

DAILY MIRROR

Chief editor Syed Mumtaz Ahmed

Executive editor Syed Kamran Mumtaz

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796 Afghan Taliban killed, 286 checkpoints destroyed in Operation Ghazab Lil Haq so far: Tarar

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said on Sunday that 796 Afghan Taliban operatives have been killed and more than 1,043 injured during the ongoing "Operation Ghazab Lil Haq", launched in response to "unprovoked action" from across the Afghan border.

The operation resumed following a temporary pause in deference to Eidul Fitr celebrations and requests from Islamic countries. The pause concluded at midnight between March 23 and 24. The operation was launched over a month ago in retaliation for the Afghan Taliban forces' firing on multiple locations. Islamabad said its February air strikes that sparked the escalation were targeting terrorists. Islamabad accused Afghanistan of failing to act against terrorist groups that carry out attacks in Pakistan, which the

Taliban government rejected.

Providing a summary of the Afghan Taliban regime's losses on his X account, the information minister said that 286 check posts had been destroyed and 44 others captured by Pakistani security forces.

"Two hundred and forty-nine tanks, armoured vehicles and artillery guns have also been destroyed during the operation," he said.

The minister added that air strikes effectively targeted 81 locations across Afghanistan.

"As part of these operations on night 2/3 April, an attempt to physically attack a border post in Ghulam Khan Sector by Afghan Taliban/FAK (Fitna al-Khawarij) was comprehensively foiled in which they suffered heavy casualties, including up to 37 sent to hell and 80+ injured," Tarar said.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs a high level meeting to review implementation of government's subsidy package for petroleum products in the wake of regional situation.

Balochistan govt launches Helpline to ensure fair petroleum prices

APP

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, announced new measures to ensure fair pricing of petroleum products and provide immediate relief to citizens. The provincial government has introduced a strict monitoring system to stabilize fuel prices and curb profiteering.

Sarfraz Bugti revealed that a dedicated helpline (1129) has been established for registering public complaints regarding overcharging or corruption in petroleum sales.

The helpline will operate under the supervision of the chief minister's Secretariat and the Home Department to guarantee transparency and swift resolution of complaints.

He emphasized that the government was strengthening existing mechanisms

to provide timely relief to the public. Alongside monitoring, the provincial administration has also launched a targeted subsidy program designed to directly benefit vulnerable segments of society.

Warning against profiteering, the Chief Minister said that strict legal action will be taken against individuals or businesses involved in unfair pricing or illegal profiteering. He confirmed that district administrations across the province have been mobilized to enforce official rates without exception.

CM Bugti reaffirmed his government's commitment to protecting public interest, stabilizing prices, and promoting transparent governance.

"The Balochistan government will continue to utilize all available resources to safeguard citizens and ensure fair market practices," he said.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti arrives at the launch hosted by Information Secretary PPP Balochistan, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi.

Attaullah Tarar extends Easter greetings, lauds Christian community's role in nation-building

APP

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Sunday extended heartfelt Easter greetings to the Christian community across Pakistan, acknowledging their significant contributions to national development, education, and defense.

Talking to the media at Eternal Life Church, Kot Lakhpat, the minister said he proudly represents thousands of Christians and considers it his responsibility to stand by the community in moments of joy and sorrow. He emphasized the need for unity among churches and urged the Christian community to form a joint committee representing various denominations, assuring that he would arrange a meeting with relevant federal authorities in Islamabad within the same week.

Highlighting the services of prominent Christian figures, he paid tribute to national hero Cecil Chaudhry, terming him among the finest pilots in the world.

He said the Christian community had rendered invaluable sacrifices alongside Muslims in the war against terrorism, adding that their blood and contributions were an integral part of Pakistan's security and resilience.

The minister underlined that Christian educational institutions had played a pivotal role in shaping the country's academic landscape, adding that the community's services in the education sector were widely recognized and deeply appreciated.

Attaullah Tarar, referring to the government's public welfare measures, said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had assured that the government would not leave the people alone during challenging times.

He mentioned that the prime minister recently reduced the petroleum levy by Rs80, reflecting his commitment to providing relief to the masses. He added that public transport in Islamabad and Lahore had been made completely free to facilitate citizens.

PM reviews fuel subsidy measures, vows continued public relief amid economic challenges

INP

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that the government is taking, and will continue to take, all possible measures to provide relief to the public during these challenging times. He expressed these views while chairing a meeting to review progress on the implementation of government subsidies on petroleum products amid recent regional tensions. The meeting was briefed on the progress of subsidy provision, as well as on the country's fuel reserves and consumption. The Prime Minister stated that passenger buses are being provided a monthly subsidy of Rs. 100,000, while minibuses and wagons are receiving Rs. 40,000 per month to prevent an increase in fares.

To control the rise in prices of essential food items, trucks are being given Rs. 70,000, large freight vehicles Rs. 80,000, and delivery vans Rs. 35,000 per month as subsidy, he added. He said that to ensure transparency, these amounts are being disbursed through digital wallets. The Prime Minister directed the immediate release of subsidy funds, which has already begun since yesterday.

Although the subsidy was scheduled to be provided from Monday, it was initiated on Saturday, a public holiday, on his special instructions. For the provision of this subsidy, all provincial governments have shared details of trucks, buses, and freight vehicles with the Federal government. The Government of Balochistan has deposited the allocated amount for the national package, which the Prime Minister termed commendable, while he also thanked Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti.

He expressed hope that other provinces will also deposit their respective shares for the package at the earliest.

The Prime Minister said that a public relief package worth Rs. 129 billion has been provided over the past three weeks, adding that the government cannot leave the public alone in this difficult time. He further stated that immediate relief was provided by reducing the petroleum levy by Rs. 80 per litre.

Pakistan Railways is providing a subsidy of Rs. 6 billion, due to which there has been no increase in fares of passenger and freight trains. He added that the quarterly 25 percent increase in toll tax has also been withdrawn.

Death toll reaches 50 in K-P as rain-related incidents devastate province

NEWS DESK

PESHAWAR: As many as 50 people, including 26 children, lost their lives, while 111 others were injured in rain-related incidents across various districts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) since March 25, said Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Sunday. According to a report issued by the provincial authority today, the fatalities include 26 children, 17 men, and 7 women. "A total of 470 houses have been damaged, of which 409 sustained partial damage, and 61 were completely destroyed," the PDMA said.

The affected districts include Abbottabad, Kohat, Peshawar, Nowshera, Mansehra, Battagram, Kurram, Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu, Hangu, Swat, Malakand, Dir, Charsadda, Mardan, Shangla, Buner, Upper Kohistan, Lower Kohistan, and Torghar. The PDMA further stated that rainfall was expected to continue in various parts of the province from April 16 to April 19. The public had been advised to contact the PDMA helpline at 1700 in case of any emergency. Torrential rain and severe weather wreaked havoc across the country last week, leaving dozens of people dead and disrupting daily life. In K-P, authorities also issued a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) alert for Upper Chitral, Swat, and Upper Kohistan, warning that rising temperatures and continued rainfall.

Balochistan CM extends Easter greetings, reaffirms minority rights and interfaith harmony

APP

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, extended warm Easter greetings to the Christian community, emphasizing the values of peace, love, and humanity that the festival represents.

In his message on Sunday, Sarfraz Bugti said Easter is a celebration of hope, new beginnings, and goodwill, reminding society to strengthen tolerance, mutual respect, and brotherhood as the foundations of a civilized and peaceful community.

The Chief Minister reaffirmed that the Balochistan government was committed to promoting interfaith harmony and social cohesion through practical and effective measures.

He stressed that protecting the rights of minorities remained a

top priority, with equal opportunities and complete religious freedom guaranteed to all communities in the province.

Sarfraz Bugti highlighted several initiatives for minority welfare, including establishment of Balochistan's first Minority Endowment Fund.

"A special quota for minorities under the Benazir Bhutto Scholarship Program, covering education from matriculation to PhD level.

Development projects aimed at improving the welfare and empowerment of minority communities."

He praised the Christian community for its positive and valuable contributions to the province and the country, noting their role in social and economic development as "commendable and worthy of appreciation."



QUETTA: Members of Christian's community gather at Bethel Memorial Methodist Church to attend Easter service to celebrate Easter.

Trump says Iran power plants, bridges to be hit if Hormuz strait not re-opened

US-Israeli attack petrochemical hub again; Iran warns of nuclear radiation

MONITORING DESK

TEHRAN: US-Israeli strikes hit an airport in southwestern Iran on Sunday, state media reported. "The Shahid (Qasem) Soleimani international airport was hit in an airstrike carried out by US and Zionist forces," the official IRNA news agency said, citing the deputy governor of Khuzestan province, Valiollah Hayati.

US President Donald Trump threatened in an expletive-laden social media post Sunday to strike Iran's power plants and bridges if the Strait of Hormuz was not reopened the next day.

Following an 48-hour ultimatum he issued on Saturday, Trump said on his Truth Social platform that "Tuesday will be Power Plant Day, and Bridge Day, all wrapped up in one, in Iran. There will be nothing like it!!!"

"Open the Fuckin' Strait, you crazy bastards, or you'll be living in Hell - JUST WATCH!" wrote the president, adding: "Praise be to Allah."

US President Donald Trump said Sunday he believes there is a "good chance" of making a deal with Iran on Monday, ahead of his deadline for Tehran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz or face heavy bombing.

"I think there is a good chance tomorrow, they are negotiating now," the president told a Fox News journalist. "If they don't make a deal and fast, I'm considering blowing everything up and taking over the oil," he added.

Israeli strike on south Beirut kills 4, wounds 39; ministry

An Israeli strike on south Beirut killed at least four people and wounded 39 on Sunday, the Lebanese health ministry said in a preliminary toll. The strike hit near Lebanon's largest public hospital, where an AFP team later saw around 20 people leaving the facility, some in tears, as smoke rose from the area and Israeli warplanes were heard overhead. The area lies adjacent to Beirut's southern suburbs, a stronghold of Lebanese armed group Hezbollah. Israeli strikes on south Beirut and its suburbs killed at least four people on Sunday, a day after Israel threatened to hit Lebanon's main border crossing with Syria, forcing it to close. The Israeli military also carried out deadly attacks on Lebanon's south, one of which killed seven people including a family of six.

Israel has launched airstrikes across Lebanon as well as a ground invasion in the south since March 2, when armed group Hezbollah entered the war in the Middle East on the side of its backer Iran.

Hezbollah on Sunday claimed to have fired a cruise missile at an Israeli warship off the coast, but the Israeli military told AFP it was "not aware" of such an incident.

One of Israel's strikes in Beirut on Sunday killed at least four people and wounded 39 in the Jnah neighbourhood, the Lebanese health ministry said.

It landed about 100 metres away from a public hospital, a medical source told AFP.

Another attack struck a building elsewhere in Jnah that the Israeli military had warned it would target.

Therefore, As many as five people were martyred while 170 were injured in fresh US and Israeli airstrikes on Iran's Special Petrochemical Zone of Mahshahr again on Sunday.

The country's Shahkar Sports Stadium was also destroyed in the strikes.

Also on Sunday, while reacting to the US and Israeli attacks on Iran's nuclear plant, the country's Foreign Minister (FM) Abbas Araghchi said that in case there was radiation, this would not only destroy human life in Tehran, but also in Gulf states.

Iran's FM said that so far, both the US and Israel had bombed the plant four times. "The attack on petrochemicals hub also shows the intention of our enemies," he added.

US-Israeli strikes on Saturday targeted a petrochemicals hub in southwestern Iran, hitting several companies in the area, as Iranian forces said they have so far shot down more than 160 armed enemy drones.

"Explosions occurred in the Special Petrochemical Zone of Mahshahr," said Fars news agency, citing the deputy governor for Khuzestan province.

Fars said the "US-Israeli attack on Mahshahr" hit three companies in the area, while Tasnim news agency said "the extent of the damage remains unknown". Meanwhile, commander of the Joint Headquarters of the National Air Defence has said Iranian soldiers are ready to ambush "enemy fighter jets and drones" with "modern indigenous methods and equipment" built to hunt fifth-generation aircraft and advanced unmanned systems, Al Jazeera reported on Saturday.

Ishaq Dar visits Data Darbar shrine, reviews expansion project

APP

LAHORE: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar on Sunday visited Data Darbar, where he was welcomed by Secretary Auqaf and Chief Administrator Punjab Dr. Ehsan Bhatta. On this occasion,

During the visit of Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, administrator of Data Darbar Muhammad Ali Khan was also with him.

The Deputy Prime Minister visited Mazar Sharif and offered Fatcha.

Later, he inspected the expansion project of Data Darbar.

On this occasion, Secretary Auqaf Dr. Ehsan Bhatta gave him a detailed briefing on the project and informed him about the ongoing development works.

Christian community celebrate Easter with great zeal

INP

ISLAMABAD: Christians in Pakistan and around the world are celebrating Easter on Sunday with religious devotion and traditional ceremonies.

Special prayer services have been arranged in churches, where members of the Christian community gathered to mark the occasion with faith and reverence. On this occasion, President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif extended their heartfelt greetings to the Christian community.

In his message, the president said that Easter conveys a powerful message of compassion, hope, renewal, salvation, and the triumph of good over evil. He also acknowledged the valuable contributions of the Christian community, noting their services in schools, hospitals, government institutions, and the armed forces, adding that they are respected and valued members of society in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the prime minister expressed hope that the joyous occasion would bring peace, stability, and prosperity to the Christian community, the country, and the wider world. He emphasized that in the current challenging global environment, the teachings of peace promoted by all religions have become even more important.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to safeguarding the religious, economic, and educational rights of all citizens, particularly minorities, as a key priority.

President, PM extend greetings as Christian community celebrates Easter across Pakistan

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday felicitated the Christian community in Pakistan and worldwide on the joyous occasion of Easter, according to Radio Pakistan.

The Christian community in Pakistan and around the world is celebrating Easter today with religious fervour and devotion in remembrance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In his message on X, President Zardari said the day symbolised compassion, hope, renewal, rebirth, and the triumph of good over evil. He also praised the role of the Christian community across Pakistan, saying their contributions are integral to society and deserve recognition and respect.

In a separate message, PM Shehbaz said Easter carries a universal message of love and renewed hope for all humanity.

He added that the day embodies the values of sacrifice and forgiveness, as well as peace,

tolerance, brotherhood, and goodwill, promoting social cohesion and interfaith harmony.

The premier further noted that the Christian community continues to play an active and invaluable role in the country's economic and social development.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said the occasion symbolised hope, love, sacrifice, and new beginnings, urging the promotion of tolerance, mutual respect, and brotherhood.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to protecting minority rights and ensuring the security of places of worship.

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said Easter teaches faith, compassion, and sacrifice, and praised the Christian community for its contributions to education, health, defence, and national development.

He urged citizens to uphold unity, tolerance, and inclusivity, calling for a Pakistan that values diversity and ensures dignity, peace, and equal opportunities for all.

Kundi pays tribute to Bhutto, calls him champion of people's rights

INP

MULTAN: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi paid rich tribute to Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, stating that he was the only true public leader in the country's history who consistently stood for people's rights and never bowed before oppression.

Addressing a ceremony to mark the 47th death anniversary of Bhutto, Kundi said that his sacrifice symbolizes an enduring struggle for democracy and public rights that cannot be suppressed. He added that Bhutto's vision continues to inspire democratic consciousness even decades later.

The event was organized by Pakistan Peoples Party Multan District General Secretary Rao Sajid Ali Khan.

Kundi said that Benazir Bhutto carried forward Bhutto's democratic mission with courage and sacrifice, while President Asif Ali Zardari is strengthening democratic continuity and national unity. He added that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is striving for constitutional supremacy,

democracy, and the fulfillment of the party's ideological vision.

He further stated that Bhutto played a pivotal role in making Pakistan a nuclear power,

thereby strengthening national defense and deterring adversaries. Commenting on global conditions, Kundi noted that the impact of tensions involving the United States and Iran is being felt worldwide, including rising inflation in Pakistan.

He stressed the need for national unity to tackle these economic challenges.

Senior Vice President PPP South Punjab Khawaja Rizwan Alam, Aftab Ali Khan Babar, Malik Naseem Laber, Imdad Ullah Abbasi,

A.D. Khan Baloch, Sheikh Ghiyas ul Haq, Malik Arshad Iqbal Bhutta, Khawaja Imran, Mian Manzoor Qadri, Sajid Khan Baloch,

Malik Nadeem Akhtar, Malik Rizwan Abid Thaheem, Haji Shahid Raza Siddiqui, and Malik Faisal attended the ceremony along with party workers.

The event concluded with prayers offered for the departed leader.



QUETTA: President of Trade Union Balochistan Rahim Agha addressing a press conference at QPC.

Strict Measures Announced to Improve Cleanliness and Security at Jinnah Hospital Lahore-Professor Dr Tayyiba Waseem

By Maqsood Khalid

Lahore: Principal of Allama Iqbal Medical College, Professor Dr. Tayyiba Waseem, has emphasized the urgent need to enhance security, cleanliness, and discipline at Jinnah Hospital Lahore, declaring that no compromise will be made on professional standards.

While chairing a meeting of the hospital's administrative committee, Professor Dr. Tayyiba Waseem conducted a comprehensive review of key operational areas, including the administrative structure, sanitation systems, infection control mechanisms, security protocols, workforce



efficiency, and digital system improvements.

She made it clear that negligence

will not be tolerated under any circumstances, warning that contracts of underperforming contractors could be terminated immediately.

Professor Dr. Tayyiba Waseem directed the administration to significantly improve the condition of washrooms, clearly define the responsibilities of nursing and sanitary staff in written form, and display shift-wise cleaning rosters at prominent locations to ensure transparency and effective monitoring.

Reaffirming her commitment to high standards, she stated that strict accountability will be enforced and any lapses in duty will face serious consequences.

India can't unilaterally suspend IWT: Mohsin Leghari

APP

ISLAMABAD: Former Punjab Minister for Irrigation Mohsin Leghari has said that India cannot unilaterally suspend the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), emphasizing the accord's strong legal and institutional framework.

Mohsin Leghari, senior water policy expert currently associated with UNDP Pakistan's National Governance Programme, described the Indus Waters Treaty as one of the world's most successful water-sharing accords, noting that nearly 12 years of negotiations preceded its signing in 1960.

In an interview with APP, Leghari emphasized that the agreement contains robust legal safeguards, making it difficult for either country to withdraw unilaterally. Any such move, he added, would trigger international arbitration mechanisms. He said he has consistently raised the issue on various forums and underscored the importance of sustained diplomatic engagement. Addressing the ongoing concerns surrounding the treaty, Leghari said resolving disputes requires urgent diplomatic efforts despite India's boycott of the arbitration tribunal.



QUETTA: JUI-F leader Shahzad Kundan receives Easter greetings at his residence.

Chairperson BISP felicitates Christian community on Easter

APP

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, Senator Rubina Khalid has extended heartfelt greetings to the Christian community on the occasion of Easter, highlighting the values of love, sacrifice, and hope associated with the festival.

In her message on Sunday, Senator Rubina Khalid said that Easter conveys a powerful message of humanity, service and brotherhood.

She emphasized that all citizens in Pakistan enjoy equal rights regardless of their religion, adding that the Constitution guarantees complete religious freedom.

The Chairperson appreciated the contributions of the Christian community towards the country's development and welfare, terming their services as commendable.

Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz extends Easter greetings, highlights minority welfare initiatives

By Maqsood Khalid

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif extended her heartfelt greetings to the Christian community on the occasion of Easter, conveying her best wishes and prayers.

In her message, the Chief Minister said the Punjab government stands as an equal partner in the joys of the Christian community and respects their religious celebrations. She described the Christian community in Pakistan as peace-loving and respectable.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif emphasized her commitment to spreading the message of love, brotherhood, and unity during Easter, aiming to promote harmony in society.

She further highlighted that the Punjab government has undertaken several initiatives for the welfare of minority communities, including increasing grants and providing development funds. For the first time, a "minority card" has been introduced to benefit minority citizens. The Chief Minister added that more than one lakh deserving minority families.



KARACHI: Pakistani police officers arresting to activists of PTI during a protests against the price hike in petrol, in the Provincial Capital.



Pakistan women to make FIFA Series debut in Ivory Coast

By Maqsood Khalid

LAHORE: Pakistan women's national team will make history this month when they compete in the FIFA Series in Ivory Coast, marking the country's first appearance by a senior women's side in an event held by the game's world governing body.

The team departs for the West African nation on Monday ahead of their opening match against the Turks and Caicos Islands on April 9. Pakistan will then face Mauritania on April 12 before concluding the group stage against hosts Ivory Coast on April 16.

Head coach Adeel Rizki will lead the side throughout the campaign.

Forward Nadia Khan was full of gratitude for Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) president Mohsen Gilani for securing the team's place in the tournament, saying the opportunity to compete at such a level would provide invaluable exposure.

"I want to say a big thank you from our team to PFF president Mohsen Gilani for organising the team's participation at the FIFA Series," Nadia said in a statement issued by PFF on Saturday.

"It is one thing just saying different things but actually executing it and following through is something different and it's truly amazing that we can play at this level and get exposure like this."

Zeevana Jivraj said FIFA's decision to select Pakistan for the series represented a major milestone, particularly given the squad's limited time together in previous campaigns.

"FIFA specifically picking us to compete in the FIFA series I think is really really big for us," the goalkeeper said.

"With us it's always really difficult because we don't really get much time together as a team and so this time it's been really nice to be able to get a few weeks of training before we go and play in the Ivory Coast and hopefully that can allow us as a team to get to be able to perform." The team's training camp concludes in Lahore on Sunday. Midfielder Sanah Mehdi urged supporters to follow the team's progress during the tournament.

Squad: "We're all really looking forward to the support and please get behind us and watch our games," Sanah requested.

"It means a lot to us and it's what drives us forward." Goalkeepers: Zeevana Jivraj, Nisha Ashraf, Arzoo Hazara; Defenders: Isra Khan, Anaya Ahmad, Anmol Hira, Kayla Siddiqui, Karissa Jivraj, Alia Sadiq, Maria Khan, Nizalia Siddiqui; Midfielders: Suha Hirani, Rameen Fareed, Layla Banaras, Sanah Mehdi, Zehmena Malik; Forwards: Mariam Mah-mood, Aqsa Mushtaq, Aiman Altaf, Nadia Khan, Maryam Zehri, Azwa Chaudhry.



MALLORCA: Vedat Muriqi (top) of Mallorca vies for the ball with Real Madrid's Eder Militao during their La Liga match at the Son Moix Stadium.

Muriqi strikes late as Mallorca dent Real's title hopes

SPORTS DESK

MALLORCA: Vedat Muriqi snatched Mallorca a surprise 2-1 La Liga win over Real Madrid on Saturday to deal Los Blancos a significant blow in the Spanish title race.

Alvaro Arbeloa's side thought they had rescued a point after Eder Militao nodded home with two minutes remaining before Muriqi pounced in stoppage time to help the hosts climb to 17th.

With the defeat second-placed Real failed to maintain pressure on leaders Barcelona, who next visit Atletico Madrid.

"For me it is easy to see but the hard thing is for the players to know that without giving 200 per cent today, we were not going to win," Arbeloa told reporters. "We were on top in the first half but because of one mistake, they scored. Here if you slip up for a moment... you end up paying the price."

"This is the elite, the top flight... not having a better second half than we did is what hurts me the most."

Arbeloa started the game with Vinicius Jr on the bench, with Tuesday's Champions League quarter-final against Bayern Munich in mind.

Real lacked spark in the first half, creating few openings of note. The best was for top scorer Kylian Mbappe, fit after a knee sprain that has troubled him for months.

Arda Guler rolled a ball in behind Mallorca's defence for the French superstar to dart on to but Leo Roman saved with his leg.

The goalkeeper denied Mbappe again after Eduardo Camavinga fed him and Antonio Rudiger also nodded over from a corner.

Manu Morlanes threatened for Mallorca, heading just

over, but Real did not heed the warning.

The midfielder opened the scoring a few minutes later, losing Camavinga and arriving into the box to fire Pablo Maffeo's cross into the bottom corner past Andriy Lunin.

Leo Roman saved from Mbappe early in the second half as Real searched for an equaliser.

Arbeloa sent on Vinicius, Jude Bellingham and Militao for his first appearance since December after injury.

Real huffed and puffed but to little avail as Martin Demichelis's Mallorca stayed solid at the back until the final stages.

They were eventually undone by Trent Alexander-Arnold's corner, whipped towards Militao, who powered a header into the top corner.

However there was a sting in the tail for Real. Muriqi, second top scorer in the division behind Mbappe with 19 goals, lashed past Lunin in the 91st minute to claim three points for his side.

The striker was visibly emotional after scoring, having missed a penalty in the team's previous game, a defeat by relegation-battling rivals Elche.

"It's been two difficult weeks... emotions and nerves get the better of me, I'm human," said Muriqi, who also missed out on World Cup qualification with Kosovo in a play-off against Turkey.

"Many thanks to the fans for the enormous support and everything you've given me. I hope we can stay in the top flight." Mallorca climbed two points clear of the drop zone after recording a famous victory, which the players celebrated gleefully with the fans at the end.

"I've really wanted the boys to feel joy like this," said Demichelis. "It doesn't mean we are safe, but they needed it, we kept taking blows. The boys were beaten down but training very well."

Sameer blitz helps Islamabad United overwhelm winless Rawalpindiz

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: In an all-round performance that prominently featured Sameer Minhas' blistering half-century, Islamabad United cruised to a resounding seven-wicket victory against Rawalpindiz in their HBL Pakistan Super League match here at the Gaddafi Stadium on Saturday.

The win, which is United's second of the ongoing season, lifted them to the second spot with five points in four games. Unbeaten Karachi Kings (six points) lead the eight-team table with three victories in as many matches. Rawalpindiz, who lost their third consecutive match in PSL 11, remain winless and are currently seventh.

Chasing a pretty modest 157, United completed the task off just 14.2 overs after taking a flying start in powerplay.

Man-of-the-match Sameer remained a standout batter in the whole match as the right-hander clobbered a decisive 70 off just 36 balls with the help of seven fours and four sixes.

United raced to 62 in powerplay while losing opener Devon Conway (six) who was caught by Kamran Ghulam at deep midwicket off fast bowler Mohammad Amir in the sixth over.

The 19-year-old Sameer cruised to his half-century off just 25 balls and continued to threaten Rawalpindiz bowlers.

They finally took a sigh of relief in the 10th over when left-arm pacer Jalat Khan sent Sameer back to the dugout to leave United at 92-2.

United, who touched the 100 mark in 9.5 overs, lost Mohammad Faiz (19 off 16) in the 12th over as the batter was caught by Daryl Mitchell off leg-spinner Rishad Hossain as the score read 112-3.

However, there was no more respite for Rawalpindiz as Haider Ali (26 not out off 16) and Mark Chapman (24 not out off seven) built a rapid 44-run stand off just 16 balls to comfortably steer United to a well-deserved victory.

Haider smashed three fours and a six while southpaw Chapman struck four fours and a maximum.

Only Amir (1-18 off three overs) managed to restrict United whereas Jalat (1-38 off three overs) and Rishad (1-36 off three overs) and the rest could hardly challenge the roaring United batters.

Earlier after being sent in to bat first, Rawalpindiz managed a modest total after getting off to a poor start.



ISLAMABAD United opener Sameer Minhas plays a shot as Rawalpindiz captain Mohammad Rizwan looks on during the Pakistan Super League match at the Gaddafi Stadium.

Member APNS

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Chief editor Syed Mumtaz Ahmed

Printed and Published Chief Executive Syed Mumtaz Ahmed, For MEM Publications (Pvt) Ltd, 4-A Model Town Hali Road Quetta Cantt. Phone, No. 081-2829164, Fax No. 081-2835934

Bannu bombing

ALTHOUGH Operation Ghazab lil-Haq has led to a decline in the number of terrorist attacks in Pakistan, the threat has not been entirely eliminated, as the recent suicide bombing targeting Domel police station in KP's Bannu shows.

At least five people were martyred — all civilians reportedly belonging to the same family. Meanwhile, a planned suicide bombing targeting a police station was foiled by law enforcers in Lakki Marwat's Bittani area. Police personnel raided a forested area and captured the terrorists suspected of planning the attack.

This part of KP is particularly plagued by terrorism, and its proximity to Afghanistan makes it vulnerable to attacks by groups such as the banned TTP.

To bring peace to these long-disturbed areas, the state must concentrate on two fronts: externally, by confronting the terrorist threat from Afghanistan, and internally, by improving intelligence capabilities and busting terrorist networks before they strike. The action in Lakki Marwat shows that when LEAs have good intelligence, they can save lives.

Regarding Afghanistan-based terrorists, Kabul and Islamabad are continuing talks in the city of Urumqi facilitated by China. The engagement is the first major effort to resolve the dispute diplomatically after hostilities broke out between the two states in February. The Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said that talks are "advancing steadily".

However, for a fruitful outcome, the Afghan Taliban must take verifiable action, as Pakistan's Foreign Office has said, to prove that they are no longer providing sanctuary to terrorist groups such as the TTP.

Without such guarantees, the negotiations are likely to stall — as have earlier efforts — and the exchange of fire between both countries will continue. China is aware of the threat Afghanistan-based terrorist groups pose to neighbouring states — its concerns about ETIM highlight this fact — hence it can impress upon Kabul to address Pakistan's legitimate concerns. Internally, through better intelligence and counterterrorism actions, Pakistan must secure areas in KP and Balochistan where terrorists operate with relative freedom. The seemingly endless cycle of moving forces into disturbed areas, conducting operations, clearing the areas, and then witnessing the resurgence of terrorist activity must end. Far too many security personnel and civilians have been martyred in these actions, while local populations have faced upheaval and relocation.

Securing the border is essential, but internal vigilance is equally important.

The elements facilitating the terrorists, for example, through the provision of arms, funds and other support, must be identified and prosecuted.

Long-term peace in KP and the rest of the country is contingent on kinetic actions, as well as a solid CT policy that identifies and tackles threats before they become difficult to manage.

By Abbas Nasir

Flopped war could lead to chaos

THE White House imposed a 'media blackout' as President Donald Trump was closeted with his national security team late on Friday, after a day of shocking losses for the US which saw several aerial assets hit in the Persian Gulf and raised a question mark over Secretary of War (Crimes) Pete Hegseth's claim that the US and Israel own the skies over Iran.

The meeting came with an F-15 shot down over Iranian territory, and an A-10, with its titanium-reinforced armoured structure for low-flying ground support missions brought down over the Gulf; an F-16 was hit too but was able to limp back to its base in a Gulf state.

Two Black Hawk helicopters were hit by small arms fire injuring the crew and damaging the engines, though managing to stay airborne long enough to make it to Kuwait for an emergency landing.

Of particular concern to the Americans would be the fate of one of the two-man crew of the F-15 shot down over western Iran as, till the writing of these lines, he was missing while the other was rescued by a US Combat Search and Rescue special operations team. The team's two helicopters were hit and landed in Kuwait.

Whether the rescue teams were able to pluck the missing airman to safety or the Iranians captured him is an issue that may dictate some of America's next decisions — either further escalation including ground operations or a sudden de-escalation where the US cuts its losses and backs off. Given the hold the apartheid state of Israel enjoys over Trump, the first scenario appears more likely.

As Gen Keane, a military analyst of Fox News, which works hand-in-glove with the Israelis, said: "All the generals around President Trump are telling him they need more time to finish the job. Netanyahu is asking for three and [Centcom commander] Admiral Brad Cooper for two more weeks." Yes, he counted Netanyahu among Trump's generals.

One wonders how many more Iranians the psychopath who heads the genocidal state of Israel will need to kill to satiate his bloodlust.

One wonders how many more Iranians the

psychopath at the head of the genocidal apartheid state will need to kill to satiate his bloodlust. If he prevails and the escalation further sucks the Gulf Arab states into the war, then the destruction and chaos across the Middle East may help him attain his Greater Israel dream as his may remain the only viable, effective military power in the region post-war.

I bet he is still hoping for an uprising in Iran, fanned and armed by Mossad, so that the goal of the collapse of central authority can still be realised, even as he has so far failed miserably to engineer that.

Pakistan has valiantly stuck to the task of trying to facilitate a peace dialogue between the US and Iran, despite the likely cost. I think Israel's continued murders of Iran's leaders who had the authority within their governing set-up to be able to agree to terms for peace has set back the efforts of Pakistan and other states. Iran has been betrayed twice and attacked in the midst of peace negotiations. Nobody can blame their leaders for being suspicious of any new move.

Iran has successfully resisted two formidable military powers and is now hitting back with force at US and Israeli assets, proving that the Trump-penned obituaries of Iran's military were premature and optimistic in the extreme. CNN's latest report has rubbished claims of the decimation of Iran's military might and suggests that at least 50 per cent of Tehran's missile assets and production capacity is intact.

Whether Trump will keep throwing good money after bad is a question only he can answer. With the hold Netanyahu seems to have over Trump, it appears he will sacrifice his majority in the two Houses in the midterm November elections as this war is very unpopular in the US. This may translate into sacrificing the efficacy of his own office.

When you more or less dominate the skies over a country and when your targeting is so immoral, illegal and unethical that even schools, hospitals, homes, bridges and other civilian infrastructure are seen as fair game, it is one thing. Fighting on the ground with highly motivated fighters resisting you is a different ballgame altogether. Especially since the Americans are

said to be acutely averse to body bags returning home from war theatres.

Among the initial war objectives were regime change, the destruction of missile production and launch capabilities and cutting ties with allies such as Hezbollah and Ansarullah in Yemen. An add-on was the opening of the Strait of Hormuz. Not a single one of these have been achieved. In fact, even France and Japan have joined those cutting deals with Iran.

If ever there was a flopped war, this is it, particularly with 'now we have decimated Iran's nuclear programme and now we have not'!

My final column

Fifteen years ago, Dawn's op-ed editor asked me to write for this paper. A reporter and editor I was, but never saw myself as a columnist. But backed by the editor, the op-ed editor persuaded me.

Over the past decade and a half, my editors have given me complete freedom to write on topics of my own choosing and never once quibbled with content. Where there has been pressure, they have taken it and let me get on with it. I have so enjoyed the freedom that I have never once missed a week of writing for which I am grateful to them. Profound gratitude to my readers who have not only read my submissions but have also given me invaluable feedback over the years.

Finally, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my wife Carmen and our two daughters Alia and Elena for their support and patience in letting me eat away into their weekend plans, while I devoted the first half of Saturdays to writing, particularly after my good friend Cyril Almeida's exit whose slot I moved into from my placement a day earlier. Even on holiday in remote locations such as the Pyrenees, Carmen made sure her laptop was connected to the phone and I was able send what I'd written.

Like most good things (at least for me), my column too is coming to an end. As any keen reader would be able to tell, there are very few ads in the paper.

Those at the helm have not only banned government ads in the paper but also coerced corporate private advertisers into staying away from it.

By Asad Rahim Khan

Aasiya, unyielding

THE first time they arrested Aasiya Andrabi, her baby was kept away from her for a year. He was left to play with a stone, banging it on the door the whole day. "That stone was his toy," she remembered. But that was a long time ago. More recently, she has been sentenced to life by an Indian special court. Three life sentences. This is not because of anything Ms Andrabi, a 64-year-old grandmother, has done. This is because she is Kashmiri, and because she refuses to accept the terms of her oppression.

Ms Andrabi has spent more time in Indian prison than outside it. Her latest sentence, she says, proves her a true soulmate to her husband, Dr Muhammad Qasim Fakto, occupied Kashmir's longest-serving political prisoner — himself bereft of his liberty for 33 years. His shareek-i-hayat, meanwhile, has won laurels of her own: she is the first Kashmiri woman to have her struggle for self-determination met with a life sentence.

Resistance has come easy to Ms Andrabi, even in the face of local tradition: she refused to wed within caste ("We demand freedom from Indian rule. But Kashmiris are slaves of their own bogus customs.") Instead, she married someone like-minded; years of peril followed. She had a similar Damascus moment with her education: Ms Andrabi insisted on getting her postgrad from Himachal Pradesh's Dalhousie, back when women were rarely permitted to go outside Kashmir. Her family refused, but this failed to extinguish her: a chance encounter with Khawateen Ki Dilon Ki Baatein, by conservative author Mayal Khairabadi, helped forge her path.

Dukhtaran-i-Millat was the answer, a sisterhood with faith at its core and liberation its end. In time, Ms Andrabi's story became one with the story of Kashmir, in all its cruelty and violence, its unbroken hope. She mobilised women after the martyrdom of Burhan Wani; she set up rehab centres for families ravaged by occupation; she looked on as her prison in Jammu was converted into a temple, her lungs deliberately destroyed by incense smoke.

Resistance has come easy to Aasiya Andrabi.

That last bit occurred in 2009, which might jar against the Pakistani liberal's history: rolling massacres in Hyderabad and barbed-wire siege in Kashmir seem morally beyond gentle Nehruvians, then or since. And yet, occupation is a bipartisan business: it needs no Modi or Yogi to spur it along.

With the Hindutva project in full swing now, however, even the old hypocrisy has faded. Judge Chander Jit Singh, the Delhi kangaroo that sentenced Ms Andrabi last month, was clear that "no violent incidence in particular" had "been brought on record". Yet even as the charge of waging war was found empty, the court convicted her of a string of lesser offences.

To read the court's reasoning, as this writer has, it's clear that freedom is a thought crime. How else could the court acknowledge the absence of violence yet impose its maximum penalty? Or rely on extraneous, unproven reports and not a single mitigating factor (age, health, eight years already served)? Ms Andrabi and her associates, Sofi Fehmeeda and Nahida Nasreen, showed no remorse, the court said. That they said they were "proud of what they

were doing and also that they will continue to do their work" was enough.

Because the Dukhtaran-i-Millat believed, the court observed, that "Jammu and Kashmir has never been part of India". It hasn't. It never will be.

Ms Andrabi's case is not the first. Freedom fighter Yasin Malik was handed down a life sentence in 2022. Ever since Hindutva's sectarians moved from occupation to annexation in Kashmir in 2019, stripping the vale of Article 370, Lebensraum has carried on. Dete-ntion without trial; curricula scru-bbed; 80,000 Indians rec-ei-ving residency cert-ificates: Delhi's legal project has gone hand in hand with a grimy reordering of demographics in Kashmir.

Which makes it high time the UN's Human Rights Council move ahead, as per the findings of its High Commissioner for Human Rights, and establish a commission of inquiry into mass violations — one of its highest-level probes, mandated for war zones. The ethnic cleansing of Jammu isn't too distant a memory. And high time the Kashmiri cause for self-determination return to the fore of the global stage, with Pakistan its loudest voice. That can only happen with sustained attention, with the avoidance of hideous own-goals at home a bonus: worsening repression and disastrous amendments — the recent Mickey Mouse sentence handed down to Imaan Mazari and Hadi Chattha for random tweets — a sterling case in point. Aasiya Andrabi is Kashmir's conscience; her life committed to nothing less than the liberation of her people. Every freedom-loving human being must know her name; every second of her imprisonment proof of a murderous.

DAILY MIRROR

CM Murad assures transport fares will remain unchanged across province despite rising fuel costs

Says instructions have been issued to education department to ensure that fares for school vans are not increased

NEWS DESK

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Sunday assured the public that transport fares in the province would not increase despite rising costs and that all transporters have agreed to support the government.

"Today, we met with transport owners regarding fares. Two days ago, following federal directives, we decided that fares for public transport users in Sindh would not be increased," Shah said during a press conference in Karachi.

The government further increased petrol prices by Rs137 per litre to a record-high of Rs458.4. It was the second major increase in the fuel prices in less than a month. However, on Friday night, PM Shehbaz announced a Rs80 per litre reduction in the petroleum levy on petrol.

Later on Friday, the Sindh government announced that in light of recent surging petrol prices and an ongoing energy crisis, a monthly subsidy of Rs2,000 would be provided to registered motorcyclists across the province.

Public transport and goods transport operators would also receive monthly subsidies ranging from Rs70,000 to Rs100,000.

Shah, in today's presser, said that meetings had been held with transport operators across the province, and the Sindh government is aware of the public's difficulties regarding fares.

"We feel for every underprivileged person in the province. Transporters will not raise fares for passengers. We have also assured them that they will not suffer losses. Each bus will receive a subsidy of one hundred thousand rupees," he said.

The chief minister further explained that subsidies would be provided according to the roads in the province.

Supporting the decision, a transport owner added, "We have decided to support the Sindh government. All transporters will cooperate with the chief minister and the Sindh government."

President Intercity Transport Malik Shabbar Khan also confirmed that, given the current situation, they had decided to support the government, say-

ing passengers would be charged the same fares as before.

Shah said that no deductions would be made from the National Finance Commission (NFC) fund and that the federal government had already spent Rs129billion under the current circumstances.

He said that the federal government had asked provinces to contribute and that Sindh would provide Rs14billion to the federation within a month.

Shah added that 470 government transport vehicles operate across the province and that Sindh would bear an additional expenditure of three to four billion rupees on transport.

Regarding school transport, the chief minister said, "Instructions have been issued to the Education Department to ensure that fares for school vans are not increased."

He also noted ongoing discussions with protestors and the federal government about smart lockdown measures and opening hours for commercial centres, and that "discussions with traders are ongoing".



QUETTA: President of the Central Traders Association of Balochistan Abdul Rahim Kakar addressing a press conference at QPC.

Pakistan, UAE maintain strong relations: Hina Rabbani Khar

INP

ISLAMABAD: PPP leader Hina Rabbani Khar has said Pakistan and the UAE respect each other's interests and decisions.

In her statement on X, Hina Rabbani Khar said that the emotional comments on the return of deposits from the United Arab Emirates are surprising, adding the brotherly relations between Pakistan and the UAE are strong and will always remain.

She said that both Pakistan and the UAE are mature nations, and they respect each other's interests and decisions. The PPP leader said that Pakistan is extremely grateful to the UAE for its continued support and cooperation.

"We had the trust of the UAE. We had to return the trust that was the commitment, returning the trust will not damage our relations, we have not seen any statement from the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in this regard," she said.

Pakistan, Turkiye set to ink MoU on judicial cooperation today

INP

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan will host a high-level delegation from the Constitutional Court of Turkiye from April 6 to 9, during which both sides are set to formalise a judicial cooperation framework through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The visiting delegation will be led by the President of the Turkish top court, Kadir Ozkaya, accompanied by judges and senior officials.

The MoU signing ceremony is scheduled to take place at the SC on April 6. According to an official statement issued on Sunday, the agreement aims to establish a structured framework for collaboration between the two countries' superior courts, focusing on judicial exchange, capacity building, and sharing of best practices in adjudication.

The initiative reflects the shared commitment of Pakistan and Turkiye to strengthening constitutional governance, upholding the rule of law, and reinforcing judicial independence.

It also seeks to promote closer institutional linkages between their judicial systems. A key component of the cooperation will be professional development.

Murree Expressway upgradation completed, more facilities to be added: Aleem Khan

APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Sunday expressed satisfaction over the completion of upgradation work on the Murree Expressway and announced additional facilities, including more Rest House on both sides, to further improve travel convenience.

During a visit to Murree, the minister inspected various sections of the Murree Expressway. He along with NHA authorities inspected on the spot situation of traffic on IMDC particularly at Lower Topa and directed authorities to take immediate measures to further improve traffic flow, there, said a press release.

Abdul Aleem Khan instructed the National Highway Authority (NHA) officials to ensure modern design of new Roundabout at Lower Topa to provide better facilities of traffic especially to the visitors. He stated that the Murree Expressway has been made more beautiful, safe and comfortable than before.

He also approved the construction of more Rest Areas along both sides of the Murree Expressway to provide better

travel facilities to tourists coming from far-off areas.

While visiting newly constructed Rest Areas and Mosques, Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan emphasized that there should be no compromise on cleanliness, provision of clean drinking water and other basic facilities. He appreciated the availability of separate prayer arrangements for women and stressed maintaining this standard. Abdul Aleem Khan stated that proper follow up of quality facilities must be ensured at all costs. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan also directed the NHA to adopt high-quality designs and international-standard facilities in all new development projects.

During his visit, citizens traveling also met the Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan at various locations and expressed their appreciation. They shook hands and took photographs with the minister. Abdul Aleem Khan acknowledged that the cooperation of the local population in improving the Murree Expressway is commendable and emphasized the need to further promote such positive collaboration in the future.

Naqvi visits Raiwind Tablighi Markaz, praises Jamaat's role in promoting peace

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday visited the international Tablighi Markaz at Raiwind road Lahore to meet senior leaders of Tablighi Jamaat and exchanged views on matters related to religious gatherings and facilitation of foreign delegations.

During the visit, he met Maulana Amjad Farooq, Maulana Aamir, Anwar Ghani, Imtiaz Ghani, Maulana Mudassar Shaheen and others, and also held meetings with visiting religious scholars and elders from India and Bangladesh.

The interior minister appreciated the services and efforts of the Tablighi Jamaat leadership in the propagation and promotion of Islam, saying their role in spreading the message of faith was commendable and spiritually meaningful. He also lauded their contribution towards promoting unity, religious awareness and

positive engagement among Muslim communities. He said facilitating religious preaching activities is both a responsibility and a matter of goodwill, adding that the government remains committed to ensuring smooth arrangements for international participants.

Foreign delegates from India and Bangladesh expressed gratitude to the minister for full cooperation in visa issuance, stating that due to improved facilitation this year they faced no difficulties. They appreciated the arrangements and acknowledged the efforts of Pakistani authorities. Delegates from Bangladesh also invited the interior minister to attend the upcoming international Tablighi congregation in their country.

The interior minister assured full cooperation for the annual congregation and said that complete facilitation would continue for foreign delegations in visa processing, adding that special counters would once again be established at airports this year.

Azma Bokhari meets Sri Lankan Consul to boost cooperation

INP

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari on Sunday met Sri Lanka's Honorary Consul General Yasin Joya to discuss matters of mutual interest and ways to enhance cooperation across various sectors.

Secretary Information Punjab Tahir Raza Hamdani, along with social leaders Zulfikar Hussain and Syed Mohsin, also attended the meeting. Both sides reviewed opportunities to further strengthen ties between Punjab and Sri Lanka and expand collaboration in multiple fields.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on anti-drug initiatives, as well as treatment and rehabilitation programs for drug addicts.

Speaking on the occasion, Azma Bokhari said the Punjab government has a zero-tolerance policy towards drug peddlers, adding that making the province drug-free remains a top priority of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

She asserted that no place in Punjab is safe for those involved in drug trafficking. The minister further highlighted that a special campaign against drug abuse in educational institutions has been launched and is already yielding positive results.

Gilani extends Easter greetings to Christian community

APP

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, on Sunday, extended heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the Christian community in Pakistan and around the world on the joyous occasion of Easter.

In his message, the Chairman of the Senate stated that Easter is a profound symbol of hope, renewal, and spiritual reflection for the Christian community.

He added that the occasion is marked by special prayers and religious gatherings, which not only strengthen faith but also promote the universal values of love, tolerance, and brotherhood.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani urged the Christian community to offer special prayers for the peace, stability, and prosperity of Pakistan.

He emphasised that such occasions serve as an opportunity to foster interfaith harmony and to spread the message of unity, compassion, and coexistence in society.

The Chairman of the Senate reaffirmed that minorities in Pakistan enjoy full religious freedom and are free to practice their faith and perform their religious rituals without any hindrance.

Hajj 2026 flights begin from April 18 with exemplary arrangements, new Lahore route introduces: Minister

APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Sardar Muhammad Yousuf announced on Sunday that Hajj 2026 arrangements are fully prepared with no extra cost for 180,000 pilgrims, including 120,000 government and 60,000 private, with flights starting April 18 with exemplary arrangements and a new Lahore route added to existing services.

While exclusively speaking with PTV news in Riyadh, the Federal Minister stated that all arrangements for Hajj 2026 are being completed efficiently with no extra cost.

He announced that a total of 180,000 pilgrims will perform Hajj this year, including 120,000 under the government quota and 60,000 through private arrangements, ensuring fair access for all eligible pilgrims.

Highlighting improvements for this year, he revealed a new Lahore-to-Saudi Arabia route to facilitate easier travel for pilgrims, while flights from other cities will continue as scheduled.

The minister emphasized that all operations, including flights, accommodations and transport, will be organized in a smooth and exemplary manner to

ensure the comfort and safety of all pilgrims.

He further stated that the Ministry of Religious Affairs will closely coordinate with private companies to regulate Umrah services, accommodations, catering and transport.

Every effort is being made to provide pilgrims with high-quality arrangements and the ministry aims to make this year's Hajj an exemplary experience in terms of management and facilities.

The minister also reaffirmed the strong relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, appreciating the host country's arrangements and support for Pakistani pilgrims.

He highlighted that this year's Hajj would fully utilize the Pakistani quota while maintaining exemplary standards, reflecting the commitment of both governments to facilitating a safe and memorable pilgrimage experience.

Responding to a query, he said that previously the Hajj route ran from Karachi to Islamabad, and now a new Lahore-to-Saudi Arabia route has been added to facilitate easier travel for pilgrims, while flights from other cities will continue as scheduled.



Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the International Tableeghi Markaz at Raiwind.

Minister Asif inaugurates development projects in Sialkot

INP

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Sunday inaugurated mega development projects worth of billions of rupees across the district.

Speaking to the media at the inauguration ceremony, he said that under the special attention of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, a comprehensive development package has been provided for the city.

He added that over the next three years, a clear transformation will be seen in the appearance of the "City of Iqbal" (Sialkot).

He said that the journey of development will continue under Maryam

Nawaz's leadership and that in the next elections, they will present a report card reflecting the country's progress.

The Defence Minister also issued a strong message to India, saying that India is in a state of panic and confusion. He warned that if India carries out a false flag operation like Pahalgam, Pakistan would respond forcefully, even reaching Kolkata.

Regarding development projects, he said the package includes a beautification and renovation project around Iqbal Manzil costing over 16 billion rupees. Additionally, modern machinery worth 640 million rupees has been approved to improve the city's sanitation system.

In light of the destruction caused by last year's floods.

JI chief says Pakistan's powerful feudal elites subverting legal system

NEWS DESK

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) chief Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman on Sunday accused Pakistan's powerful feudal elites of subverting the legal system and leaving ordinary citizens without protection or recourse.

Addressing a gathering at Idara Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi, the JI ameer said that despite the existence of evidence in serious cases, justice continues to evade victims due to pressure exerted by influential figures. "They are powerful people; even judges fall prey to pressure," he stated, calling the situation a "profit of injustice" rather than justice.

Drawing attention to a long-standing culture of fear, Hafiz Naeem said speaking against entrenched feudal powers remains "very dangerous," recounting that a victim's father and uncle had been killed eight years ago. He warned that such incidents reflect a broader pattern in which vulnerable citizens are persecuted while the state fails to ensure accountability.

The JI chief raised alarm over threats to what he described as a "brave daughter of Sindh," who was being intimidated by tribal chiefs. He placed responsibility squarely on the provincial government, warning that any harm to her would expose the state's inability to protect its citizens from powerful actors.

Linking individual cases to systemic failure, Hafiz Naeem referenced high-profile incidents such as the killings of Nazim Jokhio and the abduction of Priya Kumari, suggesting that these cases illustrate a consistent pattern where justice is delayed or denied under elite influence. "You should look at the situation in entire Sindh — there is a herd bigger than the herd," he remarked, criticizing what he described as a deeply entrenched feudal order.

He highlighted the dire socio-economic conditions in Sindh, noting that over 7.8 million children are present in the province, yet more than half of its schools lack basic systems. "Those who should get employment on merit are suppressed," he added, arguing that inequality is perpetuated both socially and institutionally.

Despite the sharp criticism, Hafiz Naeem emphasized that his party would continue to pursue legal avenues rather than chaos. "We will approach the courts and act according to the law," he said, while urging authorities to "rein in" feudal elements before the situation worsens.

Meanwhile, in Rawalpindi, JI leaders echoed similar concerns during demonstrations against inflation, unemployment and governance failures.



QUETTA: Supporters of Jamaat e Islami chant slogans during a protest against the increasing fuel prices, outside QPC.