de-escalation and avoid any steps that may aggravate the crisis." Egypt called on both New Delhi and Islamabad to exercise maximum restraint and prioritize diplomatic dialogue as the primary means of resolving tensions. The statement emphasized the need for peaceful solutions that reflect the aspirations of the peoples of both nations for peace, security, and stability. — APP

Cristiano Ronaldo's eldest son called up by Portugal Under-15s

LONDON: DCristiano dos Santos, the eldest son of five-time Ballon d'Or winner Cristiano Ronaldo, was called up to the Portugal Under-15 squad for the first time on Tuesday. The 14-year-old, who, like his father, plays for Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia, has also had spells with Ronaldo's former clubs Manchester United and Juventus. The Selecao Under-15s will face Japan, Greece and England at the Vlatko Markovic youth tournament in Croatia between May 13-18. Ronaldo, Real Madrid's all-time top goal scorer and still a Portugal international himself at 40, has five children. — DNA

Inter seek Champions League final redemption after winning Barca epic

MILAN: Inter Milan are one victory away from Champions League redemption after Tuesday's chaotic, mesmerising win over Barcelona which propelled the Italians into their second final in three seasons. Simone Inzaghi's team had been in a fragile state in recent weeks after their treble bid went up in smoke, surrendering top spot in Serie A to Napoli and being dumped out of the Italian Cup by local rivals AC Milan. But beating star-studded Barca, and the incredible manner in which they did it, has completely changed the atmosphere at Inter who are now bullish about their chances of being crowned kings of Europe for the fourth time. Inter will take on either Arsenal or Paris Saint-Germain in Munich knowing their task will be nowhere near as difficult as it was two years ago, when they were narrowly beaten by possibly the best Manchester City team of Pep Guardiola era. — Agencies

Zhao China's first world snooker champion after comeback from ban

BEIJING: Zhao Xintong became the first Chinese player to win the World Snooker Championship with a victory over Welshman and three-times winner Mark Williams at the Crucible Theatre on Monday, the latest chapter in Zhao's remarkable rise and fall story. The 28-year-old won by 18 frames to 12 to become the first amateur to win the world title, despite a spirited comeback attempt from Williams. "I can't believe what I've done. It's very exciting," said Zhao, draped in a Chinese flag. "I was so nervous tonight. Mark is still a top player and put me under so much pressure. He's the best. "It's a very special moment for me, for Chinese snooker, for everyone." Zhao received a 20-month ban in January 2023 after a match-fixing scandal that rocked the sport, the repercussions of which meant he was classed as an amateur at this event and needed to get through four rounds of qualifying to reach the Crucible — a gruelling run to the title that began on April 7. The Chinese player, who lives just a 10-minute walk from the Crucible venue, took an 11-6 overnight lead into Monday's third session. While Zhao looked completely unflappable and kept smiling throughout the afternoon session, Williams struggled for accuracy and appeared powerless to stop his opponent from taking a seemingly unassailable 17-8



lead, meaning Zhao needed to win just one frame in the evening final to claim the world title. But a free-wheeling Williams made things interesting by winning the evening's first four frames with a flurry of excellent shots before the younger player answered in the fifth to secure victory. The final was already historic no matter the result, as the 50-year-old Williams became the oldest player to reach the final with his semi-final win over world number one Judd Trump. "It's been a brilliant tournament for me," said Williams, momentarily fighting back tears. "The support I've had for the past two weeks has been unbelievable. "But what a potter Zhao is. I'm glad I'll be too old when he's dominating the game. — DNA

Team Yellow win Islamabad Club Cricket League final



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Cricket Committee of Islamabad Club organized the Cricket league 2024-2025 among the Club teams Blue, Green, Yellow, orange and Red. The final match of the ICL 2024-2025 was played between green and yellow teams

on 3rd May 2025 at Islamabad Club Cricket ground where the yellow team won the final match with nine wickets. As a Corporate Social initiative, the Cricket Committee also invited the children from Sweet Home to witness the match. The event attracted large number of members and their families who witnessed the match and enjoyed the ceremony.

The grand prize distribution ceremony was held after the match followed by the fireworks and dinner. The Administrator Islamabad Club, Mr. Inam Ullah Khan Dharejo graced the occasion as a chief guest. The Convener Sports, Mr. Sohail Nasir, Convener Cricket, Mr. Shafqat Hussain Naghmi distributed the trophies and shields

among the team players and Club staff. Present on the occasion were Managing Committee members, Mr. Najeeb Sadiq, Mr. Atif Ishaq, CEO, Sweet Homes, Mr. Zamrad Khan, Convener Organizing Committee, Mr. Zubair Nasir and Cricket Committee members, Mr. Shoaib Zafar, Mr. Zeeshan Naqvi, Mr. Ahmed Sajeel and Mr. Ahmed Ijaz Yousuf.

HBL PSL X to continue as per schedule

The Qualifier is set to take place in Rawalpindi on 13 May

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Cricket Board has confirmed that HBL Pakistan Super League X will continue as planned with Islamabad United took on Quetta Gladiators at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. The Qualifier is set to take place in Rawalpindi on 13 May, while both Eliminator (1 and 2) and Final of the marquee event are to take place on 14, 16 and 18 May, respectively at the Gaddafi Stadium.

FM Dar briefs envoys...

FROM PAGE 01

He lamented that India did not pay heed to the international community's repeated calls for de-escalation and exercise of restraint. He urged the international community to hold India accountable for its irresponsible and reckless conduct.

SC allows civilian trials in...

FROM PAGE 01

declaring clause (d) of subsection (1) of Section 2 of the Pakistan Army Act, 1952 (in both of its sub clauses (i) & (ii)) and subsection (4) of Section 59 of the said Act, ultra vires the Constitution. However, he concurred and joined with the other members of the bench that the accused persons, in relation to the events arising from and out of May 9 and 10, 2023, shall be tried by Criminal Courts of competent jurisdiction established under the ordinary and/or special laws. The matter of granting the right to appeal against military court verdicts has been referred to the government. The court has directed the government to legislate within 45 days to ensure the right of appeal.

Flight operations resume...

FROM PAGE 01

PK-842, which had landed in Karachi due to escalation, was sent onward to Lahore this morning. Despite resumption of airport operation, the Pakistan International Airline (PIA) has suspended its regular flight operations for 12 hours. On the other hand, Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) sources said Islamabad's airspace is open for flights. Furthermore, the aviation sources said that Islamabad Airport's flight operation has also been restored as four private planes landed here. Meanwhile, the PAA has issued a new Notam (Notice to Airmen), announcing the reclosure of Lahore's airspace for various flight routes. The Notam states that the routes within Lahore's airspace will be closed for 24 hours. Whereas, the Notam also confirmed the resumption of flight operations at the Islamabad Airport. It said incoming flights will be permitted to arrive in Islamabad after coordination and assistance from the Air Traffic Control.

Prime Minister speaks...

FROM PAGE 01

as well as destruction of few mosques, had imperiled peace and stability in the South Asia region. The Prime Minister noted that while Pakistan desired peace in the region, Pakistan would resolutely defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity with full vigor and force. The Prime Minister recalled that in the aftermath of the Pahalgam incident, he had offered a neutral and transparent international investigation to look into India's allegations. Pakistan would be happy if Qatar were to join this effort. However, India had chosen the dangerous path of aggression, which demonstrated its irresponsible State behaviour, and aversion to peace in the region.

Briefs

PSX
witnesses
bearish trend,
loses 3,559
points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a bearish trend on Wednesday, losing 3,559.48 points, a negative change of 3.13 percent, closing at 110,009.03 points as compared to 113,568.51 points on the last trading day. A total of 550,076,224 shares were traded during the day as compared to 420,552,852 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 30.121 billion against Rs 23.696 billion on the last trading day. As many as 447 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 49 of them recorded gains and 356 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 42 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 53,673,828 shares at Rs 1.22 per share, Bank of Punjab with 35,773,964 shares at Rs 9.18 per share and Sui South Gas with 26,711,578 shares at Rs 32.47 per share. PIA Holding Company Limited B witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 581.16 per share closing at Rs 6,392.75 whereas runner-up Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited with Rs 240.55 rise in its share price to close at Rs 22,531.29. Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 150.56 per share price, closing at Rs 8,824.44, whereas the runner-up Hoechst Pakistan Limited with Rs 109.41 decline in its per share price to Rs 3,185.00. —APP

Rupee sheds
10 paise
against US
Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Wednesday depreciated by 10 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.47 against the previous day's closing of Rs 281.37. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 281.65 and Rs 283.15, respectively. The price of the Euro increased by Rs0.82 to close at Rs 319.82 against the last day's closing of Rs 319.00, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.96, whereas an increase of Rs 1.03 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 375.79 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 374.76. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 03 and 02 paise to close at Rs 76.63 and Rs 75.03 respectively. —APP

Pakistani-American
political group
slams India's
attack on Pak

NEW YORK: A prominent Pakistani-American political group has strongly condemned India's unprovoked attacks on Pakistan, and urged the United States and the world community to take steps to promote peace in South Asia. "This act is a serious threat to regional stability and a direct violation of international norms and Pakistan's sovereignty," the American-Pakistan Public Affairs Committee (APPAC) said in a statement on Tuesday. The committee expressed its deep concern over the loss of innocent lives, as also over the escalating tensions between two nuclear-armed states. It urged the Trump administration, members of Congress, and the broader international community to immediately take all measures to prevent further escalation, and to hold India accountable. India has acted irresponsibly and has no regards for international law or the norms, the statement said. Highlighting Indian intelligence agency RAW's targeted assassinations across the world — in countries such as Canada, UK, and Pakistan, the committee said that India has been caught red-handed in the U.S. plotting to kill American citizens and its officials were charged by the Department of Justice. India, it added, has supported terrorist organizations in Afghanistan to destabilize Pakistan. —APP

Naqvi meets US envoy, conveys
‘serious concerns’ over India strikes

Naqvi accused India of putting South Asia's peace and stability at stake, state-run news agency said. He further stressed "India has torn apart regional harmony and by targeting civilians, it has blatantly violated international laws

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met Acting US Ambassador Natalie Baker on Wednesday to convey his country's "serious concerns" over India's military strikes inside Pakistani territory and its implications for regional peace, state-run news agency said. Several countries have called for calm between India and Pakistan amid soaring tensions in South Asia, following Indian attacks on six locations inside Pakistan on Wednesday. Islamabad said Indian strikes killed at least 26 civilians and injured 46. In response, Pakistan claimed to have downed five Indian fighter jets and struck Indian military posts along the Line of Control. Naqvi met Baker in Islamabad to provide her a "comprehensive" briefing in the aftermath of the Indian strikes and evolving security situation in South Asia, state-run news agency reported. US Political Counselor Zachary Harkenrider and Pakistan's Minister of State for Interior Tahir Chaudhry were part of the meeting. "During the meeting, Minister Naqvi gave a comprehensive briefing to the US delegation on the aftermath of the Indian aggression, expressing Pakistan's serious concerns over the incident and its implications for regional peace," state-run news



agency said. Naqvi accused India of putting South Asia's peace and stability at stake, state-run news agency said. He further stressed "India has torn apart regional harmony and by targeting civilians, it has blatantly violated international laws." Naqvi said Pakistan had acted responsibly and showed maximum restraint in the face of Indian provocation. "We gave a strong and appropriate response in defense of our homeland," Naqvi was quoted as saying. "Pakistan

will never allow any compromise on its national security." US President Donald Trump had reacted to the incident on Wednesday night, condemning the escalation, expressing hope that the fighting would end quickly. "It's a shame," he said. "Just heard about it. I guess people knew something was going to happen based on a little bit of the past. They've been fighting for a long time. They've been fighting for many, many decades. I hope it ends very quickly."

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said he was monitoring the situation closely and would continue to engage with the leadership of both countries for a "peaceful resolution." A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said India's actions were "regrettable," urging both countries to exercise restraint and refrain from further complicating the situation, Reuters reported. United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister

Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan called on Pakistan and India "to exercise restraint, de-escalate tensions, and avoid further escalation that could threaten regional and international peace," Emirates News Agency-WAM reported. Turkey urged India and Pakistan to act with common sense amid the military escalation between them, its foreign ministry said on Wednesday, saying India's latest military action created the risk of an "all-out war." In a statement, the ministry reiterated its support for Pakistan's call for an investigation into a militant attack that killed 26 in the Indian-administered side of the Himalayan region on April 22. The UK is ready to support both India and Pakistan to de-escalate tensions, Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds said on Wednesday, following the worst violence between the nuclear-armed arch-foes in two decades. "Our message would be that we are a friend, a partner to both countries. We stand ready to support both countries. Both have a huge interest in regional stability, in dialogue, in de-escalation and anything we can do to support that, we are here and willing to do," he told foreign radio.

Govt committed for
boosting agri, exports

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain on Wednesday reiterated the government's commitment for working closely with business entities to boost the agricultural sector and promote exports. Talking to Chief Executive Officer ENGRO Ali Rathore, who called on him, the minister acknowledged that exporting surplus urea would positively impact the country's foreign exchange reserves, but ensuring domestic needs would remain the top priority. The minister assured that the ministry would seriously consider the gas supply issue for ENGRO's old plants and extend full cooperation to find a viable solution. He emphasized that the government is committed to adopting sustainable and effective strategies to support the industrial sector. Regarding urea exports, the minister stated that the Ministry of National Food Security and Research will first collect comprehensive data on the Rabi and Kharif crop requirements of the provinces for the 2025-26 seasons. Only after ensuring that domestic needs are met, the decision to export the surplus urea will be made. Rana Tanveer Hussain also stressed that the government would ensure the timely availability of fertilizers to farmers and would take all necessary measures to promote agriculture in the country. During the meeting, the CEO of ENGRO urged the minister's support in the provision of gas for their old plants to ensure uninterrupted business operations. He informed the minister that the current stock of urea in the country is around 800,000 to 01 million tons, which exceeds the national requirement. He added that all fertilizer companies are keen to export the surplus urea, as it would help increase Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves. In this context, ENGRO sought the ministry's support for allowing exports. The Government of Pakistan is proud to announce a major milestone in the nation's sustainable finance journey with the launch of its first Green Sukuk. This pioneering financial instrument is set to revolutionize Pakistan's sukuk market by channeling investments into environmentally sustainable projects while fostering economic growth. The Green Sukuk marks a pivotal step in aligning Pakistan's financial markets with global best practices in green financing. The inaugural issuance, ranging between PKR 20 billion and PKR 30 billion, will be conducted through an auction process, with the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) playing a central role in listing and promoting this innovative instrument to investors. The Green Sukuk Program has been structured with the support of the Joint Financial Advisors: Meezan Bank Limited, Bank Alfalah Limited, Dubai Islamic Bank Pakistan Limited, and Bank Islami Pakistan Limited. The Sustainable Investment Sukuk Framework, approved by the Cabinet, lays the foundation for the landmark debut of the Green Sukuk. This initiative is closely aligned with Pakistan's Vision 2028, particularly its goal of transitioning to an interest-free economy. It reflects the government's strong commitment to leveraging financial markets in support of sustainable development. The Green Sukuk is a beacon of innovation and a testament to our unwavering commitment to fostering sustainable development and reducing our environmental impact. The Green Sukuk offers investors a unique opportunity to support environmentally friendly projects while promoting economic growth. This is a historic step toward integrating sustainable finance into the core of Pakistan's development strategy. The Green Sukuk will attract a broader investor base, deepen our financial markets, and accelerate the country's transition to a green and resilient economy. —DNA

Trump, Ukraine
propel EU and UK
toward defense pact

BRUSSELS: The EU and Britain look set to seal a defense pact at a landmark summit this month as worries about US President Donald Trump and the war in Ukraine spur them beyond the wrangles of Brexit. Multiple EU diplomats and officials told AFP the signs are positive that a security agreement will be inked when British Prime Minister Keir Starmer meets EU chiefs in London on May 19. The "security and defense partnership" is billed as an important first step in Starmer's much-vaunted push to reset ties after the years of bad blood caused by the UK leaving the bloc. The move is aimed at opening the door to closer cooperation as both the EU and Britain race to rearm in the face of the menace from Russia and fears Trump will no longer help protect Europe. That should mean more regular security talks, Britain considering joining EU military missions and the potential for London to fully tap into a 150-billion-euro defense fund being set up by the bloc. But the deal is expected to leave much of the detail to be filled in later — for instance requiring a further agreement on giving the UK and its defense industry unfettered access to the EU programs. "It is a pre-condition for more serious stuff," said one EU diplomat, talking like others on condition of anonymity to discuss internal discussions. Diplomats said fears had subsided that a dispute over prolonging access to British waters for EU fishermen could derail talks as both sides are keen to improve relations amid the global turmoil unleashed by Trump. "At this stage I'd say the odds are quite positive," said a second EU diplomat. "But all the different files are linked, so lots can still happen between now and the 19th." The defense deal is expected to be signed alongside two other documents: one setting out a shared vision on global issues and another on the list of thorny subjects both sides hope to make progress on, including customs checks, energy links and a youth mobility scheme. —APP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan announced a major milestone in the nation's sustainable finance journey with the launch of its first Green Sukuk. According to a press release issued by the Finance Division, The inaugural issuance, ranging between 20 billion Rupees and 30 billion Rupees, will be conducted through an auction process, with the Pakistan Stock

Exchange playing a central role in listing and promoting this innovative instrument to investors. This pioneering financial instrument is set to revolutionize Pakistan's sukuk market by channeling investments into environmentally sustainable projects while fostering economic growth. The Green Sukuk marks a pivotal step in aligning Pakistan's financial markets with global best practices in green financing. The Green Sukuk Program has been structured

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Yousaf reviews
pilgrim services
in Madinah

MADINAH: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf on Wednesday visited the Pakistan Hajj Mission in Madinah to review the ongoing Hajj operations and assess the arrangements being provided to Pakistani pilgrims. During the visit, Director Hajj Madinah Zia ur Rehman, along with Deputy Coordinators Tariq Mehmood and Major Dr. Muizz, briefed the minister on the progress and performance of the mission. Sardar Yousaf expressed satisfaction over the operational and medical arrangements in place for the pilgrims. "It is the directive of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif that utmost care and attention be given to the well-being of Pakistani pilgrims," the minister stated. He emphasized that the government was serving the pilgrims above all political affiliations, with a singular focus on ensuring comfort and dignity throughout the pilgrimage process. Urging Pakistani pilgrims to uphold the country's image, Sardar Yousaf said, "Pilgrims must strictly observe Saudi laws and act as responsible representatives of Pakistan." He cautioned against the actions of those who tarnish both the country's and religion's image through irresponsible behavior. "How can someone call himself a true Muslim if he fails to show respect at the Roz-e-Rasool (peace be upon him)?" he questioned, underlining the importance of reverence during the pilgrimage. Providing updates on logistical arrangements, Director Hajj Zia ur Rehman informed the minister that nearly 40 percent of accommodations in Madinah this year are located on the 'zero line', meaning they are in close proximity to Masjid al-Nabawi. He further noted that no significant complaints had been received regarding food services this year. "This year, we have set new benchmarks in service and facilitation for the pilgrims," Zia ur Rehman added. —APP

Aurangzeb discusses eco reforms
with UK's Financial Secy

Senator Aurangzeb expressed appreciation for the UK Treasury's continued partnership and support, particularly through the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), which has provided valuable financial and technical collaboration

LONDON: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a meeting with Lord Livermore, the UK's Financial Secretary to the Treasury and Growth Minister at HM Revenue & Customs in London.

Also present at the meeting were Dr. Mohammad Faisal, Pakistan's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom; Khurram Schehzad, Advisor to the Finance Minister; and officials from the Pakistan High Commission in London. Senator Aurangzeb highlighted Pakistan's ambitious economic reform agenda focused on diversification and export-led growth, which he stated is beginning to yield results. He noted that recent government policies have led to economic stabilization,

with improved indicators: Real GDP growth is projected at 3.0% for 2025 and 4.0% for 2026, while inflation has fallen to a historic low of 0.3%. The Minister also emphasized ongoing efforts

to digitize the tax system, which is expected to broaden the tax base and boost revenue. He shared that tax collection rose to 25.9% during July–March FY 2025. Foreign Direct Investment

saw a 14% increase, reaching USD 1.6 billion in the same period, while the policy rate declined to 11%. Lord Livermore commended Pakistan's reform agenda and acknowledged the country's commitment to broad-based economic transformation. He noted the UK is similarly pursuing reforms across pensions, skills development, and trade.

Senator Aurangzeb expressed appreciation for the UK Treasury's continued partnership and support, particularly through the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), which has provided valuable financial and technical collaboration. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening investment and trade ties between the two nations. —DNA



Govt of Pakistan unveils first Green Sukuk

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan announced a major milestone in the nation's sustainable finance journey with the launch of its first Green Sukuk. According to a press release issued by the Finance Division, The inaugural issuance, ranging between 20 billion Rupees and 30 billion Rupees, will be conducted through an auction process, with the Pakistan Stock

Exchange playing a central role in listing and promoting this innovative instrument to investors. This pioneering financial instrument is set to revolutionize Pakistan's sukuk market by channeling investments into environmentally sustainable projects while fostering economic growth. The Green Sukuk marks a pivotal step in aligning Pakistan's financial markets with global best practices in green financing. The Green Sukuk Program has been structured

with the support of the Joint Financial Advisors: Meezan Bank Limited, Bank Alfalah Limited, Dubai Islamic Bank Pakistan Limited, and Bank Islami Pakistan Limited. The Sustainable Investment Sukuk Framework, approved by the Cabinet, lays the foundation for the landmark debut of the Green Sukuk. This initiative is closely aligned with Pakistan's Vision 2028, particularly its goal of transitioning to an interest-free economy. It reflects the government's strong

commitment to leveraging financial markets in support of sustainable development. The Green Sukuk is a beacon of innovation and a testament to our unwavering commitment to fostering sustainable development and reducing our environmental impact. The Green Sukuk offers investors a unique opportunity to support environmentally friendly projects while promoting economic growth. This is a historic step toward integrating sustainable finance into the

core of Pakistan's development strategy. The Green Sukuk will attract a broader investor base, deepen our financial markets, and accelerate the country's transition to a green and resilient economy. This is a historic step toward integrating sustainable finance into the core of Pakistan's development strategy. The Green Sukuk will attract a broader investor base, deepen our financial markets, and accelerate the country's transition to a green and resilient economy.

 Hamas says
commander
killed in Israel
Lebanon
strike

SIDON, Lebanon: Hamas said one of its commanders was killed in an Israeli strike on the south Lebanon city of Sidon on Wednesday, the latest attack despite a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said the dawn strike killed one person. Hamas named him as Khaled Ahmed Al-Ahmed and said he was on his way to pray. "As we mourn our heroic martyr, we pledge to God Almighty, and then to our people and our nation, to continue on the path of resistance," the Palestinian militant group said in a statement. The Israeli military confirmed that it killed Ahmed, adding that he was "the head of operations in Hamas's Western Brigade in Lebanon." It alleged he had been engaged in weapons smuggling and advancing "numerous" attacks against Israel. Israel has continued to launch regular strikes in Lebanon despite the November 27 truce which sought to halt more than a year of hostilities with Hezbollah including two months of full-blown war. Under the deal, Hezbollah was to pull back its fighters north of Lebanon's Litani River, some 30 kilometers (20 miles) from the Israeli border, and dismantle any remaining military infrastructure to its south. Israel was to withdraw all its forces from Lebanon, but it has kept troops in five positions that it deems "strategic." —APP

Greece,
Egypt set to
sign deal to
boost ties

ATHENS: Greece and Egypt will sign a "strategic partnership" agreement on Wednesday as the two countries seek to step up political coordination to help safeguard stability in the Eastern Mediterranean, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi said. "Our relations are traditional and historical. We have the basis to enhance this relationship," said El-Sisi during a televised meeting with Greek President Constantine Tsoulassas in Athens. "We will have today the chance to sign a joint declaration for a strategic partnership. El-Sisi is due to meet Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, more than a year after they agreed to set up a cooperation board of senior officials from both countries to improve ties. The two leaders were expected to reaffirm their joint stance over the need to respect international law to promote peace in a turbulent region amid the ongoing war in Gaza, a Greek government official said. Migration was also expected to top the agenda of bilateral talks as European governments have long been worried about the risk of instability in Egypt, a country of 106 million people where economic adversity has pushed increasing numbers to migrate. —APP

EU takes
Hungary to top
court in migrant
smuggler case

BRUSSELS: The European Commission on Wednesday said it will take Hungary to the EU's top court for breaching rules on combating people-trafficking, in the latest showdown between Brussels and the nationalist government in Budapest. Brussels launched legal action in 2023 after Budapest decided to release and expel several thousand jailed migrant traffickers on the grounds holding them in Hungarian prisons was a burden to the taxpayer. An April 2023 decree by Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government enabled the smugglers' release — giving them three days to leave Hungary, theoretically with a view to serving out their sentences in their home country. But the EU charged that no system was put in place to ensure smugglers were taken back into custody once expelled, and decided to refer Hungary to the European Court of Justice after it failed to address the concerns. More than 2,400 people-smugglers had been released under the measure as of January this year. —APP

Briefs

Uzbekistan,
South Korea
launch joint
projects

TASKHENT: Deputy Minister of Transport of Uzbekistan Jasurbek Choriyev held talks with a delegation led by Korea National Railway Chairman & CEO, Lee Seong Hai. The parties discussed advanced technologies and the possibilities of expanding innovative cooperation for the modernization of the railway system. Special attention was paid to introducing modern alarm systems, geolocation, and traffic control, as well as Korean navigation solutions that will enhance the safety of high-speed trains on new routes planned for construction in Uzbekistan. Lee Seong Hai provided information on the preparation of a feasibility study for the construction of a separate Tashkent – Samarkand high-speed railway. It was noted that the preparatory activities will be carried out by Saman Engineering, Dong Myeong Engineering Consultants & Architecture, Korea Railroad Corporation, and Korea National Railway with the support of the Korea Eximbank's grant. – Agencies

Israel attack
on Sanaa
airport caused
\$500 mn
in damage:
director

SANAA: Israel's attack on the airport in Yemen's Huthi-controlled capital Sanaa destroyed terminal buildings and caused \$500 million in damage, its director told Huthi media on Wednesday. He said earlier in a statement on X that the airport was suspending all flights until further notice after sustaining "severe damage" in the Israeli strikes. The strikes came after a Huthi missile gouged a crater near Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport on Sunday. "Around \$500 million in losses were caused by the Israeli aggression on Sanaa airport," its general director Khaled alShaief told the rebels' Al-Masirah television. "The enemy destroyed the terminals at Sanaa airport, including all equipment and devices," he said, adding that a warehouse was also "completely levelled". Yemenia Airways lost three planes, he said, adding that six planes in total had been destroyed. "There are alternatives to temporarily reopen the airport, and we need a long time to rehabilitate it and restore operations," he said. Sanaa's airport reopened to international flights after a six-year gap in 2022, offering a regular service to Jordan's capital, Amman, on the home-grown Yemenia airline. Those flying out of Sanaa have included Yemenis seeking emergency medical treatment abroad. – Agencies

Petroleum Minister Ali
meets Daniel Arsenault

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik was called on H.E Daniel Arsenault, Political and Trade Counsellor at the Canadian High Commission, today in Islamabad. The discussions centered on opportunities for enhanced bilateral cooperation in clean energy, minerals and geological survey. Federal Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik congratulated Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on assuming office. Expressing concern over recent escalations between India and Pakistan, Mr. Arsenault emphasized the need for restraint to prevent further instability in the region. He underscored Canada's apprehension regarding attacks in densely populated areas and called for calm and better

sense to prevail. He expressed hope that the situation will calm down soon. Federal Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik strongly condemned India's attacks on civilian population. He said it is a blatant violation of international law and humanitarian principles. It is a display of India's frustration over its inability to protect its own citizens. Pakistan had already offered for investigation on Peshawar incident. Without any substantial evidence, such Indian aggression is uncalled for. Pakistani forces are ready and fully prepared to defend our country. The meeting also explored avenues for collaboration in sustainable energy development. Both sides acknowledged the potential for joint initiatives in clean energy technologies, minerals, enhancing trade between Canada and Pakistan. Minister Malik invited Canadian companies to Pakistan's exploration sector given the huge potential in both onshore and offshore exploration. Canadian Counsellor highlighted the opportunities of cooperation between Geological Survey of Pakistan and Canada under the TAP project. – DNA

Pakistan, Italy vow to
strengthen cooperation

Italy's Minister for Interior Mr. Matteo Piantedosi paid a courtesy call on the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar



SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: DPM/FM Dar expressed satisfaction at the upward trajectory of Pakistan-Italy relations. He observed that the established architecture of dialogue between the two countries provided an excellent basis for regular interaction. He highlighted that there was immense potential to expand bilateral ties in the areas of trade and investment, security and education. DPM/FM appreciated Pakistan-Italy's growing cooperation in the area of labour mobility and welcomed the concluding of MoU on Migration and Labour Mobility between Pakistan and Italy as a major milestone. Minister Piantedosi positively assessed Pakistan-Italy relations and expressed Italian side's keenness to expand cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

DPM/FM briefed the Italian Minister on India's recent escalatory measures and stated that Pakistan strongly condemned India's cowardly action, which was a flagrant violation of the UN Charter, international law, and established norms of inter-state relations. DPM/FM shared that Pakistan had exercised restraint but India, with its blatant disregard for international law, continued to threaten regional peace. Minister Piantedosi expressed concern at the escalation of the already tense situation and offered condolences for the innocent lives lost in Pakistan. He called for restraint on both sides. Both sides agreed to intensify contacts.

Dar, Turkish envoy
hold "in-depth"
discussion

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Türkiye Irfan Neziroglu on Wednesday called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar wherein the two sides discussed regional security concerns "in depth". The ambassador conveyed Türkiye's strong solidarity with Pakistan in the wake of India's unprovoked violation of Pakistan's sovereignty and the tragic loss of innocent lives, according to a Foreign Office press release. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining close coordination and cooperation. Earlier, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan also called Deputy Prime Minister Dar to express Türkiye's solidarity with Pakistan against India's unprovoked aggression, violating Pakistan's sovereignty and killing innocent civilians. He expressed concern over the deteriorating regional security situation. Both leaders agreed to remain in close coordination on the evolving situation. – DNA

China's Xi aims to
beef up 'no limits'
Putin partnership

MOSCOW: Chinese President Xi Jinping headed to Moscow on Wednesday for a key three-day visit including a grand Victory Day parade and a show of support for Vladimir Putin. Moscow and Beijing declared a "no limits partnership" weeks before Putin ordered Russia's Ukraine offensive in February 2022. The expanded military and trade ties since have troubled the West. The visit comes with rising China-US tensions over biting US trade tariffs, while President Donald Trump has also made overtures to Putin in a bid to mediate the conflict in Ukraine. On Tuesday, the Kremlin praised Russia-China relations as a "genuine example" of cooperation and said they were "at their highest point". It said Putin and Xi will discuss Ukraine and Russia-US relations at a one-to-one meeting. China's foreign ministry said the leaders will "rally the Global South, shape global governance in the right direction, unequivocally oppose acts of unilateralism and bullying, and jointly promote an equal and orderly multipolar world", state broadcaster CCTV said.

Market resilience and national
financial security to be reviewed

In a comprehensive and strategic discussion revolving around the situation and functioning of equity, debt, FX and interbank markets, participants conducted a rapid risk assessment and evaluated the current threat perception with an emphasis on ensuring national financial stability and security

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An emergency meeting was convened today in the Finance Division under the chairmanship of the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, joining on Zoom to assess the current financial landscape in light of escalating regional tensions following the recent belligerent Indian aggression. The meeting was attended by the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Secretary Finance, and senior officials from the Finance Division.

In a comprehensive and strategic discussion revolving around the situation and functioning of equity, debt, FX and interbank markets, participants conducted a rapid risk assessment and evaluated the current threat perception with an emphasis on ensuring national financial stability and security. Recognizing the critical importance of market stability, the meeting reaffirmed the government's firm commitment to

maintaining business continuity across all financial and allied sectors. Key assurances were extended to stakeholders, underscoring that robust measures are being implemented to safeguard Pakistan's economic infrastructure and provide calm, clarity, and confidence to the financial markets.

The participants also emphasized the importance of heightened vigilance against a wide range of threats, with a special focus on cybersecurity and communication infrastructure. Contingency plans have been reinforced to ensure operational resilience and secure communication lines across financial institutions. To maintain proactive oversight, the meeting decided on regular reviews of the evolving situation. These ongoing evaluations will support the government's efforts to provide consistent guidance and timely reassurance to the financial markets and the wider business community. The Finance Minister reiterated that Pakistan's financial system remains stable and secure, and that all relevant authorities are working in close coordination to uphold national economic integrity in the face of emerging challenges.

Drone strike targets Port Sudan
navy base: army source

War has raged since April 2023 between Sudan's regular armed forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, which the army-backed government has called a "proxy" of the United Arab Emirates

PORT SUDAN: A drone strike targeted Sudan's biggest naval base Wednesday, an army source told AFP, marking the fourth straight day the seat of the army-backed government has come under attack. "They (the drones) were met with anti-aircraft missiles," the source said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media. An AFP correspondent reported a series of explosions and then a cloud of smoke coming from the direction of the Flamingo Base, just north of the city. War has raged since April 2023 between Sudan's reg-

ular armed forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, which the army-backed government has called a "proxy" of the United Arab Emirates. Port Sudan on the Red Sea coast had been a safe haven, hosting hundreds of thousands of displaced people and United Nations offices, until Sunday when drone strikes blamed on the RSF began.

Drones struck across Port Sudan on Tuesday, hitting the main port, the city's power station and the country's last functioning international airport. Nearly 600 kilometres (375 miles) further south, "three drones attempted to strike airport facilities" in the army-held eastern city of Kassala, near the border with Eritrea, a security source said. Witnesses told AFP they heard explosions from anti-aircraft missiles west of the city, which has also come under repeated attack this week. Nationwide, the war has killed tens of thousands of people and uprooted 13 million. It has also effectively split Sudan in two, with the army controlling the centre, north and east while the RSF holds nearly all of Darfur in the west and parts of the south. – Agencies

APNS
condemns
Indian
attack on
Pakistan

DNA

KARACHI: The APNS strongly condemns missile strike by India on the territory of Pakistan and pledges its resolve to support the state and armed forces of Pakistan to combat all threats to the independence and sovereignty of home land. Mr. Sarmad Ali, President, All Pakistan Newspapers Society in a press statement has stated that the attack by India in Pakistan territory is alarming threat to the peace and prosperity of the region and would cause unprecedented destruction of the people and economy of the region. He called for sanity to the jingoist leaders of India to stop their efforts to destabilize the region.

Mr. Sarmad Ali assured the nation that the print media in Pakistan will play a positive and objective role in dissemination of authentic news and objective analysis to keep the people of Pakistan well informed. He regretted that the Indian media in general played on the tunes of the Hindutva driven extremist BJP government and spread fake news and war hysteria which is against the norms of objective journalism. The President APNS assured all out support of the print media to the armed forces and the government of Pakistan to defend homeland against all aggression and threats from the Indian government.

Trump,
Ukraine
propel EU
and UK
towards
defence pact

BRUSSELS: The EU and Britain look set to seal a defence pact at a landmark summit this month as worries about US President Donald Trump and the war in Ukraine spur them beyond the wrangles of Brexit. Multiple EU diplomats and officials told AFP the signs are positive that a security agreement will be inked when British Prime Minister Keir Starmer meets EU chiefs in London on May 19. The "security and defence partnership" is billed as an important first step in Starmer's much-vaunted push to reset ties after the years of bad blood caused by the UK leaving the bloc.

The move is aimed at opening the door to closer cooperation as both the EU and Britain race to rearm in the face of the menace from Russia and fears Trump will no longer help protect Europe. That should mean more regular security talks, Britain considering joining EU military missions and the potential for London to fully tap into a 150-billion-euro defence fund being set up by the bloc. But the deal is expected to leave much of the detail to be filled in later – for instance requiring a further agreement on giving UK and its defence industry unfettered access to EU programmes. – Agencies

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