

Trump offers to mediate on Kashmir, India rejects proposal

Trump signals Washington’s readiness to help ease tensions between nuclear-armed neighbours, offering US support for a peaceful resolution

By Amjad Qaimkhani

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump’s latest offer to mediate between Pakistan and India over the decades-old Kashmir dispute has been met with a swift and unequivocal rejection from New Delhi, underscoring the sensitivity and deep-rooted complexity of the conflict that continues to cast a long shadow over South Asia.

In remarks that reignited diplomatic chatter, Trump stated that Washington is willing to play a role in easing tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors, suggesting that the United States could help facilitate a peaceful resolution. “We will work together with both countries and see if a peaceful way forward is possible,” he said, noting that the broader goal also includes expanding trade relations with both Islamabad and New Delhi.



However, Indian officials were quick to push back against the proposal. Citing unnamed government sources, Indian news agencies reported that New Delhi remains firmly opposed to any third-party involvement in matters related to Kashmir. From India’s perspective, the issue is strictly bilateral, and any discussions pertaining to military or territorial concerns would take place solely through estab-

lished military channels—specifically, the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMO) of both nations.

“India will not include any third party in talks, nor is it ready to discuss Kashmir with anyone other than Pakistan’s DGMO,” a senior Indian official was quoted as saying, further hardening the stance that has long defined India’s diplomatic position on the issue.

In contrast, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif welcomed Trump’s remarks with cautious optimism, calling them a potential opening for constructive engagement. Islamabad has consistently supported third-party mediation, including by the United Nations and major global powers, citing what it describes as a moral and humanitarian imperative tied to the longstanding suffering of Kashmiris.

Trump’s overture comes at a time when regional and global dynamics are in flux, and while his comments may have been made with an eye toward broader US influence and trade partnerships in the region, the immediate reaction from India leaves little room for outside involvement. As it stands, the stalemate over Kashmir appears set to endure, with dialogue—if any—remaining constrained to military backchannels rather than mediated negotiation tables.

Modi faces mounting discontent, political graph plummeting

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Former Foreign Secretary Aizaz Chaudhry has stated that the Indian public is increasingly dissatisfied with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Aizaz Chaudhry pointed out that the Indian people have not been receptive to facts and often resort to denial. He emphasized that Modi’s political standing has taken a sharp decline, with the public expressing growing discontent towards him.

Chaudhry further highlighted that the Indian people are vocally criticizing Modi, particularly in the wake of India’s baseless attacks on Pakistan without evidence.



He remarked that rejecting Donald Trump’s offer for mediation is not an easy matter, and while it may be difficult for India to come to the negotiation table, it will have to. The former Foreign Secretary added that initially, India may resist, but ultimately, it will be compelled to engage in talks. He also noted that issues surrounding water and Kashmir cannot be easily ignored, and it will be essential to involve the international community to address these critical concerns. He stated that India is facing increased pressure, with the burden of a potential defeat in the ongoing conflict already weighing heavily on the country. He warned that if India violates the ceasefire, the pressure will only intensify.

Chaudhry remarked that India had been under the misconception that Pakistan had weakened. He pointed out that the US had initially encouraged India to handle the issue independently, but soon after, US official Nick Robertson acknowledged that India itself had called for a ceasefire.

CM Maryam hails victory against India

By Faizan Khan

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has declared that today is a day of victory for courage, dignity, and national unity. In her statement, she welcomed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s decision to observe a day of thanksgiving.

Maryam Nawaz expressed gratitude to Allah for thwarting the enemy’s malicious intentions and emphasized the professionalism, bravery, and capability of the Pakistan Army, noting that Pakistan’s forces responded to Indian aggression not just with firepower, but with strategic wisdom. She highlighted that Pakistan’s military had shown the world its defense was invincible by shooting down enemy aircraft, sending a clear message that Pakistan will never back down in the face of threats.

No Indian pilot in custody, Pakistan not requests ceasefire: ISPR

Army spokesperson underscores Kashmir issue as a flashpoint, urging resolution in line with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people

By Asghar Ali Mubarak

ISLAMABAD: Director General (DG) of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, has stated that no Indian pilot is in Pakistan’s custody, and that Pakistan did not request a ceasefire. He emphasized that the request for a ceasefire came from India following Pakistan’s response to Indian aggression.

In a crucial press conference alongside senior officers of the Pakistan Navy and Air Force, DG ISPR said that Pakistan’s armed forces are strictly adhering to the ceasefire on the Line of Control (LoC). He reiterated that Pakistan has a professional military force that honors its commitments, but if the opposing side violates the ceasefire, Pakistan will respond vigorously.

The army spokesperson also highlighted that the Kashmir issue remains a flashpoint and should be resolved according to the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. He further noted that both Pakistan and India are nuclear powers, and war between them would be a folly. Pakistan, he stated, is a mature player and has been



controlling tensions, responding only to acts of aggression.

Lieutenant General Chaudhry confirmed that Pakistan had to respond to Indian aggression on May 6 and 7, when innocent civilians, including women and children, were martyred due to India’s heavy artillery and drone violations. Pakistan’s response was both calculated and effective, targeting Indian military installations and terrorism training camps.

DG ISPR also praised the professionalism of Pakistan’s armed forces, which have fulfilled their commitments to the nation, and extended condolences to the families of martyrs, acknowledging the support of political leaders, including the Prime Minister, who made key decisions during these

challenging times. Gen Chaudhry also explained that Pakistan had launched “Operation Binyan Marsoos” in response to India’s aggression, successfully targeting critical military infrastructure, including Udhampur Networks Station and Poonch Radar. Pakistan’s strategic use of its advanced technology was highlighted, with successful attacks on critical military assets like the S-400 battery systems and BrahMos storage.

Regarding Indian involvement in terrorism, DG ISPR presented evidence of India’s role in orchestrating violence within Pakistan, particularly using drones to violate Pakistani airspace. Pakistan’s response, he emphasized, was precise and responsible, ensuring no harm to civilian populations.

Pakistan-India war result increases demand for Chinese fighter jets

Pakistan’s deployment of the Chinese-made J-10C in the conflict marks a significant moment, downing an Indian Rafale fighter jet

By Uzma Ehtasham

KARACHI: The recent conflict between Pakistan and India has had a far-reaching impact on military dynamics in the region, notably increasing the demand for Chinese fighter jets. Media reports indicate that Egypt, following an 18-day joint military exercise with China last week, has expressed significant interest in acquiring Chinese-made warplanes.

Experts believe that this development could have profound implications for the balance of power in the Middle East, where military alliances and defense technologies are increasingly shaping geopolitical alignments. The conflict between Pakistan and India has brought the capabilities of Chinese military hardware, particularly the J-10C fighter jet, into sharp focus.

The Chinese-made J-10C, which Pakistan deployed for the first time in this conflict, made a striking impact by successfully downing an Indian Rafale fighter jet. This achievement has not only highlighted the effectiveness of Chinese jets



but also served as a powerful showcase of the country’s growing military prowess.

A Chinese military expert, quoted in a British journal, referred to the success of the J-10C as a remarkable promotional tool for Chinese military technology. The performance of the J-10C in such a high-stakes environment has effectively enhanced its reputation on the global stage, positioning Chinese-made jets as a competitive alternative to Western military hardware.

Yun Sun, a military expert at the Stimson Center in Washington, pointed out that the success of the J-10C in combat is more than just a tactical victory. It acts as an invaluable advertisement for Chinese military technology, further solidifying China’s

role as a key player in the global arms market. The use of the J-10C has raised questions about the future of military technology in conflict zones, with Chinese arms potentially shifting regional power structures.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), a staggering 81% of Pakistan’s military equipment is of Chinese origin, which includes a formidable fleet of over 400 fighter jets. This growing dependence on Chinese military technology not only underscores China’s increasing influence over Pakistan’s defense capabilities but also signals the expanding reach of Chinese-made weapons in global markets, particularly in regions like the Middle East and South Asia.

India targets Sheikh Zayed airport in missile attack

News Desk

RAHIM YAR KHAN: India has targeted the Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Airport in Rahim Yar Khan, a symbol of the friendship between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Pakistan, with a missile attack.

According to airport authorities, the airport will not be available for flights until 11:59 PM on May 17 due to runway repairs. The attack has damaged both the terminal building and the runway of the Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Airport.

The airport, built in 1993, was named after Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the father of the current UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Members of the UAE ruling family frequently travel to Rahim Yar Khan via this airport for vacations and hunting trips.

Authorities confirmed that the attack caused a 10 to 15-foot deep crater on the runway. The airport was funded by the UAE for non-military purposes.

The Indian attack involved three drones. One drone targeted a special launch area used exclusively by the UAE ruling family, the second drone struck the parking area, and the third landed on the runway.

Pope Leo XIV welcomes India-Pakistan ceasefire

News Desk

VATICAN: Newly elected Pope Leo XIV, Robert Prevost, has welcomed the ceasefire between India and Pakistan, expressing hope that it would pave the way for lasting peace in the region.

In his first address to the crowd at St. Peter’s Square, Pope Leo XIV appealed to global powers to cease hostilities and focus on building peace. He also called for a sustainable and long-term peace process in Ukraine and for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, along with the release of hostages.

While addressing the crowd, the Pope expressed his optimism about the India-Pakistan ceasefire, hoping that negotiations would lead to lasting peace.

“I pray that God may grant the world the miracle of peace,” he said.

He also spoke about his vision for the Catholic Church, expressing hope that his election would help guide the Church in bringing light to the world’s darkest moments.

Indian opposition urges Modi to explain Pahalgam incident in Parliament

Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi leads call for clarity, writing to Prime Minister Modi on critical issues demanding transparency

News Desk

NEW DEHLI: The Indian opposition party Congress has intensified its calls for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to come to Parliament and answer pressing questions regarding Operation Sandoor, an operation that has escalated tensions in the region and pushed it closer to the brink of war.

In a move aimed at holding the government accountable, opposition leaders have demanded a joint session of Parliament to discuss the controversial Pahalgam incident, the broader implications of Operation Sandoor, as well as the retaliatory strikes from Pakistan and the recent ceasefire agreement.

Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi has taken the lead in this demand, writing a formal letter to Prime Minister Modi urging him to provide clarity on the facts surrounding these critical issues. In the letter, Gandhi emphasized that the call for a joint session is a unified demand from all opposition parties, highlighting the need for a thorough discussion in Parliament to address concerns



over the escalation of hostilities and its potential ramifications for India and the region.

The Pahalgam incident, which has sparked significant controversy, along with the military operation in question, has drawn widespread criticism from opposition figures. They argue that these developments have heightened tensions with Pakistan, putting the region on the edge of further conflict. Gandhi’s letter specifically pointed to the need for transparency regarding the government’s actions and the decision-making process behind the operation, which he believes must be scrutinized by Parliament.

In addition to Gandhi’s call, Rajya Sabha opposition

leader Arjun Kharge has also demanded a joint session to address these pressing matters. The call for parliamentary accountability on such a sensitive issue underscores the growing political divide, with the opposition pushing for greater clarity and transparency from the government as the situation remains volatile.

As the political temperature rises, the government faces increasing pressure to justify its actions and provide a clear, detailed explanation of the military operations and their broader geopolitical consequences. The demand for a joint parliamentary session signals the opposition’s determination to hold the government accountable in a time of national crisis.

Iran-US nuclear discussions progress as 4th round wraps up

News Desk

MUSCAT: The fourth round of nuclear negotiations between Iran and the United States concluded in Muscat, marking another step in the ongoing effort to address the longstanding issues surrounding Iran’s nuclear program. According to foreign news agencies, US officials confirmed that the discussions yielded a deal to continue the dialogue and focus on further technical work related to the nuclear issue.

Iran’s Foreign Minister acknowledged that while the negotiations were challenging, they were ultimately productive, suggesting that progress was made despite the complexities of the talks. The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs also hinted that the current round was more substantive than previous ones, with serious discussions taking place between both sides.

In a statement, Iran’s



Deputy Foreign Minister, Abbas Araqchi, expressed cautious optimism, stating that the talks were progressing steadily. This reflects the careful but determined pace at which both parties are navigating the delicate diplomatic terrain. The Omani Foreign Minister, who has played a key role in facilitating the negotiations, confirmed that the talks had included a series of “useful and unique proposals” that demonstrated the mutual desire of both countries to reach a comprehensive

agreement. While details of the discussions remain largely confidential, the fact that these negotiations have moved into a more serious phase suggests a growing commitment from both parties to continue dialogue and seek a resolution to the nuclear deadlock. Given the high stakes, the international community will be watching closely to see whether these incremental steps lead to a more lasting agreement or whether tensions will once again stall progress.

After trolled on ceasefire, India’s Misri locks X account

News Desk

NEW DEHLI: India’s Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri has locked his X (formerly Twitter) account after being subjected to a barrage of online abuse, as nationalist anger erupted over the recent announcement of a ceasefire agreement with Pakistan. The development has cast a shadow over what some had hoped would mark a diplomatic turning point in the turbulent relationship between the two South Asian neighbors.

Misri, a seasoned diplomat and former Indian ambassador to China, found himself in the crosshairs of hardline social media users shortly after the



ceasefire was declared. According to Indian media reports, the abuse escalated quickly, with trolls labelling him a “traitor” and “shameless,” and hurling deeply personal attacks, including insults aimed at his family. The vitriol was primarily driven by those who favor military posturing over engagement,

viewing the ceasefire as a betrayal rather than a strategic pause.

While Misri has refrained from issuing any public response, his decision to lock his account is being seen as a silent attempt to retreat from the digital onslaught and protect his personal space in the face of relentless ha-

rassment. For many within India’s diplomatic and political circles, the incident reflects an increasingly toxic online environment where policy decisions, no matter how carefully negotiated, are instantly politicized and turned into fodder for ideological outrage.

The Foreign Secretary’s treatment has triggered quiet concern among officials, some of whom warn that such attacks risk undermining the very processes that make diplomacy possible. Misri, who has held several key postings and is known for his expertise on regional security and China relations, was seen as playing a behind-the-scenes role in advancing dialogue.

US military journal praises Pakistan's air force, cautions India

The journal observed that while India was widely perceived to hold an advantage, Pakistan's air force shattered that notion with its exceptional performance

News Desk

WASHINGTON: In its analysis, the American military journal The National Interest has warned India not to consider itself superior in any potential air clashes with Pakistan, highlighting that the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has demonstrated remarkable capabilities that have sent a strong message to the world.

The analysis emphasized that rather than providing evidence of the Pahalgaon attack, India chose to strike Pakistan, which, according to the report, is a typical scenario where wars are born out of arrogance



and ignorance from both sides. The journal noted that there was a general perception that India had an upper hand over Pakistan, but in reality, Pakistan's air force disproved this with its exceptional performance.

It mentioned that India had always been perceived

as having a superior nuclear command and control system, but during the conflict, Pakistan's military exhibited extraordinary competence. According to the report, India's military strength is built on a mix of European and Russian-made advanced weaponry, whereas

Pakistan has benefitted from China's and Turkey's support. The National Interest praised Pakistan's successes, particularly the Pakistan Air Force's remarkable defensive capabilities, which were demonstrated when it thwarted the initial Indian airstrikes and shot down five Indian fighter jets at the outset of the operation.

The analysis also pointed to a significant shortcoming in Indian pilots' training, attributing India's underperformance to sub-standard flight training, which hampered its military capability. It further noted the considerable damage

to India's credibility due to the loss of its advanced Rafale jets, with Pakistan's air superiority being largely attributed to the superior training and combat experience of PAF pilots.

The journal also highlighted that Pakistani pilots have gained extensive counter-terrorism experience through continuous operations in border areas with Afghanistan. It further criticized India's foreign policy for isolating it from global support. Interestingly, while Russia has long been an ally of India, it remained silent during this conflict, according to the National Interest.

Over 100 dead as floods hit DR Congo village

News Desk

KASABA, CONGO: More than 100 people are feared dead after devastating floods swept through the village of Kasaba near the shores of Lake Tanganyika in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), highlighting yet another humanitarian crisis in a country already grappling with conflict and instability. Samy Kalodji, the administrator of Fizi territory in South Kivu province, confirmed late Saturday that initial reports indicated the death toll had surpassed 100.

The disaster struck between Thursday night and Friday following torrential rains and violent winds that caused the Kasaba River to overflow, according to a statement from South Kivu government spokesperson Didier Luganywa. The provincial authorities have so far confirmed 62 deaths



and at least 30 injuries, but the final toll is expected to rise as communications and rescue operations remain severely hampered.

Kasaba, a remote village not yet overtaken by the Rwanda-backed M23 rebels operating in other parts of eastern DRC, is only accessible by water through Lake Tanganyika. The lack of road access and absence of a mobile phone network has significantly delayed both the reporting of the tragedy and the arrival of humanitarian aid.

This natural disaster comes at a precarious time for the DRC. Since the beginning of the year, M23 rebels have ramped up their offensive in the eastern region, resulting in the deaths of thousands and the displacement of tens of thousands more.

Although the Kasaba area is still under the central government's control, the widespread instability across eastern DRC continues to complicate both governance and emergency response.

Pakistan's media in crisis, report warns of rising repression

By Sudhir Ahmad Afridi

PESHAWAR: The Pakistani media is facing an unprecedented crisis, as highlighted in the Freedom Network's annual Freedom of Expression and Media Freedom Report 2025. Released to coincide with World Press Freedom Day, the report paints a grim picture of a media landscape under siege by state repression, escalating legal restrictions, rising violence, and a shrinking space for free expression.

Titled "Free speech and

public interest journalism under siege," the report offers a stark assessment of the media environment between May 2024 and April 2025, warning of an "existential threat" to independent journalism in Pakistan. The report points to the controversial amendments to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) in January 2025 as a key driver of this crisis.

These amendments have made it easier for authorities to arrest, fine, or imprison journalists, both online and offline, intensifying the pres-

sure on the already vulnerable media sector. Iqbal Khat-tak, Executive Director of the Freedom Network, de-scribed the current situation as one of the most repressive in Pakistan's history. "This is no longer just censorship — this is an existential crisis. The very foundation of democracy is being undermined," he said during the report's launch.

The report provides chilling statistics on the state of media freedom in the country, revealing that five journalists were killed during the reporting year.

‘War is not over,’ must remain vigilant: Abdul Basit

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Former ambassador Abdul Basit has issued a stark warning, advising Pakistan to remain on high alert in the face of on-going tensions with India, as-serting that the war is far from over. In his comments, Basit noted that while a ceasefire has been agreed upon, it does not signal the

especially in the context of Kashmir, where there is strong resistance to third-party mediation. According to Basit, these questions are creating political ripples within India, as both the op-position and the public de-mand clarity on the govern-ment's approach to the Kashmir dispute and its en-gagement with external medi-ators.



end of hostilities or the resolution of the underlying issues. He emphasized that India remains a formidable and deceptive adversary, urging Pakistan to maintain its vigilance and preparedness.

Basit pointed out that the Indian government is currently under significant pressure from both the opposition and the public to justify its decision to agree to a ceasefire.

The opposition has raised questions about why Prime Minister Narendra Modi authorized the talks,

Basit's remarks under-score the fragile nature of the current situation and the need for Pakistan to remain cautious. His warning reflects a deep concern that, while the military confrontation may have paused, the larger strategic and diplomatic battle continues, with India still pursuing its interests in a way that could po-tentially lead to further conflict. In this tense climate, Basit called on Pakistan to stay alert and prepared for any developments that could arise from the ongoing standoff.

Sindh minister orders swift rescue of abducted in Shikarpur

By Imtiaz Hussain

SUKKUR: Sindh's Interior Minister, Zia Hassan Lanjhar, has issued urgent directives to law enforcement authorities in Shikarpur to expedite the safe recovery of seven abducted individuals from the troubled Bachal Bheo area. In a clear message of resolve, Lanjhar has instructed the district's Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) to mobilize a competent and experienced police team dedicated solely to rescuing the hostages un-harmed.



The minister underscored the need for police to fully leverage technical resources, including digital tracking and intelligence-based operations, to identify and apprehend the culprits behind the abductions. His instructions reflect a growing concern over the deteriorating security situation in parts of rural Sindh, where incidents of kidnapping have in-tensified in recent months, often linked to organized crime groups operating with

impunity.

Lanjhar, who has been under pressure to show progress in high-profile cases of abduction, stressed that no time should be lost and demanded regular updates from the SSP regarding the pace and effectiveness of the operation. His insistence on personal briefings signals the provincial government's desire to maintain political oversight and ensure accountability in a case that has gripped the attention of both the local population and rights groups calling for stronger protection

for vulnerable communities in the region.

The minister's orders come amid wider discussions within Sindh's cabinet on revamping rural policing strategies and adopting modern surveillance systems to combat crime in law-less zones. As the search continues, families of the abducted remain in anguish, hoping the government's re-newed focus will soon bring their loved ones home safely.

METRO MATTERS

PDP urges to embrace technology for stronger defense

Press Release

KARACHI: Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoor has called for an urgent overhaul of the nation's defense system. While the bravery and professionalism of Pakistan's armed forces, led by Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, were rightly celebrated, Shakoor emphasized that the future of national security lies in embracing modern technology.

The strategic importance of cutting-edge defense technologies, including drones, advanced missiles, and cyber-communication systems, cannot be over-stated. In an increasingly complex world, where traditional combat strategies are being eclipsed by technological advancements, Pakistan must adapt or risk being left behind.

Shakoor's statement underscores the need for a robust defense strategy that goes beyond merely reactive military strength. With military action increasingly shaped by technological superiority, Pakistan must prioritize research and development in defense technologies. Drones, missiles, and cyber capabilities, he argues, are the future of warfare and national defense. It is time for Pakistan to invest heavily in these areas, as traditional foot soldiers and outdated systems can no longer ensure national security in an age where technology dictates the terms of engagement.

The PDP leader also reiterated the importance of addressing longstanding geopolitical issues, particularly the Kashmir conflict. He made it clear that the un-resolved issue of Jammu and Kashmir remains a core problem that India must confront. Pakistan, according to Shakoor, must remain steadfast in its support for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination. Should India continue to deny this fundamental right, he warned, military action could become an in-evitable course of action.

KW&SC to recruit CEO, COO with global search underway

By Aslam Shah

KARACHI: The Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KW&SC) has an-nounced the upcoming appointment of new top executives—a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Operating Officer (COO)—as approved by the corpora-tion's board. The search for candidates, both from Pakistan and abroad, will soon be underway, with advertisements scheduled to appear in national newspapers.

Until a permanent CEO is appointed, the Sindh government has appointed Ahmed Ali Siddiqui, the current Deputy Commissioner for West Karachi, as in-terim CEO. Siddiqui will also hold the COO post in an acting capacity until Sep-tember 30, 2025. His appointment follows the resignation of Salahuddin Ahmed, whose tenure as CEO was supposed to run until September 30, 2026.

While the temporary appointment of Siddiqui signals a continued leadership vacuum, it also highlights the fierce competition for the CEO position—a role per-ceived as one of the most prestigious and lucrative in the province, due to KW&SC's substantial budget and influence. The urgency around the appointment of a new CEO is palpable, with many senior bureaucrats and officials vying for the role.

The KW&SC was granted greater autonomy through the KW&SC Act No. PAS/LEGIS-B-06/2023, passed on July 5, 2023. The act aimed to depoliticize the utility and ensure operational independence, with merit-based appointments to key executive roles. Yet, critics contend that political interference remains a sig-nificant issue. The Sindh government, dominated by the Pakistan Peoples Party for over 17 years, continues to exert substantial influence over the utility's op-erations and appointments.

The merit-based approach mandated by the law requires CEO candidates to have relevant experience in administration, with an age limit of 65. Furthermore, the board must approve any advisory roles or new positions. However, past at-tempts to bring in a consulting firm for the recruitment process have been marred by allegations of favoritism. A previous selection process, led by the consulting firm Saadat Haider & Co., faced accusations of a biased shortlist, which excluded several highly qualified candidates in favor of Karachi-based individuals.

Karachi to remain hot and humid: PMD

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Karachi is bracing for a spell of hot and humid weather through early next week, with the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) predicting temperatures to soar between 38°C and 40°C on Sunday and Monday. Humidity levels are expected to remain high at around 78%, amplifying the discomfort for residents across the coastal city.

The PMD forecast indicates that these sweltering conditions are likely to per-sist through Tuesday, with no sign of relief from rainfall. Although Karachi is not in the direct path of the approaching westerly weather system that is expected to impact northern and central Pakistan, residents are being urged to take pre-cautions against heat-related health risks.

Public health authorities have recommended staying indoors during peak af-ternoon hours and maintaining adequate hydration, especially for the elderly, children, and outdoor workers.

While the city faces heat stress, the rest of the country is bracing for potential dust and windstorms. According to the PMD, a shallow westerly trough will begin affecting the northern regions from Sunday night, while increasing moisture from the Arabian Sea is expected to influence central and upper parts of Pakistan starting Monday.

This could bring scattered rain and gusty winds to those areas, but Karachi is forecast to remain dry and stiflingly hot. The highest temperature recorded in Karachi on Saturday was 39°C.

One killed, five injured in shooting near Jinnah Hospital

By our correspondent

KARACHI: A man was killed and five others wounded after a shooting inci-dent near Jinnah Hospital in Karachi, according to police. The violence report-edly broke out during a robbery attempt late Saturday evening.

Police said the man who died has been identified as Imran. He had gone to a nearby tea stall outside the hospital when the incident occurred. According to in-vestigators, the suspect, named Zahir, entered the hotel and opened indiscrimi-nate fire on people present there.

South SSP confirmed that five people were injured in the attack, and Zahir, the alleged shooter, also turned the gun on himself. He survived and is currently receiving medical treatment at the same hospital.

Authorities say the investigation is ongoing and further details will be shared once available. The sudden burst of violence has added to concerns over public safety in the city's busy medical district.

Woman killed in Karachi over plot dispute

By our correspondent

KARCHI: A woman was shot dead in Karachi's Manghopir area after a dispute over a residential plot turned violent, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place in Jam Goth, where neighbors clashed over the own-ership of a piece of land. Police confirmed that during the altercation, gunfire broke out, resulting in the death of a woman identified as Nasreen. According to investigators, tensions between the neighbors had flared earlier in the day but were seemingly resolved. However, the conflict reignited later, leading to the fatal shooting.

Police arrived at the scene and arrested two men allegedly involved in the shooting. A search is underway for other suspects linked to the incident. Officers also recovered seven spent bullet casings from a .30 bore pistol at the scene. The investigation is ongoing.

Elderly woman drowns in swimming pool

By our correspondent

KARACHI: A 53-year-old woman drowned in a swimming pool at a private hut near Turtle Beach, Hawks Bay, Karachi, while on a picnic with her family, police confirmed on Sunday.

The victim, identified as Nayyar Sultan, wife of Ghulam Farooq, was a resi-dent of a housing society along the Super Highway. She had come to the beach-side hut with her children for a family outing.

According to police, the incident occurred while the woman's sons and daugh-ters were at the seaside, and she remained at the hut. She is believed to have entered the pool alone, where she slipped and drowned.

She was pulled out in a critical condition and rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors confirmed her death. Police said the body has been handed over to the family after completion of legal formalities.

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India’s embarrassment, Pakistan’s opportunity

Even after facing a moment of profound embarrassment at the hands of Pakistan, India’s political and military leadership appear to be learning all the wrong lessons. The drums of war still beat loudly in Indian media studios, echoing with nationalist zeal and fanciful calls for vengeance. From the comfort of their studios, anchors and pundits wax lyrical about cross-border strikes, air raids, and imagined victories. But war, unlike myth, does not unfold with divine interventions or heroic certainty. The Mahabharata might offer drama and moral dilemmas, but modern warfare requires intelligence, strategy and, above all, restraint. India, at this juncture, would be wise to pause and reflect—not on ancient epics—but on its place in a rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape.

The recent military confrontation, however fleeting, delivered unexpected benefits for Pakistan. Beyond defending its airspace, Pakistan has managed to reposition itself on the global stage with a renewed sense of purpose and strategic clarity. For a nation often painted into a corner—accused, misunderstood, and diplomatically isolated—this episode has acted as a sharp counter-narrative. Countries that had once flirted with India for economic or political advantage are now reviewing their assumptions. Arab states, in particular, which had seemed increasingly enamored with India’s size, markets, and polished diplomacy, are now blinking into the bright light of reality. That reality suggests that beneath India’s charm offensive lies a deeply exclusionary ideology.

This ideological foundation cannot be divorced from India’s current domestic and foreign posturing. The Bharatiya Janata Party, steered by the RSS’s headline vision of Hindutva, has fused religion with governance in a manner that should alarm even India’s closest allies. Ceremonies involving coconuts and lemons to ‘sanctify’ French fighter jets ‘Rafale’ are not simply symbolic quirks. They are signs of a nation drifting away from rational statecraft, and towards a form of governance guided more by ritual than reason. For the Gulf nations, many of which had tried to build bridges with India by sidestepping the BJP’s growing intolerance, this brief flare-up may well have acted as a turning point. The schism between India’s strategic ambitions and its ideological framework has been laid bare.

In contrast, Pakistan’s calibrated and restrained response to Indian aggression has served to highlight its maturity on the world stage. By choosing to de-escalate, even while demonstrating military competence, Islamabad projected itself not only as a credible deterrent but also as a responsible actor in an unstable region. For a country long accused of fostering instability, this reversal of roles is nothing short of remarkable. Where India resorted to rhetoric, Pakistan turned to diplomacy. Where India mythologized its military moves, Pakistan focused on precision and messaging. It was a reminder that sometimes, restraint is the most potent form of power.

Yet perhaps the most telling aspect of the crisis lies in how global media responded. Unlike in previous conflicts, there was no blind acceptance of India’s narrative. Serious voices, both journalistic and diplomatic, called for a thorough investigation into the Pahalgam incident. They demanded evidence, not emotion; facts, not fervor. This shift in global tone is not accidental. It stems from the growing realization that India under Modi is not the pluralistic democracy the world once admired. It is a nation in the grip of ultra-nationalism, where dissent is demonized and minorities live in fear. The BJP’s India is no longer the India of Gandhi or Nehru—it is something else entirely, something narrower, angrier, and far more dangerous.

This internal transformation has international consequences. When a country as large and influential as India begins to rewrite its identity, the ripple effects are felt well beyond its borders. For Pakistan, this presents both a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge lies in resisting the temptation to mirror India’s aggression with its own. The opportunity lies in offering the region a different vision: one rooted in pragmatism, inclusivity, and genuine cooperation.

Indeed, there is now a real chance for Pakistan to reassert not only its military deterrence, but its diplomatic and economic independence. If the spirit of unity and resilience shown during this standoff can be channeled into broader national reform—fiscal responsibility, institutional transparency, regional engagement—then Pakistan could finally emerge from the long shadows of dependency. That means reducing reliance on emergency IMF packages or the fluctuating generosity of Saudi and Chinese partners. It means becoming a state that not only demands respect but earns it through integrity, stability, and vision.

Such a vision must include renewed engagement with Afghanistan. Before the clouds of conflict with India had gathered, there were promising signs of rapprochement between Islamabad and Kabul, aided significantly by Beijing’s quiet diplomacy. These initiatives were no small matter. They marked a shift towards mutual growth, shared prosperity, and a collaborative regional future. The conflict with India, while disruptive, also served as a moment of clarity. It reminded both Afghanistan and Pakistan of the perils of distraction and the necessity of focus. Afghanistan’s own economic renaissance—slow and fragile though it may be—stands as proof that progress is possible when the guns fall silent and trade, education, and connectivity are prioritized.

Among the most meaningful of these is the renewed potential for improved relations with Bangladesh. With the departure of Sheikh Hasina from power, a political shift has created an opening for reconciliation and reconstruction between Dhaka and Islamabad. This isn’t about rewriting history, but about writing a new chapter—one that acknowledges the past without being imprisoned by it. The people of both countries, despite historical wounds, continue to express love and fraternity. Shared culture and familial bonds have outlived political divides. There is affection there still—quiet, undramatic, but real. This affection could be the soil in which new roots of trade, diplomacy and regional solidarity take hold. A Pakistan-Bangladesh partnership—grounded in equality and mutual respect—could serve as a stabilizing force in a region too often torn by mistrust. They can stand together not just to balance India’s influence, but to create an independent South Asian ethos that values cooperation over conflict.

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

By Uzma Ehtasham



India’s cynical politicization of the Pahalgam incident—an attack that claimed the lives of 26 tourists—has unraveled into a sobering lesson in strategic miscalculation. What was meant to serve as a show of dominance, a chest-thumping performance before an increasingly hardline domestic audience, has ended up spotlighting the dangerous theatrics of New Delhi’s approach to regional politics. At its core, this episode is not only a failure of military judgement but a moral indictment of the political machinery that fed it. In its rush to project military superiority over Pakistan, India succeeded only in humiliating itself on the international stage. The Modi-led government, propped up by a jingoistic media ecosystem, had hoped for a swift and symbolic retaliation that would rally support in the name of nationalism.

What it got instead was global scorn. It is one thing to rile up local audiences with tales of heroism and imaginary victories, but quite another to deceive a world that still clings—albeit precariously—to the rule of international law and truth. India’s media played a particularly disgraceful role in the crisis. It barked like a cornered stray—loud,

confused, and desperate for validation. False reports circulated with alarming speed, including outlandish claims that Pakistan’s Army Chief General Asim Munir had been captured, and that Indian forces were marching through the streets of Lahore, Islamabad, and Karachi. These fantasies, while laughable, exposed a more disturbing reality: a complete breakdown in journalistic integrity. When truth becomes the first casualty of patriotism, the space for informed democratic discourse collapses.

In contrast, Pakistan’s military and political leadership responded with restraint and tactical clarity. The highly coordinated ‘Operation Bunyan Marsus’, launched on a Saturday morning after three days of Indian air raids, sent a clear message—Pakistan would not be cowed, but neither would it escalate recklessly.

Military analysts across the globe noted the precision, timing, and containment of the response. It was not reactionary rage—it was calculated strategy. The operation’s success forced India to step back, not with grace, but with gritted teeth. The myth of Indian invincibility had taken a serious hit. While New Delhi continues to flex for its domestic audience, the international community has seen behind the curtain. India may have missiles, but its credibility is now the issue under fire.

What makes this entire ordeal even more damning is Pakistan’s consistent call

for dialogue. From the beginning, Islamabad offered to assist in the investigation of the Pahalgam and to open channels for comprehensive discussion. These offers were met not with seriousness but with missiles and drone strikes—tools of vengeance deployed not on military targets but innocent civilians. This is not strategy. This is state-sponsored rage. Yet from the ashes of conflict, diplomacy has begun to stir. The arrival of Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Adel al-Jubeir, in Islamabad marked a turning point. His meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was a clear signal that regional powers are no longer willing to be passive observers. The Prime Minister’s welcome of Saudi peacemaking efforts underscored Pakistan’s commitment to regional stability.

Meanwhile, Pakistan’s Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar took proactive steps, speaking with foreign ministers from the United Kingdom, Azerbaijan, and Japan. Each call served to expose the reckless behavior of India’s war machine. The goal wasn’t to gather sympathy—but to present facts, share evidence, and call attention to the cost of unchecked aggression in South Asia. Perhaps most symbolically, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio broke tradition by speaking directly with Pakistan’s Chief of Army Staff, General Asim Munir. It was a move as much about optics as substance. Rubio’s call signaled an acknowledgment of

Pakistan’s role as a stabilizing force and, more importantly, a recognition that diplomacy must now lead. He urged a negotiated settlement and offered America’s assistance in facilitating dialogue—an olive branch with implications far beyond the moment.

Pakistan welcomes these overtures. But let there be no illusions. The real measure of success lies in where these efforts lead. A durable peace cannot be achieved through short-term crisis management. It must address the root of the discord—the unresolved Kashmir dispute. The issue is not just about territorial claims or border control. It is about the right of a people to decide their fate, as per international resolutions. Unless and until India is brought to the negotiating table with honesty and accountability, the cycle of violence will not break. Pakistan has, in recent years, faced many trials—economic, political, and social. Yet in moments like this, when its sovereignty and dignity are challenged, there is a rare kind of unity that emerges. That unity must now be channeled into more than defence. It must shape a new diplomatic doctrine—one that rejects dependency, demands justice, and promotes peace.

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Can war be justified?

By Atiq Raja



War has stained the pages of human history with blood, ruin, and sorrow. From the tribal battles of antiquity to today’s high-tech drone strikes and cyber warfare, humanity has long turned to violence in its pursuit of power, justice, or survival. But as the world grows smaller and our weapons grow deadlier, we are once again faced with the oldest, yet most urgent question: Can war ever be justified? Or, even in the darkest moments, does a space for dialogue remain? For centuries, rulers and philosophers alike have tried to make sense of war’s morality. The theory of Just War, shaped by thinkers like Cicero, Augustine, and Thomas Aquinas, laid out strict conditions: wars should only be fought by legitimate authorities, for a just cause, and with the right intentions—particularly when all peaceful alternatives have failed. It was, in theory, a moral framework to keep war from becoming chaos.

But real life rarely fits within neat lines. In the modern age, that framework has frayed under the weight of political agendas and media manipulation. What is presented as self-defense may in truth be a cover for conquest. What is claimed as liberation might mask economic ambition or ideological enforcement. The difference between aggressor and defender blurs, and ‘just’ wars often become vessels for deeply unjust ends. What is clear, however, is that the consequences of war today are more far-reaching and brutal than ever before. Modern warfare is not limited to soldiers on battlefields. It rips through entire societies. Schools collapse, hospitals are bombed, families are torn apart, and communities are turned into refugee camps. Children are raised not in homes, but in tents, shaped more by the sound of gunfire than by laughter.

In such a world, can war still be justified? The sheer scale of harm — to civilians, infrastructure, and the fabric of society — makes the idea of a ‘clean’ or ‘noble’ war feel like an outdated myth. And with nuclear weapons, artificial intelligence, and unmanned killing machines in play, a single misstep can unleash irreversible catastrophe. Yet even as war evolves, history reminds us of the power and possibility of peace. The Cold War could have ended in nuclear disaster — but diplomacy, even behind closed doors, held the line. The fall of apartheid in South Africa, the Good Friday

Agreement in Northern Ireland, and the long and often imperfect road to peace in Colombia each stand as proof that talking, however fraught, is better than shooting. Dialogue does not mean surrender. It demands courage, discipline, and vision. It is not about silencing the truth or overlooking atrocities — it is about finding paths through them without adding to the suffering. Dialogue requires humility: the kind that admits fault, listens to the enemy, and imagines a shared future when everything screams for revenge. Still, one must ask: are there truly moments when war becomes unavoidable? When genocide looms, when a brutal invader leaves no room for negotiation — are such moments exceptions to the rule? Perhaps. But even then, war must never become the objective in itself. The goal must be to protect life, uphold dignity, and rebuild peace — not to conquer, dominate, or exact vengeance. And even in these grave scenarios, war must be governed strictly by humanitarian principles and international law.

The tragedy is that such extreme conditions are far less common than they are portrayed. Far too often, nations choose war not after dialogue has failed — but before it has even been tried. They rush to violence, fuelled by fear, wrapped in the flag, and justified by a convenient narrative.

Media is weaponised. Patriotism is manipulated. Truth becomes collateral damage. The world does not suffer from a lack of weapons. It suffers from a lack of will — the will to listen, to reflect, to forgive, and to compromise. And in a time of global crises — climate change, economic inequality, mass displacement — the cost of war is no longer borne only by those who fight it. It is shared by all of us. War may be justified in the rarest and gravest of circumstances. But even then, it should never be celebrated. It is a failure — of politics, of diplomacy, of humanity. Peace, on the other hand, is not the absence of war. It is the presence of justice, cooperation, and hope. The true measure of strength is not how many enemies we defeat, but how many lives we protect. The future of our species will not be written by bombs, but by bridges — not by those who shout the loudest for war, but by those who fight, quietly and persistently, for peace. Let us make dialogue our first instinct, not our last. Because every war avoided is a life preserved — and every life preserved is a victory worth having.

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Vow to deter Indian aggression

By Asghar Ali Mubarak



In a week charged with nationalism and military triumphalism, Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry stood before the cameras with unmistakable clarity: terrorism, he said, would be eliminated from Pakistan — not in theory, but in practice, on the ground, and with finality. His words carried both the weight of a promise and the fire of a battlefield victory, echoing through a country still absorbing the shockwaves of recent clashes with India. Operation Banyan Marsus, he declared, was Pakistan’s resolute answer to aggression from its eastern neighbour, a campaign marked by high-stakes strikes and a thunderous response that has dominated both official briefings and social media speculation.

Yet, as these declarations of strength resonate, it becomes difficult to ignore the deeper, more troubling questions they raise: What does a military victory mean in a region already wounded by decades of hostility, insurgency, and mistrust? And when leaders speak of controlling terrorism, how far can force alone go in addressing

the root causes of extremism? At the core of General Chaudhry’s press conference was a stern affirmation of Pakistan’s military prowess. He was joined by senior officers of the Pakistan Air Force and Navy, each of whom painted a detailed picture of coordinated retaliation. Twenty-six Indian military sites were struck in response to what Pakistan described as unprovoked attacks. Strategic installations in Suratgarh, Sirs, Adampur and Pathankot were hit. Even India’s sophisticated S-400 air defence systems, often regarded as its impenetrable shield, were not spared. Air Vice Marshal Aurangzeb Ahmed took it a step further, describing the confrontation as a decisive ‘6-0’ victory over the Indian Air Force. The tone was assertive. The message unambiguous: Pakistan did not request a ceasefire — India did. The Pakistan Armed Forces, Chaudhry said, fulfilled their promise to the nation. That fulfilment came, however, at a profound human cost. Among the casualties were women and children, dozens of civilians whose deaths, while mourned with compassion, also serve as stark reminders that in war, declarations of victory often walk hand in hand with human tragedy.

Yet, in the middle of this military choreography, another narrative was carefully woven — one of unity, of civilian solidarity

with the armed forces, and of a national will steeled against both terrorism and foreign threat. General Chaudhry praised the youth, not only on the battlefield but also on the ‘cyber and information front,’ hinting at the growing reality that today’s wars are not fought solely with missiles and drones but with tweets, counter-narratives and information warfare. Pakistan’s media, too, received an honorable mention for withstanding what officials described as India’s propaganda and ‘war madness.’ But despite this wide canvas of military coordination and strategic calculation, the rhetoric remained rooted in an older, enduring pain. Terrorism, Chaudhry said, has nothing to do with Islam or humanity.

Suicide attacks on mosques, extortion, smuggling — these, he argued, are the tools of the same enemy Pakistan has defeated before and will defeat again. The question is whether the terrain has changed so much that such defeat will require a transformation beyond firepower: a political, economic, and social reckoning that challenges why extremism survives in the first place. There is no doubt that the armed forces have performed with technical sophistication. Pakistan’s ability to conduct co-ordinated strikes across land, sea, air and cyberspace signals a military reaching for 21st-century integration. The term ‘network-

centric warfare,’ often reserved for NATO-style precision campaigns, has now entered the lexicon of Pakistani military briefings. But does this tactical edge translate to long-term security — especially on the western front, where the battle against terrorism has morphed into a generational struggle?

There, the terrain is not only physical — it is ideological, tribal, economic. Eliminating terrorism, as General Chaudhry confidently promises, is not merely about targeting hideouts or intercepting convoys. It is about addressing the disillusionment that feeds extremism.

It is about reintegrating young minds radicalized by poverty, injustice, or isolation. And it is about creating a nation where violence is not the currency of power but a relic of a darker past. As the operation draws applause from some and caution from others, Pakistan finds itself at a crossroads. The show of strength, however precise, should not distract from the greater, more difficult challenge ahead: forging a stable peace, both within and beyond its borders. Because real victory does not lie in the number of targets hit. It lies in the number of lives saved from the grip of fear, poverty, and hate.

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India’s war crimes

By Kamran Adil

The international legal order is indeed on the decline, and the West that has indemnified the system for long is divided. Nonetheless, it is also true that some part of international law transcends the extant realm of international law and pre-dates it; this part is called the International Humanitarian Law (IHL), better known by its earlier name ‘the law of war’.

The IHL unfolds a very unique area of law that deals with jus in bello (law in war) that sounds oxymoronic. The IHL is deeply rooted in customary international law and is buttressed by major religions of the world that find its principles of civilian protection, protection of women and children, necessity, distinction and proportionality as universal and as shared values. Worldwide, professional militaries get trained in this branch of law through the good offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which has an international mandate to disseminate it.

Professional militaries imbue the principles of IHL in their training and operations. As of today, the customary international law of the IHL has largely been codified through treaty law, resulting in Hague Conventions and the Geneva Conventions and their Protocols. Most specifically, the violations of the IHL are called war crimes and crimes against humanity. The list of violations was expanded through the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC Statute) in 1998 and included the offences of aggression and genocide. The complementing part of the IHL is the jus ad bellum (law of war),

which is largely political and administered within the parameters of the UN Charter and by the UNO.

India used the Pahalgam incident as a casus belli (cause of war) to initiate an International Armed Conflict (IAC) against Pakistan. The categorisation of the IAC has attracted the application of the IHL to the acts of India; hence, its illegal, unlawful and unilateral acts can be declared as international wrongs and war crimes. India is not a party to the ICC and cannot be prosecuted for these crimes; however, the purpose of the adumbration is to bring on record the war crimes committed by India and to state that criminal liability of the leadership of India is not abated or mitigated for want of a prosecution mechanism.

The major war crimes committed by India are: First, India used water as a means and method of warfare. It unilaterally, illegally and without reason or rhyme, opted out of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) by putting it in ‘abeyance’, a phrase alien to the treaty and to the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT). Besides disregarding the World Bank backed IWT, India violated Article 54 of the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions (AP-I) that prohibited ‘starvation of civilians as a method of warfare’. This prohibition was not merely declaratory, but was criminalised as a war crime (Article 8(2) (b) (xxv) of the ICC Statute). It may be noted that criminal liability is personal in nature and the officers/per-

sons involved in committing the war crime of starving the civilian population will be personally responsible for the war crimes committed.

Second, India violated Article 2 of the UN Charter, which obliged it to respect the principle of sovereign equality and to refrain from using force or the threat of force against the territorial integrity of Pakistan. Article 2(3) of the UN Charter specifically required India to settle the dispute through peaceful means. On May 7, 2025, it attacked nine worship places and killed 26 innocent civilians, including women and children, violating the UN Charter and using force in such ‘character, gravity and scale...’ that it amounted to ‘aggression’ in terms of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3314 (XXIX).

India’s ‘bombardment’ was a violation of articles 48, 49, 50 and 51 of the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions, 1977 (AP-I). The violation of attacking civilians has been criminalised by the ICC Statute in its Article 8 as a war crime. Most of the ‘locations’/places attacked are mosques/worship places. This clearly violates Article 53 of the AP-I that prohibits attacking places of worship. The act of attacking religious buildings has been listed as a war crime under the ICC Statute. Therefore, India can and should be held accountable for committing this egregious war crime.

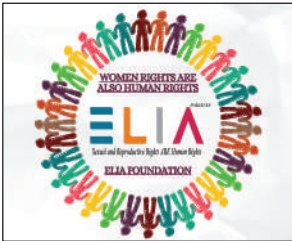
Third, the law of war clearly prohibits armed attacks against works and installa-

tions containing dangerous forces like dams/water reservoirs in Article 56 of the AP-I. India’s attack on the Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project was a clear violation of this important provision that specifically prohibited attacking critical infrastructure that could endanger civilian populations.

Fourth, as many as 29 drones were downed in one day in various urban areas in Pakistan — and 77 in two days. The unmanned drones striking at civilian populations, including at a cricket stadium in Rawalpindi, exposed the illegality in the use of drones by India as these were not directed at military targets and apparently did not use the principle of distinction. No precautionary steps as anticipated in articles 36 and 57 of the AP-I were taken. Article 36 of the AP-I required that the party to the AP-I (India signed and ratified the IHL instruments), when using new weapons (like a drone in this case), should have made sure that no protection under the IHL laws was violated.

Finally, India has been offering all sorts of lousy justifications for its failure to meet the universally accepted principles of the IHL during its military actions on May 7. On the killing of women and children, India tried to hide behind the imaginary ‘collateral damage’ without showing what was the ‘direct or real damage’ that it intended to hit.

Using its right to self-defence as provided under Article 51 of the UN Charter, Pakistan responded to the military targets in India in line with the principles of the IHL. Pakistan reserves the right to ask for reparations for the damages caused by India in its latest aggression against Pakistan.



First trilateral talks between Pakistan, China, Afghanistan conclude

Regional diplomacy takes center stage as discussions explore strategies to strengthen political and economic ties

News Desk

KABUL: The first round of trilateral talks between Pakistan, China, and Afghanistan took place in Kabul. The meeting resulted in an agreement on enhancing economic and security cooperation, along with a commitment to regional stability.

According to sources, Special Representative for Afghanistan, Muhammad Sadiq, along with the Chinese representative, met with Afghanistan's Minister for Commerce. The discussions centered on promoting trade and economic collaboration.

The statement said Pakistani envoy Mohammad Sadiq and Chinese envoy Yue Xiaoyong met Haqqani to follow up on the outcomes of the fifth round of the China-Pakistan-Taliban dialogue.



logue and lay the groundwork for the upcoming sixth round. The discussions also covered regional diplomatic developments and strategies to enhance political and economic cooperation.

Haqqani, a key figure in the Taliban leadership, emphasized the necessity of "mutual respect and constructive engagement," asserting that regional ties could only flourish through reciprocal understanding. "From the Taliban's perspective, the development of economic and political relations, and broader regional understanding, hinges on mutual respect," the statement added.

standing, hinges on mutual respect," the statement added.

The envoys reportedly reaffirmed their countries' commitment to deepening ties with Afghanistan and expressed support for strengthening what they described as good-neighborly relations. Neither Beijing nor Islamabad has publicly commented on the meeting. During their visit to Kabul, the Chinese and Pakistani envoys also held talks with Taliban foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi and acting commerce minister Nooruddin Azizi.

Separately, citing unnamed sources, reported that the trilateral discussions also included an informal understanding to limit India's presence in Afghanistan to its diplomatic missions and resist the expansion of its strategic influence. However, that claim has not been confirmed by any of the involved parties.

China and Pakistan have remained among the few governments engaging openly with the Taliban since their return to power in August 2021. Beijing was the first to accept the credentials of a Taliban-appointed ambassador earlier this year and has continued to explore infrastructure and investment opportunities in Afghanistan, despite most of the international community maintaining political distance from the Taliban-led administration.

Indian denies Pakistan's alleged ceasefire violations

News Desk

NEW DEHLI: India's official media has refuted claims made by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs that Pakistan violated the ceasefire agreement. According to a report from the Press Trust of India, life in occupied Kashmir returned to normal after several days, with no reports of gunfire, shelling, or drone activity during the night.

Following six days of intense tensions, the night passed peacefully, with no violations of the ceasefire reported along the Line of Control after 11 PM on Saturday. Local authorities confirmed that residents of the region spent the night without the usual noise of planes, missiles or drones. It is important to note that both India and Pakistan had announced a ceasefire along the Line of Control and the International Border on the evening of Saturday.

21 killed in Sri Lanka bus accident

News Desk

KOTMALE: A tragic accident in Sri Lanka claimed the lives of 21 people when a bus carrying Buddhist pilgrims plunged into a ravine.

The incident occurred in the central mountainous region of Sri Lanka, where the bus fell into the gorge, resulting in at least 21 fatalities and many severe injuries.

The vehicle was carrying around 70 passengers at the time of the crash. The accident took place on Sunday morning near Kotmale, approximately 140 kilometers from the capital, Colombo.

Sri Lanka's Deputy Minister for Transport and Highways, Prasanna Gunasekera, confirmed that efforts are underway to identify the deceased. He praised local residents for their swift response, saying their timely help saved many lives and prevented the death toll from rising further.

The injured have been transported to nearby hospitals, and an investigation into the cause of the accident is ongoing.

US-China reach trade deal in Geneva, says White House

US President briefed following conclusion of talks as aides hail "significant breakthrough" poised to reshape future trade ties between nations

News desk

WASHINGTON: The United States and China have reached what Washington is hailing as a landmark trade agreement, following high-level negotiations in Geneva that officials say mark a significant turning point in efforts to ease long-standing economic tensions between the world's two largest economies. The White House confirmed the breakthrough late Saturday, describing the deal as a product of focused diplomacy and months of groundwork.

US President was briefed shortly after talks concluded, with aides calling the agreement a "significant breakthrough" that could redefine the future of trade relations between the two nations. While full details of the accord are expected to be released Sunday morning, early indications suggest the deal includes provisions aimed at narrowing the US's massive trade deficit with China and fostering a more balanced flow of goods and services.

Treasury Secretary welcomed the outcome, praising the "steady progress" made



during the sessions and expressing gratitude to the Swiss government for providing a neutral venue that helped facilitate the delicate discussions. The American delegation, led by the Vice President and including two senior cabinet members along with the ambassador to Switzerland, was reported to have held intensive and, at times, highly technical talks with their Chinese counterparts.

US Trade Representative Jamison Graves said the agreement represents "meaningful progress" toward economic rebalancing, particularly in light of the estimated \$1.2 trillion trade gap that has long dominated discussions in Washington. "This deal is vital," Graves told reporters in Geneva. "It lays a foundation not just for

resolving the deficit, but for establishing clearer rules and fairer practices moving forward."

Though reaction from Beijing has yet to be formally issued, early signs from diplomatic channels suggest cautious optimism.

For now, the mood in Washington is one of measured relief, with administration officials framing the agreement as proof that strategic dialogue, rather than confrontation, remains the most effective path toward resolving global trade disputes.

With both sides expected to announce further steps in the coming days, attention now turns to how the deal will be implemented—and whether it can withstand the political and economic pressures likely to follow.

Ex-NSA slams India's flawed conflict planning

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Former National Security Advisor Lieutenant General (retd) Nasir Janjua has sharply criticised India's handling of the recent conflict, suggesting that New Delhi gravely miscalculated both its strategy and capabilities. Speaking in the aftermath of the ceasefire agreement, General Janjua pointed to what he called India's "operational shortcomings," stating that the country lacked the ability to effectively execute the aggressive plans it had seemingly envisioned.

General Janjua, who has long been vocal on matters of regional security, argued that the Indian government would likely attempt to re-frame the outcome in order to placate its domestic audience.

"India will try to portray this ceasefire as some form of moral or strategic success," he said, adding that such a narrative would be aimed at managing the growing internal pressure Prime Minister Narendra Modi faces from both political opponents and a disillusioned public.

He went on to say that, despite the optics, the ceasefire represents a logical outcome for India, allowing it to pull back from an untenable position without acknowledging defeat. However, he warned that India's next move would likely involve an attempt to twist the storyline — presenting the ceasefire initiative as a Pakistani request, rather than a mutual agreement driven by on-ground realities and international pressure.

According to Janjua, dialogue between the two nuclear-armed neighbors remains inevitable. "Eventually, both countries will have to talk," he said. But he cautioned that Pakistan must be prepared for what he called India's "habitual distortion" of facts in the global arena.

Suicide blast in Peshawar kills two policemen, injures three

By our correspondent

PESHAWAR: A suicide bomber targeted a police vehicle near Peshawar's Ring Road on Sunday, killing two police officials and injuring three others. The attack took place near the livestock market on Ring Road, a busy area in the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

According to a spokesperson for Rescue 1122, the suicide bomber detonated explosives near a police mobile unit. The blast claimed the lives of a sub-inspector and a constable, both of whom were declared dead at the hospital. Three other officers sustained injuries in the explosion.

Police confirmed that the attack was directed at the patrol vehicle. Emergency services quickly sealed off the area, and forensic teams began gathering evidence to investigate the blast. As of



now, no group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi condemned the suicide bombing and paid tribute to the slain officers, offering his condolences to their families. He acknowledged the officers' bravery, noting that they had achieved the highest honor of martyrdom while fulfilling their duties. Naqvi praised the sacrifices made by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police in the fight against terrorism

and expressed solidarity with the grieving families of the martyrs.

The provincial governor and Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also condemned the attack, honoring the fallen officers and extending their condolences to their families. The attack underscores the ongoing threats faced by law enforcement officers in Pakistan as they continue to battle terrorism and ensure security.

Ceasefire marks major achievement on global fronts: MQM-P

By Ahsan Mughal

KARACHI: Chairman of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P), Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, has praised the recent ceasefire agreement, calling it a significant success for Pakistan both on the domestic front and internationally. In a statement issued from Karachi, Dr. Siddiqui expressed that the ceasefire not only reflects the country's ability to maintain peace but also showcases its military strength and resolve.



He specifically pointed to "Operation Binyan Marsoos," the military operation that has garnered global attention for its precision and effectiveness. According to Dr. Siddiqui, the operation has reinforced Pakistan's defense capabilities and

demonstrated the country's military prowess to the world. He also noted that international military journals have lauded the remarkable performance of the Pakistan Air Force, underscoring its operational excellence and strategic importance in the conflict.

The MQM-P leader stressed that this development is a testament to the growing strength and effectiveness of Pakistan's military forces, which have not only defended national sovereignty but have also enhanced the country's standing

on the global stage. He further emphasized that the ceasefire is a step toward ensuring stability in the region and reflects Pakistan's commitment to peace, even as it continues to maintain a strong defense posture.

Dr. Siddiqui's statement comes at a time when Pakistan's military operations are under close scrutiny, and this latest ceasefire agreement is seen as a diplomatic success, adding to the narrative of Pakistan's ability to navigate complex geopolitical challenges.

Pakistan, Algeria reaffirm ties amid ceasefire moves

By Zahid Karani

KARACHI: Algeria's Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, National Community Abroad, and African Affairs, Ahmed Attaf, received a phone call on Sunday from Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Muhammad Ishaq Dar.

During the conversation, Dar provided an in-depth briefing on the latest developments in the Indian subcontinent, with a specific focus on the recently agreed ceasefire between Pakistan and India. He highlighted Pakistan's ongoing efforts to de-escalate tensions along the Line of Control, underscoring Islamabad's commitment to regional stability and the importance of avoiding any further escalation that could destabilize both nations and the broader South Asian region.

In his response, Attaf welcomed the ceasefire agreement, lauding the diplomatic efforts that had led to its realization. He praised the emphasis on dialogue and negotiation as the preferred paths to resolve conflict, expressing Algeria's full support for peaceful resolutions.

Banned Oxytocin still in use, endangering health in Sindh

By Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Nohrio

THARPARKAR: A banned medical injection continues to circulate freely, threatening both public health and animal welfare. Oxytocin, a hormone originally developed for use in complicated animal births, has become a tool of exploitation across Sindh.

What was once a veterinary emergency solution has now been reduced to a profit-making shortcut. In farms across Sindh, animals are routinely injected with oxytocin twice a day to force higher milk yields. This reckless and repeated use of the hormone does not come without cost. It breaks down the reproductive systems of animals, rendering them infertile. Once they are no longer profitable, they are sent to slaughter. The cycle is brutal and inhumane.

But the damage doesn't end with the animals. The milk extracted under the influence of oxytocin is toxic. Consumed daily by unsuspecting families, it introduces a host of health



risks: early puberty in girls, weakened immunity, chronic fatigue, and long-term damage to reproductive health, particularly in men. Infants exposed to this milk face developmental issues, including cognitive delays and organ impairment. Women are especially vulnerable, experiencing hormonal imbalances and heightened sensitivity. It is a silent, slow-moving health crisis. The Sindh government must take immediate and decisive action. Oxytocin must be banned outright in animal husbandry. Medical stores and individuals caught selling or administering it should face legal penalties. Wealthy livestock owners using these injections to maintain profit margins must also be held accountable—not only are they harming animals, they are poisoning the very communities that buy their products.

President Putin proposes to resume negotiations with Ukraine

News Desk

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has opened the door to a fresh round of negotiations with Ukraine, signalling Moscow's willingness to re-engage in dialogue over the protracted conflict that has gripped Eastern Europe. In a carefully worded statement issued on Monday, Putin confirmed that direct talks are scheduled to commence on May 15 in Istanbul, placing the spotlight once again on diplomatic channels after months of battlefield escalation.



lation and international pressure.

Putin maintained that Russia has never been opposed to negotiations and reiterated his government's stance that it remains com-

mitted to what he called "serious discussions" aimed at finding a durable solution. "We have not walked away from the table," he said, framing Moscow's position as one

of consistency rather than capitulation. "Now the decision lies with Ukraine," he added, suggesting that Kyiv's willingness to engage sincerely would be the determining factor in whether progress could be made.

Putin underlined the importance of tackling the root causes of the conflict, though he stopped short of outlining specific conditions. For Moscow, the narrative continues to revolve around NATO's eastward expansion and what it perceives as Western interference in its sphere of influence.

ence. As both sides prepare for the Istanbul talks, attention now turns to Ukraine's response.

Ukrainian officials have so far remained cautious, often citing deep mistrust of Russian intentions and highlighting the need for any negotiations to reflect international law and territorial integrity. Nonetheless, the scheduled meeting in Istanbul is set to become the latest chapter in a conflict that has defied resolution — a conflict whose end, for now, remains elusive but no longer beyond the horizon.