

DAILY MIRROR

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7 soldiers martyred in IED blast by 'Indian proxy' terrorists in Balochistan's Mach: ISPR

APP

MACH: Seven soldiers were martyred in a blast from an improvised explosive device planted by "Indian proxy" terrorists in Balochistan's Kacchi district, the military's media wing said on Tuesday.

A press release from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said: "On May 6, 2025, terrorists belonging to Indian proxy, so-called 'Baloch Liberation Army', targeted security forces' vehicle with an improvised explosive device in general area Mach."

It said the following seven soldiers were subsequently martyred in the attack: Subedar Umar Farooq, 42, resident of Karachi; Naik Asif Khan, 28, resident of Karak district; Naik Mashkoor Ali, 28, resident of Orakzai district; Sepoy Tariq Nawaz, 26, resident of Lakki Marwat district; Sepoy

Wajid Ahmed Faiz, 28, resident of Bagh district; Sepoy Muhammad Asim, 22, resident of Karak district and Sepoy Muhammad Kashif Khan, 28, resident of Kohat district. "Nefarious designs of India and its proxies operating on Pakistani soil will be defeated

by the valiant security forces, LEAs (law enforcement agencies) and the brave nation of Pakistan," the ISPR said.

It added that sanitisation of the area was being carried out to eliminate any terrorists present in the area and the perpetrators of the "heinous and cowardly act" would be brought to justice.

"Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan, and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve."



ISLAMABAD: The Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister, Defence Minister, and Services Chiefs visited the newly established National Intelligence Fusion and Threat Assessment Centre (NIFTAC).

PM lauds role of ISI in safeguarding national interests

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif today (Tuesday) visited ISI headquarters, where was appraised of regional security developments and the evolving threat matrix, including conventional military options, hybrid warfare tactics, and terrorist proxies.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Defence Minister, and the Services Chiefs.

The visit entailed a detailed briefing on the prevailing security environment, with a particular focus on preparedness for conventional threat in the light of India's increasingly aggressive and provocative posture along Pakistan's Eastern border.

The Prime Minister and accompanying dignitaries underscored the imperative of heightened national vigilance, seamless inter-agency coordination, and reinforced operational readiness to deter and decisively respond to any violation of Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Commending the Inter-Services Intelligence's professionalism and strategic acumen, the Prime Minister lauded its critical role in safeguarding national interests and enabling informed national security decision-making under complex and

dynamic conditions.

He said the entire nation is behind their brave Armed Forces. He said the Pakistan Army is one of the most professional and disciplined force in the world.

The leadership reaffirmed Pakistan's unambiguous resolve to defend the homeland against all threats—conventional or otherwise. It reiterated that with nation's full support, the Armed Forces, supported by all other elements of national power and state institutions, remain fully prepared to uphold Pakistan's security, prestige and honour under all circumstances.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif accompanied the premier during the visit.

Tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbours flared following last month's deadly attack on tourists in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

New Delhi has blamed Islamabad for the April 22 attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 people — an allegation Islamabad has strongly denied as baseless, sparking a series of heated threats and diplomatic tit-for-tat measures. Islamabad, however, says it has "credible intelligence" that India intends to launch military action, fuelling prospects for war between the neighbours.

Chinese were surprised on knowing about No of pending cases in Pakistan: CJP

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi has said important talks were held with judges of Indian judiciary during visit to China, however the details cannot be disclosed now in the prevailing situation.

He said this while talking to members of Press Association of Supreme Court (SC) here Tuesday. There are 367 judges in Chinese SC and no case is pending therein, he said adding Chinese judges were surprised on knowing number of pending cases in Pakistan judicial system.

He held 1 visited China along with 5-member delegation to learn from Chinese judiciary and understand their system.

Timely decision about cases is next to nil without effective utilization of technology in Pakistan.

Technology is not tablet which should be eaten and every thing would become OK. We will have to complete data so that effective

utilization of A-1 becomes possible.

CJP said standard of technology in all high courts is better than SC.

Two permanent benches and one temporary bench have been constituted in SC to deal with criminal cases. 178 out of 403 appeals related to death sentence have been wrapped up.

Over 1200 appeals related to life sentence are pending hearing. Out of them the criminals have served 2/3 rd period of sentence in several appeals.

Petitions soft copy will be accepted from June 15 and number of copies has been reduced from 8 to 3.

He remarked use of technology will benefit judiciary. If resources are required in this regard then donors will be approached as well.

Announcing to introduce evening shift in judiciary he said optional cases will be heard from 2 p.m to 5 p.m. Salary of judges who work in evening shift will be enhanced by 50 percent.

President for further expanding bilateral cooperation with Russia

ONLINE

Islamabad: President Asif Ali Zardari has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further expand bilateral cooperation with the Russian Federation in the areas of trade, investment, technology, and people-to-people exchanges.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the 80th Anniversary of Victory of the Russian Federation in the Great Patriotic War, President Asif Ali Zardari highlighted the growing momentum in Pakistan-Russia relations and expressed confidence that recent high-level interactions between the two countries have laid a solid foundation for deeper engagement and greater understanding.

"I am confident that the bonds of friendship between Pakistan and Russia will continue to grow stronger," the President said, adding that both nations have "immense potential to expand cooperation in trade, investment, technology, and people-to-people contacts."

The President extended warm congratulations to President Vladimir Putin, the Russian government, and the people of Russia on the occasion, saying that the Victory showed the strength and resilience of the Russian people.

Mohsin Naqvi meets Qatari PM, takes up bilateral cooperation

INP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, in Doha, where they held detailed discussions on Pakistan-Qatar relations, bilateral cooperation on Tuesday.

The meeting also addressed the ongoing tensions between Pakistan and India, particularly in the wake of the Pahalgam false flag operation.

Mohsin Naqvi briefed the Qatari leadership on Pakistan's firm and principled stance regarding Indian aggression and emphasised the serious threat to regional peace posed by India's baseless accusations and actions following the Pahalgam incident.

Pakistan counters Indian 'Falsehoods': Tarar

APP

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly continued discussion on the regional situation arising out in the back drop of Pahalgam False Flag Operation and India's provocative actions following the incident.

The lawmakers expressed the determination that the entire Pakistani nation is united in its resolve to respond to any Indian misadventure.

Taking the floor, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, said Pakistan is also fighting the information warfare with India on the front foot.

He informed the House that India had blocked our accounts, and in response, Pakistan managed to have

The interior minister reaffirmed Pakistan's offer for an impartial international investigation, stating, "This offer strengthens our principled position. The world must know who masterminded the attack, who the real culprits are, and who benefitted from it."

Mohsin Naqvi warned that India used the incident as a pretext to target the Indus Waters Treaty, which he described as "Pakistan's lifeline".

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi stressed, "We desire lasting peace in the region but will not remain silent in the face of aggression."

In response, the Qatari prime minister emphasised the need for diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions, saying, "We support a policy of de-escalation in the region and hope diplomatic initiatives will help lower hostilities."

Pakistan, Afghanistan agree to boost high-level contacts

APP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed on the importance of maintaining high-level contacts for fostering long-term cooperation to promote peace and security in the region and beyond.

The understanding to this effect reached during a telephonic conversation between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Amir Khan Muttaqi.

Both the leaders expressed satisfaction with the pace of progress made by the two sides in bilateral relations since the visit of the Deputy Prime Minister to Afghanistan

on 19 April 2025, with a focus on trade, connectivity, economic cooperation, people-to-people contacts, and reactivating political consultative mechanisms.

The Deputy Prime Minister also briefed the Acting Afghan Foreign Minister on recent

provocation and illegal and unilateral measures by India against Pakistan. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to peace and safeguarding Pakistan's sovereignty.

On the occasion, the Acting Afghan Foreign Minister appreciated Pakistan's proactive steps to ease trade and facilitate travel. He also extended an invitation to the Deputy Prime Minister to visit Afghanistan again.



QUETTA: CM Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti in a meeting with Member Provincial Assembly Mir Zabid Ali Reki and Mir Azam Reki.

Pakistan's resolve is to fight for freedom, not conflict: Bilawal

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Tuesday said that Pakistan's resolve to fight for freedom and not for conflict, amid the growing tensions with India in the wake of a militant attack in occupied Kashmir.

An attack on April 22 in Pahalgam killed 26 people, mostly tourists, in one of the deadliest assaults since 2000. India has implied cross-border links without evidence. Pakistan has firmly 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 "swift" response to any misadventure by New Delhi, diplomatic channels have remained engaged to prevent conflict.

Speaking during the National Assembly session today, Bilawal said, "Pakistan had no hand in that crime. We do not export terror, we are the victims of terrorism."

He refuted India's claims on fighting against terrorism, saying, "How can you fight terrorism while practicing state terrorism in Kashmir?"

He said that Pakistan was suffering from "foreign-sponsored, ideologically driven, and brutally indiscriminate" terrorism. "We have buried our soldiers and school children ... We have fought the menace with not only arms but with ideas,

education, economic reforms and unity."

Bilawal continued, "Terrorism cannot be defeated by a tank alone, it must be defeated with justice. It cannot be uprooted by bullets, it must be disarmed with hope. It cannot be defeated by demonising nations but by addressing the grievances that give it birth." He called on India and Pakistan to work together, stating, "The prime minister's challenge to India for an impartial investigation is a start."

"Why would a true victim of terror shy away from accountability? Unless they are worried that the real blame for the bloodshed in Kashmir lies in Delhi and not in Islamabad."

The PPP leader further said, "If India wishes to walk the path of peace, let them come with open hands and not clenched fists. Let them come with facts and not fabrication. Let us sit as neighbours and speak the truth."

"If they do not ... then let them remember that the people of Pakistan are not made to kneel. The people of Pakistan have a resolve to fight, not because we love conflict, but because we love freedom."

He said, "Let India decide. Will it be dialogue or destruction? Cooperation or confrontation?"

A day earlier, the NA unanimously passed a resolution condemning India's unlawful and unilateral declaration to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in

abeyance in blatant violation of the treaty.

The resolution said that the killing of innocent civilians was contrary to the values upheld by Pakistan, and the NA rejected all "frivolous and baseless attempts" to link Pakistan with the Pahalgam attack.



PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari speaking during the NA session.

India cannot afford to attack Pakistan: Sanaullah

INP

FAISALABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah has stated that India cannot afford to attack Pakistan, so it is only making verbal threats.

He warned that any attempt by India to block Pakistan's water would be considered an act of war.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has already convened meetings of water experts to plan Pakistan's response.

"If India tries to build a dam and stops water, it will be treated as war. We will not allow such a structure to be built," he stated.

Sanaullah said India cannot afford to attack Pakistan, so it is only making verbal threats. Commenting on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), he said the party itself delayed legal proceedings by filing appeals and keeping its people in jail. He added that if civilian trials in military courts are decided, the cases will be concluded within 30 days.

On the national security briefing, he said PTI leaders or their representatives should have attended. "If they want a military briefing separately, the military leadership will not object."

Referring to the May 9 events, he said organized attacks were carried out on defense institutions.

PPP's Waqar Mehdi elected Senator on Sindh seat

INP

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) nominated candidate Waqar Mehdi has been elected as Senator with vast majority on the vacant seat of Senate from Sindh on Tuesday.

The Mutehda Qaumi Movement's (MQM) Nighat Mirza, who contested against Waqar Mehdi, got 36 votes.

A total of 149 voters cast their votes out of which two votes were rejected.

A by-election was being held on the general seat of the Senate in Sindh that fell vacant after the death of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Taj Haider.

Political leadership, nation stand united with armed force against any misadventure by India: MNAs

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The legislators in the National Assembly on Tuesday said that all the political leadership and nation stood united should to shoulder with the brave armed force against any misadventure by India.

Initiating the debate in the National Assembly, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) legislator Sehar Kamran said the all the political forces and national stood united behind its brave armed forces against any misadventure against the Pakistan.

Quoting the country's founder, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, saying, "Nothing on earth can undo Pakistan," adding that today every Pakistani is ready to sacrifice for the country.

She also praised PPP founder Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto for making Pakistan a nuclear power and saluted the armed forces for strengthening national defense.

Sunni Ittehad Council lawmaker, Abdul Latif stressed the importance of national unity. "Unity across all sections of society is key to defeating our enemies," he said.

Abdul Latif also highlighted the role of strong leadership in responding to internal and external threats. "We have a strong leadership that can give a befitting response to any internal and external threats," he added.

Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), leader Dr. Farooq Sattar criticized Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies, calling them "fascist" and it was rejected globally. "Modi-fascist mind set and leadership have failed miserably at international level."

Referring to incidents like Pulwama and the recent attack in Pahalgam, he said these were due to intelligence and security failures by the Indian government. "India's aggressive posture is endangering regional peace," he warned. He also said Pakistanis are fully prepared to defend their country if attacked. Farooq Sattar said that the Indus Waters Treaty signed between Pakistan and India in 1960 which could not be suspended unilaterally.

Senate Standing Committee on Commerce considered confusion on Barter Trade policy with Iran, Afghanistan and Russia

ONLINE
ISLAMABAD: A high-stakes meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Commerce, chaired by *Senator Anusha Rehman*, discussed mechanisms to achieve the export targets set by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif with a particular focus on the barter trade mechanism with Iran.

Present at the meeting were *Senators Sarmad Ali, Faisal Saleem Rehman, Bilal Ahmed Khan, Hamid Khan, Amir Waliuddin Chishti, Saleem Mandviwalla, Zeeshan Khanzada, and Muhammad Tallal Badar, along with senior officials from the **Ministry of Commerce*, representatives from the private sector, and international trade officers posted abroad.

The committee directed the *Ministry of Commerce* to fast track summaries initiated for barter trade and for the import policy order.

Committee members directed the ministry to resolve the confusion on trade with *Iran, Russia and Afghanistan* through a *barter system*, vs the parallel trade

ongoing under IPO.

Senator Saleem Mandviwalla* reiterated the strategic importance of barter trade in tackling cross-border smuggling, stating:

"Barter trade from Iran and Afghanistan will help prevent smuggling."

Affected traders added that *over 1,200 trucks* have been stalled at the border, loaded under barter terms, with sesame and rice exported without involving dollar payments.

The committee agreed to hold a meeting with the Finance Minister, Commerce Minister, and Governor State Bank.

Formation of a sub-committee comprising of *Senators Zeeshan Khanzada, Sarmad Ali and Faisal Rahman* to provide recommendation on the tobacco sector was approved. It was agreed that the issue of counterfeit medicines will be reviewed by the *Standing Committee on Health*.

Trade and Investment Officers (TIOs) posted abroad also briefed the committee on potential trade opportunities, marking a continued commitment to expanding Pakistan's global trade footprint.



QUETTA: PTI Provincial Secretary General Jahangir Rind addressing a press conference .

BTTN Organizes Seminar on Balochistan's Development and Security

APP
QUETTA: The Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN) successfully hosted a National Seminar titled "Balochistan: Initiatives for its Development and Security - Challenges and Way Forward" at the BUITEMS, Quetta.

The seminar gathered leading policymakers, academics, and experts to discuss critical developmental and security challenges in Balochistan, said a news release.

The event began with an opening address by Executive Director of BTTN, Dr. Zafar Khan primarily highlighting that Balochistan cannot be ignored. We are lying in the geopolitical and geostrategic crush zone.

Major powers competing strategies and their geopolitical interests in the

region are influencing our policies and strategies on how and why we need to quickly accommodate ourselves to the evolving changing world order. This was followed by two engaging sessions.

Vice Chancellor of BUITEMS, Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez focused on "Balochistan—Security and Strategic Issues." Speakers included Dr. Zafar Khan, Dr. Hafeez Ahmed Jamali, and Ambassador (R) Asif Khan Durrani, who discussed the province's geostrategic relevance, governance, and security landscape. This session highlighted that our political representatives, drawn from local electorates, and a bureaucracy that is 95 percent local, are essential to delivering good governance.

It stressed on the need for stronger collaboration between political leader-

ship and bureaucracy to bridge service gaps.

"Khushhal Balochistan is Khushhal Pakistan"—the prosperity of Balochistan is directly linked to the future of Pakistan. Balochistan is truly the crown jewel of Pakistan, and with integrity and commitment, we can unlock its full potential, he added.

Session II, led by Dr. Siraj Bashir Baloch, Director of Research at BTTN, explored "Balochistan's Non-Traditional Security Threats." Esteemed speakers Prof. Dr. Aziz Ahmed, Dr. Fozia Baloch, and Dr. Sana Ullah Panzezi shared insights on socio-economic uplift, health, education, and environmental issues.

Justice (Retd.) Amanullah Khan Yasinzai, former Governor of Balochistan, praised BTTN's pivotal role in enhancing.

Proceedings for same relief cannot be conducted on two different forums: LHC CJ

INP
LAHORE: Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Aalia Neelum says proceedings for the same relief cannot be conducted on two different forums.

Chief Justice Aalia Neelum issued a four-page written verdict on a petition filed by Munir Ahmed.

Advocate Azhar Siddique presented arguments on behalf of the petitioner.

Justice Neelum expressed strong displeasure over the filing of a frivolous petition, stating that this petition had already been filed and dismissed by the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

She emphasised that court time was extremely valuable and should be reserved for serious matters. Such petitions are filed without any sense of responsibility, patience, or adherence to legal procedures. Courts are overwhelmed with frivolous cases due to the habit of filing such baseless petitions, she said. Justice Neelum noted that public interest litigation was being filed on every issue, most often for publicity. Such actions undermine the credibility of genuine public interest petitions. The court's time gets wasted on hearing such frivolous matters, and if this continues, the court will become a silent spectator where public time and resources are wasted.

Hanif Abbasi Warns India over Water Dispute

APP
RAWALPINDI: Railway Minister Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Tuesday said that Pakistan is prepared for war if India disrupts its water supply, stressing a strong stance on the water dispute.

"While Pakistan has always prioritized peace, underestimating our capability to fight a war would be India's grave mistake," he said in a brief media interaction.

He said that Pakistan would respond with full potential if India stops Pakistan's waters. Recalling the statement by PM Shahbaz Sharif, the minister reiterated the national resolve saying Pakistan would not think, but respond to any aggression committed by India.

He accused Indian media of excessive propaganda and said that Pakistan has provided evidence of terrorism sponsored by India.

Hajj preparations in full swing to provide a seamless pilgrimage experience in Makkah

ONLINE
MAKKAH: Director General (DG) Hajj, Abdul Wahab Soomro is leading comprehensive preparations for the upcoming Hajj season in Makkah, with arrangements reaching their final stages ahead of the arrival of pilgrims.

Accompanied by Makkah Coordinator Zulfiqar Khan, Director Hajj Makkah Azizullah Khan, and other officials, he conducted an inspection visit to residential buildings designated for Pakistani pilgrims. During the visit, he reviewed the living conditions, dining facilities, elevators, and overall cleanliness standards. Pakistani travel guides emphasizing the importance of ensuring a smooth and dignified pilgrimage experience, DG Soomro issued directives to the team concerning the facilitation, guidance.

CM Maryam gets briefing on mass transit projects across Punjab

INP
LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif got detailed briefing on mass transit projects across province chairing a special meeting held on Tuesday. A feasibility study report of Yellow Line Mass Transit System was presented in the meeting.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif ordered to start work on Jinnah Terminal to Harbanspora Yellow Line project as soon as possible.

In the briefing, details about eco-friend-

ly e-taxi project in Punjab were informed. The meeting gave in-principle approval of financial model of e-taxi.

The meeting was agreed on launching pilot project with 1100 e-taxis and it was also decided to install solar power system for e-charging station.

A report was sought on more routes for mass transit system in Gujranwala.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed to determine routes according to public convenience. The issues related to e-taxi project were reviewed in detail in the meeting.



QUETTA: Traffic police lifting car from no parking at Adalat road .



LAHORE: A view of dry Ravi river.



Bednarek, McLaughlin-Levrone win second Grand Slam titles

SPORTS DESK
MIAMI: Americans Kenny Bednarek and Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone each smashed their way to a second straight Grand Slam Track title on Sunday, as the novel circuit wrapped up its Miami meet in front of an enthusiastic crowd.

The Michael Johnson-fronted start-up lured top talent with big prize money and after facing criticism over poor attendance at its inaugural Kingston meet, the fans turned up at the Ansin Sports Complex for the second of four meets set for this year.

Bednarek, who won Saturday's 100 metres in a wind-aided 9.79 seconds, clinched the men's short sprints group on Sunday when he broke the tape in the 200 metres in 19.84, nearly three-tenths of a second ahead of Briton Zharnel Hughes.

"I'm going to be dominant this year," said the 26-year-old twice Olympic silver medalist, who is \$200,000 richer with his wins in Miami and Kingston. "I'm right where I need to be."

Grand Slam offers a twist on the traditional track meet, as athletes face off in 12 groups — men's and women's short sprints, long sprints, short hurdles, long hurdles, short distance and long distance — and compete in two races per meet.



PESHAWAR Zalmi opener Saim Ayub plays a belligerent stroke as Multan Sultans captain Mohammad Rizwan looks on during their Pakistan Super League match at the Multan Cricket Stadium.

Zalmi cruise past Sultans to boost playoff hopes

SPORTS DESK
MULTAN: At a muted Multan Cricket Stadium, it was a game reflective of the dismal campaign the home side has had. The Multan Sultans couldn't muster any strength to stave away Peshawar Zalmi; overran by Babar Azam's side who hauled themselves firmly into Pakistan Super League playoffs contention with a clinical seven-wicket victory on Monday night.

With their fourth win of the season, Zalmi moved to eight points, just one behind Lahore Qalandars who occupy the fourth spot in the table, with a game in hand. For the Sultans, it was the fifth defeat in a row.

On this showing, Mohammad Rizwan's men — winners in 2021 and finalists in each of the last four seasons — look unlikely to get even a consolation win in their final match of the season against the Quetta Gladiators on Sunday.

With their disciplined bowling, Zalmi strangled the Sultans and shot them down for a paltry 108 — pacer Ahmed Daniyal (3-17) and spinner Maaz Sadaqat (2-12) ripping through the opposition batting.

As Saim Ayub finally found some form and big hits — smashing three sixes and four fours in a 33-ball 49, it became a question of how long Zalmi will take to chase down the total. Max Bryant hit a six and five fours in a 20-ball 38 not out to finish things off with a full seven overs to spare.

Already out of playoffs contention, there was only pride on the line for the Sultans, aiming to thwart Zalmi's ambitions with just a second win in their penultimate game of the season.

Having chosen to bat, they made a tentative start before Rizwan broke free in the second over, striking consecutive boundaries off Alzarri Joseph.

His opening partner Yasir Khan also got two fours in the third over by Luke Wood but departed soon after, top-edging Saim to short fine.

Rizwan (17) swept Saim for his third boundary but fell

in the sixth over when he found Ahmed at backward square off Wood; Sultans ending the powerplay at 40-2.

Tayyab Tahir flickered briefly in his 18-ball 22, hitting two fours and a massive six — off Saim — before mistiming Ahmed to Mitchell Owen at deep square leg.

And Zalmi were well and truly on top when spinner Maaz cleaned up Ashton Turner for a duck to leave the Sultans at 62-4 at the midway point of their innings.

Maaz would then disturb the timber once again to send back Mohammad Amir Barki; the Sultans having slumped from 60-2 to 65-5.

It would get worse with Ali Raza having Shahid Aziz caught behind; the Sultans having seen four wickets fall for the addition of just six runs.

An indication of how Zalmi had tightened the noose came in the 14th over when Shai Hope, who had arrived after Rizwan's dismissal, slammed Maaz stright down the ground for a four for the Sultans' first boundary after 28 balls.

Hope then launched Joseph over long off for six but his West Indies compatriot soon exacted revenge by dismissing him for a 21-ball 23 four balls later with the Sultans at 87-7 with five overs to go.

Five runs later, Ahmed's change of pace brought the end of David Willey's painstaking 16-ball eight and he then took a return catch to get his third wicket, dismissing Ubaid Shah with Wood (2-18) ending Sultans' misery by sending back Mohammad Hasnain (11) with the first ball of the last over.

Saim got the chase off and running with a boundary on the second ball he faced although Willey had his opening partner Owen caught on the fifth ball of the first over.

Babar got an inside edge that ran away for four early on, and even though he never got going, Saim — dropped at seven — was getting the runs from the other end. Ubaid Shah it was on the wrong end of Saim's return to form; the teenager flicking him away for a six in the third over and then pulling and cutting him away for two more off consecutive deliveries to start the sixth.

Sinner happy to return after doping ban but keeping expectations low for Italian Open

SPORTS DESK
ROME: World number one Jannik Sinner said on Monday that he was heading into the Italian Open with low expectations as he makes his comeback after serving a three-month doping ban.

Sinner agreed a settlement with the World Anti-Doping Agency in February and began an immediate three-month suspension after authorities accepted that the anabolic agent clostebol had entered his system via massages from his physiotherapist.

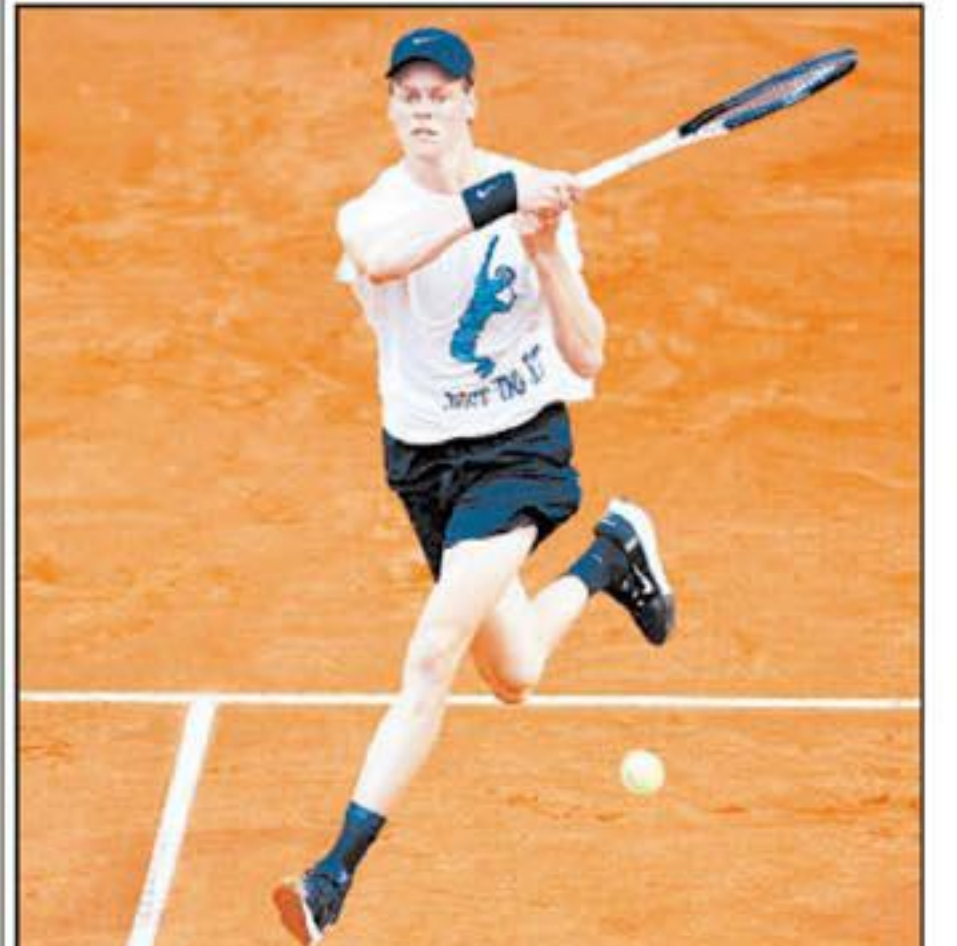
The three-times Grand Slam champion, who has not played since winning the Australian Open in January, will now hope to leave the doping saga behind him and build momentum for the French Open, which runs from May 25 to June 8.

The Italian was cleared to return to training from April 13, with his suspension ending on May 4.

"It's a very, very low expectation tournament in general for me, it's talking also results wise," Sinner told reporters ahead of the Italian Open.

"What's missing is the complete feedback of where my level is. That's going to come then slowly with the time of playing, after the first round match I'm going to have a good picture of myself where I am at."

Despite missing out on three month's action, the 23-year-old was assured of retaining the top ranking for his home tournament after his closest challenger Alexander Zverev crashed to an early defeat in Monte-Carlo Masters. "For me personally good news that the Grand Slams were not included ... This kind of agreement, I didn't want to do it in the beginning. It was not easy for me to accept it because I know what really happened, but sometimes we have to choose the best in a very bad moment."



ITALY'S Jannik Sinner in action during a training session at Foro Italico .

TENDER NOTICE

The Director General Health Services invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. **TSE-242505700761 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. T/fee Rs.1000/-**

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	ICT Equipment (Network, surveillance devices, storage devices, Office Equipment) (Total Item(s) Count: 6)	3%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 3,000,000 in Previous 2 Years Turn over of at least 3,000,000 PKR in 2 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan JV is not permissible Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive Submission of the required Bidding document Fee **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding **Procedure Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 3% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 20 May, 2025 during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 20 May, 2025 till 10:45 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:45 AM Address: DG Health Services Quetta Phone no: 0819211349 Email: dghealthbalochistan@gmail.com

DIRECTOR GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES BALOCHISTAN

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United front

AT a time when hardliners in India are beating the drums of war, internal unity is essential to face the challenges confronting Pakistan. In this respect, the administration did well to invite all mainstream parties to an in-camera briefing on Sunday, to apprise them of the threat perception. The meeting, which was addressed by the ISPR chief and the information minister, was attended by representatives of all major parties, except the PTI.

According to a PTI spokesman, the party skipped the "one-sided briefing", and instead, called for a multiparty conference to discuss the crisis. However, he added that his party stood "shoulder to shoulder" with the military in case of any foreign aggression. It is unfortunate that the PTI stayed away from the conclave. While internal differences between parties and the state may persist, at a time of national crisis these should be put aside, with full focus on how the country can confront external threats. The state, on its part, should continue efforts to include the PTI in consultations to evolve a national response based on collective input.

On the external front, the state is continuing its diplomatic outreach to counter India's warmongering, and communicate Pakistan's views to friends and partners. As the UN Security Council prepared to meet on Monday to discuss the crisis in South Asia at Pakistan's call, the UN chief pleaded for "maximum restraint" by both sides. UN involvement can play a major role in de-escalation.

Elsewhere, Pakistan's prime minister and foreign minister continue to engage with foreign friends, with the result that Russia has offered its good offices to mediate "if there is mutual interest" from India and Pakistan, while the GCC has also stressed the need for dialogue and de-escalation. If India is interested in a peaceful resolution to this crisis, it should consider these rational calls. Beyond noise and chest-thumping, India has been unable to produce any credible evidence linking Pakistan to the terrible killings in Pahalgam. It is evident that this country was blamed even before the preliminary investigations could get under way, and the tragedy was used by India to further scuttle ties and achieve long-cherished goals, such as tinkering with the Indus Waters Treaty.

Now, as it has failed to rouse the world against Pakistan,

New Delhi must act responsibly and dial down the rhetoric, while working towards restoring calm in the subcontinent.

Chiefly, Indian officials should stop making inflammatory statements against Pakistan, while hardliners in this country should also be countered with more rational voices. While not much can be expected from jingoistic anchors, particularly in India, respectable media outlets on both sides need to avoid alarmist coverage and report in a responsible manner.

By Dr Hamid Khan AlMashriqi

Massive Protest by Pakistan Unity Forum International outside Indian Consulate in Manchester

Condemns Indian Propaganda against Pakistan and Human Rights Violations in IIOK Kashmir.

A massive and resolute protest demonstration was held on Sunday outside the Indian Consulate in Manchester, drawing hundreds of members from the Pakistani diaspora across the United Kingdom. The event, organized under the banner of Pakistan Unity Forum International, aimed to condemn what speakers called "baseless propaganda" by the Indian government, and to highlight ongoing human rights violations in Indian-occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

Carrying banners and chanting powerful slogans such as "Modi's Fascism Must End", "Kashmir Will Be Free", and "Kashmir Banega Pakistan" "Stop India's War Hysteria" "Paksitan is ready to retaliate" "The Nation Stands with Pakistan Army" demonstrators sent a clear message: India's attempts to malign Pakistan on the global stage will not go unchallenged. The protest was a show of unity and patriotic fervor, with demonstrators waving Pakistani flags and singing national songs in solidarity with the Kashmiri people and the Pakistani military.

Backdrop: Pahalgam Attack Allegations and Political Timing The protest comes in the wake of India's immediate and unverified attribution of the Pahalgam incident to Pakistan — an accusation protesters and organizers described as both politically motivated and strategically timed. Speakers highlighted that the Indian state has a long history of leveraging such attacks for political gain, particularly during election cycles or periods of domestic unrest. "This is not the first time New Delhi has resorted to false flag operations or unsubstantiated blame to distract from its own failures," said Dr. Hamid Khan Al-Mashriqi, Chairman of the Pakistan Unity Forum. "It's a well-rehearsed script." Many attendees echoed the sentiment that the Pahalgam incident was being weaponized to deflect from the mounting socio-economic challenges and governance issues within India, particularly under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. India's Illegal occupation of Kashmir and ongoing atrocities, genocide etc. Central to the protest was the demand for international intervention regarding India's actions in Kashmir.

Protesters accused India of systematically suppressing the rights of the Kashmiri people through extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, censorship, mass surveillance, and the blinding of civilians — particularly youth — with pellet guns. Solicitor Rashida Hamid, Vice Chairperson of the Forum, stressed that the world can no longer afford to ignore these crimes. "We urge human rights bodies, the United Nations, and democratic governments to hold India accountable. Silence is complicity," she declared.

Other prominent speakers included Tahir Chaudhry (President North West), Nasr Iqbal Chaudhry, Asif Butt, Shahid Anwar, Adeel Chaudhry, Rasib Khan, Taseer Chaudhry, Mehwish Kashif Sajjad, and Dr. Younus Parvaiz. All of them emphasized that the Kashmiri freedom movement is indigenous and rooted in the right to self-determination

The demonstrators urged the international community to move beyond diplomatic platitudes and take real action. They demanded:

- Immediate international investigation into the Pahalgam incident
- Deployment of UN observers in Kashmir
- Sanctions against individuals and institutions responsible for human rights abuses in Indian-administered Kashmir
- Support for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination

They also called upon Western governments to reconsider their political and military ties with India, especially as long as human rights violations and anti-Muslim policies remain unchecked.

Pakistan love peace but it's not our weakness. Despite the intensity of the messages, the protest remained entirely peaceful. The



as guaranteed under international law, including UN resolutions.

Retaliation warning to Indian War Rhetoric The protest also served as a warning against any potential military escalation by India. "Let it be clear," said Dr. Al-Mashriqi, "that Pakistan's policy of restraint should not be seen as weakness. It is a responsible choice in a time of global chaos — from Ukraine to Gaza — when the world can ill afford another conflict." He stressed that the entire Pakistani nation — regardless of political or ideological affiliations — stands united behind its military and national institutions. "Any misadventure by India will receive a befitting response," he warned. Several speakers pointed out that India's "war hysteria" is fueled by its hyper-nationalist media and enabled by a growing culture of extremism under Modi's BJP-led government. "Modi's Hindutva-driven ideology is the single biggest threat to regional peace," said Rasib Khan, one of the youth leaders at the protest. It's time for International Solidarity and Action.

demonstrators maintained discipline throughout the event, making their case through speeches, poetry, and patriotic songs. Many participants held signs in both English and Urdu to engage broader audiences, including media outlets and bystanders unfamiliar with the issue.

As the protest concluded, organizers vowed to continue their advocacy efforts across the UK and Europe. "This is not a one-day event — this is a movement," said Vice Chairperson Rashida Hamid. "We will not stop until the people of Kashmir are free from occupation and oppression."

The message to India and the world. The protest outside the Indian Consulate in Manchester represents a growing diaspora-driven movement aimed at challenging dominant global narratives about Kashmir and exposing what organizers described as India's systemic oppression and media manipulation. With a unified voice, the Pakistani community in the UK is demanding not just accountability, but justice — not just condemnation, but action.

By Khurram Zia Khan

No relief

PAKISTAN'S tax collection system needs a complete overhaul. The system squeezes individuals and segments that are already paying their taxes, and no serious effort is made to expand the tax net. It is FBR's failure that all segments of society are not making a fair contribution to the national exchequer, and that the government has failed to bring agriculture, real estate and other sectors into the tax net as it should.

The flaws in our tax system are all too evident: the salaried class, which pays 38.5 per cent of its income in taxes, is the third-highest tax-paying segment of the country. Other high-paying segments are banks and business individuals that pay 53pc and 50pc tax respectively. According to estimates, by June 30, 2025, the salaried class will be contributing a whopping Rs500 billion to the national exchequer, which will be more than the combined contribution of the textiles and retail sector.

The imbalance in Pakistan's taxation system is highlighted further by the fact that the contribution of the textile sector, which has more than a 60pc share in the country's exports, increased only 7.4pc in FY2024 as compared to last year whereas the contribution of the salaried class increased 39.42pc on a year-on-year basis. It is high time the government realised the injustice and collected high taxes from those who maintain a wealthy lifestyle, instead of the segment which struggles to make ends meet.

Tax rates for the salaried class are applied on their gross salary whereas businesses are allowed to claim expenses against their income and pay tax on net income. Almost

all tax credits/ rebates, etc, have been taken away from the salaried class, which has increased its burden. Article 25 of the Constitution guarantees the equality of all citizens and prohibits any discrimination. So why does the judiciary and civil and military bureaucracy still enjoy exemptions under the law?

The flaws of our tax system are all too evident.

A salaried individual has a fixed income that is used to pay all monthly expenses such as health, education, rent, drinking water and utility bills. Unfortunately, these expenses rise every month, but the income remains stagnant. Article 25-A binds the state to provide education to its children,

but unfortunately, no government has been able to ensure its implementation or that of other provisions in Chapter 1 of the Constitution.

Sadly, it has been observed that the objective of many of those the government has made the custodians of health and education sector is to mint money. Salaried people, even after paying a reasonable portion of their income in direct taxes, continue to pay multiple indirect taxes on groceries, fuel, utilities and multiple other expenditures.

Around the world, many countries have high tax rates.

Germany, France, the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden and some other countries have tax rates that vary from 40pc to 55pc, but all of them have strong systems to facilitate taxpaying citizens. Pakistan's government, on the other hand, has left citizens to fend for themselves after collecting high amounts of tax from them.

The world over, tax that is collected is spent on providing facilities to citizens whereas in Pakistan a major chunk of the amount is spent on maintaining the lavish lifestyles of the bureaucracy and paying back debts.

The majority of salaried individuals belong to the middle class. A strong and prosperous middle class is a vital cog for any successful economy because whatever they earn, they mostly give back to the economy in the form of various expenditures. It is critical for the government that, instead of sq-ue-ezing this class it gives it more financial freedom so that they not only prosper them---

selfes but also help the lower strata of society emerge from poverty.

The finance minister of Pakistan has hinted at relief for the salaried class in the upcoming federal budget. The best thing the government can do is to end direct tax deduction from salaries. If this is not possible, then it should raise the minimum tax slab considerably. At the moment, a person who is earning Rs600,000 per annum is part of the tax net. This is a grave injustice as making ends meet on a meagre salary/income of Rs50,000 per month is near impossible. It is recommended that if keeping voiceless salaried individuals in the tax net is imperative, then the minimum slab should be raised considerably to include only those individuals in the tax net whose annual earnings are Rs3.6 million or more.

If substantial relief is not provided to the salaried class, their survival will be at stake, and it is feared that wrong initiatives may push more middle-class people towards poverty.



DAILY MIRROR

Implementing UN resolutions vital for regional peace: Pakistan amid India tensions

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Asim Ifikhar, has said that Islamabad has serious reservations over its arch-rival's recent actions following the Pahalgam incident, which have posed serious threats to the region's peace and security.

The Kashmir dispute stands unresolved today even after more than 70 years, the envoy said while briefing the media following the United Nations Security Council's (UNSC) in-camera session, which was convened at Pakistan's request amid escalating tensions with India after the attack in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

"The Kashmir dispute is the core issue between Pakistan and India and it must be resolved in line with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people," he noted.

A peaceful solution to the Kashmir dispute is not possible without the involvement of the Kashmiri people, he said. He also remarked that lasting peace in the region was not possible without resolving this core issue.

Drawing the world's attention to the human rights situation in the IIOJK, he said that innocent civilians continue to face oppression and atrocities at the

hands of the Indian forces.

Islamabad has repeatedly said and once again says that it has nothing to do with the Pahalgam incident, he stressed, noting that Pakistan is willing to offer complete cooperation in an independent, transparent and international investigation.

The ambassador reminded the international community that Pakistan had been the frontline state in the global fight against terrorism and sacrificed more than 90,000 lives in this fight. Ambassador Ifikhar reiterated Pakistan's firm commitment to defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity. "Pakistan has the right to defend itself," he observed. Pakistan's envoy to the UN expressed strong concerns over India's decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty, calling it a breach of international law. He noted that the matter had also been raised during the UNSC meeting.

He reiterated that it was vital to act upon the Security Council's resolutions for durable peace in the region.

Ifikhar said that Pakistan prefers dialogue to resolve all issues with its neighbours, as dialogues are the only viable path to peace.

He thanked the Security Council for convening the meeting, which he said

was aimed at discussing the current situation.

At the start of the Security Council's session, Khaled Khiari, UN Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia, and the Pacific briefed the member states, according to diplomats.

Later, Ambassador Ifikhar shed light on the issue.

Ahead of the 15-member body's meeting, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for "maximum restraint" from India and Pakistan, warning that escalating tensions over a recent deadly terror attack in Kashmir risk spiraling into an outright military confrontation.

Addressing journalists outside the Security Council, Guterres expressed deep concern over deteriorating relations between the two South Asian neighbours, saying they had reached "their highest in years."

He reiterated his condemnation of the April 22 terror attack in the Pahalgam area, which killed at least 26 civilians and injured many more.

"Targeting civilians is unacceptable – and those responsible must be brought to justice through credible and lawful means," the UN chief said.

"It is also essential – especially at this critical hour – to avoid a military confrontation that could easily spin out of control."



President Asif Ali Zardari cutting the cake to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Great Patriotic War of Russian Federation at the Russian Embassy, in Islamabad.

President, Punjab Governor discuss overall political situation

INP

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has called on President Asif Ali Zardari in Islamabad.

During the meeting, both leaders held a detailed discussion on the overall political situation in the country, especially in Punjab.

They also discussed India's ongoing aggression and provocations, calling them harmful to the entire region, including Pakistan.

The President appreciated the Governor's initiative to open the doors of the Governor House Lahore to the public and party workers.

PM directs to complete Karachi-Chaman Express way within two years

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed to complete the Karachi-Chaman Express way within two years.

He gave these directions, while chairing a meeting in Islamabad today (Tuesday), to review the construction and up-gradation of the Chaman-Karachi National Highway (N-25) project.

The Prime Minister said standard of the highway should at par with the motorway. He said the upgradation of this 790-kilometers-long highway is significant for socio-economic development of Balochistan.

He mentioned that the Federal cabinet in an expression of national unity, had decided last month that national exchequer saved due to reduction of petroleum prices in the international market will be channeled for upgradation of this highway.

The Prime Minister said the upgradation of this highway will reduce the current travel time of 18 hours to only six to eight hours.

He said the highway will not only benefit commuters but will also boost trade.

He said there will be no compromise on the quality of the project and no negligence will be tolerated in this regard.

The Prime Minister directed the Chief Minister Balochistan to coordinate with the relevant departments to ensure the availability of land for the expressway.

He further directed that bypasses be constructed on all major cities along the route of this pressway for convenience of the public.

The Prime Minister also directed that the environmental factor be taken into account during the construction of the project. He also directed for third-party validation of the project after completion.

The meeting was briefed on the progress of the project. It was told that work has started on the Khuzdar-Mastung section of the project, while a strategy is being formulated for the construction of five sections from Karachi to Khuzdar.

It will be a two-way road with four lanes. The funding issues have been resolved due to the federal government's decision to transfer the benefit of the reduction of prices of petroleum products to Balochistan.

Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhel and Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti who attended the meeting via video link thanked the Prime Minister for taking special interest in the development and progress of Balochistan, especially the upgradation of Karachi-Chaman Highway.

Woman among three shot dead in Mastung

INP

MASTUNG: Three people, including a woman, were killed when unidentified persons opened fire at them on Teri Road, near Kali Hazar Khan in Mastung on Tuesday.

The assailants, however, managed to escape from the spot. The deceased belonged to the Kanak area and they were heading from Kanak to Mastung. The bodies were later shifted to a hospital.

Pakistan urgently needs to accelerate progress on sustainable development goals: Climate Minister

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan must urgently realign its development priorities with the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Federal Minister for Climate Change Dr. Musadik Malik said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the Pakistan SDG's Policy Dialogue for Action in Islamabad, he warned that the country ranks lowest in South Asia on SDG progress.

Pakistan currently sits at 137 out of 166 countries in the 2024 SDG Index, scoring just 57.02, far behind neighbors like India (63.99), Bangladesh (64.35), and Sri Lanka (67.43).

Dr. Malik highlighted severe challenges in clean water, sustainable cities, climate action, and governance, stressing that SDGs have not been properly integrated into provincial plans.

"We are on the brink of water scarcity, yet lack the seriousness this issue demands," he said, calling the crisis a "silent national emergency."

He also criticized worsening urban pollution, stating, "Our cities are among the most polluted in the world — this is not progress, but environmental collapse."

The minister urged collaboration between government, civil society, and businesses, emphasizing evidence-based policies and climate finance.

"Development is not just about numbers — it is about clean air, safe drinking water, dignified living, and a secure future," he said.

The ministry pledged to work with provinces and stakeholders to accelerate SDG progress.

Indian Allegations against Pakistan, a Tactic to Further Oppress Kashmiris: Amir Muqam

APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs, Amir Muqam, on Tuesday called India's allegations against Pakistan an "excuse" to further oppress the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Speaking in the National Assembly, Amir Muqam said that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi used these accusations as a cover to continue suppressing Kashmiris and to prevent Pakistan from offering moral, political, and diplomatic support to them.

He said that Pakistan stands united, backing its army, and pointed out that Modi's accusations were a way to distract from his own government's weaknesses.

Amir Muqam praised the resolve of the Pakistani people, stating that every citizen is a soldier, and that India would have to fight the entire nation if it came to that. He also reiterated Pakistan's offer for a transparent investigation into the recent incident but noted that India has not responded.

He criticised India's habit of blaming Pakistan after every incident, calling it a tactic to divert attention from their fail-

ures. Amir Muqam also condemned India's ongoing human rights violations in IIOJK, noting that for the past 77 years, Kashmiris have faced brutal oppression, with over 100,000 deaths, 7,000 killed in custody, and thousands of homes destroyed.

He highlighted that many innocent Kashmiris are still imprisoned, urging the world to take notice of these atrocities.

The minister praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar for raising the Kashmir issue forcefully on international platforms. He reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue supporting Kashmiris in their just struggle for self-determination.

Muqam strongly condemned India's propaganda and accused the Modi government of trying to divert global attention from its internal issues through baseless accusations against Pakistan. He also declared that India's efforts to isolate Pakistan on international forums were failing and that India's support was dwindling both abroad and within the country.

The minister emphasized that Pakistan can counter any propaganda or aggression, and that the nation would remain united to confront any threat.

Death toll from Nushki oil tanker explosion rises to 20

INP

QUETTA: The death toll from the Nushki oil tanker explosion has climbed to 20, after another critically injured victim succumbed to burn injuries while undergoing treatment in Karachi, rescue sources confirmed on Tuesday.

The incident occurred near a truck terminal in Nushki when an oil tanker caught fire and exploded, injuring more than 40 people. Many had gathered around the vehicle before the blast.

The deceased, identified as Shaukat, was hailed for his heroic act during the April 28 incident. Despite being engulfed in flames, he had attempted to drive the burning tanker away from a densely populated area, Express News reported.

He sustained severe burns when the tanker exploded and had been under treatment at a private hospital in Karachi.

Earlier, in the wake of the tragedy, Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind expressed his condolences to the grieving families.

He reaffirmed the provincial government's commitment to providing the best possible medical care to those injured in the blast which has claimed numerous lives and left the community reeling. The incident has sparked widespread concern over the safety protocols surrounding the transport of hazardous materials. Authorities have launched a formal inquiry into the cause of the fire, with an aim to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

Pakistan ready to Respond any Indian Aggression: Parliamentary Secretary

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Human Rights Saba Sadiq, on Tuesday said that country's defence is invincible and in very safe hands, and added its people, leadership, and armed forces are fully prepared to face any external threat.

Addressing the National Assembly, she said the entire nation from the government to citizens' stands united with the country's brave armed forces.

Speaking about the Pahalgam incident, she said that the attack was a result of security lapses by Indian intelligence agencies and also termed the incident as a failure of the Modi government. Saba said Indian government was spreading false propaganda for political gain.

Parliamentary Secretary praised the role of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, and other leadership, crediting them with ensuring Pakistan's defence remains firm and well-prepared.

She said that any act of aggression would be met with an appropriate response.

Saba also stated that Pakistan's foreign policy has helped it gain positive recognition internationally, in contrast to India, which she said stands isolated in the international community.

Parliamentary Secretary said that India is a terrorist state, who is committing severe human rights violations on innocent Kashmiris at Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). On the other hand, our forces and jawans are rendering matchless sacrifices fighting against terrorism. More than 90,000 security personnel and law enforcement officials in Pakistan have sacrificed their lives in the fight against terrorism, she added.

Saba said women in Pakistan are ready to contribute to national defence just as women leaders like Fatima Jinnah and others have played in the past. She said Pakistani women stand with the armed forces, ready to support the country in any time of need.



Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with Prime Minister of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, in Doha.

Adiala jail admin violating court orders, committing contempt of court: Omar Ayub

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Opposition leader in National Assembly Omar Ayub has said that Imran Khan's sisters had court orders for meeting their jailed brother but they were being denied the entry.

Talking to media Omar Ayub said that PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja held meeting with Chief Justice but he was not allowed to meet Imran Khan.

He said that Chief Justice had assured Salman Raja that he will be allowed to meet Imran Khan.

Chief Justice told SSP Sadr that, "he

was state and they were its tool." Omar Ayub said that Adiala Jail administration were violating the court order and committing contempt of the court.

Opposition leader said the government was afraid of PTI founder Imran Khan. Omar Ayub said he had advised the government to convene All Parties Conference (APC) which should be attended by all political parties.

He said PTI will continue peaceful protest but political workers were baton charged. He urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and CM Punjab to notice the situation.

India wants to Disturb Regional Peace through fake Propaganda: Rana Mashhood

APP

DG KHAN: Prime Minister's Youth Programme Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan said that India was attempting to destabilize regional peace through fake and baseless propaganda, but warned that any act of aggression would be met with a strong and effective response from Pakistan.

He expressed these views at a seminar titled "National Adolescent and Youth Policy Consultation" at Ghazi University on Tuesday. The event was attended by Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad, Professor Dr. Arshad Leghari, faculty members, and students.

Rana Mashhood said nationwide consultative sessions had begun as part of efforts to formulate a new national youth policy. He said the government was committed to empowering young people through education, skills development, and digital platforms. He recalled that the first-ever youth policy introduced in 2013 had received wide appreciation and laid the foundation for progressive youth initiatives.

He criticized the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government for failing to establish any new university in recent years and instead directing existing universities to sell assets to manage operational costs. In contrast, he praised the Punjab government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam

Nawaz, for appointing 32 new vice chancellors across the province to ensure better academic governance.

He highlighted the significance of Dera Ghazi Khan, noting that its distance from Quetta, Lahore, and Peshawar is nearly equal, making it the geographic center of Pakistan. He appreciated the unity and coexistence of diverse communities in the region, including Saraiki, Punjabi, and Baloch populations. Rana Mashhood said that he had presented the charter of Ghazi University in 2014 and was pleased to see its progress. He expressed pride in the leadership of Vice Chancellor Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad and announced convocations will now be held annually without delay.

He highlighted the government's efforts to bridge the digital divide by distributing one million laptops in Punjab and over 700,000 at the Federal level. He introduced the Digital Youth Hub App, an AI-based platform, currently offering more than 200,000 job opportunities. He urged youths to adopt modern technology and serve the nation with their skills and talent.

Rana Mashhood also revealed that Malaysia was interested in investing \$200 million in Pakistan's livestock sector and considers Dera Ghazi Khan an ideal region for livestock development. He pledged to promote livestock initiatives in the division to unlock its economic potential.



QUETTA: Activates of different political parties hold rally .