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More strikes aimed at Iran after supreme leader Khamenei was assassinated by US-Israel air blitz

NEWS DESK:
Israel launched a new wave of strikes on Tehran on Sunday, saying it aimed to dominate the skies after assassinating Iran's supreme leader and leaving the Islamic Republic grappling to rebuild its leadership amid its biggest test in five decades.
US and Israeli strikes -- and Iranian retaliation -- sent shockwaves through sectors from shipping to air travel to oil, amid warnings of rising energy costs and disruption to business in the Gulf, a strategic waterway and global trade hub. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said a leadership council composed of himself, the judiciary head and a member of the powerful Guardians Council had temporarily assumed

the duties of Supreme Leader following the death of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The US military said it had sunk an Iranian ship, while Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they had launched an attack on the US aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln with four ballistic missiles, state media reported.
In a sign of widening turmoil, Israel's ambulance service said nine people were killed by a missile strike in the town of Beit Shemesh, the United Arab Emirates said Iranian attacks killed three people and Kuwait reported one death in Iranian raids.
A satellite image shows black smoke rising and heavy damage at Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's compound, the United States and Israel against Iran, in Tehran, Iran, February 28, 2026.

Photo: Reuters
The Israeli military said that over the past day Israeli planes had conducted strikes to open the "path to Tehran", and the majority of aerial defence systems in western and central Iran had been dismantled. It added: "Ali Khamenei was targeted in a precise, large-scale operation carried out by the Israeli Air Force, guided by accurate IDF intelligence, while he was in his central leadership compound in the heart of Tehran, where he was together with additional senior officials".
Israeli military spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Nadav Shoshani said many targets remained, including sites of military-industrial production. "We have the capabilities and the targets to keep going on for as long as necessary," he said.

Ground forces not being considered, Israel says
Asked if Israel was considering deploying ground forces, Shoshani said that was not under consideration even though US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have urged Iranians to seize a rare opportunity to topple their leaders.
Hours after the US and Israel said an air strike killed Khamenei, Iran's state media confirmed the 86-year-old leader had died.
Inside Iran, some grieved for Khamenei while others celebrated his death, exposing a deep fault line in a country stunned by the sudden demise of the man who ruled for decades. Thousands of Iranians were killed in a crackdown authorised by Khamenei against anti-government protests

in January, the deadliest wave of unrest since the Islamic Revolution of 1979. Footage from Tehran showed mourners packed into a square, dressed in black and many of them weeping.
But videos posted on social media also showed joy and defiance elsewhere, with people cheering as a statue was toppled in the city of Dehloran in Ilam province, dancing in the streets of Karaj city, near Tehran in Alborz province, and celebrating in the streets of Izeh in Khuzestan province. Reuters has verified the locations of these videos.
Khamenei, who built Iran into a powerful anti-US force and spread its sway across the Middle East during his 36-year iron-fisted rule, was working in his office at the time of Saturday's attack, state media said.

CM Balochistan Directs Administration to Facilitate Peaceful Protests

Qaseem Shah:
Quetta, March 1, 2026 — Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, Chief Minister of Balochistan, on Saturday instructed the provincial police and district administration to fully cooperate with protesters and ensure that peaceful demonstrations are facilitated across the province.
In a message shared on social media platform X, the Chief Minister said that expressing grief and concern through protest is a natural reaction to painful events unfolding in neighboring regions, which he described as deeply distressing for the Muslim world.



He directed law-enforcement agencies to prioritize public safety and the maintenance of order during demonstrations, emphasizing that authorities should take all necessary steps to prevent unrest while respecting the right to peaceful assembly.
At the same time, the Chief Minister made it clear that protests must remain within the bounds of the law, warning that any attempt to damage public or state property or disrupt civic life would not be tolerated.
Calling for unity and restraint, he urged the public to channel their emotions in a responsible and peaceful manner. He added that the provincial government remains open to hearing legitimate public concerns and is committed to ensuring that protests are conducted in a civilized environment where both public sentiment and law and order are respected.

Gwadar Border Situation: Repatriation of Pakistani Citizens Begins After Iran-Israel-US Conflict

NEWS DESK:
Gwadar: Following the recent military tensions between Iran, Israel, and the United States, the repatriation process of Pakistani citizens stranded in Iran has officially begun. According to district authorities, 51 individuals, including five students, have safely crossed the Gald-Rimdan border and returned to Pakistan.

Deputy Commissioner Gwadar, Naqeebullah Kakar, confirmed that those returning include businesspersons, tourists, and students who were facing difficulties due to the uncertain security situation in Iran.
Immigration and Relief Measures
At the border crossing, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) is providing 24-hour immigration services to ensure a



Information Minister: 415 Afghan Taliban Dead, 580 Injured in Pakistan's Response



News Desk:
Pakistan's retaliatory military campaign, Operation Ghazab-Li-Haq, continues with intensified momentum, according to a statement issued by Federal Minister for Information Atta Tarar.
In a message shared on social media platform X, the information minister said Pakistan's

effective response has so far resulted in 415 Afghan Taliban dead and 580 injured.
He added that Pakistani forces have completely destroyed 182 Taliban check posts, while 31 additional check posts have been taken under control.
The minister further stated that during the ongoing operation, 115 Taliban tanks, armored vehicles, and artillery guns have

been destroyed.
He also confirmed that 46 locations inside Afghanistan were successfully targeted through precision air strikes.
Atta Tarar emphasized that the operation reflects Pakistan's firm resolve to defend its sovereignty and national security, adding that necessary actions will continue to ensure the protection of the country and its people.

QUET VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan High Court Opens the Doors of Justice Wider Than Ever Before



Editorial:

The Balochistan High Court's latest initiative — introducing a dedicated WhatsApp number and email address for public complaints — marks a meaningful shift toward openness, accessibility, and public empowerment within the judicial system.

This is not just a procedural reform; it is an invitation for citizens to engage directly with the justice system in ways that were previously difficult, time-consuming, and often intimidating.

For decades, obtaining certified copies of court judgments or dealing for clients and even for experienced lawyers,

Long queues, procedural delays, and administrative hurdles made the process difficult, especially for people from remote districts of the province.

With digital communication now formally integrated, citizens, litigants, and counsel will be able to request and access judgment copies far more easily. This single step reduces barriers that have existed for years and ensures that justice is not only done — but also seen to be done.

Equally important is the ability for citizens directly to file complaints with the judiciary or court staff if they face

misconduct, delays, or unfair treatment. Many people lacked the courage, resources, or channels to raise such concerns.

This mechanism now provides them a safe and accessible option, reinforcing the idea that justice is a right, not a privilege.

The Balochistan High Court deserves recognition for taking a forward-looking approach to judicial transparency.

By embracing technology, the court has empowered the public, strengthened accountability, and made justice more approachable for millions. This is a good step — one that brings the judiciary closer to the people it serves.

Forced Marriage in Islam: A Clear Violation of Women's Rights and Human Dignity

By Musavir Durrani:

Forced marriage remains one of the most damaging cultural practices in parts of the Muslim world today. Despite being justified in the name of honor, tradition, or family unity, Islam itself strictly forbids forcing any woman, or man, into a marriage they do not want. Islamic teachings make consent the

core of marriage, while coercion makes a marriage *batal* (invalid).

The Qur'an Clearly Forbids Forced Marriages. Allah states in Surah An-Nisa: "O you who believe, it is not lawful for you to inherit women against their will." (Qur'an 4:19)

This verse was revealed to abolish the jahiliyyah practice of controlling or forcing women into marriages.

Islam replaced oppression with dignity, choice, and responsibility.

Prophetic Example: Forced Marriages Declared Invalid.

A woman once came to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) complaining that her father had married her without her permission. The Prophet (PBUH) gave her the full right to reject or accept the marriage, proving that con-



sent is mandatory.

Hadith Reference: Sahih al-Bukhari, Hadith 5138. Sahih Muslim, Hadith 1419.

These narrations all confirm that the Prophet (PBUH) allowed the woman to annul her forced marriage.

One narration even states that she chose to remain married but wanted to teach women that fathers have no right to force their daughters.

Parents Can Advise, But They Cannot Force.

Islam highly respects parents, but marriage choice is not their right. They can guide, suggest, and

advise, but they have absolutely no power to force their child into marrying someone. Even if parents think they "know what is best," they cannot override the choice of their daughter or son.

The final decision always belongs to the person getting married.

Statements such as: "If you don't marry this one, who will marry you?" "You have no choice." "Do it for family honor."

Women Alive. Before Islam, Arabs used to bury baby girls alive. Today, many scholars say: "We no longer bury women in the ground, we bury their

dreams on the day of their Nikkah." When a girl is forced into a marriage, pressured emotionally, or told she has no other choice, we destroy her life while she is still alive.

This is the new form of burying women alive, and Islam came to end this injustice.

Completely Forced marriage has no place in Islam. It is against the Qur'an, against the Sunnah, and against the dignity that Islam gives to every woman and man.

Parents must love, support, and guide, but never control or force marriage decisions. "Allah gave women this right, and no one can take it away."

Pressure is also

Modern Forced Marriages. A New Way of Burying Women Alive. Before Islam, Arabs used to bury baby girls alive. Today, many scholars say: "We no longer bury women in the ground, we bury their

founders wanted a smarter AI-based way to grade crops.

Working with the Australian Institute for Machine Learning (AIML), they built AI software that could analyze grain samples in seconds. Their system reduced testing time from 24 minutes to just 90 seconds and achieved 98% accuracy. This made the grain supply chain faster and more reliable.

In 2024, Cropify raised \$2 million AUSD from investors to expand its technology. Their success proved that AI can bring real value to agriculture by making testing fairer, faster, and more consistent. Falkner advises businesses to focus on real problems first and then see if AI is the right solution.

How AI Is Making Modern Production Smarter and Faster

Syed Muhammad Waseem:

AI is changing the way we create and collaborate, with 41% of brands already using it for video production. Production teams now have to create more content faster than ever.

Staying on track while keeping ideas fresh is a daily challenge. AI is changing how production teams plan, shoot, and edit. It's making the process faster, smarter, and more creative.

As the need for faster content grows, AI is becoming a key tool in modern studios. It helps creators stay up to date with new trends and what audiences want.

Studios are using AI to work faster and save money. According to Deloitte's 2024 report, 42% of executives say it boosts efficiency and productivity.

Let's explore how AI is changing production from planning to editing. You'll learn how it saves time, cuts costs, and boosts creativity. By the end, you'll see how it's making modern production smarter and faster.

The Evolution of AI in Media Production

AI in media production has evolved rapidly over the years. Initially, it served as a basic tool for handling repetitive tasks such as video editing, adding visual effects, and creating computer graphics. Over time, it has transformed into a powerful creative partner that now supports teams at every stage of production.

In the beginning, AI was mainly used for video automation, and voice synthesis. These tools helped save time but still required significant human input. Today, AI plays an active role across pre-production, production, and post-production, making the entire process more efficient and consistent.

During pre-production, it assists with scriptwriting, budgeting, and storyboard-

hances camera tracking, lighting adjustments, and virtual set design. Finally, in post-production, it streamlines editing, color correction, sound design, and even creates advanced visual effects.

Major studios such as Netflix and Warner Bros. are now using AI-driven tools to analyze audience preferences, optimize workflows, and enhance storytelling. As a result, AI has shifted from being a simple technical assistant to becoming an essential force in shaping the future of modern media production.

Why Production Houses Are Turning to AI

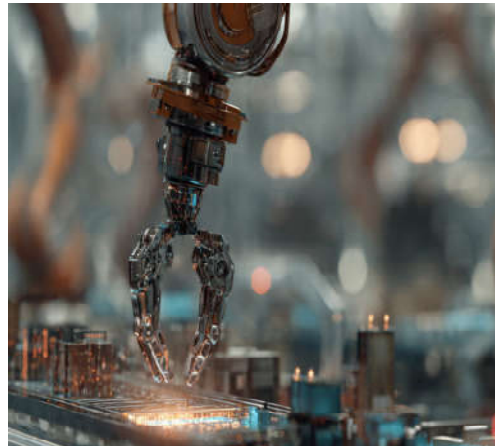
Production houses are facing rising costs and tighter schedules. Keeping up with deadlines while staying creative has become a major challenge. To stay efficient, many studios are now using AI to manage time and 60% of post-production studios utilize AI-powered editing tools to reduce editing time, reduce expenses.

This trend is growing rapidly as the global AI in media and entertainment market is projected to reach \$34.1 billion by 2027.

The demand for quick content is also increasing.

Streaming platforms are competing to release new shows faster, putting pressure on production houses. At the same time, 65% of advertising agencies are already using AI tools for content creation, and the industry is adapting to new technology. There is also a shortage of skilled post-production professionals. AI tools step in to handle repetitive work like cutting scenes or syncing dialogue. This gives creative teams more time to focus on storytelling and innovation while keeping production projects on schedule and within budget.

How Production



Houses Are Using AI

Production houses work from start to finish. It supports every stage of filmmaking, from planning and shooting to editing and final delivery. In Pre-Production, AI is making the pre-production stage faster and more creative. Writers now use tools like ChatGPT, Jasper, and Sudowrite to draft scripts or explore story ideas. In fact, 60% of film studios are exploring AI-driven scriptwriting tools to speed up brainstorming and script development. These tools help generate dialogue, plot twists, and creative concepts in minutes, saving time while keeping creativity flowing.

Storyboarding and concept visualization have also become easier. Tools like Midjourney, Runway ML, and Pika Labs turn written ideas into visuals, helping directors and producers

see how scenes might look before filming begins. This makes planning smoother and reduces the need for costly revisions later. AI is also improving casting and budgeting. Some tools analyze data to predict how well an actor will connect with audiences. AI software like Celtx and StudioBinder helps plan budgets and schedules. These tools make it easier for studios to manage costs, track spending, and stay on time in Production.

AI supports crews during filming. Voice recognition systems can follow script lines or adjust camera settings through simple voice commands. As a result, on-set work becomes smoother, and the crew can focus more on storytelling rather than technical details.

Virtual production is becoming more common. Tools like Unreal Engine and NVIDIA Omniverse allow filmmakers to create realistic digital environments before filming begins. These virtual sets save time, cut costs, and give teams more creative freedom, especially for large-scale or fantasy projects.

AI supports crews during filming. Voice recognition systems can follow script lines or adjust camera settings through simple voice commands. As a result, on-set work becomes smoother, and the crew can focus more on storytelling rather than technical details.

In Post-Production, this phase gets a big boost from AI, especially in editing and sound design. Tools like Runway ML, Adobe Premiere Pro AI, and Descript automate tasks

like cutting, syncing, and scene detection. Smart apps can identify key moments and streamline workflows, helping editors focus on storytelling.

AI also improves color grading and sound editing. It can automatically balance colors, refine lighting, remove background noise, and sync soundtracks. Even some free tools can apply complex color grading for a consistent look. These features save time and make the final product polished and professional.

In addition, AI enhances VFX, CGI, and localization. It removes green screens, fills missing frames, and generates realistic effects quickly. Voice tools like Resemble AI and ElevenLabs speed up dubbing and translations for multiple languages.

The use of AI in video production has reduced production time

by an average of 30%, showing how much it improves efficiency.

AI also helps with versioning and distribution. It can create multiple edits for different platforms like social media, TV, or YouTube Shorts. This allows studios to repurpose content easily and deliver it quickly. Overall, AI makes post-production faster, more precise, and more creative.

Case Studies: How AI Is Shaping Modern Production

Case Study 1: Netflix Builds a Cloud-Based VFX Studio

Netflix, one of the biggest entertainment companies in the world, began producing its own content in 2012. To manage the biggest production without being limited by location,

the founders wanted a smarter AI-based way to grade crops.

Working with the Australian Institute for Machine Learning (AIML), they built AI software that could analyze grain samples in seconds. Their system reduced testing time from 24 minutes to just 90 seconds and achieved 98% accuracy. This made the grain supply chain faster and more reliable.

In 2024, Cropify raised \$2 million AUSD from investors to expand its technology. Their success proved that AI can bring real value to agriculture by making testing fairer, faster, and more consistent. Falkner advises businesses to focus on real problems first and then see if AI is the right solution.

Case Study 3: What's Next Entertainment's Use of AI in Creative Production

What's Next Entertainment is redefining how film production teams approach creativity and pre-production. To make their workflow smoother and boost creative output, the company uses AI tools like Midjourney and ChatGPT in its daily process.

During the early stages of filmmaking, the team uses Midjourney for storyboard and visual exploration. It helps them create detailed visual references, test color palettes, and shape the overall look and feel of each scene before production begins. This saves time and improves collaboration among directors, designers, and cinematographers.

Meanwhile, ChatGPT supports ideation and research. The team uses it to study creative trends, conduct predictive analysis, and refine their sentence structures and ideas for better storytelling.

Case Study 2: Cropify's AI Innovation in Grain Grading

In South Australia, Anna Falkner and Andrew Hannan founded Cropify to make grain testing faster and more accurate. Traditional testing relied on human inspection, which often caused mistakes and disagreements

between investors to expand its technology. Their success proved that AI can bring real value to agriculture by making testing fairer, faster, and more consistent. Falkner advises businesses to focus on real problems first and then see if AI is the right solution.

22 killed in cash-packed military plane crash in Bolivia

NEWS DESK: At least 22 people were killed when a Bolivian military cargo plane carrying banknotes crashed while landing near the capital city La Paz, police said Friday, as crowds attempted to loot the site.

The aircraft, a C-130 Hercules transport plane — manufactured by Lockheed Martin — veered off the runway at El Alto International Airport and crashed into an avenue, destroying multiple cars and damaging trucks, local media footage showed.

Mangled parts of the aircraft were seen on the road where the plane came down and bystanders could be seen rushing to grab the scattered cash prompting police to deploy tear gas to repel the herds.

Authorities were later seen setting the money alight in a bonfire at the scene of the crash.

It was not immediately known what caused the crash but witnesses told AFP that the weather had



been treacherous. Colonel Rene Tambo, head of the police homicide division in El Alto, told reporters late Friday that "there are about 20, maybe a few

more," casualties. Colonel Pavel Itovar of the National Fire Department gave an earlier toll of "between 15 and 16 people" dead in the disaster.

"We are recovering the bodies of these people who have sadly succumbed in the accident," he said. Bolivia's health ministry reported that at least 28 people were

injured. Money grab 'a crime' Fatalities were recorded both at the airport and on the busy avenue where the plane crashed and struck several vehicles.

The Bolivian Air Navigation and Airports authority NAAABOL said in a statement that the C-130 Hercules had de-

parted from the eastern city of Santa Cruz and crashed while landing at El Alto international airport, which has since suspended operations.

The defence ministry in a statement said that "the money transported in the crashed aircraft has no official serial number... therefore it has no legal or purchasing power."

It said that "its collection, possession, or use constitutes a crime."

The La Paz Prosecutor's Office received reports of businesses that were also targeted by criminals taking advantage of the chaos.

"Twelve people have been arrested" for questioning, prosecutor Luis Carlos Torres told reporters. Hospitals in El Alto also launched a blood donation campaign to treat the injured.

La Paz, at an altitude of 1,975 feet and surrounded by Andean peaks, is the highest administrative capital in the world.

Iran Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei assassinated in US-Israel strikes

NEWS DESK: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was assassinated on Saturday, state media confirmed, after the United States and Israel launched the most ambitious attack on Iranian targets in decades.

Iranian state media announced Khamenei's death on Sunday morning. A senior Israeli official told Reuters earlier that the Iranian leader's body had been found after a strike, while US President Donald Trump said the United States worked closely with Israel to target the man who led Iran since 1989.

Iran has called the strikes unprovoked and illegal and responded with missiles fired at Israel and at least seven other countries, including Gulf states that host US bases.

On Sunday, Iranian state media reported that Khamenei "was carrying out his assigned duties and was present at his workplace (his office)".

"This cowardly attack occurred in the early hours of Saturday morning," it said, announcing 40 days of mourning and seven days of public holiday.

In a statement, Iran's Revolutionary Guards said: "We have lost a great leader, and we are mourning him, a leader who was unique

in terms of purity of spirit, strength of faith, resourcefulness in affairs, courage in the face of the arrogant, and jihad in the path of God."

The Guards also vowed "severe punishment" for the "murderers" and warned that the "most intensive" offensive on Israel and US bases would begin in moments.

"The hand of revenge of the Iranian nation for a severe, decisive and regrettable punishment for the murderers of the Imam of the Ummah will not let go of them," Trump's gambit.

Trump, making the biggest foreign-policy gamble of his presidency after campaigning for reelection as a "peace president," said

the strikes were aimed at ending a decades-long threat from Iran and ensuring it could not develop a nuclear weapon.

Intelligence and tracking systems monitored Khamenei's whereabouts, Trump wrote in a Truth Social post, adding that "there was not a thing he, or the other leaders that have been killed along with him, could do."

Trump reiterated calls for Iranians to topple the government but warned: "The heavy and pinpoint bombing, however, will continue uninterrupted throughout the week or, as long as necessary to achieve our objectives of PEACE THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST AND, INDEED, THE

WORLD". Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Khamenei's compound had been destroyed.

Three sources familiar with the matter said Iranian Defence Minister Amir Nasirzadeh and Revolutionary Guards commander Mohammed Pakpour were among those killed in the attacks. Earlier, Israel's military said it had confirmed that five other senior military commanders were also dead, including Ali Shamkhani, an adviser to Iran's supreme leader. Iranian media had said Khamenei's daughter, granddaughter, son-in-law and daughter-in-law were also killed.



Judge tells US government not to terrorise refugees

NEWS DESK: A federal judge on Friday said he would not allow President Donald Trump's administration to "terrorise" Minnesota's 5,600 refugees by arresting and detaining them under a new policy that "turns the refugees' American Dream into a dystopian nightmare."

US District Judge John Tunheim in Minneapolis made that statement as he issued a preliminary injunction that extended an earlier temporary order that blocked the administration from arresting or detaining refugees on the basis that they had yet to obtain lawful permanent resident status.

The administration had sought to do so under a policy adopted as part of "Operation PARIS", a programme announced in January that the US Department of Homeland Security billed as a "swEEPing initiative" to reexamine thousands of



refugee cases. DHS at the time said the initial focus of the initiative would be the roughly 5,600 refugees who had yet to be given green cards in Minnesota, the site of a recent immigration enforcement surge operation and benefits fraud scandal. DHS did not respond to a request for comment. Refugees from Africa, Asia and Latin America sued in a class-action lawsuit, arguing Trump's administration was wrongly as-

serting that immigration law gave US Immigration and Customs Enforcement the power to arrest any refugee who had not been granted a green card after a year in the United States.

Tunheim, who was appointed by Democratic President Bill Clinton, agreed, saying the administration's policy "lacked authorisation from Congress, raised constitutional concerns and upended the promise of the

Refugee Act of 1980 that refugees could "be given a chance at a new beginning in safety."

Court upends the promise of a 1980 law that says refugees "be given a chance at a new beginning in safety." He noted that by law, the refugees could not obtain green cards until a year had passed. Yet he said the administration was claiming the power to arrest them upon the 366th day of being lawfully admitted.

China urges immediate ceasefire after US, Israel strike Iran

NEWS DESK: China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed concern over US-Israeli strikes against Iran and called for an immediate ceasefire, urging all sides to avoid escalation and to resume dialogue and negotiation.

In a statement on Saturday, the ministry said Iran's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity should be respected.

On Sunday, China's embassy in Israel issued a notice advising Chinese citizens in Israel to evacuate to safer areas within the country as soon as possible or to leave for Egypt via the Taba border crossing.

China's foreign ministry on Sunday also urged Chinese citizens in Iran to leave "as soon as possible" listing four land routes to Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey and Iraq.

The United States and Israel launched an

attack on Iran on Saturday, targeting its military capability. Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei was killed in the operation, state media reported in a commentary on Sunday, China's state-run Xinhua news agency criticised the attack, calling it "brazen aggression against a sovereign nation" and "power politics and hegemony".

Xinhua said Washington's use of military coercion was a "flagrant violation" of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and a departure from "fundamental norms of international relations".

Separately, Hong Kong-based airline operator Cathay Group said it is re-rout-

ing flights that typically pass over the affected area. The suspension affects passenger flights to and from Dubai and Riyadh, as well as freighter services operating through Al Maktoum International Airport in Dubai, Cathay, the parent of Cathay Pacific Airways 0293.HK, said in a statement.

It said it is re-rout-

ing flights that typically pass over the affected area.

Blasts heard over Dubai and Doha for second day, with Duqm port also targeted

NEWS DESK: Loud blasts were heard in Dubai and the Qatari capital Doha for a second day on Sunday and Oman was hit for the first time as retaliatory strikes on neighbouring Gulf states in response to US and Israeli strikes on the Islamic Republic widened.

Iran had said it would target US bases in the region but it has hit a range of other targets across Gulf cities.

Two people were injured in Dubai after shrapnel from drones fell over two houses when they were intercepted, a Dubai media office statement said.

Dubai's international airport, its landmark Burj Al Arab hotel, and man-made Palm Jumeirah Island all suffered damage.

Thick black plumes of smoke continued to rise from the Jebel Ali port area, where one of the berths caught fire on Sunday because of debris from an intercepted missile.

In neighbouring Oman, which was spared retaliation on Saturday, Duqm commercial port was targeted by two drones, wounding one worker, the state news agency said.

Dubai is the biggest tourism and trade hub in the Middle East and its airport is one of the world's busiest travel hubs.

Qatar's interior ministry said on Sunday that it was responding to a limited fire in an industrial zone after debris fell from an intercepted missile.

Following US and Israeli strikes, Iran retaliated with attacks across the Middle East, targeting Dubai, Doha, Bahrain, and Kuwait — locations with US military bases or allied to the United States — and other areas.

Explosions were reported in Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Qatar.

Bahrain said the service centre of the US Fifth Fleet had been subjected to a missile attack. Video footage from witnesses in Bahrain showed a thick grey plume of smoke rising from near the small island state's coastline as sirens wailed.

At least half a dozen witnesses, including Reuters correspondents, heard loud booms in various parts of the UAE capital Abu Dhabi, a major oil producer and close US ally.

One witness told Reuters she heard five booms in rapid succession that caused windows in a house near Abu Dhabi's Corniche to vibrate. Other witnesses in the Al Dhafra and Bateen areas also reported loud explosions.

Qatar said it had downed all missiles targeting its country, according to the state news agency. A Qatari official told AFP that defence systems intercepted an Iranian missile as warning sirens sounded across the Gulf state.

The attack comes after Israel and Iran en-

gaged in a 12-day air war in June, following repeated US-Israeli threats that they would strike again if Iran pressed ahead with its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

The US and Iran renewed negotiations in February in a bid to resolve the decades-long dispute through diplomacy and avert the threat of a military confrontation that could destabilise the region.

Israel, however, insisted that any US deal with Iran must include the dismantling of Tehran's nuclear infrastructure, not just stopping the enrichment process, and lobbied Washington to include restrictions on Iran's missile programme in the talks.

Iran has repeatedly said that it has never sought nuclear weapons.

The attack comes after Israel and Iran en-

CM directs to conduct investigation into U.S. Consulate incident

KARACHI (INP): The Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, has expressed his deep sorrow over the martyrdom of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

He said that in this hour of grief, the people of Sindh stand in equal solidarity with Iran and all those who are mourning. He directed that an impartial investigation be conducted into the U.S. Consulate incident. At a time when the country is facing a war-

like situation, it is inappropriate to sabotage peace and order, the Chief Minister said. He contacted religious leaders including Allama Shehenshah Naqvi, Allama Shabbir

(Majlis) at Naimish. The Chief Minister directed the administration and police to provide full security for the gathering. He appealed to all religious scholars and people of different

schools of thought to guide the public toward maintaining peace and order. He also expressed his deep sorrow over the loss of lives in the U.S. Consulate incident. The government cannot allow anyone to take the law into their own hands, the Chief Minister said. He directed the administration and police to ensure that law and order are maintained at all costs.



LAHORE: Federal Interior Minister Mobsin Naqvi called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to brief him on his overseas engagements and internal security matters. INP

Section 144 enforced in Abbottabad for one month to maintain law and order during Ramazan

ABBOTTABAD (INP): The district administration has imposed Section 144 across Abbottabad for one month in view of the prevailing security situation and to ensure peace during the holy month of Ramazan 2026.

According to an official handout issued by the Regional Information Office Abbottabad, Deputy Commissioner Sarmad Saleem Akram enforced the restrictions under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPc) on the recommendation of the District Police Officer amid security concerns.

Under the order, a number of activities have been banned throughout the district. These include wall chalking, unauthorized

PAL to hold special event honouring women writers to mark International Women's Day

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan academy of Letters (PAL) will hold a special literary event on Wednesday, March 4, to honour distinguished women writers in recognition of their valuable contributions to literature, in connection with the upcoming International Women's Day.

The Academy regularly hosts an informal weekly session titled "Chai, Baatan aur Kitabben" (Tea, Talks and Books) every Wednesday. This week's session will be dedicated to prominent Pakistani women writers who have made significant contributions to the literary world. The forthcoming session is themed "Asr-

e-Hazir Ki Pakistani Khawateen Ahl-e-Qalam: Takhleeq Baseerat aur Samajik Shaoor" (Contemporary Pakistani Women Writers: Creative Insight and Social Consciousness).

The event is scheduled to take place from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is free and open to literary enthusiasts, scholars, and members of the public. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet, engage, and network with prominent women writers.

The event is scheduled to take place from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is free and open to literary enthusiasts, scholars, and members of the public. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet, engage, and network with prominent women writers.

Pakistan armed forces continue to give strong, effective response to Afghan Taliban aggression

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has destroyed several key military installations in Afghanistan in response to Afghan Taliban regime's unprovoked aggression on Pak-Afghan border.

According to security sources, Pakistan Army carried out decisive and effective operations on the Pak-Afghan border and seized several posts of the Afghan Taliban.

The Pakistan Army also defeated the Afghan Taliban on the Pak-Afghan border and hoisted the Pakistan's national flag on several Afghan posts.

The security forces destroyed Afghan Taliban's check posts in Gursal sector and successfully targeted and destroyed an Afghan Taliban Barikot Base near Chitral sector, while several Afghan Taliban sanctuaries near Kurram Sector have also been destroyed.

Pakistan Air Force also launched strikes under "Operation

Ghazab Lil Haq" in Afghanistan and destroyed a big ammunition depot in Nangarhar.

The Pakistani security forces also destroyed several Afghan Taliban posts at Khatlachi Terminal on Pak-Afghan border.

The security forces also ruined the front line posts of the Afghan Taliban. Pakistan Army destroyed key military installations of Afghan Taliban regime in Kabul, Kandahar and Paktia in effective airstrikes.

The security forces further said that two brigade headquarters in Kabul were destroyed during latest PAF airstrikes. Similarly, one Corps Headquarters and a Brigade Headquarters were also destroyed in airstrikes in Kandahar.

The PAF airstrikes also destroyed an ammunition depot and logistics base in Kandahar. In Bajaur sector, an attack on Afghan posts was carried out, and major incursions were foiled.

Security sources said among the captured posts, two posts are op-

posite Shawal, two opposite Angoor Adda and one post is opposite Zarmalan.

Pakistan Army also ruined the Afghan terminal of Angoor Adda during the effective and calculated action.

In Paktika, security forces seized five Afghan posts and hoisted Pakistan's flags. According to security sources, Afghan's terminal in Angoor Adda was also destroyed by the security forces.

Security forces inflicted heavy damage on Afghan border terminal post, Afghan post in Warsak sector and Taliban's Manu Jabba post on the Pak-Afghan border. The armed forces captured Topsis post at Topsis sector of Afghan Taliban.

Security sources said Pakistan Army, in line with its professional approach and religious values, respectfully lowered the Afghan flags and proudly hoisted the Pakistan flags over the Afghan posts.

He made it clear that any element challenging the law will face consequences. He reiterated that Sindh will not be allowed to become a haven for terrorists under any circumstances.

He directed that joint check posts of relevant agencies be established at all internal and external entry and exit points of the province.

During the meeting, relevant departments presented separate and detailed briefings on security measures, counter-terrorism strategies, street crimes, narcotics control, and other criminal activities.

The Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar stated that under the current circumstances, terrorism is the greatest weapon against humanity and that the writ of the state will be upheld at all costs.

APHC-AJK strongly condemns Israeli, American aggression against Iran

ISLAMABAD (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter has strongly condemned the naked aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran, calling it extremely dangerous for the peace and stability of the region.

APHC-AJK chapter Convener Ghulam Muhammad Saifi in a statement issued in Islamabad paid a magnificent tribute to the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was martyred in the cowardly attacks of the United States and Israel,

and said that his demise is a great tragedy for the Islamic world. He said that Ayatollah Khamenei was not only the spiritual and political leader of Iran, but he was a strong, clear and unwavering voice in favour of the oppressed nations, especially the Palestinian people, at the global level. His leadership sent the Muslim Ummah a message of unity, sovereignty, and resistance against colonial oppression, he added.

Ghulam Muhammad Saifi said that Ayatollah Khamenei's intellectual legacy, his unwavering support for oppressed nations, and his mes-

sage of unity of the Muslim Ummah will always be alive. His martyrdom will not weaken his ideas, but his thoughts will continue to resonate with greater strength and breadth around the world, he maintained.

He called upon the international community, especially the United Nations, to play an effective role in stopping aggression.

He said the All Parties Hurriyat Conference shares the great grief of the Iranian people and expresses complete solidarity with the Iranian people, and his mes-

Violent protests in Karachi near US consulate after Khamenei's martyrdom

KARACHI (INP): Clashes between police and protesters on MT Khan Road and Nashim Chowringhi lead to road closures.

Protests erupted near the US Consulate in Karachi as demonstrations followed the assassination of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Protesters advanced towards the US Consulate from Sultanaabad to Mai Kolaachi, prompting authorities to close both main roads to traffic.

On MT Khan Road, tensions escalated as police used tear gas shells to disperse the crowd, while demonstrators pelleted stones in retaliation.

According to eyewitnesses, the situation remains volatile, with law enforcement

'Operation Ghazab-lil-Haq' decisive response to Taliban regime's border aggression: Aleem Khan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has said that the launch of "Operation Ghazab-lil-Haq" by Pakistan's armed forces against the aggression of the Taliban regime is a decisive and befitting response to persistent attacks on the country's territorial integrity, civilians and security personnel along the Afghan border.

In an official statement, the minister said the operation was initiated in response to continued aggression from Afghanistan territory, adding that the action delivered a clear and strong message to hostile forces.

He congratulated the armed forces for their resolve and professionalism, stating that the Indian proxies using Afghan soil against Pakistan must remember that they will be dealt a humiliating defeat, identical to the one inflicted when Indian aggression was thwarted last year.

Aleem Khan said the armed forces had demonstrated exceptional courage during the operation, successfully destroying 73 enemy check posts and sending numerous terrorist (Kharaji) to their end.

The minister said that in this war for the defence of our motherland, 12 of our soldiers have embraced martyrdom. 27 have been injured and one soldier remains missing. The supreme sacrifices of these martyrs and Ghazis will not go in vain; their blood is a debt upon the soil of this nation, he added.

He said that today, the entire nation stands as one, shoulder to shoulder with our Armed Forces.



QUETTA: Majlis Wahdani-Muslimimeen's provincial leader Allama Ali Hasnain Husaini addressing a press conference regarding martyrdom of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei.

'Sindh will not be allowed to become haven for terrorists under any circumstances'

KARACHI (INP): A high-level meeting was held under the chairmanship of Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar to harden the state and Counter-Terrorism Committee and review the overall law and order situation in the province.

During the meeting, relevant departments presented separate and detailed briefings on security measures, counter-terrorism strategies, street crimes, narcotics control, and other criminal activities.

The Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar stated that under the current circumstances, terrorism is the greatest weapon against humanity and that the writ of the state will be upheld at all costs.

He made it clear that any element challenging the law will face consequences. He reiterated that Sindh will not be allowed to become a haven for terrorists under any circumstances.

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HYDERABAD: Sindh Minister for Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah talking to media at Sindh Museum.

Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail Expresses Condolence Over Ayatollah Khamenei's Death, Urges National Unity

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail expressed deep sorrow and grief over the reported martyrdom of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, terming the recent war-like situation in Iran and rising regional tensions a matter of serious concern for Pakistan and the entire Muslim Ummah.

In a statement, Governor Mandokhail emphasized the importance of maintaining peace and urged the public to exercise their right to peaceful protest without taking the law into their own hands. He warned that hostile elements could exploit the sensitive circumstances, stressing that preserving national unity and political stability in both the country and the province is crucial at this critical time.



The Governor offered heartfelt condolences to the departed soul of Ayatollah Khamenei and extended condolences to the government and people of Iran.

Additional Chief Secretary Zahid Saleem Reviews Ongoing Development Projects on Zarghoun Road

QUETTA: Additional Chief Secretary for Development and Planning Zahid Saleem conducted a late-night visit on Sunday to review ongoing development projects on Zarghoun Road in the provincial capital.

During the visit, he received a detailed briefing from the relevant officials regarding the progress, construction quality, and pace of work. He also personally inspected the ongoing development activities at the site. Project Director Rafiq Baloch briefed him on the technical aspects of the projects, timelines, and the challenges being faced.



He informed that all available resources are being utilized to ensure completion within the stipulated timeframe. Speaking on the occasion, Zahid Saleem emphasized that no compromise on quality in development projects would be tolerated. He directed officials to further accelerate the pace of work to ensure that public facilities are delivered at the earliest.

The Additional Chief Secretary also instructed the concerned authorities to ensure timely completion of the projects while addressing any inconvenience faced by citizens, so that the positive impact of these development activities directly benefits the public.

He stated that sustainable development goals can only be achieved through transparency, professionalism, and effective monitoring. He also emphasized the need to ensure timely completion of the projects while addressing any inconvenience faced by citizens, so that the positive impact of these development activities directly benefits the public.

Shahid Rind Urges Restraint, Reaffirms Support for Iran and Commitment to Peace in Balochistan

QUETTA: Spokesperson for the Government of Balochistan and Adviser to the Chief Minister on Political and Media Affairs Shahid Rind further stated that it is a collective responsibility to promote harmony, brotherhood, and peace across the province.

He emphasized that while peaceful protest is the right of every citizen, turning protests into violence or taking the law into one's own hands could strengthen the malicious intentions of hostile elements. He made it clear that law and order in Balochistan will be maintained at all costs and that no one will be allowed to create unrest or damage public and government property.



Rind stated that Pakistan has extended full diplomatic and moral support to Iran at every forum and has clearly condemned the attack against Iran at the United Nations. In a statement, Shahid Rind said that the Government of Balochistan stands firmly with the national position and remains committed to promoting peace and stability in the region. He appealed to religious parties, political leaders, and the general public of Balochistan to demonstrate patience, tolerance, and wisdom in the current situation rather than reacting emotionally.

He informed that Section 144 has been imposed in Balochistan in the interest of maintaining public order and urged citizens to comply with the law for the greater good. He concluded by saying that national unity, internal stability, and peace in Balochistan are Pakistan's true strengths at this critical time, and all stakeholders must work together to reinforce them.

DG GDA Moin-ur-Rehman Khan Inaugurates All Gwadar Cricket Tournament Under Ramadan Sports Festival

GWADAR: Under the vision of Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti to engage youth in healthy and positive activities, Director General GDA Moin-ur-Rehman Khan at-

Kalmati, along with players and a large number of cricket enthusiasts. The DG GDA personally met the players, shook hands with them, encouraged their participation, and

talents of young people and keeping them away from negative activities. He reaffirmed GDA's commitment to promoting sports and providing quality facilities to youth in accor-



tended a match of the All Gwadar Cricket Tournament as chief guest, organized under the Mir Kalmati Ramadan Sports Festival. The match was attended by festival organizer and DFA President Mir Arshad

formally inaugurated the match by taking the first batting strike. Speaking on the occasion, Moin-ur-Rehman Khan stated that the Ramadan Sports Festival is a positive initiative aimed at highlighting the

dance with the vision of the Chief Minister. He emphasized that such events not only nurture sportsmanship but also strengthen community engagement and provide constructive platforms for the younger generation.

Loralai Police Arrest 33 Illegal Afghan Nationals, Deport Them After Legal Action

LORALAI: Acting on the directives of the provincial government, Loralai Police conducted a crackdown against illegally residing foreign nationals in various areas of Loralai and Mekhat, resulting in the arrest of 33 undocumented Afghan nationals.



According to police officials, the arrested individuals were found without valid legal documents.

After completing necessary legal formalities, all 33 individuals were formally deported. Authorities stated that the operations were carried out to ensure the writ of the

state and to maintain law and order in the district. Officials emphasized that a zero-tolerance policy will continue against illegal residence and suspicious movement.

Loralai Police once again appealed to shopkeepers, hotel owners, and landlords to refrain from renting properties or providing accommodation to foreign nationals without valid legal documentation.

They warned that strict legal action would also be taken against property owners found violating the law. The police further stated that operations against illegal individuals will continue across the district to ensure lasting peace and stability.

Leishmaniasis Control Center Activated at DHQ Teaching Hospital Kalat, Patients Receive Glucantime Treatment

KALAT: In line with the directives of the Chief Minister of Balochistan and the Secretary Health, Balochistan, a Leishmaniasis Control Center has been made fully operational at DHQ Teaching Hospital Kalat to curb the spread of the disease. Medical Superintendent Dr. Nasrullah Lango, in collaboration with Dr. Badr Ansari, Director Malaria (VBD) government of Balochistan, has initiated immediate and timely measures to control the outbreak.

Under the supervision of Chief Officer Mohibullah Khan Baloch, Chief Electrician Haji Baqi Dad and his team are actively installing new streetlights and repairing non-functional lights at the entrances, exits, surrounding streets, and areas adjacent to mosques.

The initiative aims to ensure safe and convenient movement for worshippers attending prayers at night. Simultaneously, municipal staff have been mobilized to enhance sanitation measures around mosques, including timely waste disposal, drain cleaning, and ensuring the proper functioning of the drainage system. Relevant personnel have been directed to complete special cleaning operations before Taraweeh timings so that worshippers can offer prayers in a clean and peaceful environment. Commissioner Wali Muhammad Barech has issued strict instructions to all Chief Officers across the division, stating that no negligence will be tolerated regarding cleanliness, lighting, and drainage

arrangements during Ramadan. He emphasized that providing maximum relief to the public remains the top priority of the district administration and local government institutions. Chairman Tahir Khan Nasir also stated that every possible step is being taken to facilitate worshippers during Ramadan, adding that ensuring a peaceful, well-lit, and clean environment for citizens is the responsibility of the municipal authorities. He appealed to residents to cooperate with municipal staff by disposing of waste at designated locations to help keep the city clean and beautiful. According to municipal officials, these measures will continue throughout Ramadan and lighting, sanitation,

PAKISTAN AIRPORTS AUTHORITY (PAA)
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INVITATION TO BID

Bids in accordance with PPRR Rule No. 36(b) are invited by below mentioned office for the following requirements in Pakistani Rupees:-

EPAD Tender No.	Description & Bid No.	Fixed Bid Security (PKR)	Bid Submission Date/Time	Bid Opening Date/Time/Place	Base Price (PKR)
F-2602173296	PROCUREMENT OF IT EQUIPMENT FOR CATI HYDERABAD I.T.No.HQ/PAA/1984375/XXLLA	384,966/-	18-03-2026 11:00 Hours	18-03-2026 11:30 Hours Log. Center (S) (Log. AFS Branch)	F.O.R

Bids may be submitted as per conditions set out in Bidding documents available on PPRR E-PAD System <http://procure.gov.pk> (free of Cost). Bidders are required to get registered as E-PADs PPRR (Federal) to access the bidding document and other relevant information including electronic bid submission.

Bids must be submitted electronically through PPRR EPADS web portal <http://procure.gov.pk> before closing time & data as well as in hard format, in a sealed envelope duly filed and attached with requisite information in the specified format provided in the Bidding Document, to the address as mentioned below on or before prescribed schedule otherwise the submission shall not be considered. The sealed bids shall be opened on the same day at given time. Prospective bidders are requested to submit proposals without waiting for deadline to avoid any technical glitch at the last moment.

For registration and training on EPADS, in case of any technical difficulty in using EPADS, prospective bidder may contact Mr. Rizwan Mehmood Director MIS PPRR Room No.109, 1st Floor FBC Building Sector G-9/2 Islamabad, Contact Number 091-111-137-237.

(Note: All prospective bidders shall immediately inform PAA before bid opening date and time and submit proof of Active Taxpayer List (100% compliance) & GST/NTN Certificates of FBR at the address below).

Original Bid Security must be attached with the Technical Proposal (hard format sealed envelope) and the Bid Security copy (pay order / bank guarantee) must be attached through EPADS online submission as well before submission Date & Time.

Time period for performance of contract: Till the satisfactory completion of contract and warranty period.

PAA reserves the right to accept/reject any or all bids due to cogent reasons which will be communicated to bidders on request.

This advertisement is also available on PAA Website www.paa.gov.pk and PPRR Website www.ppr.gov.pk.

Warning: Any financial instrument submitted by bidder, if found fake or got dishonored at any stage would result in blacklisting and legal action as per contract.

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FBR misses collection target by Rs429bn in eight months

NEWS DESK: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) missed its projected collection target by a staggering Rs429 billion during the first eight months of 2025-26. However, the collection recorded an 11 per cent increase to Rs8.121 trillion during July-February FY26, compared with Rs7.334tr raised in the same period last year, according to provisional figures released on Saturday.

The FBR had set a revenue collection target of Rs8.550tr for 8MFY26. The revenue shortfall is primarily attributed to a slowdown in domestic sales tax collection, suspension of super tax and several other factors.

The February collection grew by 12pc to Rs944bn from Rs844bn in the corresponding month last year. However, the collection fell short of the monthly target of Rs1.029tr by Rs85bn.

Records 11pc YoY rise to Rs8.121tr, income, sales tax collection falls. The IMF, in its latest review, has already revised down the FBR's annual tax collection target by Rs1.50bn.

In FY25, the FBR



missed its collection target by nearly Rs163bn, even after two downward revisions and raised Rs11.737tr against the revised target of Rs11.900tr. However, the collection reflects a year-on-year growth of 26.19pc from Rs9.301tr in

FY24. The FBR issued Rs386bn in refunds and rebates to taxpayers during 8MFY26, up from Rs3.2bn a year earlier, an increase of 9.65pc. Income tax collection reached Rs3.955tr during 8MFY26, recording a shortfall of Rs142bn against the Rs4.098tr target. However, a 12pc increase was recorded, compared to Rs3.525tr in the corresponding period last year.

Similarly, the sales tax collection totalled Rs2.783tr, recording a shortfall of Rs245bn against the Rs3.028tr projection, though it marked a 10pc rise over last year's Rs2.530tr. Customs duty collection stood at Rs850bn, against the Rs898bn target, resulting in a short-

fall of Rs48bn. However, it grew by 5pc compared to Rs813bn last year. In contrast, the Federal Excise Duty collection reached Rs532bn, surpassing the projected target of Rs526bn and growing by 14pc from last year's

Rs467bn. According to the FBR, income tax collection will improve further once the super tax is collected. This improved revenue collection performance is not incidental but reflects the structural impact of the FBR's

reforms, especially its enhanced enforcement measures and its coordinated effort to realise revenue stuck in litigation.

The improvement in large-scale manufacturing (LSM) production, a very positive and encouraging development, will help raise maximum sales tax collection in the upcoming months.

By leveraging digital infrastructure and the collection through enforcement measures, the FBR is improving compliance, expanding and deepening the tax net, and fostering taxpayer trust.

This performance in direct taxes signals emerging behavioural shifts toward greater voluntary compliance, with potential spill-over benefits in the coming months.

FBR vows to collect due taxes

Govt awards 11 oil, gas exploration blocks

NEWS DESK: The Petroleum Division on Thursday signed petroleum concession agreements and granted exploration licences for 11 onshore blocks, marking a significant step forward in advancing oil and gas exploration activities across the country.

The signing ceremony was held in Islamabad, where Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik was also present.

The awarded blocks include eight in Balochistan, two in Sindh and one in Punjab.

The successful joint venture partners are Oil and Gas Development Company (OGDC), Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL),

Mari Energies, Pakistan Oilfields Ltd (POL) and Prime Global Energies. Speaking on the occasion, the minister for petroleum termed the signing of agreements a significant milestone in the government's efforts to boost domestic exploration, attract investment and reduce reliance

on imported energy. "The agreements demonstrate strong investor confidence in Pakistan's upstream potential," the minister remarked and expressed confidence that recent discoveries would lead to further investments in development and production, create employment opportunities, stimulate economic activity in those regions and contribute meaningfully to reducing reliance on imported energy.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to facilitating exploration activities and ensuring a stable investor-friendly environment for sustainable development of indigenous energy resources.

Mari Energies will serve as the operator of six blocks. It has secured 100% working interest in five blocks — Padag, Chagai, Dalbandin, Merui and Merui West — and will lead the Ahmad Wali block as the operator with a 60% working interest, alongside OGDC having 40% interest.

PPL emerged as the highest bidder for the Kalat South block and will operate it with a 40% working interest in partnership with OGDC (30%) and Mari Energies (30%).

POL secured the Jherruk block with 100% working interest. OGDC, Pakistan's largest exploration and production company, signed agreements for five new exploration blocks awarded in the bidding round held on April 30, 2025.

It will serve as the operator in three blocks and participate as a non-operating joint venture partner in two blocks. OGDC will operate the Kalat North block with a 75% working interest, in partnership with Prime (25%).

The block covers parts of Nushki, Mastung, Khاران and Kalat districts of Balochistan. OGDC will also operate the Khuzi-Bek, covering Bhakkar and Khushab districts of Punjab, with a 60% working interest. Mari Energies holds the remaining 40% stake.

In the Naing Sharif block in Jamshoro district of Sindh, OGDC will hold an 80% working interest as the operator, alongside Prime (20%).

Meanwhile, OGDC secured interests in two additional blocks as a non-operator. In the Ahmed Wali block in the Nushki district of Balochistan, the company holds a 40% working interest, while Mari Energies will serve as the operator with a 60% share.

In the Kalat South block, also in Balochistan, OGDC has acquired a 30% stake, with PPL acting as the operator with a 40% interest and Mari Energies holding the remaining 30%.

The block covers Kalat, Khuzdar and Jhal Magsi districts. The minimum committed investment by the successful bidders exceeds \$31 million (Rs8.66 billion) over the next three years. In addition, more than Rs276 million has been committed to social welfare initiatives in the respective areas.

Banks earn Rs671bn profits in 2025

NEWS DESK: The banking sector reported cumulative profits of Rs671 billion in CY25, reflecting 11 per cent year-on-year growth, with a research report of Topline Securities.

Earnings expansion was primarily driven by a sharp decline in interest expenses, which more than offset the reduction in interest income

amid a low policy rate environment, resulting in an overall increase in NII. United Bank Ltd led the charge, recording its highest ever profit-after-tax (PAT) of Rs130bn, followed by Meezan Bank Ltd, recording a profit of Rs90.7bn and National Bank of Pakistan with a PAT of Rs85bn.

In terms of earnings growth, NBP

achieved a significant 227pc YoY increase, due to increased NII and other supportive factors like one-off pension charge recognized in CY24.

Meanwhile, UBL achieved earnings growth of 73pc YoY, followed by Bank of Punjab at 18pc YoY. The top dividend paying banks in CY25 were MCB Bank (Rs36 pc share),

NBP (Rs35), UBL (Rs29.5) and Meezan Bank (Rs28).

On the deposit growth front, UBL led with 96pc YoY increase in deposits, followed by Faysal Bank (37pc) and MEBL (28pc).



Petrol, diesel prices likely to rise by Rs7 for next fortnight

NEWS DESK: The prices of all petroleum products were estimated to increase by Rs4.50 to Rs7 per litre on Saturday for the next fortnight ending March 15, owing to a slight upward trend in the international market.

Official sources said the benchmark crude prices had slightly moved up this week in view of regional tensions.

Therefore, the price of all products, including petrol, high speed diesel (HSD), kerosene and light diesel oil (LDO) were inching up and set to significantly impact the pricing pattern on February 28 for the following fortnight.

Based on existing tax rates, the sources said the ex-depot prices of petrol, HSD, LDO and kerosene had been estimated to go up by about Rs4.50 per litre, Rs4.70, Rs7, and Rs5 per litre, respectively, depending on final calculations on Saturday.

The ex-depot petrol price set by the government currently stands at Rs258.17 per litre but is sold at more than Rs259.30 per litre at retail stations.

The official prices for HSD currently stands at Rs275.70 but is sold



in the retail market on the high side of Rs277 per litre. The kerosene and LDO rates currently stand at Rs180.53 and Rs161.72 per litre, respectively. However, kerosene oil is nowhere sold below Rs190 per litre in the open market. Together with customs duty, the petroleum levy and the climate support levy, the government is currently charging about Rs105 per litre taxes on petrol and about Rs98 on HSD.

Petrol is mostly used in private transport, small vehicles, rickshaws and two-wheel-

ers and has a direct bearing on the budget of the middle and lower-middle class. While the heavy transport sector runs on HSD, its price is considered inflationary as it is mostly used in heavy transport vehicles, tractors, tube-wells and threshers, and particularly adds to the prices of vegetables and other eatables.

Besides the petroleum levy, the government is also charging about Rs17.18 per litre custom duty on petrol

and HSD, irrespective of their local production or imports. In addition, about Rs17 per litre distribution and sale margins are going to oil companies and their dealers.

Petrol and HSD are the major revenue spinners with their monthly average sales of about 700,000-800,000 tonnes compared to just 10,000 tonnes for kerosene.

The government recovered about Rs1.161 trillion through the petroleum levy alone in FY2025 and expects this to jump by about 27pc to Rs1.470tr during the current fiscal year.

Fuel cost adjustment row erupts over PM's power package

NEWS DESK: In a befitting response to industrialists' claims about the erosion of the prime minister's Rs40-billion tariff relief package, the government on Thursday said it had provided Rs15 billion in free working capital to industry for 90 days and was now seeking to recover it through a Rs1.78 per unit fuel cost adjustment (FCA) in March.

This is not an additional cost. You were enjoying Rs15bn in free working capital for 90 days. Now cost recovery is being done through the FCA," said Rehman Akhtar, representing the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPA) of the Power Division, at a public hearing at the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra).

He was responding to a trade by representatives of the business community from Karachi and Lahore — Rehman Javed, Tanveer Barry and Amir Sheikh — who said the prime minister's Rs40-billion tariff reduction had been partly offset by a Rs1.78 per unit higher FCA for electricity consumed in January and recovered in March. They said the



tariff rebasing from a fiscal year to a calendar year had been introduced as a facility for consumers but was resulting in higher FCAs because of a lower base rate.

Mr Javed said the FY26 reference fuel cost for January would have resulted in only 54 paise per unit in additional FCA instead of Rs1.78 per unit if the base tariff had not been shifted to the calendar year starting Jan 1, thereby imposing an additional Rs1.24 per unit burden. He feared the trend would be disastrous in June for all consumers.

Industrialists claim tariff relief has eroded, govt insists Rs1.78 'free' working capital is

being recovered. Mr Akhtar said there was no change in the cost of power supply in either case. The actual cost would be recovered in March. A higher reference rate for January would have allowed distribution companies (Discos) to charge a higher fuel cost in January, retain Rs1.5bn for the following two months and then adjust it in March bills.

He said that, subject to Nepra's approval, the new Rs1.78 per unit FCA in March would replace the existing 28 paise per unit FCA in February, resulting in a

net additional FCA of Rs1.50 per unit. This would lead to a Rs2.55 per unit negative adjustment in the quarterly tariff after two months.

Mr Akhtar also explained that 46 per cent of industrial consumers and 53pc of agricultural consumers had availed themselves of a cheaper incremental package, which resulted in 14.4pc (11 million units) demand growth. As a few cheaper power plants — including nuclear, LNG and coal-based plants — were on forced outage for technical reasons, relatively more expensive plants, including furnace oil-based ones, were utilised to meet demand, leading to a higher FCA.

Pakistan bow out of T20 World Cup as New Zealand seal semi-final spot

NEWS DESK: Pakistan's T20 World Cup campaign came to an end despite a five-run win against Sri Lanka, as they failed to restrict the co-hosts by the required 65-run margin in their final Super 8 clash at Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Kandy.

After posting 212-8, Pakistan not only needed to win but also had to limit Sri Lanka to 147 or fewer to qualify on net run rate and move ahead of New Zealand.

At one stage, Pakistan appeared to be on course as Sri Lanka were reduced to 101-5.

However, Pavan Rathnayake and Dasun Shanaka wrested back control with a match-defining partnership, effectively ending the Green Shirts' hopes of advancing in the tournament.

Shanaka and Rathnayake put together a 61-run partnership, but the stand was broken when Rathnayake departed after scoring 58 off 37 balls, including four fours and three sixes.



At that stage, the match appeared one-sided, with Sri Lanka needing 51 runs to win off the remaining 1155 balls — but Shanaka had other plans.

The Sri Lankan captain single-handedly attacked the Pakistani bowlers, scoring 18 off the Shadab over and shifting the momentum in his team's favour.

In the final over, Sri Lanka required 28 runs to win. Shanaka, who had already reached his fifty,

struck 22 runs off the first four balls, bringing his side close to victory in a tightly contested match.

However, just as Sri Lanka looked set for a dramatic win, Shaheen Afridi returned to bowl

two dot deliveries, helping Pakistan secure victory by five runs.

Shanaka's innings had turned the match on its head: he scored 76 off 31 balls, hitting eight towering sixes and two boundaries.

Sahibzada Farhan was named man of the match for his match-winning century.

Earlier, after losing the toss and being asked to bat first, openers Farhan and Fakhar Zaman put on a scintil-

Lanka. Farhan's innings, studded with 9 fours and 5 sixes at a strike rate of 166.66.

Zaman provided solid support at the top, smashing 84 off 42 balls with 9 fours and 4 sixes, maintaining an astonishing strike rate of 200.0.

However, the middle order struggled to build partnerships, with Khawaja Nafay contributing only 2 runs, and both Mohammad Nawaz and Salman Agha dismissed without scoring.

Shadab Khan added a quickfire 7 off 5 balls, and Usman Khan remained unbeaten on 8, keeping the innings moving towards a challenging total. Late contributions from Shaheen Shah Afridi (4) and Naseem Shah (1) helped push the score past 210.

Pakistan: Sahibzada Farhan, Fakhar Zaman, Salman Agha (c), Khawaja Nafay, Usman Khan (wk), Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah, Abrar Ahmed, Usman Tariq

Sammy draws on 2016 triumph for WI clash with India

NEWS DESK: West Indies coach Darren Sammy believes history can repeat itself as he aims to emulate a T20 World Cup victory to end India's hopes, just as he did when captain 10 years ago.

Sammy led his side to a T20 World Cup semi-final win against India in Mumbai in 2016 and went on to lift the trophy as they beat England in the final in Kolkata.

It is on that same Eden Gardens pitch that Sunday's clash will play out in front of 68,000 partisan fans.

Although it is nominally a Super Eights game, it is in reality a straight shootout — the winners will move on to the semi-finals and the losers go home.

"In order to win this tournament you have to go through India at some point," said Sammy.

"Tomorrow is that day for us. History could repeat though it's a different venue and two different teams."

The West Indies have not reached the semi-finals since lifting their second T20 World Cup a decade ago.

But Sammy said earlier in the tournament that he believed "some-



thing special" was going to happen with his group of players, captained by Shai Hope.

"Because of the focus I saw in the team, the mindset, the attention to detail, the attention to their preparation, I still believe that," said Sammy.

"Let me see if my words come true tomorrow."

West Indies skipper Hope has at his disposal a potent spin attack, seam bowlers with variety and incredible batting power.

His side have already blasted 66 sixes, a record for a T20 World Cup. India are next on the list 63 which sets up the

possibility of a high-scoring slugfest on Sunday.

"It's a knockout," said Sammy.

"You win, you go through. You lose and then you start thinking about all the what-ifs."

"That's what makes an athlete, that's what makes competition, that's what makes a World Cup the pinnacle of your sport."

Awaiting the winners should be a semi-final against England in Mumbai on Thursday. The final is in Ahmedabad on March 8. INDIA NEED TO BE BRAVE WITH THE BAT.

North Korea seek return to glory days

NEWS DESK: Three-times champions North Korea return from the sidelines at the Women's Asian Cup on Tuesday hoping a win against Uzbekistan can propel the secretive nation's previously scandal-hit set-up back towards the top of the regional and global game.

The group phase clash in Sydney will be North Korea's first at the championship since losing in the 2010 final to Australia, a defeat that precipitated more than a decade in the shadows as a result of doping bans, disappointing results and the global pandemic.

The tipping point came at the 2011 Women's World Cup in Germany, when five North Korean players tested positive for prohibited substances, shattering the country's status among the sport's elite.

Officials attempted to blame the violations on the use of reeder musk gland, a traditional Chinese medicine, to treat players who had been struck by lightning, but FIFA banned the team from the 2015 World Cup and the tournament's preliminaries.

That excluded North Korea from the 2014 Women's Asian Cup and their absence from the tournament stretched for another four years when the team lost out in the 2018 preliminaries to neighbours South Korea by the slenderest of margins.

With the continental championship doubling up as Asia's qualifier for the Women's World Cup, that failure meant the North Koreans were kept largely on the sidelines of the senior women's game until the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The country's reclusion to the global shutdown saw travel out of the insular state curtailed until the second half of 2023, ensuring North Korea missed the 2022 edition of the Women's Asian Cup and the 2023 Women's World Cup.

A team representing the country eventually returned to the international stage at the Asian Games in Hangzhou in September 2023, where they won the silver medal behind Japan to signal the start of North Korea's on-field revival.

The senior team narrowly missed out on a place at the 2024 Olympics, losing over two legs to Japan in a playoff, but the country's youth teams have been dominating at the global level.



Acosta wins season-opening MotoGP sprint

NEWS DESK: Defending MotoGP world champion Marc Marquez said he had no complaints after a final-lap penalty cost him victory in Saturday's season-opening sprint in Thailand.

Acosta taking the win. "I would accept the decision," said Marquez.

Acosta finished a record-equaling eighth world title but had to settle for second in Buriram after being forced to drop a place for an illegal move.

The decision gave Ducati's Marquez launching his bid for a record-equaling eighth world title but had to settle for second in Buriram after being forced to drop a place for an illegal move.

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back to his usual aggressive self as he battled back and forth with Acosta.

"Every time Pedro went to me, I went to get straight away on the next corner," said the 33-year-old Marquez.

"Unfortunately I got that penalty but nine points, fair race, after an injury, not bad. I'm happy."

Acosta started from sixth on the grid and quickly emerged as Marquez's biggest challenger after Bezzecchi wiped out the lingering effects of a shoulder injury that forced him to miss the final four races of last season. But he looked

back to his usual aggressive self as he battled back and forth with Acosta.

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Kerr says only '85 percent' fit for Women's Asian Cup

NEWS DESK: Australia captain Sam Kerr admitted Saturday she was still only "85 percent" fit leading into the Women's Asian Cup, but the Chelsea striker warned she was starting to hit her peak again.

Kerr returned to club football for Chelsea in September in her first match since picking up a serious knee injury in December 2023.

Being ready for the Asian Cup on home soil has been at the forefront of her mind and the 32-year-old will lead out Australia against the Philippines in Perth on Sunday in the opening game of the 12-team tournament.

"When you're out for so long, you have all this self-doubt creep in," said Kerr, who signed off with a goal against Manchester United in her final match before the Asian Cup.

"But I've had so many amazing people around me and I feel right at home with the Matildas, so it's a good place for me to settle back in and be myself," she added.

"I don't want to say I'm at 100 (percent) yet -

but I haven't had one of those games yet where I felt completely myself, but about 85 percent and above."

Kerr is the only survivor from the Matildas team that won the continental competition in 2010 and she is playing at her fifth Asian Cup.

"Still to this day, that is one of the best moments in my footballing career," she said of 2010.

"And I know how much this team wants to win something together. I know how much every player wants to win something for the

Matildas."

Australia thrashed the Philippines 8-0 when they last met at the 2023 World Cup.

But the contest is set to be closer this time with the Philippines on an upward trajectory under coach Mark Torcaso.

"We fight right to the end, regardless of the scenario in the game," said Torcaso.

"We're just going to be there and be annoying and constantly be pushing." South Korea and Iran are also in their group.

Australia have some injury worries with

first-choice goalkeeper Teagan Michal off the tournament with concussion and fellow shot-stopper Mackenzie Arnold barely training this week.

It leaves coach Joe Lincoln, who has been capped just three times, or the uncapped Jada Whyman as his backup.

"We're monitoring it and we've got it in control with our medical staff, and we'll make some decisions in the next 24 hours," he said.

"I'm still deciding what my starting 11 is going to be."



Lahore: Federal 10 dead in Karachi, 2 in Islamabad as protests erupt countrywide following Iran supreme leader's assassination



NEWS DESK: Ten people died in Karachi on Sunday, a hospital official said, after protesters clashed with law enforcement personnel near the US Consulate on Marolachi Road, as protests erupted countrywide against the US-Israeli attacks on Iran.

The protests followed the assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Saturday's coordinated US-Israeli airstrikes on Tehran. The situation worsened after Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to issue an appeal, urging people to remain peaceful.

Today is a sorrowful day for the entire Muslim ummah, Pakistan's public and Iran's public," he said in a video statement. Stating that every Pakistani citizen was as aggrieved as Iranians, Naqvi said, "My only request is that we all stand with you, but please do not take the law into your hands. You may protest but peacefully."

Karachi clashes Law enforcement personnel resorted to force, shelling and baton-charge to control the situation inside the consulate in Karachi. According to a statement by Police Surgeon Dr Summayya Syed

listing all casualties, eight bodies were brought to Civil Hospital Karachi (CHK), while two succumbed to their injuries, taking the deaths in the US Consulate incident to 10. A total of 62 people were injured near US Consulate, with 41 taken to CHK's SMBBIT, seven taken to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), eight taken to Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) and six taken to Fatimiyah Hospital. Separately, eight persons injured during protests at Nativie Jetty and Numaish Chowrang were brought to SMBBIT, while three wounded in a protest in Paposh Nagar were taken to JPMC.

KMC, Rescue 1122 under fire for failing to extinguish Gul Plaza blaze

NEWS DESK: An official of Civil Defence has informed the Gul Plaza Judicial Commission that the fire and rescue services of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), as well as the Rescue 1122, were equipped with advanced machinery, but failed to douse the fire efficiently and rescue people trapped inside the burning building on Jan 17.

He also deposed that premature shutdown of electricity, lack of emergency/backup lights and closure of gates had further exacerbated panic among people stuck in the ill-fated building and industrial sectors and holding training sessions for firefighting/ casualty rescue were core responsibilities of Civil Defence.

He deposed that inspections of the ill-fated building were carried out in 2024 and 2025, and that fire safety measures were found inadequate, while the building management was directed to comply with safety regulations. He also said that generally, Civil Defence used to file challans before the special courts in case of non-compliance, but the same could not be filed in this particular case due to the unavailability of courts/judges.

Earlier, the single-member commission headed by Justice Agha Faisal of the Sindh High Court had directed additional controller Civil Defence Fatima Memon

to respond to his various questions after outgoing director Abdul Hameed informed it that he could not reply to the questionnaires as he was no longer holding the charge.

However, Mr Baig turned up before the commission, tasking with probing the devastating blaze, and informed it that he was assisting Ms Memon, who has been placed under suspension after the Gul Plaza fire incident.

In his testimony recorded under oath, the technical instructor said that inspection and fire prevention in commercial and industrial sectors and holding training sessions for firefighting/ casualty rescue were core responsibilities of Civil Defence.

He also deposed that the official of Civil Defence further testified that the exit points should have remained open to facilitate the evacuation, as closure of gates, darkness and smoke had significantly impaired evacuation efforts.

Under the applicable fire safety laws and standard operating procedures (SOPs), the technical instructor was of the view that the building management was required to maintain firefighting capacity sufficient for around 15 minutes before the arrival of emergency services.

PM Shehbaz voices concern at violation of international law after Iranian supreme leader's assassination

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed concern over the violation of international norms and the targeting of heads of state/government following the assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. In a post on X, the premier said, "The government and the people of Pakistan join the people of Iran in their hour of grief and sorrow and extend the most sincere condolences on the martyrdom of His Eminence Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei."

He further said, "Pakistan also expresses concern over the violation of norms of international law. It is an age-old convention that the heads of state/government should not be targeted."

The premier prayed for the Iranian supreme leader and for strength for the people of the country to bear "this irreparable loss".

Separately, President Asif Ali Zardari also expressed profound sorrow over the martyrdom of the Iranian supreme leader and other members of Iran's senior leadership, according to a statement issued by the President's Secretariat. "The president said that Pakistan stands with the Iranian nation in this moment of grief and shares in their loss.

He observed that the passing of a leader of such stature, along with other senior figures would be deeply felt across the Muslim world," the statement said. He also offered prayers for the deceased and the people of Iran. PM Shehbaz speaks to Jordan's king. Separately, PM Shehbaz also spoke to Jordan's King Abdullah

Foreign Office activates crisis management unit, advises Pakistani nationals in Gulf region to exercise 'utmost caution'

NEWS DESK: The Foreign Office (FO) on Sunday issued an advisory on the situation in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, saying it had activated its crisis management unit (CMU) to "closely monitor the developments and extend all necessary assistance" to Pakistani nationals abroad.

In a post on X, the Foreign Office (FO) said that the unit would be operational 24/7. It said that the unit could be contacted at +92-51-9207887 for information and emergency assistance.

It "strongly advised" Pakistani nationals residing in the Gulf region to "exercise utmost caution, remain indoors where possible, avoid unnecessary travel, and strictly adhere to the instructions and advisories issued by the respective host governments."

The ministry also provided the emergency contact details of embassies and consulates in the Gulf region for the facilitation of Pakistani nationals abroad. Iran Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran: +98-21-

669413-88/89/90/91 (landline); +98-9107648298 (mobile) Pakistan Consulate in Zahedan: +98-54-33223389; +98-9046145412 (mobile) Pakistan Consulate in Basrah: +98-9107625302 (mobile); +98-9371807175 Saudi Arabia Embassy of Pakistan in Riyadh: +966 (0)114887272 (landline); +966 (0)114884111 (landline); +966 (0)114884222 (landline); +966 57 628 4980 (mobile); +966 56 050 5030 (mobile) Pakistan Consulate General in Jeddah: +966 (0)126689149 (landline); +966 (0)126692371 (landline); +966 59 000 8295 (mobile); +966 53 661 7573 (mobile) United Arab Emirates Embassy of Pakistan in Abu Dhabi: +971 502549975; +971 2444 7800 (Embassy hotline) Pakistan Consulate General in Dubai: +971 56 647 2721; +971 (0) 4397 0412 Qatar Community Welfare Attache-I: +974 5530 5836 Community Welfare Attache-II: +974 7791 1392 Mubashir Ahmed: +974 5090 5777 Bahrain Deputy head of mission/ head of chancery: +965 90969513 Additional assistant: +965 98562753 Flight operation from UAE: has not been restored so far

Meanwhile, the Pakistan embassy in Abu Dhabi informed the community based in the United Arab Emirates that flight operations had not been restored so far.

It advised Pakistani nationals "to rely on official and verified sources" of the Pakistani embassy in Abu Dhabi or its Consulate General in Dubai.

The embassy also advised them that prior to travelling, they should confirm their flight status with the respective airline before proceeding to the airport.

Two cops, six civilians injured in attacks on Peshawar police installations

NEWS DESK: Two police personnel and six civilians were injured in militant attacks on three police installations here early on Saturday.

A senior police official said that Mattani and Hadhrer police stations and the nearby Sra Khawra police checkpoint came under attack but police retaliated the attacks.

He said the Mattani police station was attacked from two sides, one from the bypass on the Indus Highway and the other from a mud cliff near the main Mattani Bazaar.

"One cop sustained injuries when a hand grenade was hurled inside the Badhrer police station, hurled from Mera Mashokhel Road," the official said. High alert declared in capital as officials fear surge in militant activities.

Police Checkpost where a cop and six civilians were injured. Senior police officials informed that militant not only used hand grenades but sophisticated weapons in attacks on the police installations.

According to Superintendent Saddar Division Arshad Khan, militants used modern gear, including red (IR) cameras, commonly known as night vision in the attacks, adding that the attacks on the suspected militants fled.

Also, suspected militants were intercepted at Juma Khan Tehreek-i-Taliban North Town late Friday night after police spotted in a dried stream and fired at the police said, adding that the suspected militants fled.

"We had positioned an 'sn' and snatched through night vision goggles," a police official said, adding that there was no damage at a security post in Shahkas but no damage was caused.

Police said that a series of attacks in Peshawar periphery appeared to have been triggered on a call from the head of outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban North Wali Mahsud, calling upon fighters to attack inside Pakistan in defence of the Afghan Taliban. "We expect a surge and we are prepared for it. Plans have been set in motion to thwart their nefarious designs," the official said. Meanwhile, Capital City Police Officer Dr Mian Saeed Ahmed said that the KP police always remained a front-line force and ensured maintaining law and order by bravely confronting the enemy despite adverse conditions.

"There will be no compromise on maintaining law and order and security in the province of the Afghan Taliban," read an official statement issued from his office. Mr Ahmad said that in coordination with other law enforcement agencies, police would continue to thwart militant designs and would ensure protection of citizens' lives and property.

He said this during his visit to Mattani Police Station, Saray

