

DAILY MIRROR

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Providing relief to common man in upcoming budget Govt's top priority: PM

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that providing relief to the common man in the upcoming budget is the government's top priority.

Chairing an important meeting in Islamabad today on the preparation of the Federal Budget for the next fiscal year, he emphasized that all available resources will be utilized to alleviate the financial difficulties of the poor and middle class.

The Prime Minister further directed that the federal budget should focus on export-driven sustainable growth. He stressed the need to develop projects that promote industries and enhance production.

Shehbaz Sharif highlighted that providing professional training to youth to align them with modern requirements remains a key priority for the government. He instructed to pay special attention to creating new employment opportunities during the budget planning process.

He also directed authorities concerned to prioritize agriculture, information technology, small and medium enterprises, and the housing sector, noting the immense potential of these areas. He further said that promoting projects under public-private partnerships will be a government priority in the

next budget.

The Prime Minister underscored the importance of collaboration between the government and private sector for national development and prosperity.

Regarding reforms in the power sector, he said these reforms are yielding positive results.

He emphasized that the reduction in electricity prices for industries is a significant step toward industrial and production growth. He further said that automation and digitization are being promoted to enhance transparency in governance and facilitate the business community and investors. He reaffirmed his commitment to continuing the process of right-sizing the federal government to reduce its size in the next fiscal year. The meeting was briefed that consultations with the private sector on budget preparation have been ongoing for the past three months. Stakeholder consultation sessions have been conducted across various economic sectors to gather insights for budget formulation.

It was informed that the five-year trade policy framework for 2025-2030 will soon be finalized. Additionally, the E-Commerce 2.0 Framework is nearing completion, and a strategy for tariff rationalization is being developed.



DG ISPR Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, DGPR of the Pakistan Air Force, Air Vice Marshal Aurangzeb Ahmed, and Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Operations, Rear Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz address the media in Islamabad

India sponsoring terrorism in Pakistan and beyond: DG ISPR

APP

ISLAMABAD: Director General of ISPR Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has said India is externalizing its internal problems by blaming Pakistan.

During a briefing to foreign media in Rawalpindi today, accompanied by representatives of the Pakistan Air Force and Pakistan Navy, he said Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory, but India is attempting to internationalize the issue.

The Director General of ISPR asserted that India has a history of targeting innocent people for political objectives, blaming Pakistan, and then covering up these actions by further killing innocent Kashmiris and Muslims while portraying them as terrorists. He pointed out that India blamed Pakistan for the Pahalgam incident within minutes of its occurrence, without conducting any investigation.

He also presented video clips featuring Indian citizens, Kashmiris, Indian officials, retired

Indian military officers, and politicians, all describing the Pahalgam incident as a security failure on the part of the Indian government. He accused the Indian media of frequently fabricating stories to implicate Pakistan.

Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry further alleged that India has suppressed independent media, banned thousands of

X handles, and restricted access to social media platforms operating within Pakistan to ensure that the Indian public only hears the version presented by its own authorities.

He said India is actively sponsoring terrorism within Pakistan, particularly in Balochistan, and is also involved in transnational killings across the world, including in Canada.

The Director General emphasized that Pakistan is the last bulwark state standing against the menace of terrorism not only on behalf of the people Pakistan but the people of the world. He said India intends to disrupt Pakistan's counterterrorism efforts, which could lead to regional destabilization.

Deputy PM briefs Japanese FM on India's unprovoked attacks

APP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, received a call from the Foreign Minister of Japan, Iwaya Takeshi.

The Deputy Prime Minister briefed him on the regional situation and India's illegal and unprovoked attacks on multiple cities across Pakistan that resulted in the martyrdom of innocent civilians, including women, children, and the elderly.

He emphasized that Pakistan has demonstrated restraint in the face of these violations of international law and the UN Charter that threatened regional peace and security.

Ishaq Dar said the Government of Pakistan remains firmly committed to defending the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

On the occasion, the Japanese Foreign Minister expressed deep concern over the evolving situation and conveyed condolences over the loss of innocent civilian lives. He emphasized that both sides should exercise restraint, allowing dialogue and diplomacy to achieve peace and stability in the region.

Pakistan shoots down 77 Indian drones in last two days

APP

RAWALPINDI: Security forces have destroyed 77 Indian drones in several cities of Pakistan amid mounting tensions between the neighbouring countries.

Security sources said 29 Indian drones had been shot down by the evening of May 8, adding that an additional 48 drones were destroyed since Thursday night.

Security sources confirmed that the Pakistan Army was giving a strong response to the enemy's aggression. In the latest response, one drone was destroyed in Vehari, one in Pakpattan, and four drones were downed in Okara.

The ISPR DG, in a statement, said all drones were continuously

monitored on radar, adding that whenever a drone approaches, it is constantly tracked.

"Our air defense system has the capability to track even small drones," the military spokesperson said.

The ISPR chief said an operational procedure was followed for shooting

down drones in the civilian areas and in the presence of commercial flights.

Meanwhile, defence experts said Pakistan's air defence system was continuously thwarting enemy attacks.

Tracking of each drone clearly showed that Pakistan's defence and air defence systems were extremely strong, they said.

Balochistan CM vows action against Security Officials Involved in Extortion

NEWS DESK

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti on Friday assured the provincial assembly that any security personnel found involved in extortion or bribery would be brought to justice, urging lawmakers to provide concrete evidence.

During a heated session of the Balochistan Assembly, Jamaat-e-Islami MPA Maulana Hidayat ur Rahmani tabled a resolution alleging that law enforcement personnel were collecting illegal money from transporters on highways across the province.

The chief minister, while responding to the resolution, categorically rejected the

blanket accusations but promised strict action against any individual found guilty. "No one is above the law. If anyone has credible evidence, bring it forward—we will not spare the culprits," Bugti said from the floor of the house.

He urged Maulana Rahman to withdraw the resolution, assuring that the government was serious about addressing corruption and extortion. The chair then disposed of the resolution following the assurance.

Several lawmakers also voiced concerns over rising extortion incidents, poverty, and unemployment in Balochistan during the session. The debate reflected growing public frustration over lawlessness and economic challenges in the province.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti addressing a Balochistan Provincial Assembly.

No objection over it if court releases Imran on parole: Maulana Fazl

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said if court releases Imran Khan on parole then there is no objection over it.

He said this while talking to journalists in parliament house here Friday. Declaring Pakistan triumphant against India he said Pakistan has shot down 5 war planes and drones of India. Evolving war strategy against India is job of army. War strategy be left to army.

Those criticizing army make their patriotism suspicious. Criticism demoralizes army and country goes to risk.

What all is being said about Indian victory is false. What lies India has spoken cannot stay for even a minute. Performance of Pakistan army is appreciable. Army

becomes more stronger if nation is on its back. Not arms but courage fights in war. Israel-India connivance is very clear.

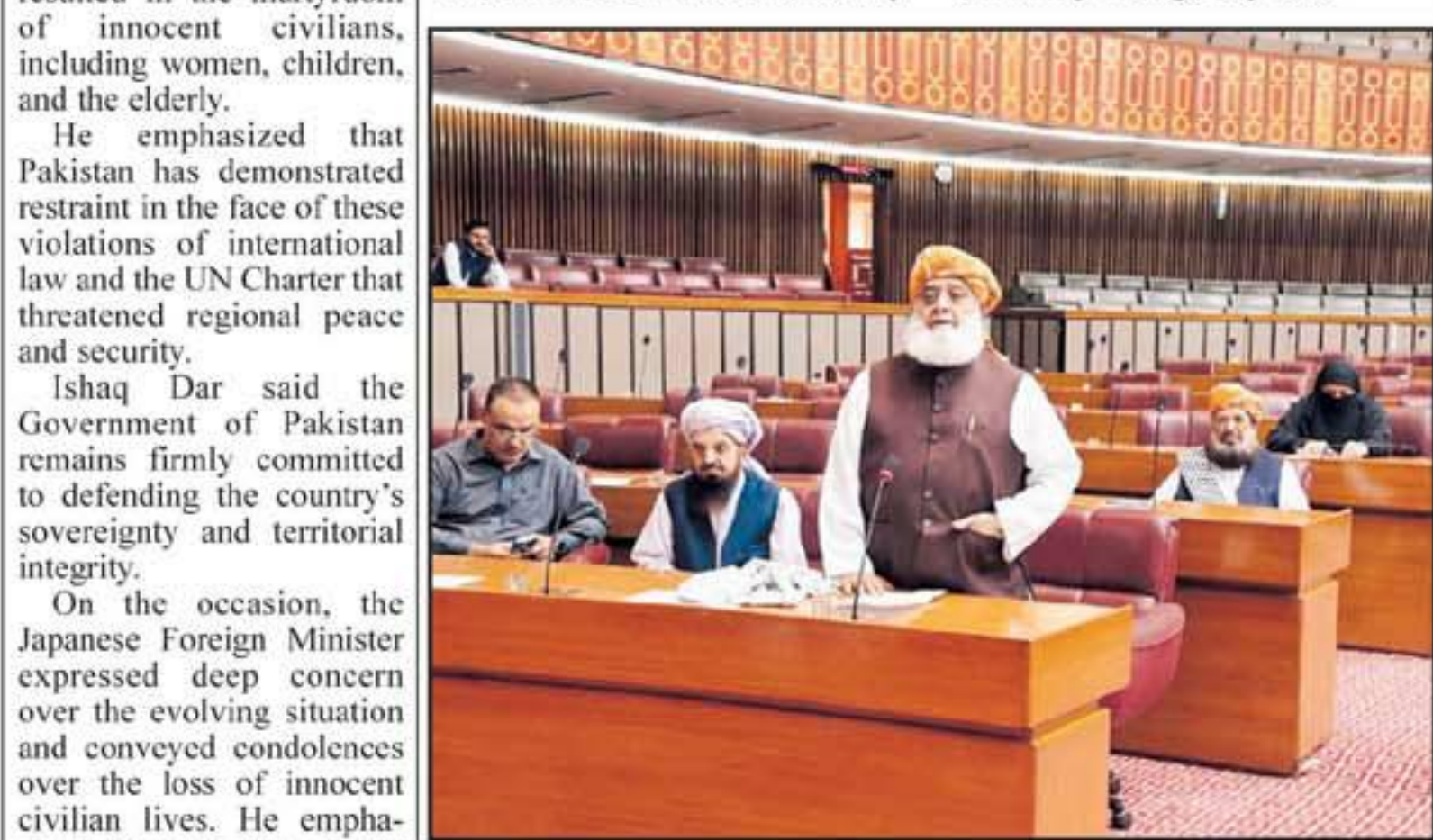
Modi supported it when Israel targeted civilian population in Ghaza. People of India and Congress are criticizing India-Israel collusion.

Going to the extent of nuclear war is destruction of both the countries.

Pakistan neither wants war nor it started war. We demanded international probe into Pahalgam incident. UN and international institutions should investigate into Pahalgam incident.

US is finding its role in the region. US is not making clear its position with reference to Pakistan-India war.

PTI leader is in jail, therefore, it is criticizing. PTI has included the release of its leader in the demands in this situation.



ISLAMABAD: JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, while addressing the National Assembly, sternly warned India to refrain from its aggressive actions.

Unfortunate that India's reckless conduct brought two nuclear-armed states closer to major conflict: FO

> Says Indian leadership has "once again used the bogey of terrorism to advance its sham narrative of victimhood, jeopardising regional peace."

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Friday said it was unfortunate that "India's reckless conduct has brought the two nuclear-armed states closer to a major conflict" as military tensions between Pakistan and India escalate.

The statement comes amid the ongoing escalation between Pakistan and India, which started after New Delhi launched attacks in several Pakistani cities. Islamabad promptly responded to the attacks.

The escalation began following the April 22 attack in Indian-occupied Kashmir's Pahalgam, killing 26 people. India, without investigation or evidence, implied "cross-border linkages" of the attack-killers. Pakistan has firmly rejected the claim and called for a neutral probe.

While addressing his weekly press briefing in Islamabad today, FO Spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan said: "Indian actions are a flagrant violation of the UN charter, international law, and established norms governing interstate relations."

"It is most unfortunate that India's reckless conduct has brought the two nuclear-armed states closer to a major conflict," he said.

"India's jingoism and war hysteria should be a source of serious concern for the world," he added.

The spokesperson noted that South Asia is home to one-fifth of the



Foreign Office Spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan addresses a weekly press briefing.

world's population, who can "ill-afford the irresponsible actions like the ones being carried out by India."

He said that in the wake of the Pahalgam attack, the Indian leadership has "once again used the bogey of terrorism to advance its sham narrative of victimhood, jeopardising regional peace."

The spokesperson reiterated that Pakistan rejected any attempt to link it to

the attack in Pahalgam. He noted that a number of countries and international organisations had called on both countries to exercise restraint over the past two weeks, and it was "highly deplorable that India did not pay heed to these calls". "The international community should hold India accountable for its irresponsible, unlawful and belligerent conduct," he said.

He rebutted referenced remarks made yesterday by India's Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri during a press briefing.

"The assertion that Pakistan escalated the situation through the Pahalgam attack of April 22 is totally absurd. To date, India has not been able to produce any credible and verifiable evidence of Pakistan's involvement in the attack."

"To the contrary, the acts of aggression committed by its armed forces had the approval and support of its entire government," he said. "Thus, it is India that has escalated the situation by violating Pakistan's sovereignty and killing civilians."

He continued that "the Pakistani forces did not attack Pahalgam, but the Indian forces did attack multiple locations in Pakistan," adding that Pakistan reserves the right to take all measures in its self-defence as enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter.

Earlier in the day, state-run PTV said that Pakistan has taken down a total of 77 Indian drones so far. The spokesperson noted that on April 26, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had called for a "neutral and transparent" investigation into the Pahalgam attack, yet "India chose the path of belligerence and aggression."

"We are amazed to see the importance Pakistan attaches to the anonymous and devious social media post upon which it has bid the case for the resistance front's involvement in the Pahalgam attack," Khan said.

Infant among 4 martyred, 12 injured in Indian firing across LoC

NEWS DESK

KOTLI: A newborn girl was among four people martyred and 12 others were injured when Indian forces opened unprovoked fire across the Line of Control (LoC) in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) on Friday, according to police officials.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Kotli, Adeel Ahmed, confirmed that Indian troops violated the ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing in the sectors of Bagh, Kotli, Bandala, Chahi Nihala, and Nali near the LoC. The attack resulted in the killing of four civilians.

A newborn girl was among the four martyred in the Khairatta sector, while 12 others, including women and elderly individuals, sustained injuries.

SP Adeel added that all the injured were immediately transported to a nearby hospital for medical treatment.

Police reported that a young man was martyred, and his two sisters were injured when an Indian army shell struck their home. Three other houses were also partially damaged in the attack.

The Pakistan Army responded befittingly to Indian fire, silencing the enemy's guns and destroying one of the Indian army's checkposts.

Pakistan fully prepared to deal with Indian aggression: Asif

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said the country's armed forces are fully prepared to deal with the situation arising out of the Indian aggression.

Speaking in the National Assembly today, he said our forces are valiantly fighting the enemy forces on the Line of Control and the working boundary.

He said India's designs were successfully thwarted which has demoralized their people, media and political parties. He said the morale of our people, armed forces, political parties and other segments of the society is high.

Mentioning the shooting down of five Indian fighter jets as well as drones, he said we are proud of our armed forces and the entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with them.

On the diplomatic front, Khawaja Asif said the government is maintaining close contacts with the world community. He said we are in contact with China and the Gulf countries on a daily basis.

He said the friendly countries have also expressed their support to Pakistan. He said our mission at the United Nations is effectively presenting Pakistan's point of view. He said no country is standing with India.

Earlier, participating in the discussion, Chief of JUI (F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman said India targeted mosques and Madaris which resulted in the loss of civilian lives.

He commended the valiant and effective response of the armed forces to Indian aggression. He said his party is observing Youm-e-Difaa-e-Watan today to condemn the Indian aggression.

Minister for National Food Security, Rana Tanveer Hussain said our armed forces have always foiled the evil designs of India against Pakistan. He said our forces are best in the world and the enemy is also aware of our capabilities. Misbah Uddin said war is not solution to any problem. However, he said if war is imposed by the enemy, our armed forces backed by the entire nation are fully capable to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

Haji Rasool Bux Chandio said nobody will be allowed to cast an evil eye on Pakistan.

All departments put on high alert under the disaster management plan in the General Hospital: Professor Al-Freed Zafar

By Maqsood khalid

Lahore: In view of the ongoing emergency situation in the country, an emergency meeting of the Academic Council was held in the committee room of Lahore General Hospital under the chairmanship of Principal Ameeruddin Medical College/PGMI Professor Al-Freed Zafar, in which all the faculty members of the institution, MS Professor Dr. Faryad Hussain, MS Pinz Dr. Umar Ishaq. A large number of administrative doctors attended the meeting. It was decided in the meeting that all departments of the hospital should be kept on high alert for any emergency and disaster management.

Principal Professor Al-Fareed Zafar appointed Professor Armaghan Israr Mirza as Director of Disaster Management and directed him to ensure coordination with all departments so that the situation can be faced with courage and in difficult times.

Professor Al-Fareed Zafar further directed the Director Disaster Management to remain in full contact with

the Blood Donation Society of Amiruddin Medical College so that timely blood supply to the injured can be ensured. In the meeting, the professors gave a detailed briefing about all the arrangements made in their respective departments.

Professor Al-Fareed Zafar said that health professionals, including life-saving medicines and stocks of different blood groups, were

instructed to remain alert round the clock and keep their mobile phones on. He said that during these days, no employee should leave their station without prior permission from the competent authority, the availability of additional beds in other wards besides emergency should be ensured, all ambulances should be kept on "standby" and the generator should be kept updated, and security personnel should also be alert.

Principal Al-Fareed Zafar also directed the administrative doctors, nursing administration, storekeepers of all departments and the in-charge blood bank to further tighten surveillance in their respective departments.



Islamabad : Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with US Acting Ambassador Natalie Baker .

Cuomo Leads Crowded NYC Mayoral Race Amid Scandals and Policy Debates

By Khawaja Farooq

NEW YORK: With the Democratic primary for New York City's 2025 mayoral election set for June 24, the race is intensifying, featuring a diverse field of candidates and a focus on pressing issues like affordable housing and public trust.

Key Candidates:
 • Andrew Cuomo: The former governor leads the Democratic field with 34% support, despite past controversies, including sexual harassment allegations. He's also secured a spot on the general election ballot via the "Fight and Deliver" independent line, aiming to attract a broad spectrum of voters.
 • Zohran Mamdani: A progressive

state assemblyman and democratic socialist, Mamdani appeals to younger voters with policies on housing and public transportation. He's polling second and has maxed out his campaign funding at \$8 million.

• Brad Lander: The city comptroller has launched a \$750,000 ad campaign targeting Cuomo's alleged misuse of taxpayer funds for legal defenses, positioning himself as a corruption-fighter.
 • Zellnor Myrie and Jessica Ramos: Both state senators are emphasizing affordable housing, with Myrie proposing one million new units over ten

years. • Eric Adams: The incumbent mayor is running for reelection as an independent after federal corruption charges were dismissed. His campaign faces scrutiny over fundraising practices and a denied request for public matching funds.

Election Dates:
 • Primary Election: June 24, 2025 (Early voting: June 14-22) • General Election: November 4, 2025 (Early voting: October 25-November 2) As the election approaches, New Yorkers are evaluating candidates' visions for the city's future, with housing affordability and ethical governance at the forefront of the debate.

PPP committed for addressing issues of Balochistan including education, health, jobs: MNA Jamal

APP

Quetta: Member of National Assembly (MNA) Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani on Friday said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is committed to solving every problem of Balochistan including education, health and employment.

He expressed these views while talking to various youth delegations at Sarawan House Quetta.

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) central leader Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani said that youth are the asset of Balochistan and Pakistan and the people of Balochistan, especially the youth would not be disappointed.

He shed light on his vision for the youth and discussed with the youth issues of mutual interest, development and welfare projects in the constituency and the political situation.

Petroleum minister assures support to oil and gas companies

APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik on Friday appreciated the important role of the Pakistan Petroleum Exploration and Production Companies Association (PPEPCA) in the energy sector and reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting a business-friendly environment. He shared these views during a meeting with a PPEPCA delegation led by Chairman Taha Ali Temini, who is also the Country Manager of KUPPEC. The meeting focused on the main opportunities and challenges facing Pakistan's oil and gas industry. The minister said that oil and gas exploration was a key part of the national economy and the government aimed to reduce reliance on imports in this sector. The PPEPCA, which represents major exploration and production companies in Pakistan, highlighted its contribution to strengthening the country's

Maqsood khalid Exclusive Interview with Professor Dr. Haroon Hamid CEO of Mayo Hospital: Medical Staff Ready for Emergency During India-Pakistan Tensions

Special Correspondent

Lahore: In an exclusive interview with Maqsood Khalid for Daily Mirror and Daily Mashriq, Professor Dr. Haroon Hamid CEO of Mayo Hospital shared insights on the hospital's emergency preparedness amid ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan.

Dr Haroon Hamid stated that, under the vision of the Chief Minister and the Prime Minister of Pakistan, all arrangements have been made to deal with any emergency situation. "Our doctors, paramed-

ical staff, and supporting teams are on high alert and fully prepared to provide immediate medical care," he said.

He further added that the emergency department has the capacity to handle over 220 patients at a time. "During the last escalation between India and Pakistan, we reported to the hospital at 2:00 a.m. and have remained on duty since then. No one is willing to leave — everyone is committed to serving the nation."



QUETTA: Labours push hand cart loaded with delivery stuff to earn money for their family.



QUETTA: Residents of Hazara Town hold protest against shortage of water supply and electricity .



BCCI suspends IPL 'with immediate effect for one week'

SPORTS DESK

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided to suspend the remainder of the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 "with immediate effect for one week", according to a statement on Friday.

An IPL match on Thursday was abandoned midway after fighting began in India's border regions, but the cricket board attributed the disruption to a power failure at the stadium in the hill city of Dharamsala.

"Further updates regarding the new schedule and venues of the tournament will be announced in due course after a comprehensive assessment of the situation in consultation with relevant authorities and stakeholders," said the statement from BCCI Honorary Secretary Devajit Saikia, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com.

"The decision was taken by the IPL Governing Council after due consultation with all key stakeholders following the representations from most of the franchisees, who conveyed

concern and sentiments of their players, and also the views of the broadcaster, sponsors and fans; while the BCCI reposes full faith in the strength and preparedness of our armed forces, the Board considered it prudent to act in the collective interest of all stakeholders.

"At this critical juncture, the BCCI stands firmly with the nation. We express our solidarity with the Government of India, the Armed Forces and the people of our country," the statement said.

"While cricket remains a national passion, there is nothing greater than the nation and its sovereignty, integrity, and security of our country. The BCCI remains firmly committed to support all efforts that safeguard India and will always align its decisions in the best interest of the nation," the statement added.



CHALLENGERS batter Yusra Amin plays a shot as Stars wicket-keeper Sidra Nawaz looks on during their National Women's T20 Tournament match at the Oval Academy Ground

Challengers, Strikers win in National Women's T20

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: Captain Rameen Shamim's all-round show led Challengers to a four-wicket victory over Stars in their second-round match of the National Women's T20 tournament here at the Oval Academy Ground on Thursday.

Rameen first bagged two wickets for 17 runs and then made an unbeaten 12-ball 21 featuring two fours and one six in the last over, after walking in to bat at 88-5, to help Challengers register first win in the tournament as they chased the 118-run target in 19.2 overs.

Challengers' opener Sadaf Shamas made 32 laced with three fours and one six while Natalia Parvaiz (18) and Aliya Riaz (17) also kept the scorecard ticking. For Stars, Tuba Hassan claimed three wickets for 26 runs.

Earlier after opting to bat first, Stars made a modest 116 in 20 overs. Sidra Nawaz (27 not out), Sidra Amin (23), Tuba Hassan (22) and Samiya Afsar (21) were the main scorers.

Apart from Rameen, Zaib-un-Nisa picked up two wickets, while Tasmia Rubab and Momina Riasat took one each.

Rameen was declared player-of-the-match.

In another match of the second round, Strikers registered a seven-wicket win over Invincibles to open their account in the tournament as they chased the 135-run target with five balls to spare.

Invincibles' Saiqa Riaz hit a 49-ball 58 with eight fours and one six, while added 80-runs with fellow opener Muneeba Ali (31).

For Strikers, Umm-e-Hani (3-18) and Zunash Abdul Sattar (2-17) shared five wickets among them as Invincibles were helped to 134-7 with Omaira Sohail striking three fours in her 10-ball 18.

In turn, Strikers' skipper Gull Feroza (41 off 38, five fours) stitched a valuable 69-run stand with Zoofishan Ayyaz (29 off 35, four fours) to steer the chase.

Player-of-the-match Eyma Fatima cracked an unbeaten 42 off 31 balls with six fours and one six.

For Invincibles, Neha Sharmeen claimed two wickets for 14 runs in three overs.

Scores in brief: Challengers beat Stars by four wickets at the Oval Academy Ground.

STARS 116 20 overs (Sidra Nawaz 27 not out, Sidra Amin 23, Tuba Hassan 22, Samiya Afsar 21; Rameen Shamim 2-17, Zaib-un-Nisa 2-24); CHALLENGERS 117-6 in 19.2 overs (Sadaf Shamas 32, Rameen Shamim 21 not out; Tuba Hassan 3-26)

Strikers beat Invincibles by seven wickets at the National Bank Stadium.

INVINCIBLES 134-7 in 20 overs (Saiqa Riaz 58, Muneeba Ali 31;

Umm-e-Hani 3-18, Zunash Abdul Sattar 2-17); STRIKERS 135-3 in 19.1 overs (Eyma Fatima 42 not out, Gull Feroza 41,

Zoofishan Ayyaz 29; Neha Sharmeen 2-14).

Swiatek makes fast start at Italian Open

SPORTS DESK

ROME: Iga Swiatek dismissed Elisabetta Cocciaretto in just 52 minutes as she opened her account at the Italian Open .

World number two Swiatek came to Italy on the back of a demoralising straight-sets defeat to Coco Gauff in the semi-finals of the Madrid Open.

But the 23-year-old Pole dropped just a single game in winning 6-1, 6-0 against Italian Cocciaretto to move onto a third-round meeting with Danielle Collins as the American defeated Elena-Gabriela Ruse of Romania 6-3, 6-3.

"I felt like the ball was kind of listening to me today and I had full control over the match, so it's always pretty comfortable to play a match like that," Swiatek said.

"You just need to continue the work you've been doing and not expect that it's going to happen more often."

Swiatek is a three-time winner of the Italian Open and is using the claycourt tournament as a key step towards her defence of her French Open title, but she is yet to win a tournament this season.

In another second-round match, former world number one Naomi Osaka came from behind to overcome lucky loser Viktorija Golubic 2-6, 7-5, 6-1.

Sixth seed Jasmine Paolini, cheered on by her home crowd, was a comfortable 6-4, 6-3 winner against Lulu Sun of New Zealand and will face Ons Jabeur in round three after the Tunisian benefited from a walkover against Petra Kvitova.

Kvitova — who secured her first victory since returning from maternity leave by defeating Irina-Camelia Begu in the first round — was forced to withdraw due to a leg problem. Spanish ninth seed Paula Badosa also withdrew from the tournament earlier. Badosa's injury cast more doubts over her fitness ahead of the French Open as the Spanish former world number two pulled out of another tournament due to a recurring back injury. Third seed Jessica Pegula increased her perfect record against her fellow American Ashlyn Krueger with a 6-4, 6-2 second-round victory. Pegula and her 37th-ranked compatriot Krueger have met five times, all in the last two years, and Pegula has prevailed on each occasion without the loss of a set.

Meanwhile, men's world number one Jannik Sinner will make his return to competition after a three-month doping ban by facing Mariano Navone on Saturday after the Argentinian beat Federico Cina 6-3, 6-3 on Thursday.



ASHLYN Krueger of the US hits a return against compatriot Jessica Pegula during their Italian Open round-of-64 match at Foro Italico .

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Dera Bugti invites Sealed tenders/Bids from the firms/contractors for the following work approved in PSDP 2024-25. Tender Fee Rs 1500/- for each work. Time limit Six Months. Bid Security 2% for each work

S#	NAME OF WORK	Qty	APP.COST(M)
1-	CONSTRUCTION OF WATER SUPPLY SCHEME AT DUDAR DERABUGTI.		
i.	D/D of Bore TSE-242505704573	1-Job	3964000/-
ii.	Supply/Installation of solar system TSE-242505704583	1-Set	3761000/-

The Procurement will be finalized as per B-PPRA Rules and regulations, the firm must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant category and relevant discipline who have renewal for the year 2024-25 and registered with tax authorities i.e. BRA, NTN & Sales Tax Department active filers where applicable who are on ATL of FBR three-year similar experience and turnover of last three years. The tender fee must be deposited in head of account C - 02721 - 02726 through Green challan in any National Bank of Pakistan. METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single Stage, One envelope procedure. BIDDING DOCUMENTS / TENDER DOCUMENTS: Can be downloaded from B-PPRA Website or on Production of Tender Fee and Tender documents cost Rs: 1500/- for each work. ISSUANCE: The tender form will be issued to bidders after publication of notice in newspapers from the presentation of requisite documents i.e. tender fee (Non-refundable). Bid security / earnest money mentioned above, original valid Engineering Council Certificate in relevant / required category, registration with BRA income tax certificate (NTN) etc. SUBMISSION: Last date for submission of bids 26-05-2025 at 12:00 PM. OPENING: The sealed bids will be opened on 26-05-2025 at 01:00 PM. Place of issuance, submission inquiries and opening will be: ADDRESS: Office of the XEN PHE Division Dera Bugti. Telephone No. 0835 - 410533/0835 - 410433 E-Mail DB4023@bppra.gob.pk Other terms and conditions are attached with tender documents.

PRQ No.4325/09-05-2025

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION DERABUGTI

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Time for restraint

FEAR and panic continue to dominate South Asia, with Pakistan and India still engaged in hostilities. Airports have been shut, exams postponed and markets have been on edge. On Thursday, the military said that 25 Israeli-made Indian drones were shot down over different parts of Pakistan. In some cases, India's drone attacks led to damage and injuries. While India had struck sites in AJK and Punjab in its initial aggression on May 7, yesterday's drone targets included Sindh as New Delhi climbed up the escalatory ladder. Indian media outlets claimed that Pakistan attacked targets in held Jammu and Kashmir, but the government has denied this. The fact is that India initiated hostilities against Pakistan on the basis of unproven allegations in the Pahalgam killings, and launched its so-called 'Operation Sindoor'. Pakistan retaliated by downing five of its jets. It is now time for all to step back from the brink.

India's defence minister asserted that his country wanted to resolve "problems through dialogue", while its military stressed its "commitment to non-escalation". But the fact remains, that India is persisting with its provocative attacks, jeopardising civilian lives on this side of the border. Therefore, its 'commitment' to dialogue and non-escalation remains highly questionable.

One positive development on Thursday came in the form of a statement by Deputy PM Ishaq Dar that contacts between both states' NSAs and DGMOs had been established. Sadly, while foreign friends have counselled restraint, there has been a marked indifference on the part of the international community to actively help defuse the crisis. This indifference is perplexing in a nuclear neighbourhood, as an escalation in hostilities will not remain a bilateral matter, but affect all of South Asia as well as the Middle East.

Therefore, the UN and states that enjoy a good rapport with both Islamabad and New Delhi should play a role in cooling temperatures. President Donald Trump has urged both countries to "stop" the violence, and Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke to the PM on the matter. Other foreign powers, such as the Gulf states, Iran, and others should also redouble their efforts for a diplomatic solution.

Jingoism is evident in both countries, but elements in India's media, cultural and political sphere have been egging on their country in the confrontation. Perhaps they think of war in the context of Bollywood action films. The actual reality of conflict is much darker. Even a conventional war would cost countless lives and increase misery on both sides.

What a nuclear showdown has in store is too horrific to contemplate.

Therefore, sense must prevail, and the march to war should be halted.

Along with foreign efforts, the contacts made between the NSAs and DGMOs must continue in order to de-escalate matters and return to a more manageable state of affairs.

By Zeba Sathar

Inclusive or exclusive growth?

THE government has clearly stated that inclusive growth is its foremost priority. This is reassuring, but will require reforms in the economic and development agendas of both the government and its international partners. Losing no time, we must prioritise people's needs, particularly for the poorest households. Inclusive, and not exclusive, growth means lifting millions out of poverty and giving the children from such households their fundamental rights — primary education, basic nutrition and the right to survive their fifth birthday.

This is a call to put people's development front and centre, and to deal with the shameful neglect of social and human development. Lessons can be drawn from the Social Action Programme in the late 1990s when multinationals and the Pakistan government designated resources to improve the lagging social indicators in health, education and population. Indeed, that exclusive focus and policy priorities, backed by additional financing didlead to improvements in crucial indicators. Fertility declined from 5.8 to 4.4 children per woman, female net enrolment rates rose from 38 to 48 per cent and the infant mortality rate declined from 100 to 80 deaths per 1,000 births in the 10-year period from 1995 to 2005.

Over the past two decades, we have seen growing stagnation in social development: in particular, fertility rates and female and male enrolment rates have remained alarmingly stagnant. This is not surprising since there have been no notable investments in social development due to the lack of funds. A new and aggressive social development agenda has to be launched to break the current trajectory that is leading us away from inclusive growth.

Some actions that can pay huge political and social dividends, with ripple effects, must be prioritised. The first step is for the state to focus on compulsory and free universal primary education. It will demonstrate the state's determination to redress the decline in investment in Pakistan's children. It is the state's responsibility, above

all, to provide free, and enforce compulsory, schooling for all children. Those who can afford it send their children to school, especially to the large number of private schools. The poorest households are unable to send their children to school because they cannot: there is no teacher and no school where their children can be enrolled free of cost. This enhances the wide gulf between classes, disbaring any upward generational mobility for millions of children and leading to intergenerational decline in mental abilities.

Over the past two decades, we have seen growing stagnation in social development. Quality in the eyes of parents is determined by the presence and qualification of teachers and not physical buildings. They will send their children to school if the teachers are present. Above all, sending all children to school, if it is made a national priority, can be achieved rapidly. For primary schooling, the focus should be on female teachers as they can teach both boys and girls, while having double shifts can eliminate the need to build new schools. This would also tap the potential of thousands of girls and women across the country for productive work.

The second step is to truly empower Pakistan's women and girls. Inclusive growth has no room for gender bias. Low educational performance and stagnant participation in the labour force do not reflect the aspirations of the 120m women and girls in the country. Women and girls want the same opportunities as men, and when these are available to them, they perform better against all odds. Foremost, we must step up efforts to encourage women to enter the labour force. Female labour force participation rates have stagnated at less than 24pc for more than a decade. No country can claim inclusive growth or equitable progress without the active contribution of women to household income and savings. Unleashing their productivity will trigger positive social and economic transformation. Existing laws against violence in the workplace and female mobility promotion in Sindh and Punjab are good steps. However, more efforts such as a mandato-

ry quota for women in private and public sector jobs are required. The media can certainly contribute by breaking underlying patriarchal mental models that restrict women's sphere to the home.

The third and possibly the easiest step to implement is to reduce the current high levels of fertility and associated high maternal morbidity and mortality. Repeated and closely spaced pregnancies half of which are mistimed or unplanned are not the fault of women — 3.5m of these pregnancies end in induced abortions and 1.4m unwanted births annually. This can be changed. Fertility levels can be brought down if pregnancy rates are reduced by half, with pregnancies being truly planned.

Changing stagnating fertility patterns to ensure healthier spacing of pregnancies and fewer unplanned pregnancies will directly help lower infant mortality and malnutrition which continue to be central to the World Bank Country Partnership framework. Arguably, steps are required to improve food security and child stunting, but malnutrition cannot be addressed without reducing fertility in the country.

Left to women, Pakistan could have a lower fertility rate. Women's stated wanted fertility is one child less than the current 3.6 births per woman. This would bring Pakistan's fertility closer to the level of our own national goals for FP2030 agreed upon in the Council of Common Interests' 2018 goals. Extended birth spacing services and campaigns like the ones followed in comparable Muslim countries like Indonesia and Bangladesh will bring rapid change.

Above all, economists and planners who believe inclusive growth is equivalent to greater GDP growth need to acknowledge that any gains will be eroded by rapid population growth and low socio-economic development contributing to low productivity. As pointed out in Pakistan@2050: Demographic Change, Future Projections and Development Opportunities, a reduction in the population growth rate is largely possible with the reforms stated above. It will bring a dramatic rise of 37pc in the per capita income and 5pc GDP growth by 2050.

By Ghulam Shabbir

Sufi 'ishq'

LOVE of God, gnosis of God and obedience to God are the linchpins of Sufism. Although to some love results in gnosis, but love and gnosis are mutually independent ideals as ecstatic Sufism hardly talks of cognition and cognitive Sufism seldom talks of love. The Quran supports mystic-intuitive knowledge which does not require any particular exercise and rites of initiation and when it is disclosed, is perfectly 'natural' knowledge. So, the Quranic doctrine of cognition is diametrically opposed to Sufi-gnosis which turns mysticism into mystification. Hence, the supra-intellectual knowledge — which 'infallible' Sufi intuition claims as its exclusive domain — arguably has no roots in the Quran.

However, moral Sufism constitutes both an aesthetic ideal of love and gnostic ideal of cognition, both meant for the realisation of moral tasks. So, the ecstatic acts of mediaeval Sufis are of no value as the Prophet (PBUH) and his companions never indulged in these practices. As faith without good works is equivalent to having no faith at all (6:158), it is on this touchstone that the Sufi principle of ishq needs to be judged.

The labyrinthine Sufi doctrine of ishq seems a riddle through and through. However, Iqbal offers it as a definite and defined idea. His academic stay in Europe showed him the dilemma of man and led him to faith from territorial nationalism. He concluded that Islam presents certain values of ethical orientation crucial both to the survival and development of mankind.

As the process of history is cumulative and evolutionary, there could be no cut and dried specific moral imperatives; these are rather to be harvested

from revealed and prophetic sources. These are to be precisely articulated from the entirety of the Quran and Prophetic Sunnah rather than individual verses and hadiths. Since it is the moral orientation of the Quran and the general directives of seerah which determine the ethical value of particular injunctions, without this orientation no injunction has real life, let alone ethical meaning.

Iqbal proposes symbiosis of 'aql' and 'ishq'.

Iqbal's thorough acquaintance with the thought-classics and actual state of affairs of both the Muslim East and the West had uniquely equipped him to judge their performance. He judged them on the principle of ishq, which means creative forward movement. Here forward movement rules out backward and stationary movement, while the term creative ensures that the movement is meaningful. On this premise,

while he found the somnolent East in the throes of hibernation and hence devoid of ishq, he found the Faustian West alive and moving, but this movement being meaningless and purposeless was harmful and destructive.

The West was inventive, but not creative in the sense of Iqbal's ishq. For ishq is a positive moral creativity, of which Ibrahim — the archetype monotheist — is a model who summoned up all the reserves of his positive nature to scientifically approach reality.

Thus, man's essential task is to get mastery over nature and then use this mastery, under the human initiative, to create a good world order. For the scientific pursuit — without harnessing it for the creation of a moral order — is vain, dangerous and destructive, as

the West's technological performance manifests. On the other hand, mysticism devoid of a scientific, organic picture of the universe is an exercise in futility as the void spiritualism of the East depicts. This was Iqbal's critique of the West and the Muslim world that aql (scientific pursuit) without ishq (positive moral energy) is a misguided devilish exercise, while ishq without aql was not just sterile but even pure self-deception. The ills of the West were rooted in secularism while those of the Muslim world in void spiritualism. Hence, he proposes symbiosis of aql and ishq, as a panacea to the human crisis.

Iqbal concluded that the secular West would hardly seek any negotiation with any moral ideology, however, the Muslim

world could be awakened from slumber to turn the sociopolitical ideals of the Quran into reality. He said that Muslims owe it to themselves and the world at large a revival of the élan vital of the Quran for the democratic and economic organisation of mankind. He dreamed of Pakistan as a first step towards this task. To him, ishq informed by reason is equipped with and capable of creating the necessary conditions to build a moral world order which man pledged at creation.

Iqbal had envisioned Pakistan as an epitome of pure progress — moral and material — but it is torn apart between the moribund right influenced by mediaeval thought and the spineless, secular elite tuned to Western modernity.

The remedy lies in the fusion of modern ethos with the moral ideals of Islam. It demands the supervening role of ishq which to Ghalib "lights its candle with lightning bolt to see its task through".

DAILY MIRROR

Pakistan's proposal for probe into Pahlgam incident also praised by UN SC chief: Azam Tarar

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar said that Pakistan's proposal for an investigation into the Pahlgam incident has been praised not only by the international community but also by the United Nations Secretary-General.

Speaking in the National Assembly on Friday during a debate on the situation arising from India's ongoing aggression, Tarar emphasized that every drop of blood will be accounted for.

He clarified that Pakistan has no intention of launching an aggressive attack on any other country but reserves the right under international law and regional norms to retaliate if provoked.

Tarar thanked all members of the house for presenting a united front on national security, sending a clear message that "we are one, we are Pakistan,

and we know how to defend our country." He stressed the need for national unity during difficult times, urging political harmony for the sake of the country's progress.

He recalled Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's earlier offer, both as PM and as opposition leader—for collective efforts to stabilize the economy. Tarar proposed an

economic charter" to accelerate Pakistan's development, similar to the Charter of Democracy that strengthened democratic institutions.

The law minister urged opposition members to engage in constructive dialogue, stating that politics should be about logic and persuasion rather than confrontation. He warned against turning politics into fascism, emphasizing that strong institutions lead to a strong nation.

Regarding India's aggression, Tarar stated that Pakistan's armed forces have been given full authority to respond as and when necessary. He highlighted

that while

India targeted innocent civilians, Pakistan's forces struck military targets, forcing India to "wave white flags."

He praised Pakistan's diplomatic efforts, noting that the country effectively presented its case to the world. The UN chief and several nations, including China, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Gulf states, have supported Pakistan's stance.

Tarar condemned Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "butcher of Gujarat" rhetoric, predicting that such divisive policies would lead to India's fragmentation. He assured that Pakistan's civil and military institutions are fully alert, with the National Security Committee maintaining close coordination.

"Every drop of blood will be accounted for," he reiterated. "Pakistan does not seek war, but if provoked, we will strike back decisively."



Islamabad: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a consultative meeting on preparation of the Federal Budget.

DG Hajj visits hotels of Pakistani pilgrims, inquires about facilities

INP

MADINAH: The Director General (DG) Hajj, Abdul Wahab Soomro visited the hotels of Pakistani pilgrims here Friday and inquired about the food and other facilities being provided to them (the guests of Allah Almighty).

He was accompanied by Director Hajj Madinah, Zia-ur-Rehman, along with sector and food coordinators in Madinah.

On this occasion, the pilgrims expressed their appreciation not only for the quality of food, accommodation, and other facilities but also for the dedication and responsiveness of the Hajj staff.

Speaking to the pilgrims, the DG Hajj said that exemplary arrangements have been made for Pakistani pilgrims during this year's Hajj. He noted that, for the first time, state-of-the-art facilities such as air-conditioned tents, sofa-cum-matresses, gypsum board partitions, luggage racks, and shaded walkways with artificial grass have been introduced.

Pakistan not only transforming, but open for business & investment: Aurangzeb

ONLINE

LONDON: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said Pakistan is not only transforming, but it is open for business and investment.

He expressed these views while speaking at meeting held with a group of leading global investors in London today.

The Finance Minister shed light in detail on Pakistan's economic outlook, reform agenda, and future investment prospects.

He also provided a comprehensive overview of Pakistan's macroeconomic recovery, citing key achievements including a primary budget surplus of 3.6 trillion rupees, the current account surplus, reduced inflation to zero point three percent, and a drop in debt-to-GDP ratio from seventy-five percent to sixty-five percent. Muhammad Aurangzeb said these indicators have not only stabilized the economy, but have also led to improved sovereign credit ratings and renewed confidence from multilateral and bilateral partners. He emphasized that Pakistan is firmly staying the course on reforms, aiming to transition from a consumption-led to a sustainable, export- and productivity-led growth model. The Minister highlighted new tax reforms aimed at bringing real estate, wholesale, retail, and agriculture sectors into the formal net, while ensuring end-to-end digitalization of the tax

authority to minimize human discretion and reduce corruption.

He also outlined the government's ambitious sectoral diversification strategy, citing the minerals conference and the landmark copper agreement expected to contribute 2.8 billion dollars annually to exports by the year 2028.

He further briefed the investors on Pakistan's plan to issue a Panda bond as part of its active debt management strategy, and on future steps under the Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy.

During the meeting, a leading world investor, Oliver Williams, welcomed the clarity and credibility of Pakistan's macroeconomic direction and expressed a strong interest in the country's upcoming bond issuance plans.

Another investor, Maud Le Moine of Lion's Head Global Partners - a firm specializing in emerging market advisory - offered targeted technical support to help Pakistan strengthen its investor communications, enhance credit rating engagement, and implement energy sector modeling.

The Finance Minister also held a meeting with senior representatives of British American Tobacco company in London today.

During the meeting, he discussed with them the long-standing concerns around illicit trade, counterfeit tobacco products, and the implications of Pakistan's current excise duty regime.

Indian aggression unites in Pakistani nation: Anwarul Haq Chaudhry

INP

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Anwarul Haq Chaudhry has said that Indian aggression in Pakistan has united nation. He said whenever India attacked Pakistan, the first targets are always the Shakargarh and Zafarwal regions.

Speaking in the National Assembly, he expressed pride that these areas, including others in his constituency, serve as the front line in Pakistan's defense. "These areas are a thorn in Modi's eyes," he added.

Anwarul Haq praised the swift response of Pakistan armed forces and air force during recent tensions, saying, Pakistan took revenge within two to three hours and taught the Modi government a lesson. "Pakistan army made it clear to Modi that his actions were wrong and to be answered bravely," he said. He also expressed solidarity with the people affected by the Indian attacks and promised continued support to them. "We are united to crush Modi's evil intentions," he added.

While introducing his constituency NA-75, which includes Tehsils Shakargarh and Zafarwal, he shared some historical background. He explained that before the partition, Shakargarh was part of Gurdaspur District.

According to the partition plan, Muslim-majority areas were supposed to go to Pakistan, but due to a conspiracy by Nehru, Lord Mountbatten and Radcliffe, Muslim-majority tehsils were given to India, and only Shakargarh was awarded to Pakistan, he said.

He said that the aim of this plan was to give India access to Kashmir through the Pathankot area, cutting Kashmir off from Pakistan. "This unfair division allowed India to send troops into Kashmir in 1948 and occupy it, leaving the Pakistan movement's agenda incomplete," he said.

Anwarul Haq said that the time has come to complete that unfinished agenda. "It is a blessing in disguise that Modi's foolish moves have united the nation," he said, urging the civilian and military leadership to take bold steps. He urged the Pakistani leadership to "move forward" and assured them of the full support of the Pakistani nation. "This is the time to correct the injustice done to us during partition," he said, even suggesting that if necessary, the international border should be crossed to free Kashmir.

India's ambitions of regional dominance through aggression will not succeed: Tariq Fazal Chaudhry

INP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry Friday said that India seeks regional dominance through aggression against Pakistan, but its ambitions will not succeed.

He affirmed that the country's defense lies in strong hands and praised the Pakistani media for effectively countering Indian propaganda.

Speaking during a debate in the National Assembly, Dr. Tariq Fazal condemned India's brutal and cowardly attacks, emphasizing that Pakistan has given a robust response.

He lauded the national unity and consensus, noting that both houses of Parliament have shown unwavering support for the country's sovereignty and security.

"This sends a clear message to the world that Pakistan is united and the nation stands firmly with its armed forces," he said.

Dr. Tariq Fazal said that during India's

initial attack, five aircraft including three Rafale jets were destroyed.

He said it marked the first time Rafale jets—considered high-cost and advanced—were taken down in combat. "When the JF-17 Thunder roared across the skies, three Rafales were shot down," he said, commending the professionalism of Pakistan's armed forces and air force.

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

He highlighted the role of ISPR in providing real-time updates and maintaining public morale.

"Pakistan has acted like a responsible state and will not fall into India's trap. We will fight this war on our own terms," he said.

He reminded the international community of its responsibility to distinguish right from wrong and called on global actors to play a fair role.

Pakistan's Response to Indian Aggression would be Exemplary: Tanveer

APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain warned on Friday that Pakistan's response to Indian aggression would be exemplary.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Rana Tanveer stressed that Pakistan was not defenceless and enjoyed the full backing of its 240 million citizens, particularly the youth eager to join the armed forces. "Our military does not stand alone—every Pakistani stands with them, ready to defend the country," he said.

Citing a recent international survey, he claimed the Pakistan Army is ranked among the best in the world due to its professionalism, while placing India sixth in comparison. He said the military is frequently called upon for global peacekeeping missions, which is a testament to its credibility. Tanveer highlighted Pakistan's advanced military technology, including the JF-17 Thunder and J-10C fighter jets developed with Chinese cooperation, which he said surpass India's F-16s. He added that Pakistani forces fight with the spirit of jihad and were equipped with state-of-the-art systems. He strongly criticized Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for spreading a "false and malicious narrative" under the pretext of counter-terrorism and condemned India's actions in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).



LONDON: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with senior representative of British American Tobacco.

US neutral stance 'undermines Indian claims, exposes false flag operation'

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: India's long-standing practice of making unverified allegations against Pakistan has come under renewed scrutiny during the recent escalation of tensions between the two nuclear-armed South Asian neighbors.

The United States has adopted a neutral position on India's latest accusations, declining to endorse New Delhi's claims due to a lack of credible intelligence evidence, according to credible sources.

The controversy centres around what analysts describe as a failed "false flag" attempt by India to implicate Pakistan without substantiated proof.

US officials, including Spokesperson for the United States Department of State Tammy Bruce,

have reportedly refrained from confirming any intelligence backing India's assertions, highlighting instead the importance of responsible dialogue between both nuclear-armed neighbors.

"We are in contact with both countries and support a responsible resolution," Bruce stated.

"We will not comment on intelligence matters or diplomatic messages," she added, reaffirming Washington's neutral approach.

Analysts maintain that US silence has cast doubt on India's narrative, with some experts questioning why India resists independent investigations if it possesses genuine evidence.

Bruce further emphasised, "We want the perpetrators to be held accountable and will support efforts to that end."

Defense experts in Pakistan have welcomed Washington's apparent validation of Pakistan's call for a transparent international inquiry.

This episode adds to growing concerns about India's use of uncorroborated narratives to shift global opinion, as Pakistan continues to advocate for independent probes to ensure regional peace and stability.



Members of Minority Community are holding protest rally against unprovoked Indian military strikes in several parts of the country and expressing solidarity with Pakistan Armed Forces, at Jinnah road in Quetta

Govt committed to defend country's sovereignty, territorial integrity: DPM

APP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, received a telephone call from the British Foreign Secretary, David Lammy today.

The Deputy Prime Minister briefed him on the regional situation due to India's illegal

and unprovoked attacks on multiple cities across Pakistan that resulted in the martyrdom of innocent civilians, including women, children and the elderly.

He emphasized that Pakistan has

demonstrated restraint in the face of these violations of international law and the UN Charter that threatened regional peace and security.

Ishaq Dar said the Government of Pakistan remains firmly committed to defending the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

On the occasion, the British Foreign Secretary expressed deep concern over the unfolding situation and conveyed his condolences on the tragic loss of civilian lives.

He underscored the need for both sides to exercise restraint and de-escalate.

Kashmiri Leader Khawaja Muhammad Farooq Praises Pakistan Armed Forces, Condemns Modi's Aggression

BUREAU REPORT

Gujranwala: Hindu extremist Modi made a grave mistake by attacking Pakistan's integrity and survival, targeting mosques, innocent children, and civilians.

However, the brave and courageous Pakistan Armed Forces thwarted the enemy's evil designs and crushed their malicious ambitions.

The entire nation stands firmly with our valiant armed forces like an unbreakable wall. The sun of freedom will soon rise in Kashmir.

These views were expressed by prominent Kashmiri leader, senior journalist, and former Cantonment Board member Khawaja Muhammad Farooq while leading a rally organized by Jammu and Kashmir migrants in support of the Pakistan Army.

He further stated that Kashmir is Pakistan's lifeline, and every Pakistani citizen stands in solidarity with their Kashmiri brothers.

The Modi government staged the Pulwama drama as a pretext to attack Pakistan, but India was given a befitting response by Pakistan's armed forces, which destroyed several of their aircraft.



Our forces remain ever-vigilant. He added that the fascist Modi government is now in a state of panic. Modi is trying to destroy peace in the region. Pakistan will never compromise its sovereignty and integrity and will defend every inch of its land, defeating the enemy on all fronts.

Other speakers at the rally included Malik Mushtaq Ahmed Noori, Khawaja Shabir Koyiti, Muhammad Khalil Jaraal, Chaudhry Tabbasum Gorsi, Khawaja Raooif, Tasawwar Jaraal, Shakeel Jaraal, Malik Ikram, Malik Basharat Burhan, Jahangir Mustafai, Mohiuddin Ayub, Ghulam Qadir Jaraal, Malik Khushhal, Sagheer Baig, Khawaja Mushtaq Zargar, Malik Saeed Goga, Havaladar (Retd.) Sardar Khaliq, Latif Mughal, and Sardar Siyaf.

Participants chanted slogans of "Long live the Pakistan Army" and "Down with Modi," expressing full solidarity with the armed forces.