



By Asghar Ali Mubarak

ISLAMABAD: A ceasefire between Pakistan and India was announced on Saturday by US President Donald Trump, bringing a halt—at least for now—to days of intense military confrontation. The announcement, made via a late-night post on the social media platform X, confirmed that both nations had agreed to a full and immediate stop to hostilities, marking what Trump described as “a moment of wisdom and maturity” by the two rival powers.

“Under US mediation, India and Pakistan have agreed to an immediate ceasefire,” Trump posted, adding that both sides had

demonstrated “commendable restraint.” While the President’s tone reflected a sense of achievement, it also served as a stark reminder of how close the region had come to spiralling into a broader and more devastating conflict.

Shortly after Trump’s post, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio reinforced the announcement, suggesting that the agreement was not just a temporary pause but the starting point for more meaningful dialogue. Speaking after a call with Pakistan’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Rubio emphasized the urgency of de-escalation. “The world cannot afford this level of conflict,” he reportedly told

Dar, underscoring Washington’s concern over the volatility of nuclear-armed South Asia.

Pakistan’s response, however, came with a sharp edge. While confirming the ceasefire, Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar did not shy away from issuing a pointed warning. “If India wants peace, Pakistan is ready,” he said during a media briefing in Islamabad. “But if even a single provocative action is repeated, then Pakistan will show what real retaliation looks like.” His words made it clear that while the immediate danger may have passed, the underlying tensions remain raw.

The ceasefire follows what had quickly escalated

into one of the most intense military standoffs in recent years. Islamabad had accused New Delhi of initiating unprovoked aggression along the Line of Control and beyond, a charge that swiftly led to Pakistan launching what it called “Operation Banyan Marsus.” According to senior security sources, the retaliatory operation targeted multiple Indian military facilities, including strategic airbases and supply depots across the northern states.

The reported destruction was significant. Installations in Adampur, Udhampur, Bathinda, Suratgarh, Mamun, Akhnoor, Jammu, Sirsa, and Barnala were hit, according to Pakistani intelligence. Key logistics hubs

such as the Uri field supply depot and airfields at Halwara and Sirsa were also reportedly struck, although Indian authorities have yet to publicly confirm the extent of the damage.

While there was cautious optimism in both Islamabad and New Delhi, seasoned observers know this is not the first ceasefire between the two rivals—and likely not the last. Yet, the speed and decisiveness with which the agreement was implemented drew quiet approval in policy circles. Analysts suggest that internal political pressures, economic considerations, and the growing weight of public opinion may have nudged both governments toward the negotiating table.

India confirms end to hostilities

News Desk

NEW DEHLI: The agreement, confirmed by Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, has stopped all forms of hostilities—on land, air, and sea—marking a significant pause in a volatile regional standoff. A fragile calm returned to the border on Saturday evening as a ceasefire between Pakistan and India officially came into effect, halting days of heightened military tension between the two nuclear-armed neighbors.

The ceasefire came into force at 4:30 PM Pakistan Standard Time, following urgent military-level discussions. In a brief but pointed statement to the press, Misri announced that both sides had reached consensus through a direct dia-



logue between their respective Directors General of Military Operations. The senior officials, often the quiet brokers of calm in tense moments, are now expected to meet again on 12 May to ensure that the agreement holds and to lay the groundwork for sustained de-escalation.

“All firing and military exchanges have been halted

immediately,” Misri told reporters, underscoring the immediacy of the decision. “Today’s talks led to a joint understanding that the cost of continued conflict far outweighs any perceived gain.” His remarks hinted at a rare moment of clarity and restraint, a shift from the recent days of anxious watching from border towns and diplomatic circles alike.

‘Intel warning forces US to involve in Pak-India conflict’

By Amjad Qaimkhani

WASHINGTON: The White House based journalist claimed that the recent ceasefire between Pakistan and India may not have been possible without a sharp escalation in US involvement—triggered by what officials described as “sensitive intelligence” received early on Saturday morning.

According to the journalist, the intelligence was serious enough to prompt an urgent shift in the Biden administration’s handling of the rapidly escalating conflict.

Alayna Treene said that though the exact nature of the intelligence remains clas-



sified, US officials reportedly acted swiftly, with Vice President J.D. Vance personally calling Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In that call, Vance warned Modi that without immediate de-escalation, the situation could spiral further out of control by the weekend. Earlier, Vance told the journalist that US appealed both nations to restrain and America had no more mandate to halt the issue.

Treene’s report reveals

that Vance, along with Secretary of State Marco Rubio and the White House Chief of Staff, had been closely monitoring the standoff throughout the week. The vice president’s intervention appears to have been a turning point. He not only urged Modi to explore diplomatic alternatives but also encouraged him to open a direct channel with Pakistan.

Sources say Vance floated a proposal that could have been acceptable to both sides. And as Treene notes, the episode has underscored the fragile balance of power in South Asia—and Washington’s growing concern about what happens when that balance begins to tip.

US journalist reveals behind-the-scenes diplomacy

News Desk

WASHINGTON: As tensions between nuclear-armed neighbors Pakistan and India reached a boiling point, it took an extraordinary web of diplomacy and decisive military posturing to bring both sides to a ceasefire — a move that global leaders are now hailing as a pivotal step toward regional stability. American journalist Nick Robertson has offered a detailed breakdown of how this ceasefire came to be.

According to Robertson, the world had been watching with growing alarm as India launched a strike targeting Pakistan’s airbases. In swift retaliation, Pakistan unleashed a barrage of missile strikes in an operation that



overwhelmed Indian defences and left critical military installations damaged or destroyed.

Robertson said it was this overwhelming show of force that forced India to abandon its aggressive posture and return to the negotiating table. “After the relentless Pakistani missile attacks, India had no choice but to engage in dialogue,” he reported. Key diplomatic efforts were then triggered. The US Secretary of State engaged directly with officials in Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

According to Robertson, it was only after these high-level contacts that a diplomatic framework was created to de-escalate the situation. The result was a ceasefire agreement reached with urgent intervention from Washington, Riyadh, and Ankara. The announcement was made jointly by US President Donald Trump, Pakistan’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, and Indian officials. Dar confirmed that the ceasefire would take effect at 4:30 pm, while stressing that Pakistan remained prepared to respond decisively if provoked again.

India brazen as ‘Indus Waters Treaty’ suspended

News Desk

NEW DEHLI: Even as the guns fall silent along the Line of Control following a high-stakes ceasefire, India has made it clear that the deeper wounds between the two neighbours remain far from healed. In a statement that throws a shadow over this week’s peace breakthrough, Indian officials confirmed that the Indus Waters Treaty, the cornerstone of water sharing between Pakistan and India since 1960, will remain suspended.

For Pakistan, which depends on the Indus River system for irrigation, agriculture, and drinking water, the treaty has always been more than a technical



agreement—it is a lifeline. The suspension raises troubling questions about the future of regional water security and how political tensions may further imperil millions who rely on these rivers.

The decision, shared by four senior Indian officials speaking to a news agency on condition of anonymity,

underscores the fragile and selective nature of the thaw between the South Asian rivals. “The Indus Waters Treaty remains suspended,” one official said bluntly, adding that the ceasefire agreement brokered with American mediation does not override decisions made in the wake of the recent Pahalgam attack.

Pakistan-India ceasefire welcomed

By Uzma Ehtasham

KARACHI: The recent announcement of a ceasefire between Pakistan and India has been met with widespread international approval, with the United Nations, Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Kingdom and Germany all expressing hope that the development could mark a turning point towards lasting peace in South Asia.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres voiced optimism that the ceasefire would help create a more conducive environment for addressing deeper and long-standing issues between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. He emphasized the need for dialogue and restraint to ensure the ceasefire evolves into a pathway for enduring stability.

Saudi Arabia’s Deputy Foreign Minister, Adel Al-Jubeir, called Pakistan’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar to welcome the ceasefire. In the exchange, Dar acknowledged and appreciated the Kingdom’s constructive and



supportive role in promoting peace and stability in the region.

Iran also welcomed the development, with its Foreign Ministry urging both sides to use the opportunity to reduce tensions and work towards long-term peace in the region.

The statement reflected Tehran’s broader diplomatic approach of encouraging de-escalation in its extended neighborhood.

In London, the UK Foreign Secretary said the ceasefire was in everyone’s interest and urged both nations to maintain the de-escalation momentum. The British government called the truce a “sensible and mature

move” that should now be reinforced by further diplomatic engagement.

Germany, through its Foreign Office, similarly praised the decision by both countries to agree to an immediate halt to hostilities. Labelling the development a “first important step,” the German government noted that the key to diffusing tensions lies in sustained dialogue and mutual trust.

The chorus of international voices in favor of the ceasefire underscores the global community’s shared interest in averting conflict in South Asia and encouraging both Pakistan and India to pivot from military posturing to political resolution.

US welcomes Pak-India ceasefire

By our correspondent

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has expressed relief and optimism following the agreement between Pakistan and India to implement an immediate ceasefire, calling it a “wise and timely decision” by both countries’ leadership.

In a statement issued



from Washington, Rubio said, “I am pleased that Pakistan and India have agreed to a prompt ceasefire. Over the past 48 hours, I, along with Vice President J.D. Vance, remained in constant communication with officials from both nations to help ease tensions.”

Rubio confirmed that he held direct conversations with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, and National Security Adviser Asim Malik. On the Indian side, he spoke with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

Indians slam Arnab Goswami for ‘fake’ news

News Desk

NEW DEHLI: In an unusual turn of public sentiment, Indian citizens have taken to social media to condemn prominent anchor Arnab Goswami and lambast India’s mainstream media for spreading falsehoods amid heightened Pakistan-India tensions. The backlash follows a fabricated news story aired by Goswami against Pakistan and Pakistani media.

Many Indian viewers, frustrated with what they describe as “state-controlled propaganda and fake news,” have increasingly begun relying on Pakistan news channels as credible news source. Social media platforms have been flooded with posts from Indian users acknowledging Pakistani media for behaving professionally, in contrast to what they call the Indian media “screaming theatrics.” “Not a single credible news channel in a country of 1.4 billion.”

The criticism reflects deepening con-



cerns among Indian citizens about media integrity and the role of newsrooms in shaping national perception.

With several Pakistani channels blocked in India, many viewers report turning to VPNs to bypass restrictions and access coverage they describe as more balanced and factual. The wave of support for Pakistani news outlets highlights not only a growing credibility crisis within Indian media but also the cross-border demand for reliable journalism.

India declares any escalation will be an act of war

News Desk

NEW DEHLI: In a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Indian government has decided that any future attack on Indian soil will be treated as an act of war. The meeting, which included top civilian and military leadership, came in the wake of Pakistan’s retaliatory strikes earlier this week.

According to senior Indian government sources, the new stance means that any threat to the security of the Indian state or its citizens—whether by a militant group or through direct military engagement—will be considered a declaration of war. The decision reflects a



hardened position in New Delhi as tensions with Islamabad remain volatile despite the recent ceasefire.

“Any use of force or armed attack on Indian territory will now invite a wartime response,” one senior official told local media after the closed-door meeting. The

language used in the briefing indicates a shift in India’s security doctrine, effectively lowering the threshold for what it may define as a casus belli.

The meeting was reportedly convened after Pakistan launched Operation Bunyān Marsūs, a military counter-

strike that targeted Indian installations in response to what Islamabad described as unprovoked missile attacks on civilian areas in Azad Kashmir.

While both countries have since agreed to a US-brokered ceasefire, mutual distrust remains high. Modi’s meeting with top officials appears to be aimed at sending a message—both to Pakistan and to domestic audiences—that India will respond with full force to any future provocations. This development adds a new layer of uncertainty to an already fragile situation in the region, where the specter of war now looms larger, even in the aftermath of a truce.

Bangladesh bans Awami League under interim rule

The ban on former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s party under the Anti-Terrorism Act will remain in effect until the trial over the student deaths reaches completion

News Desk

DHAKA: Bangladesh's interim government, led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus, has decided to ban all activities of the former ruling Awami League, headed by ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina. The decision comes after Hasina was ousted last year following a massive uprising that saw widespread protests across the country. Asif Nazrul, the law affairs adviser to the interim cabinet, announced on Saturday that the Awami League's activities would be banned both online and offline, under the country's Anti-Terrorism Act. This ban will remain in effect until a



special tribunal completes its trial of the party and its leadership, which faces charges related to the deaths of hundreds of students and other protesters during the anti-government demonstrations that took place in July and August of the previous year. The primary aim of the ban, according to Nazrul, is

to ensure national security and sovereignty while also protecting the activists involved in the July movement, as well as plaintiffs and witnesses in the tribunal proceedings. Nazrul further emphasized that the scope for prosecuting political parties involved in violent actions during the protests would be

expanded under the jurisdiction of the international crimes tribunal. The decision follows an escalating wave of protests, particularly in Dhaka, where thousands took to the streets, including supporters of a newly formed political party by students, demanding the banning of the Awami League. The Jamaat-e-Islami party's student wing also participated prominently in these demonstrations. The protesters had given an ultimatum to the government to enforce the ban by Saturday night. The decision to ban the Awami League reflects the ongoing tensions in Bangladesh following the ousting of Sheikh Hasina.

Hasina, who has been in exile in India since August 5 after her residence was stormed by protesters, faces multiple charges, including murder, following the violent crackdown on protesters during the uprising. According to a report from the UN's human rights office, up to 1,400 people may have died during the three weeks of protests against her rule. While there has been no immediate reaction from Hasina or her party, Nahid Islam, the chief of the National Citizen Party (Jatiya Nagorik), which is also a student-led political group, voiced his approval of the Yunus-led government's decision, calling it a necessary step in restoring order.

Israeli kills 23 more in Gaza as int’l outcry grows

News Desk

DEIR AL-BALAH, GAZA CITY: Israeli airstrikes overnight and into Saturday killed at least 23 Palestinians in Gaza, including three children and their parents, whose tent was bombed in Gaza City, health officials said. The bombardment continued as international warnings grow over Israeli plans to control aid distribution in Gaza, as Israel's blockade on the territory of over 2 million people enters its third month. The UN and aid groups have rejected Israel's aid distribution moves, including a plan from a group of American security contractors, ex-military officers, and humanitarian aid officials calling itself the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. Among the 23 bodies brought to hospitals over the past 24 hours were those of the family of five whose tent was struck in Gaza City's Sabra district,



Gaza's Health Ministry said. Another Israeli strike late Friday hit a warehouse belonging to UNRWA in the northern area of Jabaliya. Four people were killed, according to the Indonesian Hospital, where the bodies were taken. A video showed fires burning in the shattered building. The warehouse was empty after being hit and raided multiple times during Israeli ground offensives against Hamas fighters over the past year, said residents, including Hamza Mo-

hamed. The 19-month-old war in Gaza is the most devastating ever fought between Israel and Palestinian authorities. Israel has killed more than 52,800 innocent civilians, more than half of them women and children, and wounded more than 119,000, according to the Health Ministry. The ministry's count does not differentiate between civilians and combatants. Israel admits that it has killed thousands of civilians.

Maryam says response to India written in golden letters

By Faizan Khan

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has lauded Pakistan's response to India's aggression, describing it as a historic moment that will be remembered in the annals of history. In a statement

Salute to your spirit! Salute to the protectors who responded with honor, wisdom, and courage." She commended the military for transforming the nation's patience into wisdom, delivering a decisive blow to the aggressor when re-



issued from Lahore, she referred to Pakistan's Operation Bunyān Maršūs as not merely a retaliatory measure but as a bold declaration of the nation's strength and resolve. Maryam Nawaz emphasized that Pakistan is not weak and had only remained silent in the past for the sake of peace. "Pakistan's patience has never been a sign of weakness but a testament to our commitment to peace," she said, underscoring that when provoked, Pakistan responded decisively. Addressing the nation's armed forces, she extended her admiration, stating, "Salute to the soldiers of our homeland!

quired. Maryam Nawaz further emphasized that Pakistan's desire for peace should not be mistaken for passivity. "Aggression does not receive silence; it is met with a strong response," she said, adding that the nation's borders are protected not just by barbed wire, but by the blood of martyrs. Operation Bunyān Maršūs, launched in retaliation to India's unprovoked aggression, resulted in the destruction of several key Indian military installations and posts. After incurring substantial losses, India agreed to a ceasefire with Pakistan, marking a significant victory for the country's defense forces.

Soldier martyred at Sialkot border

By Sudhir Ahmad Afridi

KHYBER: The entire nation has paid solemn tribute to Nisar Ali, a valiant soldier of the Pakistan Rangers who was martyred while defending the country during a fierce clash with Indian forces at the Sialkot border. Hailing from the Shalman region in Khyber District, Nisar Ali's ultimate sacrifice has stirred an outpouring of respect and pride across Pak-

istan. Ali was killed in action during a skirmish at the volatile border, where he stood his ground with exceptional courage. His body was brought home to Lower Shalman and buried with full state honours, in the presence of grieving yet proud relatives, fellow soldiers, and community members who turned out in large numbers to pay their last respects.

The funeral, marked by military salutes and national flags, served not only as a final farewell but as a reminder of the ongoing risks faced by border forces and the price of protecting national sovereignty. As the flag-draped coffin was lowered into the ground, tributes poured in from across the country, reinforcing the message that the nation stands united in honouring its heroes.

Mayor Karachi suspends two officers involved in water theft

By Aziz Khatri

KARACHI: Karachi's Mayor, Murtaza Wahab, has taken decisive action in response to water theft, suspending two officers involved in the illegal activity. This move follows a recent tour conducted by Wahab, alongside CEO of the Water

Corporation, Ahmed Ali Siddiqui, to various areas in the city, including the Lyari River, Nagan Chowrangi, and Liaquatabad, to assess the water supply situation and address the growing concern of water theft. A spokesperson for the Mayor's office stated that the purpose of the tour was to ensure that the crackdown on water theft becomes more effective and efficient. During the visit, Wahab reiterated that water



is a basic right of Karachi's residents and affirmed that strict legal action would be pursued against anyone involved in its theft. As a result of the findings from the tour, Mayor Wahab ordered the immediate suspension of two officers implicated in the theft. The Human Resources de-

partment of the Water Corporation was directed to issue suspension notifications. Moreover, Wahab emphasized that any officer or staff member found involved in water theft would face strict disciplinary action, regardless of their position. This move is part of the ongoing efforts to combat illegal water distribution and ensure equitable access to water for the citizens of Karachi.

METRO MATTERS

Jl inaugurates upgraded NICU in Karachi's Orangi Town

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi Ameer Monem Zafar Khan on Saturday inaugurated a newly upgraded Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Alkhidmat Hospital in Orangi Town, renewing calls for the state to take responsibility for the health and welfare of its citizens. The initiative, spearheaded by Alkhidmat Foundation, aims to provide critical care for newborns in one of Karachi's most underserved localities. Speaking at the inauguration, Zafar Khan lauded the efforts of Alkhidmat but reminded attendees that it was ultimately the government's duty to ensure equitable access to healthcare. "We are doing everything in our power to serve vulnerable communities, but it is the failure of the state to fulfil its constitutional obligations that has created the conditions we see today," he said. He pointed out that more than 30 million people in Karachi continue to suffer from a lack of adequate health and education facilities. He was joined by Executive Director of Alkhidmat Karachi, Rashid Qureshi, Director of Medical Services Dr Saqib Ansari, and prominent paediatrician Dr Azhar Chugtai. The newly upgraded NICU will operate 24/7, offering critical neonatal services and equipped to handle emergencies that disproportionately affect low-income families. Reaffirming Alkhidmat's mission, Zafar said the organisation would continue to serve humanity without discrimination. "Whether rich or poor, regardless of caste or creed, we are committed to serving every life," he stated. Qureshi described the NICU's launch as a "significant milestone" and credited the team's tireless work in transforming the facility. Dr Ansari highlighted that Alkhidmat Hospital currently treats over 500,000 patients annually and said the NICU upgrade would expand life-saving care for newborns. Dr Chugtai added that round-the-clock care would be a "game-changer" for families in the area.

KMC faces allegations over Rs16bn tender procurement

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Allegations of serious irregularities have surfaced in recent tenders issued by the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), casting a shadow over development projects worth more than Rs16 billion under both the District and Provincial Annual Development Programs (ADP). The controversy has triggered widespread concern among civil society and contractors, amid claims of favoritism, procedural violations, and corruption. Credible sources report that tenders worth Rs3.39 billion under the District ADP and Rs13 billion under the Provincial ADP were recently floated, but rather than awarding contracts to the lowest and most qualified bidders, KMC officials allegedly manipulated the process to favor select individuals and companies. The preferred bidders are said to have benefited from tailor-made terms and bypassed open competition, raising red flags about violations of procurement rules and financial propriety. KMC senior official is believed to have overseen the entire tendering process, reportedly with the full knowledge and backing of higher authority. Various sources alleged that bribes were accepted in exchange for awarding contracts, suggesting an orchestrated misuse of authority for personal gain. The issue has provoked an outcry from deprived contractors, who are now calling for an immediate and impartial investigation. "This is a blatant misuse of taxpayers' money and a betrayal of public trust," a joint statement from victims read. They have demanded legal proceedings against those involved and urged authorities to cancel the tainted tenders and re-evaluate bids through a fair and transparent process. The allegations, if proven, point to a deeper culture of impunity in Karachi's civic institutions, undermining not only the rule of law but also the city's development efforts. As frustration mounts, public confidence in KMC's capacity to govern transparently continues to erode.

Hand grenade blast near police checkpoint in Gulistan-e-Jauhar

By Ahsan Mughal

KARACHI: A hand grenade explosion occurred today near a police checkpoint in the bustling Gulistan-e-Jauhar Block 11 area of Karachi, though fortunately, no casualties or damage were reported. The incident, which took place in the early hours of the day, has sparked a swift response from law enforcement agencies. According to police officials, the explosion was caused by a grenade thrown by an unidentified motorcyclist. The authorities revealed that the assailant threw the grenade in the vicinity of the police checkpoint, which was closed at the time. As a result, the grenade landed on the road and exploded without causing harm to any personnel or bystanders. The explosion, though significant in its impact, did not result in any damage to nearby structures or vehicles. However, it raised concerns regarding the growing security challenges in Karachi, particularly in densely populated areas such as Gulistan-e-Jauhar. Following the incident, police and security agencies launched an immediate investigation into the event. A bomb disposal squad was promptly dispatched to the location to ensure that there were no further explosives in the area. The authorities are now reviewing CCTV footage and collecting evidence in an attempt to identify the assailant and determine the motive behind the attack. The Senior Police Superintendent (SP) of Gulshan-e-Iqbal Division, who was briefed on the situation, noted that this attack, while not resulting in any fatalities, underscores the need for heightened vigilance in the city. Despite the lack of immediate casualties, the authorities are treating the incident seriously as part of ongoing efforts to combat the rising tide of violence in Karachi. The investigation is ongoing, and law enforcement officials have reassured the public that they are taking all necessary steps to ensure the safety and security of the city. While Karachi continues to grapple with challenges related to security and law enforcement, today's incident serves as a reminder of the unpredictable nature of urban violence and the ongoing need for robust countermeasures.

Fisher folk from coastal hubs rally behind military

By our correspondent

KARACHI: The fisher folk communities from Pakistan's coastal regions have declared full solidarity with the country's armed forces, pledging to defend the nation by sea if called upon. At a public gathering attended by leaders and members from coastal hubs such as Ibrahim Hyderi, Keti Bunder, and Jati, community representatives expressed their willingness to lay down their lives in defence of Pakistan. "We are not just guardians of the sea—we are also soldiers of Pakistan," declared one fisherfolk leader. "If our homeland is ever threatened, we will stand shoulder to shoulder with the Pakistan Army and sacrifice everything." The sea, they stressed, is more than a livelihood; it is a frontier of national pride and sovereignty. The community's message was clear: their boats, which usually serve peaceful purposes, could serve as defensive vessels in times of national crisis. They affirmed their commitment to protecting Pakistan from any internal or external threat, assuring military leadership of their readiness. Chairman of the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum, Mehran Ali Shah, lent further weight to the declaration. "Pakistan is our homeland, and we stand with our armed forces. Whenever the need arises, four million fishermen from Sindh will rise to protect Pakistan," he said. Shah emphasized the community's historic bond with the sea and their readiness to support the Pakistan Navy, Maritime Security Agency, Rangers, Police, and Army.

Karachi to Doha flight marks reopening of airspace

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Following the successful agreement on a ceasefire between Pakistan and India, the country's airspace has been fully reopened, marking a significant step toward normalizing air travel in the region. The reopening was confirmed as air operations resumed without delay, with the first flight from Karachi taking off for Doha soon after. Qatar Airways flight QR 604, which had arrived from Doha late at night, was the first flight to be affected by the temporary airspace closure. The flight had to wait for clearance before it could land in Karachi, a reflection of the heightened tensions that had prompted the airspace closure. However, with the ceasefire in place, air traffic resumed smoothly, symbolizing a return to normalcy. This development signals a crucial moment in the gradual easing of tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbors, with the reopening of the airspace marking a return to normal international connectivity. For both Pakistan and India, the resumption of air operations provides a moment of relief for travelers and businesses alike, who had been affected by the sudden disruptions in flight schedules. As flights continue to operate, attention now turns to the broader implications of the ceasefire and whether this newfound peace will extend into other areas of diplomacy and cooperation between the two nations.

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India bows, Pakistan strikes — the world watches

In the shadowed hours before dawn, as satellites buzzed over the subcontinent and global leaders paced behind closed doors, one thing became uncomfortably clear: New Delhi had overplayed its hand. Its chest-thumping declarations about cross-border strikes and its longstanding posture of regional dominance came crashing down under the cold weight of military reality. What had long been broadcast as strategic boldness now appears as recklessness, and India — a self-proclaimed hegemon of South Asia — was suddenly scrambling, not to escalate, but to de-escalate. Operation ‘Banyan Mursas,’ Pakistan’s robust military response to India’s provocations, was not a spontaneous act of fury, but a calculated, deeply co-ordinated show of strength.

A flurry of precision strikes on key Indian military installations, including airbases in Adampur, Udhampur, Bathinda, Suratgarh, and Halwara, as well as critical supply depots in Uri, shattered not just radar towers and runways — but also the illusion that India could act with impunity. The very idea that Pakistan’s armed forces were too economically burdened to retaliate effectively dissolved in real-time as missiles roared and command centers fell silent. Pakistan’s message, transmitted not merely in the language of ordinance but in its execution and restraint, was unmistakable. This was not an outburst; it was doctrine made manifest. For years, Pakistan has warned that deterrence is not a hollow threat. With this operation, it underlined that strategic stability in the region is not guaranteed by polite diplomacy alone, but by the credible threat of proportionate response.

And proportionate it was — enough to cripple without expanding the conflict beyond recovery. In Washington, the air was thick with urgency. US Vice President JD Vance, initially dismissive of India’s earlier mortar provocations, found himself urgently dialing Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the real situation. Modi, in turn, pleaded for an immediate reprieve through a definite American-brokered ceasefire. Reports indicate that US intelligence had intercepted grave indicators of potential escalation. The nature of these findings remains classified, but they were serious enough to prompt a major recalibration of America’s tone. Suddenly, this wasn’t a mere border tiff between nuclear neighbors — it was a flash-point with global stakes.

For Modi’s government, the reversal was humiliating. In the span of days, India’s war rhetoric evaporated into hurried diplomatic channels and backdoor pleas. The myth of unchecked dominance was undone not by theory, but by steel and fire. And in this reversal, the global narrative began to shift. Media houses in the West, long criticized for uncritical adoption of Delhi’s line, began reporting what was once unthinkable: Pakistan had not only defended its sovereignty but had done so with a level of tactical superiority that left Indian forces stunned. The BBC’s South Asia editor, Amberson Etherjohn, in a surprisingly candid segment, acknowledged Pakistan’s aerial edge — a confession that few in Delhi’s political or military elite are likely to repeat in public, but which now echoes in defence circles across capitals.

American correspondents such as Nick Robertson detailed how India’s planned offensives were swiftly overwhelmed by Pakistani countermeasures, forcing a return to the diplomatic table, not as victors, but as “survivors.” What India had framed as surgical strikes soon looked more like strategic stumbles. It is hard to ignore the broader diplomatic choreography that followed. The ceasefire, brokered quietly but firmly by a coalition of stakeholders — the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey — was announced with uncharacteristic gravity by US President Donald Trump alongside Pakistan’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. The joint statement may have used the language of mutual restraint, but make no mistake: it was India that had asked for time. It was India that needed the break. And it was Pakistan that had set the terms.

Saudi Arabia’s Deputy Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir even went so far as to personally commend Pakistan’s leadership for its maturity, a rare diplomatic flourish in a region where statements are often parsed word by word. The United Nations welcomed the ceasefire too, with Secretary General António Guterres expressing optimism that this could lead to more durable dialogue. Yet behind the UN’s hope lay a tacit acknowledgement — peace was restored not by India’s strength, but by Pakistan’s resolve. India’s strategic misadventure has left the region not only shaken but permanently altered. Trust in Delhi’s judgment has taken a hit, both within and outside its borders. Allies are cautious, analysts are revising their models, and neighbors are whispering about vulnerabilities long ignored.

The belief that economic heft and international PR could override the gritty calculus of military parity has been exposed. South Asia, it turns out, still runs on the old rules of deterrence — and Pakistan, against many odds, just reminded everyone what that means. Pakistan, meanwhile, walks away from this episode with its head high, not in triumph, but in vindication. It did not initiate the provocation, but it did answer. It did not seek escalation, but it was prepared for it. And as the dust settles over the ravaged runways of Indian airbases and the smoke clears from blackened depots, one thing is clear: Pakistan’s silence in recent years was not weakness. It was warning.

The region remains fragile. This confrontation, while briefly managed, is a stark reminder of how easily nuclear-armed neighbors can stumble toward catastrophe. The international community must now resist the temptation to slide back into complacency. Dialogue, pressure, and reform must replace silence, denial, and arrogance.

The choice is not between war and peace, but between dangerous pride and responsible diplomacy. India’s retreat may be temporary, but its consequences are not. And for Pakistan, this moment is not just a military win — it is a geopolitical correction. When deterrence holds, when power is balanced, and when narratives are no longer one-sided, perhaps then — and only then — can South Asia begin to imagine a lasting peace.

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

By Uzma Ehtasham



It was a sobering week for India. Stripped of its tough-talking veneer and exposed before the world, the self-proclaimed regional power found itself humiliated, not only on the battlefield but also on the diplomatic front. Pakistan’s blistering precision strikes under Operation Banyan Mursas shattered more than just Indian military targets — they punctured the illusion of Indian military supremacy and diplomatic poise. What followed from New Delhi was not introspection or restraint but a familiar descent into diplomatic tantrums, the most absurd of which was the threat to “suspend” the Indus Waters Treaty — an agreement that simply cannot be suspended.

India’s conduct after its military rout can only be described as undignified. From initially boasting about offensive capabilities “deep inside” Pakistan to desperately pleading with Washington for intervention, its fall from rhetorical grace was swift. Yet even in retreat, India seems unable to resist flexing with empty gestures. Threatening to suspend a treaty signed in 1960 under the auspices of the World Bank is not just legally incoherent — it is diplomatically juvenile. There is no legal architecture within the treaty that allows for suspension. India cannot simply toss out international agreements when it suits its narrative or political theatrics. The treaty either holds or it doesn’t. Anything else is fiction.

And fiction seems to be India’s chosen response. Four Indian officials speaking to

a British news agency doubled down on the suspension narrative, despite having just agreed to a ceasefire brokered by none other than US President Donald Trump, alongside Pakistan’s Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar. In the same breath, these officials insisted that trade bans and visa freezes would continue, citing the Pahalgam attack of April 22 — a murky incident that left casualties in Indian-Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. No independent investigation was carried out. No international observers were welcomed. Yet, the blame was swiftly — and predictably — pinned on Pakistan, without proof, without pause.

This reflex to escalate rather than investigate is not new in Delhi’s playbook. It is a pattern that has grown bolder with time and more reckless with each cycle. Following the Pahalgam incident, India launched its own offensive — Operation Sandoor — targeting not only Pakistan-administered Kashmir but also civilian zones deep within Pakistani territory. Missiles struck homes, schools, and mosques, triggering outrage from rights groups but eliciting little more than cautious murmurs from Western capitals. Once again, the global community’s silence bought India time and cover. That silence ended when Pakistan struck back with surgical precision.

Operation Banyan Mursas was no theatrical flourish. It was a coordinated and disciplined demonstration of military competence. Indian airbases were hit, supply depots were razed, and critical infrastructure was neutralized. The response stunned observers in Washington, London, and beyond. It became clear that Pakistan, often dismissed as economically frail and diplomatically isolated, had both the will and

the capacity to redraw the rules of regional engagement. No longer was it about bluff and bluster. This was deterrence — not theoretical but kinetic, not symbolic but tangible.

India, unaccustomed to facing consequences for its aggressions, had no option but to yield. The ceasefire that followed was not the result of Indian statesmanship or diplomatic brilliance. It was forced, negotiated under pressure, and sealed under the watchful eyes of world powers. For once, Pakistan dictated the pace of regional diplomacy. And India’s response? More theatre, more noise, and more of the same outdated tactics.

Threatening to weaponize water at this point is not just morally outrageous but strategically desperate. Pakistan’s National Security Committee rightly described India’s treaty brinkmanship as bordering on an act of war. Agriculture, livelihoods, and ecosystems on both sides of the border rely on the continuity of river flows governed by the Indus Waters Treaty.

India’s problem is not Pakistan. It is its own inability to read the room, its obsession with saving face at the cost of regional peace. Instead of acknowledging a miscalculation, Delhi has opted for rage disguised as diplomacy. It would rather destabilize than de-escalate, lash out rather than listen. And that poses a danger not only to its neighbors but to itself.

A nation that treats water as a weapon, peace as an afterthought, and treaties as disposable tools is not playing the part of a responsible global actor. It is acting like a child denied its favorite toy — stomping, sulking, and issuing threats it cannot enforce. Pakistan, on the other hand, has

found itself in a rare moment of global validation. After years of being cornered, blamed, and branded a spoiler in the regional peace equation, it has demonstrated discipline, patience, and resolve.

By responding not with recklessness but with calculated military and diplomatic action, Islamabad has forced the international community to rethink its assumptions. The ceasefire now in place is not a fragile truce kept alive by goodwill. It is one enforced by clarity — the clarity that aggression will be answered and peace will not be one-sided. The world must now see India’s antics for what they are — diversionary, performative, and increasingly detached from reality. It is not a sign of strength to threaten rivers or trade routes in the wake of military failure. It is a signal of weakness, a failure to lead with reason. The days of impunity are over.

No amount of treaty-suspending, air-space-closing, or rhetoric-spinning can obscure the facts on the ground. Pakistan struck back, India faltered, and the world took notice. If there is a lesson to be drawn from this episode, it is that peace in South Asia cannot rest on fantasies of regional domination or the manipulation of international norms.

It must rest on mutual respect, accountability, and a willingness to engage in dialogue rather than destruction. India still has the chance to choose that path. But first, it must put away the theatre and face the truth: deterrence now has a new face, and it does not wear a saffron robe.

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Ceasefire: A diplomatic victory

By Atiq Raja



In a region where the past too often returns to haunt the present, the announcement of a ceasefire between Pakistan and India feels like the first breath after a long, stifling silence. The latest flare-up over Kashmir had begun to resemble yet another grim chapter in a story too familiar to South Asians—a pattern of suspicion, hostility, and bloodshed played out under the shadow of nuclear weapons. But for now, at least, guns have fallen silent. And that silence, fragile though it may be, has come not only through the exhaustion of conflict but through the persistent hum of diplomacy.

This time, it was the United States that stepped in to mediate when tensions spiraled dangerously between Islamabad and New Delhi. The world’s gaze, often fleeting when it comes to the subcontinent, lingered a little longer this time—perhaps reminded of the stakes when two nuclear-armed neighbors square off with open wounds and sharp memories. The Kashmir region, once again, became the arena of artillery exchanges and airspace violations, drawing in not only local actors but the anxieties of capitals from Washington to Brussels and Beijing to Riyadh.

It was the kind of scenario that leaves diplomats scrambling and citizens praying. With fatalities mounting on both sides and media rhetoric reaching fever pitch, the need for de-escalation became not just necessary—it became urgent. And into that moment stepped the U.S. Secretary of State, alongside senior White House officials, to engage both Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The message was unambiguous: restraint, dialogue, and diplomacy must take precedence.

The success of this ceasefire—if we may cautiously use that word—did not arrive overnight. It was the result of intricate back-channel diplomacy, phone calls at odd hours, virtual meetings that crossed time zones, and a quiet but persistent effort to remind both sides of what they stood to lose. This was not just a crisis of borders or sovereignty—it was a crisis of humanity, of economic survival, and of political responsibility.

With shuttle diplomacy and strategic persuasion, Washington leaned on its existing partnerships and geopolitical influence. The United States reminded both countries of their commitments—not just to their own citizens, but to the region and the world. In an era already strained by climate breakdown, inflation, and the shifting sands of global alliances, South Asia simply could not afford another war. The result: an agreement that reactivates prior peace ac-

cords, commits both armies to restraint along the Line of Control, and reopens diplomatic lines that had gone dangerously quiet.

Importantly, this ceasefire is not just a bilateral arrangement. It comes with the promise of oversight. The United States will play the role of guarantor—watching, nudging, perhaps even cajoling—both sides toward implementation. The early commitments include joint military monitoring, prisoner exchanges, the resumption of limited trade, and tentative plans to foster people-to-people contacts once again. The hope is that the language of hostility can be replaced, however slowly, with one of empathy and pragmatism.

This moment, understandably, has drawn global applause. From the United Nations to the European Union, from ASEAN to the Gulf capitals, there is recognition that this ceasefire, however precarious, opens a window—if only a crack—for broader regional cooperation. Conversations are now stirring about joint climate efforts, trade corridors, and collaborative responses to extremism. It is not peace, not yet. But it is a beginning.

Still, peace does not grow from paperwork alone. If this ceasefire is to mature into something more enduring, it must be nurtured by more than soldiers and statesmen. It must involve artists, educators, business leaders, and above all, the young. For decades, the youth of Pakistan and India

have inherited narratives of war, division, and suspicion. What they have lacked is exposure to a shared future. Now, they must be invited to imagine one.

To sustain this moment, both governments will need to show rare political courage. Restraint must not be confused with weakness. Dialogue must not be undermined by the loudest voices of nationalism. And the United States—so central to this effort—must resist the temptation of partiality. Its role must be one of balance and quiet encouragement, not dominance. Support for human rights, sovereignty, and regional harmony must remain the guiding principles.

History teaches us that peace in South Asia is never a given. It is fragile, constantly tested, and easily undone. But the lesson of this ceasefire is equally important: with patience, with humility, and with sustained international support, even the bitterest rivalries can yield to reason. Whether this breakthrough proves to be a turning point or merely a pause in an endless cycle will depend not just on leaders but on entire societies. The weapons have been silenced. Now, it is time to speak—not as enemies, but as neighbors whose futures are far too intertwined to ignore.

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US brokered ceasefire

By Asghar Ali Mubarak



Well done to the Pakistani Army after the horrific attacks during ‘Operation Bunyan Marsus’; a ceasefire was achieved due to American intervention. The American administration played a pivotal role in persuading India and Pakistan to agree to a ceasefire, recognizing that war can be devastating. It is worth noting that India came to the negotiating table only after growing weary of Pakistan. US President Donald Trump announced that both India and Pakistan had agreed to a ceasefire and congratulated the leadership of both nations. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar confirmed that Pakistan and India had reached a ceasefire agreement. He said the United States and several other countries had made substantial efforts to prevent both sides from escalating further. He specifically named Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom, all of which worked tirelessly to help broker the understanding.

Dar said that Pakistan had responded to Indian aggression in a befitting manner and now stood as a proud nation. He congratulated the entire Pakistani nation for confronting India in a war that began with Indian

aggression on 6 May 2025. The US Secretary of State said that over a 48-hour period, he and the US Vice President had remained in constant contact with senior Pakistani and Indian officials, and were pleased to announce the agreement on an immediate ceasefire. He added that Pakistan and India would soon hold talks on a broader set of issues at a neutral venue. It is important to recall that India launched attacks on Pakistan on 6 May, accusing Islamabad of involvement in the Pahalgam attack. Pakistan denied any role, but India pressed ahead with its assault in the middle of the night. It did not relent and continued its offensive. Last night, India launched heavy strikes on Pakistani air bases.

Pakistan, which had been showing restraint, finally retaliated on Saturday, destroying Indian military assets, including major air bases. The confrontation on 6 May led to one of the largest air battles in history, with more than 100 fighter jets involved. Pakistan shot down five Indian aircraft, including three Rafales, a Sukhoi and a MiG-29. On Saturday morning, Pakistan downed two more Indian aircraft, including another Rafale. A female Indian pilot, who had ejected from the destroyed Rafale, was captured in the Sialkot sector. In a statement announcing the ceasefire on Saturday afternoon, US Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Romeo said India and Pakistan would now begin talks on long-standing disputes,

including water issues and the Kashmir conflict. This development significantly reinforces Pakistan’s diplomatic position.

India, previously unwilling to engage in dialogue, has now agreed to negotiations. The US minister’s statement is being hailed in Pakistan as a diplomatic victory. Meanwhile, most Indian government websites have been hacked in a cyber-attack attributed to Pakistan, including portals belonging to the Assam Rifles and the Department of Atomic Energy. Sensitive data from Indian Defence Production has also reportedly been leaked on the dark web. These websites contained documented evidence of Indian involvement in terrorism, suggesting India has become a haven for such activity. Federal Information Minister Atta Tarar said Pakistan had retaliated in accordance with the UN Charter and was exercising its right to self-defence. He rejected Indian claims that Pakistani strikes had targeted civilians, insisting only military installations were hit.

PML-N President and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif expressed gratitude to Allah for raising Pakistan’s stature. He extended congratulations to Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Sindhu and the armed forces. He said Pakistan is a peace-loving country that values stability but knows how to defend itself. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio phoned Army Chief General Asim Munir and For-

eign Minister Ishaq Dar to discuss the situation following the escalation. India had attacked five locations in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir during the night of 6 and 7 May. In response, Pakistani forces retaliated firmly. Despite repeated warnings from Islamabad, Indian aggression continued, including missile and drone attacks targeting Pakistani air bases. Pakistan responded by destroying several Indian airfields, including those in Udhampur, Adampur and Pathankot.

A cyberattack also took down the power grid in Maharashtra, and a military satellite was jammed. Pakistani drones reportedly flew for several hours over Gujarat, the home state of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Pakistan also destroyed India’s Bathinda airfield. Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar confirmed the ceasefire between the two countries in a post on X (formerly Twitter), stating both sides had agreed to halt military operations. The Chief Minister of Indian-occupied Kashmir also welcomed the development. Due to ongoing tensions, military operations had continued between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. The Indian Foreign Secretary said that the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of both countries contacted each other at 3:30pm and agreed to a ceasefire during their phone call. Both sides committed to ending all military actions—on land, in the air and at sea. A follow-up call between the DGMOs is scheduled for 12 May.

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BY Maria Lungu

The 2002 sci-fi thriller ‘Minority Report’ depicted a dystopian future where a specialized police unit was tasked with arresting people for crimes they had not yet committed. Directed by Steven Spielberg and based on a short story by Philip K. Dick, the drama revolved around ‘PreCrime’ – a system informed by a trio of psychics, or ‘precogs,’ who anticipated future homicides, allowing police officers to intervene and prevent would-be assailants from claiming their targets’ lives.

The film probes at hefty ethical questions: How can someone be guilty of a crime they haven’t yet committed? And what happens when the system gets it wrong?

While there is no such thing as an all-seeing ‘precog,’ key components of the future that ‘Minority Report’ envisioned have become reality even faster than its creators imagined. For more than a decade, police departments across the globe have been using data-driven sys-

tems geared toward predicting when and where crimes might occur and who might commit them.

Far from an abstract or futuristic conceit, predictive policing is a reality. And market analysts are predicting a boom for the technology. Given the challenges in using predictive machine learning effectively and fairly, predictive policing raises significant ethical concerns. Absent technological fixes on the horizon, there is an approach to addressing these concerns: Treat government use of the technology as a matter of democratic accountability.

Troubling history: Predictive policing relies on artificial intelligence and data analytics to anticipate potential criminal activity before it happens. It can involve analyzing large datasets drawn from crime reports, arrest records and social or geographic information to identify patterns and forecast where crimes might

AI policing

occur or who may be involved.

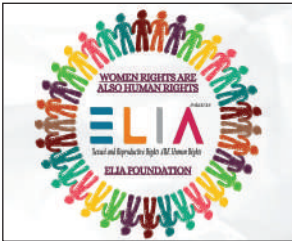
Law enforcement agencies have used data analytics to track broad trends for many decades. Today’s powerful AI technologies, however, take in vast amounts of surveillance and crime report data to provide much finer-grained analysis. Police departments use these techniques to help determine where they should concentrate their resources. Place-based prediction focuses on identifying high-risk locations, also known as hot spots, where crimes are statistically more likely to happen. Person-based prediction, by contrast, attempts to flag individuals who are considered at high risk of committing or becoming victims of crime.

These types of systems have been the subject of significant public concern. Under a so-called ‘intelligence-led policing’ program in Pasco County, Florida, the sheriff’s department compiled a list of

people considered likely to commit crimes and then repeatedly sent deputies to their homes. More than 1,000 Pasco residents, including minors, were subject to random visits from police officers and were cited for things such as missing mailbox numbers and overgrown grass.

Four residents sued the county in 2021, and last year they reached a settlement in which the sheriff’s office admitted that it had violated residents’ constitutional rights to privacy and equal treatment under the law. The program has since been discontinued.

This is not just a Florida problem. In 2020, Chicago decommissioned its ‘Strategic Subject List,’ a system where police used analytics to predict which prior offenders were likely to commit new crimes or become victims of future shootings. In 2021, the Los Angeles Police Department discontinued its use of PredPol, a software program designed to forecast crime hot spots but was criticized for low accuracy rates and reinforcing racial and socioeconomic biases.



PM's speech underscores Pakistan's strength as ceasefire holds

His words, carefully chosen, ignited a fierce sense of national pride, proving Pakistanis become an unstoppable force when defending their homeland

By Asghar Ali Mubarak

ISLAMABAD: In a televised address to the nation, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif conveyed heartfelt congratulations to the people of Pakistan, underscoring the unity and strength that have defined the country's response to the ongoing conflict with India. Sharif's speech came at a time of heightened tensions, marking a pivotal moment as the nation stood resolutely alongside its armed forces in the face of external aggression.

"Today, Pakistan stands united as a strong, unbreakable wall alongside our brave Armed Forces," Sharif declared, stressing the unwavering commitment of the Pakistani people to defend their homeland. His words were carefully chosen to convey a sense of national pride, highlighting that when it comes to protecting their country, Pakistanis trans-



form into an indomitable force.

The Prime Minister did not shy away from condemning India's actions, calling the recent military escalation an "open act of aggression." He emphasized that the world now clearly understands the resolve and pride of the Pakistani nation. Referring to India's accusations and its attacks on civilian areas, Sharif framed these as a deliberate test of Pakistan's patience, a challenge the country met with significant restraint.

Sharif was particularly

vocal in condemning India's use of the Pulwama incident as a pretext to justify what he described as an "unjust war" on Pakistan. "India's actions are nothing short of cowardly and shameful," he stated firmly, drawing attention to the disproportionate measures taken by New Delhi. He made it clear that despite the provocations, Pakistan chose patience and extended an offer for impartial investigations into the incident.

The Prime Minister also praised the swift and powerful response of the Pakistan

Armed Forces to India's aggression. He highlighted that, despite the tense situation, Pakistan had always preferred dialogue as the route to peace but was more than prepared to meet any challenge on the battlefield should diplomacy fail. "While we sought peace, we are prepared to respond in kind," he said, hinting at the military response that followed.

Sharif's address also tackled India's attempts to breach Pakistan's sovereignty through drone strikes. In his words, these actions were met with "unwavering resolve," signaling to the world that Pakistan would not tolerate any further infringements on its territory. The Prime Minister underscored that Pakistan's military had delivered a decisive blow, silencing enemy artillery in a manner that would be etched in history as a testament to the country's military prowess.

China supports ceasefire efforts

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi expressed support for the ongoing ceasefire efforts between Pakistan and India during a telephone conversation with Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Ishaq Dar. Wang Yi conveyed China's concerns about the potential escalation of tensions between the two neighboring countries, emphasizing that Beijing is closely monitoring the situation. In addition to speaking with Dar, the Chinese Foreign Minister also reached out to his Indian counterpart and India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval to discuss the growing tensions in the region.

According to news agency reports, Wang Yi urged both countries to maintain restraint and work towards a peaceful resolution, stressing that it is critical for the situation to not deteriorate further. He emphasized China's support for a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire achieved through Pakistan-India dialogue, indicating China's commitment to promoting peace and stability in South Asia.

Wang Yi's statement underscores China's role as a key player in regional diplomacy, balancing its relationships with both Pakistan and India while advocating for de-escalation and long-term peace in the region.

Bilawal hails defensive actions against India

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, expressed that Pakistan has given a strong response to India's aggression. Following the ceasefire between Pakistan and India, Bilawal stated in a statement that Pakistan responded to Indian aggression in self-defense, highlighting that the Pakistan Air Force shot down five Indian aircraft.

He emphasized that Pakistan continues to play a significant role in combating terrorism and that the country has shown immense responsibility in its approach. He further noted that Pakistan displayed three days of restraint, and the international community recognized the responsible stance taken by the country.

Bilawal questioned why India was hesitant to allow international investigations into the Pulwama incident. He also accused India of supporting terrorism in Balochistan and stated that Pakistan had arrested Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav on its soil.

Curfew imposed in South Waziristan for one day

By our correspondent

WAZIRISTAN: A curfew will be enforced in South Waziristan today, with the local authorities issuing a formal notification outlining the details of the temporary restriction.

According to Saleem Jan, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of South Waziristan, the curfew will be in effect from 6 AM to 6 PM, limiting movement in the area for a full 12-hour period.

During the curfew, key roads connecting Azam Manza to Laddha and Makin will be closed, as instructed by the Deputy Commissioner.

Europe threatens Russia to agree to ceasefire or new sanctions

Leaders of Britain, France, Germany, Poland, and Ukraine agreed to a ceasefire starting May 12 after a Kyiv meeting, which included a phone call with Trump

News Desk

BRUSSELS: Major European powers have strongly backed an unconditional 30-day ceasefire in Ukraine, with the support of U.S. President Donald Trump, and issued a stern warning to Russian President Vladimir Putin about "massive" new sanctions if he fails to accept the terms within days.

The leaders of Britain, France, Germany, Poland, and Ukraine set the start of the ceasefire for May 12, following a meeting in Kyiv, during which they also held a phone call with Trump. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer emphasized the urgency of the situation: "So all of us here together with the U.S. are calling Putin out. If he is serious about peace, then he has a chance to show it." He further stated, "No more ifs and buts, no more conditions and delays."

However, the Kremlin responded dismissively to the European leaders' announcement. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov called the statements from Europe "contradictory" and "confrontational," dismissing them as lacking in sincerity towards



rebuilding relations with Russia.

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Western sanctions have been intensified, yet they have not succeeded in halting the conflict. The threat of additional sanctions, however, signals growing Western unity despite the unpredictability of U.S. policy under Trump's return to the White House. Trump had previously engaged directly with Russian officials and clashed publicly with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, even momentarily cutting vital military aid to Ukraine. However, U.S.-Ukraine relations have since been patched up, with new agreements signed to ensure U.S. access to Ukrainian minerals.

While Trump has not

publicly commented on the ceasefire call, his administration, along with European leaders, has voiced frustration at Putin's lack of movement on a ceasefire. "In the event that the ceasefire is violated, massive sanctions will be prepared, in coordination between the Europeans and the United States," French President Emmanuel Macron stated.

These potential sanctions would likely target Russia's energy and banking sectors, areas that have previously been central to the West's strategy of economic pressure. Such actions would align the U.S. more closely with Europe, especially after the challenges posed by trade tensions, tariffs, and Trump's previous questioning of NATO commitments.

Thapa, symbol of terror in Kashmir, killed in shelling

News Desk

JAMMU, IIOJ&K: During Pakistan's ongoing military operations, Raj Kumar Thapa, the District Commissioner of Rajouri in occupied Kashmir, was killed in artillery shelling as part of Pakistan's Operation Bunyan Marşus. Thapa, known for his role in facilitating militant activities under the patronage of the Indian government, was reportedly struck by a shell while inside his residence, according to Kashmir Media Service (KMS).

Thapa had long been a controversial figure, particularly in the context of the Kashmir conflict. He had been accused of acting as a facilitator for militant groups, thereby contributing to the prolonged unrest in the region. His death, at the hands of Pakistani artillery, is viewed by some as a retaliation action, although it has sparked a range of reactions, particularly from Indian officials.

The death of Thapa has drawn sharp responses from the political leadership in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Farooq Abdullah, the puppet Chief Minister of the region, expressed sorrow over the loss, with Arab media outlets reporting that Abdullah confirmed the death in a statement. Abdullah's remarks, however, are likely to be interpreted within the broader



context of the ongoing military and political tensions surrounding the Kashmir dispute.

While Thapa's death marks a moment of significance within the larger military operation, it also brings into sharp focus the volatile and often violent dynamics of the Kashmir conflict. The loss of a figure as influential as Thapa is sure to have repercussions, not only in the region but in the larger geopolitical narrative between Pakistan and India.

Gohar calls for political ceasefire between PTI-govt

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Barrister Gohar, Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), stated that Pakistan had given a timely and robust response to the "cunning enemy," referring to India, and made it clear that India's arrogance has been crushed. He emphasized that Pakistan's decisive response to India's aggression was witnessed globally, and any future provocation from India would be met with an equally stern reply.

In a statement, Barrister Gohar expressed that the ceasefire between Pakistan and India was a positive step, and efforts should be made to prevent such incidents in the future. He drew a parallel between the ceasefire with India and the political ceasefire that should be established within Pakistan, specifically with PTI. He emphasized that PTI's founder, being the leader of the largest party, is currently in jail, and there is a lack of communication between him and the party leadership or workers.

He called for national unity and a strong and certain resolution to bridge the political divide. Gohar acknowledged that while India was persistently engaged in aggression and attempting to harm Pakistan, the nation had united beyond political and personal interests to deliver a unified response.

150 flights cancelled across Pakistan

By Ahsan Mughal

KARACHI: Despite the recent ceasefire agreement between Pakistan and India bringing a semblance of geopolitical calm, the aviation sector remains deeply disrupted, with 150 flights cancelled across Pakistan in a single day.

According to aviation authorities, uncertainty continues to grip air traffic schedules, particularly in Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad. Karachi alone has seen the cancellation of 45 flights, while 38 were scrapped in Lahore and 40 in Islamabad.

Zardari declares decisive blow to India's military might

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has voiced his unwavering confidence in armed forces, emphasizing that the country had dealt a decisive blow to India's perceived military might and reaffirmed its commitment to protecting its sovereignty. Speaking in the wake of the recent ceasefire after escalating tensions with India, Zardari praised the strategic response of armed forces, including the navy and air force, to India's provocations.

In a statement addressing the ongoing Pakistan-India standoff, Zardari expressed his full trust in the strength and capability of armed forces. He highlighted that Pakistan had not only countered India's aggression but had done so with significant force, making it clear that the country would never compromise its territorial integrity or national sovereignty. "The courage and resolve of the Pakistani nation have never been stronger," he said, emphasizing the nation's unshakable determination in the face of external threats.

Zardari also reinforced the enduring relevance of the Two-Nation Theory, which continues to serve as a source of unity and inspiration for the Pakistani people. The Two-Nation Theory, which forms the ideological foundation of Pakistan's creation, was brought to the



forefront as a symbol of the nation's strength and resolve in navigating its relations with India.

The statement from Zardari comes at a time when both nations are attempting to navigate a delicate ceasefire, but tensions remain high. His words seek to reassure the Pakistani public of the military's preparedness and resolve, while also underscoring the broader ideological and emotional ties that bind the nation in moments of crisis.

Tarar says Pakistan not violating ceasefire

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Atta Tarar, has firmly denied accusations of any violation of the recent ceasefire agreement, reinforcing Pakistan's commitment to peace and stability despite what he described as provocations from India.

In an official statement, Tarar sought to counter claims made by Indian authorities during a press briefing, suggesting that Pakistan had breached the ceasefire. He highlighted what he called a lack of clarity and conviction in the Indian narrative, noting that even the tone of the Indian officials seemed inconsistent with their words.

"Their voices were not matching their words," he remarked, emphasizing the uncertainty in India's statements as they tried to justify their position. His comments seemed to reflect Pakistan's broader strategy of maintaining a composed and principled stance in the face of external pressure.

The Information Minister reaffirmed that Pakistan has adhered to the terms of the



ceasefire and categorically stated, "There is absolutely no question of any violation from our side." His statement serves not only as a rebuttal to India's claims but also as a declaration of Pakistan's responsible posture in the region.

Tarar went further to describe the current period as a moment of national pride, with Pakistan celebrating a "victory," which he attributed to the country's controlled yet assertive military response before the ceasefire was agreed upon. He stressed that Pakistan is committed to ensuring long-term peace and stability in the region, countering any narrative suggesting that it was the aggressor or party responsible for escalating the conflict.

as a gesture of solidarity with the Pakistan Armed Forces.

The jubilant crowd danced, sang patriotic songs, and celebrated with excitement, marking India's humiliation. The air was filled with cheers of "Pakistan Zindabad" as people rejoiced in the victory. In every corner of the country,



from small alleys to wide streets, people danced to the beat of drums, offering sweets to each other in celebration.

In Islamabad, large numbers of citizens gathered on the streets to mark the victory, with their enthusiasm being palpable. The spirit of unity and patriotism was evident in every corner of the

city.

In Karachi, sweets were distributed at various locations, and people raised slogans of "Pakistan Zindabad" and "Long Live the Pakistan Army." Many citizens hailed the ceasefire between Pakistan and India as a victory for Pakistan, expressing their admiration for the strength of the armed

forces.

The people of Lahore also took to the streets, distributing sweets and chanting slogans in support of the Pakistan Army. The city witnessed grand celebrations with people coming together in a festive atmosphere.

Additionally, members of civil society organized a victory rally from Istanbul

Chowk to the Punjab Assembly, paying tribute to the armed forces for their bravery and strategic success. Citizens praised the resilience of the nation, acknowledging that despite the tension with India, life continued as usual, and the threat of war did not shake the resolve of the Pakistani people.