

**Junaid asked to step down**  
**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: PTI founder and former prime minister Imran Khan has directed Junaid Akbar to resign from his position as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), sources revealed, says in media reports. According to insider accounts, Aleema Khan, Imran Khan's sister, conveyed the written instructions to senior party leaders Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and Salman Akram Raja.

 @thefrontierpost

First national English daily published from Peshawar, Islamabad, Lahore, Quetta, Karachi and Washington D.C

**Funeral prayer officered**  
**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: The funeral prayer for Sub-Inspector Laiq Zada Khan and Constable Alamzeb, who were martyred in a suicide bombing in Peshawar last night, were offered with full state honors at Malik Saad Shaheed Police Lines here Monday. A smartly turned-out police contingent presented salute to the coffins of Shuhada.

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIXII

No. 104

Regd. No. 241

ZIQAAD 15 1446 -- TUESDAY, MAY 13 2025

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

PRICE. 30

# Victorious Pakistan names mly conflict with India *Marka-e-Haq*

**F.P. Report**

RAWALPINDI: The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Monday released details of a 19-day military conflict with India, spanning April 22 to May 10, 2025, and formally named the operation 'Marka-e-Haq' (the battle of truth) that decisively shattered the hostile adversary's self-claimed military pride.

"The conduct of Pakistan Armed Forces Operation 'Bunyan um Marsoos', on 10 May 2025 as part of the military conflict Marka-e-Haq, was in response to Indian military's dastardly attacks that began on the night of 6 & 7 May 2025, resulting in the loss of innocent civilian lives, including women, children, and the elderly," it said. The ISPR said Pakistan had vowed justice and retribution for the reprehensible Indian military aggression and brutal killings of our citizens. "Alhamdulillah! Pakistan Armed Forces have delivered the promise made to our people."

It said the country's armed forces thanked Almighty Allah for His infinite blessings, mercy, help, and divine support, adding "Allah has ordained the believers to retaliate whenever they are wronged. We bow our heads to Him in utmost humility for enabling us to translate our resolve into decisive actions on the battlefield." The ISPR sympathized with the wards and families of the Shuhada who sacrificed their lives for the beloved country, saying "We pray for the quick recovery of our injured countrymen."

Besides, it extended heartfelt gratitude to every officer, soldier, airman, and sailor of the Armed Forces of Pakistan who made this success on the battlefield possible through their courage, professionalism, and sacrifice. The ISPR expressed profound appreciation and gratitude to the

brave Pakistani nation whose unwavering moral strength, resolve, and above all, wholehearted support and prayers remained with us during these trying times, adding "This support was indeed the most potent force multiplier for the Armed Forces of Pakistan. We are especially indebted to the youth of Pakistan, who became frontline soldiers as the cyber and information warriors of the country."

It extended profound gratitude to the vibrant media of Pakistan, which stood like Bunyanum Marsoos, a steel wall against the Indian media's dis-information blitz and reckless war-mongering. Besides, the ISPR appreciated the diplomatic corps for effectively representing Pakistan's just case on international fora with clarity and conviction.

It expressed gratitude to scientists and engineers for developing indigenous and specialized niche technologies that were instrumental in the magnificent success of Operation "Bunyanum Marsoos". The ISPR said armed forces were extremely grateful to the political leadership of all political parties, without any distinction, for the show of unified resolve in our support for the defence of our motherland. Specifically, it said, they were grateful to the inspiring leadership of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and his Cabinet Ministers for taking destiny-altering decisions for the country and steering it through this critical situation. The ISPR said Pakistan's response was a textbook demonstration of integrated tri-services jointness, enabled by real-time situational awareness, network-centric warfare capabilities, and seamless multi-domain operations.

"This synergy across air, land, sea, and cyber domains allowed for precision engagement, overwhelming lethality, and lightening operational tempo. All platforms operated in synergy, delivering coordinated effects at

carefully selected decisive points," it added. Using precision-guided long-range Fatah series missiles F1 and F2 of Pakistan Army, precision munitions of PAF, highly capable long-range loitering killer munitions, and precision long-range artillery, 26 military targets as well as facilities that were used to target Pakistani citizens, and those enterprises that were responsible for fomenting terrorism in Pakistan, the ISPR said, were engaged in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and also mainland India. It said the targets included Air Force and Aviation bases at Suratgarh, Sirsa, Bhuj, Naliya, Adampur, Bhatinda, Barnala, Halwara, Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Udhampur, Mamun, Ambala, and Pathankot, all of which sustained major damages. The ISPR said BrahMos storage facilities at Beas and Nagrota were also destroyed, which had fired missiles on Pakistan killing innocent civilians including women, children and elderly, adding S-400 battery systems at Adampur and Bhuj were also attacked and effectively neutralised by Pakistan Air Force.

It said military logistics and support sites, which helped sustain this unlawful operation against innocent Pakistani civilians like Field Supply Depot at Uri and Radar Station at Poonch were also targeted. The ISPR said Military Command Headquarters which helped plan the operational killing of our innocent citizens, especially the children, including 10 Bde and 80 Bde at KG Top and Naushera, were completely destroyed. It said facilities which harboured, trained, and capacitated proxy elements that perpetrated terrorist attacks inside Pakistan and killed innocent civilians were specifically identified and destroyed.

(Continued on Back Page)



RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff, visited CMH to enquire after the health of soldiers and civilians wounded during Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos.

## COAS visits injured troops, civilians at CMH

**F.P. Report**

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), visited Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Rawalpindi today to inquire after the well-being of soldiers and innocent civilians wounded during Marka e Haq / Operation Bunyanum Marsoos.

During the visit, the COAS individually met the injured personnel, lauded their exceptional bravery and steadfast devotion to duty, and reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the Pakistan Armed Forces to their continued care, rehabilitation, and welfare.

"Our civilians' & soldiers' valour and sacrifice form the cornerstone of Pakistan's security. The entire nation stands in resolute solidarity with every member of its Armed Forces," the COAS stated. COAS underscored that no hostile design can erode the determination of the Armed Forces of Pakistan. He noted that the resolute and unified response exhibited during Marka e Haq / Operation Bunyanum Marsoos, in concert with the steadfast support of the Pakistani people, constitutes a defining chapter in the country's military history.

## US and China reach deal to slash trade tariffs

GENEVA (Reuters): The United States and China said on Monday they have agreed a deal to slash reciprocal tariffs for now as the world's two biggest economies seek to end a trade war that has disrupted the global outlook and set financial markets on edge.

Speaking after talks with Chinese officials in Geneva, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told reporters the two sides had agreed on a 90 day pause on measures and that tariffs would come down by over 100 percentage points to 10%. "Both countries represented their national interest very well," Bessent said. "We both have an interest in balanced trade, the US will continue moving towards that."

Bessent was speaking alongside US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer after the weekend talks in which both sides had hailed progress on narrowing differences. The Geneva meetings were the first face-to-face interactions between senior US and Chinese economic officials since US President Donald Trump returned to power and launched a global tariff blitz, imposing particularly hefty duties on China.

Since taking office in January, Trump has hiked the tariffs paid by US importers for goods from China to 145%, in addition to those he imposed on many Chinese goods during his first term and the duties levied by the Biden administration.

## US intervention stopped nuclear war, says Trump

WASHINGTON (APP): US President Donald Trump said Monday his administration had helped to avoid a nuclear war between India and Pakistan, crediting trade diplomacy for defusing tensions between the two South Asian neighbours.

"They were going at it hot and heavy, and it was seemingly not going to stop," Trump told reporters at the White House, referring to India's launching of military operation "Sindoor" and Pakistan's tough retaliation. Trump on Saturday announced a ceasefire in the India-Pakistan military conflict following the April 22 armed attack in which 26 tourists were killed in Indian-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam city.

"I said, come on, we're going to do a lot of trade with you guys," President Trump said, referring to at a news conference before departing for Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar in the Middle East. "Come on, we're going to do a lot of trade with you guys, let's stop it, let's stop it. If you stop it, we'll do a trade. If you don't stop it, we're not going to do any trade."

"People have never really used trade the way I used it. That I can tell you. And all of a sudden, they said, I think we're going to stop. And they have," he added. "And they did it for a lot of reasons, but trade is a big one. We're going to do a lot of trade with Pakistan, we're going to do a lot of trade with India."

Trump continued: "We stopped a nuclear conflict, I think it could have been a bad nuclear war, millions of people could have been killed, so I'm very proud of that." On Saturday night, President Trump also offered to mediate the decades old Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan.

In response to US president mediation, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed gratitude to US President Donald Trump for playing role in bringing lasting peace to South Asia. Talking to X, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that Pakistan and US have been partners for decades who have worked together closely to protect and promote our mutual interests as well as for peace and security in critical

parts of the world.

I am extremely grateful to President Trump for his pathbreaking leadership and commitment to global peace and for his most valuable offer to play a greater role in bringing lasting peace to South Asia. For decades, Pakistan and the US have been partners who worked together.

"I am confident that in President Trump, Pakistan has found a great partner who can reinvigorate our strategic partnership and strengthen Pakistan-US ties, not only in trade and investment but in all other areas of cooperation," the premier said in a post on X. US President Donald Trump expressed his willingness to help find a solution to the Kashmir issue.

"While not even discussed, I am going to increase trade substantially with both of these great nations. Additionally, I will work with you both to see if... a solution can be arrived at concerning Kashmir," Trump said in a post on Truth Social. The arch rivals were involved in intense firing for four days, the worst in nearly three decades, with missiles and drones being fired at each other's military installations and dozens of people killed.

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry says the Pakistan armed forces have delivered on the promises made to the nation. The ISPR DG was referring to the Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos, an intense military operation of Pakistan following Indian strikes, which hit key targets in the India-occupied Kashmir and mainland India. He made these remarks while briefing the media on a successful military operation against the Indian aggression on Sunday.

The DG started the briefing by thanking the prime minister and his cabinet for the 'destiny-changing decision' which helped avenged the loss of lives of Pakistanis hit by the terrorist Indian attack. He said: "Today we inform you of the conduct and conclusion of Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos, the dastardly attacks that began on night of May 6 and 7, 2025, resulting in the loss of innocent civilian lives, including women, children and the elderly."

## Youm-e-Marka-e-Haq to be observed every year

**Saqib Mushtaq**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Monday announced to observe Youm-e-Marka-e-Haq every year on May 10 on the magnificent success of Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos. He said Youm-e-Marka-e-Haq will be observed every year across the country with fervour and passion of national solidarity.

He said, "The professional capabilities of our brave forces kept our head high with pride." Friday May 16, 2025 will be observed as a day to pay tribute to the armed forces for achieving magnificent success on the defence front and to bow before Allah in gratitude, he added. The prime minister told that special prayers will be offered on Friday in continuation of the Youm-e-Tashakur and for the progress of the country and the nation.

Major decisions were taken regarding the people and property affected due to Indian attacks, he added. The prime minister announced Shuhada package for those who were martyred during Marka-e-Haq. The heirs of Pakistani citizens who were martyred during Marka-e-Haq will be given Rs 10 million and the injured will be given from Rs one million to

two million. The heirs of martyrs of Pakistan armed forces will be given from Rs 10 million to Rs 18 million according to their rank.

The heirs of martyrs of Pakistan armed forces will be given from Rs 19 million to Rs 42 million for the facility of a house. The martyrs of Pakistan armed forces will continue to receive complete salary including allowances till the date of retirement. The children of martyrs of armed forces will get free education till graduation.

One daughter of every martyr of armed forces will be given a marriage grant of Rs one million for the wedding. The injured of the armed forces will receive Rs two million to five million. The prime minister said that the federal government will construct the houses and martyred mosques affected during the Indian attacks. "It is responsibility of the government to take care of the children of martyrs and we will fulfill this obligation," he informed.

The federal government will bear all the expenses on the medical treatment of the injured. Whoever performed services for the protection of the honour and dignity of Pakistan and for its defence will be acknowledged at the national level and they will

be bestowed with awards, he concluded.

**Pakistan always desires peace; not to accept any violation of its sovereignty:** Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed that Pakistan had always desired peace in South Asia but would never accept any violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Talking to Ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye Irfan Neziroglu who called on him, the prime minister said it was in this spirit that Pakistan had agreed to accept the ceasefire understanding with India. The prime minister expressed his profound gratitude to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for standing resolutely with Pakistan during the recent tensions in South Asia, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

"Through his steadfast support, President Erdogan had demonstrated, once again, his love and affection for the people of Pakistan," the press release quoted the prime minister as saying. He also thanked the brotherly people of Turkiye who stood firmly behind their Pakistani brethren during these challenging days, thus adding a new and glorious chapter in the history of Pakistan-Turkiye fraternal ties.

## Kurdish PKK says will disband, end armed struggle

ISTANBUL (AFP): The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) announced on Monday its dissolution and the end of more than four decades of armed struggle against the Turkish state, the pro-Kurd ANF news agency reported.

"The 12th PKK Congress has decided to dissolve the PKK's organisational structure and end its method of armed struggle," the group announced in a statement after holding its congress last week. The PKK's announcement to dissolve itself heeds a call by its founder Abdullah Ocalan, jailed on an island off Istanbul since 1999, who urged his fighters in February to disarm and disband.

In a letter, Ocalan urged the PKK to hold a congress to formalise the decision. Days later, the PKK's leadership accepted Ocalan's call, declaring a ceasefire. In a speech on Saturday, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan hinted that news about a dissolution could come at any moment, adding that his government was determined to "save our country from the scourge of terrorism".

"We are advancing with firm steps on the path to the goal of a terror-free Turkiye," he said. Separately, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif welcomed the dissolution, calling it a significant step toward lasting peace and a terror-free Turkiye.

"This historic development reflects the unflinching resolve of the Turkish leadership, under my dear brother President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the Turkish nation, to continue their march forward towards reconciliation, unity and stability," the premier said in a post on X. "Together, Pakistan and Turkiye remain committed to root out terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," he added.

The PKK, designated a terrorist group by Turkiye, the United States and the European Union, has waged an insurgency since 1984. Its original aim was to carve out a homeland for Kurds, who make up about 20 per cent of Turkiye's 85 million people.

## Pakistan, India DGMOs hold first round of talks

**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: Two days after US President Donald Trump announced the ceasefire between Pakistan and India following intense fighting, the military operations chiefs (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan had a first round of talks to discuss the next steps to douse the flames on Monday.

Security sources confirmed that Pakistan's DGMO Maj Gen Kashif Abdullah and his Indian counterpart Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai spoke to each other over hotline. The two leaders are scheduled to have a detailed discussion in the coming days on modalities of the ceasefire agreement the two countries reached after US president's intervention.

Indian media reported on Monday morning that the two military officers had a communication over hotline. Later, they claimed

that the telephonic talk between the DGMOs had been delayed. Pakistan's security sources said the two officers spoke over hotline and completed the first round of talks.

In a related development, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the United States supported direct dialogue between India and Pakistan and encouraged continuous efforts to improve relations between the two nations. In a phone conversation with British Foreign Secretary David Lammy, US Secretary of State Rubio discussed the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan. Both leaders emphasised the importance of maintaining a ceasefire and keeping communication channels open between the South Asian neighbours.

Secretary Rubio also held separate telephonic discussion with German

Chancellor Friedrich Merz and reaffirmed the US stance on the war in Ukraine. Nuclear-armed neighbours Pakistan and India agreed on a ceasefire on Saturday last following the US pressure and four days of intense fighting. Pakistan's Foreign Ministry stated that the country remained committed to the ceasefire. "Our forces are handling the situation responsibly and with restraint," the ministry said.

It further urged troops on the ground to exercise restraint and noted that any issues related to the ceasefire implementation should be resolved through communication at appropriate levels. This recent escalation marked the worst fighting between the long-time South Asian rivals in nearly three decades, raising fears of a full-scale war in one of the world's most volatile and densely populated regions.

## NA passes resolution commending armed forces

**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Monday unanimously passed a resolution praising the armed forces of Pakistan for their outstanding professionalism, alertness, and bravery in defending the country's sovereignty.

The resolution, moved by Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar in the House. The resolution commends armed forces of Pakistan for their exemplary professionalism, vigilance and courage in defending the sovereignty of Pakistan in response to unprovoked Indian aggression with exceptional restraint and responsibility, and through a measured and befitting response.

It said that the nation bows its head in humility before the Almighty for granting the Pakistani nation the dignity and honour in defending the motherland's territorial integrity against naked Indian aggression. It congratulated the entire nation, which rose above all differences and stood united behind its lead-

ership across the political spectrum with one voice — Pakistan.

Rich tribute was paid to the brave martyrs who laid down their lives in defence of the motherland, solemnly acknowledging their supreme sacrifice as a symbol of national pride, resilience, and unity. The resolution also expressed sincere gratitude to friendly countries for their support to Pakistan at this critical juncture.

Reiterating its pledge to regional and global peace with dignity and honour, the House emphasized that democracies are committed to dialogue, not conflict. It underscored that a secure neighbourhood and long-term stability in South Asia could only be achieved through sincere and structured negotiations.

The resolution urged authorities to actively engage the international community to resolve the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and relevant United Nations Security

Council resolutions. It further stressed the importance of ensuring the full implementation of the Indus Waters Treaty and affirmed that safeguarding Pakistan's water rights is a critical component of national security. The House reaffirmed that it would continue to play its constitutional role in protecting national interests and promoting peace, unity, and security for the people of Pakistan.

Parliamentary Secretary Aasia Ishaque Siddiqui on Monday informed the National Assembly that the federal government has approved the privatization of 24 state-owned enterprises (SOEs), with Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), First Women Bank, and several power and financial institutions set to be privatized in the first phase.

During the Question Hour, she said that the Cabinet Committee on Privatization (CCoP), in its meeting held on August 2, 2024, approved a phased plan for the privatization of 24 public sector organizations.



## CM Murad reviews ADP proposals

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired a high-level meeting at the Chief Minister's House to review proposals for the upcoming Annual Development Programme (ADP) as part of the provincial budget for the fiscal year 2025-26.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Planning and Development Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Chairman of the P&D Board Najam Ahmed Shah, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Agha Wasif, Finance Secretary Fayaz Jatoti, Planning Secretary Zubair Channa, and other officials.

Murad Shah announced that the new ADP will include several develop-

ment schemes focusing on water supply, drainage, solar energy, and both industrial and agricultural development. He emphasised that the reconstruction of schools damaged by floods will be a top priority in the upcoming development plan.

The CM instructed the Planning and Development Department to carefully plan all ongoing and proposed schemes, prioritising those that are ready for completion while ensuring thorough evaluations of all new proposals before approval.

Highlighting the scale of this year's development program, the Chief Minister mentioned, "This year, (2024-25) the Annual Development Programme was worth Rs493 billion,

with Rs55 billion specifically allocated under the District ADP."

Murad Shah added that there were 4,644 development schemes in progress during the current fiscal year, and it is expected that 1,812 of these schemes will be completed by the end of June 2025.

"Departments must remain focused on ensuring the timely completion of these ongoing schemes," he said, directing the P&D Department to allocate its resources and planning accordingly.

The meeting concluded with a consensus to conduct a detailed review of all proposed new schemes to ensure their relevance, feasibility, and impact before their inclusion in the 2025-26 budget.

## Residents Suffer from load shedding

KARACHI (PPI): MQM Pakistan's elected representatives in the provincial assembly stated that the residents of Karachi are facing severe issues with load shedding amid intense heat. K-Electric has become a source of trouble for consumers in its traditional manner.

Most areas of Karachi, including Orangi, Korangi, Landhi, New Karachi, North Karachi, Baldia, Saddar, and Surjani, are experiencing unannounced load shedding. Residents claim that due to the monopoly of a single company, they are compelled to obtain electricity solely from it.

In a joint statement issued from the party's headquarters in Bahadurabad, the assembly members said that due to K-Electric's unfair practices, not only are commercial activities being affected, but children's exams have also been severely impacted in recent days. The actions of K-Electric are destroying not only the present of the residents but also the future of the children.



**KARACHI:** Members of the Karachi Electronics Dealers Association hold a rally in support of the Armed Forces at the Karachi Press Club. —APP Photo

## Resolution submitted in PA on success of Armed Forces

LAHORE (APP): A resolution was submitted in the Punjab Assembly by MPAs Sara Ahmed and Mehwish Sultana on the great success of the Pakistani armed forces.

According to the content of the resolution, this house of the Punjab Assembly demands that May 10 be celebrated every year as "Pakistan Victory Day" at the official level. This house congratulates the Pakistani armed forces on their great success in the May 2025 war. India's

attempt to change the balance of power failed.

According to the resolution, Pakistan decisively defeated the enemy with wisdom, patience and military skill. Pakistan also proved its moral superiority by targeting only military targets. Indian military equipment, including Rafale, Brahmos and S-400, failed.

The resolution further stated that the alliance between Pakistan and China has now become a new military reality in the

region. This House pays tribute to Army Chief General Asim Munir, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Pakistan Air Force, Navy and all the participants of Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos. This House pays tribute to the martyrs and innocent children who sacrificed their lives and raised the nation with pride. Long live Pakistan, long live the Pakistani armed forces, it reads.

## ATC convicts man in hate material case

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Monday convicted a man involved in a hate material case, registered by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), Lahore. The court sentenced Sajjad Khan to three years in prison and imposed a fine of Rs 90,000, on proving the charges. ATC Judge Arshad Javed announced the verdict after hearing arguments from both parties and reviewing the evidence presented by the prosecution.

The prosecution informed the court that Sajjad Khan had links with a proscribed organization and was found in possession of hate material. The CTD Lahore had registered a case against the accused on charges of possessing and distributing hate material.

## Pakistan armed forces lauded

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) Chairman Faisal Yousaf has lauded the Pakistan armed forces on their resounding and historic success in the Operation "Bunyan al-Marsous," against Indian aggression.

In a statement, he said that the victory is not only a blessing from Almighty Allah but also a clear demonstration of the unmatched capabilities, professionalism and unwavering commitment of the armed forces.

"We extend our heartfelt salute to the brave soldiers of Pakistan who stood firm in defence of the motherland. The entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with our military. Whenever and wherever the call arises, the people of Pakistan will continue to support their armed forces without hesitation."

He emphasized that the unity and resilience demonstrated by the nation have once again thwarted the malicious intentions of the enemy. "The people of Pakistan formed a resolute wall alongside their forces and by the grace of Allah, we achieved a remarkable and praiseworthy triumph. Let there be no doubt in the minds of our enemies—any future misadventure will be met with an even stronger and more decisive response. Pakistan's sovereignty and dignity are non-negotiable," he added.

## DC reviews LDP

LAHORE (APP): Deputy Commissioner Syed Musa Raza presided over a weekly review meeting of the Lahore Development Programme (LDP) here on Monday.

The DC reaffirmed the district administration's full commitment to realizing progressive development vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Finance & Planning), Chief Officer Metropolitan Corporation Lahore, all Assistant Commissioners, and other relevant officials. During the meeting, the DC emphasized the need for accelerated execution.

## CM approves wheat support program for 600,000 farmers

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved a wheat support subsidy of Rs 5,000 per acre for 600,000 farmers under the 'Kissan Card' initiative. Farmers who are not currently registered under the Kissan Card program will also be eligible to receive the same per-acre subsidy.

Chairing a special meeting, here on Monday, the CM announced that billions of rupees in additional subsidies will be allocated for the upcoming crop season. She emphasized the government's continued commitment to supporting farmers and strengthening the agricultural sector.

During the meeting, it was revealed that farmers have already utilized Rs 36 billion through the Kissan Card facility to purchase agricultural inputs. Of the loans issued through the program, 60 percent have been disbursed, and farmers have successfully repaid Rs 22 billion. A second round of payments has now been issued to support the new crop cycle.

Officials also informed that 50 per-

cent of the applications received for the wheat support program have been verified so far. The meeting included a detailed review of implementation proposals for the wheat support program, including a recommendation to extend eligibility to land contractors in addition to landowners.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif also reviewed the progress of the agricultural tube wells solarization scheme, reiterating her government's vision of modernizing Punjab's agriculture through sustainable and farmer-friendly initiatives.

**CM Maryam vows to uplift nursing sector across Punjab:** Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has paid glowing tribute to nurses, calling them symbols of hope, courage, and compassion in times of illness and distress.

In her message on International Nurses Day, the CM said, "Nurses hold a place of great respect in every society. They are the pride of the nation, offering care and comfort to the sick and vulnerable with unwa-

vering dedication. In every crisis, including the global COVID-19 pandemic, our nurses stood on the front lines, selflessly serving humanity without regard for their own safety. Their sacrifices will always be remembered and honored."

Highlighting the critical role of nurses, the chief minister added that nursing is more than a profession, it is a sacred duty rooted in compassion and commitment to humanity.

CM Maryam Nawaz reiterated the Punjab government's commitment to elevating the status of the nursing profession. "We are working diligently to ensure the dignity, respect, and professional growth of nurses in all government hospitals. Efforts are underway to modernize the nursing sector, including the introduction of language courses and advanced training programs," she added.

The CM said that the Punjab government remains fully committed to the continued development and uplift of the nursing community across the province.

## Lawyers hold solidarity march in support of armed forces

RAWALPINDI (APP): A large number of lawyers in Rawalpindi organized a rally on Monday, in solidarity with Pakistan and the armed forces.

Organized under the leadership of the Rawalpindi Bar Association President, Sardar Manzoor Bashir, the rally was attended by a number of male and female lawyers.

The rally, titled 'Pakistan Zindabad' started at Quaid-e-Azam Hall of the District Courts and proceeded toward main Kachehri Chowk. The participants waved Pakistani flags and raised slogans in favor of the country and its military. The lawyers showered flowers on Army vehicles and patrolling troops as they passed through Kachehri Chowk, express-

ing their appreciation for the armed forces' service to the nation.

The rally concluded peacefully at Kachehri Chowk, with participants reaffirming their commitment to national unity and stability. The rally highlighted the legal community's unwavering support for Pakistan and its security forces amid ongoing national challenges.

## Rs 100,000 fines imposed over price related violations

LAHORE (APP): In a determined effort to protect consumer interests and curb unjustified price hikes, the district administration, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Syed Musa Raza, has intensified its market oversight campaign across the city.

The administration imposed fines totaling Rs 100,000 and registered six FIRs against violators engaged in serious breaches of pricing regulations. Assistant Commissioners and Price Control Magistrates are actively monitoring markets to ensure strict enforcement of government-notified

price lists.

The latest price checks revealed a downward trend in the rates of key vegetables, including ladyfinger and bitter gourd, while the prices of potatoes, onions, and tomatoes have remained stable. Among fruits, bananas, peaches, and mangoes have seen reductions, whereas apples, pomegranates, dried plums, dates, and melons continue to trade at steady prices.

DC Syed Musa Raza said the administration is following a zero-tolerance policy against profiteering and will take action against anyone who tries to exploit consumers. To ensure pub-

lic participation and transparency, a dedicated control room has been set up with the helpline number 0307-0002345, allowing citizens to report any pricing violations. Complaints can also be submitted via the Deputy Commissioner's official social media platforms.

Meanwhile, The district administration has removed over 3,000 illegal structures across the city in a major anti-encroachment drive. Targeting key areas like GT Road, Shahdara, and Mall Road, the operation also cleared visual clutter and 23 trucks of confiscated materials were seized.

## Meeting held on Blue Lines and Red Lines projects

KARACHI (PPI): A high-level meeting regarding the Blue Lines and Red Lines projects was held under the chairmanship of Karachi Commissioner Syed Hasan Naqvi. Officers from key government departments attended the meeting and decided on joint visits to ensure the timely completion of these projects. The meeting was attended by Secretary of Transport Asad Zaman, DIG Traffic Pir Muhammad Shah, and senior officers from other departments. The Project Director of Blue Lines, Zameer Ahmed Abbasi, was also present at the meeting. During the meeting, the Karachi Commissioner was briefed by the officers of each department about their progress. He stated that these projects would help in solving significant issues of Karachi. The Commissioner instructed all departments to conduct a joint visit to these projects within the current week to address any on-site issues. Asad Zaman, Pir Muhammad Shah, and Fawad Ghaffar Soomro briefed the Karachi Commissioner about the current status and challenges of the projects. They assured that both projects would be completed on time. The Karachi Commissioner also announced a visit to these projects on Sunday to make further decisions on-site.

## Global Sikh community stands with Pakistan: Arora

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs, Ramesh Singh Arora, has expressed deep gratitude to the global Sikh community for their strong show of solidarity with Pakistan and its armed forces amidst recent regional developments.

According to the hand-out issued here on Monday, Arora lauded the unity and ideological clarity demonstrated by Sikhs across the world, saying, "The Sikh nation has once again proven that it does not compromise on the principles of peace, brotherhood and truth."

He noted that Sikhs living in countries such as India, the United States, Canada, various European nations and Switzerland

have shown unwavering support for Pakistan's stance. "This is a historic message that truth knows no borders," he added.

Referring to the recent incident in Pahalgam, the minister said that attempts by certain hostile elements to create discord within the Sikh community had failed. Instead, he highlighted the community's collective resilience and cohesion.

A song released by young Indian Sikhs, which declared "We cannot say murtabad to Pakistan," was described by Arora as a courageous and conscience-stirring message that resonated globally.

He also praised the constructive and peaceful role of international Sikh bod-

ies, including the World Sikh Parliament, noting that the teachings of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji continue to guide humanity towards peace, tolerance, and equality.

"The Sikh community in Pakistan stands firmly with the Constitution, the armed forces, and national institutions," Arora affirmed. "We are not a minority; we are loyal citizens of Pakistan and stand shoulder to shoulder with our armed forces and our nation in every time of trial," he added.

Minister Arora concluded by thanking the global Sikh community for their unity and expressed pride in the dignity, vision, and peaceful mission of the Sikh nation.



UNIVERSITY  
OF  
SWABI

QUEST FOR EXCELLENCE

UNIVERSITY OF SWABI

Advertisement Number (2-2)-2025

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

The University of Swabi being a Public Sector University, chartered by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa invites applications for the following administrative position on regular basis till **May 27, 2025:**

S. #	Name of Position	Required Qualification and Experience	Age Limit
1	Deputy Director Administration (BPS-18)	First division degree (18 years education) or equivalent from HEC recognized University/ DAI's with 03 years' relevant experience in a University/ Government organization or Autonomous body in BPS-17 or its equivalent and above. OR First division degree (16 years education) or equivalent from HEC recognized University/ DAI's with 05 years' relevant experience in a University/ Government organization or Autonomous body in BPS-17 or its equivalent and above.	40

NOTE:

- For detail terms and conditions and how to apply, please visit the University of Swabi website [www.uoswabi.edu.pk](http://www.uoswabi.edu.pk)
- Errors and omissions, if any, will be rectified by the University Authorities.

Office of the Registrar, the University of Swabi, 23561, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. Email: [apply@uoswabi.edu.pk](mailto:apply@uoswabi.edu.pk)



**LAHORE:** A Nurse busy in work on Ganga Ram Hospitals on occasion of world Nurses Day. —INP Photo

# CS reviews KP’s governance and development priorities

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shahab Ali Shah, chaired a high-level weekly review meeting on Monday to assess the province’s governance performance and development priorities. Senior officials from various departments participated in the meeting, where key projects were reviewed and progress updates were shared.

The Chief Secretary underlined the importance of timely implementation and effective execution of development schemes to ensure improved public service delivery.

He directed all departments to update their project lists on the official tracking sheet system by Wednesday, warning that non-compliance would result in action against the

responsible planning officers.

The meeting included a detailed review of departmental expenditures, with instructions issued to expedite spending against allocated funds and recent releases to maximize public impact.

A significant update was shared on the Northern Section Ring Road Missing Link project, which has now been included in the Electronic Project Automation and Documentation System (EPADS), with financial bids scheduled to open today.

The strengthening of the Peshawar Development Authority (PDA) was also identified as a key priority for advancing urban development in the provincial capital.

Progress on Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

initiatives was also reviewed, with a comprehensive pitch book of potential investment projects nearing completion to attract national and international investors.

As part of a broader effort to digitize governance, the province is transitioning to an e-office system. A mock exercise and orientation will be conducted in seven departments, starting with e-summaries. Phase I of the e-office rollout is set to be launched by May 30.

Additionally, the e-procurement system continues to show progress, with 706 tenders uploaded so far, enhancing transparency and operational efficiency.

On the tourism front, the Tourism Department was tasked with engaging all relevant stakeholders to contribute to the master planning and land-use

strategies of major tourist destinations.

The government also plans to streamline sewerage and sanitation systems in these areas to safeguard the environment and promote sustainable tourism practices. The Chief Secretary stressed the importance of citizen engagement in shaping these master plans.

The meeting also reviewed the newly proposed Governance Roadmap, which outlines strategic priorities in governance, development, and security.

The roadmap features targeted action plans and timelines aimed at ensuring swift and efficient public service delivery. Under this initiative, departments will identify priority areas to improve outcomes in development and governance across the province.



PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shahab Ali Shah, chairing weekly review meeting on Monday to assess the province’s governance performance and development priorities.

## PHC seeks response against dysfunctional rest area

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has issued a notice to the Federal Secretary for Communications and Director-General (DG) Motorways seeking a response regarding a writ petition filed against dysfunctional rest area and services at the Indus River location on the Peshawar-Islamabad Motorway (M1), on Monday.

The counsel Muhammad Hamdan

advocate argued that a rest area was constructed near the Indus River in Swabi, but despite being built at a cost of millions of rupees, it has remained non-functional for over a decade and is in a state of disrepair.

The lawyer argued that the Indus Service Area near the Swabi Ambar Interchange should provide international-standard services, including an ambulance, restaurant, fuel station, repair shop, children’s park, and

Masjid, which are essential for the convenience and safety of travelers.

In the meantime, Justice Waqar Ahmad observed that the location is one of the most beautiful spots on the motorway. The petitioner’s counsel agreed, highlighting the proximity to the Indus River and the open space, which would make the rest area a valuable asset for travelers if made functional.

The counsel emphasized that activating the rest area would not only

provide convenience to travelers but also create employment opportunities.

PHC’s divisional bench comprising of Justice Waqar Ahmad and Justice Farah Jamshid directed the Secretary Communications and the Director-General Motorways to submit their responses to the petition. The hearing has been adjourned until June 2, allowing the authorities to respond to the court’s notice.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi leading a rally to celebrate the success of Pakistan Armed Forces against India.

## Celebrating Pak’s response to Indian aggression Governor leads victory rally

PESHAWAR (APP): A grand rally was organized from the Governor House to the Peshawar Press Club under the leadership of Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, celebrating Pakistan’s victory against Indian aggression.

Participants paid rich tribute to the Armed Forces of Pakistan for giving a befitting response to Indian hostilities. The rally echoed with passionate chants of “Pakistan Zindabad” and “Pakistan Army Zindabad”.

Participants also showered flowers on army personnel stationed in the cantonment area as a gesture of gratitude and admiration.

The rally saw participation from a diverse array of groups, including lawyers from across the province, members of the Christian community, business associations, provincial and district representatives of the Pakistan Peoples Party, women, students, and a large number of citizens from various walks of life.

Staff of the Red Crescent Society, employees of the Governor House and Secretariat, as well as other government officials, also actively joined the rally.

Before the rally commenced, a cake-cutting ceremony was held at the Governor House to commemorate the great victory. Governor Kundi also distributed sweets among the participants.

Addressing the rally, Governor Faisal

Karim Kundi said that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa stand united with their armed forces and will continue to do so.

He hailed the armed forces for delivering a strong and decisive response to Indian aggression, noting that India, faced with defeat, has now turned to desperate appeals for dialogue.

“We will not let India escape from negotiations,” the Governor declared, adding, “With international powers involved in the process, India cannot run away.”

Celebrating the momentous victory, he praised the sacrifices made by the Pakistan Army in defending the borders.

“Wars are not fought with emotions alone; our military leadership acted with great patience,” Kundi emphasized.

He asserted that the world has received a clear message: “Whoever dares to challenge Pakistan will meet the same fate as India.”

The Governor also praised PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for advocating Pakistan’s stance on international media platforms.

He appreciated the responsible role played by the national media during the crisis, while criticizing the Indian media for turning the situation into a Bollywood-style narrative.

“This victory is a triumph of our unity and solidarity,” Governor Faisal Karim Kundi concluded.

## Qaumi Ittehad to focus on issues faced by residents in Peshawar

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The residents of Tehsil Tal, residing in Peshawar, have decided to form a “Tal Qaumi Ittehad” to address their issues. A meeting was held at Jannah Residency on Ring Road, attended by a large number of individuals from every walk of life, on Monday.

The attendees presented their suggestions and ideas to address the challenges faced by the residents of Tala in Peshawar. The meeting unanimously decided that the formation of Tal Qaumi Ittehad is essential to tackle the numerous problems faced by the residents. The Ittehad will play a vital role in resolving these issues through various forums and platforms.

A decision was made to hold another meeting on May 25th at the office of Minarjee Group of Companies at Dalazak Road, near Tori Kababi, to finalize the committee structure of Tal Qaumi Ittehad. Until the formation of the new committee, a 17-member interim committee has been established. After the membership process, the election for the committee will be conducted.

The primary objective of Tal Qaumi Ittehad is to address the issues and challenges faced by the residents of Tal in Peshawar. The Ittehad aims to provide a unified platform for the residents to voice their concerns and work towards finding solutions.

The formation of Tal Qaumi Ittehad is a significant step towards addressing the concerns and issues faced by the residents of Tal in Peshawar.

## RMI join hands with DRAP

PESHAWAR (APP) The Pharmacy Department at Rehman Medical Institute (RMI) successfully hosted a workshop in collaboration with the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), aimed at promoting the implementation of minimum standards for hospital pharmacies across the country.

The event focused on aligning institutional pharmacy practices with the national regulatory framework set by DRAP.

It featured comprehensive presentations by Umama Saleh, Clinical Pharmacist and Atif Khattak Staff Pharmacist, who elaborated on the key components of DRAP’s minimum standards for hospital pharmacies.

The workshop was thoughtfully organized and moderated by Dr. Asmat Ullah, Chief Pharmacist at RMI, showcasing the department’s commitment to continuous professional development, patient safety, and regulatory compliance.

## PHCBA demands disclosure of culprits in 12th May incidents

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court Bar Association (PHCBA) has passed a unanimous resolution demanding the disclosure of details regarding the accused individuals involved in the 12th May 2007, Karachi incident, on Monday.

The meeting, chaired by Amin ur Rehman Yousafzai was attended by the General Secretary Ashfaq Ahmad Dawazai Advocate, Vice President Arshad Ali Noshervani Advocate, and a large number of lawyers. The attendees condemned the violent incident that occurred on May 12, 2007, and observed a moment of

silence and recited Fateha for the martyrs.

The resolution demanded that the details of the accused individuals named in the FIRs of the Karachi incident be made public. If this demand is not met, the PHCBA will approach the court. The PHCBA has announced that if their demand is not fulfilled,

they will seek legal recourse to obtain the required information.

The resolution reflects the determination of the lawyers to pursue justice for the victims of the incident. The PHCBA has consistently played a vital role in advocating for the rights of lawyers and promoting justice in society.

## Resolution of Mohmand, Kurram delegations demands assured

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday assured a visiting delegation from District Mohmand of swift action on their key demands, pledging to address longstanding issues related to education, healthcare, and infrastructure on a priority basis.

A delegation from District Mohmand led by the Asghar Khan, Chairman of Asghar Mohmand Foundation met with Governor Faisal Karim Kundi here at Governor House.

The delegation presented key demands related to technical education, digital courses, support for special persons and orphans, and skill development opportunities.

During the meeting, the delegation highlighted that District Mohmand is rich in minerals but suffers from a severe lack of basic facilities. Many residents are forced to go abroad for employment due to the absence of local economic opportunities.

Education, healthcare, and infrastructure in the district have been severely neglected, and patients

often have to travel to Peshawar for medical treatment.

The delegation emphasized the urgent need for technical and vocational education, particularly for the youth.

They also called for compensation for young individuals affected by terrorism, which has further disrupted educational progress in the area.

Governor Kundi responded positively, assuring the delegation of his full support and a commitment to resolving the issues on priority bases.

He said that many of these challenges would have to be addressed at the provincial level, especially following the 18th Amendment, which transferred key powers to the provinces.

He encouraged the delegation to also approach the Chief Minister through their elected representatives, adding that the merger of FATA has placed many responsibilities under the Chief Minister’s purview.

The Governor further said that his office operates with an open-door policy and invited the delegation

to formally submit a written request so he could personally raise the matter with the Chief Secretary. Governor Kundi reaffirmed his commitment to supporting the people of Mohmand and ensuring their voices are heard at all levels of governance.

Meanwhile, the delegation from Central Kurram Para Chamkani, led by Shaukat Khan and Advocate Waheed Hashmi, met with Governor Faisal Karim Kundi to discuss pressing issues affecting the people of the area.

During the meeting, the delegation raised several key concerns, including the urgent need for the repair of the Central Kurram Para Chamkani Road, financial assistance for those affected in Bagan, and measures for the promotion of tourism in the area.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi acknowledged the importance of Kurram District, saying that while it holds significant cultural and economic value, recent unrest has negatively impacted local businesses, culture, and the overall lifestyle of residents.

He assured the delega-

tion that he has already conducted various jirgas and meetings to address the situation and is committed to continuing efforts to restore peace and improve living conditions in Kurram.

The Governor also highlighted that, unlike previous Governors who had powers over FATA, the 18th Constitutional Amendment has now devolved powers to the provincial governments.

“My mission is to serve humanity,” he added, saying that an open-door policy has been implemented at the Governor House to ensure the public can directly voice their concerns.

Regarding the road repair, the Governor advised the delegation to submit a formal request, promising to discuss the matter with the Chief Secretary, while on the issue of financial aid, he mentioned that the Pakistan Red Crescent Society has already been actively supporting those affected in Kurram and that he would issue further instructions to relevant authorities for additional assistance.

## Toolkit for Prevention of Corruption Meeting of Higher Education Dept held

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: To strengthen transparency and improve performance in the Higher Education Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a high-level meeting was held at the Civil Secretariat Peshawar between the Provincial Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan Afridi, and the Adviser to the Chief Minister on Anti-Corruption, Musaddiq Abbasi, regarding the proposed anti-corruption toolkit.

During the meeting, Minister Meena Khan Afridi briefed the Adviser on the ongoing reforms and initiatives in the department aimed at improving efficiency. He highlighted steps taken in areas such as digitization, austerity, rationalization, and outlined the challenges being addressed. The minister also shared various ways out currently under consideration.

Both Meena Khan Afridi and Musaddiq Abbasi reaffirmed their commitment to rooting out corruption from the

Higher Education Department in line with the vision of PTI founder chairman Imran Khan and the party’s core principles. They pledged to utilize all available resources to ensure transparent governance and efficient service delivery to the public.

Adviser Musaddiq Abbasi assured that a detailed feedback draft on the proposed anti-corruption toolkit will be shared with the Higher Education Department to assist in strengthening institutional integrity and accountability mechanisms.



## Secretary education visits examination centers

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education, Masood Ahmad, along with Peshawar Division Commissioner and Chairman of Peshawar Education Board Riaz Khan Mehsud and Board Secretary Mehdi Jan, conducted an extensive visit to various examination centers in the provincial capital to review the arrangements made for the ongoing intermediate examinations.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the measures taken to provide a conducive environment for students and to prevent cheating.

During the visit, Secretary Masood Ahmad interacted with students to inquire about the facilities being provided to them and to ensure their comfort during exams.

He issued clear directives to examination staff and center administrators to not only prevent any form of

cheating but also to maintain a peaceful and confident atmosphere for students. He emphasized that no student should be harassed under any circumstances and that all necessary facilities must be provided without compromise.

In his remarks, Secretary

Masood Ahmad reiterated that the provincial government is committed to taking strict action against cheating in line with its directives to protect the rights of hard-working and capable students and to uphold merit and transparency throughout the examination process.





## In brief

### Two die after falling into well F.P. Report

SWABI: At least two people lost their lives after falling into a deep well in the Mal Lara Mustafa Khan Banda area of Swabi district, police informed on Monday. Police said the tragic incident occurred when the two men accidentally fell into the well. Rescue teams quickly arrived at the scene and recovered the bodies. The deceased have been identified as Asfandiyar, aged 42, and Sohail, aged 39.

### Tribesmen condemn DC F.P. Report

WANA: The youth of the Khojal Khel tribe, under the leadership of Union Council Dabkot Chairman Abid Wazir and local leader Noor Khan Wazir, held an emergency press conference at Wana Press Club, expressing strong reactions against the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Lower South Waziristan over the Gorgora ownership dispute. During the press conference, it was revealed that the ownership conflict in the Gorgora area has taken a dangerous turn, with both parties using light and heavy weapons freely for the past five days, spreading intense fear and panic in the area. The leaders warned DC Lower Waziristan Nasir Khan, demanding immediate implementation of the previous government-supervised decisions. They stated that if these decisions are not enforced, the administration would be held fully responsible for any potential damage. At the end of the press conference, the youth of the Khojal Khel tribe gave the government a three-day deadline, announcing that if the issue is not resolved within this time, a strong protest would be held in front of the Wana FC Camp.

### Armed forces' appreciated F.P. Report

ZHOB: Reaffirming the unwavering resolve of the Pakistan Army, Commander Zhub Militia Syed Shuja Abbas emphasized that the hard-fought peace and stability witnessed today are the result of the armed forces' dedication and the resilience of the nation. He noted that sustained national unity remains vital for continued progress and the defeat of both internal and external challenges. The commanding officer expressed these views while speaking at the final match ceremony of the Inter-District Jamshir Shaheed Football Tournament, held at FC Headquarters Anar Jan stadium. The thrilling final match was contested between the Zhub and Sherani football teams, with the Sherani team clinching victory on penalty kicks. The event was attended by Commissioner Zhub Division Zeshan Javed Lashari, Deputy Commissioner Sherani Behram Saleem Baloch, Assistant Commissioner Yousaf Hashmi, tribal leaders including Nawabzada Mehboob Khan Jogezeai, Abdul Sattar Kakar, and Haji Amir Ismailzai, Wing Commander Tanzeel, BRC Principal Guldar Wazir, Education Officer Sheikh Musa Khan Mandokhel, journalist Rafiullah Mandokhel, Sports Officers Abbas Aslam and Rozi Khan Sherani, Maj Saad, officers of the Frontier Corps, notables, students, and a large number of sports enthusiasts. Commissioner Lashari, Nawabzada Mehboob Jogezeai, Abdul Sattar Kakar, and Maj Saad congratulated the winning and runner-up teams, praising the significance and spirit of sports in promoting discipline, national cohesion, and youth development.

## Tribesmen hold victory rally against India



F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Jubilant tribesmen took out a thanksgiving rally in Landi Kotal on Monday to express solidarity with the armed forces and to celebrate the country's victory over India. Large number of tribal elders, political elites, traders, students and members of civil society while waving the national flags conducted the procession from Charwazgai Chawk till Peshawar gate of the cantonment. Assistant Commissioner, Landi Kotal Adnan Mumtaz, Tehsil Municipal Officer Shahbaz Khan, Station House Officer, police station, Landi Kotal Adnan Afridi also participated in the rally. Some of the participants were dancing to the drumbeats in jubilation.

Speaking on the occasion Tehsil Chairman Haji Shah Khalid, Malik Khalid Afridi, Malik Masel Khan, All Torkham Clearing Agents Association, President Mujeeb Shinwari, head of Anjuman-e-Tajran Landi Kotal Bazaar Yad Wazir and others paid tribute to the armed forces for the decisive response to Indian aggression, bringing pride to the nation. They maintained that the armed forces had inflicted a crushing defeat on Indian forces and in future it would not dare to attack Pakistan.

The participants expressed joy over Pakistan's befitting response to India's aggression and reaffirmed their firm support for the Pakistan Army. The whole nation stands united with its military and will always support it against any external threats, they opined. At the end they engaged the forces personnel and offered prayers for prosperity and solidarity of the country.

**Shaheed soldier laid to rest:** The Ranger troop, Nisar Ali Shemain who embraced Shahadat in arm battle with India in Sialkot was laid to rest with state honor in his ancestor graveyard, Dorna Kor village, Loy-Shelman area of Tehsil Landi Kotal district Khyber.

Earlier, the body of a deceased soldier was transported from Islamabad to his village. Large number of tribal elders, political and social figures, forces and administrative officials and people from different walks of life participated in his funeral prayer.

Active contingents of the forces presented a guard of honor at the grave of the martyred while floral wreaths were also presented on behalf of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur and Deputy Commissioner, Khyber Capt (Retd) Bilal Shahid. The participants lauded unmatched sacrifice of the late soldier and sympathized with family members of the late soldier.

**PML-N celebrates victory over India:** Under the auspices of Pakistan Muslim League, Nawaz (PML-N) the local tribal celebrated victory of the Pak forces in Pakistan -India arms battle at Bab-e-Khyber. The people celebrated the befitting response given to Indian aggression on the wee hours.

Besides the party workers, a big crowd of the residents led by ex-Member Provincial Assembly and local leader of PML-N Bilawal Afridi while carrying Pakistani flags took out a rally from main Bazaar, Jamrud to the Bab-e-Khyber where it converted into a public gathering.

Addressing on the occasion Bilawal Afridi and others paid tribute to the forces and said the Pak Army had made the whole nation proud. The brave forces destroyed the arrogance of India and imposed a crushing defeat on them, they remarked.

The purpose of organizing victory rally was to give the message to the enemy that Pak forces and people were united to combat any aggression from them. The participants enthusiastically waved the national flag and chanted slogans in favor of Pak Army. At the end fantastic fire work was exhibited that enthralled the spectators.

## KUST & admn commits for collaboration in governance

### Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: Vice Chancellor Kohat University of Science and Technology (KUST), Professor Dr. Syed Zafar Ilyas, paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) office. He was accompanied by Director Administration Dr. Asad Habib and Protocol & Security Officer Asim Shah. The meeting focused on fostering academic collaboration, strengthening administrative coordination, and exploring joint development initiatives.

During the meeting, Vice Chancellor Dr. Zafar Ilyas formally requested the transfer of the nearby Domes facility to the university to enhance residential capacity for students. The Deputy Commissioner responded positively, assuring that the district administration would place no hurdles in the process and committed to finalizing the



matter within a month.

Dr. Ilyas also proposed the allocation of adjoining land to KUST to support future academic and infrastructural growth. He emphasized his personal commitment to holding meetings with relevant authorities to ensure proactive planning for the university's long-term needs.

In addition, the Vice Chancellor suggested the construction of an overhead bridge—similar to those in Islamabad—for safer and improved access to the campus. This proposal was well-received by the Deputy Commissioner, who assured full support

for all the discussed initiatives. The Deputy Commissioner praised the university's cleanliness, aesthetic appeal, and overall campus environment, calling it a model for other institutions.

The two sides also engaged in detailed discussions regarding the enhancement of academic standards, expansion of hostel facilities, campus security, and other areas of mutual interest. Vice Chancellor Dr. Zafar Ilyas expressed his firm resolve to transform KUST into a leading institution in academics, research, and governance.

## Unknown armed men attack Barikot journalist

### F.P. Report

BARIKOT: Unknown armed men attacked prominent journalist and general secretary Barikot press club Zahir Shah Kamal at late night when he was returning home from the press club. The attackers, who were masked, first attempted to strangle him with a noose and then fired shots, but Zahir Shah Kamal managed to escape by running away.

Zahir Shah Kamal resisted the attack and managed to flee the scene, sustaining injuries in the process. After the incident, he contacted Khalil-ur-Rehman Bacha, the President of the Barikot

Press Club, who rushed him to the hospital for medical treatment.

The police registered First Information Report against unknown assailants and initiated an investigation into the attack. The police assured the press club members that they would apprehend the culprits soon.

Senior police officers, including SHO Ghagali Ali Badshah, Additional SHO Aleem Khan, and Sub-Inspector Investigation Shahryar Khan, visited the crime scene with a team of journalists. The local community and civil society organizations have strongly con-

demned the attack on the journalist. They have demanded that the authorities take immediate action to arrest the perpetrators and ensure the safety of journalists.

The police have collected evidence, including a 9mm pistol shell, from the crime scene. The investigation is ongoing, and the police are working to identify the attackers and bring them to justice. The attack on Zahir Shah Kamal has raised concerns about the safety of journalists in the region, and there are calls for greater protection and support for media personnel.

## Provision of Insulin to disabled patients at home kicks off

### F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: For the first time in Punjab, the work of providing insulin to disabled diabetics at home at level has been started. MS, THQ Hospital Kamalia Dr. Mian Adeel Arif along with his team checked the

diabetics at home of Rajab in Haji Chowk Kamalia and provided to insulin.

Speaking on the occasion, MS THQ Hospital Dr. Mian Adeel Arif said that in accordance with the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, as per the instructions of DC

Toba Tek Singh Muhammad Naeem Sindhu, Assistant Commissioner Kamalia Iqra Nasir and CEO Health Toba Tek Singh Dr. Kashif Bajwa, the process of providing insulin to disabled diabetics at home in Kamalia has been started from today.

## Residents hold protests for recovery of teacher

### F.P. Report

BANNU: The residents arranged protest abduction of school teacher and demanded immediate recovery Farman Ali Shah, on Monday.

The largest procession was led by Dr. Pir Sahib Zaman from Tehsil Miryan, while the procession was led by Malik Farzand Ali Khan from Amandi. The protesters passed through various markets and reached the Pretty Gate outside, where the processions took the form of a rally.

During the demonstration, Professor Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, Dr. Pir Sahib Zaman, Malik Adnan Khan, Chairman kazi Junaid Rashid, Malik Moiz Khan, Malik Raza Khan, Pir Gul Manzoor Shah chairmen Nurr Malik irfan Ullah khan, Abdul Rauf Qureshi, Idrees Khan, Shah Wazir, Tahir Mir ex Naib Nazim Pir munir shah chairmen miryan Pir Kamal shah and others said that on April 23, school teacher Farman Ali Shah was kidnapped from Naurar by unknown armed men, after which the Naurar tribes have been sitting in a protest sit-in for 20 consecutive days, but it is a matter of regret that during this time the district administration is not getting any help and is expressing its helplessness.

## Tribute pays to Aziz Jaffrani

### F.P. Report

SUJAWAL: Speakers paid rich tributes to historian, writer, social analyst, and educationist Abdul Aziz Jaffrani at an event organized under the aegis of the Sindh Culture Department and Aziz Jaffrani Yadgar Committee to mark his 16th death anniversary. People from different walks of life attended the event, which was held in the auditorium of Sarvech Sujawal Public Library.

While addressing the gathering, historian and writer Dr. Muhammad Ali Manjhi said that Aziz Jaffrani had made significant contributions to compiling and writing the history of Sindh's Larr region, besides conducting detailed research on Sindh's historical sites. He further said that Jaffrani had discovered new dimensions of Sindh's history and established himself as an eminent historian of Sindh.

Obhaya Khan Khushik called him a die-hard fan of Sindh who wanted to educate the people of Sindh through his contributions and literary work. "People like Aziz Jaffrani leave behind imprints of their work in history," Khushik mentioned.

His brother and former bureaucrat Shams Jafrani said that his brother had established a library in Sujawal city in 1963 to educate the local population, and through this initiative, he had successfully bolstered the literacy ratio of Sindh's Larr region. Talking about his contributions, he further said that Aziz Jaffrani had written more than seven books on the history of Sujawal, Jati, and other parts of Sindh's Larr region.

His fellow historian Rasool Bux Tamimi eulogized the efforts of the late historian for engraving unique facts associated with Sindh's history through his work. He revealed that the first story written by Jaffrani was published in 1955. His first book, which contained his research about Sujawal, "Sujawal Jee Tareekh" (The History of Sujawal), was published in 1986, followed by "Tareekh Jati Ja Nawan Wark" and "Sujawal Ji Siyasi Samaji Tareekh."

He also wrote a novel, "Masoom" (Innocent), and a few books about the history of Islam and Islamic culture. However, a book titled "Makalat-E-Aziz," comprising selected verses of his poetry, was also published by the Sindh Culture Department after his death. Apart from this, he translated Dr. Willies' book, "The History of Islamic People," into Sindhi.

Several of his articles about the culture and history of Sindh were published in different Sindhi, Urdu, and English dailies in the country.

## Shaheed Radar technician Ayaz laid to rest in Mardan

### Anees Takar

MARDAN: Muhammad Ayaz, a radar technician in the Pakistan Air Force, embraced martyrdom during an Indian attack on Sargodha Airbase. He belonged to Ganjy Kali, a small village in Takht Bhai District Mardan. He sacrificed his life while performing his duty to protect the country.

His funeral was held in his hometown with full state honors. A large number of people including government officials, military officers, political leaders and local residents attended the funeral. Among the key attendees were Provincial Minister for Food Zahir Shah Toru, Health Advisor Ehtesham Khan, Member National Assembly Ali Muhammad Khan, Deputy Commissioner Mardan Dr. Azmatullah Wazir, MPA Iftikhar Ali Mashwani and Assistant Commissioner Junaid Khalid.

On behalf of Chief Minister Khyber



Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur, Minister Zahir Shah Toru laid a floral wreath on the martyr's grave. Another wreath was laid by Deputy Commissioner Dr. Azmatullah Wazir on behalf of Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah. The armed forces and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police presented a guard of honor and gave a salute to the martyr. People raised slogans of "Shaheed Zinda Hai" (Martyrs are alive) to honor his sacrifice.

Muhammad Ayaz gave his life for the defense and dignity of Pakistan. His sacrifice is a source of pride

not only for his family but for the whole nation. He proved that Pakistan's brave soldiers are always ready to protect their homeland.

The local community, along with the district administration, expressed deep sorrow and offered their full support to the martyr's family. They also prayed that Allah grants Shaheed Muhammad Ayaz a high place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and gives strength to his loved ones to bear the loss. Shaheed Muhammad Ayaz will always be remembered as a hero who gave his life for the country.

## WSSC Kohat delegation visits Mardan

### Fazal Haq

MARDAN: A delegation from the Board of Directors (BoD) Water and Sanitation Services Company Kohat (WSSCK) visited the head office of WSSC Mardan (WSSCM) and its Integrated Resource Recovery Center (IRRC).

The delegation led by Chairman and Acting CEO of WSSCK Saad Qureshi, member BoD Shakeel Afridi and Head of Administration Tahir Afif. The guests were warmly welcomed by the Chairman BoD WSSCM Engr. Adil Nawaz, board member Javed Hussain and CEO Shahid Khan, Manager Municipal Services Muhammad Ishaq briefed the delegates in detail about the project that converts waste into organic fertilizer.

While speaking to the delegates Chairman Engr. Adil Nawaz stated that

beside the limited resources WSSCM is providing efficient and phenomenal sanitation services to the citizens of Mardan. Our mission is to make Mardan a model city in terms of cleanliness and safe drinking water. He highlighted that the company has formulated a comprehensive strategy to make Mardan city clean.

**Solidarity rally held:** A grand rally was organized in Mardan district to express solidarity with the Pakistan Army which was organized by the district administration and (Central Organization of Traders Zahir Shah Group).

The rally was led by Additional Deputy Commissioner Mardan Eid Nawaz, President Central Organization of Traders District Mardan Zahir Shah, Regional Sports Officer, District Sports Officer Sajid Afridi,

District Youth Officer Saddam Ali, school students, teachers, and a large number of people from different walks of life participated. The rally started from Mardan Sports Complex and ended at Hospital Chowk. The rally included a 3 to 4 kilometers long convoy of vehicles decorated with national flags and banners.

The participants raised slogans in favor of Pakistan Army, demonstrating national unity, solidarity and patriotism. On this occasion the speakers paid tribute to the services and sacrifices of the Pakistani Armed Forces and said that the army is the guarantee of the survival and integrity of the country. At the end of the rally a special prayer was offered for the repose of the souls of the Pakistani Army and civilian martyrs, in which the greatness of the martyrs was saluted.

## Tribesmen urged to restrain land grabber



### Amjad Ali Afridi

JAMRUD: The tribesmen Murad Khan, Bahadur, and others claimed that a person named Amjad is attempting to encroach on their ancestral land with the help of a land grabber mafia, on Monday.

This was claimed during a press conference held at Jamrud press club and added that both parties sat before a government-arranged arbitration council in Jamrud Tehsil. The council heard both sides and issued a written decision. However, Amjad later

refused to accept the decision.

Under the supervision of ASI Khandad, a tribal and government arbitration council was reconstituted. Both parties signed an agreement, and it was decided that neither party would work on the disputed land.

The speakers added that Amjad has been making baseless allegations against arbitration council members and government officials. When Amjad realized he had no evidence, he started using various excuses and tactics to dispute the decision.

The tribesmen Murad Khan and others demanded that the government enforce the arbitration decision, return their land, and take legal action against Amjad. They urged the government to take actions against Amjad for his refusal to abide by the decision.

Murad Khan and others emphasized their willingness to participate in any national, Sharia, or government arbitration. They warned Amjad to refrain from making false allegations and fabricated statements.

## Residents hold protest against abduction of girl

### F.P. Report

LARKANA: The residents of Ghahar Wah area of Larkana, staged a protest in front of press club demanding the recovery of 14-year-old Husna, who was allegedly kidnapped 26 days ago, on Monday.

On this occasion, the heirs of the kidnapped girl, Gulam Mustafa Bhutto, his wife Toti Khatun and their son, protested and said that on the 15th of last month, my daughter Husna Bhutto had gone out to do some household chores, on the way, Ali Gul Brohi, an influential resident in Yousafabad, along with his associates Akash Mahesar and others, kidnapped my daughter at gunpoint, after that I have also filed a case of kidnapping my daughter

against them at Ali Gohar Abad police station.

Police have arrested the accused, taken a huge amount of money from them and released them. While the accused in the case are giving me death threats because they are influential, I have appealed to the Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court to If action is taken against the police and my daughter is recovered, otherwise I will take very serious steps.

**Two dead bodies burnt after killing over land dispute:** A land dispute broke out between two groups of the Juneja community in the village of Muhammad Yaqub Junejo near Larkana, resulting in the death of 2 people due to gunshots.

According to details, a land dispute broke out

between the Juneja community over an old land dispute, due to gunshots, 2 people from one group, Nazir Ahmed Junejo and Muhammad Yunus Junejo, were killed on the spot, in receiving information, the police took the body to Dokri Hospital and after necessary action, handed it over to the heirs, however, there was chaos at home when the body reached home.

On the other hand, according to hospital sources, Nazir Ahmed Junejo, who was killed, was burnt with a pulal fire, when contacted by the media, the police said that the real truth of the dispute between the Juneja community is not known, further investigation is being carried out.



## Burkina Faso forces killed 100 civilians in a March attack: HRW

DAKAR (AP): At least 100 civilians were killed by Burkina Faso government forces in March near the western town of Solenzo, Human Rights Watch said. According to victim testimony and videos shared on social media gathered by the rights group, the attackers were Burkina Faso special forces and members of a pro-government militia, the Volunteers for the Defense of the Homeland. The victims were all ethnic Fulani, a pastoralist community that is widespread across the region, which the government has long accused of supporting Muslim militants.

An earlier report from Human Rights Watch stated that the government's involvement was likely, because of video evidence on social media, although the findings were not definitive. The government issued a sharp denial when first reports surfaced, saying in a statement it "condemned the propagation, on social media, of images inducing hate and community violence, and fake information aimed at undermining social cohesion" in the country.

"The viral videos of the atrocities by pro-government militias near Solenzo sent shock waves through Africa's Sahel region, but they told only part of the story," said Ilaria Allegrozzi, senior Sahel researcher at Human Rights Watch. "Further research uncovered that Burkina

Faso's military was responsible for these mass killings of Fulani civilians, which were followed by deadly reprisals by an Islamist armed group. The government needs to impartially investigate these deaths and prosecute all those responsible."

Burkina Faso authorities did not immediately reply to a request for comment on the group's new report. The landlocked nation of 23 million people has symbolized the security crisis in the arid Sahel region south of the Sahara in recent years. It has been shaken by violence from extremist groups linked to Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group, and the governments fighting them.

The military junta, which took power in 2022, failed to provide the stability it promised. According to conservative estimates, more than 60% of the country is now outside of government control, more than 2.1 million people have lost their homes and almost 6.5 million need humanitarian aid to survive. The attack in the western Boucle du Mouhoun region, including Solenzo and other towns, began on Feb. 27 and lasted until April 2, involving hundreds of government troops and drones, according to eyewitnesses quoted in the report.

"The VDPs shot at us like animals, while drones were flying over our heads. Many women and children died because they could not

run," said a Fulani herder, 44, from Solenzo, referring to the pro-government militias. After the attack, hundreds of Fulani residents fled across the border into neighboring Mali, the report said. "Today, in the whole province, there are no more Fulani - they all fled or were killed or taken hostage," said a 53-year-old man from Solenzo. "But the other (ethnic) communities remain."

After the government forces left, the report said that jihadist fighters from a group known as JNIM reentered the towns and carried out reprisal killings against residents, targeting the men whom it considered to be military collaborators. "All the men had been executed in front of the health center," said a 60-year-old woman who witnessed JNIM abuses in Tiao village, a town to the northeast of Solenzo on April 5. "I counted up to 70 bodies." According to analysts, the junta's strategy of military escalation, including mass recruitment of civilians for poorly trained militia units, has exacerbated tensions between ethnic groups. It is impossible to get an accurate picture of the situation in the country since the military leadership has installed a system of de facto censorship, rights groups said, and those daring to speak up can be openly abducted, imprisoned or forcefully drafted into the army.

## As world heats up, UN cools itself the cool way

NEW YORK (AFP): Deep in the bowels of the UN headquarters, a pump sucks in huge amounts of water from the East River to help cool the complex with an old but energy-efficient mechanism. As more and more people want to stay cool in a planet that is steadily heating up, energy experts point to this kind of water-based system as a good alternative to air conditioning. But in many cases they are hard to set up.

The system has been part of the New York complex since it opened in the 1950s, chief building engineer Michael Martini told AFP during a tour of the cooling equipment. The system, overhauled with the rest of the complex from 2008 to 2014, cools the UN center using less energy than a conventional air conditioning system. UN policy is to bring the air temperature down to about 24 degrees Celsius, or 75 degrees Fahrenheit. In summer in New York, the river running beside the UN headquarters -- it is actually a salt water estuary -- stays much cooler than the surrounding air, which can reach 100 degrees. So cooling the building eats up less energy.

As many as 26,000 liters per minute (7,000 gallons) of water flow through fiber glass pipes to the complex's cooling plant, which uses it and a refrigerant gas

to produce cold. The system has two independent loops to prevent contamination of the water that flows back into the river at a higher temperature, said the head of the cooling system, David Lindsay. Looking at the gleaming glass tower of the UN headquarters and the dome of the General Assembly, you would never know that the East River serves this purpose for the UN and is more than just part of the scenery. The UN's New York headquarters is not its only building that depends on water. In Geneva, its Palais de Nations features a cooling system that uses water from Lake Geneva. And the UN City complex in Copenhagen, which houses 10 UN agencies, depends on cold seawater that almost eliminates the need for electricity to cool the place. This is a huge benefit compared to the estimated two billion air conditioning units installed around a world. With the number of air conditioners due to increase so as to help people who are more and more exposed to dangerous temperatures, energy consumption for the purpose of cooling has already tripled since 1990, says the International Energy Agency, which wants more efficient systems.

Examples of these are centralized air conditioning networks using electricity,

geothermal systems or ones that use water, like the UN complex in New York.

This latter system "has not been deployed as much as it should be for the issues we face today," said Lily Riahi, coordinator of Cool Coalition, a grouping of states, cities and companies under the aegis of the United Nations. Some big organizations have been able to run such systems on their own, like the United Nations or Cornell University in New York State, which relies on water from Lake Cayuga. But for the most part these systems require a lot of coordination among multiple stakeholders, said Riahi.

"We know it's technically possible, and we know actually there are many cases that prove the economics as well," said Rob Thornton, president of the International District Energy Association, which helps develop district cooling and heating networks. "But it requires someone, some agent, whether it's a champion, a city, or a utility or someone, to actually undertake the aggregation of the market," he said.

"The challenge is just gathering and aggregating the customers to the point where there's enough, where the risk can be managed," Thornton said. He cited Paris as an example, which uses the Seine River to run Europe's largest water-based cooling grid.

## Gaza war cannot be solved by military means, says German FM

JERUSALEM (Reuters): The conflict in Gaza cannot be solved by military means and a political solution must be found to end the war permanently, German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl said in Jerusalem. "I do not believe that this conflict can be permanently resolved by military means," Wadepuhl said. "Nevertheless, it is urgently necessary that Hamas is disarmed and that it can no longer have military control over Gaza."

He said Germany would do whatever it takes to guarantee Israel's security, but this did not mean that his country cannot criticise Israel's actions, although this "must not lead to anti-semitism". Hamas' attacks on October 7, 2023 killed 1,200 people and 251 were taken hostage back to Gaza, according to Israel. Israel's campaign has killed more than 52,000 Palestinians, mostly civilians, according to Hamas-run health

authorities.

"I am not sure whether all of Israel's strategic goals can be achieved in this way (through a military campaign) and whether this will serve Israel's security in the long term," Wadepuhl said. "That is why we are appealing for a return to serious negotiations on a ceasefire." Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said only Hamas was responsible for the war. This cannot continue, he said, "Hamas must be defeated." Saar and Wadepuhl also welcomed a new US proposal for the distribution of aid in the Gaza Strip.

Gaza's residents face possible famine, the UN says, with Israel enforcing a months-long blockade on aid to the Palestinian enclave and vowing to expand its military campaign against Hamas after breaking a truce in March. Tikva Forum, a hawkish Israeli group representing

some relatives of hostages, criticised the plan, saying aid deliveries should be conditional on Hamas releasing the 59 captives in Gaza. Wadepuhl repeated that the return of hostages is the German government's priority.

He also said it was clear that Gaza is part of the Palestinian territory. "We need a political solution for the reconstruction of Gaza without Hamas," Wadepuhl said. During his first trip to the region since taking office last week, Wadepuhl said there should be no expulsion of the two million Palestinians there and no permanent occupation of Gaza. After his meeting with Saar, Wadepuhl will meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem. A meeting with the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority, Mohammed Mustafa, is planned later in Ramallah on the West Bank.

## S Korea's ex-PM drops presidential bid

SEOUL (Reuters): South Korea's former prime minister and acting president Han Duck-soo ended a short, ill-fated attempt to win the conservative party's presidential nomination after days of internecine disputes just days out from the election.

Rival Kim Moon-soo was chosen as nominee for the People Power Party after party members voted to retain him over Han, whose late entry into the race derailed the consensus over its candidate for the June 3 presidential vote. Han said he "humbly accepts everything" and hopes Kim wins the snap election, which was triggered by the impeachment of the country's former president.

Kim formally registered as a PPP candidate, and is now South Korea's conservative hopeful against frontrunner Lee Jae-myung of the opposition Democratic Party. Han and Kim struggled for unity in the past week and had held a series of failed talks to discuss how to unite their conservative campaigns to avoid splitting the vote. Lee has been a clear frontrunner to replace conservative former President Yoon Suk Yeol, who was removed from office in April for violating his duties when he declared a short-lived martial law in December. Kim, who was selected as the conservatives' candidate in a party convention a week ago, resisted pressure from the party to step aside in favour of the more popular Han, who had declined to participate in the nomination process while he was still serving as prime minister.

## US appeals court upholds federal ban

CALIFORNIA (Reuters): A US appeals court upheld a federal law preventing felons from possessing firearms, rejecting a challenge by a California man who said the ban should not apply to non-violent felons like himself. The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals in Pasadena, California said the government showed the "permanent and categorical disarmament" of felons was consistent with the country's historical tradition of firearms regulation, and with the 2nd Amendment of the US Constitution.

Circuit Judge Kim McLane Wardlaw said the ban helps protect from the public from people who commit "the most serious crimes" and represent a "special danger of misuse." The law was challenged by Steven Duarte, who had five convictions for non-violent crimes, including vandalism and evading police, before being convicted and sentenced to 4-1/4 years in prison for violating the firearms ban. Neither the US Department of Justice nor a federal public defender representing Duarte immediately responded to requests for comment.

Decision was issued by an 11-judge panel as courts around the country struggle to apply two recent US Supreme Court decisions addressing Americans' right to bear arms. In New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen, the Supreme Court in 2022 expanded Americans' 2nd Amendment rights to arm themselves in public, and required courts to look for historical analogues to justify new gun restrictions.

Two years later, in US v. Rahimi, the court limited the Bruen decision by saying a "historical twin" wasn't required, as upholding a federal ban on gun ownership by people subject to restraining orders for domestic violence. Duarte had been a passenger in a red Infiniti that Inglewood, California, police pulled over in March 2020 for running a stop sign. Police saw him throw a handgun out the window, and while searching the car's interior found a loaded magazine that fit the handgun "perfectly."

A three-judge 9th Circuit panel struck down the firearms ban as applied to Duarte and threw out his conviction last May, before the Rahimi case was decided. Decision overturned that ruling.

## Philippines heads to polls

MANILA (AFP): Millions of Filipinos headed to the polls Monday in a mid-term election widely seen as a referendum on the explosive feud between President Ferdinand Marcos and impeached Vice President Sara Duterte.

Voters braved long lines and temperatures that reached 33 degrees Celsius (91 Fahrenheit) as it approached midday in the capital Manila, polls having officially opened at 7:00 am. The race will decide more than 18,000 posts, from seats in the House of Representatives to hotly contested municipal offices. It is the battle for the Senate, however, that carries potentially major implications for the presidential election in 2028.

The 12 senators chosen Monday will form half the jury in a Duterte impeachment trial later this year that could see her permanently barred from public office. Duterte's long-simmering feud with former ally Marcos erupted in February when she was impeached by the House for alleged "high crimes" including corruption and an assassination plot against the president. Barely a month later, her father, former president Rodrigo Duterte, was arrested and sent to the International Criminal Court to face a charge of crimes against humanity over his deadly anti-drugs campaign.

On Monday, 53-year-old Roland Agasa, one of the country's 68 million registered voters, said the feud had taken a mental toll heading into election day. "VP Sara and Bongbong (Marcos), for me, the government is getting stressful," he said outside a Manila elementary school hosting a polling station on its fourth and fifth floors. "I hope we choose the deserving, those who can help the country." Agasa said, adding he planned to wait until the day cooled before braving the stairs to cast his vote. "There was no pushing, but it was cramped. It was difficult, but we endured so that



we could vote," Rizza Bacolod, 32, said at the same location. "I still believe that change can happen (in the Philippines)." President Marcos cast his vote at an elementary school in his family's traditional stronghold of Ilocos Norte province. His mother Imelda, 95, was at his side.

Sara Duterte will need nine votes in the 24-seat Senate to preserve any hope of a future presidential run. Heading into Monday, seven of the candidates polling in the top 12 were endorsed by Marcos while four were aligned with his vice president. Two, including the president's independent-minded sister Imee Marcos, were "adopted" as honorary members of the Duterte family's PDP-Laban party. The move to add Marcos and television personality Camille Villar to the party's slate was intended to add "more allies to protect the Vice President against impeachment", according to the resolution. Despite his detention at The Hague, Rodrigo Duterte remains on the ballot in his family's southern stronghold of Davao city, where he is seeking to retake his former job as mayor. One local poll is predicting he will win comfortably.

A day before the election at least

two people were killed in a clash between supporters of rival political camps in southern Mindanao island's autonomous Muslim region, the Philippine army reported. An official who answered the phone at the Basilan province disaster office in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region put the death toll at four. The Philippines has a history of violent elections, especially in the restive south, where armed clashes between groups of political rivals are common. National police have been on alert for more than a week and around 163,000 officers have been deployed to secure polling stations, escort election officials and guard checkpoints. Thousands more personnel from the military, fire departments and other agencies have been mobilised to keep the peace in a country where battles over hotly contested provincial posts are known to erupt in violence. A city council hopeful, a polling officer and a village chief are among the at least 16 people police say have been killed in attacks in the run-up to Monday's election. A special early voting window this year allowed the elderly and people with disabilities to begin casting votes at 5:00 am.

## Poland once threw its doors open to millions of Ukrainian refugees

WARSAW (AP): In the early months of 2022, as Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine began, millions of Ukrainians - mostly women and children - fled to Poland, where they were met with an extraordinary outpouring of sympathy. Ukrainian flags appeared in windows. Polish volunteers rushed to the border with food, diapers, SIM cards. Some opened their homes to complete strangers.

In the face of calamity, Poland became not just a logistical lifeline for Ukraine, but a paragon of human solidarity. Three years later, Poland remains one of Ukraine's staunchest allies - a hub for Western arms deliveries and a vocal defender of Kyiv's interests. But at home, the tone toward Ukrainians has shifted. Nearly a million Ukrainian refugees remain in Poland, with roughly 2 million Ukrainian citizens overall in the nation of 38 million people. Many of them arrived before the war as economic migrants.

As Poland heads into a presidential election on May 18, with a second round expected June 1, the growing fatigue with helping Ukrainians has become so noticeable that some of the candidates have judged that they can win more votes by vowing less help for Ukrainians. "The mood

of Polish society has changed towards Ukrainian war refugees," said Piotr D'ugosz, a professor of sociology at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow who has carried out research on the views toward Ukrainians across central Europe. He cited a survey by the Public Opinion Research Center in Warsaw that showed support for helping Ukrainians falling from 94% at the start of Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022 to 57% in December 2024.

"Many other studies confirm the change in mood," he said. "At the same time, it should be remembered that helping refugees after the outbreak of the war was a natural moral reflex, that one should help a neighbor in need. All the more so because Poles remember the crimes committed by Russians against Poles during and after two world wars." Among those to transform the shift in mood into campaign politics is conservative candidate Karol Nawrocki, a historian and head of the Institute of National Remembrance who is the Law and Justice party's chosen candidate and one of the frontrunners. Law and Justice, still in government in 2022, led the humanitarian response to the crisis along with

President Andrzej Duda, a conservative backed by the party who traveled to Kyiv during the war. As Nawrocki seeks to succeed Duda, he is showing ambivalence toward Ukrainians, stressing the need to defend Polish interests above all else. Duda and Law and Justice have long admired Donald Trump, and Nawrocki - who was welcomed at the White House by Trump on May 1 - has at times used language that echoes the American president's.

"Ukraine does not treat us as a partner. It behaves in an indecent and ungrateful way in many respects," Nawrocki said in January. After Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's tense visit to the Oval Office in February, Nawrocki declared the Ukrainian leader needed to "rethink" his behavior toward allies. Last month Nawrocki vowed that if he wins, he will introduce legislation that would prioritize Polish citizens over Ukrainians when there are waits for medical services or schools. "Polish citizens must have priority," Nawrocki said in a campaign video. "Poland first. Poles first."

Further to the right, candidate S'awomir Mentzen and his Confederation party have gone beyond that. He

has blamed Ukrainians for overburdened schools, inflated housing prices, and accused them of taking advantage of Polish generosity. At an April 30 rally of a far-right candidate, Grzegorz Braun, his supporters climbed up to a balcony on city hall in Bia?a Podlaska and pulled down a Ukrainian flag that had been hanging there since February 2022 as an expression of solidarity. The political center is adjusting too. Rafa? Trzaskowski, the liberal-minded mayor of Warsaw from Prime Minister Donald Tusk's centrist party who welcomed Ukrainians to his city in 2022, proposed in January that only Ukrainian refugees who "work, live and pay taxes" in Poland be granted access to the popular "800+" child benefit - 800 zlotys (\$210) per month per child. The requirements were already tightened recently, and some refugee advocates described it as a concession to far-right narratives.

Ukrainian Ambassador to Poland Vasyil Bodnar disputes claims that Ukrainians are taking more than they give. About 35,000 receive support without working, he said, but what they receive is only a fraction of what Ukrainians contribute in taxes.

## Hamas says it will release Israeli-American hostage

CAIRO (Reuters): Israeli-American hostage Edan Alexander will soon be released in Gaza, a senior Hamas official told Reuters, a move key Arab mediators Qatar and Egypt described as an encouraging step towards a return to ceasefire talks in the war-torn enclave.

The senior Hamas official did not specify a time for the release of Alexander, a 21-year-old soldier in the Israeli Army who was born and raised in New Jersey, but a source familiar with the matter told Reuters it would likely happen. Freeing Alexander, believed to be the last surviving American hostage held by the militant Palestinian group, is part of efforts to reach a ceasefire agreement and allow humanitarian aid to enter Gaza, Hamas said.

US President Donald Trump will visit the Middle East this week. His special envoy Adam Boehler said news of Alexander's release was a positive step forward. "We would also ask that Hamas release the bodies of four other Americans that were taken," Boehler added. In a post on Truth Social, Trump said he was

grateful to all those involved.

"This was a step taken in good faith towards the United States and the efforts of the mediators - Qatar and Egypt - to put an end to this very brutal war and return ALL living hostages and remains to their loved ones," Trump said. Israel launched a military campaign in Gaza in retaliation for a Hamas attack on October 7, 2023, that killed 1,200 people, according to Israeli tallies, and saw 251 taken hostage into Gaza in the deadliest day for Israel in its history. The campaign has killed more than 52,800 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, and has devastated the Gaza Strip, leaving its 2.3 million population depending on aid supplies that have been dwindling rapidly since Israel imposed a blockade in March.

In a joint statement, Qatar and Egypt said Hamas' agreement to free Alexander was an "encouraging" step towards the warring parties returning to Gaza ceasefire talks, which have stalled since March. The two countries

said they would pursue their efforts, along with the United States, to improve the conditions in Gaza, reaching out for a permanent ceasefire and end to the war. Exiled Gaza Hamas chief Khalil al-Hayya said efforts to facilitate Alexander's release have been jointly carried out by Qatar, Egypt and Turkey. "The movement affirms its readiness to immediately start intensive negotiations and make serious efforts to reach a final agreement to end the war, exchange prisoners in an agreed-upon manner," Hayya said.

Direct four-way talks that led to the release were held between officials from the US, Qatar, Egypt and Hamas, a source briefed on the negotiations told Reuters. The US had previously held discussions with Hamas on securing the release of US hostages held in Gaza. Israeli media reported that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a closed session of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Hamas could soon release Alexander as a goodwill gesture towards Trump.

The prime minister's office said the US told Israel that Hamas' freeing of Alexander would lead to negotiations for the release of more hostages. Israel's policy is that negotiations will be conducted under fire with a continued commitment to achieving all war objectives, it added in a statement. Hamas had released 38 hostages under a ceasefire that began on January 19. In March, Israel's military resumed its ground and aerial offensive on Gaza, abandoning the ceasefire after Hamas rejected proposals to extend the truce without ending the war. Israeli officials said that offensive will continue until the remaining 59 hostages are freed and Gaza is demilitarized. Hamas insists it will free hostages only as part of a deal to end the war and has rejected demands to lay down its arms. Israel, which is in control of around a third of Gaza's territory, said in May it will expand its Gaza offensive. A US State Department spokesperson said Hamas bore sole responsibility for the war as well as for the resumption of hostilities.

The Frontier Post

Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)

Founder

Bilal Shah Afridi

Chief Executive

Jalil Afridi

Managing Editor

Printed and published by Mahmood Afridi at Moraka's

Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town, Peshawar.

Peshawar Office: 0300- 9009001

Peshawar Fax: 091-5703687, Post Box No. 573

E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com

Lahore Office: 0335-4026284

Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com

Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253

Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com

Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907

Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com

USA and Canada Toll Free Number 1-800-5905747

Trump praises India, Pakistan leaders for truce

FULL-SCALE war was averted between India and Pakistan when they agreed to a United States-mediated ceasefire even as fighting between the traditional South Asian rivals was ratcheting up since Wednesday (May 7) when India struck at nine terrorist camps in Pakistan. India was responding to the terrorists killing 26 civilians in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir on April 22.

The two sides were firing drone bombs at each other across the border, in which civilians were killed on both sides. India said that it had targeted only the terrorist bases. The United States had quietly done a back-channel exercise with Secretary of State Marc Rubio talking to Ishaq Dar, foreign minister of Pakistan and Dr. S.Jaishanker, External Affairs Minister of India.

The Americans said that the decision of the ceasefire was announced by the two sides themselves. President Donald Trump wrote on his social media portal, Truth Social: "After a long night of talks mediated by the United States, I am pleased to announce that India and Pakistan have agreed to a FULL AND IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE. Congratulations to both Countries on using Common Sense and Great Intelligence."

However, there were explosions in Srinagar, the capital of Jammu and Kashmir in India and in other places along the border, and this is being seen as violation of the ceasefire agreed to by Pakistan. Indian Minister for External Affairs said that India keeps its options to counter terrorist attacks.

The US-mediated ceasefire may appear to be fragile, and that it is being broken from the moment that it has been agreed to by both India and Pakistan. It is however interesting that Pakistan sought the ceasefire a day after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had released an economic bailout of \$1 billion. India had objected to the relief package and abstained from the voting. It would appear that the US could have asked Pakistan to agree to the ceasefire in return for the IMF bailout. This is in the realm of speculation, but a connection can be made. There is also the argument that India could have agreed to the American offer of ceasefire because India is in the process of working out a trade deal with the United States and get a better deal over the tariffs that Trump seeks to impose on India.

What is surprising about the development is the fact that two days ago, Vice President J.D. Vance had said in a television news interview that the fight between India and Pakistan was "none of our business" though he did add that the US would want the two countries to settle the issues through diplomatic dialogue. So, he did keep the door open for American mediation in a way because the implication was that Washington would want to push the two rivals to the negotiating table.

The American foreign policy has been flip-flopping quite a bit ever since Trump was sworn in as president for a second term in January. At one level, Trump wants to pull back Americans from all the trouble spots, including the one in Ukraine. On the other hand, he had been coaxing and nudging to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Russian President Vladimir Putin to agree to a ceasefire.

And though he failed in his attempts to end the war in Ukraine, he managed to sign an agreement with Ukraine over rare earth minerals. He wants America to engage with the world so that America gains, and at the same time he wants to focus on domestic policies rather than foreign policy. The reason Trump pushed America into the mediatory process with India and Pakistan is that he would not want China to gain an upper hand in South Asia because of American absence.

Important Notice

The Frontier Post will not be responsible for the comments in the articles and letters. The Frontier Post requests the writers of articles and letters to please make sure that they write their email addresses and mention the names of the cities, towns, districts or tehsil of their residences at the bottom of their articles and letters.



A new geopolitical reality: How the conflict redefined South Asia and Beyond

Syed Saqib Hussain

THE recent conflict has shifted the tectonic plates of regional and global geopolitics in ways that few had anticipated. In a matter of hours, India's long-nurtured ambitions of establishing unchallenged hegemony over South Asia were significantly dented. The scale and speed of developments have not only challenged New Delhi's strategic calculus but have also redrawn the contours of military and diplomatic realities across the region.

For decades, the conventional military imbalance between Pakistan and India had been a strategic concern. This war, however, appears to have altered that equation. The battlefield dynamics revealed that Pakistan is no longer at a disadvantage when it comes to traditional warfare. In fact, in several tactical domains, Pakistan demonstrated superior strategic planning and execution. The notion that India could swiftly overrun Pakistani defenses now seems untenable.

Equally important is the realization that territorial conquest has become a near impossibility for both states. Yet, in this stalemate, Pakistan has managed to secure a relatively better strategic position. With modern warfare tools and a doctrine geared towards swift response, Islamabad has demonstrated resilience that has not gone unnoticed by regional and global powers.

One of the most striking geopolitical consequences has been the re-emergence of the Kashmir issue on the global stage. Often described as a "frozen conflict," Kashmir is now being viewed once again as a nuclear flashpoint with grave international ramifications. Pakistan is now in a position to reintroduce the matter at major global forums with renewed urgency and legitimacy.

The conflict also showcased the evolving technological landscape of warfare. Chinese weaponry and electronic warfare systems proved their mettle, tilting the strategic advantage towards those aligned with Beijing.

On the other hand, the myth of Israeli technological invincibility has also been challenged. Several Israeli-origin systems failed to perform under real battle conditions, leading to broader implications for Middle Eastern geopolitics. Pakistan's effective neutralization of these technologies is likely to be studied by several states seeking alternatives to Western defense suppliers.

Furthermore, the unipolar world order-dominated by the United States is now visibly giving way to a multipolar or at least bipolar configuration. The conflict laid bare the vulnerabilities of Western-supplied weapon systems and cast doubt over the long-held belief in their absolute superiority. For the first time in decades, China emerged not just as a regional heavyweight, but as a global military peer to the United States.

In this new world order, Pakistan is poised to play a central role in the China-led bloc. The partnership between Islamabad and Beijing has evolved from economic cooperation to strategic synchronization. As the global South reorients itself, Pakistan's position at the crossroads of Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East becomes increasingly important.

India's attempts to project itself as the sole guardian of the Indian Ocean have also come under scrutiny. The conflict has exposed the gaps in India's maritime doctrine and its inability to guarantee security in its own backyard, let alone project power in the wider Indo-Pacific.

Just days before the war, the international community appeared firmly aligned with India. Today, the geopolitical map tells a different story. American dreams of positioning India as a counterweight to China may now be revisited. Pakistan's role in this changing landscape has been reaffirmed no longer a peripheral player, but a pivotal state in shaping the future of the region.

War and the media's credibility

Dr. Jamal Ud Din

INTERNATIONAL concerns were raised by the recent conflict between India and Pakistan, nuclear neighbors, especially after Pakistan retaliated against India for its aggression, which was planned for Modi Sarkar's political agenda. Contacts from leaderships of different countries, including the US and Saudi Arabia, convinced both sides to announce a complete ceasefire, but the India that put its nation into "Boiling Frog Syndrome" will possibly continue its blame games in the future to satisfy its political agendas. What would be the broader outcomes of this standoff in the context of regional politics in South Asia? It will probably be cleared soon, but here we examine the overall prevailing situation in theoretical perspectives relating to political communication. We would refer to "the media debate" as the CNN effect, a theory that examines the effects of "real-time" coverage, in reference to the round-the-clock news coverage of the war in both countries' media and in the global media generally.

What we have observed till now and have been seeing on media screens indicates the dominance of 'war journalism'; however, there is a visible distinction between Pakistani TV channels and Indian ones in terms of presentation and verification of news. Though there is 'a war-laden tone' in the presentation of news relating to the developing or changing scenario in Pakistani media too, this tone is much higher in the Indian media that is

aimed at influencing public opinions in favor of war. The war, which will, no doubt, bring destruction for people on both sides of the line of control, has unfortunately been glorified by some of the Indian media outlets.

The "hasty" statements, issued without any probe or initial inquiry, made by Indian officials, both military and civilian,

This attack was more obviously a security lapse on the part of the Indian government. Talking in the context of the theoretical framework of Pier Robinson's policy-media interaction model, journalists in India have a general mistrust of the government, as evidenced by the fact that one TV channel was forced to issue a public apology for broadcasting some misleading information that government officials had provided them. This suggests that the way the Indian government is responding to the current circumstances has produced a climate of distrust and "uncertainty," making it hard for "the value-laden" professional journalists to have trust in official sources. They, however, perform their journalistic responsibilities in the environment of a "constructed" certainty, which forces them to support the government's narrative even when it may call into doubt their organizational and professional legitimacy. At the expense of credibility and professional obligations, the media, especially some of the private Indian TV channels, are promoting "the black propaganda of their government." On the other side, Pakistani media is handling the situation more responsibly as compared to Indian media, but there is still a need for more responsible journalism on both sides of the LoC-providing opportunities for 'voices of peace' to get proper space.

accusing Pakistan of being responsible for the Pahalgam attack that killed 26 tourists in Indian-held Jammu and Kashmir on April 22, 2025, appear to be the source of the sentiments of war glorification in Indian media.

This attack was more obviously a security lapse on the part of the Indian government. Talking in the context of the theoretical framework of Pier Robinson's policy-media interaction model, journalists in India have a general mistrust of the government, as evidenced by the fact that one TV

channel was forced to issue a public apology for broadcasting some misleading information that government officials had provided them.

This suggests that the way the Indian government is responding to the current circumstances has produced a climate of distrust and "uncertainty," making it hard for "the value-laden" professional

journalists to have trust in official sources. They, however, perform their journalistic responsibilities in the environment of a "constructed" certainty, which forces them to support the government's narrative even when it may call into doubt their organizational and professional legitimacy. At the expense of credibility and professional obligations, the media, especially some of the private Indian TV channels, are promoting "the black propaganda of their government." On the other side, Pakistani media is handling the situation more responsibly as compared to Indian media, but there is still a need for more responsible journalism on both sides of the LoC-providing opportunities for 'voices of peace' to get proper space.

journalists to have trust in official sources. They, however, perform their journalistic responsibilities in the environment of a "constructed" certainty, which forces them to support the government's narrative even when it may call into doubt their organizational and professional legitimacy. At the expense of credibility and professional obligations, the media, especially some of the private Indian TV channels, are promoting "the black propaganda of their government."

On the other side, Pakistani media is handling the situation more responsibly as compared to Indian media, but there is still a need for more responsible journalism on both sides of the LoC-providing opportunities for 'voices of peace' to get proper space.

dling the situation more responsibly as compared to Indian media, but there is still a need for more responsible journalism on both sides of the LoC-providing opportunities for 'voices of peace' to get proper space.

What we will call this is peace journalism-Johan Galtung's theory of non-violence and conflict resolution (Galtung, 1969). In 2010, Jake Lynch and Johan Galtung expanded on the idea of peace journalism and contended that the media, particularly war reporting, is primarily biased in favor of violence and operates under the conceptual premise that "conflict" is equal to "war." This viewpoint was deemed problematic in the field of peace journalism (Lynch and Galtung, 2010; Lynch and McGoldrick, 2005) because it does not allow conflict to be viewed as an opportunity to find a new agreement between the parties involved.

In the context of this broader notion of peace journalism, it is a time for media, particularly for Indian media, where news content is framed more aggressively, to turn both their tone and frames softer to contribute to peace rather than glorifying war in the nuclear region. Promoting peace opportunities is a test case, now, for Pak-Indian media that will have to 'index' the elites' debate around the ongoing war in a way to promote the official stances of their respective governments on one side and to create space for peace measures on the other side.

Writer is Assistant Professor, Media & Communication Studies, University of Swat and can be reached at jamaluddin@uswat.edu.pk

India tried to project strength but ended up showing weakness

Yousuf Nazar

ON May 10, United States President Donald Trump announced a "full and immediate" ceasefire between India and Pakistan brokered by his administration. US media reported that, alarmed by intelligence signalling further escalation, Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles drove urgent mediation. Vance warned Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi of catastrophic risks and encouraged direct talks between India and Pakistan.

The announcement of the ceasefire was received across the world with a sigh of relief. The spectre of a nuclear exchange, which according to one 2019 study could kill up to 125 million people in less than a week, had fuelled regional anxiety and spurred the US diplomatic frenzy.

In India, however, Trump's announcement was seen differently in some quarters. Former Indian army chief Ved Prakash Malik posted on X: "Ceasefire 10 May 25: We have left India's future history to ask what politico-strategic advantages, if any, were gained after its kinetic and non-kinetic actions." MP Asaduddin Owaisi wrote on the same platform: "I wish our PM @narendramodi had announced the ceasefire rather than the President of a foreign country. We have always been opposed to third party intervention since Simla (1972). Why have we now accepted it? I hope the Kashmir issue will not be internationalised, as it is our internal matter."

The latter comment likely refers to Trump's statement that he is willing to work with India and Pakistan "to see if, after a 'thousand years,' a solution can be arrived at criticised the government's foreign policy for encouraging China-Pakistan rapprochement. Their warnings remained unheeded in New Delhi.

The events of the past few days exposed India's strategic limits, replacing ambiguity with global scrutiny.

The kneejerk reaction in New Delhi may be to increase the defence budget and deepen even further the militarisation of Kashmir.

As the Indian government plans its next steps, it should do well to consider that the status quo of shadow war and the cycle of covert aggression fuelling unrest is untenable. Both nations' intelligence agencies have long backed proxies, driving instability from Kashmir to Afghanistan.

The path forward rests on New Delhi and Islamabad making wise choices. Restraint, not rhetoric, should shape policies moving forward. Failure to do so risks geopolitical turmoil, economic stagnation and hardship for millions. Home to a quarter of the world's poorest people and more than 350 million illiterate adults, India and Pakistan cannot afford prolonged strife. Continued tensions could derail India's growth and cripple Pakistan's fragile economy, dwarfing any tactical gains.

casualties, including children, while India insisted only terrorist sites were hit.

Pakistan's air force scrambled its own jets to deflect the attack and claimed it downed five Indian jets, including three Rafales. Two US officials confirmed to the Reuters news agency that a Chinese-made J-10 jet shot down at least two Indian planes, aided by Chinese intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) support. India has not acknowledged any losses.

India media initially claimed devastating strikes on Pakistani cities, including Karachi's seaport, but these reports, which were clearly part of propaganda efforts, were proven false.

On May 9, India launched missile attacks on Pakistani bases, including one near Islamabad, Pakistan claimed. The Pakistani army retaliated with short-range missile and drone strikes targeting Indian airbases at Udhampur, Pathankot, Adampur and Bhuj. Indian air force officer Vyomika Singh reported Pakistani drones and munitions hit civilian and military targets.

India's image as a regional hegemon frayed. The Indian government clearly overestimated its Rafale jets and underestimated Pakistan's Chinese-backed ISR systems, which enhanced battlefield precision.

China's military support for Pakistan has increased significantly in recent years. Since 2020, it has accounted for 81 percent of Islamabad's military imports.

For years, some Indian defence analysts warned that India's military was unprepared for a China-supported Pakistan, given its limited US or Russian backing for its high-risk Kashmir gamble. Others criticised the government's foreign policy for encouraging China-Pakistan rapprochement. Their warnings remained unheeded in New Delhi.

The events of the past few days exposed India's strategic limits, replacing ambiguity with global scrutiny. The kneejerk reaction in New Delhi may be to increase the defence budget and deepen even further the militarisation of Kashmir. As the Indian government plans its next steps, it should do well to consider that the status quo of shadow war and the cycle of covert aggression fuelling unrest is untenable. Both nations' intelligence agencies have long backed proxies, driving instability from Kashmir to Afghanistan. The path forward rests on New Delhi and Islamabad making wise choices. Restraint, not rhetoric, should shape policies moving forward. Failure to do so risks geopolitical turmoil, economic stagnation and hardship for millions. Home to a quarter of the world's poorest people and more than 350 million illiterate adults, India and Pakistan cannot afford prolonged strife. Continued tensions could derail India's growth and cripple Pakistan's fragile economy, dwarfing any tactical gains.

The kneejerk reaction in New Delhi may be to increase the defence budget and deepen even further the militarisation of Kashmir. As the Indian government plans its next steps, it should do well to consider that the status quo of shadow war and the cycle of covert aggression fuelling unrest is untenable. Both nations' intelligence agencies have long backed proxies, driving instability from Kashmir to Afghanistan. The path forward rests on New Delhi and Islamabad making wise choices. Restraint, not rhetoric, should shape policies moving forward. Failure to do so risks geopolitical turmoil, economic stagnation and hardship for millions. Home to a quarter of the world's poorest people and more than 350 million illiterate adults, India and Pakistan cannot afford prolonged strife. Continued tensions could derail India's growth and cripple Pakistan's fragile economy, dwarfing any tactical gains.

The kneejerk reaction in New Delhi may be to increase the defence budget and deepen even further the militarisation of Kashmir. As the Indian government plans its next steps, it should do well to consider that the status quo of shadow war and the cycle of covert aggression fuelling unrest is untenable. Both nations' intelligence agencies have long backed proxies, driving instability from Kashmir to Afghanistan. The path forward rests on New Delhi and Islamabad making wise choices. Restraint, not rhetoric, should shape policies moving forward. Failure to do so risks geopolitical turmoil, economic stagnation and hardship for millions. Home to a quarter of the world's poorest people and more than 350 million illiterate adults, India and Pakistan cannot afford prolonged strife. Continued tensions could derail India's growth and cripple Pakistan's fragile economy, dwarfing any tactical gains.

The kneejerk reaction in New Delhi may be to increase the defence budget and deepen even further the militarisation of Kashmir. As the Indian government plans its next steps, it should do well to consider that the status quo of shadow war and the cycle of covert aggression fuelling unrest is untenable. Both nations' intelligence agencies have long backed proxies, driving instability from Kashmir to Afghanistan. The path forward rests on New Delhi and Islamabad making wise choices. Restraint, not rhetoric, should shape policies moving forward. Failure to do so risks geopolitical turmoil, economic stagnation and hardship for millions. Home to a quarter of the world's poorest people and more than 350 million illiterate adults, India and Pakistan cannot afford prolonged strife. Continued tensions could derail India's growth and cripple Pakistan's fragile economy, dwarfing any tactical gains.

# A new era of US-Middle East grand strategy

— Any negotiation, at any time, can be blown up by Trump's unorthodox and

— More than three months into Trump's sec-

The tariff reductions from the US-China trade talks will last 90 days to begin with as further talks on rebalancing trade continue. A 30% tariff should be sufficient to allow the resumption of commerce between the two giant

— CNN

In regional policy, the US leader has remained clear-eyed, and impatient with rigid bureaucracy. He wants real, immediate change, not decades of incremental steps that often lead nowhere. One major obstacle to US interests in the region has long been the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While the US has maintained strong relations

Yet Netanyahu responded with four major problems: no flexibility on Gaza, constant pressure to push the US into a war with Iran, reckless military adventures in Syria, and alleged interference in US political affairs. From Trump's perspective, the Israeli leader took every

its neighbors.

In the end, that will not only protect American interests, but also safeguard Israel's future by saving it from the dangerous path charted by leaders like Netanyahu.

We, Christians in the Holy Land, hope that Pope Leo XIV will not only come to visit us but

One of the main issues is the instability that fuels

Economic deterioration and the declining number of people coming for pilgrimage in the Holy Land due to the conflict are leading to a loss of livelihood and worsening socioeconomic conditions.

We welcome these statements and hope he will continue to do his

In Israel, there is a pressing need for cooperation between the Holy See and the local church — bishops, priests, and

It is also essential to work towards resolving painful issues that have negatively impacted the Christian presence, such as the case of the vil-

Many Christians of the Holy Land also hope that Pope Leo XIV will work to enhance unity among them, including efforts to reach a unified date for major religious holidays, especially Christmas and Easter. They also call for increased joint efforts among churches to organise pilgrimages to the Holy Land that

In the Holy Land Christians have prayed — and continue to pray — for his success in his mission, fully aware of how complex it is. But above all, the children need their father — and that is what they expect the most: that he will always stand by their side, despite how busy he might be.

Rising religious and political extremism makes many of us feel like strangers in our own

Many local Christians want the Holy See to engage with key global and regional players to achieve a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In his last sermon, Pope Francis spoke about the urgent need for peace in Gaza. In his first ser-

In Palestine, the situation remains unclear due to the Israeli occupation of all territories meant to form a Palestinian state. The ongoing war in Gaza and the limited authority of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank — not to mention Israel's full annexation of East Jerusalem. This reality calls for thoughtful action by the Church both at the level of the

Christians hope that the Holy See can collaborate with us in our efforts to achieve equality. We, as a community, face Israeli laws that discriminate against us.

There is also a need for stronger intervention by the Holy See to support Christian institu-



Historic success of Operation Bunyan-al-Marsoos:

## SCCI pays tribute to Pak Armed forces

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: Leadership and senior office bearers of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry paid rich tribute to Pakistan Armed forces over “the historic success” of Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos.

SCCI pledged unwavering support for the country’s armed forces, hailing their crucial role in restoring peace and paving the way for economic rejuvenation.

These remarks were given by Fazal Moqem Khan, president, Abdul Jalil Jan, senior vice president, Shehryar Khan, vice president along with top leadership and members of the executive committee of the

Sarhad Chamber in a joint statement issued here on Monday.

The SCCI leadership greeted Pakistan Army on its historic and heroic achievement and said that the entire business community of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa stands shoulder to shoulder with the brave sons of the soil who have once again demonstrated unyielding courage and unmatched sacrifice in the face of aggression.

Fazal Moqem said the Pakistan Army thwarted the evil intentions and malicious designs of the enemy. “We salute and pay tribute to the Pakistan Armed Forces,

“This is a victory for the

Armed forces, a powerful reaffirmation of our national spirit, our unity, and our resilience,” SCCI chief declared.

“The KP business community is proud of our armed forces and will continue to mobilize every possible support — moral, financial, and logistical — to ensure that our defenders never stand alone.”

The SCCI president remarked: “The economic prosperity we seek can only exist in a secure Pakistan.

Our soldiers are fighting on the borders so we can flourish in the markets. We stand with them.”

Fazal Moqem emphasized that this victory should not be mistaken as

the end of vigilance.

“While we celebrate, we remain alert. Our enemies are persistent.

But this war has proven, once again, that Pakistan is an impregnable fortress.

The business community stands with every soldier, every martyr, and every family who has contributed to this victory.”

The SCCI chief concluded with prayers for the safety of the armed forces and for the continued unity of the nation.

“May Allah protect our soldiers, bless our nation with everlasting peace, and elevate the ranks of our martyrs. Pakistan Army Zindabad — Pakistan Pindabad!”

## IMARAT Group of Companies celebrates Pakistan’s victory



**F.P. Report**

KARACHI: IMARAT Group of Companies organized grand celebrations and rallies across Pakistan to mark the nation’s victory and express solidarity with the Pakistan Armed Forces. These prestigious events were held at all offices of the IMARAT Group’s subsidiaries, including Graana.com, Agency 21, and other entities, across the country. Thousands of employees from the IMARAT Group participated with immense enthusiasm, reaffirming their steadfast commitment to safeguarding Pakistan’s sovereignty, national security, and honoring the unparalleled sacrifices of the Pakistan Armed Forces.

On this momentous occasion of national victo-

ry, flag-hoisting ceremonies were held at IMARAT Group offices in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta, Faisalabad, Multan, and other cities. During these events, employees collectively raised the green crescent flag, a symbol of Pakistan’s honor, dignity, and unity. The atmosphere resonated with patriotic songs, while cake-cutting ceremonies added vibrancy to the celebrations. Employees and citizens joined hands to pray for the nation’s progress, peace, and stability.

IMARAT Group also organized large-scale rallies in urban centers, attended by thousands of employees and citizens. Participants waved the national flag and chanted slogans in praise of

Pakistan’s sovereignty and the bravery of its armed forces. The rallies were a vibrant spectacle, with waves of green crescent flags and echoes of love for the homeland filling the air. These rallies not only highlighted national unity but also underscored the deep bond between the Pakistani nation and its armed forces.

In his address, Shafiq Akbar, Chairman of IMARAT Group, stated: “Today is a golden chapter in Pakistan’s history. This day not only symbolizes our national victory but also narrates the story of our armed forces’ bravery, sacrifices, and resolve. IMARAT Group of Companies has always been committed to Pakistan’s progress and prosperity, and today we stand shoulder to shoulder

with our armed forces. This celebration is not merely a moment of joy for our victory but an opportunity to renew our collective pledge as a nation to take Pakistan to new heights of peace, progress, and stability.”

IMARAT Group of Companies plays a prominent role in Pakistan’s economic and social sectors. Graana.com has revolutionized the real estate industry by promoting innovation and transparency, while Agency 21 has earned the trust of consumers through reliable property market services. Other companies under the IMARAT Group are also contributing to Pakistan’s development in various sectors. Through these events, the IMARAT Group not only celebrated the national victory but also strengthened the spirit of patriotism among its employees and citizens.

IMARAT employees reaffirmed their commitment to promoting national unity and building a prosperous future for Pakistan. Speeches paid tribute to Pakistan’s history, culture, and the valor of its armed forces, while encouraging the youth to step forward in service of the nation. IMARAT Group emphasized that it will continue to lead not only in the business arena but also in fulfilling its social and national responsibilities.

## Meezan Bank held heartfelt event



**F.P. Report**

KARACHI: Meezan Bank held a heartfelt event at its Head Office in Karachi on Monday to honor the bravery of our Armed Forces in defending our homeland and to offer a Dua-e Shukar and to pray for peace and

prosperity in the region. The national anthem was also recited, symbolizing our shared pride and unwavering commitment to Pakistan.

The event was attended by more than 3,000 staff stationed at Meezan Bank’s Head Office, including the

Bank’s senior management, and featured speeches by the Bank’s President & CEO Mr. Irfan Siddiqui and DCEO - Syed Amir Ali. They emphasized that Pakistan is a peace-loving nation, and that our Armed Forces embody the values of courage, discipline, and

national pride.

With hearts full of gratitude, we salute our heroes and pray to Allah Almighty for continued peace and progress for our beloved homeland.

## Rupee gains 14 paise against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Rupee on Monday appreciated by 14 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.56 against the previous day’s closing of Rs 281.70. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 282.00 and Rs 283.50, respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by Rs4.19 to close at Rs 312.86 against the last day’s closing of Rs 317.05, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen came down by 04 paise and closed at Rs 1.90, whereas a decrease of Rs2.59 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 371.07 as compared to the last day’s closing of Rs 373.66. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 04 paise each to close at Rs 76.65 and Rs 75.06, respectively.



ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb virtually engaging with Ms. Johana Chua, Head of Emerging Markets Economies at Citigroup and members of investment community regarding Pakistan’s economic reforms and growth outlook.

## PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 10,123 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a bullish trend on Monday, gaining 10,123.09 points, a positive change of 9.45 percent, closing at 117,297.73 points as compared to 107,174.64 points on the last trading day.

A total of 732,877,141 shares were traded during the day as compared to 516,295,988 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 30,382 billion against Rs 28,841 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 462 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 405 of them recorded gains and 26 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 31 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 114,464,625 shares at Rs 4.56 per share, At-Tahur Limited with 75,910,160 shares at Rs 44.01 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 66,038,361 shares at Rs 1.32 per share.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 904.44 per share closing at Rs 22,877.32 whereas runner-up was PIA Holding Company LimitedB with Rs 773.52 rise in its share price to close at Rs 8,508.75.

Premium Textile Mills Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 9.89 per share price, closing at Rs 390.11, whereas the runner-up Sapphire Textile Mills Limited with Rs 9.43 decline in its per share price to Rs 1,067.27.

## vivo Y29 launches in Pakistan

**F.P. Report**

LAHORE: vivo, a leading global technology brand, has officially launched the vivo Y29 in Pakistan, the latest addition to its innovative and youth-focused Y series. Designed to meet the evolving needs of modern users, the Y29 offers a compelling mix of stylish design, durable construction, and exceptional battery life, delivering outstanding value in its price segment.

With its premium Metallic High-Gloss Frame, the vivo Y29 is available in two stunning colors, Noble Brown and Elegant White. The slightly curved backplate, enhanced by a soft 3D shape, offers a comfortable grip and sophisticated look. The rear camera module is accentuated with Dynamic Light, adding not only aesthetic charm but also interactive functionality such

as music sync, call alerts, and photo countdowns. The device also includes an Infrared Remote Control, allowing users to manage home appliances like TVs, ACs, and projectors with ease, a thoughtful feature for tech-savvy households in Pakistan.

A major highlight of the vivo Y29 is its massive 6500mAh battery, one of the largest in its class. Backed by vivo’s BlueVolt Technology, the device guarantees long-lasting usage ideal for extended browsing, gaming, and video streaming sessions. It also supports 44W FlashCharge for quick recharging and up to 4800 mAh reverse charging via a Type-C to Type-C cable, useful for powering up secondary devices. Features like Emergency Power Saving Mode and a five-year battery durability guarantee further cement its reliability in

daily life.

Built for real-world durability, the Y29 comes with Anti-Drop Armor Design and Schott® Glass, making it more resistant to falls and external impact. It also features comprehensive dust and water resistance; the device always remains protected and functional.

Performance-wise, the vivo Y29 runs on the Qualcomm Snapdragon® 685 processor, combined with 8GB RAM + 8GB Extended RAM and up to 128GB storage, ensuring smooth multitasking across social media apps, gaming, and productivity tools. The 120Hz high refresh rate display, 1000 nits’ peak brightness, and TÜV Rheinland Low Blue Light Certification offer an immersive, eye-friendly viewing experience, especially useful for long study sessions, video calls, and scrolling under bright sunlight.

## Saad receive award



**F.P. Report**

KARACHI: Saad Z. Usmani a graduate of the Allama Iqbal Medical College Lahore, working with the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center New York, USA, brings honors for Pakistan by becoming the first recipient of “The Giants of Cancer Care Award” given by OncoLive, the leading multimedia resource for oncology professionals. He receives this award for his work on Myeloma, a type of blood cancer. The recipients are mentioned as “extraordinary leaders not only advancing science but rewriting the future for patients and families affected by cancer” said Mike Hennessy Jr., President & CEO of MJ Life Sciences. The Giants of Cancer

Care program honors and celebrates the accomplishments of leading researchers and educators whose discoveries have propelled the field and set the groundwork for future advancements. A selection committee of more than 115 esteemed oncologists choose honorees from a range of tumor types and specialized categories. The inductees have been selected by their peers for their remarkable achievements in oncology research and clinical practice.

Dr. Saad Z. Usmani has to his credit a number of research papers published on the subject and a speaker in conferences and workshops, globally. He has also been actively participating as a runner in 6 major marathons for raising funds

## Gold prices decrease Rs10,400 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed a decrease of Rs.10,400 on Monday and was sold at Rs.340,500 against its sale at Rs.350,900 on the previous trading day, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported.

### Lost Passport

I lost my original passport # B16978183 in the name of Akkash Haider S/o Akhtar ali R/o mohalla Fatumandi, dabgari, Peshawar. If someone found please contact 03219080825

### اطلاع نام

اکی اساتذہ شریک بڑھو جب اللہ خان حاجت اللہ خان حبیب اللہ خان آصف اللہ خان باکشت اللہ خان پیران مہناز بٹو نے بہت فاضل ترین عزیز خان عثمانی کے نامی سرکاری درخاست کردی ہے کہ اگر آپ عزیز خان ملہ کو ایوب خان جوگر بنو ہاں شیب میں رہا کی پاپٹ بہر 204 کلک 10 ہر کے مالک تھے بقائے نامی اوقات ہو گئے ہیں درخاست و حذر حتمی اس وقت کو درخاست ہے لہذا بات دکرہ اسکے نام اصل کیا جائے چنگ درخاست حذر کے نام کی اس قدر میں اور دیگر درخاست کے پاپٹ حذر اس کے حساب میں کے پاپٹ ملہ مشتر کیا جائے کہ کو دیگر درخاست کے حساب میں کوئی اعتراض ہو تو درخاست (15) ہاں اس درخاست نامی ملہ کی طرف سے بھی کوئی کسے ورنہ پاپٹ دکرہ درخاست حذر کے نام کل کر دیا جائے۔ باہر ملک اشران 0928-633013 پر ہاں ہاں

# Obesity termed ‘mother of all non-communicable diseases’ — 80% Pakistanis have excessive waistlines, experts warn

**F.P. Report**

KARACHI: Calling obesity the “mother of all non-communicable diseases,” leading health experts on Monday warned that a vast majority of Pakistan’s population has excessive waist circumference, placing them in the overweight or obese category. They said the condition is silently fueling a national health crisis-causing early deaths in men, infertility in women, and long-term complications in children.

Speaking at a news briefing during a screening and awareness camp organized by the Karachi Press Club’s Health Committee in collaboration with Getz Pharma, Dr. Asma Ahmed, an endocrinologist at Aga Khan University Hospital, cited survey data showing that 35 percent of women and 28 percent of children in Pakistan are obese, while over four out of five adults have unhealthy waist sizes.

She stressed that obesity must be

recognized as a disease in itself, not merely a lifestyle issue, as it directly contributes to hypertension, diabetes, infertility, and organ damage.

Dr. Asma highlighted that sedentary lifestyles among children-dominated by screen time, junk food, and late-night routines-are leading to rising obesity. “We are raising a generation that is both obese and malnourished,” she warned. She also pointed out that many people remain unaware they have high blood pressure, and that untreated hypertension-often linked to obesity-is causing damage to kidneys, hearts, and brains.

“Infertility in women is rising, and in many cases, the underlying issue is weight gain and hormonal imbalance,” she said and urged families to shift toward home-cooked meals and cut back on processed foods.

“Sudden lifestyle changes like sleeping late, lack of physical activity, and fast food consumption are pushing people toward a health disaster,” she said. Dr. Nazish Butt, head

of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), echoed the concern, saying obesity must be treated as a serious disease that leads to others like diabetes, cholesterol, heart disease, and stroke. “People have stopped exercising. In Karachi, we’re seeing rising obesity among women and children due to sedentary lifestyles and increased use of junk and frozen foods,” she said.

She warned that habits like staying up late and excessive screen time are worsening the crisis. “We must push for lifestyle reform at the community level and get people moving again,” she emphasized.

The camp at Karachi Press Club provided free screening and consultations for members and their families. KPC Joint Secretary Muhammad Munisif, Health Committee Secretary Hamid-ur-Rehman, and Getz Pharma representatives including Mikail Soomro, Agha Sadiq, Dr. Wajiha Javed, and Head of Public Health

Kashif Amin were also present.

Dr. Wajiha Javed, Public Health Expert at Getz Pharma, said the Pak Sehat baseline demographic survey-the first mini Framingham study and biobank of the South Asian population-revealed that over 80 percent of women and 70 percent of men in Pakistan are obese. “Around 50 percent of adults have hypertension, and one in three is diabetic,” she said.

To address undiagnosed hypertension and the lack of a standardized treatment plan, she announced a three-year national initiative titled PREACH, launched by Getz Pharma.

“The program involves screening by private community health workers, creating disease awareness, and building referral pathways to trained healthcare professionals,” she explained. She noted that obesity has emerged as a major metabolic disorder in the South Asian population.

“Medications like semaglutide and tirzepatide have been introduced in Pakistan and can support lifestyle



change for patients with a BMI over 30, or over 27 with a related condition like diabetes or hypertension,” she said.

Dr. Wajiha added that Getz Pharma, under its Med One umbrella, is committed to working with healthcare stakeholders to promote disease

awareness and screening.

Other health experts warned that obesity is no longer just a personal health issue-it has become a national crisis. Tackling it requires urgent public awareness, early screening, and a cultural shift toward healthier living.



## In brief

## Tennis c'ship rescheduled

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Tennis Association (ITA) has announced new dates for the 37th OGDCL Federal Cup National Ranking Tennis Championships, following the recent ceasefire between Pakistan and India on 10 May. According to a press release, the tournament, which was postponed due to rising tensions and conflict between the two countries, will now take place from 17 to 24 May 2025. Matches will be held at the PTF-SDA Tennis Complex located on Garden Avenue in Islamabad. The ITA expressed relief at the return of peace and said it looks forward to welcoming players and fans back to the courts for one of the country's most prestigious tennis events.

## Athapathu fined for breaching CoC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu has been fined 10 per cent of her match fee for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the Women's Tri-series match against South Africa in Colombo on Friday. Athapaththu was found to have breached Article 2.2 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during an International Match." In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to Athapaththu's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period, said a press release. The incident occurred in the 32nd over of South Africa's innings, when after being hit for a four by Annerie Dercksen, Athapaththu took off her sunglasses and smashed them to the ground, breaking them into several pieces. Athapaththu admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Michelle Pereira of the Emirates ICC International Panel of Match Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing. On-field umpires Anna Harris and Dedunu de Silva, third umpire Lyndon Hannibal and fourth umpire Nimali Perera levelled the charge. Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points.

## Afridi responds to Kohli's retirement

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi has paid tribute to Virat Kohli following the Indian batting icon's retirement from Test cricket, hailing his contribution to the game's longest format. Taking to Instagram, Afridi wrote: "Congratulations on a remarkable career @imVkohli. Your passion, intensity and professionalism set new standards in Test cricket." "The purist format will miss your presence and competitive spirit," he added. Afridi's message came in response to Kohli's announcement to step away from Test cricket. The 36-year-old Indian batter, who debuted in 2011, ends his red-ball career with 9,230 runs and 30 centuries in 123 matches, averaging 46.85. Kohli confirmed the decision via Instagram, calling Test cricket a format that tested and shaped him. "It's not easy — but it feels right," he wrote. "There's something deeply personal about playing in whites. The quiet grind, the long days, the small moments that no one sees but that stay with you forever."

## India great Kohli retires from Test cricket

NEW DELHI (Agencies): Legendary India batter Virat Kohli has announced his immediate retirement from Test cricket.

His decision comes before this summer's five-Test tour of England, which starts on 20 June, and follows captain Rohit Sharma's retirement on Wednesday.

Kohli, 36, has played 123 Tests for India and scored 9,230 runs at an average of 46.85.

"It's been 14 years since I first wore the baggy blue in Test cricket," Kohli posted on social media.

"Honestly, I never imagined the journey this format would take me on. It's tested me, shaped me, and taught me lessons I'll carry for life."

Kohli retired from T20 internationals in 2024, after India's World Cup victory, but is expected to continue playing one-day internationals.

After making his Test debut against West Indies in 2011, Kohli went on to captain India in 68 of his Tests, with his 40 wins in charge making him the country's most successful leader in the format.

"There's something deeply personal about



playing in whites. The quiet grind, the long days, the small moments that no-one sees but that stay with you forever," he added.

"As I step away from this format, it's not easy — but it feels right. I've given it everything I had, and it's given me back so much more than I could've hoped for.

"I'm walking away with a heart full of gratitude — for the game, for the people I shared the field with,

and for every single person who made me feel seen along the way. I'll always look back at my Test career with a smile."

India cricket's governing body, the BCCI, praised Kohli for "redefining the standards of excellence, leadership and commitment in Indian cricket".

BCCI president Roger Binny added: "Virat Kohli's name will be remembered alongside the finest ever to have graced Test cricket.

"What set him apart was not just his hunger for runs, but his commitment to excellence in the toughest format of the game. His leadership marked a shift in how India competed overseas—with aggression, belief and a refusal to settle for second best.

"He inspired a generation to take pride in the whites, and his impact on Indian cricket will be felt for decades to come."

Kohli has long been regarded as one of the four batting greats of his era, alongside England's Joe Root, Australia's Steve Smith and New Zealand's Kane Williamson, and has scored 30 Test centuries.

Only Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Sunil Gavaskar have scored more Test runs for India than Kohli, while he has the most centuries for an India captain with 20.

But his most recent Test ton, 100 not out in the first Test against Australia in November, was his first in 15 innings across 16 months. During that series, he scored 190 runs in nine innings averaging just 23.75. Only three tons have come in 39 Tests since January 2020. He averages 30.72 in that time.

## Sehrish Ali wins USA Junior Women's Gold Squash C'ship

PESHAWAR (APP): Sehrish Ali from Peshawar has made Pakistan proud by winning the USA Junior Women's Gold Squash Championship.

In a remarkable Ali-Sisters final held in New York, Sehrish Ali defeated her sister, top seed Mahnoor Ali, in straight sets (3-0) in the Girls Under-15 category.

Mahnoor had earlier cruised past Helles Sweet M of the USA with a 3-0 victory in the semi-final, while Sehrish secured her place in the final after overcoming Julie Yee 3-1 in a competitive match.

The Ali Sisters have been making waves in international women's squash. Previously, they stunned the global squash community with their impressive performances at the Australian Junior Women's Squash Championship in Melbourne.

Mahnoor clinched the gold medal in the Under-13 event, Sehrish secured a silver in the Under-15 final, and their eldest sister, Mehwish Ali, brought home gold in the Under-17 category.

The success of the Ali Sisters continues to shine a spotlight on Pakistan's rising talent in the global squash arena.

## PCB's domestic cricket events resume after short halt

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced the resumption of men's domestic cricket events following a brief postponement due to the prevailing security situation in the country.

Starting today, the Regional Intra-District Challenge Cup and Inter-

District U19 One-Day Tournament are back in action, ensuring competitive cricket continues at the grassroots level. Additionally, the President's Trophy Grade II, which was also affected by the postponement, will restart from 14 May.

The quarter-finals of the tournament will be played from 19 to 21 May, while the semi-finals will take place from 24 to 26 May.

The final of the tournament will be held from 28 to 31 May.

The PCB remains committed to fostering domestic cricket and providing opportunities for players to showcase their talent at various levels, it added.

## Conquerors tops points table of Women's T20

ISLAMABAD (APP): The five-team National Women's T20 Tournament 2024-25 is underway at two venues in Karachi and after the completion of eight matches, Fatima Sana's Conquerors are sitting on top of the points table with three wins out of three games.

The 22-match tournament will see a total of 10 rounds consisting of double headers, followed by a Qualifier between second and third positioned teams and then the final on May 24 at the National Bank Stadium, said a press release.

Sidra Amin-led Stars are second on the table with two wins out of three games as their solitary

loss came against Challengers.

The Challengers, placed third, have one win to their name after three outings as their recent most game went right down to wire against Muneeba Ali-led Invincibles, who registered their first triumph in four matches.

Strikers too have one win in the bag in three matches but are placed fifth due to net run-rate. Fatima Sana is leading the batting charts with 173 runs, which include two brilliant half-centuries (85 not out & 88) batting at no.5 for Conquerors in the first two games. Sidra Amin (171) and Muneeba Ali (162) are placed second and third.

With the ball, Stars' right-arm leg spinner Tuba Hassan is joint leading wicket taker with Invincibles Saima Malik as the duo have snapped seven scalps each. Rameen Shamim, Waheeda Akhtar, Zaib-un-Nisa Niaz and Omaira Sohail have five wickets each to their name.

Among the wicket-keepers Sidra Nawaz has the most (7) dismissals, followed by Muneeba Ali (5) and Najiha Alvi (3). In the field, Ayesha Zafar, Nashra Sundhu, Shawal Zulfikar and Syeda Aroob Shah have taken three catches each.

The round five and six are set to be staged on May 13 and 14, respectively.

## Ancelotti to leave Real Madrid for Brazil job

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP): Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti will leave the club at the end of the season to take charge of the Brazil national team, the Brazilian football federation (CBF) announced Monday.

The 65-year-old Italian will become Brazil's first foreign coach, with Xabi Alonso set to be appointed as the new Real Madrid boss after confirming his exit from Bayer Leverkusen last week.

"The greatest national team in the history of football will now be led by the most successful coach in the world," said the CBF in a statement. "He will lead Brazil until the 2026 World Cup and will coach them in their next two qualifying matches against Ecuador and Paraguay next month."

Brazil sacked Dorival Junior after a 4-1 thrashing by Argentina in March and are fourth in the South American qualifying table for the tournament in the United States, Mexico and Canada. "Bringing Carlo Ancelotti to lead Brazil is more than a strategic move — it's a statement to the world that we are determined to regain the top spot on the podium," said CBF president Ednaldo Rodrigues. "He's the greatest coach in history and now he's in charge of the greatest team on the planet."



"Together, we will write glorious new chapters for Brazilian football." Record five-time World Cup winners Brazil last won the trophy in 2002, enduring more than two decades of disappointment since then.

Ancelotti leaves Madrid as one of the club's most successful managers, winning 15 trophies across two spells with Los Blancos, including a La Liga and Champions League double last season. In his first spell at Real Madrid he led them to La Decima in 2014 — their 10th Champions League triumph.

He has won the competition three times with Los Blancos. After being sacked in 2015 he returned six years later when Zinedine Zidane resigned to lift the trophy again in 2022 and 2024. Ancelotti has also led Chelsea, Paris Saint-Germain and Bayern Munich among other teams, including AC Milan with whom he won the Champions League twice as

a coach in 2003 and 2007.

The Italian is the coach who has won the European Cup most often, triumphing on five occasions — two more than Zidane, Pep Guardiola and Bob Paisley.

Glittering career

At Real Madrid, Ancelotti has coached Brazil stars Vinicius Junior, Rodrygo Goes and Eder Militao, as well as teenage talent Endrick. The coach will leave Madrid on May 25 after the club's final La Liga match of the season, against Real Sociedad.

Madrid are set to finish the season empty-handed after losing the Clasico at Barcelona on Sunday to fall seven points behind their league leading arch-rivals.

Ancelotti will oversee Madrid's home game against Mallorca on Wednesday and the trip to Sevilla on May 18, departing before the Club World Cup this summer in the US.

The coach has won league titles in the five major European leagues, in Spain, England, Italy, Germany and France across a 30-year managerial career. Spanish media reported Monday that Leverkusen coach Alonso is set to take over at Real Madrid on June 1, ahead of the Club World Cup. Madrid's first match is against Saudi side Al Hilal in Miami on June 18.

## Sinner eases into Italian Open last 16, Osaka dumped out

ROME (AFP): Jannik Sinner cruised into the last 16 of the Italian Open on Monday after comfortably beating lucky loser Jesper de Jong 6-4, 6-2 in front of a delighted crowd in Rome.

World number one Sinner continued his Foro Italico comeback from a three-month doping ban by dealing with De Jong and setting up a clash with Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo in the next round.

Sinner was knocked out in the last 16 by Cerundolo the last time he played here, in 2023, and he is under no illusions that the 17th seed will be a big step up after two low-ranked opponents.

"Let's see, he's an amazing player, he has an amazing season until now," said Sinner of Cerundolo.

"It's going to be tough. For sure I have to raise my level... It's going to be a good challenge, a good test for me and we'll see how it goes."

The over 10,000 fans



for 23-year-old's stated objective of arriving at the French Open in top form.

De Jong, ranked at a career-high 93rd in the world, offered some resistance in a low-key contest in which Sinner showed signs of rustiness.

Sinner threw away a three-game lead when 4-1 up in the first set before eventually going ahead in the match but he saw out the contest with little fuss, helped in part by De Jong hurting his wrist in a fall in the fourth game of the second set.

Sinner's compatriot Jasmine Paolini cruised past Jelena Ostapenko and into the women's quarter-finals, easing past her Latvian opponent in straight sets 7-5, 6-2.

Sixth seed Paolini will

face Diana Shneider in the last eight as she eyes another deep run in a 1000 series tournament after losing to world number one Aryna Sabalenka, who later takes on Marta Kostyuk, in the Miami semi-finals.

Matteo Berrettini will follow Sinner in a tough clash with sixth seed Casper Ruud, as fans hope for a hat-trick of wins on centre court for their local heroes.

Osaka out

Naomi Osaka's struggle for form at the top level continued with her 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7/4) defeat to Peyton Stearns.

In the quarter-finals

attritional match which lasted the best part of three hours on a baking centre court.

Osaka is another big name that American Stearns has beaten in Rome after also knocking out fifth seed Madison Keys in the previous round.

Former world number one Osaka has looked a long way from the player who won four Grand Slams.

She returned last year from a 15-month break from tennis for the birth of her daughter.

Her comeback was also hampered by an abdominal injury that forced her out of the Australian Open, after which early exits at Indian Wells and Madrid highlighted how far she was from her best.

Osaka warmed up for Rome by winning a minor event in Saint Malo in France earlier this month.

But she has failed to get past the last 16 of a tournament higher than the WTA 125 series since losing the Auckland final back in January.

Coco Gauff made short work of Britain's Emma Raducanu, winning 6-1, 6-2 in just over an hour to reach the last eight where one of Mirra Andreeva or Clara Tauson awaits.

## Mbappe shows fallen Real Madrid new road to riches

BARCELONA (AFP): Much of Real Madrid's season has been a balancing act and they finally fell completely off the rails on Sunday as Barcelona sped away from them on the way towards reclaiming the Spanish title.

Kylian Mbappe scored a hat-trick but the Catalans came from two-goals down to win 4-3 and the margin of victory might have been larger still, were it not for some contentious refereeing calls in the final stages in Madrid's favour.

Coach Carlo Ancelotti understood early on this season that fitting last summer's marquee arrival Mbappe and established stars Vinicius Junior, Jude Bellingham and Rodrygo Goes in the same side was going to be difficult while keeping the team stable.

After losing just twice across all competitions on the way to winning La Liga and the Champions League in 2024, this year Madrid have suffered 14 defeats — four of those against Barca — and will end up without a major trophy.

Defeat by Barcelona at the Olympic stadium on Sunday leaves them seven points behind the Catalans with three matches left to play.

That the Clasico was close at all came down to Mbappe, whose treble took

him above Robert Lewandowski to lead Spain's scoring charts with 27 league goals.

"Mbappe was the only resistance," wrote newspaper Mundo Deportivo.

"Madrid faced the Clasico with one tank and 10 tin soldiers, and Barca knocked them all down."

Mbappe's goals also made him the club's top goalscorer in a first season at Madrid with 39, beating Ivan Zamorano's record of 37 set in 1993.

"The team's flagship figure is Mbappe," wrote AS, noting that although he has not been at his personal peak this season, he has still been one of the club's best players, and "among the 'fantastic four', undoubtedly the standout".

Madrid conceded 16 goals in their four Clasico defeats by Barcelona this season, scoring seven, with Mbappe netting five of those goals.

"Changing of the guard" The French forward scored in every final Madrid played in, netting in European Super Cup and Intercontinental Cup triumphs, as well as in the Copa del Rey and Spanish Super Cup defeats.

By contrast, Vinicius and Bellingham did not score in any of the four games against Barcelona.

"The changing of the guard is real," added AS. "Heading into next season the roadmap is clear: Mbappe and 24 others."

Mbappe failed to deliver in the Champions League against Atletico Madrid and then Arsenal as Madrid were eliminated in the quarter-finals, but his hat-trick against Manchester City was the kind of display Los Blancos expected from him.

With the team built around him and a sturdier defence and midfield, Mbappe can take Madrid to the silverware they demand. "He did well," said Ancelotti of Mbappe, pleased with the way the forward got in behind Barcelona's high line, but upset at his team's woeful defending.

"It was quite obvious that we defended badly," said the Italian bluntly.

Ancelotti is set to depart at the end of the season to be replaced by Bayer Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso, who will inherit the puzzle of how to use Madrid's attacking stars effectively.

With Vinicius and Rodrygo struggling for form for months and Bellingham's first season heroics long since faded, it is evident that Mbappe will spearhead Madrid's next project.



## In brief

### IRSA releases 181,120 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 181,120 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 234,697 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1461.16 feet which was 59.16 feet higher than dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 118,900 cusecs and 82,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1143.20 feet, which was 93.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 44,700 cusecs and 28,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 127,541, 73,290, 48,069 and 14,020 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 40,600 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 11,547 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

### 23 outlaws nabbed, arms & drugs seized

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police arrested 23 suspects in the past 24 hours and registered cases against them under the ongoing crackdown on illegal weapons and narcotics, said Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Muhammad Jawad Tariq on Monday. DIG Tariq told APP that seven pistols of various bores along with ammunition and a dagger were recovered from the accused. DIG Tariq said the arrested drug dealers were found in possession of 5,594 grams of heroin, 5,886 grams of hashish, 332 grams of ice, and 30 bottles of liquor. DIG Tariq said cases have been registered against all the accused and further investigations have been launched. DIG said the operation against narcotics and illegal arms will continue without any discrimination to ensure the safety of citizens. "Protecting the lives and property of citizens remains the top priority of Islamabad Police," DIG Tariq said.

### RWMC, MLU express solidarity with Pak Army

RAWALPINDI (APP): To express solidarity with the Pakistan Army, Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) and Municipal Labour Union (MLU) organised a joint rally here on Monday. The rally participants were carrying banners and placards with the National flags, pictures of the Army Chief and other Armed Forces Chiefs. The atmosphere echoed with the loud slogans of "Pakistan Zindabad" and "Pakistan Army Payinda Bad". Addressing the rally, Chief Executive Officer RWMC Rana Sajid Safdar said that the Pakistan Army is the guarantor of national security, and their role in thwarting the evil intentions of the enemy was commendable. Municipal Labor Union President Raja Haroon, Secretary Shahid Raza Padri and Chairman Chengiz Bhatti also paid tribute to the sacrifices of the Pakistan Army in their speeches and said that they will not hesitate to make any sacrifices for the protection of the motherland. The operation "Banyan Marsus" had shattered the dream of Indian supremacy and forced the enemy to cease fire, they added.

# Int'l Community urged to help resolve Kashmir issue: Mushaal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mushaal Hussein Mullick Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation and wife of Jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat Leader Mohammad Yasin Malik has suggested that it was a suitable time for international community to play its vital role for the durable solution of longstanding Kashmir issue of this region.

Addressing at a press conference here on Monday, she said that without solution of Kashmir issue peace is not possible in this region as India has always violated all peaceful efforts and human rights in IIOJK.

Mushaal has welcomed and thanked to all international community for playing role for ceasefire between Pakistan and India and highlighting Kashmir issue.

She strongly condemned the Hindutva ideology of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in India as minorities are insecure and day by day many incident reported about the killing and looting of innocent peoples.

She also give the suggestion to the government of Pakistan to demand the release of all political prisoners from India.

Thousands of Kashmiris had offered sacrifices their lives in the movement of

Kashmir freedom and now the time has come to resolve this issues for durable peace in the region. She said that Narendra Modi is not mentally fit to run the country as pushing the state into the war.

Mushaal also show the solidarity with Afghan people as India has fired many missiles on the territory of Afghanistan to defame Pakistan but badly exposed badly in this nefarious act.

She appreciated the role of social media activist in this current situation. She commended armed forces for giving a befitting response to India in coordinated manner.

## 25-Year motorway plantation plan discussed

ISLAMABAD (APP): A major national initiative is being launched to plant fruit-bearing trees and undertake large scale afforestation along with Motorways across the country. A comprehensive 25-year plan is being developed with involvement of government departments proposing to lease land to the private sector for this purpose. Immediate steps will be taken to make this proposal feasible and actionable which will be a milestone for green future of Pakistan.

Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan while chairing a special meeting alongside Federal Minister for Climate Change Dr. Musadik Malik emphasized that making the environment greener and more pleasant is not only a

social responsibility but also a moral and religious obligation, said a press release issued here on Monday.

He stressed the need for integrated planning to plant trees not only along Motorways from Karachi to Quetta but also on National Highways in Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir. He called upon agricultural experts and farmers to actively participate in this noble cause and national drive.

Federal Minister for Climate Change Dr. Musadik Malik directed the preparation of concrete proposals within the next three days and agreed to the implementation of the plan in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem

Khan assured full support from his Ministry in terms of data sharing, land identification and other necessary aspects. He emphasized that improving the environment and enhancing the travel experience on Motorways is a top priority and fruit trees should be planted according to the agricultural suitability of each region. He further stated that expanding green areas along the Motorways would have a positive impact and this project would play a significant role in ensuring an eco-friendly future.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman of the National Highway Authority, Inspector General of Motorway Police, and senior officials from the Ministry of Climate Change, who contributed various suggestions for the project.

## ANF recovers over 1943 kg of drugs worth Rs 165.4 mln

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), conducting nine operations across the country, recovered as many as 1943.706 kg of drugs worth more than Rs 165.4 million and arrested 14 suspects, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Monday.

He informed that 1870 kg of hashish was recovered near Hameed Cross in Saranan, District Pishin.

During an operation near the Kakpul Expressway, Islamabad, 12 kg of hashish was recovered from four suspects riding a high-speed car and a motorcycle.

As many as 10.8 kg of hashish were recovered

from a passenger bus at RCD Road Hub, and suspects, including a woman, were arrested.

In another operation, 5 kg of ice hidden in two punching pads was recovered from an Afghan national near the General Bus Terminal, Peshawar.

During an operation near Shahi Qila Circular Road, Lahore, 1124 ecstasy pills weighing 706 grams and 200 grams of ice were recovered from the two accused.

As much as 20 kg of opium was recovered in Katchi Abadi, Old Chaman.

The ANF recovered 12 kg of heroin hidden for smuggling in bushes near

Old Pasni Road, Koh-e-Murad, Kech.

As much as 1 kg of ice was recovered from two motorcycle riders in DHA Karachi (Chota Bukhari).

In another operation, 12 kg of hashish was recovered from three suspects near the university area at Mandi Bahauddin Road, Sarai Alamgir.

The recovered drugs were skillfully hidden in the vehicle, and the suspects confessed to selling drugs to students of educational institutions.

Cases have been registered against the arrested accused under the Narcotics Control Act, and further investigations are underway.

## Education Secretary praises HEC for advancing higher education

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Mr. Nadeem Mahbub visited the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Secretariat on Monday and praised HEC's commitment to transforming the higher education landscape.

The Secretary was briefed on the state and progress of higher education in Pakistan by Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, said a press release. Executive Director HEC Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum and senior HEC officials were also present during the session.

Mr. Mahbub acknowledged HEC's 'wide canvas' of initiatives aimed at uplifting the sector and took keen interest in different programmes successfully executed by HEC in different spheres of the higher education sector.

During the detailed briefing, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed provided an overview of HEC's key functions, initiatives, and achievements and highlighted the Commission's focus on financing, regulation, and capacity-building as core tools driving sys-

temic growth and innovation. Areas of notable progress included academic quality, faculty development, technological integration, student access, and financial sustainability of institutions.

Dr. Ahmed explained that there are 160 public and 111 private higher education institutions having 91 & 51 campuses respectively. He also shared that access to tertiary education has increased significantly, with gender parity reflected in a student composition of 53% male and 47% female students.

The Chairman highlighted the exponential growth in PhD holders, and the rise in high-impact research publications.

He said that HEC's scholarship portfolio has also expanded substantially, with approximately 400,000 scholarships awarded so far across undergraduate, postgraduate, and postdoctoral levels.

Dr. Mukhtar elaborated on HEC's regulatory responsibilities and the suite of policies currently in place to uphold academic standards, such as the Graduate and

Undergraduate Education Policies, Open and Distance Learning Policy, Transnational Education Policy, and the National Qualifications Framework.

He also discussed funding mechanisms and briefed the Secretary on budgetary requirements for FY 2025-26.

The Chairman also informed the Secretary about the progress made on universities standing in world rankings, execution of Institutional Performance

Audit Framework and the deliverables of various HEC initiatives such as National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), Education Testing Council (ETC), Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP), and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Consortium of Universities.

In addition, he also elaborated on HEC's research grant programmes while highlighting the achievements marked under National Research Programme for Universities (NRPU), Grand Challenge and Local Challenge Funds, and Investor Seed Fund, etc.



ISLAMABAD: Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki, called on the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, at MoFA. —APP Photo

## International Nurses Day is being observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Nurses Day is being observed in Pakistan and around the world on Monday under the theme "Our Nurses, Our Future. The Economic Power of Care."

Talking to a private news channel on the occasion, Murad Ali and Ateeqa Nadeem from Sindh Integrated Emergency & Health Services highlighted the importance of first aid training for the general public. Murad Ali noted that while nurses play a key role in emergencies, the real response starts at the scene but public unawareness often delays help.

Ateeqa Nadeem noted that in many emergency situations, immediate first aid by bystanders can save lives before medical professionals arrive. Murad Ali emphasized that every citizen should have basic knowledge of handling accident scenarios. Simple actions like controlling bleeding or checking for breathing can greatly improve survival chances.

Both experts urged the need for regular community training sessions and greater public awareness to strengthen the first response in emergencies.

## RCB water recovery surge to Rs. 274mln

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Water Recovery Branch of the Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) has achieved a magnificent improvement in revenue collection for the fiscal year 2024-25. The recent revenue surged to Rs.274.0 million compared to previous year's Rs.260.0 million.

A key factor in this increase has been the board's efforts to address the unassessed properties. Many property owners had obtained water connections from RCB but had not undergone property tax assessment, thereby avoiding revenue payments.

A spokesman RCB informed that RCB has suspended general charges on these properties and directed owners to submit their property documents for formal assessment, as per the policy devised by the Military Lands and Cantonments (ML&C) Department.

Under this initiative, RCB has assessed nearly 2,000 properties, assigning them Cantonment Board (CB) numbers and issuing revenue charges accordingly.

Additionally, properties measuring less than five marlas have been granted tax exemptions as per generally practiced regulations, while water bills are being issued separately.

This measure is expected to further improve recovery rates and curb illegal water distribution.

The spokesman said that RCB remained committed to enhancing transparency and efficiency in revenue collection while ensuring compliance with legal frameworks.

## Desire for peace must not be seen as weakness: Kayani

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Minister of State for Railways, Bilal Azhar Kayani said on Monday that Pakistan has shown its full strength to defend itself, while also making it clear that it wants peace, progress and prosperity in the region.

However, he stressed that this desire for peace should not be mistaken as a sign of weakness. Bilal Kayani made these remarks while visiting the family of Shaheed Mehboob Elahi in Jabi, Tehsil Fatah Jang, on direction of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Mehboob Elahi was martyred in an

Indian drone attack.

He was accompanied by Station Commander Attock Brigadier Adnan, Special Assistant to Punjab Chief Minister Zeeshan Malik and former MPA Sardar Ifthikhar. The delegation laid floral wreaths on the martyr's grave, offered prayers for his soul and extended condolences to the family.

Bilal Kayani also conveyed a special message from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, expressing the nation's respect and gratitude to the martyr and his family. Speaking to the family, he said the Prime Minister has directed that the families and children

of those martyred in Indian attacks will be provided with education, healthcare and job opportunities.

He further said the government would rebuild any mosques or homes damaged during the attacks, reaffirming the state's commitment to supporting the families of national heroes.

"By the grace of Allah, the strength of our leadership and armed forces, and the unity of our people, we have achieved victory," the minister said. The family of the martyr thanked the Prime Minister and his representatives and reaffirmed their commitment to defend the country.

## Students celebrate victory against enemy aggression

RAWALPINDI (APP): After the restoration of education operation on Monday, a number of schools and colleges celebrated Pakistan victory during the recent East border escalation. The day started with special prayers in educational institutions followed by colourful activities to pay tribute to the armed forces.

Allama Iqbal Mission High School organized a special event to celebrate Pakistan's triumph and paid a glowing tribute to the armed forces through patriotic performances, including tableaux and national songs.

The event was attended by students, teachers, and Principal Misbah Tahir, who

highlighted the key successes of the Pakistan Air Force and Army in defending the country. She recounted the bravery of Pakistani forces in "Operation Bunyanan Marsoos", emphasizing how the entire nation stood united like an "iron wall" against the enemy.

Misbah also praised Pakistan's armed forces for their long and successful war against terrorism, stating that the country, as a frontline state, had eradicated the roots of this menace and had laid their precious lives. She reminded students of Pakistan's historic victories in the wars of 1965, 1971, Kargil, and 2019, as well as the recent conflict from May

07 to May 10, 2025, where Pakistan delivered a strong military response to India.

The students, dressed in military uniforms, presented patriotic songs and performances, showcasing their pride in the nation's defenders. Muhammad Rizwan, principal Noor College addressed morning assembly in which he highlighted the recent developments and urged the youth to concentrate on promoting native culture and tradition which remain vital for an independent nation's progress.

Similarly, students and teachers in the city's various other educational institutions organized events to pay tribute to the armed forces.

## May 10 victory symbolizes national unity: IG

ISLAMABAD (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi on Monday issued a special message on the occasion of "Youme-e-Tashakur," marking the recent victory of Pakistan's armed forces as a symbol of national unity and strength.

A public relations officer told APP, the police crackdown on criminal elements continued under the direction of the Inspector General of Police Islamabad to maintain peace and security in the federal capital.

In his message, IG Rizvi congratulated the nation on what he termed a historic May 10 victory, expressing

profound gratitude to Almighty Allah for granting a triumph unparalleled in history.

"This war, after the 1971 confrontation, stands as the largest and most significant military engagement with our neighboring country India," IG Rizvi said. "The bravery, strategic brilliance, and unwavering courage of our armed forces are truly commendable and reflect the spirit of the entire nation."

IG Rizvi said the armed forces stood like an unbreakable wall to protect the country, achieving a decisive and glorious victory.

"I, the Islamabad Police, and the entire Pakistani nation salute our valiant

armed forces and the falcens of our skies, who ensured the sanctity of our airspace," IG added.

"Anyone who looks at us with evil intent will find their ambitions shattered."

IG Rizvi said this victory has once again brought the Kashmir issue to the forefront of international attention, creating a new pathway toward its resolution.

"This is a victory of Pakistan, of the armed forces, of every citizen, and of the Muslim Ummah," he said. "Let the world know — the brave and valiant people of Pakistan know how to defend their homeland and break the enemy's will. Pakistan Zindabad."



ISLAMABAD: Flamingos stand in a water pond in a relaxed posture, cooling off during the sweltering heat at Lakeview Aviary in Islamabad. —APP Photo

Uzbekistan seeks stronger ties

KABUL (BNA): Sheikh Hamdullah Nomani, Minister of Urban Development and Housing, met in his office with Shirzad Adlov, head of construction projects at the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development of Uzbekistan. Adlov stated that several Uzbek companies—whose representatives were also present—are active in the fields of building design, urban infrastructure, airport planning, topography, and the production of both durable and regular construction materials.

\$650 million to be invested

KABUL (BNA): A group of domestic investors has announced their readiness to invest \$650 million in the Hajigak iron ore mine, a move aimed at boosting the country's mining sector. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, outlined their plans to establish a processing plant that will adhere to international standards. Equipped with advanced technology, this facility is expected to process 9,000 tons of sponge iron daily.

Asia is comparable to a living body composed of soil and water. The heart that beats inside the body is Afghanistan. The destruction of Afghanistan would be the destruction of Asia. And in its progress and prosperity lies the well-being of Asia. - Allama Iqbal

UNHCR delivers 1,000 homes to earthquake victims

PAKTIKA (TOLONews): A total of 1,000 residential houses built with the support of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Gayan district of Paktika province have been handed over to families affected by the devastating earthquake. In addition to the housing units, the agency has also constructed a clinic and a school in the district, stating that the total cost of these projects amounted to \$7.8 million. Arafat Jamal, UNHCR representative in Afghanistan, said: "We have worked with the community to build 1,000 permanent shelters. This has benefited 7,000 people, of

whom two-thirds are women and girls." Hamdullah Fateh, head of refugees and repatriation in Paktika, stated: "The total cost of building these houses, which also includes a clinic and a school, was \$7.8 million." The families affected by the earthquake in Paktika expressed their satisfaction with the provision of shelter, saying they had previously been struggling with severe livelihood challenges and a lack of basic living facilities. Naib Khan, a resident of Gayan district, said: "These solid houses were built for us and we are very happy about it. We are thankful to the UN Refugee Agency, which has cooperated with us significantly; but we hope they do not forget us, as many families are still in urgent need of such assistance."

Momin, another resident of the district, said: "I am very happy about the construction of this house because we lived in tents for nearly three years." It is worth noting that on June 22, 2022, a powerful earthquake struck the districts of Gayan and Barmal in Paktika province, leaving thousands of families homeless. Even after more than two years, 250 families in Gayan district still remain without proper shelter.

Afghan Minister attends Tashkent Energy Summit



KABUL (TOLONews): Abdul Latif Mansoor, acting minister of energy and water, has traveled to Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, to participate in the 5th Uzbekistan International Energy Conference. Mansoor is expected to speak at the conference about cooperation in the energy sector, modern technologies, and the challenges currently facing the field. The conference is being held in Tashkent from May 13 to 15 this year, with the participation of representatives from Central Asian countries. Matiullah Abid, spokesperson for the Ministry of Energy and Water, said: "Mr. Mansoor will discuss

cooperation and challenges in the field of renewable energy and modern technology at this conference." Meanwhile, some economic experts stress that the delegation of the Islamic Emirate must use this opportunity to attract foreign investment in Afghanistan's energy sector. Mir Shakir Yaqubi, an economic affairs analyst, stated: "If we are able to attract foreign cooperation or investments in energy production during this visit, it will be considered a successful trip and could significantly strengthen both the economy and energy output. However, if we fail to attract suitable investment for Afghanistan, this trip will

be as unproductive as the previous ones." Qutbuddin Yaqubi, another economic expert, added: "Uzbekistan, as a neighboring country with a strong position in energy and power infrastructure, can currently play a significant and effective role in Afghanistan through the exchange of expertise and available resources." The conference is being held with the participation of energy ministers from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Russia, and other regional countries, along with representatives from international organizations including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the World Bank.

Families of martyrs and disabled demand relief



KABUL (TOLONews): A number of families of martyrs and people with disabilities in the capital have voiced concerns about their economic hardships. They are appealing to the Islamic Emirate and humanitarian organizations for assistance and attention to their difficulties. Hasib, one of the disabled individuals, said: "My father is also disabled, and I am disabled as well. We have no breadwinner in the family. Our household expenses, rent, and electricity bills have accumulated. Our request to the Islamic Emirate is to pay our financial entitlements." Fereshtha, the mother of a disabled child, said: "There are eight of us in the family, and we have two disabled members. Their father is

also blind. My son is unemployed and stays at home. We are satisfied with the Islamic Emirate; they have transferred some payments. This year, we hope my son's salary will be disbursed sooner. We live in a rented house." Mehriya, a member of a martyr's family, said: "I have six orphans and I am the head of the household. My children are young, and my eldest son is only fourteen. We are in need of support. Our house is rented." Meanwhile, the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled has pledged that efforts are underway to assist the families of martyrs and people with disabilities across the country. The spokesperson for the ministry said that to address the challenges faced by

these families, nearly 82 agreements have been signed with charitable organizations since last year. Faisal Khamoosh, spokesperson for the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled, stated: "Food and non-food items, wheelchairs, employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, and other forms of assistance have been provided and are ongoing. Our effort is to increase these supports so that their economic problems can be resolved." Previously, the ministry had announced that in the past three and a half years, it has registered more than 653,000 widows, orphans, and disabled individuals, and provided aid worth approximately 12.5 billion afghani during this period.

1,000 days since Habibi detention by Taliban

WASHINGTON (Amu TV): Adam Boehler, the US Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, said that 1,000 days have passed since Mahmood Shah Habibi was detained by the Taliban. "We remain committed to securing his release and the freedom of all Americans held captive," Boehler wrote in a post on X, using the hashtag #BringThemHome. Habibi, who once led Afghanistan's Civil Aviation Authority, was arrested in August 2022 by the Taliban's intelligence service. His detention came just 11 days after the US drone strike that killed al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in a residential compound in Kabul's Sherpur neighborhood. Reports at the time suggested that Habibi had been accused of providing information that led to the strike on al-Zawahiri. The Taliban have not publicly commented on the arrest or any charges against him. Originally from Kandahar, Habibi served as the deputy director for operations at the Civil Aviation Authority between 2012 and 2016, before being appointed as director of the agency under the former Afghan government. He is one of several US citizens believed to be in Taliban custody. His prolonged detention has become emblematic of growing concern in Washington over what officials describe as the Taliban's use of hostage diplomacy amid stalled negotiations and international isolation.

Uzbekistan sends agri aid to Afghanistan

KABUL (Ariana News): Uzbekistan has delivered a shipment of agricultural assistance to Afghanistan, consisting of improved seed, which was officially handed over to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Islamic Emirate at the Hairatan port. Officials from Afghanistan's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock took delivery of the consignment on Sunday during an official ceremony at Hairatan in Balkh province. According to the Ministry, the aid includes 20 tons of rice seed, five tons of cotton seed, and 1.3 tons of vegetable seeds. Misbahuddin Mustaeen, Director of Grains at the Ministry, stated during the ceremony that the seeds will be distributed to the agricultural departments of the provinces of Jawzjan, Kunduz, Takhar, Balkh, Samangan, and Baghlan for research and augmentation purposes. He added that in the near future, agricultural tools and machinery are also expected to be sent by Uzbekistan. According to him, these contributions are part of the commitments made by Uzbek officials during the recent visit of Afghanistan's Minister of Agriculture to Tashkent. These families, nearly 82 agreements have been signed with charitable organizations since last year. Faisal Khamoosh, spokesperson for the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled, stated: "Food and non-food items, wheelchairs, employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, and other forms of assistance have been provided and are ongoing. Our effort is to increase these supports so that their economic problems can be resolved." Previously, the ministry had announced that in the past three and a half years, it has registered more than 653,000 widows, orphans, and disabled individuals, and provided aid worth approximately 12.5 billion afghani during this period.

IE asks france to resume diplomatic presence

KABUL (TOLONews): Suhail Shaheen, the Islamic Emirate's ambassador in Qatar, in a meeting with Jean-Marín Schuh, France's chargé d'affaires for Afghanistan, called on the French government to reactivate its political representation in Kabul. The two sides also discussed the current political situation, bilateral relations between Kabul and Paris, humanitarian aid, and other related issues. The Islamic Emirate's ambassador in Qatar said: "Yesterday in Doha, I met with Jean-Marín Schuh, France's chargé d'affaires for Afghanistan. We discussed bilateral relations between Afghanistan and France, health issues, humanitarian aid, the Islamic Emirate's positive engagement with the international community, and the current political situation." According to several political analysts, the recent diplomatic activities of the Islamic Emirate reflect efforts to emerge from international isolation and strike a balance in relations with regional powers such



as China, Russia, the United States, and Europe. Fazl-ur-Rahman Oria, a political affairs expert, said: "Afghanistan's current foreign policy is a successful one, and it has managed to establish diplomatic ties with many countries. It won't be long before, thanks to this diplomacy, Afghanistan fully emerges from isolation and becomes an active member of the international community." Another analyst, Moeen Gul Samkani, said: "Our Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to work on strengthening relations with countries around the world. These efforts have already yielded positive results—currently, around 30 countries maintain friendly and constructive relations with us. That is why this diplomatic momentum must continue. Now that security has been established in Afghanistan, all conditions are favorable. Others should seize this opportunity, and so should we." France is one of the countries that suspended its diplomatic presence in Afghanistan following the developments of August 2021. However, it has continued to provide support to the Afghan people through humanitarian channels.

Taliban planning to cut 13 per cent of staff at Ministry of Economy

KABUL (Amu TV): Taliban are planning to eliminate 13 percent of positions at the Ministry of Economy as part of a sweeping effort to downsize the country's civil service, according to a source familiar with the decision. The source, who requested anonymity to speak about internal discussions, said the reduction is being pursued under a broader directive from Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada aimed at shrinking government structures across various ministries. While the layoffs have not yet begun, the source said preparations are well underway and the plan is expected to be finalized soon. If implemented, the cuts would affect dozens of civil servants currently employed at the ministry, several of whom have already reported going more than two months without pay. The planned downsizing follows an earlier order from Akhundzada to slash nearly 90,000 positions from the Ministry of

Education. On Sunday, May 11, sources also told Amu TV that hundreds of university professors—including at Kabul and Herat universities—were recently dismissed without public explanation. These austerity measures come amid deepening economic stagnation and rising poverty in Afghanistan, nearly four years after the Taliban returned to power. The United Nations has warned that the Taliban's restrictions on women's employment have further weakened the economy and

severely disrupted basic services. Analysts say the Taliban's continued efforts to centralize control through workforce reductions and ideological purges could exacerbate the country's humanitarian crisis and push more professionals into exile. According to Afghanistan Analysts Network, the ministry employs approximately 964 staff members. Taliban have not provided any information about the annual budget of the ministry.

At least 35 psychiatric patients discharged, reunited with families

KABUL (TOLONews): The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) announced it has successfully treated 35 individuals with mental health conditions—including 17 women—and handed them over to their families following recovery. Among those discharged is 23-year-old Ali Sina. According to his uncle, Ali Sina had been deported from Sweden under unclear circumstances and had been hospitalized for a year due to severe mental health issues. Nisarullah, Ali Sina's uncle, explained: "Ali Sina's condition was extremely critical. He had been in Sweden but was deported for unknown reasons. When he arrived here, he was in a terrible state. We tried many treatments and took him to different places, but nothing helped. Eventually, we had no choice but to admit him to the Red Crescent hospital, where he stayed for a year." Now recovered, Ali Sina expressed his joy to TOLONews, saying: "My family had to bring me to the Red Crescent, and today I'm being discharged. I'm very happy." Meanwhile, other patients who have recovered are calling for more



institutional support and the establishment of additional mental health centers across the country. Murtaza, another former patient, said: "Please continue supporting such centers. People like me need help. Your assistance can truly change lives." At the same time, the head of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, Shahabuddin Delawar, said that 5,484 mental health patients are currently receiving care in their facilities across Afghanistan. "Alhamdulillah, 5,484 patients are under the care and treatment of dedicated and skilled doctors throughout the country," Delawar stated. Separately, Jagan Chapagain, president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, reaffirmed continued support for mental health care efforts in Afghanistan. Milen Gzidovic, president of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, said: "The International Federation of the Red Cross

and Red Crescent Societies, the Danish Red Cross, and our partners in other countries are committed to continuing their support for the Afghan Red Crescent and its mental health clinics. We look forward to seeing more patients return to their families, loved ones, and communities." According to ARCS data, of the total psychiatric patients under care nationwide, 970 are being treated in in-patient facilities, while 4,741 are receiving outpatient treatment.

OCHA warns of intensifying water crisis

KABUL (Ariana News): The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has issued a warning about the worsening water crisis in Afghanistan, citing below-average rainfall across much of the country. In a recent report, OCHA noted that while some areas of Afghanistan have seen rainfall approaching average levels, overall precipitation remains significantly below normal. Snowmelt volumes in most river basins are also

lower than average and continuing to decline—further aggravating the water shortage. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) highlighted that data from the Agricultural Stress Index (ASI) indicates markedly reduced vegetation growth in many regions, signaling the onset of drought conditions. The agency also reported that soil moisture at root depth is critically low in most parts of the country, with the exception of

some northern and north-eastern provinces. This poses serious concerns for agricultural productivity. OCHA added that land surface temperatures across Afghanistan are above average, apart from limited areas in the north-eastern provinces. Forecasts suggest that above-average temperatures and below-normal rainfall are likely to persist in the coming months. These conditions, the report warns, are expected to intensify the water crisis, leading to further

declines in crop yields and damaging pasturelands vital for livestock. As of March, this year, the provinces of Faryab and Jawzjan in northern Afghanistan have been identified as the most severely affected by reduced precipitation and rising temperatures. Other areas at critical risk include Helmand in the south, Herat in the west, Kunduz in the northeast, and Nangarhar in the east. Afghanistan has been grappling with severe drought and declining rainfall for several consecutive years. The prolonged droughts have depleted water supplies across the country, including in major urban centers, leaving many communities with limited access to safe drinking water. The country is also increasingly vulnerable to extreme weather events, including flash floods, and remains one of the most climate-vulnerable nations in the world—despite contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

According to ARCS data, of the total psychiatric patients under care nationwide, 970 are being treated in in-patient facilities, while 4,741 are receiving outpatient treatment.

# Trump heads for S Arabia on major Middle East tour

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, US (AFP): US President Donald Trump on Monday left for Saudi Arabia on what he called a “historic” tour of the Middle East that will mix urgent diplomacy on Gaza with huge business deals. Air Force One took off on a journey that will include visits to Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — and possibly talks in Türkiye on the Ukraine war.

Israel’s war on Hamas in Gaza will hang heavy over the first major tour of Trump’s second term — but in one sign of progress, US-Israeli hostage Edan Alexander was handed over to the Red Cross just as the president boarded his plane. “It’s big news,” Trump said at the White House shortly before departing. “He’s coming home to his parents, which is really great news. They thought he was dead.”

Trump has in recent weeks seemed to cool on his efforts to end the Gaza war — despite boasting before taking office that he would be able to bring the conflict to a swift end. He has also

been increasingly at odds with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Gaza, as well as over strikes on Yemen’s Houthis and on how to handle Iran’s nuclear program.

Trump said there were “very good things happening” on talks between Washington and Tehran over Iran’s nuclear ambitions — though he added that Iran “can’t have a nuclear weapon.” The US president said that he hoped for more developments on Gaza during his trip to the Gulf, noting that his tour involved “three primary countries” in the region. “I hope that we’re going to have other hostages released too,” he said when asked if he expected further progress toward a ceasefire in the Palestinian enclave.

Hamas asked Trump to “continue efforts” to end the war after freeing hostage Alexander, while Netanyahu said he would send mediators to Qatar on Tuesday for further negotiations. Qatar has played a key role as a middleman in talks on ending the war. Trump said he could change his

plans and fly to Istanbul on Thursday if talks between Russia and Ukraine happen there and make progress.

“I don’t know where I’m going to be at that particular point, I’ll be someplace in the Middle East. But I would, if I thought it would be helpful,” Trump told reporters Monday. Trump added that he thought both Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Russian President Vladimir Putin could attend — raising the prospect of a landmark summit.

Trump’s Middle East tour will start in Saudi Arabia — the same place he began his debut overseas trip in his first term in 2017, and memorably posed over a glowing orb with the leaders of Egypt and Saudi Arabia. But on that occasion he also visited Israel, whereas this time it is not on the itinerary. His decision to once more bypass traditional Western allies to visit the Gulf states underscores their pivotal geopolitical role — as well as his own business ties there.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan, Irfan Naziroglu called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

## Bilawal pays tribute to martyrs of May 12 tragedy

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari paid tribute to the martyrs on the anniversary of the May 12, 2007 tragedy, stating that the blood shed on the streets of Karachi has not gone in vain. He said that the blood of the martyrs of May 12 has become a symbol of resistance against oppression today.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stated that the May 12 tragedy will always be remembered as a dark day in the nation’s history. He further said that this day serves as a reminder of the violation of the sanctity of human life and the disrespect of democratic values.

Bilawal Bhutto mentioned that on May 12, the people of Karachi, lawyers, political workers, and representatives of civil society made great sacrifices for the constitution. Dozens of innocent people were martyred and hundreds were injured. He said that the crime of the martyrs was standing with the constitution, the judiciary, and democracy. He emphasized that Pakistan must prevent the repetition of such tragic events to move forward.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed solidarity with the families of the martyrs of May 12. He said that the party has faced violence and sacrifices, and this day will remain a part of our collective memory. He stated that we have not forgotten the martyrs of May 12, nor has the nation. Bilawal Bhutto said that our future generations will continue to condemn the perpetrators of this tragic day.

## Dissemination of verified information vital: Saif

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government’s Advisor on Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Muhammad Ali Saif here Monday stated that dissemination of verified and accurate information through media was vital for a well informed society and healthy journalism.

He said the public should be informed through print, electronic and social media in a responsible manner. Emphasizing that cultural and moral values should be given priority in media awareness, he said that individuals become aware of responsibility by adopting moral and cultural values. He expressed these views while addressing a seminar at the Institute of Management Studies, University of Peshawar, regarding the strengthening of media and information literacy in Pakistan.

The event was attended by a large number of journalists and relevant individuals, including Syed Faizullah Jan and Syed Irfan Ashraf from the Journalism Department. While addressing the seminar, Advisor Barrister Saif said that children must be trained in digital media so that they understand how to use it. “Today’s media is a product of the capitalist system. Social media has made it easier to inform the public, allowing information to reach people more easily.”

He said it has played a vital role in bringing information to the common person on a single click. He emphasized that social media should be monitored to distinguish between positive and negative content. “The better the monitoring system, the more accurate information will reach the public.”

# KP CM reviews issue of out-of-school children

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: An important meeting of the Elementary and Secondary Education Department was held on Monday with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur in the chair.

Detailed discussions were held in the meeting on improving the quality of education in government schools, particularly the issue of out-of-school children. It was decided that in districts where the rate of out-of-school children is 50 percent or higher, an education emergency will be declared. The meeting also accorded in principal approval to the proposed actions under the education emergency plan.

It was decided that comprehensive and multifaceted measures will be taken to increase student enrollment in schools. In this regard, schemes will be included in the upcoming budget to support various activities. The Chief Minister directed the preparation of a comprehensive action plan, taking into account the specific conditions of each district, to ensure effective implementation of the education emergency plan.

He further instructed that different models and options should be explored to ensure the provision of educational facilities in the affected areas. The Chief Minister stated that the issue of out-of-school children is a national issue that

demands immediate attention. While the current provincial government has made good progress in increasing school enrollment, there is a need for even more effective efforts.

He expressed concern that in some districts the rate of out-of-school children remains alarming, and the declaration of an education emergency is a necessary step to reduce this number and improve enrollment rates. The Chief Minister emphasized making next year’s enrollment campaign more effective and result-oriented, with special attention given to the education of girls, terming their absence from school a matter of grave concern.

The Chief Minister noted that in some schools, students are still sitting on the floor to receive education, which is unacceptable, and the province can no longer afford such conditions. He stated that it is the mission of his government that no child in any public school should be forced to sit on the floor. Likewise, he stressed the need to ensure that all government schools are equipped with proper washrooms and clean drinking water facilities.

He reiterated that education is the top priority of his government and more resources will be allocated for this sector in the upcoming budget. The Chief Minister directed that facts-based data must be

made available to ensure the effective and prudent use of these resources and that all activities should be driven by accurate statistics.

In order to improve the quality of education in public schools, the Chief Minister directed measures to enhance teachers’ capacity, ensure 100% merit in new recruitments, and establish schools in rented buildings in areas where they are urgently needed. He further instructed that schools with higher enrollment rates should be upgraded in the upcoming budget so that students can continue their education without disruption.

Additionally, he emphasized strengthening the monitoring system and taking steps to provide missing facilities such as laboratories, examination halls, and other essential infrastructure in existing schools. The meeting also reviewed progress on the ongoing development projects of the Elementary and Secondary Education Department and discussed proposed projects for the Annual Development Programme of the next fiscal year. Provincial Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education Faisal Tarakai, Advisor to the Chief Minister on Finance Muzammil Aslam, Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary (Planning), and other senior officials of the concerned departments attended the meeting.

# PHC grants protective bail to Aleema Khan

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice Waqar Ahmad and Justice Farah Jamshid has granted protective bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder sister Aleema Khan while directed her to appear before the relevant courts, on Monday.

The counsel Alam Khan Adeenzai advocate informed the court that she was already on bail in all cases but had been subjected to raids at her homes after 8th May. He further stated that Aleema Khan had been included in 42 cases and wanted to appear before the relevant courts to face the charges.

PTI founding chairman sister told the media that she had come to the Peshawar

High Court for protective bail. She stated that she was collecting funds for University and had discovered that she was nominated in 42 cases in the Rawalpindi Anti-Terrorism Court.

Aleema Khan claimed that she was accused of carrying messages from jail, but argued that many others also carried PTI founding chairman messages without facing cases. She added that the PTI founder had directed Junaid Akbar to start a movement.

She praised the Pakistani pilot’s skills during the recent Pakistan-India tensions and said that the pilot’s actions led to success. She mentioned that no one had met the PTI founder in the last two weeks and that their mission was to secure her brother’s release from jail.

**Court asks NADRA to respond within 14 days against blocking entire family’s CNICs:** The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has issued a notice to the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) authorities, seeking a response within 14 days against the blocking of the entire family’s identity cards and the denial of Form B to their children, on Monday.

The counsel Malak Shahbaz advocate argued that petitioner’s Taja Bibi, and her four children are Pakistani citizens. When her son, Muhammad Allah, applied for an identity card, he was informed that his father’s identity card was blocked, and therefore, his own identity card could not be issued.

# Victorious Pakistan

(Continued from Page 1)

“These include intelligence units and their forward field elements at Rajauri and Naushera.” Across the LOC, the ISPR said, military elements including HQs, logistic bases, artillery positions, and posts that had caused civilian casualties in Azad Jammu and Kashmir through unprovoked artillery and small arms fire were relentlessly targeted and heavily damaged, until they raised white flags and asked for restraint.

It said India used drones to violate Pakistani airspace to intimidate our civilians and spread fear. In response, the ISPR said all through Operation Bunyanum Marsoos dozens of Pakistani armed drones hovered over Indian major cities and sensitive political and government facilities including their capital New Delhi and from Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir all the way to Gujarat to clearly manifest our lethal long-range unmanned capability, indicating the futility of the use of this domain in warfare.

It said Pakistan Armed Forces also carried out comprehensive and effective cyber operations to temporarily cripple and degrade critical infrastructure and services that were being used by Indian Armed Forces to sustain their operations. The ISPR said Pakistan Armed Forces possessed an ‘adequate’ suite of very sophisticated ‘niche military technologies’, and only a limited number and type were used with restraint in this conflict.

Despite all this, compared to Indian relentless provocations, it said, Pakistan’s military response has been precise, proportionate, and still remarkably restrained. It was carefully calibrated to avoid civilian casualties and exclusively targeted those entities and facilities which were directly involved in orchestrating and executing the cold-blooded killings of Pakistani civilians and those carrying out terrorist attacks inside Pakistan. The ISPR said Pakistan also sustained an abnormal and immediate spike in Indian-sponsored terrorism across

KP and Balochistan while its armed forces were busy in operations on the eastern front. “This further vindicates that India is directly involved in fomenting terrorism in Pakistan, and its proxies were fully operationalised during this time to distract our attention.”

It said the resilient Armed Forces of Pakistan carried out most effective counter-terrorism operations in the western region without any pause simultaneously with the conduct of Operation Bunyanum Marsoos. The ISPR said ‘Marka-e-Haq’ has been a great example of the synergy between all elements of national power, with overwhelming support of the Pakistani public, to effectively counter the threat to our national sovereignty and territorial integrity. “No one should doubt that whenever Pakistan’s sovereignty is threatened and territorial integrity violated, the retributive response will be comprehensive and decisive,” the ISPR resolved. The ISPR praised the Pakistani nation for its courage, resilience, and fervour during this conflict.

## UK Labour got toughens immigration plans

LONDON: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer promises to “finally take back control” of the United Kingdom’s borders as his Labour government unveils policies designed to reduce legal immigration and fend off rising support for the hard right. “Every area of the immigration system, including work, family and study, will be tightened up so we have more control,” he told reporters at a Downing Street news conference on Monday.

Starmer announced he was ending an “experiment in open borders” that saw net migration rise to nearly one million people under the previous Conservative government, which lost last year’s general election. Labour has been traditionally more sympathetic to immigration than the Conservative Party. Starmer, a former human rights lawyer who voted for the UK to remain part of the European Union, is under renewed pressure to tackle the issue after the anti-immigration Reform UK party’s gains in recent local elections.

However, Starmer’s shift to the right on immigration risks alienating Labour’s large base of left-of-centre supporters and losing their votes to the Liberal Democrats and the Greens. The government’s Immigration White Paper policy document includes plans to cut overseas care workers and increase from five to 10 years the length of time people will have to live in the UK before qualifying for settlement and citizenship.

English-language rules would also be strengthened with all adult dependants required to demonstrate a basic understanding while the length of time students may stay in the UK after completing their studies would be reduced. The white paper also proposes new powers to deport foreigners who commit offences in the country. Currently, the government is only informed of foreign nationals who receive prison sentences while under the new arrangements all foreign nationals convicted of offences would be flagged for the government.

The document also proposes new visa controls requiring foreign skilled workers to have a university degree to secure a job in the UK. The prime minister acknowledged that migrants “make a massive contribution” to Britain but alleged the country risks becoming an “island of strangers” without more controls. He added that he wants net migration to fall “significantly” by the next election, likely in 2029, but refused to say by how much.

Labour promised in its general election manifesto last year to significantly reduce net migration, which stood at 728,000 in the 12 months to June. It had peaked at 906,000 in 2023 after averaging 200,000 a year for most of the 2010s. Arch-euro-sceptic Nigel Farage’s Reform party won more than 670 local council seats this month as well as its first two mayoral posts. It is also riding high in national polls while Labour is struggling after its 2024 landslide general election victory. — Aljazeera

# Indian drone strike claims life of brother of 8 sisters

## Naqvi pledges full government support

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: In a deeply tragic incident that has shaken communities across Pakistan, Ali Haider, the only brother of eight sisters and a hardworking food vendor, was martyred in a cross-border drone strike carried out by India in Rawalpindi.

The incident has drawn widespread condemnation and prompted a high-level visit from Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, who personally assured the bereaved family of full governmental support. Ali Haider, a resident of Kacha Jail Road in Lahore, had been earning a modest livelihood by selling cheeseburgers outside Cricket Stadium. He had traveled to the city to support his family, many of whom depended solely on his income.

According to official handout, the drone strike occurred near a public area, injuring multiple civilians and killing Ali Haider on the spot. His death marks yet another civilian casualty in the ongoing tensions between Pakistan and India. On Monday, Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the martyr’s family in Lahore to offer condolences and to express solidarity on behalf of the government. He met with Ali Haider’s father, Muhammad Aslam, his mother, and other family members, offering them words of comfort and reassurance.

“You have lost your only support. May Allah grant you patience and strength,” said Minister Naqvi, addressing the visibly heartbroken parents. “The government stands with

your family. We will take full care of Shaheed Ali Haider’s family and ensure their well-being.”

During the visit, the Interior Minister also met with Manzoor Faisal, a cousin of Ali Haider who was injured in the same drone attack. Naqvi inquired about his health and gathered firsthand details about the incident. In addition, he directed hospital authorities at Holy Family Hospital in Rawalpindi to provide the best medical treatment available to another injured cousin, Tauqeer Abbas, who remains under care. The Minister concluded his visit by offering Fateha (prayers for the departed) for the soul of Shaheed Ali Haider and reiterated the government’s commitment to standing by the family in every possible way. “The government will become a pillar of strength for your family,” he assured.

Lahore Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Bilal Kamyana also accompanied the Minister during the visit. The tragic loss of Ali Haider has sparked renewed debate over civilian safety and the consequences of cross-border aggression. With no prior warning and no military targets in sight, the strike has raised serious humanitarian and diplomatic concerns. As Pakistan mourns the loss of a young man who sacrificed his own comfort to support his sisters and parents, questions remain about the safety of civilians amid escalating regional hostilities.

Meanwhile, Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the residence of Shaheed Ali Haider at

Kacha Jail Road area here on Monday and expressed condolence to the grieving family. Ali Haider, the only brother of eight sisters, was martyred in a recent Indian drone attack near Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

During his visit, the Interior Minister met the martyr’s father Muhammad Aslam and his mother, and offered heartfelt condolences and assured them of government’s complete support. Ali Haider was a hardworking young boy who supported his family by selling cheeseburgers outside the stadium, he said and added that his death had left the family devastated.

The interior minister also met the injured cousin of martyr, Manzoor Faisal and inquired after him. Mohsin Naqvi acknowledged that Ali Haider had been the only breadwinner of his family who supported his parents and eight sisters. The Interior Minister assured that now, the state would take on that responsibility. He further said the family of Ali Haider would receive complete care and support from the government. The minister also offered Fateha for the soul of Shaheed Ali Haider and prayed for the family’s strength and patience.

Earlier, the minister also visited the Holy Family Hospital in Rawalpindi, where another injured cousin, Tauqeer Abbas, is under treatment. He directed the hospital authorities to provide the best possible care to the wounded. CCPO Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana also accompanied the minister during the visit.

# Experts warn Gaza is at critical risk of famine

TEL AVIV (AP): The Gaza Strip is at critical risk of famine if Israel doesn’t lift its blockade and stop its military campaign, food security experts said in a stark warning on Monday. Outright famine is the mostly likely scenario unless conditions change, according to findings by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, a leading international authority on the severity of hunger crises.

Nearly a half million Palestinians are in “catastrophic” levels of hunger, meaning they face possible starvation, the report said, while another million are at “emergency” levels of hunger. Israel has banned any food, shelter, medicine or other goods from entering the Palestinian territory for the past 10 weeks, even as it carries out waves of airstrikes and ground operations. Gaza’s population of around 2.3 million people relies almost entirely on outside aid to survive, because Israel’s 19-month-old military campaign has wiped away most capacity to produce food inside the territory.

Desperate scenes as food is running out Food supplies are emptying out dramatically. Communal kitchens handing out cooked meals are virtually the only remaining source of food for most people in Gaza now, but they too are rapidly shutting down for lack of stocks. Thousands of Palestinians crowd daily outside the public kitchens,

pushing and jostling with their pots to receive lentils or pasta.

“We end up waiting in line for four, five hours, in the sun. It is exhausting,” said Riham Sheikh el-Eid, waiting at a kitchen on Sunday. “At the end, we walk away with nothing. It is not enough for everybody.” The lack of a famine declaration doesn’t mean people aren’t already starving, and a declaration shouldn’t be a precondition for ending the suffering, said Chris Newton, an analyst for the International Crisis Group focusing on starvation as a weapon of war. “The Israeli government is starving Gaza as part of its attempt to destroy Hamas and transform the strip,” he said.

Israel demands a new aid system. The office of Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, did not respond to a request for comment. The army has said that enough assistance entered Gaza during a two-month ceasefire that Israel shattered in mid-March when it relaunched its military campaign. Israel says the blockade aims to pressure Hamas to release the hostages it still holds. It says it won’t let aid back in until a new system giving it control over distribution is in place, accusing Hamas of siphoning off supplies.

The United Nations denies substantial diversion of aid is taking place. It says the new system Israel envisages is unnecessary, will allow aid to be used as a weapon for polit-

ical and military goals, and will not meet the massive needs of Palestinians. The United States says it is working up a new mechanism that will start deliveries soon, but it has given no timeframe. The UN has so far refused to participate, saying the plan does not meet humanitarian standards. Monday’s report said that any slight gains made during the ceasefire have been reversed. Nearly the entire population of Gaza now faces high levels of hunger, it said, driven by conflict, the collapse of infrastructure, destruction of agriculture, and blockades of aid.

Commenting on the report, the head of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization said any delay in restoring the flow of aid “brings us closer to famine.” “If we fail to act, we are failing to uphold the right to food, which is a basic human right,” FAO Director-General QU Dongyu said. Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas after the group’s Oct. 7, 2023, surprise attack on Israel, in which militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 251 hostage, most of whom have been released in ceasefire agreements or other deals.

Israel’s offensive has killed over 52,000 Palestinians, more than half of them women and children, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry, whose count does not distinguish between civilians or combatants.