

AJK PM appoints Chaudhry Muhammad Riaz Honorary Overseas Advisor in Birmingham

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has appointed political and social figure Chaudhry Muhammad Riaz as his honorary advisor for overseas in Birmingham.

The notification of Chaudhry Muhammad Riaz's honorary advisor overseas has been issued along with the Prime Minister's notification. Overseas Kashmiri leaders, especially the Kashmiri community



of Birmingham, have welcomed the appointment of Chaudhry Muhammad Riaz as an advisor and have highly appreciated the

decision of Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore. Chaudhry Muhammad Riaz belongs to the Dadial area of Azad Kashmir.

Back to Home

ISLAMABAD: People board a bus while returning to their hometowns ahead of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the Islamic holy fasting month of Ramadan, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Iran conflict exposes fractured global order, increasing US isolation, Ambassador Masood Khan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Masood Khan, former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and former Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, has stated that the ongoing conflict involving Iran has revealed deep fissures in the global order, highlighting strategic miscalculations, humanitarian consequences,

and the growing isolation of the United States on the international stage. In a televised analysis of the evolving situation, Ambassador Masood Khan observed that recent military actions have inflicted significant damage across Iran, with widespread targeting of military personnel, strategic installations, and civilian infrastructure. He noted that the scale and intensity of attacks have resulted in a serious humanitarian crisis, with large numbers of civilian



casualties, including women and children. He emphasized that the conflict reflects the nature of an asymmetric war, where conventional military superiority is being challenged through the use of ballistic missiles, drones, and other strategic capabilities. Despite the disparity in strength, Iran has demonstrated resilience and the capacity to sustain its defensive posture under severe pressure.

AJK Chief Secretary meets CEC, pledges full support for upcoming elections



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Chief Secretary, Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Khushhal Khan called on Chief Election Commissioner, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Justice (R) Ghulam Mustafa Mughal. During the meeting, the Chief Secretary congratulated the Chief Election Commissioner on assuming office and expressed his best wishes for him. On this occasion, a detailed and fruitful discussion was held between the two high officials on matters of mutual interest, especially matters related to the conduct of

the upcoming general elections. The Chief Election Commissioner apprised the Chief Secretary of the administrative and other challenges faced by the Election Commission. Chief Secretary Khushhal Khan assured the full support of the government to resolve these issues and said that all available resources will be utilized to ensure the conduct of transparent, fair and timely elections. He said that the government will maintain close coordination and effective coordination with the Election Commission so that the electoral process can be improved, transparent and effective in every respect.

Call to reopen educational institutions from March 24, review of holiday decision urged

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Representatives of the All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association have urged Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to review the decision of keeping educational institutions closed until March 31 and instead announce the reopening of schools from March 24.

The demand was made in a joint statement by the Association's Central President Kashif Adeb Javedani, President North Punjab Abrar Ahmad Khan, Central Senior Vice President Muhammad Furqan Chaudhry, Central Joint Secretary Muhammad Hasnain Chaudhry. They added that despite crises, countries like Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Bhutan continued academic activities, while India, China, and even war-affected Afghanistan kept schools operational. Referring to a petition by student Daniyal Aziz, they said Justice Jawad Hassan had directed authorities to form a uniform academic calendar, but closures continued.

Sardar Attique Welcomed Grandly in Dhirkot After Umrah for Eid Festivities

Bureau Report



DHIRKOT/MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan reached his native Ghaziabad to celebrate Eid festival. He was given a grand welcome by workers and relatives upon his arrival in Dhirkot after performing Umrah. According to the details, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan will offer Eid-ul-Fitr prayers in his native Ghaziabad and after the Eid prayers, he will also go to his native constituency to express his condolences to the families of various personalities on their deaths. When he reached Dhirkot yesterday, he was given a grand welcome. Workers showered him with flower petals and congratulated him on performing Umrah. A large number of workers of the Muslim Conference were present on the occasion. The workers also visited his residence last evening to meet him and continue to congratulate him. Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan will also visit the shrine of his father, the Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan on Eid.

Kashmir leader attends Iftar, meets Pakistani political elite



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan attended an Iftar dinner hosted by Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif's Advisor on Tourism, CEO Centaurus Sardar Yasir Ilyas in Islamabad, where he met prominent political figures. On this occasion, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan was congratulated by participants from political, social, media representatives and other schools of thought on performing Umrah. Chairman Centaurus Group Sardar Muhammad Ilyas Khan and President Centaurus Dr. Sardar Muhammad Arshad Ilyas Khan were also present on the occasion.

PSCA's Prompt Assistance to Field Police Helps to Apprehend Motorcycles Theft Suspect in Sargodha

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab Safe Cities Authority has successfully assisted in apprehending a suspect involved in multiple motorcycles theft and snatching incidents with the help of its integrated security system and smart surveillance cameras. According to details, a Virtual Patrolling Officer deputed at Smart Safe City Sargodha identified a stolen motorcycle through PSCA's advanced camera network. The suspect's movement was continuously monitored using modern surveillance system, enabling authorities to track his location in real time.

According to the spokesperson of Punjab Safe Cities Authority, Safe Cities Operations Team collected digital evidence from multiple locations and carried out technical analysis to trace the suspect successfully. All relevant video footage and digital proof were immediately shared with the concerned field police authorities. Acting on the information provided by Safe City, the police conducted a timely operation and arrested the suspect.

The spokesperson stated that the accused was involved in several incidents of motorcycles theft, snatching and further investigation is underway in this regard. Effective use of modern technology, smart cameras, and digital monitoring systems is playing a vital role in ensuring protection of citizens' lives and property alongwith prevention of crime.

The spokesperson added that citizens are advised to immediately call Emergency Helpline-15 in case of coming across any suspicious activity or emergency so that prompt action can be taken in this regard. PSCA remains fully committed to providing immediate assistance to its citizens and ensuring public safety through the use of modern technology and coordinated response.

'Storm Wears Fury on Sujawal, Thatta, 1 Killed, 25 Injured as Winds, Rain Wrip Through'



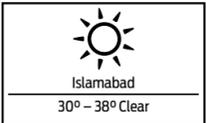
Kamran Khamiso Khawaja

THATTA/SUJAWAL: High-velocity winds along with heavy rain and lightning battered different parts of districts Thatta and Sujawal on Wednesday, bringing civic life to a standstill in the twin districts. Gusty winds started blowing in Sujawal at around 10:30 PM, intensifying and transforming into a thunderstorm, followed by moderate to heavy rain.

As per information gathered from reliable sources, a man was killed while as many as 25 people sustained injuries in rain-related incidents across Sujawal and Thatta districts. Trees, roofs, straw-made houses, and electricity poles were blown away in the wake of the blustery winds.

A man identified as Jaffar Malah, a resident of village Ghulam Malah of Taluka Jati of district Sujawal, was killed when a portion of the roof of his house fell on him. He was rushed to Taluka Hospital Jati, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

The rain has also affected wheat harvesting in both districts, inundating standing wheat crops. The power supply remained suspended, and the weather remained cloudy across the districts till the filing of this report.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:50 am
Zohr	12:16 pm
Asr	4:35 pm
Maghrib	6:18 pm
Isha	7:42 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

MoFE&PT signs LoU with 8 civil society organisations

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MoFE&PT) held a signing ceremony on Thursday for a Letter of Understanding (LoU) with eight civil society organizations at the Ministry.

The ceremony formalized collaboration under the "No Child Left Behind" campaign, aimed at ensuring universal access to education across Islamabad Capital Territory through a coordinated Union Council-wise approach, said a news release.

The Federal Secretary, Nadeem Mehbub, speaking on the occasion, emphasized that the partnerships would significantly strengthen efforts to identify, enroll, and retain Out-of-School Children (OOSC).

He stressed the importance of achieving the target of completing comprehensive household surveys and enrollment of out-of-school children within the next three months. He further highlighted that the initiative includes community outreach and real-time data systems to ensure transparency and effective implementation.

Representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs) reaffirmed their strong commitment to supporting the Federal Ministry of Education in achieving the ambitious target of identifying and enrolling 25,000 out-of-school children in the capital under this initiative.

They pledged to mobilize their networks, invest necessary resources, and actively participate in field operations to ensure no child would be left behind. Emphasizing the collective responsibility of all stakeholders, they expressed optimism that more organizations would come forward in the coming days to join hands in this noble cause and contribute towards securing a brighter future for every child.

The "No Child Left Behind" campaign adopts a structured, data-driven, and community-centered 'Carpet Coverage Plan' at the Union Council level.

'Old Memories, New Lahore': Major Heritage Revival Decisions Finalised

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A high-level meeting on the Lahore Heritage Areas Revival (LAHR) project was held under the chairmanship of PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, in which key decisions were taken to restore the historical identity and cultural heritage of Lahore.

The meeting approved the restoration of original names of roads, streets, and historic government colleges that were later upgraded to universities. It was decided that the term "University" would be removed and institutions would revert to their historic names.

A comprehensive review of ongoing restoration projects of heritage buildings across Lahore was conducted, including visual progress assessments.

Key decisions included the development of a Convent Garden behind Tollinton Market, along with an "Everything

Organic Café." The garden will feature semi-covered areas, shops, and a two-storey underground parking facility.

Plans for a New Museum Block were also reviewed, where world-class galleries—featuring ancient weapons, coins, Chinese and Sikh heritage—will be established, along with interactive digital screens for visitors.

The session also approved converting the route from Shah Alam Gate to Rang Mahal Chowk into a pedestrian walkway. Additionally, eight historic routes within the Walled City will be restored, including areas around Bhati, Mochi, Akbari, Yaki, Masti, and Delhi Gates.

Progress on the expansion project of Data Darbar was reviewed. It was decided that 18 kanal of land will be acquired for expansion, with directions to ensure compensation to affected individuals at market rates.

The initiative reflects a comprehensive effort to revive Lahore's historic character while integrating modern urban



planning for tourism, accessibility, and cultural preservation.

New Era

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with owners of telecommunications companies who participated in the Spectrum Auction License Ceremony, on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Multan Police Ensure Foolproof Security Arrangements During Eid-ul-Fitar

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A meeting was held in the conference hall under the chairmanship of CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar in which a briefing was given on the law and order situation in the city on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, performance indicators (KPIs) and pending challans and a detailed review of police performance was taken.

SSP Operations Multan Haider Ali, SSP Investigation Multan Muhammad Tahir accompanied CPO Multan in this meeting, while divisional SPs, SDPOs, SHOs and other police officers participated.

During the meeting, CPO Multan discussed in detail



the overall performance of the police, crime prevention, redressal of public complaints, and the law and order situation. CPO Sadiq Ali Dogar directed that security arrangements should be made more

effective to ensure the safety of lives and property of citizens on the occasion of Eid and all officers should perform their responsibilities efficiently.

CPO Multan directed all officers to continue effective

operations against criminal elements and conduct targeted operations against drug peddlers, illegal arms holders, dacoit gangs and elements involved in other crimes.

Zong 5G is Live; Leading Pakistan's Digital Journey into a New Era with Commercial 5G Launch!

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: At a defining moment in Pakistan's digital evolution, Zong, Pakistan's leading technology service enterprise, has officially attained its 5G license and commercially launched its 5G services in more than 16 cities including Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, and Quetta. Ushering in a new era of digital connectivity, innovation, and economic acceleration, Zong has a strategic commitment to deploy and upgrade 1,000+ 5G sites nationwide in 2026, driving scale, speed, and impact across Pakistan's digital ecosystem.

This launch reflects a clear strategic commitment: to lead Pakistan's transition into a fully digital, intelligent, and connected future. It marks the culmination of Zong's journey from pioneering Pakistan's first 5G trial in 2019 to deploying a robust, multi-city 5G infrastructure today. Backed by globally benchmarked infrastructure, Zong has already demonstrated speeds exceeding



1.4Gbps in trials, reinforcing its position at the forefront of technological excellence and network innovation.

As a subsidiary of China Mobile Limited, the world's largest telecommunications enterprise, Zong brings global expertise and innovation leadership to build a world-class digital ecosystem in Pakistan, aligned with national growth priorities. In line with the Government's Digital Pakistan vision and Pakistan Vision 2030, its 5G rollout positions the country as a rising

global technology hub while strengthening the CPEC agenda, enabling high-speed, low-latency connectivity to power smart industries, transform healthcare, and drive precision agriculture, accelerating sustainable growth and nationwide digital innovation.

Zong is not just launching a network; it is enabling a future where every individual, business, and industry can thrive in a truly Digital Pakistan.

The era of 5G is live with Zong 5G - Aisa hai future!

NCHD Students secured Top 3 Positions in Non-Formal Education Annual Centralized Exam

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) congratulates its students on securing the top three positions in the Annual Centralized Examination for Grade V (Non-Formal Education / Accelerated Learning Program). The exam, conducted in February 2026 as part of the 'Roadmap to improve Non-Formal Education system in ICT', saw participation from various departments, including FDE Evening ALP Centres, BECS, NEF, and NGOs.

Out of 2,150 registered students, 1,842 appeared in the examination conducted by FDE, with NCHD students emerging as top performers. The results are now available on the Non-Formal Education Management Information System (NFEMIS).

The students who passed the exam are eligible for admissions in FDE schools for further studies. Over 16,000 students from Community Schools and Accelerated Learning Centers (ALP) acquiring education in Islamabad appeared in the annual examination and have been promoted to upper classes.

Director General NCHD said that "This achievement marks a significant milestone in our efforts to bridge the education gap and provide opportunities for marginalized students." "We are proud of our students' hard work and dedication, and we look forward to seeing them transition into the formal education system" he further added.

Four arrested for illegal gold mining in Attock operation

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Police in Attock have arrested four individuals allegedly involved in illegal gold mining during a crackdown conducted within the jurisdiction of Attock Khurd Police Station, officials said on Thursday.

According to police sources, a special team launched an operation against people engaged in unlawful mining activities. During the successful raid, four suspects were taken into custody.

The arrested individuals were identified as Malik Sajjad, son of Zahoor Ahmed and a resident of Boota in Attock district; Abbas Khan, son of Nisar Ahmed from Charsadda; Aziz Ali, son of Murad Ali, also from Charsadda; and Wajid Ali, son of Rahim Khan, a resident of Swabi.

Police also seized machinery and other equipment allegedly being used for illegal gold mining. A case has been registered against the suspects, and further investigation is underway.

Zindigi Launches Pakistan's First Fintech Credit Card

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zindigi, powered by JS Bank, has launched Pakistan's first fintech credit card, marking a major milestone in the country's digital financial evolution.

Built for a mobile-first generation, the Zindigi Credit Card enables customers to complete the entire application journey digitally through the app, with access to credit in minutes, eliminating the need for branch visits and lengthy documentation.

The Zindigi Credit Card is designed to deliver both accessibility and convenience. The platform will also introduce a range of lifestyle benefits, including discounts across dining, travel, shopping, and entertainment.

Speaking on the launch, Noman Azhar, Chief Officer Zindigi, said: "We set out to rethink credit for today's digital users. Our goal is simple, to make access to credit as seamless as using any modern app."

This launch reinforces Zindigi's commitment to innovation, as it continues to redefine financial services and expand access to credit for Pakistan's growing digital population.

Governor KPK expresses sorrow over death of Begum Nilofer

ISLAMABAD:

Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of Begum Nilofer Yasmeen Mehdi.



The deceased was the wife of Dr. Ghaz-anfar Mehdi, said a news release issued here by the party secretariat.

Faisal Kundi attended the funeral prayers of the late Begum and offered condolences to the bereaved family.

He extended his sympathies to her sons, Saqlain Mehdi and Ali Mehdi, as well as her daughter Rabab Mehdi, and other members of the grieving family.

Praying for the departed soul, the Governor said that may Allah Almighty grant her a place in His eternal mercy, elevate her ranks in the hereafter, and give patience and strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

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The Iran War Paradox: Israel Gains, America Bleeds

As the conflict enters its third week—approaching the twentieth day—an urgent and uncomfortable question is beginning to surface across policy circles, media debates, and public discourse: Who is the real beneficiary of this war? Beyond the fog of propaganda, beyond the daily casualty figures and battlefield claims, a clearer geopolitical picture is emerging—one that challenges conventional narratives and exposes a deeply asymmetric outcome.

At first glance, the war appears to be a brutal contest between the United States and Iran, with Israel positioned as a frontline ally. Yet, when the layers are peeled back, a different reality unfolds. Israel, despite limited direct losses, appears to be achieving long-standing strategic objectives. The United States, on the other hand, is bearing the overwhelming burden—militarily, economically, and diplomatically—while Iran, though heavily damaged, occupies a complex middle ground as both victim and resilient actor.

Iran has undoubtedly suffered immense losses. Its military infrastructure has been degraded, key leadership figures targeted, and economic systems disrupted. Strategic assets—ranging from oil facilities to logistical networks—have been hit repeatedly. Civilian hardship is mounting, and the country's economic backbone is under unprecedented strain. In terms of physical destruction, human casualties, and systemic disruption, Iran stands as one of the primary victims of the conflict.

Yet, paradoxically, Iran has also demonstrated a degree of endurance that complicates the narrative of defeat.

Its ability to disrupt shipping lanes, influence regional proxies, and impose costs on its adversaries has elevated its image as a power capable of asymmetric resistance. While materially weakened, Iran has not collapsed—nor has it surrendered strategic leverage.

In contrast, the United States finds itself in an increasingly precarious position. The financial cost alone is staggering, with estimates suggesting expenditures approaching \$1 billion per day when accounting for military deployments, logistics, and operational support. Thousands of American personnel have been deployed across vast distances, stretching supply lines and complicating sustainment efforts. Casualties—both fatalities and injuries—are mounting, further intensifying domestic scrutiny.

More critically, the United States is experiencing a profound erosion of its global image. Long regarded as a stabilizing force and architect of a rules-based international order, Washington now faces accusations of unilateralism and overreach. The perception that it is enforcing its will through military dominance rather than diplomacy is damaging its credibility, particularly among allies and neutral states.

This reputational decline is most visible in the Middle East itself. U. S. bases across the region have come under sustained pressure, with several reportedly damaged or rendered less operational. Gulf states—once reliable partners—are increasingly questioning the

value of hosting American military infrastructure. Rather than ensuring security, these bases have become potential targets, exposing host nations to heightened risks.

The economic repercussions are equally severe. The disruption of the Strait of Hormuz—through which approximately 20% of global oil supply flows—has triggered a sharp spike in energy prices, with increases of up to 40% in some markets. Oil prices exceeding \$100 per barrel have strained global economies, particularly those heavily dependent on imports. Supply chains have been disrupted, inflationary pressures intensified, and growth trajectories derailed.

For many countries, the consequences are existential. Energy shortages are forcing governments to ration fuel, shut down industries, and curtail public services. Universities are closing, businesses are scaling back operations, and entire sectors are slowing to a crawl. The global economy—already fragile—is now facing a contraction driven by the very lifeblood of modern industry: energy.

The Gulf states themselves are among the hardest hit. Nations such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain are grappling with a multifaceted crisis. Oil production facilities and refineries have been damaged or shut down. Airports and critical infrastructure have come under attack. Expatriate populations—the backbone of their economies—are fleeing in large numbers, creating labor shortages and economic instability.

Air traffic, once heavily routed through hubs like Dubai and Doha, is being diverted elsewhere, further eroding revenue streams. Tourism has collapsed, trade has slowed, and investor confidence has weakened. These economies, built on connectivity and stability, are now facing unprecedented disruption.

And yet, amid this widespread devastation, Israel appears remarkably insulated. Its casualty figures remain comparatively low, and its infrastructure has sustained minimal damage relative to the scale of destruction elsewhere. More importantly, Israel is advancing its strategic objectives with striking effectiveness.

For years, Israel has sought to weaken regional adversaries, particularly Iran and its network of allies. This conflict has provided the conditions to do precisely that. Iranian capabilities are being systematically degraded. Regional actors are destabilized. The geopolitical focus has shifted away from Israel's own actions, allowing it greater operational freedom.

In Gaza, military operations continue with reduced international scrutiny. In the West Bank, territorial encroachments are accelerating. In southern Lebanon, intensified strikes are being justified under the pretext of countering militant threats. With global attention diverted to the broader war, Israel is pursuing multiple objectives simultaneously—military, territorial, and political.

Perhaps most significantly, Israel has succeeded in shifting the burden of the conflict onto the United States. Washington is now the face of the war, absorbing the financial costs, diplomatic backlash, and strategic risks. Israel, while

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Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Europeans Against Iran War

Europeans have long been wary that angering Trump could mean he cuts them loose on Ukraine or tries to force Kyiv to accept a deal that favours Moscow. Even the very existence of the NATO alliance has come into question, with countries rattled by Trump's designs on taking Greenland from fellow NATO member Denmark at the start of the year.

While giving no indication that he plans to punish NATO allies, Trump said they had made a "very foolish mistake" in failing to join the U. S. in its military operations in Iran.

Trump reserved particular scorn for British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who he said was "no Winston Churchill", Britain's leader during World War Two.

But Starmer and others have public opinion on their side. A poll by YouGov suggested Britons opposed the attacks by 49% to 28%.

That has forced Nigel Farage's populist Reform UK party and the opposition Conservatives to temper their initial support for the U. S. and Israeli strikes and even to offer some support.

"I'm Keir Starmer's biggest critic, but the war of words coming from the White House is childish," Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch said.

"I don't like to see our Prime Minister be berated by foreign leaders," Robert Jenrick from Reform UK said.

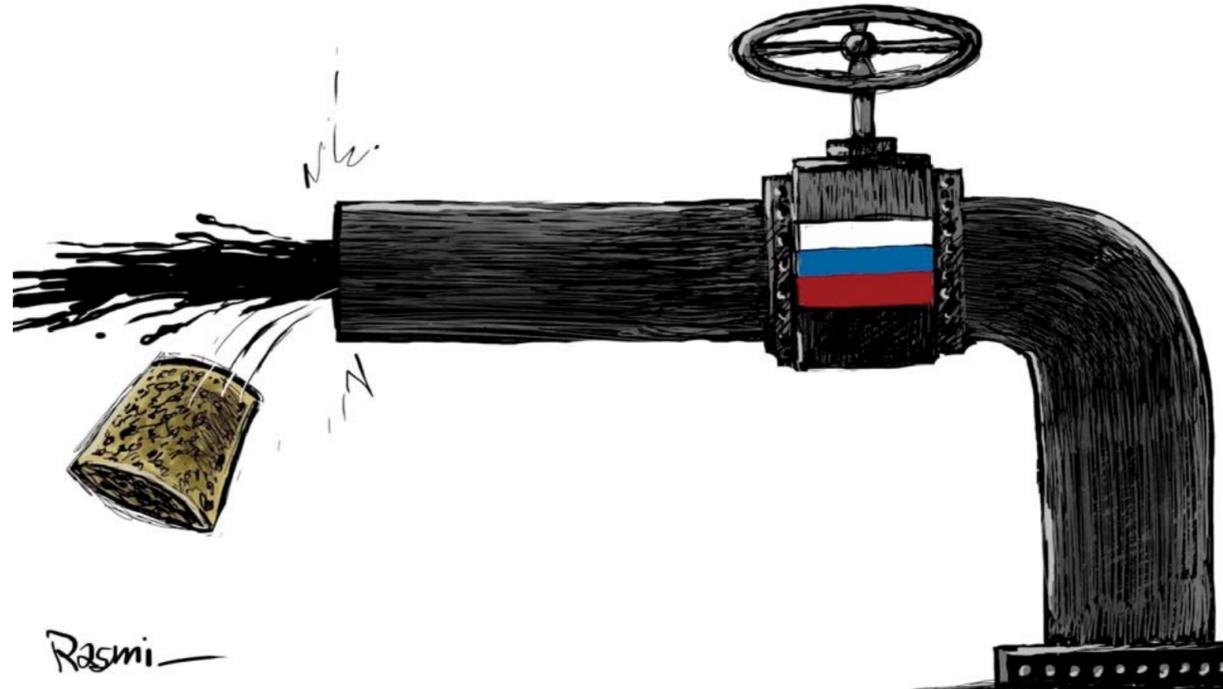
In Spain, Prime Minister Sanchez was quick to denounce the attacks on Iran as reckless and illegal and brushed off threats from Trump to cut trade with Spain if it did not allow jointly operated bases to be used for the war.

"We are certainly not going to be anybody's vassals, we won't tolerate any threats and we'll defend our values," Deputy Prime Minister Maria Jose Montero said earlier in March.

The government's stance is widely shared by Spaniards, with 68% declaring in a poll by Spanish company 40db that they were opposed to the war.

A survey by ARD DeutschlandTrend showed 58% of Germans oppose the war while 25% support it. Criticism has even come from the far-right Alternative for Germany, a party that has courted the Trump administration.

"Donald Trump started out as a peace president—he will end up as a war president," its co-leader Tino Chrupalla said.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awsat)

Pakistan: A Strong, Sovereign and Secure Nation

Pakistan is a strong, sovereign and secure nation whose defense system continues to evolve in response to modern challenges. The responsibility for safeguarding the country lies with its highly professional armed forces, which include the Pakistan Army, Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Air Force. These forces remain vigilant at all times and are fully prepared to respond decisively to any act of aggression. The bravery, discipline and professionalism of Pakistan's armed forces have earned them immense respect both within the country and internationally.

One of the most significant pillars of Pakistan's defense is its modern air defense system. Over the years, the country has developed an effective and technologically advanced air defense network designed to protect its airspace from potential threats. Advanced radar systems, missile defense technology and modern fighter aircraft play a crucial role in monitoring and safeguarding Pakistan's skies. The Pakistan Air Force is equipped with highly capable fighter jets such as the JF-17 Thunder and the F-16, which are recognized for their operational efficiency and combat readiness. These aircraft enable the air force to respond quickly and effectively to any hostile activity in the air. The Pakistan Air Force has a proud history of professionalism and courage. During times of crisis, it has successfully defended the country's airspace and demonstrated remarkable operational capabilities. Continuous training, technological modernization and strong coordination

within the defense network ensure that Pakistan's air defense system remains alert and capable of countering any aerial threat. As a result, the skies of Pakistan are protected by a well-organized and highly efficient defense structure. Similarly, the Pakistan Navy plays a vital role in safeguarding the country's maritime frontiers. Pakistan's coastal areas and sea routes are extremely important for national security as well as for international trade and economic activities. The Pakistan Navy is equipped with modern warships, submarines, maritime surveillance aircraft and advanced monitoring systems. These resources enable the navy to maintain strong security across Pakistan's maritime domain in the Arabian Sea. Naval forces remain active day and night to ensure that the country's sea routes remain safe and secure. In addition to defending Pakistan's maritime boundaries, the Pakistan Navy also participates in international missions aimed at combating piracy and promoting regional stability. Through these initiatives, Pakistan contributes positively to global peace and security while protecting its own national interests.

On land, the Pakistan Army forms the backbone of the country's defense system. The army is responsible for protecting Pakistan's borders and maintaining national security at the ground level. Pakistani soldiers undergo rigorous training and are equipped with modern weapons and advanced military strategies to effectively counter any threat. The Pakistan Army has also played a critical role in the fight against terrorism, conducting successful operations

that have restored peace in several parts of the country.

The sacrifices made by Pakistan Army soldiers in the war against terrorism are deeply respected by the nation. Their courage, dedication and unwavering commitment have helped maintain stability and security within the country. The armed forces of Pakistan remain fully prepared to defend the homeland against any external or internal threat.

Pakistan's defense policy is fundamentally based on the principles of peace and regional stability. The country has always emphasized peaceful coexistence and constructive relations with its neighbors. However, if any adversary attempts to challenge Pakistan's sovereignty or territorial integrity, the armed forces are fully capable of delivering a strong and decisive response. Pakistan's strategic defense capabilities, including its missile technology and deterrence systems, further strengthen the country's national security framework.

The people of Pakistan have complete trust and pride in their armed forces. The entire nation stands united with its military in safeguarding the country's sovereignty and independence. Patriotism, national unity and collective determination remain among the greatest strengths of Pakistan.

In conclusion, Pakistan is a secure and resilient nation supported by a strong and modern defense system. Its advanced air defense capabilities, powerful naval forces and highly trained army ensure that the country remains protected against any threat. With the support of a united nation and dedicated armed forces, Pakistan will continue to safeguard its sovereignty and contribute to peace and stability in the region.



Analysis

Zafar Chishti

'The Balochistan Conundrum: Unravelling the Web of Internal and External Challenges'

Balochistan, the largest province of Pakistan by landmass, is a land of stark contrasts. It is a region blessed with immense natural resources, yet its people grapple with profound deprivation. The issues plaguing the province are not isolated incidents but a complex web of interconnected problems that can be broadly divided into two categories: international and external factors, and deep-seated internal issues. Understanding this duality is crucial to grasping the province's current instability and charting a path toward sustainable peace.

At the heart of Balochistan's turmoil lies a series of devastating internal challenges. Chief among them is poverty. A government-conducted scrutiny in the province revealed a grim reality: nearly half the population lives below the poverty line. It is a bitter irony that the people of this resource-rich land are deprived of basic necessities—food, shelter, medication, education, and clothing. This economic deprivation fuels a sense of injustice and provides fertile ground for discontent.

Closely linked to poverty is the province's ailing education system, which has resulted in the lowest literacy rate in the country. Even among those considered "literate," the definition often extends no further than basic reading and writing. In today's skill-oriented world, this static form of education is a ticket to economic marginalization, leaving the youth unequipped for meaningful employment.

This lack of opportunity directly contributes to the twin crises of unemployment and overpopulation. With an estimated annual growth rate of over 2%, the province's population—officially over 16 million—grows by hundreds of thousands each year. When approximately 40% of the population

is already impoverished, this rapid increase places an unbearable strain on the state's meagre resources and exacerbates the unemployment crisis, trapping the province in a vicious cycle of poverty.

The situation is further inflamed by terrorism and security issues. For decades, the people of Balochistan have been caught in the crossfire between state forces, separatist groups, and sectarian militants. This persistent violence has shattered any semblance of peaceful life, deterred investment, and halted development. The rise of Islamic extremism and sectarianism (the Sunni-Shia divide) has added another deadly layer to this conflict, fragmenting communities and fostering religious and cultural intolerance.

Internally, the province's progress is also crippled by corruption and political instability. The political process has failed to flourish, often manipulated by the same individuals who, despite being held responsible for misgovernance, return to power with the people's support. This cyclical failure is compounded by a host of administrative issues, from poor transportation networks and chaotic urbanization to a deeply entrenched feudal lord system that concentrates power and wealth in the hands of a few. This sense of being politically and economically disenfranchised has fostered a dangerous sense of alienation among the populace.

Balochistan's problems are not homegrown in isolation. Its strategic location, particularly the deep-sea port of Gwadar, has made it a centre-piece of international competition, most notably the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPK). This brings us to the external and international issues.

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Khalil Rehman Gharshin

Message from the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the Occasion of Nowruz

I extend my greetings to all those celebrating Nowruz in Pakistan and in the many parts of the region where this ancient festival marks the advent of spring.

Across Iran, Central Asia, parts of West Asia, South Asia and neighbouring regions, Nowruz has been observed for centuries as the beginning of a new season. It signals the turning of the year in the natural cycle as the day and night, light and darkness not only balance it out but darkness goes in the waning while the light enters the waxing mode. For the communities that observe it,

the day has long been associated with renewal, rebirth, rejuvenation and victory of light over darkness and life over death.

Pakistan is home to a diverse range of cultures, faiths and traditions. Different communities observe their festivals in their own ways, adding to the character of our towns and cities. This diversity has long been part of our national life and remains one of our shared strengths.

This year, as Nowruz arrives, our thoughts and prayers are also with the people of the region who have

the spring under difficult and painful circumstances. In places where the festival has long symbolised renewal, the season now opens amid the debris of damaged schools and hospitals and the lingering traces of violence. At a time when spring would normally bring celebration, many families face loss and uncertainty. Spring flowers in some Nowruz regions are covered with falling debris and blood. Gunpowder in these places is overpowering the sweet scent of the Nowruz flowers. In our next door Afghanistan where Nowruz has been celebrated for centuries, the illegitimate Taliban regime has deprived the people from even this celebration. To the people of Afghanistan who have suffered so long, I want to convey my special Nowruz greetings and hope that



As spring begins, I hope this occasion brings peace, stability and hope to all those celebrating the festival. *Eid-e-Nowruz Mubarak. Pakistan Zindabad.*

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PM felicitates King of Jordan on Eid-ul-Fitr

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Thursday held a telephone conversation with King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

During their warm conversation, the Prime Minister extended Eid greetings and felicitations to His Majesty, the Royal Family and the brotherly people of the Kingdom of Jordan. His Majesty King Abdullah II reciprocated these sentiments. Both leaders also called for peace and harmony in the ranks of the Ummah.

The two leaders discussed the evolving situation in the Middle East.



The Prime Minister expressed deep concern over the ongoing hostilities in

the region. While expressing his strong condemnation of the attacks on Jordan during the ongoing regional escalation, the Prime Minister expressed solidarity with the people of Jordan in these difficult times. He emphasized upon the need for restraint, de-escalation, and diplomatic resolution of tensions.

The Prime Minister fondly recalled His Majesty's visit to Pakistan last November. He reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to further strengthening its close and brotherly relations with Jordan in all areas of shared interest, particularly in trade, investment, and defence.

Both leaders agreed to remain in close contact on bilateral and regional matters.

Hormuz Shock Could Shake Pakistan's Economy: PIDE Study Warns of Inflation Surge and External Pressure

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad – A new study by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) warns of Pakistan's economic vulnerability to a potential disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical energy chokepoints. The research highlights that even a mild global oil supply shock could quickly translate into higher fuel prices, rising inflation, and mounting pressure on Pakistan's external sector. Titled "Pakistan's Exposure to a Strait of Hormuz Shock: Fuel Pricing, Inflation, and External Vulnerability," the study by Ahsan ul Haq Satti and Shahzada M. Naeem Nawaz provides a comprehensive, scenario-based assessment of how global energy disruptions ripple through Pakistan's economy.

Nearly 20% of the world's petroleum supply, around 20 million barrels per day, passes through the Strait of Hormuz, making it a critical artery for global energy flows. Any disruption, whether geopolitical or logistical, can trigger immediate oil price spikes. For Pakistan, an energy-importing economy where over 22% of imports consist of energy products, the implications are profound. The study emphasizes that oil shocks affect not just crude prices but also freight costs, exchange rates, taxes, and domestic pricing structures, ultimately amplifying the impact felt by consumers.

The research challenges the common perception that crude oil prices alone determine domestic fuel costs, highlighting a more complex transmission mechanism. Freight and shipping costs surge during crises, war-risk insurance premiums increase, exchange rate depreciation amplifies import costs, and taxes and margins compound final retail prices. Consequently, global oil shocks translate into multi-layered domestic price shocks, significantly intensifying inflationary pressures. Using a nonlinear scenario framework, the study models three possible outcomes—mild, stress, and severe shocks—with striking findings. A mild shock could push inflation to nearly 8.8% within six months, a stress scenario could see inflation cross 10.4% and become macro-critical, while a severe shock could drive inflation above 12%, fueled by strong second-round effects. Even under conservative assumptions, disinflation trends could be quickly reversed, with diesel-driven transport and food costs amplifying the shock across the economy.

PIDE's message is clear: Pakistan's exposure to global energy shocks is deeper and more complex than commonly understood. A disruption in the Strait of Hormuz is not just an external event—it is a domestic macroeconomic shock in waiting. Fuel pricing, inflation, and external stability are tightly interconnected and must be managed together. The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) is a leading public policy think tank committed to advancing evidence-based, reform-oriented research to guide Pakistan's economic future.

Bulgaria joins joint initiative for decisive action to strengthen competitiveness of European Industry

SOFIA: Bulgaria is joining the joint initiative of the industry ministers of Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain to take decisive action to strengthen the competitiveness of European industry, the Ministry of Economy and Industry said on Thursday.



"We share the understanding that the competitiveness of industry must be a leading priority for European countries, and that the green transition should be implemented in a way that preserves production capacity, encourages investment and safeguards employment within the European Union," the letter from the caretaker Economy and Industry Minister Irina Shtonova to Germany's Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Katherina Reiche states, as quoted in the press release. With the letter, the country officially expresses its willingness to support the initiative, which is a continuation of the Berlin Declaration of November 3, 2025, signed by Bulgaria.

The Ministry recalls that nationally representative employers' organisations and trade unions stated in a joint position their desire for Bulgaria to join the European initiative "Friends of Industry". With the letter sent, the Ministry of Economy and Industry expresses its clear position in seeking the best solutions to strengthen the competitiveness of European industry and to achieve a balanced and investment-oriented approach in a situation with so many global challenges.

At the beginning of the week, employers and trade unions expressed in a joint declaration their serious concern regarding the growing risks to the competitiveness of European and Bulgarian industry arising from the increasing regulatory burden, high energy costs and the instability of the carbon emissions market. They pointed out that in the context of intensified global competition and accelerated industrial transformation, European industry needs policies that create a predictable regulatory environment, encourage investment and protect production chains and jobs within the European Union, and they declared their support for the joint initiative of the industry ministers.

Eid-ul-Fitr: Beyond Celebration—A Call to Compassion and Social Responsibility

Eid-ul-Fitr, one of the most significant occasions in the Islamic world, marks the completion of Ramadan—the sacred month of fasting, reflection, and spiritual discipline. While it is widely viewed as a festival of joy, its deeper meaning lies in gratitude, moral growth, and a renewed sense of responsibility toward others. In essence, Eid is not merely the end of fasting; it is the beginning of a higher ethical awareness.

Fasting, one of the five pillars of Islam, is a unique act of worship grounded in sincerity and inner transformation. A Hadith Qudsi teaches that fasting is devoted entirely to God, and He alone grants its reward. Classical scholars such as Imam Al-Ghazali described fasting as a means to discipline the soul, restrain desires, and refine human character. Ibn Taymiyyah emphasized that the ultimate purpose of fasting is the development of Taqwa—a deep and constant consciousness of God that guides both private and public life.

Contemporary scholar Yusuf al-Qaradawi also highlighted that fasting cultivates empathy by allowing individuals to experience hunger, thereby encouraging compassion for those less fortunate.

Eid-ul-Fitr translates this spiritual discipline into social responsibility. Islam places great emphasis on the rights of others, reminding believers that acts of worship are incomplete without kindness, justice, and concern for fellow human beings. As Imam Nawawi noted, true devotion must be reflected in how we treat others.

This understanding gives Eid a broader purpose. It is a time to reach out to those who are often overlooked—children without families, women facing hardship, and patients who may be alone in hospitals. Offering a meal, sharing time, or simply showing care can restore

dignity and bring comfort. Such gestures are not acts of charity alone; they are expressions of gratitude for the blessings we enjoy.

In many communities, particularly in Pakistan, the spirit of Ramadan is visible through remarkable acts of generosity. Volunteers organize meals for those in need, and individuals quietly serve humanity without seeking recognition. In public hospitals, it is not uncommon to see people delivering food directly to patients, preserving both their dignity and hope. These simple yet powerful acts reflect the true essence of faith in action.

The message of Eid-ul-Fitr, however, extends far beyond a single day. The patience, humility, and generosity cultivated during Ramadan are meant to continue throughout the year. Caring for the vulnerable, supporting the weak, and upholding

human dignity are not temporary duties—they are lasting obligations.

Even nature offers a quiet lesson in resilience and faith. Birds build their nests with dedication; when storms destroy them, they begin again without despair. This persistence reflects a deeper truth about life—steadfastness, patience, and gratitude are at the heart of true faith.

Eid-ul-Fitr, therefore, is not simply a celebration; it is a call to conscience. It reminds us to rise above self-interest, to embrace compassion, and to ensure that no one around us feels forgotten. True success lies not only in worship but in serving humanity with sincerity and dignity.

Let this Eid be meaningful not only in celebration but in action. May we share our time, our resources, and our compassion with those who need them most. May our efforts reflect sincerity, and may our lives embody the values we seek to uphold.

The Writer is Former Professor & Chairman, Department of Entomology, University of Agriculture Faisalabad

Eid al-Fitr: A Message of Spirituality, Brotherhood, and Balance

Eid al-Fitr is not merely a religious festival; rather, it is a multidimensional social, spiritual, and cultural experience that revitalizes the collective life of Muslims with joy, gratitude, and mutual compassion. This day, in essence, is a reward granted at the conclusion of a prolonged spiritual discipline namely, the month of Ramadan during which individuals restrain their desires and practically embody the noble values of patience, sacrifice, and piety. With the sighting of the Eid moon, a unique sense of delight permeates the atmosphere; however, the true essence of this joy lies not in outward preparations, but in the inner state that fills the human heart with humility and gratitude before the Creator.

The central message of Eid al-Fitr is moderation and balance. While Ramadan trains individuals to restrain their desires, Eid allows them to partake in lawful joys. This equilibrium reflects the spirit of Islamic teachings, which neither promote monastic withdrawal nor unrestrained indulgence. The day of Eid reminds us that joy and responsibility, worship and social engagement, personal purification and collective welfare are all interconnected, and it is this balance

that forms the foundation of a healthy society.

The Eid prayer, performed on this occasion, is not merely an act of worship but a grand collective manifestation of unity. In this gathering, rich and poor, rulers and the ruled, stand shoulder to shoulder, presenting a living example of equality and brotherhood. This scene reflects the fundamental truth that in Islam, superiority is determined only by piety, not by wealth, lineage, or status. The post-prayer gestures of embracing one another and exchanging greetings serve to eliminate distances of the heart and strengthen social bonds.

An essential aspect of Eid al-Fitr is the giving of Zakat al-Fitr, which transforms this festival from an individual celebration into a collective welfare system. This charitable obligation ensures that no member of society is deprived of the joys of Eid. Through this act, Islam seeks to establish an economic balance in which resources are distributed fairly, enabling the less fortunate to live with dignity. In this context, Eid reminds us that true

happiness lies in seeing others happy.

However, in the modern era, the spirit of Eid al-Fitr has, to some extent, been overshadowed by materialism and ostentation. Expensive clothing, lavish feasts, and the race for display on social media have dimmed the simplicity and sincerity of this festival. It is imperative that we rediscover the true essence of Eid and revive it in our lives. The purpose of Eid is not to exhibit financial status, but rather to promote humility, gratitude, and mutual love.

Eid al-Fitr also plays a vital role in strengthening family systems. It provides an opportunity to reconnect broken relationships, resolve conflicts, and reinforce bonds of affection. Visiting elders, caring for children, and meeting relatives give this day a special significance. In an age where modern life often pushes individuals toward isolation, occasions like Eid remind us of the importance of collective living.

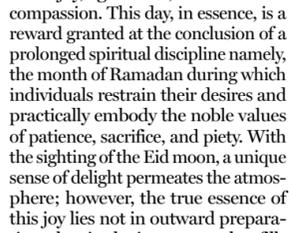
The cultural dimension of Eid al-Fitr is equally significant. While the ways of celebrating may differ across regions, a common element unites them all the

spirit of sharing happiness. Traditional foods, cultural expressions, and local customs add color to the occasion, yet the underlying essence remains rooted in humanity, love, and gratitude.

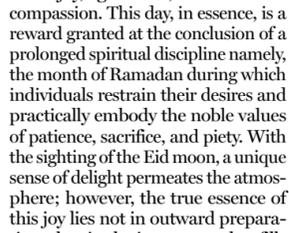
From a global perspective, Eid al-Fitr stands as a powerful symbol of Muslim unity. Across different parts of the world, despite differences in language, culture, and ethnicity, Muslims celebrate this festival on the same day with a shared spirit. This unity reflects the universal message of Islam, which brings people closer together and provides them with a collective identity.

Ultimately, it can be said that Eid al-Fitr is not the conclusion of spiritual and moral training, but its continuation. The qualities developed during Ramadan are tested on Eid whether individuals can sustain patience, gratitude, selflessness, and piety in their daily lives. If these virtues endure beyond Ramadan, then the true success of Eid is achieved.

Therefore, it is essential that we do not celebrate Eid merely as a ritual or festivity, but understand it as a comprehensive moral and social message. It reminds us that true joy lies in sharing with others, true success lies in mastering the self, and true Eid is the one that unites hearts rather than merely decorating homes.



Professor Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif



Dr. Muhammad Tayyab Khan Singhani

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
152,740.37	154,292.25
Day's High	Day's Low
153,322.96	150,728.17
Index Value	Change
16,413,821,816	-1551.88
Percentage	Time
-1.01%	19 Mar, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,059.55	-245.74
Percentage	Time
-2.39%	19 Mar, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
45,872.39	-352.76
Percentage	Time
-0.76%	19 Mar, 11:22 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
53,372.53	-1,866.87
Percentage	Time
-3.38%	19 Mar, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	194.97	198
Bahrain Dinar	731.80	741.80
Canadian Dollar	200.01	205.15
China Yuan	36.60	37.65
Danish Krone	43.32	43.72
Euro	319.98	324.05
Hong Kong Dollar	34.90	35.90
Indian Rupee	2.15	2.45
Japanese Yen	1.7253	1.8245
Kuwaiti Dinar	886.55	896.25
Malaysian Ringgit	65.30	66.50
New Zealand \$	160.71	165.25
Norwegians Krone	27.61	27.91
Omani Riyal	716.00	726.10
Qatari Riyal	73.19	74.35
Saudi Riyal	73.80	74.75
Singapore Dollar	213.84	218.25
Swedish Korona	30.15	30.45
Swiss Franc	355	358.85
Thai Bhat	8.10	8.25
U.A.E Dirham	75.55	76.90
UK Pound Sterling	370.36	374.25
US Dollar	279.25	280.30

PTML (Ufone) enters 5G race armed with the largest share of the global standard 3.5 GHz spectrum

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani telecom operator, Pak Telecom Mobile Limited (PTML), operating as Ufone, has formally entered Pakistan's 5G landscape armed with the largest share of the critical 3500 MHz frequency band, a global standard in 5G connectivity. Subject to regulatory approvals, the planned amalgamation of Telenor Pakistan into Ufone is expected to position the combined entity, MergeCo, as the largest spectrum holder in Pakistan's telecom industry.

MergeCo will hold the largest and most diversified spectrum portfolio of 292.4 MHz, 8 MHz more than the closest competitor, spanning low, mid, and high frequency bands. This will position the company to deliver top quality digital services to both individual and enterprise customers.

PTML (Ufone) followed an aggressive 5G acquisition strategy to secure



the largest share in the 3500 MHz band, which is the global benchmark for 5G, alongside an additional 60 MHz in the 2600 MHz band to deliver blazing fast data speeds and a consistently superior user experience.

Commenting on this milestone, President & CEO, PTCL & Ufone, Hatem Bamatraf said, "PTML now controls the largest share of the global standard 3.5 GHz spectrum, twice as much as any competitor, giving us the ability to set the benchmark for speed and performance in Pakistan. Especially post Telenor Pakistan integration, we will become the largest spectrum holder in the market, which will put us in a position to take digital services to the next level, delivering faster speeds, broader coverage, and experiences that truly matter to our customers. Our goal has always been to build a network that empowers individuals, businesses, and communities across the country, and today we are closer than ever to making that a reality."

Hair Cutting

ISLAMABAD: A barber busy in cutting hair of a customer at his shop, ahead of upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr festival celebration, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

BYD-MMC Delivers 100 Atto 2 Vehicles Across Pakistan in a Single Day

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mega Motor Company (MMC), the official partner of BYD in Pakistan, marked another milestone in the country's growing New Energy Vehicle (NEV) market by delivering 100 Atto 2 vehicles to customers nationwide in a single day.

Commenting on the milestone, Lei Jian, Country Head, BYD Pakistan, said "Pakistan represents an important market in BYD's global vision for new energy mobility. As we continue to expand our portfolio here, our focus remains on making advanced electric vehicle technology accessible to more customers while supporting the country's transition toward cleaner and more sustainable transportation."

Danish Khaliq, Vice President Sales & Strategy at BYD Pakistan-Mega Motor Company, added:

"Reliability and customer trust are central to the BYD experience. As more BYD vehicles take to the roads across



Pakistan, our priority is to ensure that customers receive not only advanced electric vehicles, but also a seamless ownership journey supported by strong service and customer care. The encour-

aging pace of EV adoption and the growing number of BYD vehicles already on the road reflect the increasing confidence Pakistani consumers have in electric mobility."

Rising fuel prices make PHEVs, REEVs the smartest SUV choice for Pakistan, says Chery Master Pakistan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: With petrol prices in Pakistan hovering above Rs320 per litre, the economics of driving a sport utility vehicle are shifting sharply in favour of plug-in hybrids and range-extended electric vehicles, according to Syed Asif Ahmed, Director Sales and Marketing, Chery Master Pakistan.

Pakistan's latest official petrol pricing data shows ex-depot MS petrol at around Rs321 per litre, underscoring how vulnerable everyday mobility remains to imported fuel volatility.

Ahmed said the discus-

sion around new energy vehicles should no longer be limited to environmental positioning alone. "For Pakistani commuters, especially SUV users, this is now a straightforward economic decision," he said. "When fuel prices rise to these levels, the cost of running a conventional petrol SUV becomes a serious burden on household budgets."

PHEVs and REEVs now offer the most practical relief. He said a typical petrol-powered C-segment SUV delivering around 10 kilometres per litre now costs roughly Rs92 per kilometre to run at current petrol rates.

inDrive data signals Eid 2026 surge in travel and deliveries across Pakistan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: A significant increase in intercity travel, ride-hailing, and delivery services is expected across Pakistan during the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr 2026 holidays, according to recent data insights from inDrive.

As Ramadan enters its final days, activity levels traditionally rise sharply, with millions of people traveling between cities to celebrate with family and sending gifts to loved ones.

This seasonal trend continues to drive heightened demand across

mobility and delivery platforms.

Data from the previous year highlights substantial growth across key travel routes during the Eid week compared to the preceding week.

Notably, the Islamabad-Rawalpindi to Murree route recorded a sixfold increase, while Faisalabad to Lahore saw a threefold rise.

Other major routes, including Gujranwala-Lahore and Lahore-Faisalabad, also experienced threefold increases, while the Karachi-Hyderabad corridor witnessed a 2.5 times surge in activity.

A Month in a Lake and Still Working: OPPO's Durability Stuns the Internet

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Smartphones today are more than just gadgets, they are constant companions in our daily lives. From capturing memories and storing important notes to keeping us connected with the world, they travel everywhere with us. Naturally, this also means they face the same unpredictable environments we do: sudden rain, dusty roads, accidental spills, and the occasional drop.

To meet these real-world challenges, smartphone durability has become increasingly important. Among the various protection standards available today, the IP69 rating represents one of the highest levels of resistance against water and dust, designed to withstand not only immersion but also high-pressure water exposure. Recognizing the growing need for stronger and more resilient devices, OPPO has consistently focused on building smartphones that combine advanced technology with dependable durability.

Professional Photographers Gather for Ramadan Iftar in Faisalabad

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: An Iftar dinner ceremony was organized at Hameed Palace Hotel under the auspices of the Professional Photographers Association Registered in Faisalabad. Leaders of organizations from Faisalabad, Jaranwala and other cities participated in the event.

Those who attended the event were welcomed with bouquets. Before Iftar, after reciting the Holy Quran and reciting Naat, prayers were offered for the safety and progress of all Muslims, the soldiers of the Pakistani armed forces and the country of Pakistan. After Iftar, prayers were also arranged.

Chairman Syed Tanveer Hussain Zaidi, along with various guests, distributed shields to the photographers, video cameramen and heads of affiliated institutions who performed best in the remaining part of the event.

Among them were CEO Friends Digital Color Lab Muhammad Shafiq, Director



Dawood Shafiq, CEO Life Marque Muhammad Shahid, Muhammad Yasin (Yasin Camera Center), Muhammad Irfan (Irfan Camera Center), Khizr Hayat (Khizr Camera Center), Muhammad Mahboob (Mehboob Camera Center), Zafar, Khalid Anjum, Muhammad Khalid, Muhammad Hussain, Muhammad

Shakeel, G. Eggen, Azhar Shami, Muhammad Shahid, Shahzad Bhatti, Nadeem Sheikh, Amjad Mattoo, Sameer Mattoo, Muzammil Hira, Imran Mattoo, Zaheer Murad., Shakeel Naik, Imran Mani, Sohail Sardar, Mirza Adil, Moazam, Nasir Shah, Nadeem Goga, Sohail, Ayaz Hussain, Afham Haider, Ahmed Ijaz,

Asim Rashid, Azim Azhar, Muhammad Waseem, Qaiser Nizami, Moazam Yaqoob, Ghulam Dastgir (GD), Irfan, and others were present. On this occasion, Chairman Professional Photographers Association Registered Faisalabad Syed Tanveer Hussain Zaidi said in his message that the month of Ramadan

is of great importance among the months of the year.

It is divided into three decades. The first decade is of mercy, the second is of forgiveness, and the third decade is of freedom from hell. Finally, after the group photo, a delicious dinner was served.

Torrential Rains Cause Loss of Lives, Disrupt Pre-Eid Business Activity: Shamon Zaki Expresses Concern

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Karachi witnessed torrential rains last night that not only paralyzed daily life but also resulted in loss of precious human lives and severely disrupted commercial activity ahead of Eid al-Fitr, prompting concern from President of the Pak-Indonesia Business Forum Shamon Zaki.

According to details, heavy downpours

inundated low-lying areas across the city, turning major roads into waterlogged stretches and bringing the traffic system to a near standstill. Several unfortunate incidents were also reported, leading to casualties.

Reacting to the situation, Shamon Zaki stated that the recent rains have badly affected business activities across the city, particularly at a crucial time when markets were gearing up for peak pre-Eid

sales.

"This period is considered the most important business season of the year, but due to the rains, markets remained largely closed and customer turnout dropped significantly, causing substantial financial losses," he said.

He further noted that disruptions in supply chains, delays in goods transportation, and outages in essential services have worsened the situation, the impact of

which may continue in the coming days.

Expressing sorrow over the loss of lives, Shamon Zaki urged the government and relevant authorities to ensure immediate relief for affected families and to take urgent measures to improve the city's drainage system.

He also emphasized the need to upgrade urban infrastructure in light of increasing climate change impacts to prevent such losses in the future.

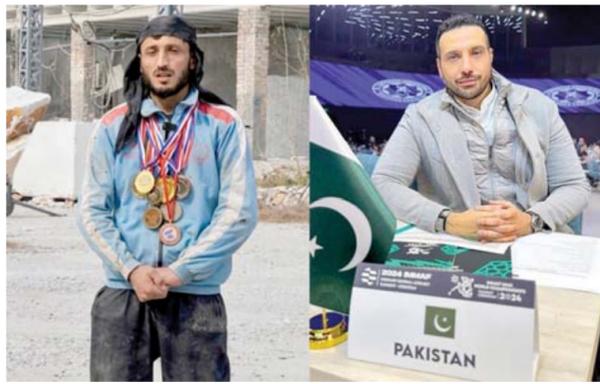
Pakistan MMA Federation building global opportunities for local fighters

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Mixed Martial Arts Federation (PMMAF) President Omar Ahmed has emphasised the need to connect sporting success with professional opportunities, saying that medals alone are not enough to sustain athletes in today's global sports industry.

Ahmed, in a statement issued here, said that while Pakistan continues to produce talented athletes and medal winners across various disciplines, many struggle financially due to the absence of structured professional pathways. "Sport is no longer just competition; it is an industry. If medals do not lead to contracts, rankings, or earnings, then the system needs to be examined," he said.

The PMMAF president noted that Pakistan's sports ecosystem remains largely focused on domestic recognition, with limited integration into international professional markets. According to him, participation in events and national-level success often fail to translate into long-term careers for athletes.



Discussing martial arts, he highlighted the distinction between Olympic disciplines and emerging professional sports. He explained that while sports such as taekwondo, karate, wrestling, and boxing provide international exposure and Olympic opportunities, they often lack sustained professional earning avenues after major competi-

and a pathway to professional careers. "IMMAF serves as a feeder system where amateur athletes can be identified and signed by professional promotions," the PMMAF chief said, adding that fighters can earn between \$25,000 to \$30,000 per bout at the professional level.

Ahmed further said that the Pakistan Mixed Martial Arts Federation has worked to establish a similar pathway within the country. He said the federation has consistently participated in international competitions, secured medals at global and continental levels, and hosted major regional events. He also highlighted the Pakistan Open as a key national platform, explaining that it serves as a selection event for international championships and provides visibility to athletes for global scouting.

"Our goal is to ensure that medals are not the end point but the beginning of a professional journey," he said.

He stressed that Pakistan's broader sports sector could benefit from adopting similar models that prioritise long-term athlete development and integration into global markets.

Iran 'boycotting' USA but not World Cup

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Iran will "boycott the United States" but "not the World Cup", Iranian football federation president Mehdi Taj said in a video released by the Iranian press agency Fars.

Iran is currently scheduled to play its group matches in the US in this year's tournament.

"We will be preparing for the World Cup. We will boycott the United States but not the World Cup," Taj said in the video released on Wednesday.

Iran's football federation has opened talks with FIFA about potentially relo-

ating its matches from the United States, though the global governing body has so far maintained that the tournament's schedule remains unchanged.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said on Tuesday that her country is prepared to host Iran's first-round matches if required, due to the conflict in the Middle East.

Iran's participation at this summer's finals in the United States, Canada and Mexico has been in doubt since the war began last month, with President Donald Trump warning that the safety of Iranian players would be at risk if they travelled to the US.



Asked directly if Mexico was open to hosting the matches, Sheinbaum told a press conference on Tuesday: "Yes."

"Mexico maintains diplomatic relations with every country in the world, therefore we will wait to see what FIFA

decides," she added.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino initially said that Trump had given assurances that the Iranian team — scheduled to face New Zealand and Belgium in Los Angeles, followed by Egypt in Seattle — would still be welcome.

But the Republican president then triggered uproar last week after stating that Iran's football team should not travel to the tournament "for their own life and safety".

Iran hit back at Trump's comments saying that "no one can exclude Iran's national team from the World Cup".

The Iran War Paradox: Israel Gains, America Bleeds

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deeply involved, operates with a degree of insulation that allows it to reap benefits without bearing proportional costs.

When the hierarchy of impact is assessed, a stark picture emerges. Iran, in terms of physical destruction and economic damage, ranks among the most affected. The United States follows closely, bearing immense financial costs and suffering a decline in global standing. The Gulf states, once pillars of regional stability, are experiencing severe economic and security disruptions. The broader international community is grappling with energy

shortages and economic contraction.

At the very bottom of this hierarchy—least affected, yet most strategically advantaged—stands Israel.

This reality demands a fundamental reassessment of strategy, particularly in Washington. The United States must confront a difficult truth: it is investing enormous resources in a conflict that is yielding limited direct benefits while enabling another actor to achieve its long-term objectives.

History offers sobering lessons. From Vietnam to Iraq to Afghanistan, prolonged engagements driven by strategic overconfidence have resulted in costly outcomes and lasting reputa-

tional damage. The current trajectory risks repeating those patterns, with potentially even greater global consequences.

The path forward requires clarity, courage, and a willingness to recalibrate. Continuing down the current course in the name of credibility or face-saving would only deepen the quagmire. Instead, a strategic pivot—grounded in national interest rather than inertia—is essential.

De-escalation, diplomatic engagement, and a redefinition of objectives must replace open-ended military commitment. The United States must ask not only how to win the war, but

whether the war, as currently structured, is worth winning at all.

As the twentieth day approaches, the answer to the central question becomes increasingly clear. This is not a balanced conflict with shared gains and losses. It is a war in which one actor is quietly consolidating advantage while others bear the visible costs.

Recognizing that reality is the first step toward changing it.

The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attaché to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Macomb, Michigan

'The Balochistan Conundrum: Unravelling the Web of Internal and External Challenges'

Continued from Page 4

Foreign interference has long been a grievance cited by both the government and local leaders. It is believed that hostile intelligence agencies exploit the province's internal unrest to destabilize Pakistan. They do so by funding insurgent groups and fuelling the narrative of exploitation, effectively using the Baloch people's genuine grievances as a proxy for their own geopolitical games. This international meddling ensures that the conflict remains simmering, preventing the political process from flourishing and

sabotaging peace efforts.

As the provided materials suggest, all these problems—internal and external—are linked like a chain. Poverty leads to a lack of education, which leads to unemployment. Unemployment fuels a sense of alienation, which is exploited by terrorist groups and foreign elements. Corruption weakens the state's capacity to provide security and implement effective socioeconomic policies, which in turn breeds more poverty.

The failure to conduct fair and free elections and the perpetuation of the feudal system ensure that the admin-

istrative machinery remains broken. The resulting security vacuum allows sectarianism and extremism to flourish, further entrenching religious and cultural intolerance.

In conclusion, the challenges facing Balochistan are immense and multidimensional. They are the product of failed socioeconomic policies, historical neglect, administrative collapse, and a complex geopolitical environment. A piecemeal approach will not work. If one problem—like poverty—remains alive, it will inevitably give birth to another, such as extremism or

insurgency. Therefore, it is a humble but urgent request to the concerned authorities—both federal and provincial—to adopt a holistic strategy. This strategy must simultaneously address economic deprivation through equitable resource distribution, reform the education system, uproot corruption, hold free and fair elections, and engage politically with all stakeholders to counter the sense of alienation. Only by breaking every link in this chain of causality can we hope to bring lasting peace and prosperity to the people of Balochistan.

Messi scores 900th career goal but Miami crash out



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Argentine superstar Lionel Messi bagged the 900th goal of his glittering career on Wednesday but could not prevent Inter Miami from crashing out of the CONCACAF Champions Cup on away goals after a 1-1 draw with Nashville.

Messi, 38, scored his milestone goal after just seven minutes to put Miami 1-0 up in the second leg of their last-16 clash in the regional club competition.

But Nashville's Cristian Espinoza lashed in a 74th-minute equalizer to make it 1-1 on aggregate, and after holding Miami at bay for the remainder of the game, the visitors from Tennessee advanced to the quarter-finals on the away goals rule.

Miami's exit was a bittersweet ending to what had promised to be a night of celebration after Messi's early opener in what was the club's final game at their Chase Stadium home in Fort Lauderdale.

Messi's strike took the Argentine's tally to 81 goals for the MLS champions following his move to Florida in 2023.

The eight-time Ballon D'Or winner previously scored 672 goals for Spanish giants Barcelona, 32 for France's Paris Saint-Germain, and a further 115 international goals for Argentina.

Goal number 900 came some 21 years after Messi's first goal in senior football, when he scored for Barcelona in a 2-0 win over Albacete in 2005 as a fresh-faced 17-year-old.

Messi, widely regarded as the greatest player in football history, still has some way to go before he catches his great rival Cristiano Ronaldo, the 41-year-old Portuguese superstar who is on 965 career goals.

Speaking ahead of Messi's 900th goal, Miami manager and former Argentina and Barcelona team-mate Javier Mascherano described the star's goals total as "insane."

"I've been lucky enough to see most, or many, of the goals he's scored, much closer than you all, and that's a privilege," Mascherano said.

"The number we're talking about (900) is insane, and that's why Leo is a one of a kind."

- New home soon -

Wednesday's match carried added significance for Inter Miami, marking a farewell to the team's Chase Stadium.

The venue has served as Inter Miami's home since the club entered Major League Soccer in 2020. The team will move into a new purpose-built 26,700-seat facility next month.

Messi is strongly expected to play in his sixth World Cup later this year, when Argentina defend their title in the 48-team tournament being staged in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The Argentine star has already extended his Inter Miami contract through to the end of the 2028 season.

Messi's prolific goalscoring has been a hallmark of his career. His 672 goals for Barcelona came in just 778 games — an average of 0.86 per game — helping the Catalan club win 35 trophies before departure to Paris Saint-Germain in 2021.

In France, he scored 32 goals in 75 matches, winning three trophies including two league titles.

In Miami, his 81 goals have come in just 96 appearances, helping the team win the 2023 Leagues Cup and the 2025 MLS Cup.

His 115 international goals have come in 196 matches, including two in the 2022 World Cup final victory over France.

Messi's goals tally leaves him second only to Ronaldo according to most recognised statistical records.

Brazilian legend Pele is often said to have scored more than 1,000 goals but those numbers have been the subject of debate. Most statisticians put Pele's total for Brazil, Santos and New York Cosmos at 762.

PHF to organise 38th National Junior Hockey C'ship in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD, MAR 19 (APP): Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) on Thursday announced to organise the 38th National Junior Hockey Championship at Naseer Bunda Hockey Stadium Islamabad in a bid to promote the sport across the country and unearth young talent at the grassroots level.

PM reviews implementation of fuel saving, austerity measures

Continued from Page 1

He stressed that all relevant departments should be ready for emergency measures until the situation improves.

The participants were told that the implementation of the instructions issued by the Prime Minister was being ensured, and the Intelligence Bureau was also monitoring the situation.

The meeting members also urged that the elite should come forward and set an example of saving and thrift by adopting the spirit of sacrifice.

The government also appealed to the people to adopt measures to save petrol and diesel, so that the risk of disruption of the availability of petroleum products in the coming days could be avoided.

It was announced that "we will have to be ready to deal with every possible situation and adapt our behavior according to the changing circumstances. Carpooling should be adopted to save petrol, and movement should be done collectively. Unnecessary travel should be avoided and

movement should be limited to save oil".

"The entire situation is being monitored, and records of petroleum products are being kept, so that any irregularities can be immediately identified and steps can be taken to remedy the situation," the meeting was told.

Army Chief and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, National Security Advisor, Lieutenant General Muhammad Asim Malik, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema, Law Minister, Azam Nazir Tarar, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Petroleum, Ali Pervaiz Malik, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister for Climate Change, Dr. Musadik Malik, Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecom, Shaza Fatima, Minister of State for Finance and Railways, Bilal Azhar Kayani and relevant senior government officials attended the meeting.

Field Marshal met with Ahl-e-Tashee Ulema

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir is meeting with Ulema of the Ahl-e-Tashee community on Thursday.



Photo: ISPR

Field Marshal Asim Munir interacts with Ahl-e-Tasheeh Ulema

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir interacted with the ulema of the Ahl-e-Tasheeh community at Rawalpindi, where matters of national security and the role of Ulema in societal harmony came under discussion.

A statement issued by the

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the meeting focused on fostering national cohesion, religious tolerance and stability amid evolving security challenges.

The Field Marshal underscored the vital role of Ulema in promoting unity, tolerance and national cohesion, particularly in countering misinformation, sectarian narratives and externally sponsored destabilisation efforts.

Referring to Operation Ghazab-lil-Haq, he emphasised that Pakistan will not tolerate the use of Afghan soil for the conduct of terrorism against its people, and reiterated the resolve to eliminate terrorists and their infrastructure operating against Pakistan wherever they may be, through precise, intelligence-based operations.

He emphasised that the Afghan Taliban must prevent

the use of Afghan soil for terrorism against Pakistan.

The Field Marshal highlighted to the participants Pakistan's efforts and proactive diplomacy in seeking regional de-escalation.

He emphasised the critical role of Ulema to strengthen unity and counter extremism, reiterating that religious sentiments must not be exploited to incite violence in the country.

Violence in Pakistan, on the

basis of incidents occurring in another country, will not be tolerated, the statement added.

During the meeting, the participating Ulema expressed their desire for peace and stability, and condemned violence in the name of religion in the strongest terms.

They expressed wholehearted support for law enforcement agencies in bringing about peace and stability in the country.

DPM calls for dialogue, diplomacy to resolve ongoing conflict; condemns attack on energy infrastructure

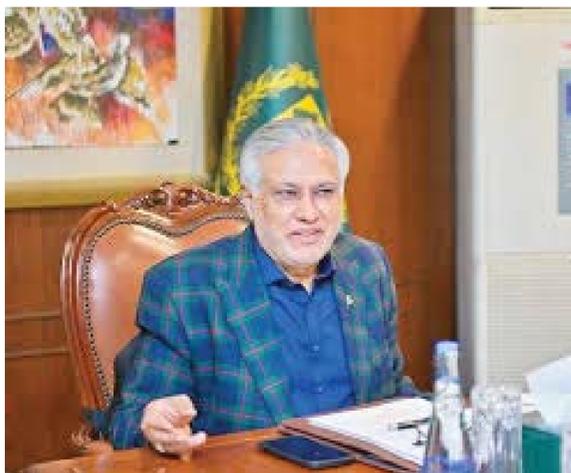
Spokesman Report

RIYADH: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, underscoring the importance of preserving the unity of the Muslim Ummah, called for a swift end to the ongoing conflict in the region and reiterated Pakistan's call for dialogue and diplomacy.

The deputy prime minister, addressing the Ministerial meeting of Arab and Islamic Countries held here, expressed complete support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and political independence of all brotherly regional countries, and emphasised the need to end all attacks against their respective territories.

Hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, the meeting was also attended by the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Syria, Türkiye, and the United Arab Emirates.

The deputy prime minister stressed



the need to address the root causes of the ongoing crisis affecting the wider region and, in this regard, condemned

in the strongest possible terms Israel's continued aggression and provocations against regional countries.

He also condemned the unwarranted attacks on civilians, as well as on energy and critical infrastructure in the region, calling for an end to all such attacks.

Dar urged refraining from any actions that may undermine the energy security of the region and beyond, thereby exacerbating global economic challenges.

The deputy prime minister apprised the participants of Pakistan's ongoing diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis and reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to continue playing a constructive role in helping overcome regional security challenges.

During the visit, Dar conveyed a message of strong solidarity and unwavering support to the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan.

He also attended a Quadrilateral Meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye, held on the sidelines.

Iran says damages U.S. F-35 fighter jet as U.S. report says jet makes emergency landing

Xinhua

CAIRO: Iran said one of its air defense systems struck a U.S. F-35 fighter jet over central Iran early Thursday, leaving the aircraft heavily damaged, according to a statement carried by Iranian media.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said the incident occurred at about 2:50 a.m. (2320 GMT Wednesday), adding that the jet's fate remained unclear and was under investigation, with a crash considered possible.

CNN, citing U.S. military sources, reported that a U.S. F-35 made an emergency landing at a U.S. air base in the Middle East after being hit by Iranian fire.

Iran warns of intensified retaliation if U.S., Israel strike energy sites again

Xinhua

TEHRAN: Iran warned Thursday it would carry out more severe retaliatory strikes if the United States and Israel attack its energy facilities again.

Ebrahim Zolfaghari, spokesman for Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, said in a statement published by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Sepah News that Tehran had not sought to expand the conflict to oil infrastructure or harm the economies of friendly neighboring states.

"Following the enemies' aggression against Iranian energy infrastructure, we have practically entered a new stage of war," he said.

Zolfaghari said Iran's response was ongoing and warned that further attacks would be met with more intense strikes targeting energy infrastructure linked to the United States, Israel and their allies.



On Wednesday, Israel struck Iran's South Pars offshore natural gas field in the Gulf, which it shares with Qatar. Qatar later reported fires and extensive damage at liquefied natural gas facilities following Iranian strikes.

The escalation comes amid heightened tensions after joint U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran began Feb. 28, prompting retaliatory attacks by Iran and its regional allies against Israeli and U.S. interests across the Middle East.

PM reaffirms Pakistan's steadfast solidarity with Turkiye, Gulf countries



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Thursday said he reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast solidarity with Türkiye as well as with other brotherly Gulf countries, and conveyed readiness to support efforts aimed at de-escalation and dialogue.

In a post on X, he said, "Spoke with my dear brother, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of the Republic of Türkiye, this evening and conveyed warm Eid-ul-Fitr greetings to him, his family, and the brotherly people of Türkiye."

"During our most cordial exchange, we discussed the rapidly evolving situation in the Middle East

I strongly condemned the attacks on our brotherly country Türkiye as well as other brotherly countries in the region. We urged maximum restraint and stressed upon the need for resolving differences through dialogue and diplomacy," he added.

The Prime Minister said, "We also exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan and I acknowledged Türkiye's constructive role in supporting peace efforts, between Pakistan and Afghanistan, particularly its contribution towards the recent temporary ceasefire during Eid days."

"We also expressed satisfaction on the positive momentum in our bilateral cooperation across all spheres of mutual interest," he added.

Israeli colonists lunch attack against Palestinian residents near Nablus



Wafa

NABLUS: Israeli colonists attacked Thursday evening Palestinian residents in the village of Beit Ummar, northwest of Nablus.

Local sources said that dozens of colonists attacked multiple homes on

the northern outskirts of the village, physically assaulting residents and spraying them with pepper spray.

The same sources added that the attack took place under the protection of Israeli soldiers, who reportedly fired live ammunition toward the homes.

Israeli colonists attack Ramallah's village, set Palestinian vehicle on fire



Wafa

RAMALLAH: Several Palestinians were injured on Thursday evening during confrontations that erupted with Israeli occupation forces following an attack carried out by Israeli colonists on the village of Abu Falah, northeast of Ramallah.

Activist Ayed Ghafri told Wafa that dozens of colonists attacked the outskirts of the village and set a vehicle on fire. He added that Israeli forces provided protection

to the colonists, and the confrontations resulted in several injuries from rubber-coated metal bullets and cases of suffocation due to tear gas.

According to the Wall and Settlement Resistance Commission, Israeli forces and colonists carried out a total of 1,965 attacks during February, as part of ongoing violations against Palestinians and their property. The occupation army carried out 1,454 attacks, while colonists carried out 511 attacks.