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**Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif greets new Pope**

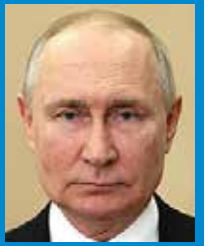
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**Pakistan is changing, says Aurangzeb**

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**Putin rallies around Russia against Ukraine**

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## Indo-Pak stand-off

# 'India running terrorist camps'

India's jingoism should be source of serious concern for world, warns Pakistan

DNA / STAFF REPORT

THE DG ISPR stated that New Delhi was involved in terror financing and was sponsoring cross-border terrorism. Addressing the international media, he said terrorist camps were running in India, adding that they themselves were confessing that they were sponsoring terrorists in Balochistan. "India is involved in terrorism not only in Pakistan but also in Canada," he added. The military's spokesperson said that New Delhi was supporting different terrorist groups in Pakistan, including "Fitna al Khawarij" — a term widely used for outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). "The time has come to question the Indian government," he added. The DG ISPR further said that the one of the objectives of Pahalgam attack and the subsequent Indian actions is to divert Pakistan armed forces and security agencies attention from anti-terror operations in the country. "Government of Pakistan, its armed forces and security forces are on daily basis tightening noose around India-sponsored terrorism. One of the objectives is to distract and divert the security agencies and armed forces from this counter-terrorists operations," he added. Meanwhile, As India continued to provoke nuclear-armed Pakistan following the May 7 missile strikes, Islamabad on Friday warned that New Delhi's "jingoism and war hysteria" should be a cause of serious concern for the entire world. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad today, Foreign Office Spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan said: "It is most unfortunate that India's reckless conduct has brought the two nuclear-armed states closer to a major conflict." India launched strikes on Pakistan and AJK early Wednesday morning — an assault that Islamabad called a "blatant act of war" — as tensions spiral between the nuclear-armed rivals after a deadly attack on tourists in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) last month. Islamabad said six Pakistani locations, from mosques to hydropower projects, were targeted.

## Japan calls upon Pakistan, India to show restraint

FM Takeshi expressed deep concern over the evolving situation and conveyed condolences over the loss of innocent civilian lives

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar received a call from the Foreign Minister of Japan, Iwaya Takeshi. DPM/FM briefed him on the regional situation due to India's illegal and unprovoked attacks on multiple cities across Pakistan that resulted in the martyrdom of innocent civilians, including women, children, and the elderly. He emphasized that Pakistan had demonstrated restraint in the face of these violations of international law and the UN Charter that threatened regional peace and security. The Government of Pakistan remained firmly committed to defending the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. FM Takeshi expressed deep concern over the evolving situation and conveyed condolences over the loss of innocent civilian lives. He emphasized that both sides should exercise restraint, allowing dialogue and diplomacy to achieve peace and stability in the region.

## War diplomacy

# Pak, Norway hold talks amid rising tensions

Ishaq Dar briefs FM Eide on Indian aggression; Senator Dar reiterated Pakistan's commitment to regional peace, noting that the country had shown considerable restraint in the face of aggression

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a telephonic conversation with Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide to discuss the escalating regional situation following India's recent cross-border attacks. During the call, DPM/FM Dar informed his Norwegian counterpart about India's illegal and unprovoked strikes on multiple cities across Pakistan, which resulted in the tragic loss of innocent civilian lives, including women, children, and the elderly. He emphasized that these acts constituted blatant violations of international law and the UN Charter, posing a serious threat to regional peace and stability. Senator Dar reiterated Pakistan's commitment to regional peace, noting that the country had shown considerable restraint in the face of aggression. He underlined that Pakistan remained fully prepared to

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## Pakistan proved clear superiority over India: Tarar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar said on Friday that Pakistan's clear superiority in conventional warfare had been proven by successfully shooting down five Indian aircraft and 77 drones. In a statement issued here, the minister said Pakistan's armed forces gave a befitting reply to the enemy's aggression. "The successful shooting down of five Indian warplanes and 77 Indian drones so far was a clear manifestation of Pakistan's air

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia H.E. Adel Al-Jubeir called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on May 9, 2025. — DNA

## Saudi State Minister calls on PM Shehbaz

FM says his country worried about Pakistan-India tension

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif received Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Adel Al-Jubeir, at the Prime Minister House, this evening. The Minister of State is on a one-day official visit to Pakistan. During their warm and cordial meeting, the Prime Minister conveyed his warm regards and respects to The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud,

Continued on Page 06

## Relief to common man in budget priority

PM says private sector should help govt in country development

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that providing relief to the common man in the upcoming budget was the government's priority, and all-out resources will be utilized to reduce the financial difficulties of the poor and middle class. The budget is being presented on June 26. The prime minister, chairing a meeting on the preparation of the federal budget 2025-26,

Continued on Page 06

## Amid Indian aggression

# Azerbaijan FM expresses strong solidarity, support

UK Foreign Secretary phones DPM Dar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday received a telephone call from the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov. The deputy prime minister briefed him on the evolving regional situation, according to a Foreign Office press release. Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov expressed strong solidarity and support for Pakistan in the wake of India's illegal and unprovoked attacks that violated Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He conveyed heartfelt condolences to the people of Pakistan on the loss of innocent lives. Meanwhile, reaffirming strong fraternal ties between the two countries, the two leaders agreed to remain in close contact. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday received a telephone call from UK Secretary of State David Lammy who expressed deep concern over the unfolding situation between Pakistan and India. The UK foreign secretary conveyed his condolences on the tragic

Continued on Page 06

## Pakistan Army destroys three Indian posts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Army has retaliated effectively to recent Indian aggression along the Line of Control (LoC), confirming the destruction of three additional Indian posts in response to unprovoked firing. According to security sources, Pakistan Army effectively neutralized multiple enemy posts in a coordinated action across different sectors. In the Kellar sector, this included the Mehree post situated at Khalsha Top. Simultaneously, in the Rakh Chagri sector, the Dana Top and Mound posts were also successfully destroyed. The latest strikes have inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, consistent with the Pakistan Army's ongoing retaliatory operations.

Continued on Page 06

## Briefs

### PSL X postponed indefinitely

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday announced the indefinite postponement of the remaining eight matches of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season 10 in light of the deteriorating regional security situation. The decision follows a significant spike in hostilities along the Line of Control (LoC), including the incursion of 78 Indian drones and the firing of surface-to-surface missiles, which the PCB termed as "reckless aggression" from India.

### JUI Chief calls for national unity

FARRUKH SHEHZAD

ISLAMABAD: Chief Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman Friday emphasized the urgent need to strengthen Pakistan's defense institutions, declaring that national unity is the key to overcoming current challenges. Speaking in the National Assembly, Fazlur Rehman announced that his party has decided to observe the current day as "National Defense Day." He said that a "Million March" will be held in Peshawar on May 11, followed by another in Quetta on May 15, to demonstrate public solidarity. "The government has asked youth to register for civil defense. We have entrusted this responsibility to our Ansar al-Islam force. Today, the young men from religious seminaries are standing at the frontlines beside our armed forces for the defense of Pakistan," he added. He urged the government to engage key countries like China, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Afghanistan, and Türkiye on the ongoing escalation with India.

# Pakistan briefs United States on rising border tensions with India

During the meeting, Minister Naqvi apprised the acting US envoy of the current situation, expressing serious concern over what he described as India's repeated violations of international laws through drone strikes targeting civilian areas

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: In a significant diplomatic development, Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held a second key meeting within 48 hours with the United States' Chargé d'Affaires, Natalie Baker, to discuss the escalating tensions between



Pakistan and India, particularly along the borders. During the meeting, Minister Naqvi apprised the acting U.S. envoy of the current situation, expressing serious concern over what he described as India's repeated violations of international laws through drone strikes targeting civilian areas. "India has brazenly violated all international norms by attempting to

target civilian populations using drones," the interior minister said. He added that Pakistan had taken swift and effective action in response, successfully shooting down dozens of hostile drones.

Naqvi held India solely responsible for the deteriorating security situation in the region, stating that New Delhi's actions had pushed the entire South Asian region to the brink of war. "The region is dangerously close to a conflict, and Pakistan will never allow its security to be compromised," he declared. The meeting also included U.S. Political Counselor Zack Harkinrider, indicating the seriousness with which the U.S. is monitoring the situation. This high-level engagement comes at a critical time as tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbors continue to rise, raising concerns in the international community about regional stability and peace.

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## Business community stands tall with armed forces: Nasir

ISLAMABAD: President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, has expressed unwavering solidarity with the armed forces of Pakistan, declaring that the entire nation is united in the defense of the homeland and prepared to deliver a befitting response to any Indian aggression. In a statement issued on Friday, Qureshi paid rich tributes to Pakistan's armed forces for their prompt and effective response to India's recent hostile actions. He condemned New Delhi's cowardly nighttime attacks, asserting that such tactics have only exposed India's ugly face before the international community. "While India shamelessly targeted civilians, including women and children, Pakistan maintained the highest moral ground by responding solely to military targets," he emphasized. He further highlighted that there is credible evidence of Indian involvement in terrorist activities in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, reiterating Pakistan's longstanding warnings to those supporting such actions. Insisting that escalation will only lead to instability. "If India chooses the path of war, it alone will bear the responsibility for the consequences," he warned. Emphasizing national unity, he declared that Pakistan's business community remains steadfast in its support for the armed forces. "We stand shoulder to shoulder with our brave defenders. The spirit of patriotism in our community is stronger than ever," he concluded.—APP

## Police put on alert amid current national situation

LAHORE:Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Bilal Siddique Kamyana said on Friday that, in view of the prevailing national security situation, Lahore police have been placed on high alert with enhanced security measures across the city. He directed the police force to remain on high alert and said Lahore Police were fully prepared to maintain law and order and ensure security across the city. The CCPO further announced that a command and control room has been established at the Capital City Police Headquarters. He added that Security has been heightened at all entry and exit points of the provincial capital, as well as at all key and sensitive locations. The CCPO instructed field officers to closely monitor suspicious activities and elements likely to disturb public order. Kamyana also emphasized maintaining strong coordination with district administration, rescue services and other security agencies in any emergency situation. He directed supervisory officers to ensure the provision of adequate human resources and logistics at sensitive locations. Appealing to the public, Bilal Siddique urged citizens to remain peaceful and uphold law and order. He reaffirmed that Lahore Police stands shoulder to shoulder with the armed forces of Pakistan.—APP

# Randhawa reviews preparedness to deal with emergencies

During his visit to the Emergency and Disaster Management Headquarters, Chairman CDA observed a comprehensive fire and rescue drill, inspected emergency equipment, and evaluated the performance of firefighters through mock drills

DNA

ISLAMABAD : Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Chief Commissioner Islamabad, and DG Civil Defence, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, said that the administration remains fully prepared at all times to ensure citizen safety, maintain discipline, and serve the public with dedication. He expressed these views during a surprise visit to the CDA's Emergency and Disaster Management Headquarters, where he reviewed emergency preparedness and rapid response mechanisms in detail. He was accompanied by CDA Member Administration Talat Mahmood.

During his visit to the Emergency and Disaster Management Headquarters, Chairman CDA observed a comprehensive fire and rescue drill, inspected emergency equipment, and evaluated the performance of firefighters through mock drills. He said that firefighters risk their lives not only to save precious lives of citizens during emergencies but also to protect public property, showcasing their unwavering commitment through best of the best training skills and abilities. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali



Randhwa stated that the preparedness and capabilities of the Emergency and Disaster Management Wing CDA are being further refined to meet international standards. He added that CDA has established a world-class firefighting force to safeguard citizens during any emergency. The visit resonated with chants of "Pakistan Zindabad" (Long Live Pakistan), by firefighters as the emergency and rescue teams demonstrated

their state-of-the-art vehicles, machinery, and trained personnel through mock drills, reflecting the Directorate's strong resolve and will to protect lives and property. Commending the Emergency and Disaster Management Wing's 24/7 readiness, Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa stressed the importance of public awareness as well as training to volunteers. He directed Emergency and Disaster Management wing CDA to

extend extensive training programs and public awareness campaigns to aware citizens about emergency and disaster management protocols. Later, under the directives of Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner ICT and DG Civil Defence, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, CDA's Emergency and Disaster Management Directorate formally launched a comprehensive training program at the CDA Disaster Academy in Sector H-11,

Islamabad. The program aims to equip volunteers with the skills and knowledge to effectively manage emergency situations through hands-on training and mock drills. Participants thanked Chairman CDA, Chief Commissioner Islamabad, and DG Civil Defence Muhammad Ali Randhawa for organizing such a great initiative, which enhances public preparedness and response capabilities during emergency and disaster.

## Agriculture malls to help develop farm sector

MULTAN:Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) South Punjab Fuad Hashim Rabbani said on Friday establishment of model agriculture malls was a revolutionary step toward development of the farm sector. The malls, being established in Multan and Bahawalpur with investment of hundreds of millions of rupees, are now in their final stages of completion. In the second phase, similar agriculture malls would be set up in other districts of south Punjab. He made these remarks during a visit to the under-construction model agriculture mall in Bahawalpur. He was accompanied by Special Secretary Agriculture Sarfraz Khan Magasi and Special Secretary C&W Aftab Pirzada. Rabbani said the agriculture malls would offer farmers all essential agricultural facilities under one roof. He added that high-quality seeds, fertilisers and pesticides would be made available at subsidised rates, while equipment such as harvesters, seeders, and other modern machinery would be offered on rent, benefiting especially the small farmers. He said that advisory desks, staffed by agricultural experts, would be established to provide guidance to farmers. Additionally, through the Kisan Card scheme, farmers would be able to access loans ranging from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 150,000 per acre.—APP

# Azma slams Indian 'Modi Media' for spreading lies

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Information Azma Bukhari has sharply criticised the Indian media, calling it a disgrace to journalism and accusing it of serving the interests of the Modi government without question. "The Modi media has become a black mark on journalism," she said. "Modi tells one lie and the Indian media multiplies it a hundred times before broadcasting it." Azma accused the Indian press of distorting facts and even

making false claims about capturing Pakistani cities. "In the narrative of Modi media, India has already taken over the entire Pakistan. But the reality on the ground is that all Pakistani cities are secure, and life continues as normal," she stated. Azma went on to liken Indian news channels to cartoon networks, saying they have become a source of international ridicule. "The free press around the world is mocking Modi's government

and its puppet media." She asserted that India has never succeeded in advancing near Pakistan's cities and "by the will of God, it never will." The minister also claimed that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been hiding for the past week, while Indian forces have suffered serious defeats at the hands of the Pakistani military over the past three days. "Our air force is thwarting enemy designs and making history," she declared, add-

ing that the Pakistan Air Force has shot down five Indian aircraft—a claim she said has also been confirmed by international media. She stated that all Pakistani aircraft remained fully operational and unharmed. Azma Bukhari accused the Indian media of spreading falsehood to cover up Modi government's humiliation on the global stage. "Pakistan's brave armed forces know how to defend every inch of our land.—APP

# Kakar urges steps against Thalassaemia, deadly diseases

QUETTA:In a significant step towards tackling critical public health issues, Balochistan Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, has announced a series of measures to prevent and manage Thalassaemia and other life-threatening diseases across the province. Speaking at an awareness session organized by the Balochistan Blood Transfusion Authority on the occasion of World Thalassaemia Day, Minister Kakar emphasized the government's commitment to addressing the province's pressing healthcare challenges. "We are taking concrete steps to curb the spread of Thalassaemia and other serious diseases," he said, highlighting that enforcement of existing laws on Thalassaemia is being ensured. He also revealed that a screening program will be promoted as a key strategy to prevent the disease, and that efforts are underway to implement the relevant legislation more effectively. "Our focus is to strengthen the healthcare system across this geographically vast province," Kakar stated. To address health issues in a more structured manner, the health department has formed an advisory committee comprising medical experts. The minister also called on religious scholars to use their sermons to spread awareness about Thalassaemia and promote preventive healthcare practices. The event was attended by several notable figures in the healthcare sector, including Health Secretary Mubeeb Panezai, Chief Technical Expert of the Balochistan Blood Transfusion Authority Dr. Nadeem Samad, Dr. Afzal Zarkoon, Dr. Shafiq Khoso, Aslam Nasir, and others, who also addressed the audience and shared insights on the importance of awareness, prevention.—APP

# Protection of citizens state's top priority: Khawaja

LAHORE:Punjab Minister for Health and Chairman Cabinet Committee on Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafique has said that the protection of lives and property of people is foremost priority of the state. He expressed these views while chairing the 27th meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order at the Home Department on Friday. The meeting reviewed the overall law and order situation in Punjab in the light of prevailing circumstances in the country. Senior officials, including

Punjab Home Secretary Noor ul Amin Mengal, Secretary Emergency Services Department Dr. Rizwan Naseer, Additional IG Punjab Chaudhry Sultan, Special Secretary Home Fazal ur Rehman, and representatives from CTD, Special Branch, and other law enforcement agencies, gave briefings during the session. The committee strongly condemned India's unprovoked targeting of innocent and defenseless civilians, including children and women. The meeting emphasized enhanced coor-

dination among all departments and joint operational efforts to tackle emerging challenges. The Cabinet Committee approved several key measures, including the purchase of protective equipment for civil defense, the release of four prisoners on parole, and an allocation of Rs. 37 million to strengthen the capacity of the Punjab Forensic Science Agency. Highlighting the unwavering resolve for national security, Khawaja Salman Rafique stated, "Nothing is more important to us than the security of Pakistan." He noted

that the Pakistan Army successfully shot down 25 Indian drones on May 8. He added that, under the directions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, mock training exercises involving civil defense, rescue services, and police are actively underway. "Thousands of students and citizens were trained in civil defense in a single day," he said, emphasizing the role of public participation in national resilience. The minister also assured that the availability of medicine stocks and the presence of health professionals in government hospitals are being ensured. He noted that the central control room of the Home Department is monitoring the province round-the-clock in coordination with all relevant agencies.—APP

# Haripur jail rehabilitation centre gets functional

PESHAWAR:District and Sessions Judge, Haripur, Shahnaz Hameed Khattak, formally inaugurated the Drug Addicts Rehabilitation Centre (ADRC) at Central Jail Haripur on Friday. A large number of officers including Superintendent Jail Muhammad Hamid Azam, District Police Officer Farhan Khan, Senior Civil Judge (Admin) Shiraz Tariq, District Public Prosecutor Muhammad Qasim, Probation Officer Khanbaz Khan, Deputy Superintendent Akhtar Hussain Shah, Muqaddas Khan Jadoon, Mohiuddin Shah, Dr. Muhammad Umar, Dr. Ayaz were present at the ceremony. On this occasion, the Superintendent of Prisons in his briefing told that the aim of establishing a rehabilitation centre inside the prison is to help drug addicts and prisoners get them rid of their addiction and turn them into useful

members of society. The prisoners admitted to the rehabilitation centre will be treated under the supervision of specialized doctors and specialists, where they will be provided with counseling as well as other facilities, including sports. Initially, ten detainees and prisoners have been admitted to the drug addicts' rehabilitation centre, and their treatment is ongoing. However, their number will be increased to 35 in the coming weeks. In addition, adult education and skill development centres are operating inside the prison for the welfare of prisoners, where prisoners are being taught basic education and skills. District and Sessions Judge Shahnaz Hameed Khattak said that the establishment of drug rehabilitation centre in Central Jail Haripur in a short period of time is undoubtedly commendable,

which will make drug addicts who come to the jail healthy and carry a positive message for the society and they instead of burden will become a support for their families. She further said that under the prison reforms, the administration of Haripur Jail has taken historic steps. With the introduction of video link, the problem of bringing and taking remanded suspects has been eliminated, while security issues have also been addressed, and the burden on the government treasury has also been reduced. She added that the prison administration, in collaboration with other relevant institutions, should formulate SOPs regarding the drug addicts rehabilitation centre so that patients heading out of here could be effectively monitored and prevent their falling prey to the scourge of drugs again.—DNA

# Unsafe food still public threat: experts call for action

DNA

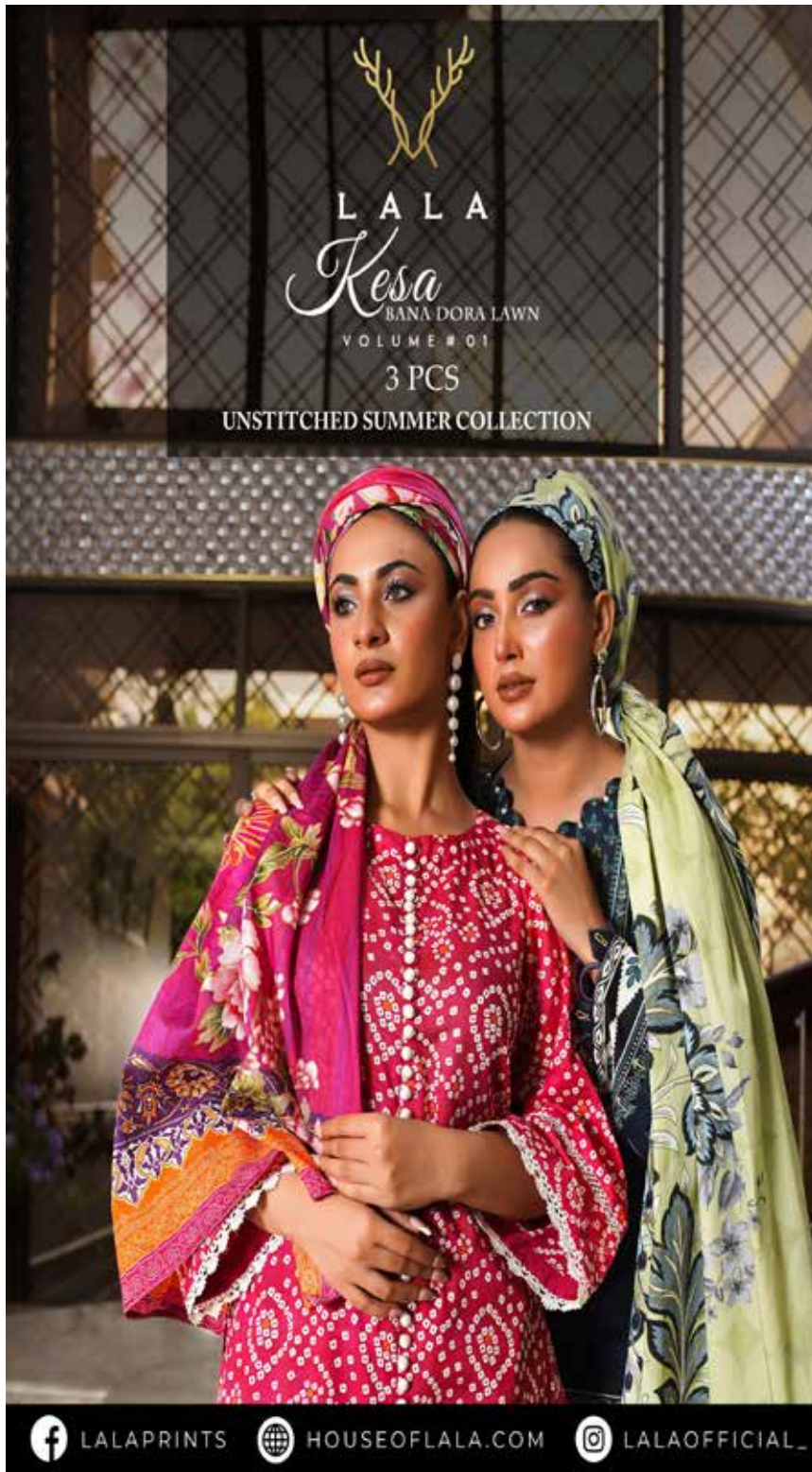
ISLAMABAD:The Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) and IMPACT Research International organized a consultative session where experts highlighted the dangers of unsafe food, warning that contaminated food continues to harm public health, especially among children. Experts from various sectors—including stakeholders from agriculture, health, research, and small businesses—urged immediate action to prevent foodborne illnesses and promote safe food handling across the country. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Tahira Siddique, Deputy Director of the Islamabad Food Authority (IFA), said, "Food

supply involves many people—producers, transporters, retailers, and consumers. At every step, there's a risk of contamination. We regulate the process through careful monitoring to detect potential hazards." She added that food safety isn't the responsibility of a single sector—it requires involvement at every stage. "Each link in the chain must recognize its role in keeping food safe." Zubair Faisal Abasi, Executive Director of IMPACT Research International, explained how unsafe food not only harms health but also weakens the economy. "Every year, about 600 million people fall sick globally due to foodborne diseases. Around 420,000 of these cases end in death," he said. "Children under five are the most af-

ected, accounting for 40% of these cases." He added that the problem is severe in low- and middle-income countries. "Unsafe food causes a loss of 110 billion dollars every year in productivity and healthcare costs. It puts pressure on healthcare systems and affects national growth, trade, and tourism." Pakistan faces similar challenges. Contaminated food is common, and the number of illnesses linked to bacteria like Salmonella is growing. Experts said the country records about 412 cases of Salmonella per 100,000 people annually. Diseases like hepatitis and typhoid are also linked to poor food safety. One growing concern is the increasing popularity of ready-to-eat food such as burgers, shawarma, and pizza. While convenient,

many of these meals are found to be unsafe. Tauqeer Mustafa, a public health expert from the One Health Project, shared data showing that nearly 38% of such food is unfit for human consumption. "People often take antibiotics to treat food poisoning, or even give them to animals," he said. "This leads to antimicrobial resistance, which is a growing threat. If not controlled, it could take us back to a time when minor infections were deadly." Mustafa called for a nationwide campaign backed by scientific evidence and supported through public events and policy actions. He stressed the importance of a joint approach: "Human, animal, and environmental health are all connected." Improving food safety also depends on

the conditions in which food is produced. Rashid Chaudhary, a food governance expert, stressed the need to support small farmers. "If they don't make profits, they won't follow safe methods," he said. "There must be economic incentives to reduce the use of harmful substances in farming." Qamar Mehdi, an agriculturist promoting organic practices, added that the focus should shift from crop yield to food quality. "A product that isn't safe isn't food. We must value health over quantity." Sajid Iqbal, Chairperson of Green Pakistan, spoke about the importance of teaching children about food safety. "We need a school health programme. Children should learn how to identify healthy food and avoid unsafe snacks.





National Days and Armed Forces Days

- MAY
- May 03/Poland  
National Day

May 06/Bulgaria  
Armed Forces Day

May 06/UAE  
Armed Forces Day

May 07/  
Kazakhstan  
Armed Forces Day

May 08/Czech  
Republic  
National Day

May 09/European  
Union  
National Day

May 17/Norway  
Constitution Day

May 21/Hungary  
Armed Forced Day

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

May 24/Eritrea  
National Day

May 25/Lebanon  
Liberation and  
Resistance Day

May 25/Argentina  
National Day

May 25/Jordan  
Independence Day

May 28 /Azerbaijan  
Republic Day

May 28/Ethiopia  
National Day

May 31/Brunei  
Armed Forces  
Day



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



- Emergency
- Rescue (Police).....15

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Islamabad.....1122 & 16

Emergency Ambulance.1122

& Rescue Services.4451122

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Women Police Stations  
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Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



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Railway Exchange9270831-5

WASA Rawalpindi..5555489

CAA.....9281092



- Hospitals
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MH.....561116

Cantt Hospital...9270907-11

DHQ.....5556311-4

RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666



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- CDA.....9221334-43

CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

MDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3

- Water Tank
- Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# Pak won't allow India's regional dominance through aggression

Tariq Fazal said that in the latest assault, India deployed 30 surveillance drones, which were tactically neutralized. “India failed in both of its aggressive attempts. It wants to establish dominance in the region, but we will not allow that to happen,” he added

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry Friday said that India seeks regional dominance through aggression against Pakistan, but its ambitions will not succeed. He affirmed that the country's defense lies in strong hands and praised the Pakistani media for effectively countering Indian propaganda. Speaking during a debate in the National Assem-

bled, Dr. Tariq Fazal condemned India's brutal and cowardly attacks, emphasizing that Pakistan has given a robust response. He lauded the national unity and consensus, noting that both houses of Parliament have shown unwavering support for the country's sovereignty and security. “This sends a clear message to the world that Pakistan is united and the nation stands firmly with its armed forces,” he said. Dr. Tariq Fazal said that during India's initial attack, five aircraft including three Rafale jets were destroyed. He said it marked the first time Rafale jets—considered high-cost and advanced—were taken down in combat. “When the JF-17 Thunder roared across the skies, three Rafales were shot down,” he said, commending the professionalism of Pakistan's armed forces and air force. Tariq Fazal said that in the latest assault, India deployed 30 surveillance drones, which were tactically neutralized. “India failed in both of its aggressive attempts. It wants to establish dominance in the region, but we will not allow that to happen,” he added. He highlighted the role of ISPR in providing real-time updates and maintaining public morale. “Pakistan has acted like a responsible state and will not fall into India's trap. We will fight this war on our own terms,” he said. He reminded the international community of its responsibility to distinguish right from wrong and called on global actors to play a fair role. Emphasizing Pakistan's sacri-

fices in the war against terrorism, he said that the country has lost over 90,000 lives and suffered significant economic setbacks. Despite India's numerical superiority in weaponry, Dr. Tariq Fazal said that Pakistan has an unmatched spiritual resolve. “We have mothers who offer their other sons for the country after one is martyred, and fathers who receive their sons' uniforms with pride. As long as this spirit exists, no force can defeat this nation,” he remarked.



ISLAMABAD: The walk in solidarity with the Pakistan Army organized by the Federal Health Alliance was led by Malik Zeeshan Awan, Haji Muhammad Hanif, Haji Arshad Khan, Tanveer Noshahi, and Staff Zobia—DNA

## Ministry launches special flights for pilgrims

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on Friday said several Hajj flights from across the country faced cancellations and delays due to intermittent suspensions in airport operations, affecting the travel plans of thousands of pilgrims. In an exclusive talk with APP, ministry's spokesperson Muhammad Umar Butt informed that a total of 13 Hajj flights were disrupted between May 7 and 9, with four flights cancelled and nine delayed. He said two Saudi Airlines Hajj flights each from Islamabad and Lahore were cancelled. Among the delayed flights, three originated from Lahore, two each from Islamabad and Quetta, and one each from Multan and Karachi, he added. The spokesperson confirmed that the temporary flight suspensions affected the schedules of approximately 3,080 Hajj pilgrims. However, he said most of the delayed flights eventually departed after a few hours' postponement. To accommodate those left behind due to the cancellations, Umar Butt said the ministry arranged a special Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight from Islamabad, which transported 345 pilgrims. An additional 540 pilgrims will be flown out on special flights from Islamabad and Lahore in the coming days, he maintained. To assist pilgrims in staying informed, he said the ministry has launched a dedicated helpline at 051-9216980, offering real-time updates on flight schedules and departure information. He further advised the pilgrims to stay in contact with their respective Hajj camps for the latest details.

## Christian community assures full support to Pakistan armed forces

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination Nelson Azeem Friday said that the Christian community stands firmly with the Pakistan armed forces and is ready to contribute to any capacity if tensions with India escalate further. Speaking in the National Assembly, he said that the Christian community has consistently stood by Pakistan in times of wars and remains prepared to do so again. He said that if war is imposed on the country, Christians—like all other citizens—are ready to stand alongside the armed forces in defense of the motherland. He highlighted the historical contributions of the Christian community during previous conflicts, including the wars of 1965 and 1971. Nelson Azeem recalled his own family's military background, mentioning that his father served on the front lines during those wars and returned victorious. “The entire nation, including our youth, is united today,” he said. “We are not looking for war, but if it is imposed upon us, the response will be strong and collective.” He lauded armed forces, PAF on swift and timely response, downing of enemy's five aircraft and dozens of drones. Nelson Azeem said that such actions reflect the army's preparedness and commitment to national security. He called for unity and focus, urging all citizens to set aside personal and political differences in favor of national integrity. “Our only priority must be to protect and serve Pakistan,” he said. Nelson Azeem said that Christian-run hospitals across the country are ready to offer medical services if conflict breaks out. “Our institutions stand ready to treat anyone in need, as part of our contribution to the country's defense,” he added. He reiterated his support for the armed forces and expressed confidence in the unity and resolve of the people of Pakistan during challenging times.—APP

## Pak's response to Indian aggression would be exemplary: Tanveer

ISLAMABAD Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain warned on Friday that Pakistan's response to Indian aggression would be exemplary. Speaking in the National Assembly, Rana Tanveer stressed that Pakistan was not defenceless and enjoyed the full backing of its 240 million citizens, particularly the youth eager to join the armed forces. “Our military does not stand alone—every Pakistani stands with them, ready to defend the country,” he said Citing a recent international survey, he claimed the Pakistan Army is ranked among the best in the world due to its professionalism, while placing India sixth in comparison. He said the military is frequently called upon for global peacekeeping missions, which is a testament to its credibility. Tanveer highlighted Pakistan's advanced military technology, including the JF-17 Thunder and J-10C fighter jets developed with Chinese cooperation, which he said surpass India's F-16s. He added that Pakistani forces fight with the spirit of jihad and were

equipped with state-of-the-art systems. He strongly criticized Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for spreading a “false and malicious narrative” under the pretext of counter-terrorism and condemned India's actions in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Calling the abrogation of Article 370 a violation of UN resolutions, he said that India has never accepted Pakistan's existence and continues to conspire against it. Recalling the events of 1971, he accused India of orchestrating the breakup of East Pakistan but maintained that the armed forces have consistently thwarted such efforts. Tanveer drew a parallel between India's actions in IIOJK and Israel's assault on Gaza, claiming a strong alliance between New Delhi and Tel Aviv. “Just as innocent Palestinians are being targeted without food or weapons, India is committing atrocities against Kashmiris,” he said. Responding to India's claims of using Israeli drones and missiles, Tanveer said Pakistan's technological capabilities are equally advanced.

He pointed to the recent interception of Indian drones and the downing of Rafale jets—an achievement he likened to the 2019 incident when Indian aircraft were shot down by Pakistan. He accused India of staging such military actions for domestic political gains ahead of elections, particularly in Bihar, and said Prime Minister Modi's arrogance had been checked. Despite political differences within Pakistan, he said the country remains united, unlike India, where opposition parties have openly criticized the government's security failures. He added that while fear and panic have gripped Indian cities, life in Pakistan remains normal, with markets and air traffic functioning as usual—demonstrating national stability. Tanveer predicted India could face internal division within the next two decades, citing its tense relations with Sikh communities. He emphasized Pakistan's respect for Sikh religious sites like Nankana Sahib and reaffirmed solidarity with Kashmiri Muslims.—DNA

## SC dismisses PPP candidate's election petition on technical grounds

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan on Friday dismissed an election petition filed by Pakistan People's Party (PPP) candidate Sardar Noor Ahmad Bangulzai against Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam's (JUI) winning candidate Nawab Aslam Raisani from PB-37 (Mastung), citing technical shortcomings. A three-member bench, headed by Justice Shahid Waheed, heard the appeal challenging the election tribunal's decision. During the proceedings, Advocate Wasim Sajjad argued that the tribunal's order pertained to the PB-37 constituency, where the number of rejected votes was unusually high — enough to potentially alter the outcome of the election. He added that the Election Commission had denied the request for a recount. Justice Aamir Farooq remarked that the matter before the court was of a different nature, stating that the petition had been declared inadmissible because the submitted affidavit was not properly attested. Advocate Wasim Sajjad contended that the affidavit had been attested by an Oath Commissioner. However, Justice Shahid Waheed noted that the affidavit lacked the official seal required under procedure, and that witness statements were also improperly submitted. He further stated that several Supreme Court precedents establish that improperly attested affidavits render election petitions inadmissible. When Sajjad argued that an affidavit, by nature, is a verified document, Justice Waheed replied that verification must follow due process and identity verification requires documentation like a national ID card. He emphasized that the petition failed to comply with established procedural rules. Sajjad questioned why the court was focusing on technicalities and insisted that the petition simply requested a recount. However, Justice Waheed reiterated that the appeal was being dismissed due to its technical deficiencies. Consequently, the Supreme Court declared the election petition regarding PB-37 (Mastung) inadmissible. It is worth noting that Sardar Noor Ahmad Bangulzai of the PPP had approached the Supreme Court, alleging electoral fraud and seeking a recount—APP

## Indian aggression unites nation: Anwar

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain warned on Friday that Pakistan's response to Indian aggression would be exemplary. Speaking in the National Assembly, Rana Tanveer stressed that Pakistan was not defenceless and enjoyed the full backing of its 240 million citizens, particularly the youth eager to join the armed forces. “Our military does not stand alone—every Pakistani stands with them, ready to defend the country,” he said. Citing a recent international survey, he claimed the Pakistan Army is ranked among the best in the world due to its professionalism, while placing India sixth in comparison. He said the military is frequently called upon for global peacekeeping missions, which is a testament to its credibility. Tanveer highlighted Pakistan's advanced military technology, including the JF-17 Thunder and J-10C fighter jets developed with Chinese cooperation, which he said surpass India's F-16s. He added that Pakistani forces fight with the spirit of jihad and were equipped with state-of-the-art systems. He strongly criticized Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for spreading a “false and malicious narrative” under the pretext of counter-terrorism and condemned India's actions in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Calling the abrogation of Article 370 a violation of UN resolutions, he said that India has never accepted Pakistan's existence and continues to conspire against it. Recalling the events of 1971, he accused India of orchestrating the breakup of East Pakistan but maintained that the armed forces have consistently thwarted such efforts. Tanveer drew a parallel between India's actions in IIOJK and Israel's assault on Gaza, claiming a strong alliance between New Delhi and Tel Aviv. “Just as innocent Palestinians are being targeted without food or weapons, India is committing atrocities against Kashmiris,” he said Responding to India's claims of using Israeli drones and missiles, Tanveer said Pakistan's technological capabilities are equally advanced. He pointed to the recent interception of Indian drones and the downing of Rafale jets—an achievement he likened to the 2019 incident when Indian aircraft were shot down by Pakistan. He accused India of staging such military actions for domestic political gains ahead of elections, particularly in Bihar, and said Prime Minister Modi's arrogance had been checked. Despite political differences within Pakistan, he said the country remains united, unlike India, where opposition parties have openly criticized the government's security failures. He added that while fear and panic have gripped Indian cities, life in Pakistan remains normal, with markets and air traffic functioning as usual—demonstrating national stability.—DNA

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## Briefs

**India's alleged aggression, false propaganda lose global credibility**

ISLAMABAD: Senior Pakistan People's Party leader Sharmila Farooqi Friday strongly condemns India's alleged aggression, asserting Pakistan is united against it and India's false propaganda is failing not convincing the global community. While speaking to a news channel in an exclusive interview, Sharmila Farooqi emphasized that India's aggressive actions and false narratives have failed to garner support from the international community, adding that Pakistan's stance on the issue is clear and resolute. She stated that India should accept Pakistan's impartial inquiry aligns with the country's stance on investigating the Pahalgam incident. Sharmila Farooqi further noted that even the US and other countries are not openly backing India, as India faces growing international criticism. India's international reputation has been under strain due to various factors, including its handling of human rights issues, its policies in occupied Kashmir and its relations with neighbouring countries, she mentioned.—APP

### CCP holds awareness session

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), in collaboration with the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Islamabad, held an interactive awareness session on Competition Law. The session focused on the role of competition in promoting economic growth, investment, and consumer welfare, said a press release issued here. The session was led by Mr. Ahmed Qadir, Director General Advocacy and OIEA, and senior officials including Mr. Salman Zafar, Senior Director and Head of the Cartel and Trade Abuse Department, Mr. Noman Ahmed, Assistant Director, Mergers and Acquisitions, and Mr. Amin Akbar, Assistant Director, Office of Fair Trade. The event opened with a short video showcasing CCP's mandate and milestones. Delivering the keynote, Mr. Ahmed Qadir underlined CCP's vital role in ensuring open markets and safeguarding consumer interests. He emphasized that fair competition is essential for sustainable economic progress. Mr. Salman Zafar walked the audience through key provisions of the law. He highlighted the Commission's strong enforcement stance and reiterated the importance of collaboration with industry stakeholders like FPCCI. FPCCI members showed keen interest on what constitutes abuse of dominance and how prohibited agreements affect businesses and consumers in Pakistan's economy. Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, praised CCP's initiatives and affirmed FPCCI's support for promoting competitive markets. He noted that a fair and transparent business environment is critical for national economic advancement. He also urged the government to improve the business climate by streamlining regulations.—APP

# PPEPCA commends Industry's contributions to Pak economy

The delegation included Andrzej Kaczorowski -MD Polish Oil and Gas Company, Faheem Haider- MD Mari Energies, Zaheer Alam - President United Energy Pakistan, Kamran Ahmed - CEO Orient Petroleum Inc. , Kamran Ajmal Mian - CEO Prime Pakistan among others

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik was called on by the representatives of the Pakistan Petroleum Exploration & Production Companies Association (PPEPCA) headed by its chairman Taha Ali Temini- Country Manager KUPPEC, to discuss key opportunities and challenges in the country's oil and gas sector. Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik acknowledged PPEPCA's vital role in the energy sector and underscored the government's commitment to facilitating a conducive business environment. He said that the oil and gas exploration sector is a cornerstone of Pakistan's economy, Government is focused on reducing the import reliance of sector. PPEPCA represents leading exploration and production companies



operating in Pakistan, playing a pivotal role in the country's energy landscape. During the discussions, PPEPCA highlighted its members' role in bolstering Pakistan's energy supplies and generating substantial revenue for the national exchequer. The association also raised operational issues

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impacting exploration and production activities. Ali Pervaiz Malik assured PPEPCA of the government's full support in resolving industry challenges, emphasizing a collaborative approach to ensure sustainable growth in Pakistan's petroleum sector. PPEPCA members welcomed the minister's proactive approach and expressed optimism about efforts to enhance exploration activities, attract investment, and drive economic progress. The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to strengthen public-private cooperation for the sustainable development of Pakistan's petroleum sector. The delegation included Andrzej Kaczorowski -MD Polish Oil and Gas Company, Faheem Haider- MD Mari Energies, Zaheer Alam - President United Energy Pakistan, Kamran Ahmed - CEO Orient Petroleum Inc. , Kamran Ajmal Mian - CEO Prime Pakistan among others.

## Nation stand united with armed forces: Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi Friday said that the entire nation stands united with the Pakistan armed forces and will deliver a befitting response to any Indian aggression. Speaking in the National Assembly, he said that the people of Pakistan are united for the defense of the country's borders and sovereignty. "India's true face has been exposed to the world. 'India should not be under any illusion,' he said, adding that while Pakistanis may have differing views on various issues, the defense of the country's borders is non-negotiable and a matter of national consensus. He paid tribute to the Pakistan army, Air Force and Navy for their effective and strong response to Indian aggression. "Today, we must send a clear message to the enemy that martyrdom is the ultimate goal and desire of a true believer," he said. Hanif Abbasi strongly condemned India for launching cowardly attacks under the cover of darkness, saying that the Pakistani nation salutes its brave defenders. He condemned Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, labeling him the "Butcher of Gujarat" and accusing him of shedding the blood not only of Muslims but also Christians and Sikhs. He said that India targeted Pakistani women and children, whereas Pakistan's response was limited to military targets. Hanif Abbasi referred to incidents like the Pulwama attack as Indian fabrications and called India the "world's biggest terrorist state," accusing it of spreading terrorism in Nepal, Australia, Canada and the UK. He said that there is evidence of Indian involvement in terrorist activities in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and reiterated warnings previously given to Indian facilitators. "For every soldier martyred, we will eliminate a hundred enemies," he said, adding that Indian forces are now panicking while spreading propaganda about downing an F-16—something they could not even come close to. He said that Pakistan would retaliate at the time and place of its choosing and firmly rejected all terrorism-related allegations against the country. Hanif Abbasi said that terrorism tends to spike whenever the BJP is in power in India and accused the Indian government of staging incidents to sway elections.—DNA

## PAF dominates the skies and keeps India in check

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Business leader and former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, on Friday, praised the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) as a symbol of national pride and a key pillar of Pakistan's defence strategy that keeps hostile India in check. He highlighted the PAF's unmatched professionalism, technological edge, and operational excellence in a statement issued today. He noted that the Air Force continues to evolve as a modern and skilful force that dominates the skies. Dr. Butt cited the PAF's recent response to India's aggression as a prime example of its capabilities. He said that Pakistan's air response not only neutralised targets with precision but also damaged Indian morale. He said that in a stunning display of air defence capability, Pakistan successfully

downed six Indian aircraft during a tense exchange, delivering a clear and decisive message. The unexpected losses forced India to reconsider its strategy, opting to deploy drones instead of risking further humiliation and high-value aircraft. This shift underscored India's desire to minimise operational losses and the political fallout on domestic and international fronts. He emphasised that the PAF's modernisation drive, featuring cutting-edge aircraft and rigorous training regimes, has left India's ageing and bureaucratically encumbered air fleet far behind. According to him, the PAF is always several steps ahead in strategy and execution. "India may aspire to dominate the region, but its Air Force cannot match Pakistan's speed, precision, or resolve," Shahid Rasheed Butt said. He added that PAF is a force that blends state-of-the-art technology with unwavering commitment to protect our skies. He asserted that Pakistan's air superiority serves as a deterrent and a

guarantor of peace through strength. The PAF's readiness ensures that any hostile move is countered swiftly and decisively. He called the Air Force a source of pride for every Pakistani citizen. Pakistan's air warriors are the guardians of our skies and our sovereignty, he said, adding that for India, the reality of the PAF's dominance is not just inconvenient, it is a waking nightmare. Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt further emphasized that the Pakistan Air Force's evolving combat doctrine, integrated with real-time intelligence and rapid response capabilities, ensures that the country remains fully prepared to counter any external threats. He remarked that the PAF's continued investment in locally developed systems, including JF-17 Thunder jets and advanced drones, displays Pakistan's commitment to self-reliance in defence. He also noted the growing collaboration between the PAF and local industry as a boost to national innovation and economic resilience.

### PPRA trains officials to boost efficiency, transparency

ISLAMABAD: The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) has organized a two-day training workshop to improve public procurement standards in Pakistan by enhancing the capacities of professionals on compliance of the regulatory framework, implementation of procedures and the use of the e-procurement system. The training was held at the EPADS Training Hall of PPRA. Procurement officers, compliance professionals, and representatives from various government departments and public sector organizations attended the workshop. Senior PPRA officials including Dr. Aslam Waseem, DG (Legal), Farukh Bashir, Director (Training), and S. Jahangir Rizvi, AD (Training) led the training sessions, delivered lectures and presented case studies on PPRA rules and regulations, procurement planning, bidding procedures and evaluation criteria, e-procurement systems, and transparency mechanisms. PPRA, Pakistan, accords top priority to capacity building on public procurement.—APP

### Digital expert warns against misinformation

Nighat Dad also highlighted that fake news is a significant issue in geopolitical contexts, where misinformation can have far-reaching consequences

ISLAMABAD: Digital rights expert Nighat Dad advised citizens to be cautious of misinformation and rely on verified statements from government officials, encouraging people not to share unverified messages in groups as authorities closely monitor online activity. Talking to a private news channel expert stresses public awareness for the importance of responsible online behaviour, encouraging citizens to think critically about the content they consume and share. By adopting a cautious approach, individuals can play a crucial role in mitigating the spread of false information, she added. Nighat Dad pointed out that misinformation often spreads rapidly at night, when fact-checking and verification mechanisms may be less active. She emphasized the need for citizens to remain vigilant and cautious, even in the evening hours to avoid spreading false information. Dad recommends cross-checking information with trusted sources before passing it on to others, refraining from sharing suspicious or unverified content and being mindful of the potential impact of online actions. Digital rights expert asked to rely on official statements and verified platforms of government institutions and government officials to ensure accuracy and authenticity. She emphasized for checking government websites, social media handles and official announcements to stay informed.

She emphasizes the importance of verifying information through official channels to maintain trust and credibility in the digital space. Nighat Dad also highlighted that fake news is a significant issue in geopolitical contexts, where misinformation can have far-reaching consequences.—DNA

### Islamabad admin denies nighttime blackout rumors

ISLAMABAD: The District Administration of Islamabad has strongly denied reports circulating about planned electricity blackouts during night hours. In an official statement, the administration clarified that no announcements have been made from mosques instructing residents to switch off their home lights. "These are baseless rumors. No such instructions have been issued," said the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad. The DC further warned that action would be taken against individuals spreading false information through mosque loudspeakers or other means. Citizens have been urged not to believe or spread unverified news. The public is advised to contact the District Control Center, which is available 24/7, to confirm the authenticity of any such announcements.—APP

### PM phones MNA to condole his father's death

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday telephoned Member of the National Assembly Muhammad Khan Doha to express condolence over the death of his father Haji Irfan Ahmad Khan Doha. Late Haji Irfan Ahmad Doha was former provincial minister, member of the Punjab Assembly, and leader of the Pakistan Muslim league-N, according to a PM Office press release. The prime minister prayed for the forgiveness of the deceased and for patience and strength for the bereaved family to bear the loss.—APP

### Pakistan reserves right to self-defense

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Friday, Rana Sanaulah asserted Pakistan's inherent right to self-defence under the UN Charter, warning that the country will not hesitate to defend itself and retaliate against Indian brutality, even if it offers an inquiry into incidents. Rana Sanaulah asserted in an interview with a private news channel that Pakistan's armed forces have been empowered to take necessary actions in response to Indian aggression and the country reserves the right to retaliate with full force.—APP

## Balochistan youth pioneering climate change research

These techniques will one day help Balochistan's fields thrive again," Rehman said, embodying a quiet determination to turn scientific privilege into hometown hope

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Abdul Rehman, a 30-year-old researcher from Balochistan's Loralai district, is pioneering cutting-edge Plant Developmental Biology research at Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU), aiming to equip his drought-stricken homeland with scientific solutions to combat climate change, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. "I have witnessed crops fail year after year due to temperature fluctuations and water scarcity. That pain pushed me into this field," said the Ph.D. candidate, whose research focuses on decoding how agricultural crops

withstand environmental stresses including drought, temperature extremes, and diseases. Rehman's research could help farmers in Balochistan - where 80 percent of the population relies on rain-fed agriculture - to cultivate resilient varieties. China's world-class laboratories make Rehman's dream possible. "SJTU is among the top universities globally. The facilities here let us do advanced research you won't find in Pakistan," he explained, noting China's heavy investment in scientific innovation. "They fund labs that generate groundbreaking ideas. As scholarship students, we access these opportunities to

push boundaries." Beyond academics, cultural bridges have eased Abdul Rehman's journey. "At international festivals, I've shared Pakistani food and culture to international classmates while learning Mandarin and Chinese traditions," he said. Though homesickness lingers, the vibrant multicultural campus—and halal food options—make Shanghai feel welcoming. His ambition burns brighter than nostalgia. After completing postdoctoral studies, he plans to return to Loralai. "I'll train farmers and advise policymakers on the use of genetically modified crops that are tolerant to climate shocks," he said, recalling how almond,

apple, and other fruit crop yields in his village have plummeted. "Balochistan's youth possess remarkable potential, yet limited opportunities constrain their growth," Rehman noted. "I hope to see more youth here - studying in China can transform destiny." For now, collaborations with various Chinese labs and workshops have sharpened his skills. "Researchers here freely share knowledge. These techniques will one day help Balochistan's fields thrive again," Rehman said, embodying a quiet determination to turn scientific privilege into hometown hope.



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## Pak needs political unity and not victimization

As tensions between Pakistan and India escalate once again, the country finds itself at a critical crossroads. These are not ordinary times. The threat of conflict demands a united national front, transcending party lines and political affiliations. Yet, disconcertingly, mainstream political parties have remained largely silent on this pressing issue. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), currently the ruling party, has not publicly articulated its position on the matter. Similarly, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), despite having a significant public following, has not issued any official party statement either. What we are witnessing instead are scattered, individual comments – a troubling sign of disunity at a time when clarity and cohesion are vital. This lack of an institutional response reflects deeper problems within our political culture. When a nation stands on the brink of external conflict, the minimum expectation is a show of national solidarity. But such unity cannot be built on one-sided political repression or selective justice. If the government expects national cohesion, it must also demonstrate political fairness. This is not a time for political victimisation. The Supreme Court's recent decision to allow civilian trials in military courts has further complicated the situation. While legal arguments may justify the ruling in principle, the timing is highly problematic. Sending civilians to military trials – at a time when the country needs to rally together – is not a message that encourages democratic strength or civil trust. In fact, it has sent a chilling signal to many who view it as an attempt to suppress dissent under the guise of national security. If the government truly wishes to secure Pakistan's internal stability, it must create a free and fair political environment – one where all parties, including PTI and others, can engage in political activity without fear or restriction. Suppressing political rivals in the name of law and order will not contribute to national unity; it will only deepen divisions and fuel public frustration. In his address to the National Assembly on May 9, 2025, Maulana Fazlur Rehman rightly asked, "The nation wants to know how much damage has been caused to India." His statement reflects a sentiment widely shared by the public: the desire for transparency, accountability, and most importantly, unity. He also emphasized that internal unrest must come to an end so that our armed forces can focus fully on external threats. It is a reminder that internal discord only weakens our external resolve. It is high time our political leadership – across the spectrum – recognizes the gravity of the moment. There is a looming threat, and the people of Pakistan deserve responsible, united leadership. This is the moment to rise above short-term political games and present a collective front, both to our citizens and to the world. Pakistan needs unity – but that unity must be built on justice, fairness, and political freedom. Anything less will only lead us further down the path of uncertainty.

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## EU Saudi Arabia realtions

ON May 9, 1950, French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman made a groundbreaking proposal to place French and German coal and steel production under a shared authority. This vision became the foundation of the EU. In 1945, few could have predicted that nations once bent on each other's destruction would come together to form such a strong economic and political union. Yet they did. What became known as the Schuman Declaration sought to make war "not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible." In recognition of this extraordinary achievement, the EU was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012. The vision of a united Europe was forged from a conscious decision to base peace and security on cooperation, interdependence and shared institutions, with a strong commitment to multilateralism and the rule of law. It is especially important to reflect on these origins today, as the world faces a growing number of threats and overlapping crises. At a time when international cooperation turns into global competition, the Schuman Declaration serves as a powerful reminder that peace is not a given – it must be continuously nurtured, defended and re-envisioned through cooperation. Europe is adapting to this changing world. We are stepping up our security and defense capabilities. We are ensuring the competitiveness of our economy while staying the course of our green transition, alongside our digital transformation. But no country or power can face today's challenges alone. This is why strengthening our partnerships with the Gulf region is a priority. In October last year, we held the first EU-Gulf Cooperation Council Summit in Brussels, which marked a historic moment, with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman attending. This historical event launched a new and more ambitious chapter in our cooperation. It was a clear signal that the EU and the GCC member states are forging a strategic partnership for the 21st century. Against that backdrop, we are privileged to be Saudi Arabia's strategic partner as the Kingdom opens up to the world, having embarked on a spectacular social and economic transformation under the Vision 2030 program. This partnership grows stronger every day – solid, productive and expanding. We have found common ground across many sectors, including security, economic cooperation, energy, green transition, tourism, education, the arts and sports. Over the past year, our bilateral relations have achieved significant milestones. An exceptional number of high-level visits and exchanges between the EU and Saudi Arabia further strengthened our ties. On the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, we have joined efforts to reinvigorate the political process toward a two-state solution and established the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, co-sponsored by Saudi Arabia, Norway and the EU. This significant step forward has led to the upcoming international conference in New York in June, co-hosted by France and Saudi Arabia, to rally international support for concrete, coordinated efforts toward a just and lasting peace.

# Pakistan's retaliation will be loud and lethal

Qamar Bashir



India, meanwhile, waits in dread. It has transitioned from aggression to anxiety, from roaring threats to trembling anticipation. The very public that cheered the initial missile attacks on Pakistan is now worried, speculating where and how Pakistan might retaliate. Indian leadership, once chest-thumping and confident, is reportedly in panic mode. And rightly so. Pakistan has proven that it can shoot down India's most sophisticated aircraft, blind its pilots, and disrupt its military infrastructure without crossing borders or engaging in full-scale war. It has, in effect, neutralized India's military advantage through superior strategy, better training, and tested deterrence doctrines

IN a bold, assertive, and unambiguous press briefing, Major General Choudhary Sharif, Director General of ISPR, addressed the nation and the world with a clarity that left no room for ambiguity. He declared with complete confidence that the Pakistan Air Force had downed five Indian aircraft. These aircraft, in defiance of Pakistani airspace, were tracked, targeted, and neutralized – despite India's so-called advanced air defense systems. His assertion has now been validated by independent international observers and defense analysts, dismantling India's narrative of aerial supremacy. General Sharif assured the public and the international community that Pakistan's surveillance, detection, and defensive capabilities are fully active. Every hostile object – missile, drone, or aircraft – that enters or nears Pakistani territory is being detected, evaluated, and decisively countered. He emphasized that India had chosen the timing of its aggression; now it is Pakistan's turn to respond – at a time of its choosing, with weapons of its choice, and on targets that will reverberate not just within India, but across the world. Refuting Indian media propaganda, General Sharif categorically denied that Pakistan had launched any strikes into Sikh-majority regions or East Punjab. "We don't need Indian media to announce our operations," he said sharply. "When Pakistan strikes, the world will know. It will not be through propaganda – it will be through precision, impact, and undeniable facts on the ground." These words – clear, confident, and chilling for the Indian establishment – signify more than just a rhetorical counterpunch. They reflect a dangerous escalation, a warning wrapped in surgical calm, and a signal to global powers that Pakistan is neither weak nor reckless, but prepared and determined. India, intoxicated by its perceived aerial, land, and economic might, seems to have lost the capacity for rational cost-benefit analysis. Its decision to attack Pakistan in response to the Pahalgam incident – an incident not proven to involve Pakistan in any way – was nothing short of reckless. The entire operation backfired dramatically. Not only did Kashmiris on the ground refuse to accept the Indian narrative blaming

Pakistan, but even sections of the Indian public, civil society, and media demanded an internal inquiry into the massive security lapse. How, they asked, could such an attack take place in what is considered one of the most heavily militarized zones on Earth? Who was asleep at the helm? Instead of offering answers, the Indian government launched missiles at Pakistani territory. In return, India has so far lost approximately \$1.5 billion worth of military assets – including five fighter jets, among them three of its prized French-built Rafales. These aircraft, considered the pride of the Indian Air Force, were destroyed by Pakistan's integrated air defense systems and electronic warfare units, which not only intercepted their communications but reportedly disrupted regional mobile networks to blind and isolate them mid-flight. On the other hand, Pakistan has reported no losses. Zero. General Sharif's message left no doubt: Pakistan's response will be measured, proportional, and devastating. It will not be impulsive or reactionary; it will be strategic. Pakistan now holds the initiative and will strike at the time, place, and with the force it chooses. India, meanwhile, waits in dread. It has transitioned from aggression to anxiety, from roaring threats to trembling anticipation. The very public that cheered the initial missile attacks on Pakistan is now worried, speculating where and how Pakistan might retaliate. Indian leadership, once chest-thumping and confident, is reportedly in panic mode. And rightly so. Pakistan has proven that it can shoot down India's most sophisticated aircraft, blind its pilots, and disrupt its military infrastructure without crossing borders or engaging in full-scale war. It has, in effect, neutralized India's military advantage through superior strategy, better training, and tested deterrence doctrines. India's self-image as the "regional policeman," backed by the United States and Western allies as a counterweight to China, has distorted its judgment. It believed that grandstanding, hollow threats, and missile posturing would intimidate Pakistan. But it failed to account for Pakistan's military maturity, its battle-hardened forces, and its commitment to defend its sovereignty at all costs. India's loss is not just military. Its global

standing has taken a hit. Its security narrative has collapsed. Its so-called Rafale deterrent has turned into a liability. And its propaganda, amplified by a complicit media ecosystem, has been discredited. Now, India stands exposed – not just to Pakistan, but to the world. The ball is now in Pakistan's court. And Pakistan will act. But the larger question remains: what comes after? Pakistan must and will neutralize the damage inflicted upon it – militarily, diplomatically, and psychologically. It is within its sovereign right to respond, and it will do so with credibility and clarity. However, once the score is settled, India must demonstrate restraint, recalibrate its posture, and abandon its fantasies of unipolar regional domination. New Delhi must initiate an independent inquiry – perhaps under international supervision – into the Pahalgam attack. It must apologize and offer compensation for the civilian casualties and infrastructure damage caused by its unprovoked missile strikes on Pakistan. Failing that, it will continue to lose credibility and stature, not only in the eyes of Pakistanis but globally. The United Nations, the OIC, and all peace-loving nations must now step in. It is not enough to call for restraint after the damage is done. They must hold India accountable for its unilateral aggression. They must recognize Pakistan's right to self-defense. And they must ensure that mechanisms are put in place to prevent such reckless military adventurism in the future. Pakistan's message is simple: Don't mistake composure for weakness. Don't confuse diplomacy with docility. And never underestimate a nation that has fought for its survival since birth. The final message to India is this: never take your adversary for granted. Arrogance may lift your chest for a day, but reality will hit like a missile. Today, India has a bloody nose. Tomorrow, if it does not change course, it may lose much more. Pakistan has shown restraint. But it has also shown resolve. And now, the countdown has begun – not for war, but for a correction in the regional balance, forced upon India by its own folly.

– Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)  
Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France  
Former MD, SRBC  
Macomb, Detroit, Michigan, USA

# The echoes of faith on the frontlines of history

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



Today, as our nation once again faces a grave situation where war clouds hover due to the reckless aggression of a hostile neighbor, our Prime Minister has rightly informed the public about the seriousness of the threat and the resilience of our defense forces. His address has set the tone, but the moment demands even more. In these testing times, it is imperative that our Sipah...

PEACE is the brightest expression of human civilization. It nurtures prosperity, builds nations, and enables societies to flourish. But when an enemy transgresses all bounds and aims to suppress dignity, faith, and sovereignty, history testifies that Muslims have never shied away from standing up for justice—even through the harshness of war. Islam is not a religion of aggression, but when compelled, its followers have displayed unmatched courage and strategic brilliance, embodying the highest ideals of sacrifice and unity. The life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) offers the clearest example of balance between peace and resistance. Though he preached mercy, patience, and diplomacy, he also led his followers through key battles such as Badr, Uhud, and Khandaq. In these, he not only led with divine wisdom but also raised the spirits of his companions with faith-charged words. Before the Battle of Badr, he invoked divine support through heart-wrenching supplication, and when the enemy vastly outnumbered his followers, he reminded the Muslims that Allah's help is with those who stand firm in truth. As the Qur'an declares: "O you who have believed, when you encounter a company [from the enemy forces], stand firm and remember Allah much that you may be successful." (Surah Al-Anfal, 8:45) In another verse, Allah reminds the believers: "Fighting has been enjoined upon you while it is hateful to you. But perhaps you hate a thing and it is good for you." (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:216) The Prophet (PBUH) once said: "Do not wish to meet the enemy, but when you meet them, be steadfast and know that Paradise lies under the shade of swords." (Sahih al-Bukhari) This spiritual guidance and valor are part of the Islamic tradition. In 711, when Tariq bin Ziyad landed on the shores of Spain, he made an irreversible decision to burn all his boats—an act that immortalized his mission. His speech to his troops is remembered as one of the most stirring addresses in Islamic military history: "Behind you is the sea, before you the enemy. You have no option but victory." That

moment changed the fate of Europe and introduced a new era of Muslim contributions to art, science, and philosophy across the continent. In South Asia, the Battle of Khanwa in 1527 remains another powerful example. Zahiruddin Babur, founder of the Mughal Empire, faced the combined armies of 15–20 major Rajput kings and chieftains who far outnumbered his own. Babur addressed his troops with remarkable frankness and faith, encouraging them to abandon alcohol, pray with discipline, and rely solely on Allah. That speech transformed his army's morale. The battle ended with a decisive Mughal victory, laying the foundation for centuries of Muslim rule in the Sub Continent based on justice, architecture, and administration. Fast forward to modern times—September 6, 1965. When India launched an attack on Lahore, the President of Pakistan, Field Marshal Muhammad Ayub Khan, addressed the nation through radio. His firm voice echoed in every home, becoming a call of duty not just for soldiers, but for citizens across Pakistan. "We are in a state of war," he declared, "but not because we sought it. We are defending our honor, our sovereignty, and our belief in Allah." His speech was more than mere words; it mobilized an entire nation. The people of Pakistan stood shoulder to shoulder with their army, and the world witnessed a small but determined country resisting a much larger adversary with unmatched resilience. Today, as our nation once again faces a grave situation where war clouds hover due to the reckless aggression of a hostile neighbor, our Prime Minister has rightly informed the public about the seriousness of the threat and the resilience of our defense forces. His address has set the tone, but the moment demands even more. In these testing times, it is imperative that our Sipah e Salaar—who symbolize honor, strategy, and sacrifice—rise to the occasion not only through battlefield strength but also through the power of words. A speech rooted in faith, courage, and the historical legacy of Muslim valor can do more than boost morale—it can become an en-

during part of national consciousness. One cannot forget the inspirational speech of Salahuddin Ayyubi in the historic Battle of Hattin before the recapture of Jerusalem in 1187. Facing the Crusaders who had desecrated Al-Aqsa Mosque, he reminded his troops of their duty to faith, their accountability before Allah, and the justice of their cause. The victory against forces of King Guy of Lusignan that followed was not just military—it was moral. He entered Jerusalem not as a conqueror, but as a reformer, ensuring the safety of all religious communities, displaying the true Islamic spirit of justice and tolerance. Let us remember that the Qur'an repeatedly promises divine help to those who defend justice with sincerity: "Indeed, Allah defends those who have believed. Indeed, Allah does not like the treacherous or ungrateful." (Surah Al-Hajj, 22:38) And the Prophet (PBUH) said: "Whoever is killed while protecting his property is a martyr; whoever is killed while protecting his religion is a martyr; whoever is killed while protecting his life is a martyr; and whoever is killed while protecting his family is a martyr." (Sunan al-Tirmidhi) From the sands of Arabia to the hills of Spain, from the fields of Panipat to the trenches of Lahore, Muslims have always preferred peace—but never at the cost of honor. When forced into war, they have turned adversity into triumph with the help of unity, faith, and exceptional leadership. That leadership has often manifested not just in strategy and swordplay, but in the electrifying energy of speeches that moved hearts and redefined destinies. In this decisive hour, the legacy of those words must live on. Our Sipah e Salaar, entrusted with the sacred duty of defense, must now speak as torchbearers of that legacy. Their message should not merely address ranks and files but must speak to every Pakistani—from a soldier at the front line to a student in a classroom—infusing them with pride, clarity, and purpose. The nation awaits such a voice that will echo in history, inspire coming generations, and remind the world that when peace is threatened, the people who believe in justice and God never bow—they rise.



## Briefs

Azerbaijan  
FM expresses  
strong  
solidarity,  
support

FROM PAGE 01  
loss of civilian lives and underscored the need for both sides to exercise restraint and de-escalate, according to a Foreign Office press release. DPM Dar briefed him on the regional situation due to India's illegal and unprovoked attacks on multiple cities across Pakistan that resulted in the martyrdom of innocent civilians, including women, children, and the elderly. He emphasized that Pakistan had demonstrated restraint in the face of these violations of international law and the UN Charter that threatened regional peace and security. The Government of Pakistan remained firmly committed to defending the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, Dar added.

Pakistan  
Army  
destroys  
three  
Indian  
posts

FROM PAGE 01  
According to security officials, the enemy has been left in disarray due to the successive destruction of posts along the LoC.

Pakistan,  
Norway  
hold  
talks  
amid  
rising  
tensions

FROM PAGE 01  
defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Expressing deep concern over the deteriorating situation, Norwegian FM Eide offered his condolences on the civilian casualties and appreciated Pakistan's measured response. He stressed the urgent need for de-escalation and the use of diplomatic channels to prevent further conflict. The two ministers also reviewed bilateral ties, with FM Eide acknowledging the positive contributions of the Pakistani diaspora to Norwegian society. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation and stay closely engaged on the evolving regional developments.

Pakistan  
proved  
clear  
superiority  
over India,  
says Tarar

FROM PAGE 01  
capabilities and military superiority", he added. By clearly outmanoeuvring India, Pakistan has gained superiority over India in conventional warfare, he maintained. "Pakistan is a peaceful country, however, it is our legal, moral and state right to defend ourselves against any aggression. Pakistan has exercised this right responsibly and will do so in future as well," he remarked. In recent days, he added, India has not only provoked on the military front but has also launched the worst propaganda campaign in the media at the internal level to mislead its people. The minister said a false narrative is being systematically fabricated on the Indian media through fake news, old photos and fake videos, which was clear proof of the panic, failure and madness of the Indian government. "Pakistan has fully exposed India's false propaganda, which has led to further defeat for India, he said. Tarar said that the entire world had seen the failed attempt to hide India's failure through a false narrative and India has faced further embarrassment.

## Pakistan-India tension

India suspends money  
spinning IPL 2025

*Development comes in the wake of ongoing military escalation between Pakistan and India*

DNA

NEW DELHI: Dindia's cricket board has suspended the money-spinning Indian Premier League (IPL) T20 tournament amid rising tensions between Pakistan and India. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) put off the 2025 IPL "with immediate effect for one week" in the wake of ongoing situation with Pakistan, according to a statement by BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia on Friday. The decision was made following consultations involving the IPL Governing Council, franchise representatives, broadcasters, sponsors, and security advisors. "The Board considered it prudent to act in the collective interest of all stakeholders," Saikia said. Franchises began disbanding shortly after the announcement, with players and staff booking early departures. A revised schedule will be shared after further assessment in coordination with the authorities, ac-



cording to the statement. All participants agreed that continuing the tournament under current conditions was not viable. Thursday's IPL match was abandoned mid-

way after fighting began in India's border regions, but the cricket board attributed the disruption to a power failure at the stadium in the hill city of Dharamsala. The world's richest cricket tournament began its current season on March 22, and the final fixture was scheduled to be played on May 25, with matches being spread over 13 venues across the country. The nuclear-armed neighbours have been locked in conflict since Wednesday, when India targeted multiple locations in Pakistan, claiming they were "terrorist infrastructure" in response to a deadly attack in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir last month. New Delhi accused Islamabad of being involved in the Pahalgam attack, a charge Pakistan denied and sought an independent probe. Pakistan responded to the Indian airstrikes with heavy artillery fire and both sides accused each other on Thursday of carrying out waves of drone attacks.

Zhao's historic snooker  
title sparks talk of China  
world domination

Snooker was long characterised in China by dingy halls filled with smoke and considered a pastime for idle drifters, loathed by parents as a waste of time compared to school studies

BEIJING: Zhao Xintong's historic World Snooker Championship title is set to spur the game to even greater heights in China and sparked predictions the country could come to dominate the sport. The 28-year-old left-hander beat Mark Williams at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre on Monday to become the first Asian to clinch snooker's biggest prize. Zhao celebrated by draping the Chinese flag over his shoulders and back

home he has been hailed as a national hero, his victory going viral on social media in the country. His 20-month suspension in 2023 for his minor involvement in a betting scandal, with nine other Chinese snooker players also banned, has been largely forgiven. "My phone hasn't stopped ringing with calls from media and parents," Zhang Dongtao, head coach at the Beijing-based World Snooker Academy – which has trained most

of China's stars, including Zhao – told AFP. Snooker was long characterised in China by dingy halls filled with smoke and considered a pastime for idle drifters, loathed by parents as a waste of time compared to school studies.

But the sport has boomed since an 18-year-old Ding Junhui burst onto the scene two decades ago, defeating Stephen Hendry to win the China Open. Many professional Chinese players, including Zhao, cite

Ding as inspiring them to take up the sport. Chinese make up ten of the top 32 players in the world and China boasts more than 300,000 snooker or billiards clubs, up from 34,000 in 2005, state media says. An industry report by Shangqi Consulting valued the country's billiards market, which includes snooker, at 37 billion yuan (\$5 billion) in 2023 – and predicted that could double over the next few years. –Agencies

Federal Cup National  
Ranking Tennis  
begins Saturday

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Tennis Association (ITA) is organizing the 37th Federal Cup National Ranking Tennis Championships (Men & Women, Boys 18 & Under, Boys 14&U and Senior Doubles 65Plus) from May 10 to 17 here at the PTF Tennis Complex. Elite players of the country like Aqeel Khan of Wapda, Muhammad Shoaib of PAF, Muzammil Murtaza, Barkatullah, and many other National players and all affiliated units of PTF i.e. Army, Navy, Air Force, Wapda, Railway, HEC, SNGPL, POF Wah, Punjab, Sindh, KPK, Balochistan, Islamabad, AJK & Gilgit Baltistan, have been invited to participate and show their prowess at this tennis extravaganza, said a press release. Tariq Mehmood Murtaza, Chairman, and Majid Bashir, President of the Islamabad Tennis Association, earlier chaired the Executive Committee meeting and approved the arrangements for holding the 37th Federal Cup National Ranking Tennis Championships in a befitting manner for the development & promotion of the game of tennis in the country. The Federal Cup is co-sponsored by OGDCL and Air Blue for the promotion of the game of tennis in the country. Muhammad Khalil Chughtai, SVP, Ops of Islamabad Tennis Association named as Tournament Director, whereas International ITF White Badge Referee Arif Qureshi is nominated to work as Referee during this prestigious event. The last date of the tournament entry was May 8, in which a total number of 150 players confirmed their entries. – Agencies

Saudi State  
Minister  
calls on  
PM Shehbaz

FROM PAGE 01  
as well as to the Crown Prince & Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. He expressed satisfaction at the positive trajectory of the Pakistan-Saudi Arabia brotherly relations, while appreciating the Kingdom's steadfast and unwavering support to Pakistan, through thick and thin. While discussing the prevailing situation in South Asia, the Prime Minister strongly condemned India's missile and drone strikes against Pakistan that had resulted in the martyrdom of scores of innocent civilians, including women and children, as well as damage to civilian infrastructures. He stressed that India's unprovoked and unjustified acts of aggression had violated Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and seriously endangered regional peace and stability. The Saudi Minister of State expressed heartfelt condolences over the loss of precious civilian lives. He said the Kingdom was deeply concerned about the current situation in South Asia, and reiterated his country's call for de-escalation, as well as peaceful resolution of all outstanding disputes between Pakistan and India, in accordance with international law and the UN Security Council's relevant resolutions.

Relief to  
common man  
in budget  
priority

FROM PAGE 01  
directed that the upcoming budget should be prepared with a focus on sustainable export-driven growth and considering the projects to promote industries and increase production. The budget should also focus extensively on the creation of jobs, agriculture, information technology, small and medium enterprises, and the housing sector, he added. He said that the government and private sector must work together for national development and prosperity. Calling the public-private partnerships and youth vocational training among the government's priorities, Prime Minister Shehbaz noted that positive results were emerging from the government's power sector reforms as the reduction in electricity prices for industries would help promote industry and production. He said that automation and digitization were being promoted to bring transparency in the government system and facilitate the business community and investors. He said that the government would continue the process of rightsizing to reduce the size of the federal government in the next fiscal year. During the briefing, it was informed that consultations with the private sector on budget preparation was in process for the past three months, besides consultative sessions with stakeholders from various sectors. It was informed that five-year Trade Policy Framework for 2025-30 and the E-Commerce 2.0 Framework would complete soon, and a plan for tariff rationalization was also being prepared.

Thousands  
rally in  
Bangladesh  
demanding  
ban on  
Hasina party

DNA

DHAKA: Thousands of people rallied on Friday outside the residence of Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus, demanding that he ban the political party of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina. Nobel Peace Prize winner Yunus, 84, has led an interim government since Hasina was overthrown by student-led mass protests in August 2024 and fled into exile as crowds stormed her palace. Friday's rally came after the sudden departure of Abdul Hamid, a former leader of Hasina's Awami League party, from Bangladesh early on Thursday. A crowd, mainly made up of young people, had started gathering outside Yunus' residence on Thursday night.

Pak urges dialogue  
to lower tensions on  
Korean Peninsula  
amid challenges

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has called for diplomatic engagement and dialogue to address the challenges confronting the Korean Peninsula, after a senior UN official warned that North Korea is ramping up its nuclear and missile programme in defiance of international law, as it moves into the final year of its military plan. "Pakistan seeks peace and stability in our region and other regions of the world," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan, told UN Security Council. "We support the global non-proliferation norms and the objective of denuclearization of Korean peninsula within the framework of Security Council resolutions," he said during a debate on 'Non-Proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'. "We oppose resumption of nuclear testing anywhere in the world," the Pakistani envoy said, and view with concern violations of UNSC resolutions by any member state, without exception. Ambassador Jadoon urged all concerned to exercise restraint and not escalate existing tensions or take any action that is detrimental to peace and security. "The Security Council must take the lead in finding ways to lower tensions in the region and encourage confidence and security building measures." The Pakistani envoy underscored the need for collective action to realize common objectives of non-proliferation and denuclearization of Korean peninsula. At the same time, he said Pakistan opposed any actions or interventions that could further destabilize the Korean Peninsula and add to the existing tensions in the region. "We hope that the Security Council will demonstrate unity in reviving the dialogue and playing its due role in reducing tensions and threats to peace and security in the region." In his briefing to the 15-member Council, UN Assistant Secretary-General Khaled Khiairi described a troubling pattern of weapons testing and growing nuclear ambition from DPRK – more commonly known as North Korea. – Agencies

Gold prices  
decrease  
Rs.1,800 to  
350,900  
per tola

The rates of per tola silver and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.3,417 and Rs.2,929 respectively

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed a decrease of Rs.1,800 on Friday and was sold at Rs.350,900 against its sale at Rs.352,700 on the previous trading day, All Pakistan Safa Gems and Jewelers Association reported. The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also decreased by Rs.1,543 to Rs.300,840 from Rs.302,383 whereas the price of 10 grams of 22 Karat decreased by Rs.1,414 to Rs.275,780 from Rs.277,194. The rates of per tola silver and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.3,417 and Rs.2,929 respectively. The price of gold in the international market also decreased by \$18 to \$3,325 from \$3,343 whereas that of silver remained stagnant at \$32.35, the Association reported.

Kitchen items' prices  
up by 0.24 percent

The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, went up 0.18 percent, 0.20 percent, 0.26 percent and 0.26 percent respectively

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), increased by 0.24 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on May 08, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 310.05 points as compared to 309.31 points during the past week. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed a decrease of 0.80 per cent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 witnessed an increase of 0.10 per cent and went up to 298.24 points from last week's 297.93 points. The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, went

up 0.18 percent, 0.20 percent, 0.26 percent and 0.26 percent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 09 (17.65%) items increased, 17 (33.33%) items decreased and 25 (49.02%) items remained stable. The items, which recorded major increase in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included f Chicken (10.20%), Eggs (7.36%), Sugar (1.93%), Beef (1.50%), Pulse Mash (0.31%), Cooked Beef (0.20%), Mutton (0.15%) and Gur (0.11%). The commodities which recorded major decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included Tomatoes (8.81%), Garlic (5.05%), Potatoes (3.33%), Onions (2.08%), LPG (1.66%), Bananas (0.93%), Petrol (0.83%), Diesel (0.78%), Wheat Flour (0.76%), Vegetable Ghee 1 Kg (0.46%) and Mustard Oil (0.33%). Year-on-year basis, the commodities that witnessed decrease included Onions (62.53%), Tomatoes (44.54%), Garlic (36.16%), Electricity Charges for Q1 (29.40%), Potatoes (27.42%), Wheat Flour (24.17%), Tea Lipton (16.98%), Pulse Mash (16.49%), Chilies Powder (13.45%), Petrol (12.36%) and Diesel (8.91%). The commodities which recorded an increase in their average prices on year-on-year basis included Ladies Sandal (55.62%), Pulse Moong (28.67%), Powdered Milk (22.26%), Pulse Gram (22.09%), Beef (18.22%), Bananas (18.18%), Sugar (16.54%), Vegetable Ghee 2.5 Kg (14.93%), Vegetable Ghee 1Kg (13.88%), Firewood (10.35%), Lawn Printed (10.33%) and Georgette (9.90%). – DNA

## May 6 – The day of Hindutva's defeat



TANVEER HUSSAIN

ON 6th May 2025, just like in the past, our neighboring country India once again made the foolish attempt of attacking Pakistan by accusing it of terrorism. However, Pakistan gave a befitting response, shattering India's dreams. Unfortunately, India, a country of 1.5 billion people, is currently ruled by a party whose

very foundation is built on thugery and terrorism. Whether it was the demolition of the Babri Mosque or the anti-Muslim riots in Gujarat, extremist organizations have always been behind such acts of terrorism in India. The current Indian leadership has blood of thousands of Muslims on its hands. The abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, the imposition of curfew, and the massacre and ethnic cleansing of Muslims by the Indian army—all occurred during Narendra Modi's tenure. In fact, their entire political strategy revolves around anti-Muslim sentiment. From the beginning, Narendra Modi has been running anti-Muslim and anti-Pakistan campaigns to gain Hindu-majority votes and please extremist Hindu organizations. The missile attack on civilian populations and the violation of Pakistan's sovereignty and airspace on the night of May 6 stemmed from this same Hindutva ideology.

However, within just a few hours, Pakistan launched a strong counter-attack and gave India a surprise it never expected. Recently, India had been using Pakistan's struggling economy and political instability as a basis for running constant anti-Pakistan propaganda through its media. They were confident that Pakistan wouldn't be able to respond to an Indian attack, and that Modi's popularity would skyrocket, paving the way for the extremist BJP to remain in power for a long time. But Pakistanis proved that no matter what internal challenges we face, we will never compromise on our national security and defense. We will not hesitate to shed our blood to defend our homeland. The way Pakistan's armed forces protected the borders and responded to the enemy, the entire nation salutes them. In its retaliatory strike, Pakistan inflicted heavy losses on India. The Pakistan Army destroyed several

enemy posts along the Line of Control, including the battalion headquarters of the Mahaar unit. Pakistan's Air Force shot down five high-value Indian fighter jets and several drones. Among the destroyed jets was the much-hyped French-made Rafale, considered a state-of-the-art 4.5 generation warplane that Indians were proud of. But Pakistan's outstanding pilots, with national spirit and advanced technology, brought down this prized possession of the Indian Air Force. The valor and skill of Pakistan Air Force's fighter pilots were reminiscent of MM Alam. May 6 will be remembered as a historic day not just in South Asia but around the world. It was an extraordinary event in military history where, in just a few minutes of combat between two nuclear powers, one country shot down five enemy aircraft while sustaining no damage to its own. In any case, Pakistan has demonstrated its dominance over South Asia's skies before the world.

Narendra Modi, misled by Hindu extremists, made a foolish mistake for which he will pay a heavy price. He will not only have to face international embarrassment but also answer to his own people and political opposition. American think tanks, too, must now realize their mistake, investing in a lost cause. The United States has been supporting India economically and militarily, aiming to make it the "Israel of Asia" to counter China. But May 6 served as a wake-up call for America. They must now be wondering how this paper tiger, which was easily defeated by Pakistan, could ever stand up to a power like China. This was not just a military defeat for India but also a defeat for Indian propaganda TV channels and the Hindutva ideology. Indian citizens now have a chance to reflect: do they want peace in the region, or will they continue voting for extremist terrorist parties, keeping themselves and their children's future in danger?



## Briefs

## PSX bounces back as calm returns to market

KARACHI: KSE-100 Index climbs to intraday high of 107,368.64, gaining 3,841.83 points, or 3.71%.

The bourse opened on a positive note Friday, rebounding from Thursday's heavy losses amid a relatively calm start to the day. Investors appeared to regain some confidence after early trade passed without fresh incidents that could rattle sentiment.

The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index climbed to an intraday high of 107,368.64 points, gaining 3,841.83 points, or 3.71%, from the previous close of 103,526.81. The index recorded a low of 102,420.82 points, down 1,105.99 points, or -1.06%, reflecting intraday volatility. "After falling sharply by 6% yesterday due to drone attacks, Pakistani stocks have recovered and are up 2% in the first 30 minutes of trading on Friday," said Tpline Securities CEO Mohammad Sohail. "So far, there has been no news of any major escalation helping in restoring confidence," he added.—APP

## Iran top diplomat to visit Saudi, Qatar before Trump tour

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi will visit Saudi Arabia and Qatar on Saturday, his ministry said, days before US President Donald Trump begins a regional tour.

Araghchi is due to hold talks with senior Saudi officials in Riyadh before heading to Doha for a conference on Arab-Iranian dialogue, ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said in a statement. It was not immediately clear what the talks in Riyadh would cover. Trump is scheduled to visit Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates from May 13 to 16 on his first major Middle East trip of his second term. In Riyadh, he is expected to meet leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council, a source close to the Saudi government told AFP earlier this month. The visit follows three rounds of US-Iran negotiations over the Islamic republic's nuclear programme. A date for a fourth round has yet to be announced.—APP

## Traders pay tribute to country's valour defence forces

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan armed forces have delivered such a crushing blow to the enemy that the 'deceitful Hindus' will remember it forever. The brave and courageous pilots of the Pakistan Air Force destroyed the Indian Rafale jet, maintaining their skills. Victory and success are the destiny of the Pakistan Army because the entire nation stands with them in prayer. These thoughts were expressed by Anjum Parvez Bhatti, the head of the 'Tajir Ittefaq Insaf Group', while addressing the "Pak Army Zindabad Rally" organized in Raja Bazaar. A large number of volunteers from the social and welfare organizations Civil Defense, led by their in-charge Zeeshan, also joined the rally. The rally marched from the eastern side of Raja Bazaar, circled the entire market, and concluded at Fawara Chowk. Throughout the rally, participants chanted passionate slogans such as "Long live the Pakistan Army," "Pakistan Army, march forward," "We stand with you," "We will come, we will cross," and "We will break India into pieces." A significant number of traders, social and religious figures, and other business community members participated in the rally. The rally was also addressed by District Khateeb Hafiz Muhammad Iqbal Rizvi, Patron-in-Chief Haji Karam Ilahi, Muazzam Mughal, Amir Bashir Butt, and Peoples Party leader Naseer Mir Afzal Khan. Anjum Parvez Bhatti praised the traders for their enthusiastic participation and commended their national spirit in making the rally a success. "We have complete confidence in our Pakistan Army that they will once again bring those who dare to look at our country with evil intentions to their deserved end."—APP

## Most stocks lifted by hopes for US-China talks after UK deal

The return of some confidence to the market also helped bitcoin recover, pushing it back above \$100,000 for the first time since February. The cryptocurrency struck \$104,159 on Thursday, pushing it towards the record above \$109,000 seen in January

HONG KONG: Most equities rose Friday on growing optimism that the worst of Donald Trump's trade war is past after he reached a deal with Britain and suggested he could lower tariffs on China as officials prepare for high-stakes talks this weekend.

The mood among investors has improved substantially since the US president unveiled his "Liberation Day" blitz last month, sending markets spinning and fuelling global recession fears. Several countries have lined up to hold talks with Washington to avert the worst of the duties that range from 10 percent to as high as 145 percent on China — Trump's main target.

On Thursday, Britain became the first to announce a deal that reduces tariffs on British cars and lifts them on steel and alu-

minium, while in return Britain will open up markets to US beef and other farm products.

While there are several areas that still need discussing, Trump and Prime Minister Keir Starmer hailed the "historic" deal, with the US president saying it should be seen as a template for others. The "news gives hope that similar deals will be reached with a range of countries, thereby reducing the long-term damage potentially wrought by tariffs", said Invesco's David Chao. But analysts said traders were more excited about the Republican leader's comments on the upcoming talks with China in which he hinted at an easing of the stiff measures aimed at the world's number two economy. That could see Beijing dial back some of its own 125 percent

tariffs on US goods. Trump told reporters that he thought the negotiations would be "substantive" and when asked if reducing the levies was a possibility, he said "it could be". "We're going to see. Right now you can't get any higher. It's at 145 percent so we know it's coming down. I think we're going to have a very good relationship." Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer are set to meet Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng in Switzerland on Saturday and Sunday, the first talks between the superpowers since Trump unveiled his tariffs. The US president also flagged efforts at home to push through the tax cuts he promised during the election campaign, adding: "This country will hit a point that you better go out and buy

stock. "Now, let me tell you this, this country will be like a rocket ship that goes straight up." Stephen Innes, of SPI Asset Management, said: "As important as the UK deal was, Trump's tone on China was the real signal for markets — and it handed the risk-on baton straight to Asia in a friendly, optimistic fashion. "The president all but greenlit the idea that the days of punitive standoff might give way to negotiated momentum." Asian markets extended the week's rally and tracked gains on Wall Street. Tokyo jumped more than one percent on hopes for Japan's trade talks. However, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick warned agreements with Japan and South Korea could take longer to reach, while adding that there was "a lot of work" in striking

a deal with India. Seoul edged down with Mumbai and Bangkok. But Hong Kong, Sydney, Wellington, Taipei, Manila and Jakarta all advanced. London, Paris and Frankfurt also opened on a positive note. Shanghai dropped as data showed exports to the United States plunged by around a fifth on-year in April as Trump's tariffs kicked in. However, there was some cheer from other figures that showed total shipments rose far more than expected. Imports also fell far less than forecast.

The return of some confidence to the market also helped bitcoin recover, pushing it back above \$100,000 for the first time since February. The cryptocurrency struck \$104,159 on Thursday, pushing it towards the record above \$109,000 seen in January.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Minister Trade & Investment Embassy of Pakistan Washington DC USA Mohammad Hanif Channa meeting with Vice President FPCCI Tariq Mahmood Jadoon, Chairman FPCCI President Secretary Karim Aziz Malik and Chairman Coordination FPCCI Malik Sohail Hussain at the FPCCI President Secretariat.

## Fatima bint Mubarak arrives in Istanbul

ISTANBUL: H.H. Sheikh Fatima bint Mubarak, the "Mother of the Nation", Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, arrived in Istanbul on Friday for an official three-day visit to the Republic of Türkiye. She was received upon arrival by Emine Erdogan, wife of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Türkiye. Emine Erdogan expressed her warm welcome to H.H. Sheikh Fatima bint Mubarak, praising her as a global role model in women's leadership, social work, and humanitarian efforts. She emphasised that the visit represents a significant opportunity to explore ways to enhance cooperation between the two countries in social and humanitarian fields, women's empowerment, child and family support, and the exchange of successful experiences in these areas. For her part, H.H. Sheikh Fatima bint Mubarak expressed her pleasure at visiting the Republic of Türkiye, highlighting the strong bilateral relations between the two friendly countries. She added that the visit aligns with the UAE's commitment to strengthening and expanding its strategic relations with the Republic of Türkiye, advancing towards broader horizons of partnership and constructive cooperation to serve the mutual interests of both countries and peoples, particularly in social, cultural, and scientific fields. H.H. Sheikh Fatima bint Mubarak said, "Through this visit, we look forward to exchanging successful experiences between the two countries in areas that benefit communities and promote sustainable development." Accompanying H.H. Sheikh Fatima bint Mubarak is a delegation comprising H.H. Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of the Presidential Court for Development and Fallen Heroes' Affairs and Chairman of Erth Zayed Philanthropies; H.H. Sheikh Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan, wife of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan; and H.H. Sheikh Shamsa bint Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, wife of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region. The delegation also includes Reem bint Ebrahim Al Hashimi, Minister of State for International Cooperation; Shamma bint Suhail Al Mazrouei, Minister of Community Development; Sarah bint Yousef Al Amiri, Minister of Education; Dr. Anna bint Abdullah Al Dahak Al Shamsi, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment; Sana bint Mohammed Suhail, Minister of Family; Maryam bint Ahmed Al Hammadi, Minister of State and Secretary General of the UAE Cabinet; Dr. Maitha bint Salem Al Shamsi, Minister of State; Ohoud bint Khalfan Al Roumi, Minister of State for Government Development and The Future; Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi, Minister of State; Khalifa Shaheen Al Marar, Minister of State; Alia bint Abdullah Al Mazrouei, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship; Noura Khalifa Al Suwaidi, Secretary-General of the General Women's Union; Reem bint Abdullah Al Falasi, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Motherhood and Childhood.—DNA

## Jordanian Deputy PM highlights importance of ties with Japan

TOKYO: Jordanian Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Ayman Al Safadi met with Japanese Foreign Minister Iwaya Takeshi and Chief Cabinet Secretary Hayashi Yoshimasa in Tokyo on Friday and highlighted the importance of the partnership between Jordan and Japan, Japan's Foreign Ministry reported. Chief Cabinet Secretary Hayashi stated that Japan is committed to continuing its efforts toward a two-state solution for Palestine and establishing peace and prosperity in the region in coordination with Jordan, which, he said, was a vital part of stability in the region. Iwaya welcomed his Jordanian counterpart and appreciated the visit to Japan and the Osaka-Kansai Expo of Crown Prince Hussein, who had "fruitful discussions" with Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru on Thursday. Iwaya stated that Jordan is playing an important role amid the fluid international situation and added that he hopes to work closely with Jordan toward achieving a "two-state solution" for Palestine and establishing long-term peace and stability in the region. The two foreign ministers met previously in Munich and Iwaya said the high-level visits and meetings "symbolize the strategic partnership between our two countries." He also offered condolences for those affected by the flooding in Petra. Foreign Minister Safadi said he appreciated support from Japan in various fields, including economic reforms. He also congratulated Japan on the success of the Osaka-Kansai Expo. He explained the latest regional situation and Jordan's diplomatic efforts and stated that Jordan attaches great importance to cooperation with "close partner" Japan. He also expressed his gratitude for the assistance Japan has extended to Jordan thus far. He added that he was looking forward to "in-depth discussions about the challenges we face in the region, particularly efforts to stop the Israeli aggression in Gaza and to confront the massive humanitarian disaster it is suffering, in addition to discussing the situation in Syria and the situation in the region in general." "We emphasize the importance of Japan's role," he said. "Japan is highly respected in our region, and Japan's policies are aimed at achieving security, stability, peace and development. These are also the goals of our policies in Jordan." Discussions centered on bilateral cooperation and various issues in the Middle East.—DNA

## Indian media's propaganda tarnish Modi govt global image: Experts

PESHAWAR: The repeated dissemination of fake and unverified news, coupled with a surge in malicious propaganda from pro-Modi media outlets against Pakistan, has significantly damaged the international image of the Indian government in the wake of unprovoked missiles and drones attacks inside Pakistan and Azad Kashmir that claimed lives of 31 civilians including women and children besides injuring dozens others. According to defense and media analysts, Indian media—allegedly aligned with the RSS-backed Hindutva narrative—has been continuously pushing misinformation and false reporting in the wake of the Pahalgalam incident, depriving millions of South Asians of accurate and credible information, besides dangerously escalating regional tensions. This misleading Indian media campaign, they warned, is not only pushing the region closer to full-scale war but also creating animosity among the masses of both the nuclear-armed countries. In the aftermath of the Pahalgalam incident, Indian media have launched an aggressive, misleading campaign against Pakistan, airing unverified

reports and doctored videos, purportedly to malign Islamabad and label the indigenous independence movement in IIOJ&K as 'terrorism', but completely failed. In spite of these uncalled-for Indian media and Modi Govt accusations, India failed to convince the international community, including its closest allies, about its claims—particularly regarding the recent missile and drone strikes inside Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, which martyred 31 civilians and injured many more. "Instead of acknowledging facts, the Modi government's media

machinery went into overdrive, spreading baseless allegations against Pakistan soon after the Pahalgalam incident occurred and did not even wait for the initial investigation," said Professor Dr. AZ Hilali, former Chairman of the Political Science Department at the University of Peshawar. To hide failure, India again attacked Pakistan with Israel-made drones in order to create fear and panic among Pakistan citizens. He said the fascist Modi Govt allowed drone attacks inside Pakistan after facing rising national and international criticism for its shameful incursions into Pakistani territory.—APP

## Nearing 100, Malaysian ex-PM Mahathir blasts 'old world' Trump

PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA: Former Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Mohamad is giving President Donald Trump three months before his fellow Americans force him to rethink his stringent global tariff strategy, accusing the US leader of "living in an old world".

Speaking to AFP in an interview two months ahead of his 100th birthday, the plain-speaking Mahathir said: "Trump will find that his tariffs are hurting America, and the people in America will end up against him."

The US president's stop-start tariff rollout will hit Asian nations hard — including Malaysia, which faces a 24 percent levy in July unless the two countries can strike a deal.

"It's going to cause America a lot of problems, so I give Trump three months," said Mahathir, who ruled Malaysia in two stints lasting nearly a quarter of a century. Still working a five-day week from his office in the administrative capital Putrajaya, the sprightly nonagenarian remains as outspoken as ever. Donald Trump is irrational. I don't think he thinks carefully about what he's doing," said Mahathir. "His policies on migration — and also trying to reduce the cost of government, sacking thousands of people — all these things are not good "It will not make America great," he said, taking a jab at Trump's MAGA election slogan.

Asked what he thought of some of Trump's foreign policies — proposing to take over Greenland and seize control of the Panama Canal — Mahathir said the US leader was "living in an old world".—APP

## ICT admin conducts emergency drills across capital

ISLAMABAD: In response to the current security situation between Pakistan and India, the district administration of Islamabad on Friday conducted emergency drills following the emergency preparations across the Federal Capital.

According to the spokesman of ICT administration here, sirens, drills, and public safety awareness campaigns are being carried out to prepare for any possible crisis. He said that the high-rise buildings throughout the capital have been equipped with emergency sirens. These sirens are meant to alert residents in case of any serious threat. Major commercial and residential buildings, including Centaurus Mall, Zarghoon Plaza, and Khudadad Heights, have been selected for emergency drills. The drills included the activation of sirens and supervised evacuation exercises. Similar activities were also held at Safa Gold Mall, where building management and residents took part in the evacuation process. When the sirens sounded, a large number of people came out of buildings, responding as they would in a real emergency. These drills were conducted to familiarize the public with the emergency response procedures and to assess how well prepared different buildings are for a crisis. The district administration said that the drills are part of efforts to prepare for any conflict-related situation. Officials guided the public on the standard steps to take during emergencies, including how to evacuate safely and where to gather once outside the buildings. The Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad confirmed that emergency sirens have now been installed on all major buildings in the city. He emphasized that these measures are precautionary and meant to ensure public safety in case of conflict or any untoward incident. District officials added that the purpose of these exercises is to test readiness and improve coordination among emergency responders, building managements, and the general public. The administration has encouraged citizens to take these drills seriously and follow instructions issued during such exercises. Awareness messages are also being shared to educate people on how to stay safe in case of an emergency.—APP

## Shock at first US pope in Leo XIV's university city

PHILADELPHIA: The archbishop of Philadelphia, the US city where the first American pope Leo XIV spent his student days, told AFP after the pontiff was elected that he "honestly didn't think it would be him". "Not because of him, but because being an American, that just has not been the case," said Archbishop Nelson J. Perez.

Robert Prevost's election as the first US head of the Catholic Church has prompted celebration and surprise in both his hometown Chicago and Philadel-

phia, where he graduated from an Augustinian university. Perez heard the news while returning from Rome, where he had traveled without attending the conclave that elected Prevost.

"I received a text message from one of my staff members. Basically, 'Cardinal Prevost, Leo XIV'," Perez said from the vast Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, where late pope Francis gave a sermon in 2015. "I was like, 'Wow, I just can't believe it.'" The consensus, the

63-year-old archbishop thought, was that the United States' huge influence on the world stage meant Prevost's election "would not really happen." Perez knew Prevost personally from their time working together in Peru in the early 2000s, when there were moments where the two were "just talking informally." "Never did I think that this individual was going to become the pope," Perez said. The new pontiff has both US and Peruvian nationality after spending more than 20 years in the

Latin American country. Perez predicted that, like his predecessor, Prevost would make helping immigrants and poor people a priority. Born on September 14, 1955, in Chicago to parents of French, Italian and Spanish descent, Prevost attended a minor seminary of the Order of St Augustine in St Louis as a novice. He graduated from Philadelphia's Villanova University with a degree in mathematics. "While he was in college, he had a little side job as a groundskeeper for one

of our parish cemeteries," the Philadelphia archbishop said, grinning. "Amazing story, right? So the pope worked here."

Known as the cradle of democracy, Philadelphia is home to the signing of the Declaration of Independence and US Constitution. More recently, it was reinvented as the setting of the "Rocky" films about an Italian Catholic boxer played by Sylvester Stallone. The historic city can now add being the pope's university town to its accolades.—APP



## Briefs

## Four members of 'sharp shooter' gang arrested

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police team from Lohibher Police Station arrested four members of an organized criminal gang involved in looting shops and citizens at gunpoint, recovering stolen items worth over Rs1.65 million, along with weapons and a motorcycle used in crimes. An official told APP that the crack-down was carried out as part of ongoing operations against criminal elements in the federal capital. Acting on technical and human intelligence, the Lohibher Police successfully traced and arrested four suspects affiliated with the notorious 'sharp shooter' gang. He said the arrested accused were identified as Muhammad Hasnain alias Shelo, Ehtesham alias Aati, Zeeshan alias Shaan, and Umair alias Rooky. During the operation, the police recovered snatched cash, mobile phones, wristwatches, a DVR, and other valuables. Weapons with ammunition and a motorcycle used in various robberies were also seized. He said during preliminary investigations, the suspects confessed to multiple armed robberies in the Lohibher area. Several FIRs have already been registered against them, and further investigations are underway to trace more incidents and possible accomplices. DIG Muhammad Jawad Tariq reiterated that those attacking the lives and property of citizens will not escape the grip of the law. "Islamabad Police is taking all necessary measures to ensure public safety and will not allow criminal elements to disrupt peace in the city," he said. — APP

## ECP notifies Syed Waqar Mehdi as Senator from Sindh

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday notified Syed Waqar Mehdi as a Senator on a General Seat from Sindh, with his term ending on March 11, 2027. The seat fell vacant following the death of Senator Taj Haider. PPP's Sindh General Secretary Waqar Mehdi won the Senate seat with 111 votes, defeating MQM's Nighat Mirza, who received 36. Syed Waqar Mehdi has a long history of commitment, hardworking and sacrifices as a worker of the Pakistan People's Party.

## Pakistan is not just reforming, it is transforming: Aurangzeb

*The Finance Minister provided a comprehensive overview of Pakistan's macroeconomic recovery, citing key achievements including a primary budget surplus of PKR 3.6 trillion, a current account surplus, inflation reduced to 0.3% (April 2025), and a drop in debt-to-GDP ratio from 75% to 65%*

MAHNOOR ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that Pakistan is not just reforming, it is transforming, and "it is open for business and for investors seeking impact, scale, and certainty. Pakistan offers all three." He made this statement during a strategic meeting held with a group of leading global investors in London, including Oliver Williams, Emerging Markets Fixed Income Portfolio Manager at Amundi, and Maud Le Moine of Lion's Head Global Partners, to discuss Pakistan's economic outlook, reform agenda, and future investment prospects. The Finance Minister provided a comprehensive overview of Pakistan's macroeconomic recovery, citing key achievements including a primary budget surplus of PKR 3.6 trillion, a current account surplus, inflation reduced to 0.3% (April 2025), and a drop in debt-to-GDP ratio from 75% to 65%. These indicators, he noted, have not only stabilized the economy but have also led to improved sovereign credit ratings and renewed confidence from multilateral and bilateral partners. In the discussion, the Minister emphasized that Pakistan is firmly staying the course on reforms, aiming to transition from a consumption-led to a sustainable, export- and productivity-led growth model. He highlighted new tax reforms aimed at bringing real estate, wholesale, retail, and agriculture sectors into the



formal net, while ensuring end-to-end digitalization of the tax authority to minimize human discretion and reduce corruption. Minister Aurangzeb outlined the government's ambitious sectoral diversification strategy, citing the upcoming minerals conference and the landmark copper agreement expected to contribute USD 2.8 billion annually to exports by 2028. He also drew attention to the thriving digital economy, where Pakistan is now the third-largest global player in IT freelancing, and reiterated the central role of digital transformation in enabling inclusive and equitable growth. He further briefed attendees on Pakistan's plan to issue a Panda bond as part of its

active debt management strategy, and on future steps under the Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy (MTDS). Discussions included the restructuring of state-owned enterprises (Wave 5), ongoing pension reforms, and the preparation for ESG bond issuance in FY2026. Amundi, one of the world's top 10 asset managers with over 2 trillion in assets under management, reaffirmed its interest in Pakistan's sovereign instruments and ESG-aligned investments. Oliver Williams welcomed the clarity and credibility of Pakistan's macroeconomic direction and expressed a strong interest in the country's upcoming bond issuance plans. Maud Le Moine of Lion's Head Glob-

al Partners — a firm specializing in emerging market advisory — offered targeted technical support to help Pakistan strengthen its investor communications, enhance credit rating engagement, and implement energy sector modeling. Lion's Head also reaffirmed its interest in supporting Pakistan's MTDS. The Finance Ministry acknowledged the offer and reiterated that any advisory engagement would adhere to public procurement processes. Throughout the meeting, Finance Minister Aurangzeb addressed all investor questions candidly. On the issue of Pakistan's water treaty policies, the Minister firmly stated that suspension of sovereign water rights is not acceptable.

## Pakistan welcomes appointment of Miguel Ángel Moratinos

DNA

ISLAMABAD: DPakistan warmly welcomes the appointment of the High Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Miguel Ángel Moratinos as the United Nations Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia, pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 78/264, entitled "Measures to Combat Islamophobia." This historic appointment marks a major milestone in the United Nations' efforts to combat the alarming rise in Islamophobia, hatred, intolerance, and discrimination against Muslims worldwide. Pakistan takes pride in having initiated, led, and successfully steered, on behalf of the OIC, the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 78/264, which established the mandate for the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia. This builds on Pakistan's earlier leadership in the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 76/254, which proclaimed 15 March as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. The appointment of the Special Envoy is timely and essential, as Islamophobia continues to escalate to deeply alarming levels around the world. Pakistan observes with grave concern the organized campaigns of vilification against Muslims, attacks on mosques, assaults on Muslim communities, and unprovoked aggressions against Muslim-majority countries — often perpetrated by those who hypocritically claim to uphold democratic and secular values.

## Pak-Türkiye hold telephonic talks on regional security situation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, held a telephonic conversation today with the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Türkiye, Hakan Fidan, to discuss the escalating regional tensions. During the call, Senator Dar briefed his Turkish counterpart on the deteriorating security situation in the region, highlighting India's continued illegal and unprovoked attacks targeting mosques, residential areas, and other religious sites. He emphasized the grave humanitarian impact of these actions, which have resulted in the tragic loss of innocent civilian lives. The Pakistani Foreign Minister reaffirmed that Pakistan reserves the right to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity in accordance with the United Nations Charter and principles of international law.

## Shehbaz congratulates Catholic community on election of Pope Leo XIV



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday congratulated the Catholic community across the world on the election of Pope Leo XIV. The prime minister, in a social media post on X, said that the election of Pope Leo XIV was a historic moment marking a "new chapter of hope and inspiration" for millions around the world. He said that Pakistan valued its ties with the Holy See and remained committed to promoting interfaith harmony, mutual respect, and a shared pursuit of peace and human dignity. Cardinal Robert Prevost was elected by 133 cardinals as the new leader of the 1.4 billion-member Catholic Church on Thursday, taking the name Leo XIV, and becoming the first American pontiff. Aged 69 and originally from Chicago, Leo becomes the 267th Catholic pope after the death last month of Pope Francis, who was the first Latin American pope and had led the Church for 12 years. — DNA

## Japan's Panasonic targets 10,000 job cuts worldwide

TOKYO: Japanese electronics giant Panasonic, which supplies batteries to Tesla, said Friday it will target 10,000 job cuts worldwide as part of efforts to boost profitability. The cuts, which represent around four percent of the group's workforce of nearly 230,000, will be implemented mainly in the current financial year to March, it said. Panasonic said it would "thoroughly review operational efficiency at each group company, mainly in sales and indirect departments". It will "re-evaluate the numbers of organisations and personnel actually needed", a statement said. "This measure targets 10,000 employees (5,000 in Japan and 5,000 overseas) at consolidated companies," and will be executed "in accordance with the labour laws, rules, and regulations of each country and region". Panasonic became a global household name in the latter half of the 20th century, pioneering electronic appliances from rice cookers to televisions to video recorders. The Osaka-based conglomerate is a major battery supplier for Elon Musk's US electric vehicle maker Tesla, and also operates in the housing, energy and auto sectors. Panasonic in February outlined a management reform programme to resolve "various structural issues" at the company. — Agencies

## France, Poland to seal burgeoning alliance with friendship treaty

Ties between France and Poland have tightened since Tusk, a former European Council president, became premier in late 2023, ending years of rule by the conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party

PARIS: France and Poland on Friday will sign a new friendship and cooperation treaty, reflecting a growing alliance between two of the European Union's key powers and allies of Ukraine as it fights off Russia's invasion. French President Emmanuel Macron will ink the accord alongside visiting Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk in the eastern French city of Nancy. "This treaty will lift the Franco-Polish partnership to a high level of ambition in strategic areas for our two countries and for Europe, particularly defence and energy," said the French presidency. The treaty is a "game-changer" and "historic", Tusk said in comments on Wednesday, adding: "It is a treaty in which we assure each other of mutual assistance in the event of a threat or aggression." Ties between France and Poland have tightened since Tusk, a former European Council president, became premier in late 2023, ending years of rule by the conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party. Both nations have made clear their implacable support for Ukraine in the face of the Russian invasion and, with Germany undergoing unusual political instability, Warsaw's clout has also grown within the EU. France has realised that "Poland is an essential partner in a high-risk environment," Pierre Buhler, former French ambassador to Poland and author of "Poland, History of

an Ambition", told AFP. Tightening such partnerships has grown all the more important after US President Donald Trump made clear Europe should do more to ensure its own security. Analysts say NATO member Poland could have the EU's biggest army in the next decade. The Polish army will have 216,000 troops in 2024, according to NATO data, already more than the French (205,000) and German (186,000) armies. It aims to reach 300,000 troops by 2035. "Poland is saying: 'Yes, we are taking responsibility for ourselves by entering into an alliance with the strongest country in continental Europe,'" said Marek Swierczynski, head of security and international affairs at the Warsaw-based consultancy Polityka Insight. Macron has also suggested widening the nuclear deterrent of France, the EU's only nuclear-armed power, to include other European nations. Such protection is of immense interest to Poland which has a land border with Russia's exclave of Kaliningrad and has repeatedly warned that it too could be the target of Russian aggression. The location and timing of the signing of the treaty in Nancy from around 1400 GMT Friday afternoon are also loaded with symbolism. Nancy is part of the eastern Lorraine region, ruled in the eighteenth century by the deposed Polish king Stanislaw I, who was also the father-in-law of French King Louis XV. Today, Nancy's main square, one of the most beautiful in all France, which he planned as duke of Lorraine, is named Place Stanislas in his honour. Tusk and Macron will also be showing off their alliance on the same day that Russia under President Vladimir Putin marks victory in World War II with an imposing military parade in Red Square. Guests for the May 9 holiday will include Chinese President Xi Jinping. — Agencies

## Administrative issues cause major disruptions in flight operations

A total of 149 flights scheduled for today have been cancelled from various airports

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Despite the restoration of flight operations at all airports across the country, including Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad, significant disruptions are being experienced because of administrative issues. According to the flight schedule, a total of 149 flights scheduled for today have been cancelled from various airports. Islamabad has seen the cancellation of 42 flights, Lahore 36, and Karachi 34. Additionally, 11 flights in Sialkot, eight in Multan, six in Faisalabad, eight in Peshawar, and four in Quetta have also been cancelled.

Sources indicated that since the resumption of flight operations, only six flights have been able to operate from the Karachi airport. The airport closures a day ago had a widespread impact, affecting about 400 flights, with 130 cancellations and 24 flights being diverted to alternative airports. Passengers are advised to contact their respective airlines for the latest updates on their flight schedules. A day ago, flight schedule was badly disrupted as airports faced suspension of flight operations for several hours. The flight operations remained suspended for almost eight hours due to heightened tensions between Pakistan and India at the country's major airports, including Lahore, Islamabad and Karachi. While operations have resumed at all airports across Pakistan, logistical and administrative challenges continue to impact flight schedules nationwide. Uncertainty continues to affect more than 200 scheduled flights nationwide.

## Putin evokes WWII victory to rally Russia behind Ukraine offensive

DNA

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin evoked the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany to rally his country round the Ukraine offensive at a grand military parade in Moscow in front of his key allies on Friday. The Kremlin is using its annual Victory Day parade — marking 80 years since the end of World War II — to whip up patriotism at home and project strength abroad as its troops fight in Ukraine. More than 20 foreign dignitaries, including China's President Xi Jinping, were in Red Square for the event, the fourth since Moscow launched a full-scale military assault on its neighbour in 2022. "The whole country, society and people support the participants of the special military operation," Putin said in an address to the parade, using Moscow's preferred language for its Ukraine campaign. Around 1,500 troops that had fought in Ukraine were among 11,000 marching on Red Square, state media reported.



"We are proud of their bravery and determination, of the fortitude that has always brought us only victory," Putin said. Ukraine has called the events in Russia a "parade of cynicism". Putin sat next to Xi in the stands as the parade got under way. He was also filmed shaking the hands of WWII veterans. Since sending troops into Ukraine, Putin has frequently drawn parallels between Russia's modern-day army and the Soviet soldiers who fought Nazi Germany. "Russia has been and will remain an indestructible barrier against Nazism, Russophobia and anti-Semitism," Putin said, echoing language regularly used to justify his three-year offensive on Ukraine. Ukraine has dismissed Putin's claims that he launched his offensive to "de-Nazify" the country as "incomprehensible". They have also been rejected by the West and independent experts. Moscow has been adorned in red flags and signs reading "victory" for the occasion. "The holiday makes us proud of our country," said Vladimir, 40, who came with his pregnant wife and friends to see military gear on display in capital.

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