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Field Marshal Warns of Strong Response to Any Aggression Against Pakistan

WEB DESK:

Chief of Defence Staff and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir on Sunday warned that any future aggression against Pakistan would face a strong and far-reaching response, reaffirming the country's commitment to safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He made these remarks during a ceremony held at General Headquarters to mark one year since the military conflict between Pakistan and India, officially referred to by Pakistan as Marka-i-Haq.

The event was attended by Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf, along with senior military officials.

Addressing the ceremony, Field Marshal Munir said Pakistan's armed forces responded with unity and determination during the conflict, successfully defending the country against external threats. He described Marka-i-Haq as more than a conventional military confrontation, calling it a battle of principles and national resolve.

The army chief stated that Pakistan effectively countered military and diplomatic pressure during the conflict and exposed hostile narratives at the international level. He praised the armed forces, media, and Pakistani youth for their role in countering propaganda and cyber warfare.

Paying tribute to the martyrs and civilians who lost their lives, Field Marshal Munir said their sacrifices would always be remembered as a symbol of national strength and resilience.



He highlighted the role of the Pakistan Air Force and Pakistan Navy in maintaining operational superiority during the conflict, while also commending troops deployed along the Line of Control and Working Boundary.

Discussing future warfare, the army chief said modern conflicts were increasingly shifting towards multi-domain operations involving cyber warfare, artificial intelligence, drones, and advanced missile systems. He noted that Paki-

stan was enhancing its defence capabilities through military modernisation, strategic planning, and technological advancement.

Field Marshal Munir also reiterated Pakistan's commitment to regional peace and

stability while stressing that the country remained fully prepared to respond to any external aggression. Referring to the Kashmir issue, he said lasting peace in South Asia required a resolution of the dispute in line with United Nations resolu-

tions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. Earlier, floral wreaths were laid at the Yadgar-i-Shuhada monument, while contingents of the three armed forces presented a ceremonial salute during the event.

Rain to hit upper Pakistan after intense heat

NEWS DESK:

After a three-day heat wave in northern parts of the country, the Pakistan Meteorological Department has forecast rain in the upper regions from Sunday evening (today) to May 12.

The Met Office stated that dust storms, thunderstorms and

Abbottabad, Balakot, Haripur, Swabi, Mardan, Nowshera, Charsadda, Peshawar, Bajaur, Mohmand, Orakzai, Khyber, Kohat, Kurram, Hangu and Karak. Westerly wave to bring widespread relief from today, landslide warnings issued, south remains in grip of heat.

Similar weather is expected in Punjab and the capital territory.

Bagh, Haveli, Sudhanoti, Kotli, Bhimber and Mirpur.

"Dust-thunderstorm and rain are likely to bring relief from hot weather in upper parts, while very hot weather conditions are expected to continue in southern parts," including south Punjab, Sindh and parts of Balochistan, the PMD stated.

The department noted that



rain are likely in the upper parts, with occasional gaps, from May 10 to May 12.

According to the department, a fresh westerly wave is likely to approach the northwestern parts of the country today and persist in the upper regions until the night of May 12.

Under the influence of this weather system, dust storms, thunderstorms and rain are expected across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, specifically in Chitral, Dir, Swat, Kalan, Shangha, Buner, Kohistan, Malakand, Battagram, Mans-ehra,

including Murree, Galiyat, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Khushab, Joharabad, Sargodha, Mianwali, Faisa-labad, Sahiwal, Jhang, Lahore, Shei-khupura, Okara, Gujranwala, Sialkot and Narowal.

Meanwhile, rain, wind and thunderstorms are expected from May 11 to May 13, with occasional gaps, in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), including Diamir, Astore, Ghizer, Skardu, Hunza, Gilgit, Ghanche and Shigar.

The system will also affect Kashmir, including Neelum Valley, Muzaffarabad, Poonch, Hattian,

windstorms and lightning may damage weak structures, such as electric poles, billboards and solar panels, during the forecast period. "Landslides may occur in vulnerable areas of upper KP, GB and Kashmir during the forecast period," the Met Office warned.

Farmers were asked to manage their crops in accordance with weather fluctuations. Tourists and travellers are advised to remain cautious and avoid unnecessary travel during this period. Additionally, all authorities concerned were advised to remain vigilant.

Special force formed for traveller security on main Kurram road, PHC informed

NEWS DESK:

The provincial government has formed a special force to ensure traveller security on the main road in Kurram tribal district, the Peshawar High Court was informed during a hearing.

Kurram District Police Officer Malik Habib told Justice Wiqar Ahmad and Justice Inamullah Khan that the Road Protection Force (RPF) comprised around 885 ex-servicemen, 200 police personnel and 10 Federal Constabulary contingents.

The bench directed him to produce a report regarding the latest security situation on the Thall-Parachinar Road by the next hearing on June 9.

It also asked additional advocate general Fazl-i-Mola to submit a report on behalf of the home and tribal affairs secretary about the steps taken by the provincial government on the matter.

Court seeks latest report on Thall-Parachinar road security situation

The directions were issued during a hearing into a petition that sought orders for the federal and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments to restore peace in the troubled district besides opening the main artery and providing essential commodities and services to residents.

The petitioner, lawyer Mahmood Ali Turi from Kurram district, requested the court to direct the federal and provincial governments.

Law-enforcement agencies and other authorities to restore law and order, transport, educational and health services and ensure people's access to food

and other basic necessities of life, including justice, in Kurram district.

He also sought permission for the use of helicopters by civilians, the urgent operationalisation of Parachinar Airport as well as measures to facilitate candidates and students appearing in federal and provincial-level interviews through video-link by restoring the internet service.

The petitioner requested the court to provide interim relief by asking the respondents to submit a preliminary report for ensuring delivery of essential services and basic facilities or at-least transport-service until the disposal of the matter.

The DPO, who appeared before the court via video-link from Parachinar, said the security situation in the district worsened in the past due to sectarian clashes but it had normalised considerably.

Regarding restoration of smooth traffic on Thall-Parachinar Road, he said except for a short patch of the road near Sadda By-pass, the rest was open to traffic.

The DPO said traffic had been diverted from that part of the road.

Counsel for the petitioner Ahmad Farooq Khattak and Ali Azim Afridi appeared along with their client and contended that since the Road Protection Force had been established, that Alizai-Darshoor portion of the road should also be cleared to traffic.

In response, the DPO said that a meeting with all stakeholders was recently conducted but certain security concerns prevented him from allowing traffic on that patch.

He, however, said efforts were being made to clear the road at the earliest.

The respondents in the petition are the federal government through the defence secretary, interior secretary, KP government through its chief secretary, Civil Aviation Authority director general, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority chairman, secretaries of the KP home, food, health, law, elementary and secondary education and higher education departments, and the KP inspector general of police.



OPINION VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Defense Pact – A Historic Milestone in Bilateral Relations



Editorial: For over eight decades, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have enjoyed close and cordial relations rooted in faith, friendship, and mutual cooperation. The recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to the Kingdom has further strengthened these historic ties, marking a new chapter in the relationship between the two brotherly nations.

SMDAAan Unprecedented Event

The signing of a Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is unprecedented. For the first time, both states have formally pledged that an attack on one will be considered an attack on both.

This landmark pact is not only a testament to their shared commitment to peace and security but also a reflection

of the growing geopolitical importance of Pakistan in the wider Middle East and South Asia. Over the years, Saudi Arabia has stood firmly by Pakistan, extending support in critical times, whether financial, diplomatic, or strategic. At the same time, Pakistan has successfully managed to maintain positive ties with both Saudi Arabia and Iran, balancing its role in a region often marked by divisions. This ability to uphold cordial relations with diverse regional players demonstrates Islamabad's maturity in diplomacy.

China, Turkey And Saudi Arabia Fully Support Pakistan

Equally significant is the fact that Pakistan continues to receive consistent and unconditional support from major global actors such as China, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia. These relationships enhance Pakistan's leverage on

the international stage and help consolidate its role as a bridge between the Muslim world and the global community. The defense agreement with Saudi Arabia is, therefore, a matter of immense pride for the Pakistani nation. It not only secures Pakistan's strategic interests but also strengthens the balance of power in the region. Such developments assure the people of Pakistan that their country is not isolated but deeply engaged in shaping the future of regional security and cooperation.

This Is Indeed A National Achievement

This historic step deserves to be celebrated as a national achievement. It is a reflection of Pakistan's enduring diplomacy and its ability to transform long-standing friendships into strategic partnerships that ensure stability, prosperity, and peace for generations to come.

Governor Balochistan Launches "Center for Excellence in Renewable Energy"

Syed Ali Shah, News Desk:

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhail has inaugurated the "Balochistan Center for Excellence in Renewable Energy", marking a significant milestone in the province's journey towards sustainable energy solutions. This initiative, a remarkable partnership between Pakistan and Germany, reflects their shared commitment to socio-economic development and clean energy solutions in Balochistan.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Governor Mandokhail highlighted the Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP) as a key institution with outreach across almost every district of the province. He commended BRSP's team for their relentless efforts in driving development and promoting renewable energy.

Key Dignitaries Attend the Launch

The ceremony was attended by prominent figures, including:

- Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez (Vice-Chancellor, BUTEMS University)
- Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Barazi (Vice-Chancellor, University of Balochistan)
- Dr. Rubina Mushtaq (Vice-Chancellor, Women University)
- Nasrullah Jan (Accountant General, Balochistan)
- Sahibzada



Najeebullah (Additional Secretary, Energy Department)

• Malik Anwar Saleem Kasi (Chairman, BRSP)

• Dr. Tahir Rasheed (CEO, BRSP)

• Nasrullah Khan Bareech (Center for Peace and Development)

Religious scholars, minority representatives, and a large number of attendees from various fields were also present.

A New Chapter in Renewable Energy for Balochistan

Governor Mandokhail emphasized that the Center for Excellence will accelerate Balochistan's transition towards a sustainable and environmentally friendly future.

The initiative, made possible through collaboration between BRSP, Petrip Founda-

tion, and BUTEMS University, aims to address energy challenges and promote clean energy adoption.

He acknowledged Germany's unwavering support for Balochistan's socio-economic development, particularly in empowering youth, creating job opportunities, and advancing renewable energy technologies.

Government's Commitment to Renewable Energy

The governor assured full support from the Balochistan government, recognizing energy conservation as a key driver of economic growth. He pledged to facilitate and promote clean energy projects for a sustainable future.

At the end of the ceremony, Governor Mandokhail distributed commemorative shields among distinguished guests, experts, and event organizers.

Israel and Iran Conflict and Its Impact on Middle East Stability

Syed Muhammad Wassam:

Israel and Iran are exchanging deadly attacks. Israeli strikes have hit homes, hospitals, and aid workers in Tehran. Iran responded with missile and drone attacks on cities like Tel Aviv and Haifa. Many civilians have been killed or injured on both sides.

The conflict is drawing global attention. President Trump left the G7 early due to the crisis. UK leaders warn against military action without approval. Tensions are rising, and the risk of a wider war is growing. Global powers are urging both sides to de-escalate.

The violence is shaking the region's stability. Political alliances are shifting, economies are under pressure, and millions fear what comes next.

Behind the strikes and statements lies a deeper struggle for military power, especially between Iran and Israel. From the origins of their rivalry to current military actions, regional fallout, and global reactions, this article breaks down what you need to know.

Historical Background
The Iran-Israel conflict history began intensifying after the 1979 Iranian Revolution, which transformed Iran from a close ally of Israel into one of its fiercest opponents.

Iran's support for armed groups like Hezbollah and Hamas, along with Israel's targeted assassinations and airstrikes, deepened the divide.

The October 7 Hamas attack and Israel's retaliation marked a sharp escalation, pushing the conflict into more direct and dangerous territory.

Over the years, the tensions have played out through a timeline of provocative events. Iran's controversial nuclear program has



drawn repeated warnings and attacks from Israel.

Both nations have launched cyberattacks against each other, with the Stuxnet virus and strikes on nuclear sites. Proxy wars have continued across Lebanon, Syria, and Gaza, keeping the region in a constant state of unrest.

External powers have also shaped the conflict's course. The U.S. strongly supports Israel with military aid and intelligence, while Iran receives political backing from Russia and economic support from China.

These global ties have made the situation more complex, raising the stakes and limiting diplomatic solutions.

Current State of the Conflict
The conflict between Israel and Iran is intensifying, with Israel intercepting 30 drones

and multiple ballistic missiles. From Iran, Israel's airstrikes targeted missile storage and launch sites, while also killing Iranian chief of staff Ali Shamamir.

Iran retaliated with missile strikes on Israel, causing damage in places like Herzliya, though no injuries were reported. The conflict has led to at least 224 Iranian and 24 Israeli casualties, with countries like India and Pakistan evacuating their citizens from Tehran.

Israel's attacks have disrupted Iranian energy infrastructure, including the South Pars gas field. The violence has strengthened support for Iran's hardliners, with global concerns rising over the ongoing conflict.

Impact on Middle East Stability
Both nations aim to avoid being drawn into the conflict.

As the war drags

on, regional alliances are shifting. Syria is moving closer to the West. Iraq struggles to balance relations with Iran and the U.S.

Egypt and Jordan are working to protect their own security. This conflict is not just about two nations—it's changing the political map of the Middle East.

Security and Military Impact

The Israel-Iran conflict has triggered a regional arms race. Countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Egypt are increasing their defense spending. They want to upgrade weapons, air defenses, and missile systems.

This rise in military buildup reflects growing fears of future attacks.

The chances of a wider war are also rising. Iran's support for militias and Israel's direct strikes have already pulled

producers and consumers.

Trade routes and airlines are also affected. Several carriers suspended flights to Iran, Iraq, and nearby nations. Jordan, Iraq, and Iran closed their airspace, halting traffic on some of the world's busiest air corridors. These changes hurt tourism and slow cargo movement across continents.

Economic Consequences

The conflict has sent shockwaves through oil markets. Brent crude spiked by nearly 7%, reaching \$74.60 per barrel. Investors fear Iran could close the Strait of Hormuz, a vital route for global oil.

Any disruption here could push oil prices above \$100, hurting both

producers and consumers.

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Humanitarian and Social Consequences

The human toll is rising fast. Over 220 Iranians, including women and children, have been killed.

Israeli casualties are also growing. Missiles and airstrikes are displacing families, destroying homes, and leaving civilians trapped in unsafe areas.

Anger is spreading across the region. Anti-Israel protests have erupted in Iraq, Lebanon, and Egypt.

At the same time, anti-Iran sentiment is growing in countries like Jordan and Syria. The conflict is deepening political divides and fueling mistrust among neighboring populations.

This rising hostility is damaging regional unity. People are taking sides based on political or religious beliefs. Online hate speech and propaganda are also increasing.

If the conflict continues, the social fabric of many Middle Eastern countries could unravel even further.

International Reactions and Mediation Efforts

The United States strongly backs Israel and warns Iran of tougher retaliation. President Trump stated that future strikes could be even more brutal if Tehran doesn't step back. Meanwhile, the EU and United Nations have urged both sides to show restraint and return to dialogue to avoid a wider war.

Russia and China have taken a different stance.

Both nations criticized Israel's actions and called for a peaceful solution.

Russia offered to host peace talks, while China emphasized the need to protect energy routes and maintain regional stability.

Despite rising tension, diplomatic efforts are slowly moving.

The UN is considering emergency talks, and some countries are proposing fresh sanctions on Iran.

Others are pushing for a ceasefire and talks to prevent further bloodshed and protect civilians on both sides.

Conclusion

The Israel-Iran conflict has triggered political instability, military escalation, and economic shockwaves. Neighboring countries like Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq face serious risks, while oil prices and trade routes are under pressure.

Civilian lives have been lost, and public anger is growing. Global powers are taking sides, but some are also pushing for peace.

This conflict is not just about two nations, it affects the whole region and beyond. With rising deaths and economic damage, urgent diplomacy is needed. Only strong regional cooperation and global mediation can stop the violence and bring long-term peace.

Tehran submits response to US proposal via Pakistan to end war: Iranian state media

NEWS DESK: Iran has formally presented to Pakistan its response to the latest United States proposal aimed at ending the ongoing conflict on Sunday, according to the Islamic Revolutionary News Agency (IRNA), which cited a source familiar with the matter.

According to IRNA, as per the proposed plan, the current phase of negotiations was focused exclusively on the cessation of hostilities in the region.

The news agency further reported that Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson previously stated that Tehran's views and considerations regarding the US proposal would be transmitted once internal reviews and final conclusions were completed.

Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei issues new directives

Meanwhile, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei issued new directives on strengthening the readiness and operational posture of Iran's Armed Forces, emphasising continued preparedness and response against potential threats, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported.

According to Tasnim, Commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbaya Central Headquarters, Major General Ali Abdollahi, met with Khamenei and presented a report regarding the readiness of Iran's Armed Forces. This includes the Army, IRGC, and Law Enforcement Forces, along with security and border



forces, the Ministry of Defence, and the Basij volunteer forces.

In the report, Abdollahi said that all Iranian forces remained at a high level of preparedness in terms of combat morale, defensive and offensive readiness, and strategic planning, Tasnim reported.

He added that the top commander also assured the readiness of the necessary equipment and weapons to counter any hostile action by American or Is-

raeli forces.

According to the news agency, Abdollahi assured Khamenei that in the event of any strategic miscalculation, aggression, or attack by any adversary, Tehran would meet it with swift, powerful, and decisive action.

The top commander also conveyed assurances on behalf of the Armed Forces to Khamenei, saying they remain fully committed to following his orders and will defend, to their

last breath, the ideals of the Islamic Revolution, Iran's territory, sovereignty, national interests, and the proud Iranian nation, Tasnim reported.

Khamenei also issued new and forward-looking directives, Tasnim reported, which are aimed at ensuring the continuation of operations and the reinforcement of a firm and effective response to adversaries.

Iranian FM speaks with Qatari counterpart through peaceful means, emphasising the need for all parties to respond to these efforts in a way that contributes to creating the appropriate conditions for progress in negotiations and limits the possibilities of renewed escalation.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held a telephonic conversation on Sunday with the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani. The two "reviewed efforts aimed at achieving peace and enhancing security and stability in the region," Qatari Foreign Ministry said in a post on X.

Al Thani affirmed his "full support for mediation efforts aimed at resolving the crisis

the crisis." Al Thani also highlighted that the closing of the Strait of Hormuz "is the vital interests of the region's countries to danger, noting the potential negative repercussions this could have on global energy and food supplies, as well as on the stability of markets and supply chains."

According to the ministry, the Qatari FM and PM "affirmed the necessity of adhering to the provisions of international law and the United Nations Charter, and prioritising the interests of the region and its peoples, in a manner that contributes to enhancing regional and international security and stability, and supports efforts to de-escalate and reduce tensions."

IRGC warns US of retaliation over further attacks on Iranian vessels. Earlier, the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps Navy Command warned the United States against further strikes on Iranian ships, according to IRIB News Agency. They posted on their official X account saying, "Any attack on Iranian oil tankers and commercial vessels will result in a heavy attack on one of the American centres in the region and enemy ships." Brigadier General Seyyed Majid Mousavi, Commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force, also warned on his social media, "The IRGC Aerospace Force's missiles and drones are locked on American targets in the region and the aggress-

or enemy ships and are awaiting the command to fire."

After some 48 hours of relative calm following sporadic clashes last week that have shaken a month-old ceasefire, Kuwait detected several hostile drones in its airspace early on Sunday, authorities said.

Unknown missile struck cargo ship in Gulf. A cargo vessel was struck Sunday by an "unknown projectile" 23 nautical miles northeast of the Qatari capital Doha, according to the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Center.

"There was a small fire that has been extinguished, there are no casualties," UKMTO said in a statement released through US social media company X.

Authorities have been investigating the incident, it noted, adding that no environmental impact has been reported.

No details on the origin or nature of the projectiles have been provided by the authorities.

US Secretary of State meets Qatari Prime Minister

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met with Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani in Miami on Saturday and discussed the need to continue working together "to deter threats and promote stability and security across the Middle East," the State Department said in a statement, which did not mention Iran.

Israeli strikes in Gaza kill three, medics say, testing fragile ceasefire

NEWS DESK: Israeli strikes killed at least three Palestinians in Gaza on Sunday, including two members of the Hamas-run police force, health officials said, in violence that underscored the fragility of US-brokered ceasefire.



Medics said an airstrike killed "one person in the Maghazi refugee camp" in the Gaza Strip, while another killed "the head of the criminal police force" in Khan Younis, Wessam Abdel-Hadi, an aide, according

to Gaza's Hamas-run interior ministry. Reuters has previously reported that Israel has heightened its attacks on Gaza's Hamas-run police force, "in violence that underscored the fragility of US-brokered

control. The Israeli military didn't immediately comment on either incident.

Violence in Gaza has persisted despite an October 2025 ceasefire, with Israel conducting almost daily attacks. At least 850 Palestinians have been killed since the ceasefire took effect, local medics say, while Israel says militants have killed four of its soldiers over the same period.

Israel and Hamas have blamed each other for ceasefire violations. More than 72,500 Palestinians have been killed since the Gaza war started in October 2023, Gaza health authorities say, most of them civilians.

the phone call, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the two leaders "reviewed the progress of ongoing peace efforts in the region."

He "stressed that freedom of navigation is a well-established principle that does not accept compromise, and that closing the Strait of Hormuz or using it as a pressure card would only lead to deepening

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The conversation marks the second phone call this week between PM Shehbaz and Sheikh Mohammed. It also follows the Qatari PM's meeting with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Special Envoy on the Middle East Steve Witkoff during his visit to the United States.

Rubio said he discussed "US support for Qatar's defence," while Qatari foreign ministry noted that "Pakistani

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Pakistan, Qatar reaffirm shared commitment to support 'constructive dialogue across region'

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Qatari counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani reaffirmed their "shared commitment" to support "constructive dialogue" in the Middle East.

In a post on X, PM Shehbaz said he was "delighted to receive a telephone call from my brother [...] earlier today."

"We exchanged views on the evolving regional situation and reaffirmed our shared commitment to support all ongoing efforts aimed at promoting lasting peace, stability, and constructive dialogue across the region," the premier added.

The prime minister said he conveyed his "sincere appreciation to my dear brother, Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, for his wise leadership and for Qatar's continued support for Pakistan's sincere efforts to advance regional peace and stability through dialogue and diplomacy."

PM Shehbaz further said he looked forward to the Qatari emir's visit to "Pakistan very soon".

In its statement on

break "Israel's blockade of Gaza by delivering aid to the enclave.

Israel's foreign ministry said Abu Kheshek was suspected of affiliation with a terrorist organisation and Avila was suspected of illegal activity. Both denied the allegations.

Brazil and Spain said the detention was unlawful.

The governments of Spain and Brazil said Abu Kheshek's and Avila's detention was unlawful, but Israel's Ashkelon Magistrate's Court remanded them in custody until May 10.

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US, Iran no closer to ending war as Gulf clashes flare

NEWS DESK: The US and Iran appeared no closer on Saturday to finding an end to the US-Israeli-imposed war after the two sides traded fire in the Gulf amid a tenuous ceasefire. At the same time, a US intelligence analysis concluded Tehran could withstand a naval blockade for months.

Recent days have seen the biggest flare-ups in fighting in and around the Strait of Hormuz since a ceasefire began a month ago, and the United Arab Emirates came under renewed attack this week, a claim that Iran has denied responsibility for.

Washington has been awaiting Tehran's response to a US proposal that would formally end the war before talks on more contentious issues, including Iran's nuclear program. Speaking in Rome on Friday, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the US was expecting a response that day, although an Iranian foreign ministry spokesper-



son said Tehran was still weighing its response. Trump threatened Project Freedom Plus if Iran deal not sealed. US President Donald Trump warned that Washington may escalate its military posture in the Strait of Hormuz if a deal with Iran is not finalised, threatening to revive and expand the paused "Project Freedom" operation.

"We'll go a different route if everything doesn't get signed up," Trump

told reporters at the White House.

When asked whether the US would return to "Project Freedom," Trump responded, "I don't think I might do it."

He explained that Pakistan, which is mediating talks between Washington and Tehran, asked the US not to resume the military operation. "We may go back to Project Freedom if things don't happen," he said. "It'll be Project Freedom Plus, meaning

Project Freedom plus another round of talks, with the US elaborating on what additional measures the expanded operation would entail.

Tehran could withstand blockade for four months, CIA report shows, as fighting flares

Efforts to end the war between the US and Iran appeared to stall as the two sides traded fire in the Gulf on Friday, while a US intelligence analysis concluded Tehran could withstand a naval blockade for months.

Gaza flotilla activists to be released from Israel detention and deported

NEWS DESK: Two activists arrested last month when Israeli forces intercepted the Gaza-bound flotilla they were travelling on are expected to be deported in the coming days after being released from security detention on Saturday, their lawyers said.

Saif Abu Kheshek, a "Spanish national, and Brazilian Thiago Avila were detained by Israeli authorities on April 29 and brought to Israel.

The activists were part of a second "Global Sumud Flotilla" launched from Spain on April 12 to try to

Human rights group Adalah, which has assisted in their legal defence, said the detention was unlawful, said that Abu Kheshek and Avila were informed that they would be released from detention on Saturday and handed over to immigration authorities' custody until their deportation.

"Adalah is closely monitoring developments to make sure that the release from detention goes ahead, followed by their deportation from Israel in the coming days," the group said. Israeli officials were not immediately

reacheable for comment. Israeli authorities held them under suspicion of offences that "included aiding the enemy and contact with a terrorist group. Gaza is largely run by the Palestinian militant group Hamas, which is designated as a terrorist group by Israel and much of the West.

The group's October 7, 2023, attack on Gaza war that has left much of the enclave's population homeless and dependent on aid which humanitarian agencies say is arriving too slowly.

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إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الَّذِينَ يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِهِ صَفًّا كَانَهُمْ
 Indeed, Allah loves those who fight in His cause in rows as though they are a solid impenetrable structure. (Al-Qasas)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
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ہمیں پُنجاب کی شہادتوں کا

1st COMMEMORATION
 10 MAY 2026



مہرگاہ حق

پاکستان ہمیشہ زندہ باد



جنرل ذوالفقار علی بھٹو
 پہلا وزیر اعظم پاکستان



جنرل آصف زیا
 چوتھا وزیر اعظم پاکستان



جنرل میرزا اسلم بگ
 چھٹا وزیر اعظم پاکستان



جنرل میرزا اسلم بگ
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جنرل میرزا اسلم بگ
 چھٹا وزیر اعظم پاکستان

میں کوئی شک نہیں ہے کہ ہمیں اپنی تاریخ کی سب سے بڑی فتح حاصل کرنے میں ہمارے سپاہیوں کی شہادتوں کا ہر لمحہ یاد رکھنا پڑے گا۔ ان شہداء کی شہادتوں نے ہمارے ملک کی آزادی اور یکجہتی کو یقینی بنایا ہے۔ ان کی شہادتوں کو یاد رکھنا ہمارے لیے ایک عظیم ذمہ داری ہے۔ ہمیں ان کی شہادتوں کو یاد رکھنا چاہیے تاکہ ہم ان کی شہادتوں کو بے جا نہ سمجھیں اور ان کی شہادتوں کو یاد رکھنا ہمارے لیے ایک عظیم ذمہ داری ہے۔

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Governor Balochistan Meets NCSW Chairperson to Discuss Women's Rights and Gender Equality

NEWS DESK: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail met a delegation led by Chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) Noreen Bano Lehri in Islamabad to discuss matters related to women's rights, empowerment, gender equality, and access to justice.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on promoting women's fundamental freedoms, welfare, economic empowerment, and protection across the country, particularly in Balochistan.

Governor Appreciates Role of National Commission on the Status of Women Speaking on the occasion, Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail said that the National Commission on the Status of Women is playing a highly effective and important role in safeguarding the rights and welfare of women and girls.

He praised the commission's mandate and ongoing ini-



tiatives aimed at improving women's access to justice, protection, and economic independence.

The Governor emphasized that institutions like the NCSW are vital for strengthening the dignified position of women in society and promoting gender equality at the national level.

Praise for Appointment of Noreen Bano Lehri Governor Mandokhail expressed special satisfaction over the appointment of Noreen Bano Lehri as Chairperson of the

National Commission on the Status of Women, noting that it is the first time a capable and talented woman from Balochistan has been appointed to the prestigious position.

He expressed hope that under her leadership, the commission would take more effective measures for the development, protection, and economic empowerment of women, both nationally and within Balochistan.

Assurances of Full Cooperation for Women's Welfare The Governor assured the delegation that the Governor House and provincial authorities would extend full cooperation for all positive initiatives related to Women's rights/Girls' education Economic empowerment Access to justice Elimination of gender-based violence He stated that collective efforts for women's welfare and development are the need of the hour and reaffirmed continued co-

operation with the National Commission on the Status of Women.

Delegation Appreciates Positive Engagement Chairperson Noreen Bano Lehri and her team thanked the Governor for his support and commitment to women's welfare initiatives.

They described the meeting as highly positive, constructive, and encouraging for future collaboration on women empowerment and gender equality initiatives in Balochistan and across Pakistan.

Awareness Session in Quetta Guides Students on Competitive Exam Preparation

QUETTA: Assistant Commissioner Shahan Yar Muhammad conducted a special awareness and guidance session in Quetta, where students received comprehensive counseling regarding preparation for competitive examinations.



During the session, he highlighted modern preparation techniques, effective study strategies, time management skills, and methods to cope with examination pressure.

Focus on Planning, Consistency, and Smart Preparation Addressing the students, the Assistant Commissioner advised them to adopt organized planning, regular study habits, careful selection of quality books, and consistent hard work as the foundation of success.

He emphasized that success in competitive examinations

depends not only on intelligence but also on consistency, self-confidence, and proper guidance.

Students were also provided detailed information regarding Understanding examination patterns and syllabus Preparation for written tests and interviews Effective study methods Avoid-

ered an insightful and well-structured talk for the students.

Drawing upon his academic and professional experience, he encouraged students and provided practical direction for achieving success in professional life.

His guidance was highly appreciated by the participants, who described the session as informative and beneficial.

Encouragement for Youth to Serve the Nation Assistant Commissioner Shahan Yar Muhammad urged young people to recognize their abilities and move forward with dedication and a spirit of service to the country and nation.

At the conclusion of the session, participants termed the awareness program highly productive and emphasized the need for more such career guidance and motivational sessions in the future.

Jhalawan Summer Festival Begins in Khuzdar with Colorful Cultural and Educational Activities

KHUZDAR: The first day of the two-day Jhalawan Summer Festival concluded successfully in Khuzdar, drawing large crowds of families, women, children, students, and cultural enthusiasts. Organized under the vision of the Government of Balochistan, the festival was arranged through the dedicated efforts and planning of Commissioner Kalat Division Dr. Tufail Baloch, Deputy Commissioner Khuzdar Abdul Razaq Sasoli, and the district management team.

Festival Opens with Vibrant Atmosphere The opening ceremony was inaugurated by former Education Officer Ghulam Fatima, who formally cut the ribbon to launch the festival.

The first day of the event was specially dedicated to women and children, creating a lively atmosphere filled with cultural colors, traditional Balochi cuisine, flowers, handicrafts, music, and educational activities.

Visitors described

the environment as festive and energetic, with smiles, music, and excitement visible throughout the venue.

Blend of Culture, Education, and Modern Creativity Held under the supervision of Commissioner Kalat Division Dr. Tufail Baloch and Deputy Commissioner Khuzdar Abdul Razaq Sasoli, the festival showcased a unique blend of education, culture, traditions, arts, modern innovation, and entertainment.

Various government-



ment officials visited the festival and interacted with participants while enjoying the cultural and educational displays.

Among the notable attendees were: SSP Khuzdar Dosteen Dashti Chairman All Parties Citizens Action Committee Khuzdar Advocate Bshir Ahmed Jattak District Education Officer Abid Hussain Baloch M.S. Khuzdar Hospital Dr. Sarmad Saeed Executive Officer Engineer Saleem Razaq Umrani Rubina Karim and Zahir Karim Nearly 50 Stalls Set Up at Municipal Park Approximately 50 stalls were set up at Municipal Park Khuzdar, featuring: Book stalls with children's literature and classic books Traditional Balochi food stalls Flower and handicraft displays Cultural music performances using traditional Balochi instruments Educational and creative activity booths Children, students, and families actively participated in the activities, while female students in

traditional dresses added to the cultural charm of the event.

Praise for Cleanliness and Event Management Chief Officer Khuzdar Wadera Saleh Janot received appreciation for improving the cleanliness and beautification of Municipal Park ahead of the festival.

Chairman Muhammad Asif Jamaatani and the Vice Chairman were also acknowledged for their cooperation in organizing the event.

Police and women police personnel ensured foolproof security arrangements throughout the festival.

Officials Highlight Importance of Cultural and Educational Activities SSP Khuzdar Dosteen Dashti said the festival serves as an excellent platform to encourage creativity among youth and promote healthy recreational activities.

He emphasized that along with maintaining peace and security, promoting cultural activities is also a key priority.

Hazara Combined FC Defeats Muslim FC Chaman in Exhibition Football Match Held in Quetta

QUETTA: A thrilling exhibition football match was organized at Qayyum Papa Football Ground in Mariabud under the banner of the "Maarka-e-Haq" celebrations hosted by the Sports Department, Government of Balochistan. In an exciting contest, Hazara Combined FC Quetta defeated Muslim FC Chaman to claim victory.

Exciting Match Draws Large Crowd of Football Fans The exhibition match between Muslim FC Chaman and Hazara Combined FC Quetta featured high-quality football and intense competition throughout the game. Hazara Combined FC displayed outstanding teamwork and performance to secure the

win. A large number of football fans attended the event and enthusiastically cheered for both teams, creating an energetic atmosphere at the stadium. Government Efforts to Promote Sports Appreciated Secretary Sports Dura Baloch appreciated the efforts of the Sports Department for successfully organizing the event.

He said such activities encourage youth to participate in positive and constructive pursuits while also strengthening sports culture across the province.

Deputy Director Sports Asif Ferooqi and Assistant Director Sports Asif Lango were also present at the ceremony.

Jaffarabad Schools Receive Digital Tablets, Smart Boards, and LED Screens to Improve Education Standards

NASERABAD/JAFFARABAD: Deputy Commissioner Jaffarabad Khalid Khan said that the district administration is taking all possible steps to provide quality education, improve modern facilities, and strengthen educational standards in government schools across the district.

He stated that, in collaboration with the Education Department, PITE, and UNICEF, comprehensive measures are being implemented to promote modern technology, improve student monitoring, and enhance teachers' professional skills in public educational institutions.

Digital Equipment Distributed to Government Schools The Deputy Commissioner expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held at the Deputy Commissioner Office Jaffarabad for the distribution of digital tablets, registers, smart boards, and LED screens among heads of various government schools. The event was

organized jointly by the Education Department, PITE, and UNICEF.

Among those present at the ceremony were: District Education Officer Jaffarabad Madam Ayesha Bugti District Training Manager CPD PITE Muhammad Yousof Office Superintendent Babu Afzal Khokhar Education department officials and school principals Focus on Enrollment Retention and Quality Education Deputy Commissioner Khalid Khan said that during the recent school enrollment campaign, a large number of children were admitted to government schools across Jaffarabad.

He added that the district administration's top priority is now to ensure that students remain enrolled, receive a quality learning environment, and benefit from continuous monitoring of attendance, academic performance, and teaching standards.

Modern Technology to Improve Teaching and Monitoring.



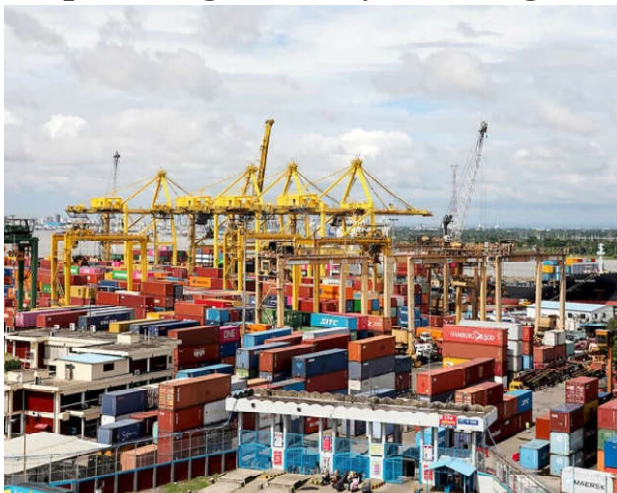
Export-led growth key to cutting \$32b deficit

NEWS DESK: Pakistan must focus on exports, industrial growth and economic reforms over the next ten years to become one of the world's leading economies, Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal said during a visit to the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), according to a statement issued on Saturday.

"After the success of the 'Marka-e-Haq,' Pakistan must now win the 'Marka-e-Maeshat,' because strong defence cannot be sustained without a strong economy," Iqbal said, adding that the government is removing unnecessary regulations, red tape and business barriers to support exports, which are the only sustainable path for economic development.

The target of achieving \$100 billion in exports by 2035 is as important for Pakistan as achieving nuclear capability once was, he added.

LCCI President Faheemur Rehman Saigol, who welcomed the minister, said Pakistan's trade deficit has reached nearly \$32 billion in just ten months, making it essential to adopt an immediate export-led growth



strategy. Planning, industrial policies and incentives should be aligned with export-oriented sectors so that Pakistan products can compete effectively in global markets.

Reducing the cost of doing business should be the government's top priority, said Saigol. Expensive electricity, high interest rates, multiple

taxes and complex regulations are creating serious difficulties for industries. The current regional situation, supply chain disruptions and

uncertainty have further increased business costs. Saigol appreciated the government's focus on development projects under the Pub-

lic Sector Development Programme but stressed that funds should be spent on projects that directly improve industry, exports, logistics and productivity. He noted

that the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is focusing on industrial cooperation, special economic zones, agriculture, IT and technology transfer, but local business communities must be given an active role in joint ventures.

He called for special industrial zones for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with shared facilities, warehouses, utilities, one-window operations and modern waste treatment systems to reduce costs and improve competitiveness. Pakistan's IT and digital economy sectors have strong growth potential, so planning should prioritise digital infrastructure. IT exports, freelancing and innovation systems to help the country's youth earn more foreign exchange. Iqbal said Pakistan must focus on value addition, better packaging, marketing, branding and international certification to increase exports. He noted that Pakistan is the world's fourth largest producer of dates but is not gaining enough benefit due to a lack of value addition. Similarly, Pakistani mangoes, cutlery, fan manufacturing and handicrafts have strong global potential. China im-

ports nearly \$2.8 trillion annually, but Pakistan's share is only \$3 billion, so the country needs to enter the Chinese market in a serious and organised manner.

The tax-to-GDP ratio is only 10.5%, while successful countries maintain ratios between 15% and 16%, Iqbal said. Unless the tax net is expanded and tax evasion eliminated, the burden on honest taxpayers will continue to increase. He urged the government and the business community to work together to stabilise the economy and put Pakistan on the path of sustainable development and prosperity.

Saigol also announced that the Chamber will organise the "Lahore Chamber Freelancing Awards" in June 2026. He highlighted the need for continuous consultation between the Planning Commission and members of commerce, adding that the LCCI, representing more than 48,000 members, is fully prepared to cooperate with the government in national economic planning and policy reforms. The meeting was attended by senior LCCI office bearers and executive committee members.

Dairy sector pushes for export growth

NEWS DESK: Representatives of the Corporate Dairy Farmers Association called on Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and briefed him on the progress, investment potential, and future expansion plans of Pakistan's dairy and livestock sector, while appreciating the government's continued engagement with the formal dairy industry.

During the meeting, the delegation highlighted the transformation taking place in Pakistan's corporate dairy sector through modern breeding, artificial insemination, scientific herd management, and advanced milk handling systems. The participants informed the minister that commercial dairy farms are now producing high-quality milk under international standards, enabling the production and export of value-added dairy products, including cheese and processed items.

The delegation noted that the formal dairy sector has contributed significantly towards import substitution, employment generation, and the development of veterinary and technical expertise. They also highlighted the introduction of modern equipment, imported genetics, and international best practices from countries including Australia, the United States, Canada, and Europe, which have improved productivity and quality standards across the industry.

Khan emphasised

that Pakistan's dairy sector could significantly increase productivity, value addition, and exports. Khan remarked that the major challenge facing businesses was often related to implementation and enforcement rather than policy formulation.

He noted that the government was committed to improving coordination, facilitation, and implementation mechanisms to strengthen formal economic activity and create a more conducive business environment.

He stated that with better financing mechanisms,

IMF budget talks begin next week

NEWS DESK: Talks between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to secure approval for next year's budget before its presentation in the National Assembly are set to begin on Wednesday, including finalising proposals to impose about Rs230 billion in net additional taxes.

The government will also share a new tax scheme for traders with the IMF, which envisages imposing 1% of turnover as income tax. The threshold for small traders who were exempt under the scheme may be set at around Rs300 million in annual sales, but there will be different categories within the overall threshold. The IMF mission is arriving in Islamabad on Tuesday and will stay for one week to finalise taxation measures and the main expenditure heads for fiscal year 2026-27, sources added.

The discussions will also revolve around the IMF's condition to ensure the presentation of a fiscally tight budget in the National Assembly, and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's desire to win some relaxations in income tax rates for Pakistan's corporate sector, the sources said. However, the government has already committed to the IMF that

any tax relief for any sector would be compensated by increasing the tax burden on other segments to achieve a net zero impact. The sources

said that in addition to measures to neutralise tax relief, the government must take net additional revenue measures of Rs230 billion. Those net measures are part of the IMF's plan to set the FY2026-27 tax collection target at about Rs15.3 trillion. Nigel Clarke, Deputy Managing Director of the IMF, said on Friday, "Amid a more challenging and highly uncertain external environment since the onset of the war in the Middle East, Pakistan needs to maintain strong macro-economic policies while accelerating reform efforts, which are critical to managing further

shocks and fostering higher sustainable medium-term growth."

The sources said the IMF has already set target benchmarks for the new budget. These include limiting the overall budget deficit to 3.5% of GDP (about Rs4.9 trillion) and producing a primary budget surplus of Rs2.8 trillion (2% of GDP). The tight numbers align with the IMF and the finance ministry's plans for a fiscally tight budget but may run contrary to the official desire to give some relief.

The prime minister's wish is to abolish the super tax, which will be presented to the IMF budget mission. The prime minister's wish is to abolish the super tax, which will be presented to the IMF budget mission. The prime minister's wish is to abolish the super tax, which will be presented to the IMF budget mission.

draw the capital value

Electric bike demand surges amid costly oil

NEWS DESK: Amid the ongoing Middle East conflict since Feb 28, Pakistan's auto sector is witnessing fresh developments, with a leading tractor assembler exploring electric bike production and Pak Suzuki Motor Company Ltd.

In a stock filing, Millat Tractors Ltd (MTL), responding to market reports about its entry into the electric bike segment, said one of its group companies was evaluating the feasibility of EV bike production in Pakistan. It said the matter remained at a preliminary stage.

Sharp increases in petrol prices have boosted demand for electric scooters and bikes, leading to market shortages and the emergence of "on money" on some models.

Social media reports claimed EV bike assemblers had received an overwhelming response from consumers, with some companies reportedly selling more than 15,000 units in April, while others sold around 5,000 units. Assemblers eye expansion as shortages



trigger premiums

However, bike sector expert Mohammad Sabir Sheikh disputed these figures, saying over 30,000 electric bikes and scooters were sold nationwide during March and April. He said assemblers had opened more letters of credit in the past 15 to 20 days to import parts and accessories to meet rising demand.

Short supplies had resulted in "on money" of Rs10,000 to Rs15,000 on some popular models, he added. Mr Sheikh said the situation could change if petrol prices returned to pre-conflict levels, but added that higher fuel prices had at least increased consumer

awareness about electric bikes. He said the company was evaluating products suited to local driving conditions, consumer expectations and long-term mobility trends. At Auto China 2026, Chery showcased the Tiggo 4 HEV, QQ BEV, and Tiggo V, reflecting Chery's focus on hybrid, electric, and multi-purpose mobility solutions.

Launched by hybrid, EV Chery Master Pakistan (CMP) is considering launching two to three new models for the local market, including the Tiggo 4 HEV, QQ BEV, and Tiggo V, reflecting Chery's focus on hybrid, electric, and multi-purpose mobility solutions, particularly suitable for congested cities such as Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad.

Chery Master Pakistan has already introduced a locally assembled plug-in hybrid SUV lineup, including the Tiggo 9 PHEV, Tiggo 8 PHEV and Tiggo 7 PHEV.

Petroleum dealers, lawyers slam fuel hike

NEWS DESK: The Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) and the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) on Saturday criticised the government over rising fuel prices and high petroleum levies, saying the measures had increased hardships for the public and affected fuel retailers.

Under an official notification effective from May 9, the government has imposed a petroleum levy of Rs17.41 per litre on petrol and Rs2.60 per litre on high-speed diesel sold through retail outlets.

The levy on premium fuel grades including 97 RON and 95 RON petrol, or the high-octane blending component (HOB), has been fixed at more than Rs305.37 per litre. The government is also changing a petroleum levy of Rs20.36 per litre on kerosene, Rs15.84 per litre on light diesel oil, and Rs7.77 per litre on furnace oil, equivalent to Rs82,077 per tonne.

Shehzad criticised the government for increasing indirect taxes instead of providing relief to the public amid rising inflation. He said the heavy levies had made petroleum products unaffordable for consumers and caused financial losses for fuel station owners due to declining sales.

He urged the government to reduce petroleum prices by cutting levies and duties on petroleum products, warning that continued increases could further damage the fuel retail sector and add to public

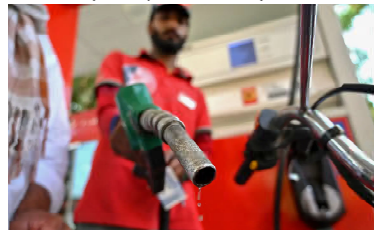
hardship. "At the same time, the government has not fixed petroleum dealers' commission on a percentage basis instead of a fixed amount per litre sale, as a result, meeting the cost of doing business is going in the negative," Mr Shehzad said.

He added that sales had declined while operational costs had increased owing to higher electricity tariffs and other charges. In a statement, SCBA President Haroonur Rashid, Secretary Malik Zahid Aslam

and members of the association's 28th executive committee expressed concern over the increase in petrol and diesel prices.

They said the latest rise in fuel prices had further aggravated hardships faced by the public and contributed to inflationary pressures.

The SCBA urged the federal government to immediately roll back the recent fuel price increase and introduce additional relief measures, including reductions in electricity tariffs and essential commodity prices.



70,000 youngsters to take up hockey under PHF programme, says ad-hoc president Mohyuddin

NEWS DESK: Ad-hoc president of the Pakistan Hockey Federation Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani on Friday claimed that around 60,000 to 70,000 youngsters would soon take up hockey across the country under a programme being launched in collaboration with provincial education boards.

Speaking to reporters at the National Hockey Stadium here, where the national team's training camp for the FIH Pro League is under way, Mohyuddin said free hockey kits would be distributed at schools and colleges to encourage participation at the under-14 and under-16 levels.

"In collaboration with provincial education boards, we have planned to distribute free kits at school and college level to persuade students to start playing hockey," he said. "Soon 60,000 to 70,000 youngsters will begin playing the game."

He said the PHF, under its long-term planning, would take "drastic steps" at the grassroots level to revive the national sport.



Asked how he intended to complete long-term projects while serving on an ad-hoc basis with the primary task of holding fresh elections, Mohyuddin said he would continue to serve as long as the prime minister allowed him to do so.

"The prime minister appointed me as PHF president on an ad-hoc basis, so until he allows me, I will continue to work," he said. "But I work every day considering it my last working day, so I am working with full force."

Responding to a question regarding scrutiny of hockey clubs — a prerequisite for PHF elections — Mohyuddin said instructions had already been conveyed to the relevant quarters, but he declined to provide further details.

Fresh elections in the PHF cannot be held without scrutiny of affiliated clubs. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who is also patron of the federation, had tasked Mohyuddin with overseeing day-to-day affairs and holding elections, though no deadline had been specified.

Mohyuddin said the PHF's immediate focus was on ensuring proper preparation for

the senior team's participation in the Pro League matches in Belgium and England.

"The federation is providing the best possible training and coaching facilities to the players," he said.

He added that the under-18 team was also preparing for the Asia Cup in Japan later this month. "The U-18 camp is in progress in Islamabad and I am taking daily briefings on

both the senior and junior camps," he said.

Mohyuddin also termed the World Cup, scheduled to be held in Belgium and the Netherlands in August, as an important assignment and expressed hope that Pakistan would field a competitive side.

Asked about past allegations of corruption and mismanagement in PHF affairs, Mohyuddin said those matters were being ex-

amined by other institutions.

"I am looking forward to what happened in the past being seen by other institutions. I am not responsible for those old things," he said.

He acknowledged the need for greater transparency within the federation but said the current priority was the participation of Pakistan teams in upcoming international events.

"We are not charging anything from the PHF accounts and we are not taking salaries for our work for hockey," he said, adding that the ad-hoc body had also generated funds through private business groups. On the lack of women's hockey activities, Mohyuddin said the PHF planned to organise competitions at college level in the near future. It was Mohyuddin's first visit to the PHF headquarters since assuming office in February following the resignation of former PHF president Tariq Hussain Bugti. Asked why he had visited Lahore after a considerable delay, Mohyuddin said all regions of the country

were equally important.

"Lahore is not the whole of Pakistan. Gilgit-Baltistan and other areas are equally important for me," he said.

The PHF headquarters has worn a deserted look since Bugti's resignation, with no senior official regularly operating from Lahore as administrative affairs are largely being run from Islamabad, where Mohyuddin also serves as secretary of the Inter-Provincial Coordination Ministry.

Responding to another question regarding the absence of any investigation into alleged mismanagement during Pakistan's recent tour of Australia for the Pro League, Mohyuddin reiterated that past affairs were being examined elsewhere while his focus remained on promoting hockey in Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Kashmir, Balochistan, Sindh and other parts of the country.

He added that the Punjab government had already earmarked substantial funds for the promotion of sports in the province.

Abbas takes five wickets to put Pakistan ahead in Bangladesh Test

NEWS DESK: Mohammad Abbas claimed five wickets to restrict Bangladesh to 413, before two debutant batsmen combined to put Pakistan in a strong position in the first Test on Saturday.

Opener Azan Awas hit an unbeaten 85 and Abdullah Fazal, also playing in his first Test, was 37 not out as Pakistan reached 179-1 at stumps on the second day in Dhaka.

The visitors trail Bangladesh by 234 runs, but veteran Pakistan seamer Abbas was the standout performer,

claiming five wickets in the morning session after a 30-40.

Abbas took two more wickets after lunch and finished with figures of 5-92 from 34 overs, the sixth five-wicket haul of his career.

Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto laid a strong platform on the first day with 101.

Mushfiqur Rahim, who was 48 not out overnight, then went on to make a gritty 71 off 179 balls. He celebrated his 39th birthday by equaling Iqbal's record of 42

innings of 50 or more for Bangladesh in Test cricket.

Bangladesh began day two well before 36-year-old Abbas dismissed their innings with disciplined bowling. Liton Das fell for 33 while attempting a pull shot and Mehidy Hasan Miraz was out for 10 on the ball after hitting a six. Tajjul Islam edged a bounce from Abbas for 17 before Shahzeb Shah Afridi bowled Mushfiqur in the first over after lunch.

Fazal, Ahmed made a late cameo of 28 before falling to Afridi, who finished with 3-113.

Senior assistant coach Mohammad Salahuddin lamented that Bangladesh was unable to post a bigger score and pinpointed slips catching as an area of concern after two wickets were dropped.

"I think if we could have scored another 50-60 runs, it would have been much better for us," he said. "Our slip catching needs a lot of improvement. It is a specialised area, and we will talk about how to improve further."

Pakistan began their innings strongly, with Imam-ul-Haq and Azan adding 106 for the opening wicket before Mehidy trapped Imam lbw for 45.

Imam praised Abbas and the two new batsmen.

"Abbas bowled very well, everybody knows how good he is," Imam said. "The way Azan batted, taking an absorbing all the pressure, the kid really held his composure. I am very happy to see both of them playing so well," he said.

Orban doubled the lead with a brilliant header after the break, before Abdoulie Ceesay grabbed a late consolation for the visitors.

Defeat keeps St. Pauli second from bottom, setting up a winner-takes-all clash with fellow strugglers VfL Wolfsburg on the final day of the season.

While Leipzig are now certain to finish third behind Bayern Munich and Borussia

Leipzig seal Champions League berth

NEWS DESK: RB Leipzig sealed Champions League qualification with a comfortable 2-1 win over St. Pauli on Saturday on a dramatic day in the Bundesliga's race for Europe. Goals from Xaver Schlager and Willi Orban saw Leipzig secure third place with a game to spare and plunge St. Pauli deeper into the relegation mire.

Hendriks' test set the half-time line, providing the visitors with a free run at goal and Alex Garcia with an easy tap-in.

The hosts levelled the scores just five minutes later, however, Ermedin Demirovic smashing the ball in after a smart passing move

Dortmund, VfB Stuttgart lead the race for the fourth and final Champions League spot after landing a crucial 3-1 win over Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga's race for Europe. Goals from Xaver Schlager and Willi Orban saw Leipzig secure third place with a game to spare and plunge St. Pauli deeper into the relegation mire.

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The hosts levelled the scores just five minutes later, however, Ermedin Demirovic smashing the ball in after a smart passing move

in the box. Demirovic was then tripped in the box on the stroke of half-time and Maximilian Mittelstätt put Stuttgart in front with a cool chipped penalty.

Stuttgart took control after the break, Deniz Undav sealing the win with an artistic finish after Demirovic had a goal ruled out for offside.

The result leaves Leverkusen three points adrift of the Champions League spots in sixth place behind Stuttgart and Hoffenheim.

Hoffenheim remain level on points with Stuttgart in fifth after they beat ten-man Werder Bremen 1-0

Bremen's Yukinari Sugawara was sent off early on for a dangerous challenge on Bazoumana Touré, who scored Hoffenheim's winner 20 minutes later.

Eintracht Frankfurt's striker Alexander Georghiadis and a rare goal for defender Robin Fellbauer saw Augsburg score a 3-0 lead before Rocco Reitz pulled one back for Gladbach and Hoffenheim.

Hoffenheim remain level on points with Stuttgart in fifth after they beat ten-man Werder Bremen 1-0

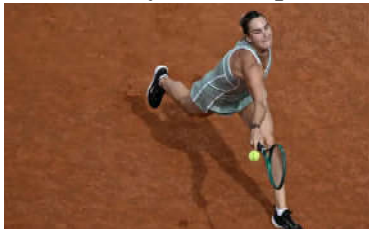
Sabalenka suffers early Italian Open exit

NEWS DESK: Aryna Sabalenka became the second star name dumped out of the Italian Open when she suffered a shock third-round exit on Saturday.

World number one and pre-tournament favourite for overall victory, Sabalenka followed men's tennis icon Novak Djokovic in going out early from the Rome event following a 2-6, 6-3, 7-5 loss to Sorana Cirstea.

Sabalenka was visibly frustrated with her performance on centre court, muttering to herself with her shoulders slumped during an uncharacteristically sloppy display.

The 28-year-old had not been knocked out of a tournament in the round-of-32 since the Qatar Open in February last year, and she looked set for a quick and clean victory after racing to the first set.



But she filled in her bid for a first tournament victory in the Italian capital, with Cirstea facing Linda Noskova in the next round after beating a woman at the top of the world rankings for the first time in her career.

Sabalenka also had to have a time out for what appeared to be a problem with her left hip, casting doubt on her fitness ahead of Roland Garros later this month.

French Open champion Coco Gauff is still in the hunt after taking over two hours to beat Argentina's Solana Siera 5-7, 6-0, 6-4.

Gauff has struggled on clay this season, with a last-16 exit in the Madrid Open coming after a disappointing run to the quarter-finals in Stuttgart.

Jasmine Paolini's defence of her Italian Open title came to an early end after the home favourite was knocked out by Elise Mertens,

Local favourite Paolini lost 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 to Mertens following an error-strewn performance.

The 30-year-old is set to drop out of the top 10 of the women's world rankings after failing to reach the fourth round of a fourth consecutive tournament.

Her fate turned on her failure to capitalise on three match points against the serve at 6-5 in the second set, after which she lost the first two points of the tie-break and never recovered. "I didn't make the most of my chances. I needed to keep a clearer head, keep my cool better in those moments," Paolini told reporters.

"I'm very disappointed to lose but there were moments in which I felt good on the court and I was competitive and positive."

In the men's draw, fourth seed Felix Auger-Aliassime suffered a shock second-round defeat at the hands of Argentina's Mariano Navone, the Canadian losing to his 44th-ranked opponent in straight sets 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/5).

In Friday's late action, Djokovic slumped to an early elimination, crumbling to a 6-2, 2-6, 4-6 second-round defeat at the hands of qualifier Dino Prizmic

Mehidy's five-for gives Bangladesh slim lead

NEWS DESK: Test Championship debutant Azan Awas marked his arrival in international cricket with a memorable century, but Mehidy Hasan Miraz produced a superb five-wicket haul to keep narrowly ahead of an absorbing third day of the first Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

Bangladesh closed the day on 7-0 in their second innings, stretching their overall lead to 34 runs after bowling Pakistan out for 386 in reply to their first-innings total of 413.

Only 11 deliveries were possible after the innings break before fading light forced umpires Richard Kettleborough and Kumar Dharmasena to call an early end to play.

The day, however, belonged as much to Pakistan's young debutant Azan as it did to Bangladesh spinner Mehidy, with momentum swinging rapidly in a gripping contest in the ICC World

Test Championship (WTC) 2025-27 clash.

Resuming on 179-1 overnight, Pakistan looked well placed thanks to the unbroken partnership between Azan and fellow debutant Abdullie Fazal.

The pair continued confidently in the morning session, frustrating Bangladesh's bowlers with discipline and calm temperament on a surface beginning to offer more assistance to spin.

Azan brought up a remarkable century on Test debut, becoming one of the few Pakistan batters to achieve the feat in Bangladesh. The left-handed opener displayed maturity well beyond his age during a composed innings of 103 from 165 deliveries, striking 14 boundaries.

Azan's dismissal triggered a dramatic middle-order collapse as Bangladesh clawed their way back into the match. Pakistan lost three wickets at regular intervals, including the key wicket of Abdullah Fazal, who battled hard for a valuable 60 before falling to Mehidy Hasan Miraz.

At 230-5, Pakistan were suddenly under pressure again, but vice-captain Salman Ali Agha and wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan steadied the innings with a crucial counter-attacking stand.

The pair added 119 runs for the sixth wicket in what proved to be Pakistan's most important partnership of the innings after also opening stand.

Rizwan mixed caution with aggression during his fluent 59 off 79 balls, hitting eight fours before left-arm spinner Tajjul Islam dismissed him late in the second session to

force tea.

Agha continued to resist with a determined 58 from 94 deliveries, including six boundaries and a six, but Pakistan's hopes of taking a first-innings lead faded quickly once he was dismissed by express pacer Naved Hameed in the final session.

Pakistan's lower order managed only limited resistance as Bangladesh wrapped up the innings for 386, securing a slender but potentially crucial 27-run lead.

Mehidy Hasan Miraz was the standout performer for Bangladesh with figures of 5-102 from 38 overs, while Tahir Ahmed and Tajjul Islam claimed two wickets each. Naved Hameed also chipped in with one wicket.

With all 10 second-innings wickets intact and a narrow lead already established, Bangladesh will look to tighten their grip on the first Test against Pakistan heading into day four in Dhaka.

15 police personnel martyred in Bannu suicide attack

NEWS DESK: At least 15 police personnel were martyred on Saturday night after a suicide attack on the Fateh Khel police post in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district.

The terrorists launched their attack on the post by ramming a vehicle laden with explosives.

According to Bannu Regional Police Officer Sajjad Khan, a total of 18 police personnel were present at the post at the time of the attack, of whom 15 were martyred and three sustained injuries.

Police said that following the explosion, terrorists opened heavy fire and attacked the post from multiple directions. Multiple blasts were heard in the area, causing fear and panic among local residents.

"During the assault, the militants used quadcopters along with heavy weaponry," a senior administrative official in Bannu told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Sources said that communication with the Fateh Khel police post was lost briefly after the attack.



The powerful blast completely destroyed the post. An armoured vehicle stationed at the post was also destroyed in the attack. Nearby buildings also suffered severe damage from the blast's intensity. Following the attack, an emergency was declared in local hospitals.

The Bannu police launched an operation, led by RPO Sajjad, after the attack, and the area was cordoned off by security forces. Police also tightened security across the city and set up additional checkpoints. Local residents also came out in support

of law enforcement personnel. Rescue 1122 teams concluded the rescue operation at the site of the incident on Sunday morning. "The rescue operation has been completed. Fifteen bodies and three injured were recovered from the debris," said Rescue 1122. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said he was "deeply saddened by the tragic incident." "These courageous sons of the soil sacrificed their lives while protecting the people of Pakistan and defending peace. Their bravery, commitment and sacrifice will never be forgotten," he wrote on X.

Naqvi expressed his heartfelt condolences and prayers to the bereaved families, praying for the martyrs' elevated ranks. "Pakistan stands united against terrorism and such cowardly acts can never weaken our resolve," the interior minister affirmed.

PM condemns attack, reaffirms resolve against terrorism

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday telephoned KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi and strongly condemned the terrorist attack. The premier expressed deep sorrow and grief over the loss of precious lives in the attack and prayed for the elevation of ranks of the police personnel martyred. He also extended heartfelt condolences to their bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the attack. Reaffirming the federal government's commitment to eliminating terrorism, he said that the centre would continue working closely with provincial governments to ensure the complete eradication of terrorism from the country.

There are 'vast opportunities for investment' in Pakistan, Naqvi tells Bangladeshi state minister

NEWS DESK: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi conveyed to Bangladeshi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaid Islam on Sunday that there were "vast opportunities for investment", as the two sides agreed to increase cooperation in trade and business.

Naqvi, who is on an official visit to Bangladesh, called on Islam in Dhaka, where the two held "detailed discussions on bilateral relations, the regional situation, and Pakistan's conciliatory role", according to an official statement released by the Ministry of Interior.

The Bangladeshi state minister appreciated Pakistan's efforts aimed at resolving the

Iran-US conflict, it said. Pakistan has been leading the efforts for the resolution of the conflict, which began with US-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28, and hosted the first round of face-to-face talks between Washington and Tehran in April.

The interior minister's statement said that during Naqvi's meeting with Islam, both sides agreed to increase cooperation in the fields of trade, business, and culture and "on maximum mutual exchange of delegations to promote trade and cultural relations".

"Discussion was also held regarding the visit of Bangladesh's foreign minister to Pakistan," it added.

Bangladesh Foreign Ministry Secretary Mohammad Nazrul Islam, Pakistani High Commissioner Imran Haider and other officials were also present at the meeting.

The meeting comes a day after Naqvi signed an anti-narcotics memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bangladesh Interior Minister Salahuddin Ahmed and offered cooperation on the Safe City Project.

Relations between Islamabad and Dhaka have improved since the ouster of former Bangladeshi premier Sheikh Hasina, during whose tenure ties between the two countries remained shaky.

Large-scale security operation continues for 3rd day in North Waziristan's Shewa tehsil

NEWS DESK: A large-scale security operation against militants continued for the third consecutive day in the Shewa tehsil and adjoining areas of North Waziristan, with reports claiming that seven militants, including two key commanders, were killed during search and clearance operations.

According to sources, several militant hideouts were destroyed during the operation, while security forces intensified actions in multiple localities of the region.

In the Dorwazanda area of Shewa tehsil, the Alam Khel Market was reportedly almost completely demolished during the operation. Local residents claimed that militants had allegedly been using the market as hideouts and movement routes.

Meanwhile, in the Anarkhel area, an alleged militant hideout and a residential com-

ound were also destroyed with explosive material. Sources added that security forces had taken control of several important buildings and installations during the operation, including the Governor Model School, which militants were allegedly using for their activities.

Residents and local sources said door-to-door search operations were continuing in Dorwazanda and nearby areas, while additional contingents of security personnel had been deployed. Security forces also

conducted raids on several suspected locations and reportedly seized weapons and other materials.

According to reports, militants suffered heavy casualties during the ongoing operation. Sources claimed that the slain militants were allegedly involved in attacks on security forces and police personnel, as well as incidents of targeted killings.

Security operations were also launched in the Sarkhani area, where intermittent firing and

explosions continued to be heard, sources said. A curfew remained imposed across the affected areas, severely disrupting daily life and causing difficulties for residents. Several families were said to have shifted to safer locations, while business activities remained completely suspended.

Security officials said the purpose of the operation was to eliminate militant elements from the area and restore peace and stability. Historically, Shewa was considered one of

the relatively peaceful areas of North Waziristan. Residents primarily depend on agriculture, livestock and small-scale businesses, and the area is known for its simplicity and strong tribal cohesion.

Even during the military operations launched after 2014, locals say Shewa remained comparatively less affected and normal life returned sooner than in other parts of the district.

However, over the past year, the situation has deteriorated sharply. Residents attribute the worsening conditions to a rise in targeted killings, quadcopter attacks and increased activity by outlawed militant groups. In March, after the evacuation of Dora and Anarkhel villages in Shewa, families from nearby localities were also fleeing their homes to relatively safer districts.



Gas supply suspended after pipeline damaged in Karachi Red Line construction

NEWS DESK: Gas supply was disrupted in major parts of the city on Saturday evening after the Red Line construction work damaged a high-pressure gas pipeline near Jail Chowringi.

A spokesperson for the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) said that a 2-inch diameter high-pressure pipeline was hit during excavation for the bus rapid transit (BRT) project.

The spokesperson said as a result the gas supply to Saddar, Garden, Jamshed Road, PIB Colony, Lyari, Lines

Area and adjacent localities was immediately suspended.

She said that the SSGC teams reached the site and cordoned off the damaged section of the supply line with safety barriers to prevent further risk.

Residents in affected areas reported complete disconnection of gas at 7pm, adversely impacting mainly households, who relied on piped gas during peak cooking hours in the evening.

The spokesperson said that repair work was

being carried out on an emergency basis. "Gas supply will be restored gradually once repair work is completed," she added.

The spokesperson said that the repair work was expected to be completed early Sunday morning and supply would be phased back as repairs were completed.

The BRT construction corridor in Karachi has seen multiple utility line strikes in recent months as underground infrastructure intersects with ongoing roadworks.

Due to the severe heat, the use of air conditioners and air coolers in homes and offices has increased, while citizens are also adopting precautionary measures amid fears of a possible heatwave.

PDMA also issued a Sunday weather alert on Friday, warning of dust-thunderstorms and rain expected to affect the upper parts of the

Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) issues heatwave alert for Punjab districts until May 11

NEWS DESK: The Punjab Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Sunday issued a heatwave alert for various districts of Punjab until May 11.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) also said that dry weather conditions across Punjab continue to intensify the heat, with a steady rise in temperatures being recorded, and that the weather will remain hot and dry over the next 24 hours.

According to the Meteorological Department, Lahore is likely to record a minimum temperature of 27°C, while the maximum may rise up to 40°C.

Due to the severe heat, the use of air conditioners and air coolers in homes and offices has increased, while citizens are also adopting precautionary measures amid fears of a possible heatwave.

PDMA also issued a Sunday weather alert on Friday, warning of dust-thunderstorms and rain expected to affect the upper parts of the

province from the evening of May 10th through May 12th at night, with occasional gaps.

According to the Met Office, a fresh westerly wave is likely to approach northwestern parts of the country on May 10

Mianwali, Faisalabad, Sahiwal, Jhang, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Okara, Gujranwala, Sialkot, and Narowal during this period. Meanwhile, "very hot weather conditions are expected to continue in the southern parts of Punjab".

look warning of a persistent heatwave across several parts of the country from May 6 to 12. According to the forecast, most plain areas of Pakistan are expected to remain under hot and dry conditions during this period. The Met Office

Wednesday that southern Punjab, Sindh, and parts of Balochistan were expected to remain among the worst-affected regions, where intense heat conditions would continue during daytime hours. PMD further said that the ongoing heatwave conditions were expected to persist through the forecast period, with no immediate relief in sight.

On Monday, Karachi recorded its hottest day since 2018, as the temperature in the city surged past 44°C. The highest temperature was recorded at the Old Airport Weather Station, where it reached 44.1°C. Due to the intense heat, at least ten bodies were recovered from different parts of the city.

Shahid Chaudhry, spokesperson for Chhipa Foundation, said that four of the deceased were found in critical condition and died during treatment, while the bodies of six others were recovered from homes, mosques, and other locations across the city.



and is expected to persist until May 12.

The alert warns that dust-thunderstorms and rain are expected in Murree, Galiyat, Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Khushab, Joharabad, Sargodha,

Authorities have advised citizens to avoid unnecessary exposure to the sun, drink plenty of water, and take precautionary measures to stay safe. The PMD earlier this week issued a weekly weather out-

look warning of a persistent heatwave across several parts of the country from May 6 to 12. According to the forecast, most plain areas of Pakistan are expected to remain under hot and dry conditions during this period. The Met Office

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