



A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ ہم سے عام بن علی نے بیان کیا ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ میں نے ان کی ذیبت سے بیان کیا ہے ان سے سعید نے بیان کیا ہے ان سے ابو شریح نے بیان کیا ہے ان سے نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے بیان کیا ہے ان سے وہ ایمان والا نہیں۔ واللہ! وہ ایمان والا نہیں۔ واللہ! وہ ایمان والا نہیں۔ عرض کیا کیا کون: پر رسول اللہ ﷺ فرمایا جس کے شر سے اس کا بروی محفوظ نہ ہو۔ (بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6016) Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Daily The Spokesman



Fazl asks PM to take Parliament into confidence over regional tensions

Details have emerged from the in-camera briefing to parliamentary and political leaders in light of the evolving regional and global situation which was chaired by the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House on Wednesday. According to sources, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman proposed that Parliament should be taken into confidence regarding the changing situation in the region, and that political leaders should be briefed inside Parliament.



Pakistan faces petrol shortage as dealers warn of pump closures

Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association has raised an alarm over a potential petrol crisis, warning that the country has only 10 to 14 days of petrol reserves remaining and that fuel pumps may be forced to close. Abdul Sami Khan, representing the association, dismissed claims by the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) and a federal minister, saying government sources were issuing misleading statements about the nation's petroleum reserves.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Ramazanul Mubarak 16, Friday, March 6, 2026

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 320 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on matters related to Ministry of National Food Security and Research on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Dar emphasizes urgent need for de-escalation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday emphasized the urgent need for de-escalation and restraint, to ensure peace and security in the Middle East and the wider region.

The deputy prime minister received the British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott

at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and discussing regional developments with the visiting dignitary, a DPM's Office news release said.

While appreciating Commonwealth's close engagement with Pakistan, the DPM/FM conveyed that he would be unable to attend the forthcoming Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (CFAMM) due to the ongoing regional situation.

PM directs Pakistani embassies in Gulf to stay ready to assist citizens amid current situation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday directed that the Pakistani embassies in Gulf countries must remain readily available at all times to assist Pakistani citizens amid the prevailing situation in the region.

Chairing a meeting regarding the evacuation of Pakistanis from Iran and issues related to Pakistanis residing in Gulf countries, the prime minister expressed gratitude to the brotherly country Azerbaijan for assisting in the evacuation of Pakistanis from Iran. During the meeting the partic-

ipants were briefed on the current situation regarding the evacuation of Pakistanis from Iran.

"By the grace of Allah, Pakistani citizens are safely returning home from Iran, and the Pakistani Embassy in Azerbaijan is fully active in facilitating the process", the prime minister was told.

The meeting was also informed that, on the prime minister's instructions, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was continuously monitoring the entire situation.

A briefing was also given on the measures taken by Pakistani embassies to facilitate Pakistani citizens residing in Gulf countries.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, federal ministers Azam Nazeer Tarar and Attaullah Tarar, Prime Minister's Adviser Rana Sanaullah, Minister of State Talal Chaudhry, Special Assistant Syed Tariq Fatemi, and other senior officials.

Tarar stresses sanctity of diplomatic premises amid protest concerns

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar on Thursday emphasised the need to respect the sanctity of diplomatic premises and urged restraint from both protesters and law enforcement authorities, saying such facilities were protected under international law.

Speaking in the Senate while responding to remarks by the opposition leader, Tarar said embassy buildings and diplomatic missions were considered the territory of the respective country under international law and must therefore be treated with utmost respect. He noted that the issue

required careful handling and called for restraint from all sides. "Diplomatic premises are treated as the territory of the respective state, which is why the country's flag is flown over them," he said, adding that both demonstrators and authorities should remain mindful of the sensitivities involved.

The minister said the government had consistently pursued a policy of de-escalation in the region and had taken swift diplomatic steps following the recent developments.

He told the Senate that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar contacted his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi within two hours of the

incident to discuss the situation and prevent the dispute from spreading further.

The law minister said the government was closely monitoring the evolving regional situation and working to maintain stability.

He added that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was holding multiple meetings daily to review developments relating to Afghanistan, Iran and the Gulf region.

According to the minister, a crisis cell had also been established at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Pakistan) to monitor developments and coordinate the government's response.

Calling for political unity, Tarar



said the country was passing through a sensitive period and urged political parties to present a united stance on matters relating to Pakistan's sovereignty and regional stability.

Pakistan urges stronger climate cooperation at Arctic Circle Rome Forum

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Musadik Masood Malik warned that Pakistan remains among the countries most vulnerable to climate change as he addressed the Arctic Circle Rome Forum, calling for stronger global cooperation and science-based solutions to tackle the accelerating impacts of melting glaciers and extreme weather.

Speaking at the forum's plenary session titled "View from Pakistan: Climate & Poles," the minister highlighted the country's exposure to climate-induced disasters, including glacier melt, rising sea levels and increasingly frequent extreme weather events.

Musadik Malik also participated in a panel discussion on "Science Diplomacy for the Third Pole," where he stressed the need for closer collaboration between scientists and policymakers and urged the international community to advance climate justice and shared research initiatives to address environmental risks affecting mountain and polar regions.

On the sidelines of the forum, Pakistan's embassy in Rome arranged meetings for the minister with a number of international leaders and officials, including Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, chairman of the Arctic Circle and former president of Iceland; Katrín Jakobsdóttir, chair of the Polar Dialogue and former Icelandic prime minister;



Greenland's Foreign Minister Vivian Motzfeldt; Canadian Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Mona Fortier; Norwegian State Secretary Eivind Vad Petersson; and former EU ambassador for Arctic affairs Marie Anne Coninx.

The minister also met Italy's Minister for Universities and Research Anna Maria Bernini and Marco Rusconi, director of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.

During his visit, Musadik Malik held academic engagements at Sapienza University of Rome, where discussions with senior faculty focused on expanding research collaboration and academic linkages with Pakistani institutions.

MoIB fact checker declares ports closure notification fake

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MOIB) on Thursday clarified that a social media notification alleging temporary closure of Pakistani ports was fabricated.

In a statement posted on its official handle X, the ministry's fact-checking team confirmed

no such notification had been issued by the Cabinet Division or the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, dismissing the circulating claim as false.

The fact-checker further noted that the fake notification falsely claimed entry points to all ports in Pakistan had been ordered shut until March 10, 2026, due to the security situation.

Over 1,000 Pakistanis return from Iran amid tensions

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: More than 1,000 Pakistani citizens have returned home from Iran in the past three days as repatriation efforts continue amid the tense situation in the country.

On Tuesday alone, 439 people crossed into Pakistan through the Taftan and Gwadar border points, according to official sources.

From the Taftan border in Chaghi district, 284 individuals arrived, including 223 students and 46 businessmen.

After immigration and security clearance, they were sent to their respective home areas.

Separately, 155 people returned via the Rimdan-Gabd border post in Gwadar, including 59 students and 15 diplomats.

Authorities said necessary facilities and security arrangements have been put in place for returning citizens.

Federal and provincial agencies remain on alert at border points, and officials say all possible assistance is being provided.

Azad Kashmir PM spokesperson visits LoC to back Pakistan forces and honor martyrs

Bureau Report

CHAKOTHI/MUZAFFARABAD: To express solidarity with the Pakistani forces and pay tribute to the martyrs, a delegation led by Spokesperson Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Shaukat Javed Mir visited the Line of Control Chakothi.



They met the brave soldiers on duty. They paid tribute to the military leadership and paid tribute to the martyrs. The Pakistan Army is the pride of the Pakistani Kashmiri nation and the guarantee of invincible defense. The new name of the country is the world-wide reputation. The freedom of occupied Jammu and Kashmir is the role of the Hima-

layas in the face of terrorism and extremism. Chief of Defense Forces Hafiz Syed Asim Munir is a gift from God for the country and the nation. If India commits the folly of

aggression, the nation will prove to be the vanguard and swordsman of its forces, Pakistan, like the battle of Haq Bunyan Marsus, deadlock in the Pak-India talks.

Prime Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore is the protector of national dignity and state identity, said Spokesperson for the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Shaukat Javed Mir while talking to the media during his visit to the Chakothi crossing point of the Line of Control to express solidarity with the Pakistani forces.

He said that the far-sighted policies of the local commanding officers under the leadership of Chief of Army Staff Hafiz Syed Asim Munir,

Commanding Officer Ten Corps Lieutenant General Amir Ahsan, Commanding Officer Chinar Division Major General Zarar Mahmood, have made the Islamic human relations of trust-building between the Pakistan Army and the people invincible.

They said that from Balochistan, South Waziristan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Afghanistan, the Pakistani army destroyed the factories of terrorism, which the Mehreen army could not do. Shaukat Rathore, Khaksar Raja Qasid, Owais Arif Awan, senior journalist Asrar Hamdani expressed his views and said that Pakistan is our destination and the Pakistani army is ours.

NADRA Mobile Registration Vans Get One-Month Extension in AJK



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A press release issued by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission said that in order to facilitate the people to obtain National Identity Card at their doorsteps, the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission, in collaboration with NADRA, had issued a schedule for the departure of Mobile Registration Vans in 07 districts of Azad Kashmir from January 1, 2026 to February 27, 2026 and advertised it for the awareness of the public, while the schedule of NADRA's Mobile Registration Vans for the remaining 03 districts (Haveli, Sidhnoti and Neelum) was issued later, on which a large number of the public took full advantage of the visits of MRVs. On the strong appeal of the public, the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission had again moved NADRA to extend the schedule of mobile registration vans by another 01 month, in light of which NADRA has extended the schedule of mobile registration vans by another 01 month from 02 March 2026 to 31 March 2026. Moreover, 43 registration centers of NADRA in different tehsils of Azad Jammu and Kashmir are already providing this facility to the public, while the commission is trying to establish these centers up to the union council level on behalf of NADRA and it is expected that this effort of the commission will also be successful soon.

Rawalpindi Restaurant Association Demands Withdrawal of Heavy Tax Notices Based on Seating Capacity
City Desk

Rawalpindi: The core committee of the Rawalpindi Restaurants, Caterers, Sweets and Bakers Association Pakistan held an important meeting and expressed serious concern over heavy notices issued by the Punjab Revenue Authority on the basis of sitting capacity.

The meeting was attended by President Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry, Chairman Mumtaz Ahmed, Patron-in-Chief Muhammad Naem Chaudhry, Senior Vice Presidents Zahid Mahmood and Muhammad Imtiaz Chaudhry, and Press Secretary Tariq Khan.

Participants stated that the Punjab Revenue Authority had been informed several times that the notices worth millions of rupees issued on the basis of sitting capacity were not based on facts, and demanded that they be withdrawn immediately to avoid unnecessary difficulties for traders. Association President Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry said the trader community has always cooperated with national institutions and will continue to do so, adding that the association will also promote the message of tax compliance among its members and the public. Later, the core committee members met Punjab Revenue Authority Rawalpindi Commissioner Khalid Yamin Satti and conveyed traders' concerns.

SCI and Zakat Foundation Partner for Dignity-Focused Ramadan Food Drive

ISLAMABAD: In the holy month of Ramadan, the Social Cooperation Initiative (SCI), in heartfelt collaboration with the Zakat Foundation of America, is launching a targeted relief campaign to support those often left in the shadows of society.

On Thursday, March 5, 2026, at Jinnah Garden, SCI will distribute specialized Ramadan food packages to families and individuals struggling to secure their next meal.

While many charitable drives focus on broader communities, this campaign is specifically designed to reach individuals facing extreme social and economic exclusion. Under the leadership of Mr. Sajjad Hussain Malik, CEO of SCI, outreach teams have conducted direct field visits to identify and register widows, members of the transgender community, and homeless individuals who are most in need of assistance. For Mr. Malik, such initiatives represent more than short-term relief. Known for his consistent dedication to humanitarian causes, he views this effort not as a simple distribution of food, but as a meaningful step toward dignity, compassion, and long-term social inclusion.

Through this collaboration, SCI and the Zakat Foundation of America aim to ensure that the true spirit of Ramadan—empathy, sacrifice, and community—reaches every corner of the city, from the organized streets of the capital to the vulnerable spaces beneath its bridges.

Armed men assault minor girl in Bannu for 'wearing boys' attire'

BANNU: In a shocking incident of violence, a minor girl was subjected to a brutal physical assault by a group of armed men, who also recorded the crime and later circulated the video widely on social media.

The incident reportedly took place in the Zairki area of Domail tehsil, where the young girl was allegedly abducted by the armed men. The perpetrators violently beat her for wearing boys' attire and spending time with a boy.

Police officials said that the viral footage shows the assailants telling the girl that she must not be seen in the company of boys in the future. In the video, the assailants are also heard warning her that she must not leave her house under any circumstances in the future.

Authorities added that they are currently examining all aspects of the case, reviewing evidence, and conducting investigations to identify and apprehend those responsible for the assault.

Sindh Action Committee meeting condemns Iran war and highlights provincial issues

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The Sindh Action Committee held a meeting at the G. M. Syed Edifice under the chairmanship of convener Syed Zain Shah. The participants expressed deep concern over the ongoing war involving Iran, the United States, and Israel, warning that the conflict poses a serious threat to regional and global peace.

The committee criticized the Governor of Sindh for allegedly creating divisions and accused President Asif Ali Zardari of supporting him. The Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Punjab government were also accused of attempting to divert Sindh's water through the Jalamla Canal project.

Concerns were raised over rising insecurity, unemployment, corruption, arrests of students and lawyers, and the displacement of local workers by a Chinese company in Karachi's Keamari area.

The meeting announced a series of national conferences across Sindh after Eid:

April 2: Sukkur, hosted by Jeay Sindh Mahaz
April 16: Nawabshah, hosted by JSQM Shaheed Bashir Khan Qureshi faction

April 30: Thatta, hosted by Jeay Sindh Qaumi Party
Participants included Riaz Chandio, Dr Niaz Kalani, Nawaz Khan Zainur, Altaf Khaskheli, Nisar Laghari, Dr Badr Channa, Roshan Ali Buro, Panhal Sario, Allama Ayaz Qumi, Aftab Khanzada, and others.

Warmly welcomed

KOHALA BRIDGE: Spokesperson of AJK Government Shaukat Javed Mir & others warmly welcomed MNA Syed Ali Musa Gilani on his one-day visit to Muzaffarabad.



Kashmiri youth carry legacy of Mirwaiz Yousuf Shah with sacrifices, says Sardar Attique

Spokesman Report

MAKKAH MAKARMA: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that the candle lit by national celebrities and leaders like Mirwaiz Kashmir Maulvi Muhammad Yousuf Shah is being held by Kashmiri youth today and they are keeping this candle lit and shining at the cost of their lives.

In a message on the death anniversary of former President of Azad Kashmir, former President of Muslim Conference Mirwaiz Maulvi

Muhammad Yousuf Shah, he said that the Mirwaiz family has played a historic role in promoting Islamic values in Kashmir and restoring the survival and restoration of the Islamic identity of the state.

The social services of this family cannot be ignored in any way. Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that Maulvi Muhammad Yousuf Shah challenged the usurping forces from the platform of the Muslim Conference during the Dogra era and achieved the historic feat of uniting the Muslims of Kashmir with his ideology of Pakistan.

In this struggle, he also had to



migrate. He said that even today, the

Mirwaiz family is leading the freedom movement in Srinagar.

India has failed to suppress the voice of truth and honesty despite using all its might. The voices rising from the Jama Masjid are challenging India. He said that Mirwaiz Kashmir Maulvi Muhammad Yousuf was a religious scholar, politician, and interpreter of the Quran who provided political and religious guidance to the Kashmiri nation.

The late Mirwaiz also played a vital role in the initial construction and formation of the independent region as the President of Azad Kashmir.

AJK Minister hails Mirwaiz Yousaf Shah's enduring legacy in Kashmir movement

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Minister for Information, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government Chaudhry Muhammad Rafiq Nayar has said that Mirwaiz Maulana Muhammad Yousaf Shah, along with spreading the light of knowledge and action, raised political awareness among the Kashmiri people and gave a new direction to the freedom movement.

The religious, moral and political services of Mirwaiz Maulana Muhammad Yousaf Shah will be written in golden letters in history.

The Information Minister, in his message on the occasion of the death anniversary of Mirwaiz Maulana Muhammad Yousaf Shah, said that the aim of his struggle was to create a society that is based on Islamic values and presents a practical example of unity and solidarity.

His thoughts and practical efforts are still a beacon for us today. In the current circumstances, it is necessary that we further strengthen the Kashmiri freedom movement by carrying forward his mission and highlighting this issue at the global level through effective diplomatic efforts.

Chaudhry Muhammad Rafiq Nayar said that



God willing, the day is not far when the Kashmiri freedom movement will be successful. We will



continue to provide political, diplomatic and moral support to our Kashmiri brothers.

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:09 am
Zohr 12:19 pm
Asr 4:27 pm
Maghrib 6:07 pm
Isha 7:30 pm

EMERGENCY

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

RWMC's door-to-door anti-littering campaign underway across 22 tehsils

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi West Management Company, under the Suthra Punjab programme, has launched a door-to-door anti-littering awareness campaign across 22 tehsils in six districts of the Rawalpindi Division, an RWMC spokesman said Thursday.

The campaign, running in Rawalpindi, Kahuta, Kallar Syedan, Taxila, Gujar Khan, Murree, Kotli Sattian, Attock, Fateh Jang, Pindi Gheb, Hazro, Jand, Hassan Abdal, Jhelum, Sohawa, Pind Dadan Khan, Dina, Chakwal, Choa Saidan Shah, Kallar Kahar, Talagang and Lawa, "aims to educate citizens about proper waste disposal and the penalties for littering," he said.

The spokesman said communication and operations teams were visiting homes and interacting with residents, urging them to cooperate in maintaining cleanliness. Awareness announcements were also being broadcast via speakers in neighbourhoods to remind the public to dispose of waste at designated points.

Citizens were also sensitised to fines under anti-littering laws, ranging from Rs1,000 to Rs700,000 for those found spreading garbage.

CM Punjab approves 'Rehmat Card' for widows and orphaned children

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved the launch of the "Chief Minister Punjab Rehmat Card" for widows and orphaned children deprived of parental care.

A special meeting chaired by the chief

minister decided to introduce the first-ever "Chief Minister Punjab Rehmat Card" initiative in Pakistan for the welfare of widows and orphans. Special Assistant for Ushr and Zakat Rashid Nasrullah briefed the meeting in detail about the project.

The meeting was informed that financial assistance of up to Rs100,000



would be provided through the Rehmat Card programme. In the first phase, more than 40,000 deserving families would benefit. The project will be launched immediately after Eid.

According to the briefing, widows and orphaned children will receive Rs25,000 each through the scheme. Applications for the Rehmat Card can

be submitted through a mobile application, web portal, call centre or the Zakat office.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that every citizen has a rightful share in Punjab's resources and the government will utilise all available means to ensure that assistance reaches those

who deserve it.

She said the Rehmat Card programme aims to help widowed women move towards self-employment and financial independence. She added that Punjab is a province where every citizen is cared for and that the initiative will enable widows and children to lead dignified lives with financial stability.

Ramadan gifts

FAISALABAD: Organized by Friends Color Lab, CEO Muhammad Shafiq, Chairman Professional Photographers Association Syed Tanveer Hussain Zaidi, President Muhammad Ahmed and Information Secretary Abdul Majid are giving Ramadan gifts to cameramen Afzal Shah and Mirza Adil Nisar.



SECP Proposes Referral Incentive Programs to Increase Investor Participation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has proposed the introduction of referral incentive programs to encourage greater investor participation in the capital market. Under the proposed framework, existing investors will be able to refer new clients to securities brokers.

The proposed structured referral programs will be introduced through amendments to the Securities Brokers (Licensing and Operations) Regulations, 2016. In this regard, SECP has published a concept paper proposing the relevant regulatory amendments.

Under the proposed framework, brokers will be allowed to engage their existing clients (referrers) to introduce new investors through structured referral programs. These programs will operate under clearly defined terms and conditions specified by SECP to ensure transparency and investor protection.

SECP's proposed framework seeks to align Pakistan's capital market practices with international standards while maintaining appropriate regulatory oversight and investor protection. The initiative is also expected to support client onboarding and broaden the investor base in the capital market.

School enrollment campaign targeting over 6k children launched



Rafiullah Mandokhel

ZHOB: The district education department in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders kicked off its annual school enrolment campaign for the 2026 academic year, setting a target of enrolling more than 6,000 new students in government-run schools across the district.

Addressing a press conference, the District Education Officer Sheikh Musa Khan Mandokhel said a total of 6,485 children, including 3,847 boys and 2,636 girls, would be enrolled in public sector schools as part of the enrollment initiative.

The EDO was flanked by District Manager of the Education Support Programme (ESP-UNICEF) Razziq Jan Kakar, DOE Wazir Khan Nasar, DDO Zhob Sheikh Daulat Khan Mandokhel, DDO Kakar Khurasan Nasrullah Kakar, president of the teachers' association Syed Mashhood Shah Akhwandzada, president of the clerks' association Malak Sohbat Khan Mandokhel and other representatives.

PSCA's Timely Assistance Leads to Husband's arrest for committing domestic violence

Bureau Report

LAHORE: With the timely and swift assistance of the Punjab Safe Cities Authority, a man involved in domestic violence against his wife has been arrested.

According to the PSCA's spokesperson, the victim's mother contacted the Virtual Women Police Station (VWPS) and sought immediate assistance, informing authorities that her son-in-law had physically assaulted her daughter and forced her out of the house.

The victim's mother further stated that her daughter had been subjected to domestic violence and harassment for a prolonged period. Upon receiving the complaint, the Virtual Women Police Station responded promptly and immediately dispatched the relevant police team to the scene.

According to PSCA's spokesperson, Vehari Police acted swiftly, provided protection to the victim, and arrested the accused. Initial investigation revealed that the suspect verbally abused and physically assaulted his wife following a minor domestic dispute.

A case has been registered, and further legal proceedings are underway against him. The victim's mother expressed her gratitude to the Virtual Women Police Station and Punjab Police for their timely response and effective action.

The spokesperson stated that Punjab Safe Cities Authority is providing rapid support for women's complaints through modern technology. The Virtual Women Police Station enables women to register their complaints with safety and convenience from their homes. The spokesperson also urged women to immediately report any incident of violence, abuse or harassment by dialing emergency Helpline- 15 and pressing 2 to receive immediate assistance.

Conference Highlights Ummahat-ul-Momineen as Moral Blueprint for Muslim Society

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Secretary/Chief Administrator Auqaf Punjab Dr. Ehsan Bhutta has said that the life and character of Hazrat Khadijat-ul-Kubra (RA) serve as a guiding light for women, while the Ummahat-ul-Momineen (RA) dedicated their entire lives to the protection, promotion, and propagation of Islam. He expressed these views while presiding over the "Ummahat-ul-Momineen and Syeda Khatun-e-Jannat (RA) Conference" organized by the Punjab Auqaf and Religious Affairs Department at Aiwan-e-Auqaf, Lahore.

Dr. Ehsan Bhutta said that the noble lives of the Ummahat-ul-Momineen (RA) and Ahl-e-Bait-e-At'har (RA) present a complete model for the Muslim Ummah.

Addressing the conference, Director General Religious Affairs Punjab Shahid Hassan



Kalyani said that Hazrat Khadijat-ul-Kubra (RA) played a vital role in strengthening Islam through her unwavering support, sacrifice, and resources, and stood firmly beside the Holy Prophet (PBUH) in the early

days of Islam.

Other speakers highlighted that the lives and teachings of the Ummahat-ul-Momineen (RA) and Syeda Khatun-e-Jannat (RA) serve as a great source of guidance for the

Muslim Ummah. They stressed that if the Muslim Ummah wishes to move forward with honor and dignity among the nations of the world, it must follow the footsteps of the Ahl-e-Bait-e-At'har (RA).

Faculty Promotions letters distribution ceremony at National Textile University

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The Rector of National Textile University, Faisalabad, Prof. Dr. Rashid Masood, distributed promotion / Appointment letters among faculty members who have recently been promoted to the positions of Professor and Associate Professor, Assistant Professor.

Speaking on the occasion, the Rector congratulated the promoted faculty members and appreciated their dedication to teaching, research, and academic excellence. He stated that such achievements reflect the hard work and commitment of the faculty towards strengthening the academic and research culture of the University.

Dr. Hafsa Jamshaid, Dr. Sheraz Ahmad, Dr. Abher Rasheed, Dr. Syed Talha Ali Hamdani, Dr. Sajjad Ahmad



Baig, Dr. Muhammad Asif has been promoted / appointed as Professors. Dr. Muhammad Qamar Khan, Dr. Amjed Javid, Dr. Muhammad Ali Afzal, Dr.

Muhammad Babar Ramzan, Dr. Rahan Ashraf, Dr. Haseeb Ahmad, Dr. Hafiz Shahzad Maqsood, Dr. Muhammad Zubair, Dr. Kashif Iqbal, Dr. Zafar Javed,

Dr. Ch. Muhammad Nadeem Faisal, Dr. Muhammad Zia Ur Rehman has been promoted / appointed as Associate Professors.

And Dr. Mina Kharal has been appointed as Assistant Professor. Prof. Dr. Rashid Masood expressed confidence that the promoted faculty members would continue to contribute significantly to the development and progress of the University and uphold its academic standards.

The promoted faculty members thanked the Rector and the University administration for their support and reaffirmed their commitment to further enhancing the academic reputation of National Textile University. Salman Saif, Registrar, Rubina Mustafa, Deputy Registrar-HR, and Imran Ahmad, Office Assistant, were also present on the occasion.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almass Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Khurram Jaffrani**
 (jaffrani@adpluse.pk)
Syed Afraz Ali Nazish
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore:
Head Office: AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.
 spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
Phone: +92 51 2227123,
WhatsApp +92 346 5008408
Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,
 Karachi Phone:021-33399390
 Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com
Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
 spokesmanlahore@gmail.com
 Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

The Iran War That Turned Against Trump

The decision to plunge the United States into a direct confrontation with Iran—taken at the urging and strategic direction of Israel—has triggered a chain of events that few in Washington appear to have fully anticipated. What was originally conceived as a swift military operation designed to cripple Iran's capabilities and compel regime change has instead evolved into a widening regional conflict whose consequences are now rippling through military, political, and economic systems across the globe. Inside the United States, the mood has shifted from early confidence to growing anxiety as policymakers, military planners, and the public begin to reckon with the scale of the unfolding crisis.

From the earliest hours of the conflict, Iran responded with an intensity that surprised even seasoned defense analysts. Waves of drones and missiles targeted American and allied installations throughout the Middle East. Several facilities used by U.S. forces experienced direct hits or operational disruption, forcing commanders to reassess their logistics and operational posture across the region. While Washington maintains that the majority of its capabilities remain intact, the attacks have nevertheless exposed the vulnerability of a military architecture heavily dependent on forward bases and allied infrastructure.

These bases—spread across the Gulf and the broader Middle East—serve as the backbone of American air and naval power projection. They are critical for refueling aircraft, replenishing munitions, and maintaining sustained combat operations. Once they became targets, the operational calculus changed dramatically. Aircraft carriers, naval task groups, and combat aircraft that had been positioned for sustained operations suddenly faced logistical strain. War planners who assumed a short campaign now confront

the reality of an adversary capable of prolonged resistance.

Compounding the strategic difficulty has been the hesitation of several allied countries to allow their territory or bases to be used as launch platforms for the campaign. Spain publicly declined to allow its bases to be used for offensive operations against Iran, while Britain clarified that it would not join offensive strikes and imposed restrictions on the use of its installations. Several Gulf states adopted a posture of neutrality, unwilling to risk retaliation by becoming direct participants in the conflict. Even allies who expressed rhetorical support have quietly avoided deeper involvement, reflecting their fear that the war could spread across the region.

This reluctance among partners has further constrained Washington's options. Modern warfare, especially for expeditionary forces like those of the United States, depends not only on military power but also on the political willingness of allies to provide territory, logistics, and legitimacy. When that support becomes uncertain, the operational environment becomes far more complex.

Inside the United States itself, the political atmosphere is rapidly evolving. Members of Congress from both parties have begun questioning the strategic purpose of the war. Media commentators and policy analysts are asking what the ultimate objective is—whether it is regime change, deterrence, or simply punishment. Even the president's own public statements have hinted at a reassessment. After initially projecting confidence in the military campaign, Donald Trump acknowledged in later remarks that Iran had signaled a willingness to talk and that diplomatic channels could

be reopened.

This shift reflects a growing realization that the conflict may not be as controllable as originally assumed. Iran's strategy appears to rely not on conventional military parity but on asymmetric endurance. Years of sanctions forced Tehran to accept that it could not compete with the United States in traditional air and naval warfare. Instead, it invested heavily in missile technology, drones, underground facilities, and decentralized command structures.

Many of its most important missile centers are buried deep beneath mountains or fortified bunkers, rendering them extremely difficult to destroy even with advanced bunker-busting munitions.

As the war drags on, the economic consequences are beginning to reverberate far beyond the battlefield. One of the most dramatic developments has been Iran's declaration that the Strait of Hormuz—the narrow maritime corridor through which a significant portion of the world's oil supply passes—will be closed to commercial shipping except vessels carrying Chinese flags. Whether fully enforceable or not, the announcement alone has sent shockwaves through global energy markets.

Oil prices surged almost immediately. Markets reacted with alarm to the prospect that even partial disruption of shipping through Hormuz could remove millions of barrels of oil per day from global supply chains. The result has been a rapid rise in crude prices, which is already being felt at gasoline stations across the United States and Europe. Higher oil prices inevitably translate into higher transportation costs, and those costs cascade through the entire economy.

The economic logic is straightforward

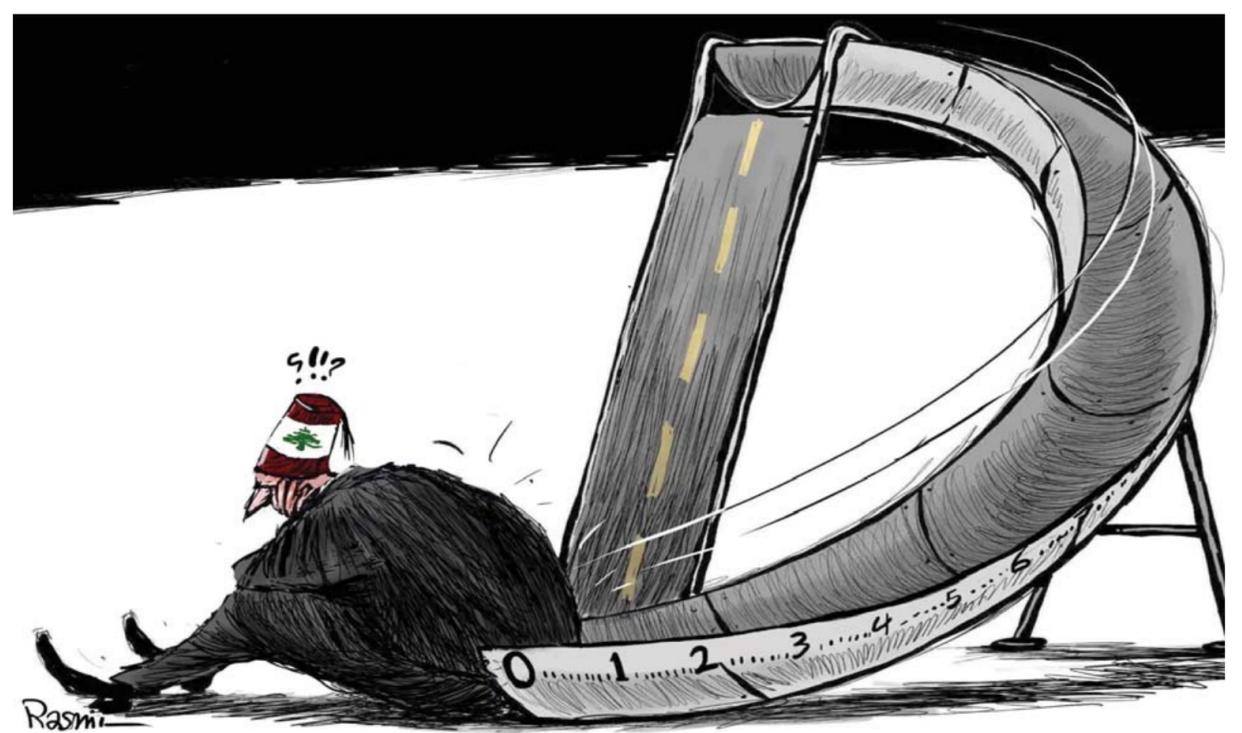
but devastating. When fuel becomes more expensive, the cost of transporting goods—from food to consumer products—increases. Airlines raise ticket prices, trucking companies pass on their fuel surcharges, and shipping costs climb. These increases ripple outward, affecting nearly every product and service used by ordinary citizens. Inflationary pressures intensify, eroding household purchasing power and deepening public frustration.

For political leaders, the consequences are immediate. Rising gasoline prices have historically been among the most sensitive indicators of public discontent in the United States. When voters see the cost of filling their cars jump dramatically, the issue quickly becomes political. Analysts already warn that if the conflict continues to disrupt oil markets, the economic backlash could undermine the administration's domestic support and influence the outcome of upcoming midterm elections.

Beyond the economic sphere lies an even deeper concern: the potential for the conflict to ignite wider instability. Israel has already expanded its operations into neighboring theaters such as Lebanon, attempting to suppress rocket attacks from Hezbollah. Meanwhile, reports indicate that Kurdish opposition groups are being encouraged to challenge the Iranian government, raising the possibility of internal unrest inside Iran itself. Such strategies carry enormous risk. History has repeatedly shown that arming or empowering insurgent groups can produce unintended consequences, sometimes turning yesterday's proxy into tomorrow's adversary.

In the streets of American cities and towns, ordinary citizens are grappling with a mixture of fear and uncertainty. Many worry that a prolonged war could provoke retaliatory actions or terrorist incidents far from the Middle Eastern battlefield. Others question whether the

Continued on Page 7



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

Dar's passionate regional restraint call must be heeded

The Middle East is once again gripped by profound uncertainty, anxiety and strategic unease. Rising military and intelligence operations by the United States and Israel against Iran have pushed the region to the edge of a potentially wider conflict. While no formal declaration of war has been made, a dangerous mix of strikes, retaliatory actions, covert operations and harsh diplomatic rhetoric has created an atmosphere so tense that any miscalculation or provocation could ignite a full-scale conflagration.

In this delicate and decisive moment, Pakistan's Senate heard a powerful and principled address from Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar. Far from being routine parliamentary rhetoric, his speech articulated Pakistan's national position with clarity and delivered a firm, reasoned message to the international community on behalf of a responsible nuclear-armed state.

Senator Dar began by stating unequivocally that Pakistan rejects aggression against any sovereign nation on principle. He reminded the House that the international system is not built on the unrestrained use of power but on respect for laws and treaties. The very spirit of the United Nations Charter, he emphasized, demands that states honour one another's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Any departure from this fundamental principle risks plunging the global order into chaos.

To help understand the roots of the present crisis, Dar took the Senate back to the 1979 Iranian Revolution. Under the leadership of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the revolution dramatically transformed Iran's foreign policy. The severing of diplomatic ties with the United States and open confrontation with Israel laid the foundation for a strategic rivalry that has persisted for decades. Subsequent developments—Iran's nuclear programme, sweeping economic sanctions, cyber attacks and clandestine operations—have only deepened mutual distrust. Today's heightened tensions, Dar observed, are the direct continuation of this long and bitter historical trajectory.

The speech also highlighted the complex dynamics of Gulf politics and the regional balance of power. Iran's significant influence in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen has established it as a major regional player. Yet the same influence has fuelled proxy conflicts and ideological rivalries that keep the region in a state of permanent friction. Iran's competition with Saudi Arabia, the war in Yemen and the security concerns of Gulf states have further complicated the crisis. Pakistan, Dar stressed, attaches equal importance to the stability of all brotherly Muslim countries and has no desire to see the region divided along factional lines.

Turning to more recent events, the Deputy Prime Minister condemned the latest attacks on Iranian territory and the targeted killings of senior military and scientific figures. Such internal infiltration and covert networks, he warned, pose a grave threat to any state's security and national morale. When public confidence in state institutions is undermined, the consequences extend far beyond the mili-

Growing Concerns Over Law and Order and Police Performance in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, the second-largest urban center in Sindh, has recently become the focal point of public debate over law and order, police performance, and citizen safety. Complaints from various parts of the city, concerns voiced by citizens and civil society, and reactions from journalistic circles indicate a widening gap between the performance of law enforcement agencies and public trust.

In the past few weeks, multiple incidents have highlighted clear discrepancies between the administrative structure of the police and its ground-level execution. Citizens, journalists, and civil society representatives note that these concerns became more visible following the appointment of a new SSP.

Residents and civil society members have expressed serious concerns over certain police actions. They say that, at times, the official figures reported by the police do not match ground realities, creating doubts among the public.

According to some social activists, the statistics provided by the police regarding anti-narcotics operations lack transparency. Non-official sources claim that, on multiple occasions, the quantities of seized narcotics reported by authorities differ from what was actually confiscated, eroding public trust.

There are also circulating rumors that the police may have informal arrangements with alleged anti-social elements. While these claims need independent verification, their very presence reflects growing concerns about the erosion of public confidence.

Recently, an incident at the Qasimabad police station involving a senior journalist became a matter of public discussion. During reporting,

some police officers reportedly interfered with the journalist's work, attempted to confiscate cameras, and displayed threatening behavior.

Press organizations and civil society groups have called for a transparent investigation to ensure journalists can perform their duties without interference. Such actions not only affect press freedom but also hinder the flow of information to the public.

On social media, citizens have voiced strong reactions to police behavior, performance, and alleged misconduct. Many questioned the avenues available for citizens seeking justice if they face obstacles even when reporting complaints.

At the same time, some observers note that the police face operational challenges. A growing population, limited resources, and complex crimes place significant pressure on law enforcement, which sometimes affects the effectiveness of their operations.

In Qasimabad, a young rickshaw driver was reportedly detained on allegations of bribery. According to his family, the young man had previously served a sentence in a narcotics case and was now earning a living by driving a rickshaw.

Following his arrest, the family reportedly faced financial demands. They also expressed fear of public exposure, concerned that media attention might lead to additional legal cases against the young man.

In Naseem Nagar, a woman was arrested under circumstances that revealed discrepancies between the police's verbal statements and the official press release. While police verbally stated that she was arrested in a kidnapping case, the official release did not mention her arrest.

Continued on Page 7

Analysis
Sardar Abdul Khaliq Wasi

Analysis
Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

Finance Minister discusses economic reforms and regional economic outlook with British High Commissioner

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a meeting with the British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ms. Jane Marriott CMG OBE, who called on him at the Finance Division today. The meeting focused on regional developments, Pakistan's macroeconomic outlook, progress on economic reforms, and avenues for strengthening bilateral economic cooperation.



The Finance Minister briefed the High Commissioner on the government's proactive approach to managing potential economic implications arising from evolving regional developments. He shared that the Prime Minister has constituted a high-level committee comprising key federal ministries and the State Bank of Pakistan to closely monitor developments and undertake daily stock-taking of critical sectors, particularly energy supplies and global commodity markets. The committee is reviewing supply chains, price movements, and potential disruptions in petroleum products, crude oil, coal, and gas, while also assessing broader implications for

inflation, external accounts, and financial stability.

Senator Aurangzeb emphasized that Pakistan currently maintains adequate reserves and supply arrangements, noting that the government is undertaking scenario planning and sensitivity analysis in case the regional situation persists. The government is also reviewing energy conservation measures and coordinating with provincial authorities to ensure prudent resource management while avoiding unnecessary market panic.

During the discussion, Senator Aurangzeb provided an update on Pakistan's ongoing economic reform

agenda and engagement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under the current programme. He noted that the government remains committed to meeting programme benchmarks and advancing structural reforms, particularly in the areas of tax policy, revenue mobilization, governance, and institutional transparency. He highlighted the government's focus on broadening the tax base through data-driven enforcement and improved compliance, while ensuring fairness across sectors.

Ms. Jane Marriott appreciated the government's commitment to economic reform and reiterated the United Kingdom's continued support

for Pakistan's efforts toward macroeconomic stability and long-term growth. She noted that the UK remains a strong partner in Pakistan's development and economic transformation, including through support for reform initiatives, private sector engagement, and technical cooperation.

The High Commissioner also discussed the importance of promoting investor confidence, particularly in key sectors such as mining and minerals development. Both sides exchanged views on the importance of ensuring stability, good governance, and sustainable development in resource-rich regions to attract international investment and promote inclusive economic growth.

The Finance Minister welcomed the United Kingdom's continued engagement and support for Pakistan's reform agenda. He emphasized that Pakistan is committed to maintaining policy consistency, strengthening governance frameworks, and creating a conducive environment for domestic and foreign investment. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening Pakistan-UK economic cooperation and maintaining close coordination on economic and development priorities.

Trump-Netanyahu Prediction Crumbles as Global Outcry Against Aggression Mounts: Dr. Mehdi Taheri

Spokesman Report

Despite all international frameworks and regulations, the most wretched elements among nations and the most bloodthirsty regimes in the world—whose records are replete with acts ranging from genocide to uniquely disgraceful moral scandals such as the Jeffrey Epstein case—have, without observing legal or diplomatic considerations, undertaken a reckless act by attempting to assassinate the leader of an ancient, civilized, and independent country.



A leader of a nation that, over the past 200 years, has no record of aggression against any other country is allegedly subjected to a cowardly assassination attempt by the leader of a country that, throughout its 250-year history, has spent only sixteen years without war. The claim of justification is baseless: an attempt to assassinate what is described as the strongest leader in the world, in his own home, while engaged in the service of defending his homeland. Such folly has instead elevated him to the status of a hero in the eyes of awakened consciences.

Today it has become clear that the prediction made by Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu—that targeting Iran's leadership would bring an end to the conflict—was an analysis born of ignorance and a misunderstanding of the true position of the Leader of the Revolution within the Islamic world and in the hearts of free people across the globe. We now witness people rising up in condemnation of this aggressive act in the farthest corners of the world, and the transformation of the conflict into a broader regional war.

Accordingly, the United States regime and its proxy forces in the region, by violating the territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic and by assassinating the highest political and legal authority of Iran, have committed a breach of the principle of the prohibition of the use of force, as stipulated in Article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, the assassination of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei constitutes an assault on a religious leader and, pursuant to Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, represents a clear violation of the right to freedom of religion and belief. It has also wounded the sentiments of millions of Muslims and fueled anger and hatred worldwide, contrary to Article 20 of the Covenant.

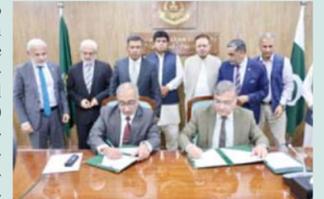
Moreover, this act violates obligations arising from the Convention on the Protection of Internationally Protected Persons, which designates heads of state as internationally protected persons entitled to special protection against attack.

AIOU signs academic collaboration agreement with Bahria University

City Desk

ISLAMABAD:

To promote higher education in the country and provide students with modern digital facilities, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) and Bahria University have signed an important academic collaboration agreement. The partnership aims to promote distance and online education in line with modern requirements and to provide students with easier access to quality educational facilities.



Under the agreement, both universities will promote the use of digital technology and online platforms so that students can benefit from improved opportunities to pursue education from home.

On this occasion, the Vice Chancellor of AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that AIOU has facilities such as a video recording system, a modern data center and a high-capacity printing press and the university can also extend cooperation in these areas.

Russia voices concern over rising tensions on Afghanistan-Pakistan border

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a statement issued on March 4, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said Moscow is closely monitoring the situation.



She said recent fighting along the frontier has raised serious alarm within the Russian government.

The Russian government said this humanitarian situation is worrying.

Russia has expressed deep concern over the growing clashes along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The warning came as reports of armed confrontations and rising casualties continue to emerge from the region.

In a statement issued on March 4, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said Moscow

is closely monitoring the situation. She said recent fighting along the frontier has raised serious alarm within the Russian government.

Zakharova said armed clashes have been reported across almost the entire border region. The fighting is taking place in areas largely inhabited by Pashtun tribes living on both sides of the frontier.

According to the Russian Foreign

Ministry, the clashes have involved heavy weapons and aircraft. This indicates a significant escalation in hostilities between forces along the border.

Casualties have been reported from both sides. However, the exact number of dead and injured has not yet been confirmed.

Russia warned that civilians are suffering the most from the violence. Local residents living near the border are facing fear, displacement and disruption to daily life.

The situation is particularly difficult for Afghan refugees. Many of them had recently returned to Afghanistan after living in neighboring countries such as Pakistan and Iran. Now they are once again caught in the middle of armed conflict.

The Russian government said this

humanitarian situation is worrying. Continued fighting could worsen the conditions for thousands of vulnerable families in border communities.

Moscow has urged both Kabul and Islamabad to show restraint. The Russian Foreign Ministry called on both governments to avoid further military confrontation.

Russia also stressed that disputes between the two neighbors should be resolved through dialogue. The statement emphasized the need for negotiations based on mutual respect and cooperation.

The Afghanistan-Pakistan border has long been a sensitive and disputed region. Security incidents, militant activity and political disagreements have frequently caused tensions between the two countries.

Human Rights Are Under Attack Worldwide: Kashmir Is No Exception

When the 61st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council opened in Geneva on February 23, 2026, the tone set by global leaders was unusually stark. Their warnings were not rhetorical flourishes. They were an alarm about a world in which the very foundations of human rights—carefully constructed after the devastation of World War II—are increasingly under strain.

Ambassador Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro, President of the Human Rights Council, captured the significance of the moment. Addressing the gathering of more than 120 high-level dignitaries from across the globe, he emphasized that their presence sent a powerful message: that the Council mattered, that human rights mattered, and that multilateral cooperation remained indispensable in confronting shared challenges. He urged the international community to treat this session as a renewed call to listen, cooperate, and act—so that the Council could rise to meet the demands of the moment.

The message was reinforced by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, who warned that human rights are under "a full-scale attack around the world." According to him, the rule of law is increasingly being displaced by the rule of force. What makes this trend particularly troubling is that it is no longer hidden or subtle. It is occurring in plain sight, often driven by those who wield the greatest power.

Guterres cautioned that when human rights collapse, the consequences cascade through every other sphere—peace, development, and justice. He appealed to the Human Rights Council not to allow the erosion of human rights to become the acceptable price of political expediency or geopolitical rivalry. If that happens, he warned, the world risks creating a new global order where the powerful operate without limits while the vulnerable are left without protection.

The same concern was echoed by Volker Türk, the United Nations High

Commissioner for Human Rights. He warned of a disturbing resurgence of domination and supremacy in international affairs. Behind the rhetoric of certain leaders, he suggested, lies a belief that they stand above the law—and even above the United Nations Charter itself.

Türk reminded the world that the international human rights system was created precisely to counter such impulses. In times of conflict as well as peace, he said, the United Nations must remain a lifeline for the abused, a megaphone for the silenced, and a steadfast ally for those who risk everything to defend the rights of others.

Similarly, Annalena Baerbock, President of the United Nations General Assembly, described her address as a call to action. History, she observed, rarely records the collapse of large systems in a single dramatic moment. Instead, they erode slowly—rule by rule, commitment by commitment—while those responsible for defending them remain silent. Eventually, what once appeared permanent disappears.

Her warning was direct: silence and inaction are choices. But action is also a choice, and it lies within our collective hands.

A Warning Directed at India

These global concerns about human rights were not merely theoretical. They quickly intersected with concrete developments.

On February 25, 2026, a group of United Nations human rights experts issued a sharp warning to the Government of India regarding persistent allegations of custodial torture, deaths in detention, and extrajudicial killings. They called for urgent independent investigations into reports of hundreds of such killings, torture-related deaths, and thousands of injuries inflicted by law-enforcement officials.

According to the experts, these allegations portray a disturbing pattern of violence that may be systemic rather than sporadic. If substantiated, they would constitute grave violations of the right to life, the absolute prohibition of torture, and the principle of non-discrimination—norms that occupy the

highest rank in international law.

The experts also expressed alarm at persistent reports of torture and ill-treatment in custody, including beatings, electric shocks, sexual violence, psychological humiliation, and denial of medical care. Overcrowded detention facilities and poor conditions further exacerbate the abuse.

Their warning was accompanied by a simple but powerful reminder: silencing those who seek justice is incompatible with an open and democratic society.

Kashmir: A Case the World Cannot Ignore These concerns inevitably bring attention to one of the longest-running and most contentious conflicts in modern history—Kashmir.

For decades, reports of human rights violations in Kashmir have included allegations of extrajudicial killings, torture, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, and sexual violence. Various human rights organizations have documented these abuses over many years.

The magnitude of suffering in the region extends beyond individual violations. Entire communities have lived under prolonged militarization, frequent curfews, communication restrictions, and sweeping emergency laws that grant broad powers to security forces. For ordinary civilians, daily life has often been marked by uncertainty, fear, and disruption.

The existence of laws such as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) has drawn criticism from international human rights groups, which argue that it effectively shields members of the security forces from prosecution for serious abuses. Human Rights Watch and other organizations have long contended that such legal frameworks create an environment of impunity.

Reports of unmarked graves in parts of Kashmir have further intensified concerns. Investigations by local and international organizations have

suggested that some graves may contain victims of enforced disappearances or extrajudicial executions dating back to earlier phases of the conflict.

In addition, restrictions on freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly have repeatedly been documented by international observers. During periods of political tension, authorities have imposed curfews and restricted public gatherings, limiting the ability of people to voice dissent.

A Conflict with Global Implications

The Kashmir dispute is not merely a local or regional issue. It has broader implications for international peace and security.

India and Pakistan—both nuclear-armed states—have fought several wars over the territory. Periodic escalations between them continue to raise

fears that the conflict could spiral into a larger confrontation with global consequences.

For this reason, the dispute has remained on the agenda of the United Nations since 1948, when the Security Council adopted resolutions calling for a peaceful settlement and a process enabling the people of Kashmir to determine their political future.

While circumstances have evolved dramatically over the decades, the fundamental principle underlying those resolutions remains relevant: durable peace cannot be imposed by force. It must rest on legitimacy and consent.

The Need for a Political Solution Ultimately, Kashmir does not lend itself to a military solution. It is a political issue requiring a political settlement.

A sustainable path forward must involve dialogue and diplomacy. India and Pakistan will remain neighbors, bound by geography and history. Any lasting peace in South Asia must therefore include a framework that addresses

the aspirations and sentiments of the Kashmiri people themselves.

The genuine leadership of Kashmir must be included in any negotiations aimed at resolving the dispute. Without their participation and consent, no settlement will achieve legitimacy or durability.

Justice, transparency, and accountability are essential first steps. Allowing independent international human rights observers to access the region would signal a commitment to openness and the rule of law.

The warnings delivered in Geneva at the Human Rights Council should not be treated as abstract reflections on global trends. They are reminders that the credibility of the international human rights system depends on its willingness to address difficult cases wherever they occur.

If the world truly believes that human rights matter, then silence cannot remain the default response.

The writer is Chairman, World Forum for Peace & Justice



Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
161,210.67	155,777.21
Day's High	Day's Low
161,476.84	156,250.28
Index Value	Change
29,240,310,794	+5433.46
Percentage	Time
+3.49%	5 Mar, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
10,413.94	-153.71
Percentage	Time
-1.45%	5 Mar, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
47,921.56	-817.85
Percentage	Time
-1.68%	5 Mar, 12:10 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
55,278.06	+1,032.52
Percentage	Time
+1.90%	5 Mar, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	190.68	195.25
Bahrain Dinar	730.20	740.70
Canadian Dollar	201.67	206.25
China Yuan	38	39.05
Danish Krone	43.32	43.72
Euro	325.31	329.05
Hong Kong Dollar	34.78	35.78
Indian Rupee	2.65	3.05
Japanese Yen	1.7234	1.8234
Kuwaiti Dinar	888.85	898.30
Malaysian Ringgit	65.50	68.65
New Zealand \$	162.59	166.25
Norwegians Krone	27.61	27.91
Omani Riyal	715.15	725.60
Qatari Riyal	74.45	77
Saudi Riyal	73.80	74.80
Singapore Dollar	215.55	222.25
Swedish Korona	30.15	30.45
Swiss Franc	355	358.85
Thai Bhat	6.5	7.25
U.A.E Dirham	75.40	76.90
UK Pound Sterling	374.12	377.98
US Dollar	279.1	280.55

MG Motor Pakistan and SAIC Motor Announce \$20 million Investment

Commerce Desk



LAHORE: In a major vote of confidence in Pakistan's economic outlook and industrial potential, MG Motor Pakistan, backed by global automotive giant SAIC Motor, has announced a \$20 million investment to expand its vehicle manufacturing plant. The expansion is set to introduce advanced automotive technologies to Pakistan and will support the company's plans to broaden its product lineup through the launch of new vehicle models.

This initiative will generate new employment opportunities while strengthening the local automotive supply chain and supporting the continued development of Pakistan's manufacturing ecosystem.

"This investment reflects our long-term confidence in Pakistan's economic potential and its rapidly evolving automotive ecosystem," said CEO of MG Motor Pakistan, Mr. Shao JianQiang, "Pakistan represents an important market for MG, and our commitment remains clear: In Pakistan, For Pakistan. Through this investment we aim to deepen local manufacturing, create export opportunity, jobs, and contribute to the long-term growth of the country's automotive sector."

MG Motor Pakistan has played a significant role in expanding the country's NEV landscape since entering the market, introducing internationally recognized vehicle models while investing in local assembly and manufacturing capabilities.

Executives at SAIC Motor highlighted the strategic importance of the investment for the company's global expansion strategy.

PM commends minister for increase in NHA's revenue, other effective measures

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday appreciated Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and his team for the increase in National Highway Authority (NHA)'s revenue, effective implementation of safety measures on motorways and highways, improvement of service areas, and other initiatives.

He was chairing a meeting to review the performance of the National Highway Authority (NHA).

During the meeting, the prime minister was informed that compared to 2024, NHA's revenue increased from Rs. 66.8 billion to Rs. 109 billion in the fiscal year 2025. "The 63% increase in revenue was made possible through improved toll tax collection and other measures implemented on the prime minister's directives," the meeting was informed.

The prime minister said that the open and transparent auction of NHA toll plazas was a commendable step and directed that the officials.



highest standards of quality must be ensured during the repair and maintenance of motorways.

The meeting was informed that compared to 2024, the use of M-Tag on motorways increased from 20% to 81% in 2025.

Compliance with axle load limits on highways and motorways has reached 90% and 95% respectively, which has helped reduce accidents, lessen pressure on roads, and increase their lifespan, the participants of the meeting were informed.

It was also shared that along with improving existing service areas on motorways, new service areas are also being developed on national highways.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, and other senior government

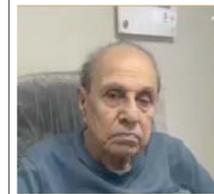
Waiting for customer

RAWALPINDI: A young vendor is selling strawberry on his handcart along Murree Road, in the city.



Photo: Online

There are only 10 to 14 days of petrol reserves in the country, says Petroleum Dealers Association



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Petroleum dealers have expressed serious concern over the unavailability of petrol and warned that the situation could worsen significantly. They stated that petrol may run out across the country.

On Thursday, Chairman of the Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association, Abdul Sami Khan, along with association members Malik Khuda Bakhsh, Tariq Hassan, Amir Khan Mehsood, Malik Sher Khan and others, addressed a press conference at his resi-

denance. He said that OGRA and the Federal Minister for Petroleum are misrepresenting the facts regarding petroleum reserves in the country. According to him, the country has petrol reserves for only 10 to 14 days.

He warned that if petrol is not available at petrol pumps, disputes and unrest could arise. "If petrol is not supplied, we will shut down petrol pumps," he said, requesting the Inspector General of Sindh Police to provide security to petrol pumps.

He further urged the government to reduce levies and taxes to provide relief to the public. He also mentioned reports suggesting that the government is considering setting weekly fuel prices, and he opposed the quota system imposed by oil marketing companies.

PPL launches new CSR schemes worth Rs. 521 million in Balochistan to uplift local communities

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) marks the launch of new CSR schemes in Balochistan with a total allocation of approximately Rs. 521 million, including 64 new scholarships, skills development and employment scheme for 50 local youth and rehabilitation of 10 years old educational and healthcare facilities in District Dera Bugti besides a new separate gas supply pipeline laid in collaboration with SSGCL for far flung colonies within the free gas distribution system of Sui Town at a ceremony organized by the company in Sui, District Dera Bugti on March 5. Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti graced the occasion as Chief Guest, which was hosted by MD & CEO PPL Mohammad Khalid Rehman and attended by MD SSGCL Amin Rajput, members of national assembly, district government, company officials and area



notables.

In his address, CM Mir Sarfaraz Bugti shared his vision for a prosperous Balochistan and highlighted PPL's continued commitment to uplifting underserved communities in the province

through its CSR programme. He shared such initiatives complement the government's efforts in advancing socio-economic development and creating sustainable opportunities for local communities across Balochistan.

Meet TCL SaveIN: The AC that actually lowers your electricity bill

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's leading consumer electronics brand, has announced the launch of its SaveIN Series Air Conditioner, a smart, energy-efficient cooling solution engineered specifically to address the growing burden of rising electricity bills on Pakistani households and businesses.

With electricity prices continuing to climb and peak summer bills becoming increasingly unaffordable for middle-income consumers, TCL has responded with a cooling solution that delivers powerful performance

without the heavy energy cost. The SaveIN Series embodies a single, clear promise: Smart Cooling, Smart Savings.

The SaveIN Series runs on TCL's T-AI Energy Saving chip, think of it as a brain inside your AC that constantly reads the room temperature and adjusts the cooling automatically. Instead of running at full power all the time, it only uses what's needed, cutting out wasted electricity. The result? Up to 37% more electricity savings compared to a regular inverter AC, so your home stays cool, and your bill stays low.

Kaspersky Reports 56% Growth in Mobile Banking cyber hits in 2025

Commerce Desk

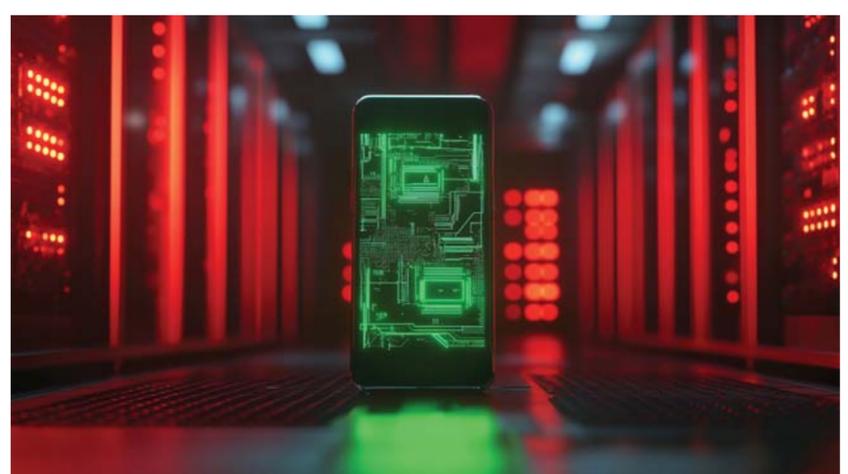
ISLAMABAD: According to a Kaspersky report "Mobile malware evolution," the number of Trojan banker attacks on Android smartphones increased by 56% in 2025 compared to the previous year.

This type of malware is designed to steal user credentials for online banking, e-payment services and credit card systems.

Cybercriminals commonly distribute Trojan bankers through messaging apps, as well as through malicious webpages.

The number of new Trojan banker installation packages for Android (unique APK files) also increased sharply, reaching 255,090 packages - a 271% increase over 2024.

This may indicate that these tools generate substantial profit for



cybercriminals. Kaspersky experts believe that threat actors will continue both to expand delivery

channels and develop new Trojan variants trying to evade detection by security solutions. Among

all detected Trojan bankers, the leading families were Mamont and Creduz.

ICC Men's T-20 Cricket World Cup 2026 2nd Semi-Final India vs England

Asim Tanveer

MUMBAI: T20 World Cup 2026, England out of the tournament despite putting up a great fight, India in the final. England lost by 7 runs in the ICC T20 World Cup 2026 semi-final against India after a great fight. Hosts India, despite scoring 250 plus in Mumbai, managed to win by a huge margin and made it to the final for the second consecutive time and the fourth time overall. This was a big semi-final where more than 500 scores were scored. 2 centuries were seen. The fighting of the English team will be remembered for a long time. The English batsmen could only score 15 runs in the 18th and 19th overs of the innings, which made the difference and they lost by only 7 runs.



In the second major semi-final of the ICC T20 World Cup 2026, England won the toss and elected to bowl first. India's Sanju Samson once again became the man of the match. He played a brilliant innings of 89 runs off just 42 balls. There were 7 sixes



and 8 fours. Abhishek Sharma made 9 and Isha Kishan made 39. Shyom Dubey made 43 runs off 25 balls. Suryakumar Yadav once again remained at 11. Hardik Pandya made 27 off 12 balls and Tilak Verma made 21 off just 7 balls to take India's

total to 253 runs for 7 wickets in 20 overs. India hit 19 sixes in their innings. Will Jacks gave away 40 runs and Adil Rashid took 2 wickets each for 41 runs. Jofra Archer was bowled out for 61 runs in 4 overs and Sam Kiran for 53 runs.



In reply, the English team was seen fighting despite the early wickets falling early. Phil Salt made 5 and Harry Brooke made 7. Tom Bunton also lasted for 17 but Jacob Bethell kept the hopes alive and kept the match alive against India by batting fast.

When England lost Will Jaks on the last ball of 14 overs, who had made 35, their score was 172 for 5 wickets. Jacob Bethell scored a brilliant century. The 45 runs required in the last 3 overs became difficult for England. First Sam Curran went for 18

and then in the last over, Jacob Bethell was run out for 105 off 48 balls. He hit 7 sixes and 8 fours. The English team scored 247 for 7 in 20 overs and lost this semi-final by just 7 runs.

Hardik Pandya took 2 wickets for 38 runs for India.

36 Teams, One Passion: Sujawal's Cricket Frenzy in Ramadan

Kamran Khamiso Khawaja

SUJAWAL/JATI: In Pakistan, cricket and the month of Ramadan share a nostalgic bond, with youth gathering at night under street lights and floodlights in vast grounds across the country to provide entertainment to the common folk. In times when the world is believed to be on the brink of a third world war and uncertainty has gripped the Middle East, the youth of Jati are busy in a Ramzan Night Cricket Tournament, where as many as 36 teams from district Sujawal are trying to take the better of each other.

Players from different areas of district Sujawal converge every night at Al Mugharbeen Cricket Ground Jati to challenge cricketing skills of each other at the Late Aijaz Shah Sherazi Night Tape-Ball Cricket Tournament, attracting thousands of cricket enthusiasts from various parts of district Sujawal and Thatta.

"Cricket is a sport fondly loved by youth and has been the country's most-watched game. During the holy month of Ramadan, its fondness reaches its peak," said Sagar Haneef Thaheem, one of the organizers of the event. He added that the elected Member of National Assembly from the constituency, Syed Ayaz Ali Shah Shirazi, has been among



the key sponsors of the tournament for the last five years. "The support of local stakeholders has encouraged local youth to take part in the tournament," Thaheem said.

Another member of the organizing committee, Shakeel Ramzan Ali, mentioned that the event has been a spectacular opportunity for local players to showcase their cricketing skills. He further added that if such

events continue to be held under official patronage, the day is not far away when players from the remote areas of Sindh will make a mark at an international level.

Imdad Hussain, a locally recognized all-rounder who opens bowling for his team Jiye Biyani and bats in the middle order, was disappointed at the elimination of his team but was satisfied following the popularity of the night

tournament being held every year in their town.

The matches start after Taraweeh prayers and culminate before Sehri timings, providing entertainment to local cricket lovers for the whole night. Shafiq Ahmed, another local player, believes that these cricketing events during the month of Holy Ramadan are also a source of financial benefit for local players.

Punjab open chess championship on 6th

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Punjab sports department is going to organize a two-day Punjab Open Chess Championship – the first ever large-scale chess event of the Punjab province – at the Nishtar

Park Sports Complex gymnasium hall on March 6 (Friday).

The matches will start at 9.00 pm and will continue till Sehri time.

The chess players from all over the country can participate in the grand event in which there is no age

limit.

There will be special arrangements for refreshments and Sehri for all participating players and free accommodation facility will also be available for players coming from other cities.



The Iran War That Turned Against Trump

Continued from Page 4

United States had sufficient justification to launch the attack at a moment when diplomatic negotiations—mediated by Oman—were reportedly making progress toward a nuclear agreement.

According to diplomatic sources involved in those talks, Iran had indicated a willingness to dilute highly enriched uranium by mixing it with lower-grade material, effectively reducing its weapons potential while allowing continued civilian nuclear activity. Negotiators believed a framework agreement was within reach.

If true, the abrupt shift from diplomacy to war has left many observers wondering whether a peaceful solution was abandoned prematurely.

The result is a conflict that now appears increasingly difficult to control. What began as a calculated show of force has become a contest of endurance between a global superpower and a regional state determined to resist. The United States still possesses overwhelming military superiority, yet military power alone cannot easily resolve the complex political and economic dynamics now unfolding.

For that reason, voices calling for

diplomacy are growing louder. Even those who supported the initial strikes increasingly acknowledge that negotiations may be the only realistic path toward de-escalation. Wars often begin with confidence and resolve, but they end through dialogue and compromise.

At this critical juncture, the choice facing Washington is stark. Continuing down the path of escalation risks widening the conflict, destabilizing global markets, and entrenching hostility across the region.

Reopening diplomatic channels, by contrast, offers at least the possibility

of limiting the damage and preventing the war from spiraling into a broader catastrophe.

History may ultimately judge this moment not by the missiles fired or the targets destroyed, but by whether leaders possessed the wisdom to step back from the brink and rediscover the power of diplomacy before the costs became irreversible.

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

Dar's passionate regional restraint call must be heeded

Continued from Page 4

Dar urged the international community to move beyond mere statements and take concrete steps to reduce tensions.

He also warned that when state policies are driven by expansionist ideologies, the risk of conflict inevitably rises. Strategies rooted in the arrogance of power may deliver short-term gains, but their long-term legacy is often generational instability. Pakistan's position remains crystal clear: respect for borders, mutual sovereignty and adherence to international law are the only foundations for lasting peace.

In a broader reflection, Dar pointed to two countries whose policies and expansionist ambitions have repeatedly brought global peace to the brink

and undermines the rule of law. Citizens stress that the situation must be addressed seriously. Transparency, accountability, and better conduct towards the public within the police can restore confidence, strengthen law enforcement, and improve overall security.

Recent incidents and public reactions in Hyderabad indicate serious concerns regarding law and order and police performance. Citizens, journalists, and civil society demand impartial and transparent investigations into all complaints and allegations.

With proper reforms, public trust can be restored, and the enforcement of law strengthened. The current situation in Hyderabad underscores that maintaining law and order is not solely the police's responsibility; transparency, accountability, and public confidence are the fundamental pillars.

confrontation strengthens.

Senator Dar's address in the upper house was therefore a clear signal that Pakistan will neither endorse any expansionist agenda nor allow itself to become a tool in great-power rivalries. Islamabad will continue to champion the path of peace, balance and dialogue. History, he reminded listeners, proves that the arrogance of power ultimately breeds destruction, while justice and moderation alone guarantee enduring stability.

Dar also issued a direct appeal to Iran: it must refrain from actions against other Islamic countries. Any such moves, he cautioned, would not reduce tensions but risk widening the theatre of war. He further emphasised that respect for the Pakistan-Saudi

defence agreement is the responsibility of all parties involved in the conflict.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has decided to brief all parliamentary opposition parties on the evolving situation so that a unified national position can be maintained. At this critical juncture, Pakistan — government and opposition alike, across every school of thought — must demonstrate complete solidarity.

Senator Ishaq Dar's speech was more than a parliamentary intervention; it was a statesmanlike reminder that in an increasingly volatile world, responsible nations must uphold the rule of law, reject aggression and work tirelessly for de-escalation. Pakistan's message is unambiguous: peace is not merely desirable — it is the only viable path forward for the region and the world.

Former captain Misbah-ul-Haq and star cricketers Aqib Javed and Abdul Razzaq will supervise the trials

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muhammad Ali has presided over an important meeting at the Punjab Stadium on Wednesday regarding the search for fresh cricket talent from across the Punjab province. The arrangements for conducting open cricket trials under the Future Star Talent Hunt Program were reviewed in the meeting.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Director Domestic Abdullah Khurram Niazi, Additional Secretary Sports Shabbir Hussain Cheema, Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum and Director Admin Abid Shaukat attended the meeting while all Divisional Sports Officers of Punjab participated in the meeting through video link.

Secretary Sports Punjab Muhammad Ali has directed all the Divisional Sports Officers to make best arrangements for the conducting open cricket trials. PCB Director Domestic Abdullah Khurram Niazi gave a detailed briefing about the Talent Hunt Program.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary Sports Punjab Muhammad Ali said that former captain Misbah-ul-Haq and Test stars Aqib Javed and Abdul Razzaq will supervise the open cricket trials. "Punjab Sports Department will extend all possible support and facilities for conducting open cricket trials".

Secretary Sports Punjab Muhammad Ali said that there is no age limit in the trials and all Divisional Sports Officers should bring the best players of their respective areas in the open cricket trials. "The talented cricket players from all clubs and even street cricket players can also participate in the trials".

PSL management shares tentative schedule with franchises

Sports Desk

Pakistan Super League (PSL-11) management has shared a tentative schedule with franchises with Lahore to host most matches, reported 24NewsHD TV channel on Thursday.

According to sources, a schedule of 44 matches for PSL-11 has been shared with franchises.

Lahore will host the highest number of PSL matches and 14 matches of the league will be played in Lahore while 10 in Rawalpindi, 7 in Faisalabad, 4 in Multan, 6 in Karachi, 2 in Peshawar are scheduled. For the first time, league matches will also be held in Faisalabad and Peshawar.

The opening match of PSL-11 will be between Hyderabad Kingsmen and Lahore Qalandars on March 26.

Quetta Gladiators and Karachi Kings will compete in Lahore on March 27.

There will be seven double headers in the league.

The first qualifier will be played in Rawalpindi on May 2.

The first eliminator will be played on May 3 while the second eliminator will be played in Lahore on May 5.

A proposal to hold the final in the US or England is under consideration.

A proposal to hold the final in Lahore if it is held in Pakistan.

The final decision regarding the final will be taken by PCB Chairman Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi. The official schedule of the league will be announced in the next couple of days.

Growing Concerns Over Law and Order and Police Performance in Hyderabad

Continued from Page 4

This inconsistency has raised questions in journalistic circles. The woman's family stated that she was detained at night without clear explanation, raising concerns about citizen safety and due process.

Analysts say the main challenge in Hyderabad's policing is the gap between command-level decisions and ground-level execution. Although policies are made at higher levels, full implementation at the police station level often falls short, affecting not only crime prevention but also resolution of citizens' grievances.

This gap tends to favor influential individuals while ordinary citizens face barriers in accessing justice.

Legal experts emphasize that trust between the police and the public is critical. Weakening this trust hampers crime prevention

Petrol Prices Monitor Committee meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chaired a meeting of the Committee to Monitor Petrol Prices in the Wake of the Emerging Situation in the Region, at the Finance Division on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Cabinet Committee aligns provinces on energy supply position

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Committee to Monitor Petrol Prices in the Wake of the Emerging Situation in the Region, constituted by the Prime Minister, was held today under the chairmanship of the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Finance Division to review developments in the energy sector and assess national preparedness measures.

The Committee reviewed ongoing efforts to strengthen supply assurance through diversified sourcing and logistics arrangements. Updates were shared on diplomatic and commercial engagements being pursued with friendly countries and partner suppliers to secure additional crude and refined product volumes through alternate routes and ports, including options outside high-risk corridors.

The Committee also considered shipping and

operational measures to reduce time lags, including facilitation of timely berthing and the use of available national shipping capacity where feasible.

The Committee also reviewed the LNG and LPG situation, including supply chain risks, shipment schedules, and terminal operations. Members discussed contingency options to manage demand efficiently if disruptions linger, while protecting priority sectors and maintaining orderly conditions. In

line with broader preparedness planning, the Committee examined a phased menu of fuel conservation measures drawing on institutional protocols implemented during prior national emergencies to support demand management if needed, while carefully calibrating communications to avoid any perception of undue alarm.

The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Petroleum Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik, Federal Minister for National Food Security and

Research Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Commerce Mr. Jam Kamal Khan, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mr. Attaullah Tarar (virtually), Minister of State for Finance Mr. Bilal Azhar Kayani, Governor State Bank of Pakistan Mr. Jameel Ahmad along with federal secretaries, Chief Secretaries and Senior Secretaries of all Provinces, and senior officials from the concerned ministries, divisions and regulatory bodies.

PM speaks with Malaysian counterpart, expresses concern over ongoing escalation in ME

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Prime Minister Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia on Thursday spoke on telephone and expressed his serious concern over the ongoing escalation in the Middle East, following Israel's attacks against Iran and the subsequent attacks against brotherly Gulf countries.

He emphasized on the imperative of upholding respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states, as enshrined in the UN Charter and international law and urged all parties to exercise restraint, end hostilities



ties and resolve their differences through diplomacy and

dialogue. During the discussion,

the two leaders agreed that restoration of peace and a

swift return to normalcy was essential, but this could be achieved only through exercise of maximum restraint by all parties involved. In this regard, they agreed to work together and coordinate their positions on a regular basis.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also briefed Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on recent developments in the context of Afghanistan.

He especially shared the efforts being undertaken to secure Pakistan against terrorist elements, while eradicating terrorism from the region and beyond.

Both leaders agreed to maintain close coordination on all issues of mutual interest.

Afghan Taliban must choose between Pakistan and militants: ISPR briefing

News Desk

PESHAWAR: Journalists from various districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa attended an important briefing at Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) regarding the ongoing counterterrorism campaign, Operation Ghazab Lil-Haq.

During the meeting, officials said that Pakistan has no conflict with Afghanistan or the Afghan people, but alleged that the Afghan Taliban regime was acting as a "proxy master" facilitating terrorist organisations in the region. They said the situation had become a threat to regional peace and stability.

Officials stated that the Afghan Taliban leadership would have to decide between maintaining relations with Pakistan or continuing to support militant groups. They added that Operation Ghazab Lil-Haq was a continuation of Pakistan's ongoing war against terrorism and would continue until credible guarantees and practical measures were taken to end the alleged



sponsorship of militant activities. The briefing also addressed the activities of groups described as "Khawarij," accusing them of promoting a distorted interpretation of Islam. Officials said Islam had no connection with terrorism or suicide attacks and condemned the killing of innocent people, attacks on mosques,

and violence against women.

Participants were told that Pakistani forces were targeting hideouts, facilitation centres, and border-adjacent launching pads of militant groups described as Fitna-ul-Khawarij and Fitna-ul-Hindustan. According to the briefing, operations were being conducted strictly on the basis of veri-

fied intelligence and aimed only at militant infrastructure.

Officials rejected reports suggesting that civilian populations were being targeted, calling such claims contrary to facts. They said the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Pakistan) and security institutions were providing regular updates and releasing verified video footage regarding the progress of the operation.

The meeting was also told that intelligence-based operations were continuing inside Pakistan, with more than 200 such operations reportedly being carried out daily against suspected militant networks.

Officials emphasised that national unity and full implementation of the National Action Plan (Pakistan) were essential for eliminating terrorism. They also reiterated that Pakistan sought constructive and positive relations with all countries while remaining committed to defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

President calls for restraint amid reported escalation in the region



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has expressed deep concern over recent reports of missile activity in the region, including projectiles reportedly landing in areas of Türkiye and Azerbaijan.

The President noted that developments of this nature risk heightening tensions at a time when stability and dialogue are essential, underscoring the fragility of the regional security environment. He said escalation in

the region serves no country's interest and could have wider implications for peace and security.

President Zardari urged all concerned parties to exercise maximum restraint, avoid further escalation and prioritise diplomatic channels to address concerns and differences.

The President underscored that engagement and constructive dialogue remain the most viable path to reducing tensions and safeguarding regional stability.

PM, Indonesian President urge all parties to exercise maximum restraint



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday held a telephone conversation with President of Indonesia Prabowo Subianto and expressed deep concern over the escalating crisis in the Middle East.

During the conversation, the two leaders agreed to work together to urge all parties to exercise maximum restraint, while pursuing sincere and serious initiatives to resolve all outstanding differences, through constructive dialogue and diplomacy.

The prime minister strongly condemned Israel's attacks on Iran, as well as the subsequent regrettable attacks on other brotherly Gulf countries.

He informed the Indonesian President of Pakistan's diplomatic outreach efforts with all the Gulf countries in the aftermath of the crisis.

During the telephone call, the prime minister also briefed President Prabowo Subianto on recent developments vis-a-vis Afghanistan. The two leaders agreed to remain in close contact in coming days.

ECP summons interior minister over delay in Islamabad LG polls



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday issued a contempt notice to the interior secretary over his failure to appear in a hearing related to the delay in local government elections in Islamabad.

A five-member bench of the commission, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, heard the case.

During the proceedings, Islamabad Chief Commissioner Ali Randhawa appeared before the commission, while the interior secretary did not attend the hearing.

The chief election commissioner questioned the absence of the interior secretary and directed that a contempt of commission notice be issued against him.

He also ordered that Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi appear in person at the next hearing if the secretary continues to remain absent.

ECP officials told the commission that a letter had been sent to the interior secretary, but no response had been received and the ministry had not cooperated in the matter.

The commission was informed that documents required to begin the delimitation process, including the official notification, a map of Islamabad and details of the number of union council members, had not yet been provided.

The chief election commissioner observed that the Islamabad Capital Territory Administration was not treating the issue seriously, even though conducting the local government elections was its responsibility.

He warned authorities not to force the commission into taking strict action and directed officials to provide a clear timeline for progress on the matter.

The ECP also instructed the Islamabad chief commissioner to update the commission on developments at the next hearing. The case was adjourned until Tuesday.