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Pakistan fully prepared to respond to any Indian aggression: Tarar

Minister says Pakistan has contacted friendly countries to inform them about unfolding situation

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar has said that Pakistan is fully prepared to respond to any aggression from India, warning that any attack across the Line of Control (LoC) will be met with a strong and fitting reply.

In an exclusive interview with Turkish news channel, TRT, the minister clarified Pakistan's stance on the recent Pahalgam incident, stating that Islamabad's hands are clean and that is why it has demanded an impartial and transparent investigation into the matter. He accused India of escalating tensions and demonstrating aggressive behaviour, which he said would not be tolerated.

"Pakistan has never taken the initiative to attack. But if India dares to, it will get a befitting response from our side," Tarar asserted.

He emphasized that Pakistan's armed forces are among the best professional

forces in the world, and are fully equipped and ready to handle any challenge, particularly at the Line of Control. "Our forces are vigilant and capable. They are prepared to defend the homeland against any form of aggression," he added.

The minister also revealed that Pakistan had reliable intelligence suggesting that India was preparing for a military move. In response, the government has taken necessary steps to ensure national security and has maintained contact with several friendly countries to inform them about the unfolding situation.

"Pakistan is taking every possible measure to defend itself and safeguard its people. India must pull back its aggressive measures. The responsibility for regional stability lies with both sides, and Pakistan is acting responsibly," he stated.

Attaullah Tarar reiterated that Pakistan desires peace but is also committed to protecting its sovereignty and territorial integrity under all circumstances.



Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif exchanges views with Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan Dr. Irfan Neziroglu during meeting held at PM House in Islamabad .

Pakistan reacted responsibly despite India's provocative actions: PM Shehbaz

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that Pakistan's reaction had been responsible and measured so far despite India's provocative actions following severe tensions between the two countries in wake of the Pahalgam incident.

The April 22 attack in Pahalgam killed 26 people, mostly tourists, in one of the deadliest assaults since 2000. India has implied cross-border links without evidence, while Pakistan has rejected the claim and called for a neutral probe.

Tensions have since spiked, with Pakistan reinforcing its forces and India's premier granting "operational freedom" to the military. As Pakistan, in the early hours of Wednesday, said it expected an Indian incursion within 24-36 hours, diplomatic channels have been engaged to prevent conflict.

A statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said PM Shehbaz held a meeting with Ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye Dr Irfan Neziroglu at the PM House.

The premier reiterated that Pakistan had always condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The prime minister emphasised that India had failed to share any evidence and was falsely trying to link Pakistan to the Pahalgam incident, the statement said.

"India has yet to respond to Pakistan's offer to have a credible, transparent and neutral international investigation to ascertain the facts behind the Pahalgam incident," he said, adding that Pakistan would cooperate fully with such an investigation and would welcome if Turkiye joined it. The prime minister also highlighted that Pakistan had rendered great sacrifices in its counter-terrorism efforts, including 90,000 casualties and over \$152 billion in economic losses over the years. He further said that India's actions would distract Pakistan from its counter-terrorism efforts.

PM Shehbaz expressed his gratitude to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for his strong statement that supported Pakistan during the prevailing situation in South Asia as well as his call for peace in the region.

Balochistan CM Vows to Protect Rights of Journalists

APP

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Saturday said that the government of Balochistan would make every effort to protect the rights of journalists. In his message on World Press Day, he said that the most important aspect of press freedom is responsible journalism, the government has a responsibility to keep journalism free, while the owners have a duty to promote responsible journalism.

"I realize that Balochistan journalists are performing their duties in difficult circumstances", he said adding the national channel should light positive news of Balochistan and they would not limit to crime news only. He said that attention should also be paid

to the social problems of Balochistan, the provincial government has always considered positive criticism as an opportunity for reform.

The CM said that Balochistan is an important unit of Pakistan, all tv channels should activate their bureaus here. He noted that channels closing bureaus or laying off staff are violating PEMRA agreements and informed that the Federal Ministry of Information has been notified about these violations. He said that the Federal Minister for Information and the Secretary for Information have assured to remove the concerns.

The Chief Minister also appropriated that steps would be taken through mutual consultation for the welfare of journalists.

5 terrorist killed in separate KP operations

INP

RAWALPINDI: On 30 April & 1 May 2025, five khwarij were sent to hell, while two were apprehended during three separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Province.

According to ISPR press release, an intelligence based operation was conducted by the Security Forces in Bajaur District, on reported presence of khwarij. During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location and after an intense fire exchange, three khwarij, including HVT Kharji Fareed Ullah, were sent to hell.

Another intelligence based operation was conducted in general area Dossali, North Waziristan District. In ensuing fire exchange, two Khwarij were effectively neutralised by the security forces. In third encounter that took place in Mohmand District, Security Forces successfully busted a khwarij hideout and apprehended two khwarij, including HVT Kharji Lal Ameer @lbrahim.

Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from these khwarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities. Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Kharji.

Dar reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to regional peace

APP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to regional peace and stability while resolutely protecting its sovereignty and national interests.

During a telephonic conversation with the Foreign Minister of Greece, George Gerapetritis, the Deputy Prime Minister strongly condemned India's unilateral decision to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance, calling it a blatant violation of its international obligations.

He reiterated Pakistan's call for an independent and transparent investigation to establish the facts. Ishaq Dar briefed his Greek

counterpart on current regional developments, categorically rejecting India's baseless allegations, disinformation campaign, and illegal unilateral measures that threaten regional peace and stability.

The Foreign Minister of Greece emphasized the importance of restraint to prevent escalation and preserve peace and stability.

He welcomed Pakistan's proposal for a neutral and transparent inquiry.

Both leaders agreed to maintain close coordination on regional and global developments, particularly in multilateral fora, including their engagement as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Pakistan conducts training launch of Abdali Weapon System

APP

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan has conducted a successful training launch of the Abdali Weapon System, a surface-to-surface missile with a range of 450 kilometers as part of Ex INDUS.

The launch was aimed at ensuring the operational readiness of troops and validating key technical parameters, including the missile's advanced navigation system and enhanced maneuverability features.

The training launch was witnessed by the Commander Army Strategic Forces Command, senior officials from the Strategic Plans Division, Army Strategic Forces

Command, as well as scientists and engineers from Pakistan's strategic organizations.

The President, Prime Minister of Pakistan,

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and Services Chiefs have extended their congratulations to the participating troops, scientists, and engineers.

DPM directs early solarization of tubewells in Balochistan

APP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Saturday directed all concerned departments to expedite efforts for the early and efficient finalization of the solarization of tubewells in Balochistan. He was chairing a high-level meeting on the solarization of tubewells in Balochistan. The meeting was attended by the Federal Minister for Finance, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, senior officials from the Ministry

of Power, and representatives of the government of Balochistan.

DPM emphasized the need for synergy among stakeholders and urged them to ensure the efficient use of available resources to achieve the timely implementation of solarizing Balochistan's tubewells. DPM highlighted the significance of this initiative in promoting clean energy, reducing operational costs,

enhancing agricultural productivity, and improving the livelihoods of farmers across Balochistan.



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairs a high level meeting on Solarization of Tubewells in Balochistan, held in Islamabad .

Pakistan envoy to US calls on world to resolve Kashmir dispute, terms it 'core issue' of enmity with India

> Rizwan Saeed Sheikh says Islamabad doesn't want escalation but warns of "nuclear flashpoint"

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's envoy to the United States has called on the global community to resolve the Kashmir dispute, terming it the "core issue" of the recent complete breakdown of ties with India in the wake of the Pahalgam attack.

The April 22 attack in Pahalgam killed 26 people, mostly tourists, in one of the deadliest assaults since 2000. India has implied cross-border links without evidence, while Pakistan has rejected the claim and called for a neutral probe.

Tensions have since spiked, with Pakistan reinforcing its forces as it expected an incursion and India's premier granting "operational freedom" to his military. As temperatures remain high, with the military warning of a "resolute" response to any misadventure by New Delhi, diplomatic channels have remained engaged to prevent conflict.

"It could be an important part of President [Donald] Trump's legacy to attend to this situation — not with a Band-Aid solution, but by addressing the core issue: the Kashmir dispute," Pakistan's Ambassador to the US Rizwan Saeed Sheikh said in an interview with Fox News Digital published earlier today.

"This is one nuclear flashpoint," the envoy said.

Sheikh's statement echoes his recent call to Trump to step in and help ease soaring tensions with India. He had highlighted that as a president "standing for peace in the world as a pronounced objective during this administration", there was no "higher or flashier flashpoint" than the Kashmir issue.

Trump, in his inaugural speech as the US president, had said: "My proudest legacy will be that of a peacemaker and unifier." A ceasefire — which has since been broken — was secured between Israel and Hamas following Trump's election, and he has also been engaging with Ukraine and Russia to halt their war.

During his interview with Fox News, Sheikh also called on nations around the globe to help with a lasting settlement to the Kashmir issue.

He said: "Previously, when the situation has been at this

level or the tensions have escalated, the international community has attended to the situation, but taken their eyes [and] attention away, even before the situation could fully defuse."

"This time, perhaps it would be [...] timely in terms of the situation elsewhere on the globe, with similar instances, [...] to perhaps not afford a Band-Aid solution, but to address the broader problem." "Any misadventure or miscalculation can lead to a nuclear interface," the ambassador was quoted as saying. "That is certainly not desirable in such a densely populated region." "We want a peaceful neighbourhood," Sheikh emphasised, adding that Pakistan did not want any instability in the region.

However, he stressed, Pakistan's desire for peace "should not in any way be misconstrued as a sign of weakness". "We want peace with dignity."

Sheikh described India's response to the Pahalgam attack as dangerously premature and inflammatory, according to the report. The envoy reiterated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's offer to hold a "neutral and transparent" probe into the Pahalgam attack. He pointed out that both the investigation offer and Pakistan's request for evidence linking it to the attack had gone "unanswered".

President, PM vow to promote Press Freedom in country

INP

ISLAMABAD: World Press Freedom Day was observed on Saturday. The day acts as a reminder to governments of the need to respect their commitment to press freedom.

This year's theme of the day is "Reporting in the Brave New World - The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media."

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have reaffirmed their commitment to upholding and promoting a free and responsible press in Pakistan.

In their separate messages on the World Press Freedom Day, they paid tribute to media workers around the world, including those in Pakistan for their efforts and sacrifices in pursuit of truth.

President Asif Ali Zardari said media is indispensable for promoting dialogue, highlighting issues of social, economic and environmental significance, uncovering corruption and advocating for the marginalised.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said protecting freedom of expression requires ensuring that media is not misused for spreading falsehoods, fake news, propaganda, foreign agendas, or political interests.

He commended the responsible role of Pakistan's media in countering India's recent water aggression and baseless accusations through truth and facts.

India bans imports from Pakistan

ONLINE

NEW DELHI: India has slapped complete ban on direct or indirect import of goods from Pakistan following Pahalgam attack.

India has forbidden to give access to Pakistani ships to Indian sea ports.

According to notification issued by Indian ministry of commerce a new rule has been included in Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) whereby ban has been imposed on goods imported from Pakistan or exported by Pakistan and transit forthwith.

India has named this step national security and public policy under which imports of any kind from Pakistan will be stopped. Be they are direct or through third country.

It has been said no Pakistan flag bearer ship will be allowed to come to Indian sea ports.

It is endeavor of India to put Pakistan into dire economic difficulties through trade restrictions. Not only Pakistani trade but also its pharmaceutical requirements be adversely affected.

Nushki Oil Tanker Fire Claims 13 Lives, Dozens Still Battling for Survival in Quetta and Karachi Hospitals

NEWS DESK

Nushki: The tragic fire that erupted after an oil tanker accident near the Nushki bus terminal has now claimed the lives of 13 individuals, while more than 50 others remain hospitalized in critical condition.

According to local officials, 12 of the deceased have been laid to rest in different areas of Nushki, while one victim, reportedly a driver, was buried in Panchnai. Among those who lost their lives were two employees of the Nushki Municipal Committee, who succumbed to severe burn injuries during treatment.

At least a dozen patients remain in critical condition. The injured are currently receiving treatment at Quetta's Burn Center, CMH, and Aria Hospital, while around 18 victims have been shifted to various medical facilities in Karachi due to the severity of their injuries.

Medical sources have described the condition of many victims as "highly critical," with doctors working round the clock to stabilize their health.

The horrific incident, which shocked the community, has once again raised concerns about hazardous material transportation and safety protocols in densely populated areas.

Authorities are continuing to investigate the cause of the fire,

while rescue and medical teams remain on high alert to support the victims and their families.

Special Message from the Chief of Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan, Hafiz Saad Hussain Rizvi, on World Press Freedom Day

We pay tribute to all journalists:
Hafiz Saad Hussain Rizvi, TLP Chief

Press Release

Lahore: On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, Hafiz Saad Hussain Rizvi, Chief of Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan,

paid tribute to all journalists who remain unafraid of pressure or oppression in their pursuit of truth and the dissemination of facts.

He said journalism is a sacred trust, and those journalists who stand with the oppressed through their pen, camera, and voice are the true heroes of society.

Hafiz Saad Rizvi, while mentioning the hundreds of journalists martyred in Palestine, stated that these journalists who have

been targeted by the oppressive Zionist regime are in fact symbols of humanity, freedom, and truth.

He emphasized that there is no greater weapon than a pen or camera that stands with the oppressed. He also added that Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan fully believes in the freedom of the press, but journalism that hides the truth, empowers falsehood, and silences the voice of the oppressed has nothing to do with either freedom or integrity.

Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan salutes all such courageous journalists who are sacrificing their lives for showing the truth, are imprisoned, or have not stepped back from their mission despite ongoing pressure.



Jamiat Ittehad Ulema Balochistan leader, Abdul Kabir Shakir along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club

Sheikh Rashid warns India against aggression

INP

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has issued a stern warning to India, stating that any act of aggression will be met with a "befitting reply" from the entire

Pakistani nation. Speaking to the media outside a Rawalpindi court, Sheikh Rashid emphasized that Pakistanis are fully prepared to defend their country and religion, and that unity among the people is unshakable when it comes to national security. "The world will see how great and united the Pakistani nation is when the time comes," Rashid declared. "Every individual, every child in this country stands ready to protect our homeland."

Rashid criticized India for what he

described as contradictory behavior—talking about war on one hand while simultaneously expressing willingness for dialogue. He urged India not to miscalculate

Pakistan's resolve or unity, cautioning that any military adventure would trigger a strong and united response from the Pakistani people.

"India should not be under any illusions. Our nation knows how to defend its land, and we are not afraid of threats," he added.

He also reiterated his previous statement regarding the Indus Waters Treaty, accusing India of "water terrorism" and asserting that the suspension of the treaty would be seen as a declaration of war. "Stopping water is equivalent to war," he said. "India cannot unilaterally suspend the treaty. Such actions

show arrogance, not strength."

Referring to the Pahalgam incident, Rashid dismissed Indian allegations against Pakistan as baseless, calling them part of a familiar pattern of provocation.

Despite internal political differences, Rashid stressed that all factions within Pakistan stand united when it comes to national defense. "We may argue among ourselves, but when it comes to

Pakistan, we are one nation, one wall of lead for its security." The remarks come amid rising tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbors, highlighting the volatile nature of regional geopolitics and the need for restraint and responsible dialogue. Would you like a headline or shorter version for social media use as well?

Only Imran Khan gives befitting response to India: claims Aliya

INP

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Aliya Hamza claimed on Saturday that only party founder Imran Khan gave a befitting response to India.

Speaking to the media outside an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore, Aliya said: "No worries over what is happening with the PTI leadership. However, it is a sign of concern that the situation at the border is tense, but in this situation, a protest is being staged in Sindh."

"We [PTI] have been asked to stand with the country and show national integrity. But why has it not been decided from the other side to release the political prisoners? We need to make efforts to bring stability to the country," said Aliya.



Members of New Ittehad Bread Makers are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Quetta press club

Maryam Nawaz inaugurates e-portal of Apni Zameen, Apna Ghar project

ONLINE

LAHORE: Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has inaugurated e-portal of Apni Zameen, Apna Ghar project to provide 3 marla plots free to homeless persons in Punjab. CM Punjab inaugurated E-Portal of project

azag.punjab.gov.pk. Citizens will be able to send online applications for free plot through it.

This project is extension of "Apni Chat, Apna Ghar project" under which process of construction of 34000 homes has been started.

Two thousand homes have been completed. In the first phase of "Apni Zameen Apna Ghar project" 2000 plots of 3 marlas will be provided free under 23 housing schemes in 19 districts of Punjab. In the first phase plots will be distributed in Jhelum, Patoki, Mamun Kanjan, Lodhran and Renala Khurd.

Farooq Abdullah warns of war dangers, says Muslim identity under attack in India

INP

ISLAMABAD: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah Saturday voiced grave concerns over the growing tensions between India and Pakistan, warning that any escalation could bring devastating consequences not only to soldiers but to ordinary people on both sides of the border.

According to Kashmir Media Service, speaking in Srinagar, Farooq Abdullah said that diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the situation are also in motion, though only time will reveal how successful global powers will be in calming the crisis. He stressed that

while hostilities seem to be on the rise, it is essential to support peace initiatives. Responding to recent developments, including the repatriation of Pakistani nationals from Indian soil following the Pahalgam incident, Farooq Abdullah criticized the move as inhumane.

He also acknowledged the serious security and intelligence failures behind the incident but said collective punishment was not the solution. He also pointed to a broader atmosphere of anti-Muslim sentiment within India, expressing concern over the systematic targeting of Muslims, including efforts to erase their identity.



Shepherd is driving herd of goats to a field for grazing fodder, in Quetta



National Women's T20 cricket tournament to start on May 7 in Karachi

SPORTS DESK

A total of five teams will vie for the title of the National Women's T20 Tournament 2025 beginning on May 7 at two venues in Karachi, the National Stadium and HPC Oval Ground, the Pakistan Cricket Board said on Saturday.

Last month, Pakistan finished the ICC Women's World Cup 2025 Qualifiers unbeaten at the top of the table with a domineering victory over Bangladesh by seven wickets in Lahore to win the tournament.

Pakistan had already booked their spot for the World Cup to be held later this year on April 17, courtesy of their bowlers, who had once again stepped up to defend a below-par score of 205 against Thailand in their penultimate encounter of the tournament.

"The five-team National Women's T20 Tournament 2024-25 will begin on May 7 at two venues in Karachi," the PCB said in a press release.

The PCB added that this year's edition will feature five teams — Challengers, Conquerors, Invincibles, Stars, and Strikers. Competing in a double-league format, each team will play eight matches with a total of 22 matches slated to take place across 18 days.

The teams finishing second and third on the points table will face off in a qualifier on May 22, with the winner advancing to meet the top-ranked team in the final on May 24. The final will be played at the National Stadium.

A total of 80 cricketers will participate in the tournament, which carries a prize pool of over Rs3 million. The champions will receive Rs1.5 million, while the runners-up will take home Rs1 million, the PCB added.

The 19-member squads of each of the five teams will be trimmed to 16 at the end of the four-day pre-tournament camp, which begins on May 3 in Karachi.

Among the players featuring, five national players, who were part of Pakistan's victorious squad at the recently concluded World Cup Qualifiers tournament, will lead their respective sides.

Pakistan skipper Fatima Sana, who was named captain of the team of the Qualifiers tournament will be leading her side, Conquerors. Opener Gull Feroza will be leading Strikers,

southpaw Muneeba Ali will be leading Invincibles, off-spinner Rameen Shamim

will be leading Challengers, and veteran batter Sidra Amin will be captaining the Stars side.

"As part of the PCB's continued efforts to promote and expand the reach of women's cricket, both the qualifier (May 22) and the final (May 24) will be live-streamed on the PCB's official YouTube channel. All matches in the tournament will begin at 3pm PKT," the statement added.

Last year's tournament was held in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, with Karachi and Lahore being declared joint winners of the tournament after the final at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium was called off without a ball being bowled due to rain.



PESHAWAR Zalmi batter Maaz Sadaqat looks to take a run after playing a shot as Islamabad United wicket-keeper Azam Khan watches during their Pakistan Super League match at the Gaddafi Stadium.

Maaz, Babar keep Peshawar Zalmi's playoffs pursuit alive

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Peshawar Zalmi ensured their pursuit for the HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) playoffs stayed alive as debutant Maaz Sadaqat and skipper Babar Azam starred in a low-scoring encounter to give their team a six-wicket win over Islamabad United here at the Gaddafi Stadium.

Zalmi are placed fifth in the standings — with two points separating them from Karachi Kings — but mathematically still in it with three games to go. United, however safe at the top, have lost their second match in a row after winning five on the trot.

They were poor with the bat against Zalmi, giving them 144 to chase, before Babar and Maaz — both scoring half centuries — combined for 100 runs in 60 balls to help Zalmi bounce back from a difficult start to chase down the target with 20 balls to spare.

Zalmi were reduced to 40-3 in the powerplay with Kyle Meyer striking on the second ball of the innings to get Mitch Owen, Ben Dwarshuis making Saim Ayub play on to his stumps and Mohammad Harris falling victim to a spectacular catch by Naseem Shah off Riley Meredith's bowling.

Babar and Maaz initiated their response with caution, with only 20 runs coming in the next three overs, before Maaz pulled, and smacked Meyers straight down the ground for two sixes to take his team to 76-3 at halfway stage. Maaz punished a wayward delivery by Naseem in the 12th over to bring up his 50 partnership with Babar before pulling Dwarshuis for another six and scored two boundaries off Saad Masood's spin in the next over to reach his half century.

After the youngster creamed Meredith through long-off

for another four, Babar (53 not out off 49, four fours and a six) joined the party, lifting the pacer over the same region for his first six. He brought up his half century and the 100-run partnership with Maaz with a four off Naseem in the 16th over.

The very over saw Maaz (55 off 33, four fours and three sixes) fall, but by that point, he had virtually won Zalmi the match.

Earlier, after winning the toss, United struggled to bat on a bowling friendly surface, before Dwarshuis' late cameo helped them to 143-9.

Dwarshuis, coming in to bat with United reeling at 107-7 at the start of the 17th over, smashed three fours and two sixes in his knock of 33 off 17 balls.

He broke United's shackles with a splendid four over midwicket, picking a slower shorter delivery by Ahmed Daniyal before clubbing the pacer over long-on.

After seeing Imad Wasim lose his wicket on the other end, Dwarshuis cleared long-on again, this time off Alzarri Joseph's pace before getting a lucky boundary. He was helped by Babar's misfielding at long-off for four more as United closed their innings.

The start of it saw openers Sahibzada Farhan and Meyers — playing his first match of the season — see off immense pace and movement by Joseph and Luke Wood to reach 49-0 in the powerplay.

Zalmi missed an opportunity for an early breakthrough when Farhan, after surviving an lbw appeal on the first ball of the match, played Wood straight into the hands of Babar at mid-off, only for the Zalmi captain to drop him.

Farhan, having celebrated his reprieve by bludgeoning three fours and a six in the first six overs, however, saw Babar eventually take him in the ninth over with Ahmed striking.

United and Spurs seize control in Europa League

SPORTS DESK

PARIS: The rescue act is on for Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur. Big wins for both teams in the first legs of the Europa League semi-finals on Thursday kept alive their hopes of lifting a major trophy and qualifying for the Champions League.

United beat 10-man Athletic Bilbao 3-0 at the San Mames in Spain and Tottenham won 3-1 at home against Norwegian club Bodo/Glimt.

Both United and Spurs have endured miserable domestic campaigns and are languishing in the bottom half of the Premier League. But European club football's second-tier Europa League could yet see one of them salvage their season.

Not only is silverware on the line, but so is an unlikely route to the lucrative Champions League as the prize for winning the competition.

United's victory in the Basque country ensured they remain the only team unbeaten in European competition this season, in contrast to the fact they are on course for a worst-ever Premier League points haul.

BILBAO: Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes scores from the penalty spot during the Europa League semi-final first leg against Athletic Bilbao at San Mames.—Reuters

"It's hard to explain," manager Ruben Amorim said. "We improve in the last games. I don't look just to the results. We had some games that we won that we didn't play well and some games that we lost but we played well. Sometimes you just need a little bit luck."

"We can win this competition and in Premier League we are just suffering game after game and try to manage both things with some injuries. Sometimes it's harder even for the players. I know that it is hard to understand, but sometimes it's the context, it's the way we see things."

An all-Premier League clash in the final would present a fascinating duel and under-pressure Spurs manager Ange Postecoglou could yet live up to his proclamation that he always wins a trophy in his second season.

That record — which was carried through with former clubs Brisbane Roar, Yokohama F Marinos and Celtic — has looked in serious jeopardy for much of a season that has seen Spurs lose 19 times in the league and left them languishing in 16th place. But the win against Bodo/Glimt at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium will fuel belief that Postecoglou could deliver the goods again as they bid to end a 17-year trophy drought.



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's James Maddison (R) shoots to score past Bodo/Glimt goalkeeper Nikita Haikin during their Europa League semi-final first leg at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

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India's credibility crisis

In the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian government has chosen a familiar path: deflect, ban and censor. Rather than address the rather serious and inevitable questions that have cropped up about its internal security failures or the international scepticism surrounding its claims, India has turned its frustration outward – targeting Pakistani media, art, sport and journalism. This is a reaction not of strength, but of insecurity. On the recommendation of the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs, 16 Pakistani YouTube channels, including respected news outlets such as Geo News and prominent journalists like Asma Shirazi and Umar Cheema among others, have been banned for allegedly “spreading communally sensitive content and misinformation”. In reality, their only fault seems to be responsible journalism and not subscribing to India’s state-approved narrative. This clampdown is a textbook example of authoritarian behaviour masquerading as national security. When the truth doesn’t align with a government’s agenda, censorship becomes its tool of choice.

Pakistani media’s restraint in reporting on the Pahalgam incident has earned it praise even from its naysayers. While Indian media whipped up hysteria and pointed fingers without evidence, Pakistani news outlets remained measured, mature and professional. This contrast in media conduct has not gone unnoticed. But the bans haven’t stopped at journalism. The cultural crackdown has reached Bollywood, with India reportedly blocking the release of Abir Gulaal, a movie starring Pakistani actor Fawad Khan. Despite anticipation around the film and its scheduled release on May 9, India has pulled two of its songs from YouTube and scrapped the film’s release altogether. The justification is again flimsy, echoing the same insecurity that drives censorship of news content. Even the world of sports has not been spared. BCCI Vice-President Rajeev Shukla has declared that India will not engage in any bilateral cricket with Pakistan following the Pahalgam attack – ignoring the fact that such matches haven’t occurred in over a decade anyway. When the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 was awarded to Pakistan, India still refused to play matches on Pakistani soil, forcing neutral venues. Instead of fostering peace through sport, India has always used cricket as a political weapon.

What these actions expose is not strength, but weakness – an acknowledgment that India’s global narrative is collapsing under the weight of its contradictions. Its media laments the lack of international traction on the Pahalgam attack. But the truth is simple: the international community does not buy India’s story because there is no credible evidence of Pakistani involvement. Major powers like the US, UK, EU, Russia and even regional players like China and Turkey have declined to echo New Delhi’s baseless accusations. The fact is that a country that has plotted assassinations abroad – in Canada, Pakistan and attempted ones in the US – cannot claim the moral high ground. A country exposed by Pakistan through irrefutable evidence, including the case of RAW agent Kulbhushan Jadhav, can no longer point fingers without answering hard questions itself. These bans, boycotts and blockades are the last throes of a state trying to shield itself from the truth. Rather than introspect, it punishes artists, silences journalists and isolates itself in sport. India needs to understand that silencing voices from Pakistan will not solve its credibility crisis.

By Muhammad Umar

In mourning, in strength

The tragedy in Pahalgam has shaken many across the region. Innocent lives were lost and families torn apart. As Pakistanis, we grieve. We do not find solace in the suffering of others. Our instinct is to mourn alongside those who have lost their loved ones, not to politicize their pain.

And yet, almost immediately, there was a familiar rush to assign blame without proof, to point fingers at Pakistan as though tragedy itself were a script already written.

This rush to judgment is not surprising. It fits a pattern that has unfolded over decades. Each time unrest strikes in Occupied Kashmir, the first instinct of many in New Delhi is not introspection but projection. Instead of asking why discontent continues to smoulder after seventy-eight years of occupation, the narrative is twisted to suggest that Pakistan alone is to blame for every fire that burns in the valley.

But the truth remains – stubborn and unavoidable. Kashmir’s agony is not manufactured across a border. It is born of history, injustice and broken promises. It is not Pakistan that stripped Kashmiris of their special status. It is not Pakistan that has encouraged demographic changes, land seizures and political disenfranchisement. The story of Occupied Kashmir is long and painful, stretching back centuries through the rule of ancient dynasties, through Mughal annexations, Afghan brutality, Sikh conquest, Dogra oppression – and finally into modern-day occupation. Since 1947, it has been India that has ruled Kashmir against the will of its people, not Pakistan.

In moments like this, it is important to remember who we are. Pakistan mourns.

Pakistan stands with those who have suffered. We do not dance on graves. When tragedy struck the Jaffar Express in Pakistan, costing many lives, it was not lost on anyone that some across the border found it a moment for celebration rather than sorrow. That is not the path we choose.

Even global powers recognise the complexity that India refuses to acknowledge. US President Trump, in responding to the Pahalgam attack, made clear that he would not intervene. He emphasised his friendship with both nations but saw no benefit in inserting himself into a struggle so deeply rooted. His choice was a reminder that Kashmir is not a story that can be simplified for short-term political gain. It is a wound with layers of history that cannot be wished away with accusations.

What makes India’s response even more revealing is the self-inflicted damage that followed. In the aftermath of the attack, Pakistan closed its airspace to Indian carriers. The economic impact has been immediate and severe. Indian airlines are now losing an estimated half a billion dollars every month. Ticket prices have surged, travel times have lengthened, and everyday citizens are paying the price for decisions made in anger, not strategy. This is the real cost of refusing to reflect. It is not just the dignity of others that is sacrificed, but the well-being of one’s own people. A mature nation pauses after tragedy. It investigates, it gathers evidence, it seeks the truth. It does not lash out blindly and harm its own in the process.

Pakistan, during its National Security Council meeting, demonstrated what maturity looks like in moments of crisis. The government responded firmly, making it clear that any

diversion of water under the Indus Waters Treaty would be treated as an act of war. Bilateral treaties were suspended where necessary. Yet there was a clear line drawn between political action and human decency. Pakistan did not take out its anger on Sikh pilgrims travelling across its land. Pilgrims were treated with respect, their religious rights safeguarded, their dignity protected. Even as political ties were cut, human bonds were not. This is no small thing. India often claims to be a secular democracy, yet its actions continue to betray that claim. In contrast, Pakistan, even in moments of heightened tension, refused to politicise religion. We do not play politics with people’s faith. We do not punish the innocent to score points. We respect humanity, even when others do not.

The deeper test for Pakistan lies ahead. Some would like nothing more than to bait us into a reaction, to entangle us in provocations that derail our focus. We must not fall for it. The real test after Pahalgam is not how loudly we defend ourselves, but how patiently we stay the course. Our economy is stabilising. Our voice on the world stage is growing stronger. Our partnerships are deepening, particularly with nations looking to Pakistan for leadership in critical areas like minerals and regional stability.

True strength is not in shouting back. It is in refusing to be distracted from the future we are building.

Kashmir’s future must be one of dignity, self-determination and peace. That will not come through blame games. It will not come through policies of demographic engineering or military suppression. It will only come when the people most affected are finally given their rightful place at the table.

By Dr. Nazeer Ahmad waraich

All praise is due to Allah

All praise is due to Allah swt ,the most High .We praise Him and seek His Help and forgiveness and we seek refuge in Him from the evils of ourselves and evils of our deeds .Whomever Allah the most High guide none can misguide and whomever

Allah the most High misguide none can guide .I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship in truth except Allah alone having no partners and I bear witness that Mohammed (SAW) is His perfect worshipping last Messenger .Allah ,s abundant praise ,blessing ,peace be upon Him .His noble family and companions .

Friday has many distinguishing features and virtues that Allah the greatest has bestowed upon this day and not others .

Abu Hurayrah and Hudhayfah (May Allah the most beautiful pleased with them)

said : The Messenger of Allah the Exalted (SAW) said :Allah The most powerful led those who came before us away from Friday .The jews had Saturday and the christian had Sunday .Then Allah the Ar -Rahman brought us and Allah The AR Raheem guided us to Friday .So there is Friday ,Saturday and Sunday ,and thus they will follow us on the Day of Resurrection ,and we will be dealt with before all others .(narrated by Muslim,856)

"Al-Qadi said: The apparent meaning is that it was obligatory for them to venerate Friday but this was not stated clearly; the matter was left to their own reasoning... But they did not manage to work it out and Allah did not guide them to it. It was enjoined clearly upon this ummah, and was not left to their own reasoning, thus they were blessed with it ... It was narrated that Musa

(AW) enjoined Friday upon them and told them of its virtues, but they disputed with him and argued that Saturday was better, and it was said to him, 'Let them be.'

Al-Qadi said: if there had been a clear command, their arguing with him would not have been valid, rather it would have been said to him that they were going against the command. I say: it may be that that was clearly enjoined upon them but they disputed as to whether it was something they had to adhere to or they could change it to another day; they decided to change it to another day and they erred greatly thereby." (they were wrong and they make big mistake)

It comes as no surprise that Friday was specifically enjoined upon them and they went against that.

Al-Hafiz said: "How can it be otherwise when they are the ones who said "We hear and we obey"?"

Aws ibn Aws narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "The best of your days is Friday. On that day Adam (peace be upon him) was created; on that day he died; on that day he was descended ,on that day Qiyyama will be established .

Indeed Day of jumma is best among all other days .It is better than EidUI FITRE and EidUIAdhaDay .Day of Jumma has such virtues that these virtues are not given to another day .Abu Hurayrah (May Allah the king be pleased with him said : Prophet May peace be upon Him said .Day of jumma is the best day .On that day Sun was arosen ,Adam (AW) was created .On that day he was entered in Jannah ,on day he descended down on earth .On that day His soul was taken and death was given to

him ,Day Of Judgment (Qiyamat) will be on Day Of Jumma .

There is an Hour on this day when any muslim ask Allah for any legitimate thing ,his /her prayers will be accepted .According to many Prophets (SAW) narration it is after Asar prayer time or last hour of jumma day before sunset (Abu Daood ,Hakim ,Nissai mentioned that Prophet SAW said: seek it after Asar prayer and in last Hour .

There is no angel ,who is close to Allah ,no heaven,no earth ,no wind ,no mountain and no sea that does not fear Friday (narrated by IBN Majah 1084)

Al -Sanadisaid : "They fear Friday " means they fear the onset of Hour .

Dear brothers and sisters ,Best action of this Day (Salat UL Jumma) Jumma Prayer which is the best of prayers .

Allah the King of all world says ;O you who believe (MUSLIMS) When call (Adhan) is proclaimed for the Salah (prayer) on Friday (Jumma Prayer) come to remembrance of Allah (jumma religious talk Khubah) and salah (prayer) and leave off business (and every other thing) That is better for you if you did but know (Al Jumma 62;9)

Muslim (233) narrated from Abu Hurayrah (May Allah (SWT) be pleased with him)that Messenger Of Allah (peace and blessing be upon Him) said The Five daily prayers and from one jumma to next jumma is an expiation for whatever sins come in between them ,so long as one does not commit a major sin .

Ibn Umar (may Allah be pleased with him said : The Messenger of Allah (may peace be upon Him) said The best prayer before Allah the most High is Fajar Prayer on Friday in congregation (narrated by Al- Bayhaqi)

Abdullah Bin Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) said ;The Messenger of Allah (May peace be upon Him) said There is no Muslim who dies during during the day of Friday or night of Friday ,But Allah will protect him/her from trial of grave . (Tirmidhi 1074)

Al - Bukhari (814) and Muslim (850) narrated from Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessing of Allah be upon Him) said Whoever does Ghusal on Friday like ghusal for major ritual impurity ,then goes to the prayer (in the first hour ie ,early) it is as if he sacrificed a camel .Whoever goes in the second Hour ,it is as if he sacrificed cow ,Whoever goes in the third Hour ,it is as if he sacrificed a horned ram ,Whoever goes in the fourth hour ,it is as if he sacrificed a hen ,and whoever goes in the fifth Hour it is as if he offered an egg .When imam comes out ,the angels come to listen to Khutbah .

Question is how these Hours can be calculated .If time between sun arisen and jummastrat is five hours or so and so depend on different countries and their time interval between sun arosen and khutbah Religious speech start time .Then divide this time by five .First hour will be first hour or so after sun arosen and second hour will be after the first hour .

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that Prophet (may peace be upon Him) said : Whoever does Ghusal (bath) then comes to Jumma ,and prays as much as Allah decrees for Him ,then listen attentively until Khutbah is over ,then prays with imam will be forgiven for (His/Her sins) between that Jumma day and

the next jumma day and three more days .(Muslim 857)

What I have quoted ,when taken altogether indicates that expiation of sins from One Friday to the next is subject to all conditions being met namely doing ghusal (bath),cleaning oneself ,putting on perfume ,wearing one,s best

clothes ,walking in a calm and dignified manner ,not stepping over people ,not pushing between two

people ,not offending others ,praying nafal prayer ,praying tahayyatul masjid and listening attentively and avoiding idle speech and in present ,watching cell phone ,playing on it ,answering phone calls and calling .

Righteous deeds to be done on Jummahday . Performing Fajarsalah in congregation ;MakingDuas that is supplicating to Allah the Most High especially at last hour of Jumma Day ,Reciting Surah Al Kahf ,According to Hadeeth of the Prophet (PBUH) it is an enlightenment for him/her who recites it from that Friday until the next Friday from his feet up to the clouds . (Mustadrak Al Hakim Vol 2 Hadeeth 3391) Best time to recite is between sun

rise and sunset .TakingGhusal (bath) Ghusal can be taken after the break of dawn right up until the jummahsalah ,if taken before Fajar ,it is not counted as JummaGhusal .

Very Important to send a salutation (DroodoSalam) to our beloved Prophet (PBUH) on Thursday and Friday . Note ;There are the sunnah prayers before khutbah Except two Rakah for Tahayyatul Masjid .There are six sunnah after Khutbah .It is better to pray four in masjid and praying two sunnah at home is superior act of worship .

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to recite in Fajr prayer in Fridays Alif-Lam-MimTanzil (Surat al-Sajdah) in the first rak'ah and Hal ata 'ala'l-insaninumin al-dahr lam yakun shay-an madhkuran (Surat al-Insan) in the second. (Narrated by al-Bukhari, 851; Muslim, 880)

Al-Hafiz Ibn Hajar said: It was said that the reason why these two surahs are recited is because they mention the creation of Adam and what will happen on the Day of Resurrection, because that will come to pass on a Friday.

If a person walks to Jumu'ah prayer, for every step he will have the reward of fasting and praying qiyam for one year.

Aws ibn Aws al-Thaqafi narrated that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Whoever does ghul on Friday and causes (his wife) to do ghul, and sets out early,

and comes close to the imam and listens and keeps quiet, for every step he takes he will have the reward of fasting and praying qiyam for one year." (Narrated by al-Tirmidhi, 496; classed as sahih by al-Albani in Sahih al-Tirmidhi, 410)

Ibn al-Qayyim said in Zad al-Ma'ad, 1/285: ("Causes (his wife) to do ghul" means has intercourse with his wife. This is how it was interpreted by Waki')

Al-Hafiz ibn Hajar (may Allah have mercy on him) said, after quoting the hadiths which speak of the virtues of Jumu'ah prayer:



DAILY MIRROR

Pakistan to seek UN Security Council meeting when 'appropriate'

INP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is on alert and is monitoring the situation stemming from India's aggressive moves that followed last week's Pahalgam attack in Indian-occupied Kashmir, and will seek a UN Security Council meeting when "appropriate" to do so, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said.

Addressing a news conference at UN Headquarters in New York, Ambassador Asim said: "It is evident that there was an incident, but now what has evolved in terms of the situation, which is a real threat to regional and international peace and security, and we believe that the Security Council, in fact, has the mandate, it would be very legitimate for any member of the Council, including Pakistan, to request a meeting."

The news conference was one of several actions Ambassador Asim, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, has taken to provide an

update on this evolving situation to the international community, and Pakistan's perspective.

The Ambassador said: "We have discussed that with the previous — last month's Council's presidency (France) — and this month's presidency (Greece) — we are observing the situation very closely, and we have the right to convene a meeting, when we feel appropriate." He was answering a question on whether Pakistan is planning to ask for a meeting of the Security Council in the wake of rising tensions between India and Pakistan.

On Thursday, Greece, which is the President of the UN Security Council for May, said that the Security Council was expected to meet "sooner rather than later" to discuss the situation between India and Pakistan, and this would be an opportunity to express views and to help diffuse tensions, voicing concern over heightening tensions between the nuclear-armed South Asian neighbours.

"Of course, if a request comes for a meeting then... I think this meeting

should take place because, as we said, maybe it's also an opportunity to have views expressed and this might help to diffuse a bit of tension. We will see," Permanent Representative of Greece to the UN and President of the Security Council for the month of May, Ambassador Evangelos Sekeris had said. "We are in close contact... but this is something which might happen, I would say, sooner rather than later. We will see, we are preparing. It's the first day of our (UNSC) presidency," Sekeris had said.

Sekeris was briefing UN reporters here Thursday on the Council's programme of work under Greece's month-long presidency of the 15-nation body.

Asked about UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres offer of good-offices to both India and Pakistan to de-escalate tensions, Ambassador Asim said Pakistan has welcomed the UN chief's move. In fact, Pakistan has always offered its cooperation to any peace moves by UN secretaries-general, he said.



LAHORE: Opposition Leader in National Assembly Umer Ayub is talking with media persons outside Anti-Terrorists Court in Provincial Capital.

Jamiat Ahle-Hadith Amir Senator Sajid Mir passes away

INP

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ahle-Hadith (JAH) Amir Professor Senator Sajid Mir died in Sialkot on Saturday at the age of 86.

Born in Sialkot in 1938, the senator had been ill for some time and had undergone surgery at a hospital in Islamabad a month ago.

But instead of recovering, his condition deteriorated and he again moved to Sialkot where he breathed his last.

Mir had also undergone a heart surgery 10 years ago.

He had been leading his party for the last 40 years, and had been elected to the Senate five times.

He was considered to be a close associate of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

The senator also authored several books.

The deceased has special relations with members of the Saudi royal family, including Shah Abdullah, Shah Salman bin Abdul Aziz and Muhammad Salman.

President congratulates newly elected CPNE office bearers

APP

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari Saturday congratulated the newly elected office bearers of Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE).

The President felicitated Kazam Khan on getting elected as President and Ghulam Nabi Chandio on becoming Secretary General of CPNE.

He also expressed best wishes for Senior Vice President Ayaz Khan, Deputy Secretary General Tanvir Shaukat and other office bearers.

He expressed hope that the newly elected office bearers will

play their role in promotion of high journalistic values in the country.

The President urged the media to promote democratic values in the country.

He said he was hopeful that the newly elected members will continue their efforts for progress of the field of journalism.

He stressed that media should play its role to stop fake news and misinformation.

Media was important in making people aware about important political, social and economic issues, he added.

Ahsan Iqbal calls for Export-led Economy to Propel Pakistan's Growth

APP

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the urgent need for Pakistan to transition to an export-based economy to achieve rapid economic growth.

Speaking at the 10th budget summit, organised by the University of Management and Technology (UMT) on Saturday, the minister highlighted the critical role of exports in ensuring sustainable development and reducing reliance on foreign aid.

Addressing a gathering of students, academics, and policymakers, Iqbal reflected on Pakistan's developmental journey since its inception in 1947. He noted that the country, which began with scarce resources, has achieved significant milestones, including becoming the seventh nuclear power globally and producing advanced JF-17 Thunder jets. "From using thorns as pins in offices to building a modern telecommunications system with high mobile density, Pakistan has made remarkable strides," he said.

However, the minister cautioned that these achievements pale when compared

to other nations. In 1960, Pakistan's manufacturing exports were comparable to those of South Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand, but today, Pakistan lags significantly with exports at 32 billion dollars, while South Korea's exceed 600 billion dollars. Similarly, Pakistan's per capita income of 1,600 Dollars is dwarfed by China's 16,000 dollars, despite starting at similar levels in 1980.

Iqbal posed a pressing question: why has Pakistan fallen behind countries like Vietnam, Bangladesh, and India, which have surged ahead in exports and economic growth?

He attributed this lag to a lack of a conducive environment for development, marked by conflict, instability, and short-term economic

policies. "Successful nations prioritize peace, ensure stability, and maintain policy continuity for at least a decade," he explained, citing examples like Singapore, Malaysia, and China, where long-term leadership and consistent policies drove progress.

Pakistan, in contrast, has faced decades of instability, including involvement in external conflicts and internal challenges like terrorism and political uncertainty.

Mohsin Naqvi calls for urgent reforms at National Police Bureau

By Zahid Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the National Police Bureau (NPB) and called for an urgent action plan to modernize the institution in line with contemporary policing needs.

Chairing a high-level meeting on police reforms, the minister emphasized the strategic importance of the NPB in improving the national policing system.

During the visit, Naqvi noted that the bureau has not received adequate attention in the

past and stressed that it must now be revitalized to play a central role in shaping policing policy, reforms, and coordination among law enforcement agencies across the country.

"The National Police Bureau has a vital role in developing effective policing strategies nationwide. It must serve as a key institution for policy development, reform initiatives, and inter-agency collaboration," said the minister.

He directed that the NPB redefine its objectives and submit a comprehensive action plan on an emergency basis.

To enhance research and analysis capabilities, Naqvi instructed the immediate procurement of advanced software that would allow in-depth analysis of crime trends across various regions of the country.

In addition, the interior minister emphasized improving the process for issuing police character certificates, directing that it be streamlined and expedited. He also called for strengthening international cooperation and recommended that more officers be sent abroad for training and postings to gain global exposure.

Inspector General Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, Director General of the National Police Bureau, gave a detailed briefing on the bureau's current functions and challenges.

He agreed that the NPB deserves more attention and development to fulfil its critical mandate effectively.

Naqvi congratulates scientists on successful test of Ababeel Missile

INP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has congratulated Pakistani scientists and engineers on the successful test of the Ababeel surface-to-surface missile, calling it a remarkable achievement in the country's defense capabilities.

The Ababeel missile, with a range of 450 kilometers, was successfully tested, showcasing the technical excellence and professional skills of Pakistan's scientific community. Minister Naqvi praised the achievement and said that the engineers and scientists had once again proven their unmatched expertise in missile technology.

"This successful test is a proud milestone. Our scientists and engineers have demonstrated exceptional technical mastery and professionalism once again," he said. He added that this advancement represents another landmark in Pakistan's missile development program and further strengthens the country's strategic defense systems.

Gaza rescuers say three babies among 11 killed in Israel strike

MONITORING DESK

GAZA: Gaza's civil defence agency said Saturday that an overnight Israeli strike on the Khan Yunis refugee camp killed at least 11 people, including three babies up to a year old.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal reported 11 killed "after the bombardment of the Al-Bayram family home in the Khan Yunis camp" in southern Gaza at around 3:00 am (0000 GMT).

Bassal told AFP that eight of the dead had been identified and were all from the same extended family, including a boy and girl, both one-year-olds, and a month-old baby.

An Israeli defence spokesperson confirmed the strike to AFP, saying the attack targeted a "terrorist Hamas member", without giving further details.

At the scene, rescue workers and residents searched through the rubble with their bare hands, illuminating the destruction with hand-held torches. One rescuer carried the lifeless body of an infant from the wreckage, footage captured by an AFP journalist showed. Fayka Abu Hatab, a resident in a nearby building, said she "saw a bright light, then there was an explosion, and dust covered the entire area".

"We couldn't see anything, it all went dark,"

Abu Hatab said. "All of our windows were destroyed, our rooms were destroyed, the neighbours' house was destroyed," she added.

Serving Humanity Key to Compassionate Society: Gilani

APP

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has said serving humanity strengthens compassion and empathy in society and plays a vital role in building a better future for all.

He made these remarks while delivering the keynote address at the chief guest at the Rotary International District Conference 2025.

Gilani praised the humanitarian contributions of Rotary International in Pakistan and around the world, said a news release.

Welcoming District Governor Rizwan Adhia, ambassadors, Rotary members and other distinguished guests, Gilani said, "It is a great honour for me to be here this evening. Today, we are not just celebrating an organization, we are honoring a century-long legacy of revolutionary service. We pay tribute to those who live by Rotary's enduring motto: 'Service Above Self.'"

He lauded the Rotary International's extensive humanitarian work, noting that from Pakistan's bustling cities to the remotest parts of Africa, Rotary has built a powerful network of compassion. "Rotary's greatest success lies not only in its 1.5 million members, but in its tireless efforts to make the world a better place," he said.

Highlighting the organization's con-

tribution to national development, Gilani said that Rotary's mission aligns with Pakistan's goals of sustainable development and inclusive growth. He especially praised its support in the fight against polio, calling it a near victory and urging continued efforts to make Pakistan polio-free. Gilani also highlighted the "Smart Villages" initiative, which is transforming lives through solar energy, clean water, and rural healthcare.

He applauded Rotary's youth leadership programs, which are shaping future innovators among Pakistan's large young population. He appreciated projects such as the partnership with Ziauddin Hospital to provide heart surgeries for underprivileged children.

The Chairman Senate said, "I belong to South Punjab and have seen firsthand the deep inequalities that still exist—the children without schools, mothers without healthcare, and farmers battling famine. These are not just numbers; they are our people."

He recalled his tenure as Prime Minister, during which the uplift of underdeveloped regions and empowerment of marginalized communities, especially women, was a key priority. "I take pride in launching the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), a globally recognized initiative that has provided hope, financial assistance, and dignity to millions," he added.



QUETTA: Activists of PPP minorities' wing hold solidarity rally with Pak Army.

India targeting Kashmiris on pretext of Pahalgam false flag operation: Mashaal Malik

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Mashaal Malik wife of Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik has said India is targeting Kashmiris in the guise of Pahalgam false flag operation and Kashmiris are paying heavy price.

Addressing a press conference here she said not only Hindus but also Muslims and people from other countries were targeted in Pahalgam. My family too is victim of Indian atrocities. I am not allowed to talk to Yasin Malik. Thousands of families are being kept isolated forcibly.

While demanding of UN to take notice of the situation she said several

diplomacies took place but they all proved of no avail because intent of India is not good.

She held this is ideal opportunity for the world to resolve Kashmir issue.

She underlined every Kashmiri has a story. The innocent Kashmiris are being massacred. Funeral processions are taking place. Modi is committing aggression on water. This is Kashmiris water. No one is triumphant in wars. Only life loss is caused. The situation is very horrible on LoC.

She underlined we are proud of our armed forces. Indian army is not in support of war. The stance of China and Bangladesh is appreciable.

India's allegations against Pakistan on Pahalgam incident depict Modi's failure of governance: Chinese Scholar

APP

BEIJING: Senior Research Fellow at Charhar Institute, Pro Cheng Xizhong on Saturday said on Pahalgam incident, India's accusations against Pakistan without any basis is clearly an attempt by the Narendra Modi administration to evade responsibility for his governance failure. Pakistani travel guides

In a statement issued here, he said that in recent days, India has used the shooting incident to create high tension in its relations with Pakistan, mainly for the following purposes.

Firstly, Narendra Modi wants to shift the domestic crisis. India is now facing many problems domestically, such as economic downturn, high unemployment rate and outdated infrastructure, he added. "By creating external conflicts, it can incite nationalist sentiment, shift people's attention from domestic conflicts to external threats, thereby consolidating public opinion and the political foundation of his government.

At the same time, the Indian government can also use this opportunity to

showcase a tough image and enhance its domestic support."

Secondly, Narendra Modi wants to curb cooperation between China and Pakistan. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is the flagship project of the "the Belt and Road".

"India sees CPEC as a threat to its regional hegemony and is concerned that China's influence may radiate to South Asia through Pakistan, thereby affecting its dominant position in the region."

Intensifying the conflict between India and Pakistan can weaken Pakistan's national strength and interfere with China's strategic layout, he said.

Thirdly, he said, India has significantly expanded its military power in recent years, purchasing a large amount of cutting-edge equipment that needs to be tested for equipment performance and military combat effectiveness through actual combat.

In addition, India is attempting to reshape the power structure in South Asia by taking military action against Pakistan and controlling the water sources in Kashmir.



QUETTA: Activists of Balochistan Union of Journalists hold protest on occasion of World Press Freedom Day.