

## Pakistan launches retaliatory strikes after Indian aggression

Among the most prominent targets was a ‘BrahMos’ missile storage site in the Beas region—believed to have housed the very missiles launched into Pakistani territory

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has launched a series of retaliatory military strikes in response to what it claims was unprovoked Indian aggression, marking a dangerous escalation in regional tensions that have simmered for weeks.

According to highly placed security sources, the counter-offensive — code-named “Operation Banyan Marsus” — has specifically targeted Indian military installations allegedly used to launch recent missile attacks on Pakistani soil.

Among the most prominent targets was a BrahMos missile storage site in the Beas region, which Pakistani officials claim housed the very missiles fired into its territory.

The site was deemed a high-value target, and its destruction, according to Pak-



istani officials, was both strategic and symbolic — a message of deterrence and reprisal. Security insiders further confirmed that Pakistan has widened the scope of the operation with additional strikes, including one on the Pathankot airfield and another on the Udhampur military base.

Both installations, officials allege, played a direct role in launching attacks that killed Pakistani civilians, including children, and damaged mosques and residen-

tial areas. “This operation is ongoing and precise,” said a senior Pakistani security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. “Only those bases are being targeted which were involved in direct attacks against our people. Our response is proportionate and justified.”

The retaliatory campaign follows a week of heightened hostilities between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. The spiral began when Indian strikes reportedly hit civilian targets in Pakistan-

administered territories, triggering an outcry from Islamabad and sparking fears of broader escalation. Civilian casualties — particularly the deaths of children — have been a rallying point for public anger in Pakistan, with calls for a firm and immediate response dominating national discourse.

As Operation Banyan Marsus unfolds, both Pakistanis and Indians are holding their breath, uncertain of what comes next. The absence of official statements from Pakistan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs or New Delhi has only added to the sense of unease.

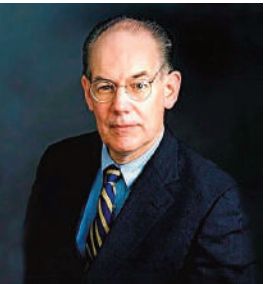
While the Indian side has yet to confirm the extent of the reported strikes or the damage caused, international observers are watching developments closely, concerned that any miscalculation could tip the region into a full-blown conflict.

US expert urges India to seek political solutions for IIOJ&K issue

News Desk

WASHINGTON: American political science expert Professor John Mearsheimer, in an interview with Indian media, emphasized that the Kashmir issue’s resolution lies in political dialogue rather than military strategies. He pointed out that India cannot resolve the Kashmir conflict through military means alone.

Professor Mearsheimer further stated that Pakistan possesses considerable military capabilities, making it difficult for India to achieve supremacy over Pakistan. This statement underscores



the growing recognition of Pakistan’s defense strength in the international community.

In the meantime, international efforts to de-escalate tensions between India and Pakistan have intensified. Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United States, and the United Kingdom have all accelerated their diplomatic initiatives aimed at reducing the growing tensions in the region.

Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Adel al-Jubeir, after his visit to New Delhi, arrived in Islamabad, where he met with Pakistan’s Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. Iranian Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi, is also making diplomatic rounds, having visited both Pakistan and India, and is expected to visit Saudi Arabia next.

PSL 10 postponed after escalation with India

By our correspondent

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced the indefinite postponement of the remaining eight matches of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) Season 10, citing national security concerns and on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Initially, the board had planned to move the matches from Pakistan to Dubai. However, in light of recent developments, PCB officials stated that the decision to postpone the tournament was made after consulting with the prime minister, who advised that the country’s focus should remain firmly on national defence efforts.

“The prevailing circumstances demanded a sober and unified response,” the board said in a statement, adding that it stands in solidarity with the families of martyrs and security personnel.

## Indian missile strikes thwarted on three airbases

“No damage was done. We were prepared. India should now wait for Pakistan’s response,” warned General Chaudhry, signalling restraint is strategic, not indefinite—and reply will be calculated, precise and resolute

By Asghar Ali Mubarak

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Army has confirmed that it successfully thwarted a fresh wave of Indian missile strikes aimed at three of its key airbases, warning that New Delhi should now brace for a decisive response. During a late-night media briefing, DG ISPR Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, disclosed that the Indian military had attempted to hit Noor Khan Airbase in Chaklala, Murid Base, and Shorkot Airbase with surface-to-ground missiles.

“No damage was done. We were prepared. India should now wait for Pakistan’s response,” said General Chaudhry, making clear that Pakistan’s restraint had limits and its response would be marked by precision and resolve. He revealed that India had not only fired missiles into Pakistan but had also launched them into Afghanistan — a move he called “reckless and destabilizing.”

The implication of such cross-border actions threatens to pull the wider region into a dangerous spiral of confrontation, raising alarms far beyond the sub-



continent. Adding to the tense atmosphere were further provocations from across the border. Indian surveillance drones reportedly violated Pakistani airspace near Narang Mandi, on the outskirts of Lahore, and in Jaisingh Wala village in Sheikhpura. Pakistani forces responded swiftly, shooting down the drones. One of them crashed into crop fields, causing a minor fire that was quickly extinguished by local firefighting teams.

Fortunately, no injuries or significant damage were reported. This incident marks the latest in a series of aerial intrusions, with Pakistan’s military confirming it has intercepted and neutralized 77 Indian drones in recent

months. The pattern, as described by security officials, reflects a sustained campaign of provocation by New Delhi. Amid rising tensions and growing unease among civilians along the border regions, Pakistan’s message is becoming increasingly unambiguous: it will not hesitate to defend itself.

The military leadership’s tone — calm but steely — suggests that the country is not only prepared for further escalation but is also ready to retaliate with force should India continue on its current path.

As regional anxieties grow and diplomacy appears increasingly sidelined, observers warn that the situation risks spiraling into open conflict unless both countries pull back from the brink.

## Indian journalists question over downing of jets by PAF

‘Force’ magazine editor Pravin Sawhney said India Foreign Secretary’s evasive silence over Pakistan’s claim of downing four Indian jets, exposing a rift between official narrative and uncomfortable truth

News Desk

KARACHI: Senior Indian journalist Karan Thapar has raised critical questions over the Indian government’s silence on claims that Pakistan shot down four Indian jets, pointing to the evasive response given by India’s Foreign Secretary during a recent press briefing.

During a televised talk show, Thapar brought up the issue with Force Magazine editor Pravin Sawhney, referencing the Foreign Secretary’s vague reply when asked whether Pakistan had indeed downed four Indian aircraft. The official had stated only that a response would come “at an appropriate time.” “What does that even mean?” Thapar asked.

Pravin Sawhney interpreted the response as a deliberate attempt to avoid denying the claim outright. According to Sawhney, “It clearly suggests that the Indian government is choosing not to deny it, possibly be-



cause international media and foreign governments already know the truth. A flat denial now would only further embarrass India.”

Sawhney went on to draw parallels with the 2019 Balakot strike, codenamed ‘Operation Bandar’, and the case of the downed Indian Air Force helicopter. He recalled how the Modi government had withheld the truth about the incident in the run-up to the 2019 general elections. It was only after the elections, he noted, that the Indian military admitted the helicopter had crashed due to a friendly fire incident, caused by an Indian missile,

which killed six personnel.

It is to mention that Pakistan is still claiming it will retaliate against India after it fired missiles at nine cities across Pakistan, including Azad Kashmir, killing 31 innocent civilians and injuring others, while also damaging a number of civilian infrastructures. The entire world condemned India for such inhuman aggression and called for restraint. Modi’s extremist Hindutva government has, in fact, dragged the entire region into an unwarranted war by creating hysteria within India, as extremist Hindus call for conflict.

## Indian actress, journalists slam media for spreading war hysteria

News Desk

MUMBAI: Bollywood actor Sonakshi Sinha, along with senior journalists, has slammed Indian news channels, calling them a ‘joke’ and urging them to stop fueling chaos and fear through sensationalist coverage and fake news.

In a blunt statement, Sinha questioned the purpose behind the media’s loud and aggressive reporting. “What do they hope to achieve by shouting all day long? For God’s sake, stop creating panic and spreading confusion among people,” she said. Her remarks came in the wake of Indian news channels broadcasting false claims about airstrikes on major Pakistani cities, including Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, and Peshawar.

The reports, widely cir-



culated across TV and social media, were quickly dismissed by Pakistani authorities as baseless propaganda. Indian citizens, too, took to social media to express their anger and embarrassment. Many accused the media of becoming a marketplace of lies and called for stricter accountability. “The media has become a national disgrace, trampling over journalistic ethics. Why are such people not brought before the law?” one user wrote.

Senior Indian journalists also joined the criticism. Veteran anchor Rajdeep Sardesai reminded viewers, “Journalism is not about war-mongering. It is not about turning fiction into fact.” Siddharth Varadarajan, another respected voice in Indian media, said that many of the reports aired were not just false but “highly inflammatory.”

Award-winning journalist Ravish Kumar, known for his critical take on the Indian media landscape, accused mainstream outlets of burying the truth altogether. “Godi media has killed honesty in journalism,” he said, using a term that refers to media perceived to be loyal to the ruling government. The episode has reignited a debate about press freedom and ethical reporting in India, especially during periods of heightened tension with Pakistan.

## India fires six ballistic missiles on its own ‘Sikhs’

DG ISPR condemned India’s treatment of its Sikh minority, declaring, "Sikhs are being scapegoated in a dangerous internal conspiracy," offered unwavering solidarity with the community

By Asghar Ali Mubarak

ISLAMABAD: In a late-night press briefing, DG ISPR Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, made a startling claim that India has fired six ballistic missiles within its own territory — five in Amritsar and one in Adampur.

In a strongly worded statement, the Director General of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), General Chaudhry, has condemned India’s recent actions against its Sikh population, calling them “astonishing” and attributing the move to growing internal instability within the country. In his briefing, General Chaudhry emphasized that minorities, particularly Sikhs, are being increasingly targeted, adding that such actions reflect the deepening internal conspiracies gripping India.

“India is targeting its own Sikh population. Minorities are falling victim to internal conspiracies,” the General remarked, expressing solidarity with the Sikh community, which he said is being unfairly scapegoated by the gov-



ernment. This statement comes amid mounting scrutiny of India’s ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its Hindutva-led agenda, as the country gears up for the upcoming spring general elections in Bihar.

Political analysts and observers, both within India and globally, have raised concerns over the BJP’s increasingly religiously extremist stance ahead of the elections. Many fear that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government may resort to stoking ‘Hindutva extremism’ or even escalating external conflicts as a strategy to rally support, a tactic that has been witnessed in previous election cycles, notably in the lead-up to the 2019 elections.

General Chaudhry drew a sharp parallel to those earlier incidents, recalling how the Indian government then had also whipped up war hysteria — only to be defused when “Pakistan’s forces served them tea,” a reference to the downing and capture of an Indian pilot during the Pulwama-Balakot episode.

“Once again, as elections approach, we are seeing the same old tricks,” he said, warning that the consequences of such theatrics could endanger millions. The Pakistani military urged global institutions and human rights organizations to take note of what it described as “a dangerous game being played with the lives of India’s own citizens.”

## If India captures Pakistani pilot, must provide proof: DG ISPR

By our correspondent

RAWALPINDI: Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, has strongly challenged India’s claims regarding attacks on Pakistan, demanding that if India has indeed captured a Pakistani Air Force pilot, it must provide evidence.

In an interview with foreign media, DG ISPR discussed the situation along the Line of Control (LoC), stating that India has been using artillery, mortars, and other heavy weaponry to target Pakistani positions, with the deliberate intention of harming innocent civilians. He emphasized that Pakistan’s response has been focused on military targets, specifically Indian posts along the LoC.

General Chaudhry categorically denied India’s allegations of drone and missile attacks by Pakistan, calling these claims un-



founded and without proof. He criticized Indian media for spreading false narratives without any solid evidence and pointed out that modern warfare leaves clear, undeniable proof of attacks, which India has failed to provide.

The DG ISPR also addressed India’s allegations about the Pahalgam attack, asserting that Pakistan has not been involved in any such incident and rejected India’s attempts to link Pakistan to the perpetrators without offering any credible evi-

dence. He recalled Pakistan’s offer to conduct a neutral investigation into the Pahalgam incident, which India had declined, further highlighting India’s failure to provide proof of its allegations.

The ISPR chief pointed out that India’s attacks have resulted in the deaths of innocent civilians, including children, women, and the elderly, and underscored that India’s use of outdated narratives about alleged jihadist groups in Pakistan to justify these actions is misleading.

## Pakistan, China, Afghanistan to hold trilateral talks in Kabul

News Desk

KABUL: Pakistan, China and Afghanistan are set to resume trilateral talks in Kabul today in a bid to revive regional cooperation and push for stability across a region long marred by insecurity and diplomatic unease. The high-level meeting, taking place after months of stalled engagement, signals a renewed willingness among the three neighbors to address common challenges and recalibrate their regional strategies.

According to diplomatic sources, Pakistan’s Special Representative for Afghanistan, Mohammad Sadiq, has already reached Kabul ahead of the discus-



sions. His early arrival underlines Pakistan’s active interest in re-engaging with both the Afghan authorities and regional partners in search of durable peace and economic integration. The talks are expected to focus on regional security, trade facilitation and the mechan-

isms of future diplomatic collaboration.

The agenda, as confirmed by officials familiar with the preparations, includes a renewed push for regional security cooperation and discussions on economic connectivity that could open up vital trade corridors.

More importantly, the dialogue is expected to explore frameworks for mutual trust, a commodity that has been in short supply following the tumultuous transition of power in Afghanistan and the subsequent diplomatic realignments.

While no major breakthroughs are expected overnight, the talks are being cautiously welcomed as a positive step towards fostering a regional consensus. In a climate where diplomacy has often taken a backseat to geopolitics, the Kabul meeting may serve as an important reminder that dialogue, even if slow, remains the most viable path toward stability in South and Central Asia.



# Israeli airstrikes kill over 100 in Gaza, health system on brink

Hospitals in Gaza, already reeling from months of conflict and a critical shortage of medical supplies, are now overwhelmed as they struggle to manage the escalating number of casualties

News Desk

GAZA: At least 106 Palestinians have been killed and more than 350 wounded in the past 24 hours following a relentless wave of Israeli airstrikes on Gaza, according to health officials in the enclave. The strikes, which have hit densely populated residential areas, busy markets, local restaurants, and tent encampments sheltering displaced civilians, have plunged the already-devastated health system into deeper crisis.

Hospitals in Gaza, already battered by months of conflict and a severe short-



age of medical supplies, are struggling to cope with the influx of casualties. Doctors are operating under extreme duress, often performing emergency procedures without anaesthesia or electricity. Many of the wounded are women and children, with a significant number reportedly in critical

condition. Witnesses on the ground painted a harrowing picture: entire families buried under rubble, emergency workers digging with bare hands, and survivors carrying their injured through bombed-out streets. Some described the chaos as "unlike anything seen in recent months," with

repeated strikes hitting civilian zones without warning. In a parallel development, the Al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas's armed wing, claimed responsibility for an ambush on two Israeli military units operating in southern Gaza. The group alleges it inflicted multiple casualties, though the Israeli military has yet to confirm any losses. These claims add a volatile military dimension to an already disastrous humanitarian situation.

Meanwhile, the violence is no longer contained within Gaza's borders. An Israeli airstrike on southern Lebanon has reportedly

killed one civilian and wounded at least eight others. This escalation raises the alarming prospect of the conflict spreading beyond Gaza, as regional tensions threaten to spiral further.

The past 24 hours now rank among the deadliest single-day periods since the war began, sparking renewed calls from international humanitarian groups for an immediate ceasefire and unfettered access for aid convoys. With the civilian death toll rising sharply and basic infrastructure crumbling, the Gaza Strip remains on the brink of a catastrophic humanitarian collapse.

## SHC orders immediate recovery of missing persons

News Desk

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has directed relevant authorities to take immediate action to address the issue of missing persons in the province. The court issued these orders while hearing a series of petitions concerning individuals who have gone missing, urging the concerned authorities to act swiftly and decisively.

Notices have been issued to the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, the Sindh Department of Interior, and other bodies responsible for addressing the crisis of missing persons. The court has demanded that responses be provided within two weeks, signaling the seriousness with which it is approaching the matter. This directive highlights the ongoing concern over the growing number of disappearances in Sindh, and the court's call for quick action reflects the urgency of the situation.

# Pope Leo XIV vows to guide Church through 'dark nights'

News Desk

VATICAN: In his first address to the faithful after ascending to the papacy, Pope Leo XIV struck a tone of humility and reform, signalling a desire to guide the Catholic Church through what he called its "dark nights" with sincerity and spiritual renewal. Speaking from Vatican City, the newly elected Pope shared a poignant vision of leadership grounded not in grandeur or tradition alone, but in a heartfelt commitment to the moral and spiritual wellbeing of the Church's global community.

His words, spoken shortly after the intense and closely watched papal conclave, offered a quiet but powerful reflection on the state of the modern Church.



"I hope my selection brings light to the dark nights faced by the Catholic Church," he said, speaking not only to the faithful but also to those disillusioned or estranged from religion in today's complex world. It was a striking declaration of intent: a papacy not defined by pomp but by purpose.

Pope Leo XIV, who emerged as the new pontiff after at least four rounds of voting by the College of

Cardinals, wasted no time in laying down the spiritual priorities of his leadership. He declared that the true identity of the Church must be measured by the sanctity and humility of its followers, not the magnificence of its cathedrals or the wealth of its institutions. The message, though gentle, was unmistakable — a call for introspection, reform, and a return to core spiritual values.

## Livestock distributed to poor families in Kashmore

By Imtiaz Hussain

SUKKUR: The Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) has distributed 43 productive livestock assets—comprising 16 heifers and 27 cows—to ultra-poor families in various union councils of Kashmore-Kandhkot.

The recipients are all registered beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), selected under the National Poverty Graduation Program (NPGP).

Speaking to the media during the distribution ceremony, SRSO consultant Jamil Soomro said the initiative is part of the government's flagship NPGP, which is implemented by the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Soomro noted that all livestock were screened, vaccinated, and tagged before being handed over, ensuring the animals' health and traceability. Beneficiaries also received a comprehensive orientation on the program's objectives and the importance of livestock management for long-term income generation.

"This initiative will positively transform the lives of these families by enabling them to enhance their livelihoods and move towards self-sufficiency," he said.

"It reflects the government's continued commitment to reducing poverty and advancing economic empowerment in underserved rural communities."

## Trump congratulates newly elected Pope Leo XIV

News Desk

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has congratulated Cardinal Robert Prevost on his election as the first American Pope in the history of the Roman Catholic Church. Following the election, Prevost will assume the papal name Pope Leo XIV.

Trump took to his social media platform, Truth Social, to share his congratulations. In his message, he wrote, "Congratulations to Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, who has just been selected as Pope. It is an honor that he is the first American Pope.

This is an incredibly exciting moment, and a great honor for our country. I look forward to meeting Pope Leo XIV. This will be a very meaningful moment."

The election of the new Pope took place after four rounds of voting in Vatican City, with 133 Roman Catholic cardinals participating in the secret balloting process. White smoke from the Sistine Chapel's chimney and the ringing of bells at St. Peter's Basilica signaled the election of the new spiritual leader.

## Dadu Police solves boy's murder case

By our correspondent

SUKKUR: Dadu police have cracked a harrowing murder case involving the brutal killing of a 14-year-old boy, Hasnain, son of Abdul Razaq Meno, whose throat was slit in the jurisdiction of Saeedpur police station. In a shocking revelation, the accused has been identified as the victim's elder brother, Raja Ali Meno.

According to police, officers from Saeedpur police station arrested Raja Ali and recovered the knife used in the killing. SHO Khair Muhammad Samoon said

forensic evidence, including fingerprints lifted from Hasnain's clothes and body, matched those of his brother. Raja Ali was taken into custody for questioning and subsequently confessed to the crime.

During interrogation, Raja Ali told investigators that the murder stemmed from a blackmail dispute. He admitted to being involved in an illicit relationship with a girl, which his younger brother had discovered. Hasnain had allegedly begun blackmailing him, demanding money and threatening to expose the relationship to the girl's family.

## Jl observes in Youm-e-Azm in Karachi

By Ahsan Mughal

KARACHI: On the call of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan Ameer Engr Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, Youm-e-Azm (Determination Day) was observed in Karachi, as well as other parts of the country, with hundreds of demonstrations, walks, and programs held across the mega city on Friday. People from all walks of life participated in the demonstrations, which were mainly held outside mosques after Friday

of Indian adversaries. Monem Zafar stated that internal and political differences should be set aside when it comes to national security issues. He further emphasised that the pride of Indian rulers and Hindutva fanatics had been humbled in the aftermath of the so-called Operation Sandoor. He said that humiliation had become India's fate since Hindutva fanatics took control of the country.

The JI Karachi chief added that Narendra Modi



prayers. A large number of schools and other educational institutions also organised walks and events to mark Youm-e-Azm. JI Karachi Ameer Monem Zafar addressed a major protest demonstration outside a mosque in the Lasbela area of Karachi. Speaking on the occasion, he urged the nation to stay awake and united in the face

had led the entire country into a war frenzy. Under the pretext of a false flag operation, India launched attacks against innocent Pakistani citizens, including women and children. In response, Pakistani forces downed half a dozen Indian warplanes, including the much-hyped Rafale aircraft — on which the Indian government had been building its narrative of superiority over Pakistan.

## METRO MATTERS

### Tessori slams 'Goudi' media's role in fueling tensions

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Governor of Sindh, Kamran Tessori, has issued a bold statement in Karachi, clarifying that Pakistan's ongoing struggle is not with the people of India but rather with the extremist ideology propagated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. His remarks came amid rising tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbors, with Tessori condemning what he described as the "irresponsible" role of Indian media in inciting hate and spreading lies through its sensationalist coverage.

Tessori pointed out that the real challenge lies not in India's general populace, but in the extremist and divisive rhetoric promoted by Modi's government. He specifically criticized the escalation of hostilities instigated by India, underscoring that Pakistan's response must be decisive and firm. "It is time for Pakistan to stand resolutely in the face of these provocations," Tessori said, stressing the need for a measured yet strong response to India's actions.

Further emphasizing Pakistan's commitment to regional peace and stability, the Governor reminded the public of the immense sacrifices the nation has endured in its fight against terrorism. Tessori highlighted the tragic loss of more than 90,000 Pakistani lives, a staggering toll in the ongoing battle against extremism. His statement served as a powerful reminder of the country's resilience and the unshakable unity of its people and armed forces in defending national sovereignty.

In a broader context, Tessori's words also reflect Pakistan's resolve to protect its peace and security from external threats, particularly those emanating from India's current leadership. As tensions simmer, the Governor's call for national solidarity and strength is aimed at reassuring the Pakistani public and reiterating the nation's determination to confront any external challenges head-on.

### Karachi faces severe water shortage as residents struggle

By Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Members of MQM Pakistan in the Sindh Assembly have raised alarm over the worsening water crisis in Karachi, which has left many parts of the city grappling with severe shortages. In a scathing joint statement, they accused local government institutions and the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KW&SC) of neglecting their duties and reducing the country's largest city to a state of chaos. The lawmakers claimed that no organization seems willing to take responsibility, further exacerbating the crisis.

The statement pointed to the prevalent culture of nepotism within both the institutions and the local government, which they said had pushed Karachi to the brink of collapse. Despite a major water line near Karachi University being repaired and restored just a week ago, many areas still find themselves without a regular water supply. This has sparked widespread frustration among residents, with protests breaking out as citizens are left to cope with severe water scarcity. Daily life in many neighborhoods has come to a standstill, with basic necessities becoming increasingly difficult to secure.

The MQM Pakistan members did not hold back in their criticism of Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation officials, accusing them of gross negligence. They pointed out that residents are struggling to access even a single drop of water, underlining the gravity of the situation. The lawmakers issued a direct call to the Water Corporation, urging it to rectify its failings and fulfill its responsibility of providing clean and adequate water to Karachi's residents.

### Karachi Mayor proposes parking plaza to ease traffic congestion

By Ahsan Mughal

KARACHI: Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab has written to Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi, proposing a solution to the city's worsening traffic congestion by requesting the construction of a parking plaza on land owned by Pakistan Railways. In his letter, Wahab emphasized that creating a parking facility on railway land could significantly ease the traffic crisis, which has become a daily challenge for Karachi's residents.

The mayor specifically pointed out the area near the Stock Exchange as an ideal location for the proposed parking plaza. He also suggested transforming the railway grounds in front of the City Station into a dedicated parking area. Wahab's proposal comes in response to the increasingly chaotic and unregulated parking situation that is exacerbating traffic congestion, especially in the city's commercial and densely populated areas.

Highlighting the potential impact of the port's ongoing activities on traffic, Wahab noted that the pressure on Karachi's streets is expected to grow, making it even more urgent to address parking shortages. He stressed that the lack of adequate parking spaces has not only contributed to traffic woes but is also obstructing business activities and economic productivity in the city.

In his appeal to the railway leadership, the mayor urged them to adopt a forward-thinking approach that aligns with the city's growing needs. He called for collaboration to address these pressing urban challenges and to bring a practical and sustainable solution that could benefit both residents and businesses in Karachi.

### M Phil, PhD students receive laptops from VC KU

By Musarrat Arif

KARACHI: Karachi University's Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Khalid Mehmood Iraqi, emphasized the importance of technology in today's world and how its absence would hinder development. Addressing the first phase of laptop distribution to EM Phil and PhD students, he noted that without investment in teaching and research, Pakistan would not join the ranks of developed nations. He stressed the need to advance in research to meet modern challenges.

Dr. Iraqi stated that the graduates of any institution are a reflection of its excellence, underlining the significance of fostering an environment conducive to learning and progress. The event, held at the Audio-Visual Center of Karachi University, was organized through collaboration between the Karachi University Alumni Association (Houston, USA) and the Teachers' Association of Karachi University. Laptops provided by the Alumni Association were distributed to deserving students by the Vice Chancellor himself.

He extended his gratitude to the Karachi University Alumni for their contribution, recognizing their deep connection to the institution. He encouraged everyone to contribute to societal betterment according to their capabilities, stating that only through such collective efforts can a welfare society be realized. Dr. Iraqi also commended the efforts of the Teachers' Association in organizing this initiative and emphasized the need for ongoing communication with alumni to continuously involve them in supporting the university.

### K-E's ongoing outages disrupt life in Karachi

Press Release

KARACHI: Residents of Ibrahim Hyderi are enduring intense heat due to prolonged and unannounced load-shedding by K-Electric. According to locals, the power remains out from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, severely impacting daily life for the community.

The outages have disrupted household activities and caused immense hardship, particularly for the elderly, children, and patients. Many residents reported that the heat is worsening the conditions of the sick, while children's education is also being affected.

Meanwhile, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) District Malir President Jan Alam Jamot has warned K-Electric to cease its mistreatment of the people of Ibrahim Hyderi. He pointed out that the load-shedding has also led to a severe water shortage in the area. With a population of over 200,000 and 52 neighborhoods, the water supply situation remains a critical concern.

### Attack on transporter in Gulshan-e-Iqbal block, 3 injured including 2 women

By Ahsan Mughal

KARACHI: A shooting incident in Karachi's Gulshan-e-Iqbal Block 13 has left three individuals injured, including two women. Police sources confirmed that the attack occurred when assailants, riding a motorcycle, targeted a transporter in the area. During the course of the shooting, the two women, who were in the vicinity, were caught in the line of fire and sustained injuries.

The attackers quickly fled the scene after the incident, and law enforcement agencies have launched an investigation to identify and apprehend those responsible. Police officials are continuing their efforts to track down the assailants, with no arrests made at this time. The three injured individuals were promptly taken to a nearby hospital for medical treatment, and their condition remains under observation. Authorities have assured that the investigation is ongoing, with all efforts focused on bringing the perpetrators to justice. The incident has sparked concerns over the safety of civilians, particularly women, in the city.

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# Chinese arms reshaping Pakistan-India military dynamics

The recent air clashes between Pakistan and India have presented the world with an unprecedented glimpse into Chinese military technology. During these encounters, Pakistan's use of Chinese-made aircraft to down India's French-made fighter jets marked the first time Chinese technology has been tested in a real battlefield scenario, juxtaposed against Western-made defense weapons. According to CNN, the rising tensions between Pakistan and India provided a global stage for Chinese military technology to prove itself, with Chinese defense companies seeing a sharp increase in their stock prices.

Shares of the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC), which manufactures Chengdu Aircraft, saw a surge of 40 percent this week after Pakistan successfully used Chinese-made J-10C fighter jets to bring down Indian combat aircraft, including three French-made Rafales, two Russian-made MiG-29s, and Sukhoi Su-30s. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, when asked about the details of the incident, refrained from commenting but acknowledged the significance of seeing its weapons perform in a real conflict. China, which has not fought a major war in the last four decades, has heavily invested in modernizing its military, and this innovation is no longer confined to the Chinese army but has extended to Pakistan, its long-time ally.

Over the past five years, China has supplied 81 percent of Pakistan's imported arms, including advanced fighter jets, missiles, radars, and air defense systems. Some of these weapons were co-produced by China and Pakistan or manufactured in Pakistan with Chinese technology. As Sajjan Gohel, Director of International Security at the Asia Pacific Foundation of London, observed, this situation effectively turns the India-Pakistan conflict into a testing ground for Chinese defense exports. Recent joint military exercises between China and Pakistan have included aerial, naval, and ground drills, with advanced techniques such as AI-based targeting now incorporated into their training. Craig Singleton, an analyst at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, notes that the combination of Chinese hardware, training, and AI technology has shifted the balance of power in the region.

The escalation of tensions between Pakistan and India, particularly following the massacre of tourists in occupied Kashmir, has drawn the attention of global powers. The historic conflict, rooted in the Kashmir dispute, has seen both countries fight three wars since 1947. During the Cold War, the Soviet Union supported India, while the US and China backed Pakistan. In recent years, India has moved closer to the US, positioning itself as a strategic counterweight to China. Meanwhile, Pakistan has strengthened its ties with China, which also serves as a crucial partner in the Belt and Road Initiative. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) reports that by the end of the 2000s, Pakistan was receiving nearly equal arms supplies from both the US and China.

However, with the US reducing its arms deliveries, China has filled the gap. This shift is evident in the recent air battle, where Pakistan's use of J-10C fighter jets and JF-17 Thunder planes led to the destruction of five Indian aircraft, including three Rafales, one MiG-29, and one Su-30. Pakistani officials confirmed that the engagement took place over a distance of more than 160 kilometers, involving a total of 125 aircraft. Salmān Ali Butāni, an international relations scholar at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, described this clash as the most intense aerial engagement between two nuclear powers to date. While India has been reluctant to acknowledge its losses, a French Ministry of Defence source confirmed the loss of at least one modern Rafale aircraft to Pakistani forces. Bilal Khan, founder of the Toronto-based defense think tank KOVA Group, remarked that this conflict demonstrated Pakistan's weaponry is now on par with the latest Western arms.

Chinese nationalists and defense experts have hailed the success of the J-10C fighter jets, viewing it as a victory for China's defense industry. AVIC's Chengdu Aircraft shares on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange surged by 17 percent on Wednesday and an additional 20 percent on Thursday.

The J-10C, a multi-role, single-engine aircraft, is the latest version of China's fighter fleet, featuring advanced avionics and AESA radar, placing it in the 4.5 generation category. The first batch of J-10C aircraft was delivered to Pakistan just three years ago, in 2022, and has since become part of Pakistan's most advanced fighter jet fleet, alongside the JF-17 Thunder Block III, a joint venture between China and Pakistan.

China's growing influence in the global arms market is evident in the increasing popularity of its defense exports. According to Zhu Bo, a senior defense analyst, the success of the J-10C in bringing down a Rafale is a significant boost for Chinese arms exports and may even surprise countries like the US, highlighting China's growing military strength. The Stockholm Peace Research Institute points out that while the US remains the world's largest arms exporter, China is now the fourth-largest, with two-thirds of its exports going to Pakistan.

The aftermath of the clash is likely to shift the military dynamics not just in South Asia but globally. Countries in the Middle East and North Africa, which have limited access to Western arms, may now turn to China for advanced defense technology. As Craig Singleton aptly put it, war is not just about acquiring aircraft; it's about a comprehensive strategy, training, and testing military capabilities. Similarly, Fabian Hoffmann of the University of Oslo observed that India might have underestimated Pakistan's capabilities, particularly regarding the PL-15 missile with limited range, which allowed Pakistani jets to outmaneuver their Indian counterparts. The recent air clash between Pakistan and India and Pakistan's clear superiority in the engagement has not only redefined the military balance in South Asia but has also provided the first real comparison of Chinese and Western weaponry on the global stage.

*Metro Morning and its policy not necessarily consensus with any writer's thoughts*

By Uzma Ehtasham



The unfolding situation on the diplomatic front has raised deep concerns about the future of regional and international stability. India's recent missile attacks on Pakistan have taken a dangerous turn, with the Modi government failing to secure the support of key international players, particularly the United States. In an unexpected twist, US President Donald Trump's remarks have dealt a significant blow to India's diplomatic position. Describing India's attack as "shameful," President Trump made it clear that the United States would not condone such actions. His words were sharp and direct: "It is shameful. We have just heard about India's attack on Pakistan, and it is cowardly and disgraceful."

This bold condemnation from the US president marks a significant shift in the often delicate relationship between Washington and New Delhi. The US has long had a vested interest in maintaining relations with India, especially as it seeks to counterbalance China's growing influence in the region. However, Trump's response to the missile strikes reflects a moment of reckoning, where principles of peace and diplomacy appear to outweigh strategic alliances.

In the wake of India's missile attacks, the US State Department confirmed that the situation was being closely monitored, adding to the growing pressure on India. Despite

this, the international community, which has long been involved in diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions between the two countries, now faces a daunting challenge. Several global leaders, including those from neighboring countries and influential global bodies, have been working tirelessly to keep the peace. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has actively engaged with both Pakistani and Indian leadership, urging restraint and dialogue. Yet, after India's late-night attack, the situation seems to be spiraling further into chaos, with the specter of war looming larger by the day.

Before these events, Pakistan had consistently adopted a strategy of peace and diplomacy. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, keen on avoiding military escalation, made several overtures to the international community, seeking diplomatic channels to address the growing tension. However, India's recent military aggression has put Pakistan in a difficult and delicate position. Pakistan now finds itself in a situation where it is left with little choice but to respond. India's actions represent an attempt to impose war on Pakistan, an act of aggression that Pakistan cannot ignore. As a sovereign nation, it is only natural for Pakistan to take defensive measures, not just to protect its territorial integrity, but also to safeguard the peace and security of the region.

It is crucial to note that India's actions are not merely a regional concern; they have the potential to destabilize the entire South Asian subcontinent and beyond. As tensions rise, the risk of conflict spilling over into full-scale warfare increases exponentially. What India's government seems to have overlooked is the larger geopolitical context in which this aggression is occurring. The international community has worked for decades to promote peace in the region, yet one reckless act of military aggression threatens to undo much of that hard work. The potential consequences of this are far-reaching, as the repercussions of a military conflict would reverberate well beyond the borders of the two nations involved.

India's belligerence, which is evident in its provocative missile strikes, is a major blow to the stability of the region. The international community has long called for restraint and dialogue, urging both countries to resolve their differences through peaceful means.

But with the Modi government's increasingly militaristic stance, the prospects for peaceful negotiations appear ever more distant. If the world's leading powers and global institutions are truly committed to peace, then they must act swiftly and decisively to de-escalate this crisis. The role of the United Nations, the US, and other influential nations is critical in this moment.

Pakistan, for its part, has shown remarkable restraint in the face of repeated provocations. However, the latest escalation has left Pakistan with no choice but to consider all options for its defense. In a world that values the principles of sovereignty and self-preservation, Pakistan has every right to

take any necessary defensive actions to protect its citizens and its territory. The right to defend one's borders is enshrined in international law, and Pakistan is merely exercising that right. By doing so, Pakistan sends a clear message to India and the global community that its defense capabilities are robust, and it is prepared to safeguard its sovereignty at all costs.

Moreover, Pakistan's response must not be seen as a mere reaction to India's aggression, but as a necessary step to restore equilibrium and remind the international community of the importance of respecting international law. As tensions continue to mount, it is essential that both Pakistan and India show restraint and engage in dialogue, for the alternative is a conflict that will have devastating consequences for both nations and the broader region. The world's response to India's actions will be a critical test of the international community's commitment to peace and stability. If global leadership is truly committed to preventing war and fostering peace, they must come together to condemn India's aggressive actions and work towards a peaceful resolution of the crisis. This is a moment for the world to stand united in support of diplomacy, and to hold accountable those who seek to destabilize peace for their own narrow political gain.

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By Atiq Raja



In the ever-evolving landscape of human progress, competition and collaboration are two powerful forces that shape the paths we take. Both have the potential to fuel growth, innovation, and success, but their methods and outcomes differ significantly. From the high-stakes boardrooms of corporate giants to the collaborative classrooms of academia, the interplay between competition and collaboration defines not only how we work but also how we grow as individuals and communities. At its core, competition drives ambition. It is the force that pushes us to reach higher, work harder, and strive for excellence. The desire to outperform others can act as a catalyst for innovation, fueling breakthroughs in technology, business, and beyond. When we look at industries like technology, where companies like Apple and Samsung engage in fierce rivalry, it becomes clear that competition can lead to rapid advancements.

The constant challenge to innovate, to provide something better than the last product, accelerates the pace of development and sharpens the competitive edge. In education, competitive exams serve as another example of how competition can bring out the best in individuals. The pressure to excel

pushes students to study harder, to refine their skills, and to perform at their highest potential. In sports, athletes compete not only against others but against their own limitations, constantly pushing the boundaries of what is possible. Yet, competition is not without its drawbacks. When taken to extremes, the desire to win can foster stress, anxiety, and even unethical behavior. In the rush to come out on top, the focus can shift from personal growth and collective good to a singular obsession with victory. This can create an environment where colleagues become rivals, eroding trust and hindering knowledge sharing.

In the corporate world, this often leads to toxic work cultures, where the competitive spirit fosters an atmosphere of division rather than unity. The competitive drive, when unchecked, can create isolation rather than cooperation, diminishing the value of collective effort. In contrast, collaboration nurtures collective intelligence. It is the force that binds people together, combining diverse skills, ideas, and perspectives to achieve common goals. In medicine, for instance, doctors, nurses, and medical teams work in unison to save lives in emergency rooms. Scientists from different parts of the world join forces to develop vaccines that can protect millions. Collaboration, in this sense, is the cornerstone of long-term, sustainable success. It enables us to pool resources, tackle challenges more effectively, and innovate in ways that would be impos-

sible for a single individual or entity to achieve alone.

Collaboration fosters creativity. By bringing together individuals from various disciplines, backgrounds, and walks of life, it sparks new ideas and solutions. It encourages empathy, trust, and inclusivity—values that are increasingly essential in today's interconnected world. Collaboration is, at its heart, the recognition that no one has all the answers. It is the ability to move from "me" to "we," to focus not on individual achievement but on shared success. Whether in the workplace or in society at large, collaboration creates networks of trust, helping to build stronger, more resilient communities. However, collaboration is not a panacea. It is, by nature, a delicate balance. Without clear roles, effective communication, and mutual accountability, collaboration can lead to confusion, delays, and even conflict. Without strong leadership and coordination, it is easy for collective efforts to falter.

Effective collaboration requires a certain set of skills, such as emotional intelligence, empathy, and active listening—qualities that must be cultivated over time. When these qualities are lacking, collaboration can become inefficient, leaving behind frustration and unmet goals. The true power of both competition and collaboration lies in knowing when to embrace each. The most successful teams and individuals understand how to navigate this balance. Take, for example, the world of sports. On the field, ath-

letes compete fiercely against their opponents, each driven by the desire to win. However, off the field, they train together, working as a cohesive unit to hone their skills and improve their performance. In business, companies may compete for market share, but many also collaborate on projects, sharing ideas and resources that benefit all parties.

Startups often find success not only by competing in the marketplace but by contributing to open-source projects that foster collective growth within the tech community. In education, a healthy dose of competition can ignite motivation in students, pushing them to strive for academic excellence. However, group projects and collaborative learning can help teach valuable life skills, such as teamwork, communication, and shared responsibility. These experiences prepare students for a world where success is not only defined by individual performance but also by the ability to work well with others. In the workplace, too, competition and collaboration must coexist. A competitive environment can drive innovation and ensure that individuals remain motivated to do their best work. However, this must be balanced with a strong sense of team spirit and cooperation.

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By Ghulam Hussain Baloch



The history between Pakistan and India has been scarred not just by bloodshed and grief, but by repeated economic breakdowns that accompany their conflicts. The cost of war, often measured in lost lives and destroyed infrastructure, also carries a quieter but equally devastating weight: the theft of opportunity. Every military confrontation between the two neighbors halts the ticking clock of development, casting a long shadow over hopes for prosperity, and pulling generations backwards into cycles of poverty and insecurity. In this sense, war doesn't just steal the present—it mortgages the future. Whenever tensions between Islamabad and New Delhi boil over into open conflict, both countries are forced to make the same painful decision: divert funds from schools, hospitals, roads, and clean water systems into tanks, fighter jets, and ammunition.

It is a familiar sacrifice, but no less tragic for its repetition. This redirection of national resources creates an imbalance that punishes the poor disproportionately. Those already living on the edge find basic services suspended, development schemes postponed, and government support vanishing

into the fog of war. Education budgets shrink, healthcare systems falter, and infrastructure projects are abandoned. The promise of upward mobility is eroded for millions. Beyond budget lines and national accounts, war leaves scars on the land itself. Bridges that once connected cities are reduced to rubble. Power grids collapse, plunging communities into darkness. Roads become impassable, and communication networks are disrupted, cutting off access to markets and basic services. Rebuilding these physical structures is neither swift nor cheap.

Even years after the last shot is fired, the work of reconstruction drags on, often underfunded and incomplete. For citizens caught in the crossfire, each war means starting over—again and again—from the ashes of what was once progress. Trade, too, becomes a casualty. Pakistan and India share a complex trading history, one that has never been free of political influence. When bullets fly across borders, commerce grinds to a halt. Trucks are stopped, shipments returned, contracts torn up. The regional economy, which could otherwise thrive on collaboration and shared markets, is frozen. International investors watch from afar, wary of engaging with two economies so frequently at odds. The result is predictable: supply chains collapse, exports dwindle, and critical imports are delayed or abandoned altogether.

Small businesses suffer the most, especially those dependent on cross-border trade or international contracts. Investment is another area that takes a direct hit. No investor willingly places capital in a war zone. Stability, transparency, and predictability are the bedrock of economic confidence. But in the shadow of conflict, confidence evaporates. Both domestic and foreign investors pull back, waiting for the skies to clear. Startups lose momentum, infrastructure development is shelved, and job creation stalls. For countries like Pakistan and India, with large and youthful populations hungry for employment and innovation, this pause in economic activity is not just inconvenient—it's dangerous. It sows frustration, fuels unrest, and compounds inequality.

Wars also devastate human capital. Young lives lost on the battlefield are not only a personal tragedy for families, but also a blow to national productivity. Skilled professionals, engineers, teachers, and doctors are among the casualties, leaving behind gaps that take years to fill. Those displaced by conflict add new layers of stress to host communities, stretching services and fraying social cohesion. The intellectual and emotional toll of war erodes morale, ambition, and the collective sense of national purpose. In economic terms, wars introduce inflation and price shocks. Food becomes more expensive, transport

costs soar, and wages fail to keep pace. Governments, already struggling to finance defense spending, are left with little fiscal room to protect their populations from economic hardship. The result is a deeply insecure economy—one where survival becomes the daily priority, and long-term growth is a distant dream.

The lesson is not new, yet it bears repeating: war is not a path to greatness. It is a pitfall that traps both Pakistan and India in an endless loop of mistrust and missed opportunity. For decades, both countries have demonstrated their resilience and capacity for growth. But peace is the essential condition for that promise to be realized. Until that peace is achieved and preserved, prosperity will remain just out of reach. This is why the true act of courage for both nations now lies not in preparing for another confrontation, but in recommitting to dialogue. To negotiate, to understand, to compromise—these are not signs of weakness. They are the foundation of maturity and leadership. Only through sustained peace and regional cooperation can Pakistan and India lift their people out of poverty, unlock their full economic potential, and finally turn the tide on the decades of destruction that have defined their shared history.

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By Zubair Khan



From the sweeping deserts of Thar to the fragile coastlines of Balochistan, and from the mountain valleys of Diamer to the congested urban peripheries of Lahore and Karachi, Pakistan is undergoing a profound transformation. Billions are being poured into infrastructure, energy, and transport projects—many under the banners of CPEC, ADB, or the World Bank. Yet amid this boom, a troubling question persists: who really benefits from these so-called development projects, and at what cost? On paper, Pakistan has a fairly robust set of environmental and social (E&S) regulations. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (1997) and its provincial variants require Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and social safeguards. International financiers bring their own frameworks: ADB's Safeguard Policy, the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), and IFC Performance Standards.

Even the State Bank of Pakistan's ESRM Manual (2022) nudges banks towards responsible financing. But these safeguards often stop at the surface. In practice, E&S laws are routinely bypassed, diluted, or ignored entirely—especially when big money and powerful actors are involved. In field visits across project sites—be it Thar's coalfields, Gwadar's port development, or the Orange Line in Lahore—the story is strikingly similar. Communities speak of lost lands, polluted water, and broken promises. EIAs are hastily written by consultants handpicked to tick donor boxes. Public hearings are held without genuine participation, often in English, behind closed doors, or after decisions have already been made. Meanwhile, ecosystems are degraded, cultural heritage sites erased, and vulnerable groups—women, indigenous peoples, fisherfolk—are displaced with little to no compensation. This is not accidental. It is systemic. Pakistan's federal and provincial institutions tasked with oversight—Pak-EPA, provincial EPAs, line departments—are underfunded, understaffed, and politically compromised. The environment is still viewed as a hurdle, not a human right. Provincial agencies often

approve reports under political or financial pressure, while local administrations lack both awareness and authority to intervene. Even when international financiers fund projects, E&S compliance often becomes a box-ticking exercise. Safeguard policies are more about documentation than actual protection. There is rarely a genuine third-party audit. And grievance redress mechanisms? Either non-existent or bureaucratically paralyzed.

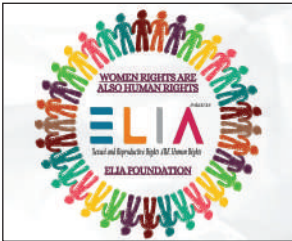
Behind this failure lies a deeper ideological problem. Pakistan's development model remains top-down, elite-driven, and extractive. Progress is defined by roads built, megawatts added, and investments attracted—not by the wellbeing of communities, the health of ecosystems, or the preservation of cultural identity. In this model, the poor are expected to sacrifice their land and livelihoods for the nation's "greater good." But the benefits rarely trickle down. The gap between decision-makers in Islamabad and affected communities in Ghotki, Pasni or Khuzdar is not just geographical—it's structural, political, and moral. It is time to rethink this model. Development must be people-centered, ecologically conscious, and socially just. Free, prior and in-

formed consent (FPIC) must be mandatory before project approval—not a formality after the fact.

EIA and social impact processes should be community-led and publicly disclosed in accessible languages. Environmental Protection Agencies must be made autonomous, well-resourced, and shielded from political interference. Financial institutions should refuse funding to projects that violate E&S norms—not just in principle, but in practice. Moreover, Pakistan must move away from a paradigm that pits "environment" against "development." The climate crisis, rising inequality, and growing social unrest demand a new ethic—one rooted in justice, accountability, and dignity. Until then, mega-projects will continue to deliver mega-harms under the illusion of progress. And the silent majority—those whose lands are taken, whose rivers are polluted, whose voices are ignored—will keep asking the most important question: development for whom?

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## Chinese J-10C jets shine in Pakistan's air combat success

Equipped with avionics, AESA radar and lethal precision weaponry, the J-10C now stands alongside the JF-17 Thunder Block-III as the sharpest edge of modern aerial warfare in South Asia

By Asghar Ali Mubarak

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's use of Chinese-made J-10C fighter jets to down Indian fighter planes, including French-made Rafale and Russian-made MiG-29 and Su-30, has revealed the potential of Chinese military technology on the world stage as well as PAF's professionalism. This confrontation has provided the first real-time demonstration of Chinese military hardware in a combat setting, offering a sharp contrast to Western-made defence systems.

According to CNN, the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan have created a unique opportunity for China to showcase its military technology, resulting in a notable increase in the stock value of Chinese defence companies. Chengdu Aircraft Industry Group, a subsidiary of the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC), saw



its stock rise by up to 40 percent after Pakistan successfully employed J-10C fighter jets to shoot down five Indian aircraft.

Chinese officials have refrained from commenting on the specific details of the incident, though they acknowledged that, as Pakistan's primary weapons supplier, China is closely monitoring the performance of its hardware in real-world combat scenarios. Over the past five years, China has supplied Pakistan with 81 percent of its imported weapons, including advanced fighter

jets, missiles, radars and air defence systems.

Some of these weapons have been co-developed by China and Pakistan or manufactured locally with Chinese technology. The two nations have also conducted joint military exercises in recent years, covering air, naval and ground operations, including the deployment of artificial intelligence-based targeting systems.

Craig Singleton of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies observed that the combination of Chinese

hardware, training and AI-enhanced targeting employed by Pakistan has shifted the regional balance of power. The air clash, fought over a distance of more than 160 kilometers and involving a total of 125 aircraft, is now regarded as one of the most intense aerial battles between nuclear-armed nations to date.

While India has been reluctant to acknowledge its losses, a French Ministry of Defence source confirmed that at least one Rafale aircraft was downed by Pakistan. The performance of J-10C aircraft in this conflict is being hailed as a victory for Chinese defence industries, with Chinese nationalists and military analysts celebrating on social media. Equipped with advanced avionics, AESA radar and superior weaponry, the J-10C is now considered one of most modern fighter jets, alongside the JF-17 Thunder Block III.

## First female Hindu AC in Balochistan

By our correspondent

NUSHKI: Kashish Chaudhry, hailing from the district of Nushki, has made history by becoming the first female Assistant Commissioner from the Hindu minority community in Balochistan. At just 25 years old, Kashish recently triumphed in the provincial competitive exams, securing her place in the civil service after passing the PCS examination.

She has now become the first female Assistant Commissioner of the Rakhshan Division. Kashish, born into a Hindu family in Nushki, completed her early education in her hometown. She later pursued her master's degree in Sociology and Political Science at Balochistan University in Quetta.

Kashish began preparing for the provincial exams even before completing her graduation. Joining the civil service as an Assistant Commissioner is a momentous achievement for her. She expressed that her goal in the civil service is to serve both her province and its people. Her father, Chaudhry Girdhari Lal, noting that his daughter's success in passing the provincial exam was not only a source of pride for their family but also for their entire community.

## Emergency sirens installed in Islamabad

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad has announced that emergency sirens have been installed on all major buildings across the city. According to the district administration, drill exercises have also been conducted in these prominent buildings.

The purpose of these drills is to prepare for potential wartime situations and ensure readiness in case of an emergency. The district administration further stated that citizens in Islamabad have been informed about the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be followed during an emergency situation.

## IMF rejects Indian plea to block Pakistan's program

News Desk

WASHINGTON: The IMF rejected India's attempt to block Pakistan's bailout program. New Delhi had reportedly approached the Fund, urging it to halt the disbursement to Islamabad — a request that was ultimately dismissed.

According to official sources, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved the release of the next \$1 billion tranche under its Extended Fund Facility despite Indian request to block.

The IMF board not only approved the disbursement but also endorsed Pakistan's economic review under the loan agreement, paving the way for the release of the second tranche in the \$7 billion bailout package.

## PM hails IMF's \$1bn loan as step towards stability

The IMF's nod to release a \$1 billion loan tranche offers Pakistan a fragile lifeline, underscoring both the urgency of its economic crisis and the tightrope it walks under the current bailout deal

By Asghar Ali Mubarak

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed satisfaction over the International Monetary Fund's approval of a \$1 billion tranche for Pakistan, calling it a step towards economic stability and long-term recovery. The IMF has approved the release of a \$1 billion loan tranche for Pakistan, marking a critical step in the country's ongoing efforts to stabilize its economy under the current bailout program.

In a statement issued by the IMF Executive Board, it acknowledged that Pakistan has implemented the agreed-upon economic reforms with notable discipline. "The program has been executed with commitment, leading to improvements in both domestic and external economic conditions," the statement said.

However, the IMF also signaled that Pakistan has more work ahead. It stressed the need for further structural reforms, especially in state-owned enterprises and the energy sector.

Climate resilience also emerged as a central theme,



Pakistan will be eligible to access an additional \$1.4 billion to support climate-related adaptation and disaster response planning. In a statement, the Prime Minister welcomed the development and noted with relief that India's alleged efforts to block the program had failed. "By the grace of God, the country's economic indicators are improving, and we are on the path to progress," he said.

The Prime Minister accused India of attempting to divert attention from Pakistan's economic recovery through what he described as "aggressive tactics and malicious conspiracies."

Shehbaz claimed that international institutions had responsibly rejected what he called India's "false propa-

ganda" aimed at undermining the IMF deal. He stressed that the IMF program would help stabilize the economy and support Pakistan's journey towards long-term growth.

"The positive economic indicators of the past 14 months reflect the sound policies of our government," the Prime Minister added. The approval of the tranche is seen as a key moment in Pakistan's ongoing negotiations with the IMF, offering some breathing room amid economic challenges. With the newly approved funds, Pakistan has now received a total of \$2.1 billion from the \$7 billion loan program.

The country had previously received \$1 billion earlier under the same program.

## Pakistan, Saudi leaders address rising tensions with India

By correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held a significant meeting with Saudi Arabia's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Adel Al-Jubeir, in Islamabad, where the two leaders delved into pressing regional security issues, particularly the escalating tensions between Pakistan and India.

The high-level discussion took place shortly after Al-Jubeir's visit to New Delhi, marking another key moment in Saudi Arabia's efforts to mediate and reduce the mounting friction between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. The meeting, according to diplomatic sources, was centered on not only bilateral matters but also broader geopolitical concerns affecting the South Asian region.

Al-Jubeir's visit is viewed as part of Saudi Arabia's on-



going diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions between Pakistan and India, encouraging both countries to exercise restraint in the face of rising hostilities. Sources suggest that Riyadh, while traditionally maintaining strong relations with both Islamabad and New Delhi, is leveraging its influence behind the scenes to prevent further deterioration of ties in a volatile region.

Prime Minister Sharif, during the conversation, reaffirmed Pakistan's unwa-

vering commitment to regional peace, underscoring the importance of stability in South Asia. He expressed deep appreciation for Saudi Arabia's measured diplomatic approach and its consistent support during times of crisis.

Sharif also took the opportunity to highlight the significance of the longstanding Saudi-Pakistani relationship, stressing the shared vision for economic cooperation and regional stability that underpins both countries' foreign policies.

## Female officer arrested in Lahore over anti-state posts

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A female government officer has been arrested in Lahore by the National Cyber Crime Agency for allegedly posting derogatory content against state institutions during the ongoing tensions between Pakistan and India.

Authorities say the woman is accused of attempting to incite public sentiment against national institutions by spreading inflammatory messages online. A case has been registered against her under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA).

According to the contents of the FIR, the officer used her social media platforms to circulate content that authorities claim aimed to "provoke public emotions" and undermine trust in the country's institutions amid heightened regional tensions. Officials also confirmed that digital evidence, including data retrieved from her mobile phone, has been seized.

## Dubai rejects to hold IPL

News Desk

DUBAI: The Emirates Cricket Board has rejected India's request to host the Indian Premier League (IPL) in Dubai, citing that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had already made arrangements to hold matches there.

According to sources, India approached the Emirates Cricket Board on May 8, requesting to host the IPL matches in Dubai. In response, the Board confirmed that the PCB, under the chairmanship of Mohsin Naqvi, had already made prior arrangements for holding Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches in Dubai.

## Int'l media reports downing of Indian aircraft

News Desk

KARACHI: Despite India's denial, international media are acknowledging the destroying of Indian Rafale aircraft by the Pakistan Air Force. Pakistan's Ambassador to France, Maumtaz Zehra Baloch, along with her team, particularly Press Consul Sajila, effectively presented their position.

According to a report in the French newspaper Le Monde, India and Pakistan are locked in a conflict that is pushing them closer to war. Both nuclear-armed nations blame each other for the escalating situation. The report states that the Pakistani military targeted Indian military posts on the night of May 8. In response, India implemented a complete blackout across 15 cities in Kashmir, as well as in Gujarat, Punjab, and Rajasthan, which



border Pakistan.

In Kashmir, areas such as Uri, Poonch, and Kupwara along the Line of Control (LoC) were evacuated. Srinagar was plunged into darkness, and its airport was placed on high alert. India also used Israeli drones to bomb Lahore and targeted other cities, including Karachi. International media reports indicate that the conflict has entered a new phase.

Narendra Modi's government continues to deny the

information published by international press outlets. The US officials confirmed to an international wire news agency that a Chinese-made Pakistani aircraft destroyed at least two Indian military aircraft on Wednesday. In 2016, Islamabad procured Chinese J-10C fighter jets shortly after New Delhi purchased Rafale aircraft. This marks the first time a Chinese fighter aircraft has succeeded in aerial combat, as well as the first instance of a Rafale being shot down.

## CM Sindh orders water supply to resume in Karachi

By our correspondent

KARACHI: The Chief Minister of Sindh, Murad Ali Shah, has taken notice of the water shortage in Karachi and ordered that the city's water supply be resumed under all circumstances starting today. He also directed the repair of all old water pipelines across the city. Shah stressed the importance of completing the expansion of the K-IV project by April 2027.

The Chief Minister assured that there would be no funding issues, with the provincial government committed to fulfilling all necessary requirements. He also addressed the suspension of water supply in Karachi, instructing authorities to replace the old pipelines and



restore water to the city. A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Murad Ali Shah to review progress on the K-IV project. Attended by Energy Minister Nasser Hussain Shah, Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani, Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab, and other officials, the meeting discussed the extension of the project.

During the session, it was revealed that the Sindh government, in collaboration

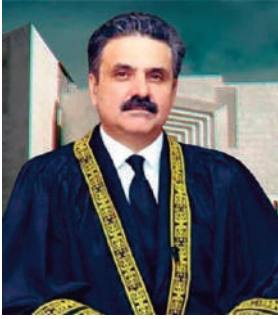
with the Asian Development Bank, is funding the project with a budget of Rs 71 billion. The extension involves the construction of a water transmission system from Reservoir One to the Y Junction, and from Reservoir Two to Urdu University.

The design of the K-IV project has been completed, tenders have been finalised, and contracts will soon be signed. Work on the KB feeder lining is progressing rapidly. The meeting further highlighted that work on the KB feeder lining is set to be completed by 2027, with efforts underway to expedite the process. Requests for No-Objection Certificates (NOCs) have been made to 18 federal agencies, with seven agencies already issuing their NOCs.

## Justice Malik writes to CJ over non-uploading of dissenting note

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court Justice Ayesha Malik has raised concerns over what she described as a troubling delay in uploading her dissenting note regarding the ongoing review petitions on specific parliamentary seats. In a letter addressed to Chief Justice of Pakistan, Yahya Afridi, Justice Malik voiced frustration over the court's IT department's failure to upload her written opinion on the official website — a move she deemed both



unacceptable and damaging to judicial transparency.

Justice Malik clarified in her letter that her dissenting note had been sent to



the IT department around noon the previous day, well within standard working hours. However, despite a follow-up reminder the next morning, the note

remained unpublished. She stated unequivocally that this kind of non-compliance from the department responsible for ensuring timely public access to judicial documents undermines the integrity of the court's proceedings.

The delayed publication comes at a particularly sensitive moment, with public interest and political stakes running high in the review petitions currently before the bench. Dissenting opinions, though often overshadowed by majority rulings, play a crucial role

in the legal ecosystem, offering alternative interpretations and reinforcing the principle that justice is never monolithic.

Justice Malik's letter is being interpreted within legal circles as a firm reminder of the importance of procedural fairness and institutional accountability — even within the judiciary itself.

Her appeal to Chief Justice Afridi is not only administrative in nature but also a call for ensuring the independence and visibility of all judicial voices.